FOOTHILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

January / February

2025



Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away; We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day. (LSB 733, st. 5)

January 2025

Dear Friends in Christ:

One of our sainted pastors used to love the expression, "tempus fugit", or in English, "time flies". Tempus fugit is typically employed as an admonition against sloth and procrastination (cf. carpe diem) rather than an argument for debauchery or drunken revelry (think of the expression, "Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die"); the English form is often merely descriptive: "time flies like the wind", "time flies when you're having fun".

No matter how hard we try, we cannot stop the progression of time. Sir Walter Scott noted, "Time and tide wait for no man". The hymn writer, as noted above, described time as "an ever-rolling stream". Queen Elizabeth I is said to have uttered, at the end of her life, "All my possessions for a moment of time". But all the money in the world cannot buy back time that is past. We cannot stop the clock. As Leo Tolstoy said, "Time is infinite movement without one moment of rest."

We never seem to have enough time. We may fear the march of time. We may not know what the times ahead may bring. Thankfully, we do know our God is the Lord even of time itself. If we are to fully identify the year, we say that we are living in the year 2024 AD or now, 2025 AD. Those letters 'AD' stand for *anno domini*, or 'in the year of our Lord.' They remind me that each and every year, and each and every day, for that matter, is under the watchful care of the Lord who both created time and who gives us the time we enjoy in this world.

That is also why I find it distressing that there are renewed efforts to do away with this common designation. We again hear rumblings that we should number the years with the designation CE, or Common Era. Oh, I know that the calendar was not always numbered BC and AD. It was a monk from Scythia, Dionysius Exiguus who suggested this numbering system. He was given the task of preparing calculations of the dates of Easter. At that time it was customary to count years since the reign of emperor Diocletian; but rather than honour Diocletian, who was a persecutor of the church, Dionysius chose to number the years since the birth of Christ. He did make some miscalculations, however, and most scholars note that the year of Christ's birth was around 4 BC, meaning that our calendar system is off by a few years. Foothills Lutheran Church

3104 - 34th Avenue NW Calgary, Alberta T2L 2A3 Phone: 403-284-1342 www.foothillslutheran.com office@foothillslutheran.com

David Bode, Pastor

flcpastor@foothillslutheran.com Eric Moffett, Associate Pastor flcpastoreric@foothillslutheran.com Miriam Winstanley, Deaconess Children & Family Ministry miriam@foothillslutheran.com Eldon Ohlinger, Pastor Emeritus



Continued on Page 2...

Continued from Page 1

Does it really matter how we number the years? Strictly speaking, no it doesn't. No matter what the year; no matter how it is numbered, whether in years since the birth of Christ or the fall of Rome, it doesn't change the fact that each day is a gift from the Lord who created the universe, and who set time in motion. The psalmist said: "But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hand." (Psalm 31:14–15a, ESV)

In His perfect time, the Lord of All came into this world to redeem lost and condemned sinners like us, as He lives, dies and rises again for us. In His perfect time, He will come again to bring us His perfect, final victory. Until that day we live in an uncertain world. We cannot see what the new year, or even the new day may bring. We do know that this year is going to mean some changes for our congregation. Thankfully, this is the year of our Lord. He knows what lies before us. Trusting in Him, we face the coming days in confidence, for this year, like all years, is *anno domini*, the year of the Lord, who will be at work in it to bless His faithful people.

Rejoicing in His time,

Part Wand My Book

Mission of the Month

JANUARY LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE—CANADA

Based on the biblical story of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4 KJV), "mites" – offerings above and beyond the support given to the congregation and the synod – are collected by women of Lutheran Church-Canada. Mite contributions amount to thousands of dollars, supporting LWML-Canada district and national grants to mission projects around the world as well as implementing the LWML-Canada program. Mite offerings are gathered at meetings, preferably with prayer or special devotions.

Mission of the Month

FEBRUARY

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church has been the mission of Lutheran Hour Ministries for many years. Through ministry programs such as The Lutheran Hour, International Ministries, Men's NetWork, MISSION U and others, LHM is calling our communities, our country, and our world back to God. Your gift to this mission of the month helps bring a message of rescue, restoration and renewal in Jesus Christ to millions of people who desperately need to hear it.

Technology Boundaries

11:45 am, Sunday, February 23, 2025 at FLC



With computers, iPads and smartphones in every home, and access to the internet easily available, Christian families are faced with questions of proper use, appropriate supervision and boundaries. Bring your lunch and we'll talk about technology use and healthy boundaries for your family!

RSVP to miriam@foothillslutheran.com

Designed children born in 2015 and their parents.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

A blessed New Year to all of our Sunday School students, our teachers and helpers, and our parents! Thanks to them, and with the help of our confirmation students and some of our youth and young adults, our Children's Christmas Service, "*Joy Has Dawned*" was presented on December 15.

Sunday School resumes on **January 5**, after Christmas break.

Our teachers are hosting a Sunday School Workshop for the circuit **February 8** from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm, and are in the process of planning for that. If you have been considering teaching or helping at Sunday School or VBS, this would be a great opportunity to learn about faithfully teaching children about their Saviour. Watch the bulletin for more information!

Thank you to our teachers, who meet monthly for study and planning, and who work diligently to prepare their lessons each week.

Jan 05	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37
Jan 12	The Lord's Prayer	Luke 11:1-13
Jan 19	The Good Shepherd	John 10:1-18; Psalm 23
Jan 26	Zacchaeus	Luke 19:1-10
Feb 02	Jesus is Crucified	Matt 27:11-66
Feb 09	Jesus Rises	Matt 28:1-15
Feb 16	Family Day Weekend No Lesson	
Feb 23	The Emmaus Road	Luke 24:13-35

Our upcoming lessons include:

LADIES BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Two ladies' study groups are running, with new members always welcome.

Our Tuesday group meets weekly at 7:00 pm (note the change in start time) at Deaconess Miriam's home, and has begun a study entitled *Enough: Unpacking God's Sufficiency*.

Our Thursday afternoon study meets weekly at 1:30 pm for an in-depth study of the readings for the upcoming Sunday.

Both studies take place in person, with the option of participation online via Zoom. Contact Deaconess Miriam for more information!

FAITH AT HOME

As a congregation we are encouraging the families of our congregation to adopt a Faith-at-Home lifestyle, where parents claim their God-given role as primary faith-teachers of their children. Deaconess Miriam has resources for families to help them fill this role at every age and stage. She'd love to talk with you! See page 2 for more information on our upcoming session.

SILVER SAINTS

Keep an eye on the bulletin and listen for announcements regarding upcoming activities!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025

It's never too early to talk about Vacation Bible School! We've set the dates for our 2025 VBS, and will begin our planning in January. Please set aside **July 21-25** for your children to attend, or to volunteer as a teacher, classroom helper, or activity leader. If you're thinking about teaching or helping and want some advance training, please come to our **Sunday School Workshop on February 8th**!



FAMILY TIME IN CHRIST

Things could change by the time you receive this newsletter, but right now the ground is covered in white. The dead, dry grass is covered. The leafless trees look pretty, with their dusting of snow and frost. Everything looks clean and new.

Take a few winter walks with your children. Look around you and talk about how things that looked old and dirty a month or two ago now look new and spotless. Look for signs of creation – the fresh snowflakes, the evergreen trees, animal tracks, etc.

When you get home, spend some time looking at references to snow in Scripture. David writes in Psalm 51 that when God washes him, he will be "whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7). God tells His people