

Foothills Lutheran Church

3104 – 34 Ave NW Calgary, AB T2L 2A3 403-284-1342 www.foothillslutheran.com

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:30 am-1:00 pm.

“Connecting People with Christ through Worship, Relationships & Service”



BLESSED · ARE · YOU
AMONG · WOMEN
AND · BLESSED · IS
THE · FRUIT · OF · YOUR · WOMB

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024

Education Hour.....9:00 am
Morning Worship (Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays) 10:15 am
Wednesday Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

Senior Pastor: David Bode – flcpastor@foothillslutheran.com
Associate Pastor: Eric Moffett – flcpastoreric@foothillslutheran.com
DPS: Deaconess Miriam Winstanley – miriam@foothillslutheran.com
Office Administrator: Amber Myers – office@foothillslutheran.com
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Eldon Ohlinger

A Prayer Upon Entering: Fill us with the Holy Spirit, as we prepare to greet Your Son. May our hearts leap for joy in His presence, and may our mouths be ready to sing praises to this child who has come to save the whole world.

O Great and Giving God, may we spring to life because of Your Son.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE:as projected

HYMNS: King of Kings; 343; 354; Joy Has Dawned; 348

FIRST LESSON:.....Micah 5:2-5a

EPISTLE LESSON:.....Hebrews 10:5-10

GOSPEL LESSON:Luke 1:39-56

SERMON:

A JOYOUS WELCOME to all who worship here this morning. May you find forgiveness and strengthening through God's Word and promise. If you are visiting, please honour us by signing our guest book at the back of the church. If there is any way we can be of service to you, please speak to the pastor or one of the elders. If you have no church home of your own, please consider making Foothills your church.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION CHRISTMAS EVE AT 11:00 PM AND CHRISTMAS DAY AT 10:15 AM as our Lord offers us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. By partaking of this Sacrament together, we confess our unity in faith and are drawn closer to one another and to the Lord. If you are a visitor, not belonging to the Lutheran Church-Canada, and wish to commune, please speak with the pastor before the service

A NOTE ABOUT OUR OFFERINGS: We are blessed through the faithful stewardship of God's people. Many of our members have chosen to give their gifts either through pre-authorized payments or by e-transfer. If you wish to give your gifts to the Lord by e-transfer, you can do it through your online account. The transfer address is: financials@foothillslutheran.com.

PASTOR ERIC HAS RECEIVED A CALL to serve as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Vernon, BC. Please keep him in your prayers, as well as St. John and Foothills, that he may know the Lord's will for him and His church.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Music..... Contemporary Musicians; Deaconess Miriam Winstanley
 Ushers..... Elfrieda Heiden; Lorne Rosenau
 Lector Kelly Dueck
 AV Operators Christine Heumann; Eden/Paxton Knudtson

THIS WEEK AT FLC

Tues	4:00 pm & 6:00 pm 11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Services Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Service with Communion
Wed	10:15 am	Christmas Day Family Celebration with Communion <i>No evening worship</i>
Thurs		<i>Office Closed</i>
Sun	9:00 am 10:15 am	Education Hour Hymn Sing Sunday with Communion

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

In Hospital: No one at the moment – PTL!

Homebound:

For Special Intercession:

Family Focus:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: In this week’s lesson, “A Nativity Night,” Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where a simple stable serves as the birthplace for the promised Christ Child. Angelic hosts announce the birth of the Savior to ordinary shepherds, who hasten to worship the child. Having seen the Savior in the flesh, the shepherds quickly spread the news of His birth. Ask one another, “How can we share the message of the birth of the Savior today?”



THE FLOWERS which grace our altar today are given to the glory of God by Donna Poirier in memory of her son, Jeffrey Poirier.

LAST WEEK AT FLC

Week of	Sunday/Communed	Education Hour	Wednesday
December 15	177/113	38	16

**Attendance includes online participation.*

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GIFTS

Weekly Offering Needs	\$7,404.00	Our Budget Goal
Envelope Gifts Received Last Week	\$12,000.50	
Envelope Gifts Received to Date	\$353,456.50	+/- YTD
Total Offerings Needed to Date	\$370,192.31	

Non-Budget/Miscellaneous Gifts: Plate 133.00; Sunday School 11.75; Parking Revenue 400.00; Lutheran Hospital Ministries 20.00; LWML 25.00; FLC Youth 200.00; Chimney Sweeping Contribution 150.00.



THE JOYOUS SEASON OF CHRISTMAS is a wonderful time to share your joy and worship of the Newborn King. We know many people would consider coming to worship, if only someone would invite them. Will you invite

someone to share the good news of the Saviour born to save us, with others?

Our festive services are as follows:

- ☆ Dec. 24 Candlelight Carol Services at 4:00 pm; 6:00 pm; 11:00 pm (Communion at 11:00 pm).
- ☆ Dec. 25 10:15 am Christmas Day Family Celebration (Communion).
- ☆ Dec. 31 6:30 pm New Years' Eve Service (Communion).

PASTOR ERIC AND DEACONESS MIRIAM have both received notice from Lutheran Church—Canada that they are not being called at this time to the position of Associate Director of Family Ministry for LCC. They thank you for your prayers during this time and we encourage your ongoing prayers for the Board of Directors of Lutheran Church—Canada as they seek to finalize this call. Pray also for the candidate (we do not know who that is yet) as they receive and consider this position in the work of the church at large.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: December 29 "No Getting Better Than This"

The Good Life--what is it? Guest Speaker Pastor Chad Lakies says life is truly good when it's life the way God meant it to be. (Colossians 3:12-17)

Hear this inspirational message on CHRB 1140 AM at 8:00 and/or CJLI-The Light-700 AM at 9:30 Sunday mornings. Streaming audio and podcasts are available at www.lutheranhour.ca.



PRAYER VIGIL: December 31 – January 1. As a congregation we are anticipating some changes and transitions in 2025. The Foothills Direction Committee asks you to join together in prayer for God’s guidance and wisdom as we look to the future. Please sign up for our Prayer Vigil, either on the bulletin board next to Deaconess Miriam’s office, or online at: bit.ly/2024prayervigil The vigil will begin at 6:00 am on

December 31 and run to 6:00 pm on January 1. Don’t worry if more than one person is signed up for the same slot! We will provide you with some prayer resources for your encouragement.

IT’S HYMN SING TIME! December 29th is a fifth Sunday, and we are looking for your seasonal hymn suggestions for our worship that day. If you have a favourite, please share it Pastor Bode as soon as possible (you can email your suggestions at flcpastor@foothillslutheran.com)



PLEASE NOTE HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: The office will be closed Wednesday, December 25th and Thursday, December 26th. We will also be closed on New Year’s Day. During these days, staff may not be maintaining normal hours. If you need to come to the church, we advise that you contact the office to see if anyone is in at that time.

PASTOR ERIC, KAYLA AND FAMILY will be away from December 25 – January 1, 2025. We pray for safe travel and a restful time away.

BOTTLE DRIVE: As you gather with friends and family over Christmas and New Year’s, the Youth Group would be grateful if you would save any refundable bottles for our next fundraiser. Funds raised from your bottle donations will be added to the travel fund for the National Youth Gathering, to be held in July 2025. We’d be grateful if you would bring them to the church on either (or both!) Sunday January 5 and Sunday January 12, 2025. Please drop off your bottles and cans beside the trailer in the lower parking lot, either before or after service. The Youth of FLC thank you!

ARE YOU A HANDY PERSON? The church is currently without a person to run our **Church Properties Board**. Please contact Dale Dusterhoft if you have an interest in this position, or if you just want to help with some one-off projects that need to be completed at various times. There are often small tasks that need to be completed around the church or the student residence that we could use some short-term volunteer help on.

THE BLESSINGS TREE IS BACK! Have you noticed it in the narthex? If you would like to bless someone with a gift this Christmas there are 2 ways to do that. Take a yellow note off the tree, purchase your gift, write the name on the note of who it is to be delivered to, and leave it in the office. OR, purchase your gift, bring it to church and attach a note to it, then leave it in the office. There were so many people who were surprised with a gift last year that it brought joy to my heart when I was delivering them. If you have any questions, please contact me. Blessings to all of you and your families this season - may it be one of peace and joy! *Christine Heumann*

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: We will pause coffee fellowship for the holidays and will resume in January.

MISSION OF THE MONTH: LUTHERAN HOSPITAL MINISTRIES

Through Lutheran Hospital Ministries of Southern Alberta, trained visitors give support to Lutheran patients in Calgary hospitals and care centres through compassionate listening, prayer and Scripture. Visitors are always needed, and regular training is scheduled. Your gift helps provide the resources and staffing that makes this ministry a blessing to those in the hospital and care centres of our area.



MISSION PRAYER This week, we pray for Rev. Asefa Aredo who serves as pastor of Shalom Oromo Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and LCC's Missionary-at-Large for Oromo Outreach. **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples in all nations, we lift up before You, Pastor Aredo, asking You to sustain him by Your Spirit and bless his labours for the sake of the Gospel; Lord in Your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer**

THE CANADIAN LUTHERAN is delayed due to the postal strike. The current issue can be read online at <https://issuu.com/thecanadianlutheran>

OUR REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP EFFORT: The PPC supports the work of sponsoring a family, as we have previously shared and will present a motion on this at the next Voters' meeting. The cost of this is around \$67,000.00. We will be looking at a greater fundraising effort to help with this. Your gifts can still be given now. May we show our love for others as we seek to "welcome the stranger" (Romans 12:13).



God's message to Mary



CONVERSATIONS

Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

1. Can you remember a time when you had an unexpected visitor? Tell your story.
2. Read Luke 1:26-38. What can we learn from Mary in these verses?
3. Have you ever been challenged by God to do something difficult?



BIBLE READINGS

*Read the following Bible readings throughout this week.
Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.*

S	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold
M	Titus 2:11-14	God's kindness
T	Isaiah 9:2-7	The coming king
W	Titus 3:4-7	The mercy of God
T	John 1:1-14	The word became flesh
F	Isaiah 52:7-10	Message of hope
S	Psalm 96	Sing a new song

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant.
Let it happen as you have said."

LUKE 1:38



CREATIVE RESPONSE

Place figures from a Christmas nativity set (e.g. wise men, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, animals) throughout your home.

During this week, move them closer to the manger.

Have Mary and Joseph arrive first, followed by the shepherds and wise men.

Last of all, place Jesus in the manger (on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day).



ACTION RESPONSE

As a disciple of Jesus, find ways to be a servant of others in your own home during this busy time of year.



MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord God, thank you for the gift of food, family and friends, signs of your love for us. Most of all, thank you for your gift of Jesus. Amen.



PRAYER

Dear loving God, give us faith like Mary to accept the good news of Jesus' birth, and confidence to go out into the world as a servant of your love in Christ. Amen.



BLESSING

May the Lord be with you. May God's favour rest on you and the Holy Spirit come to you and give you peace.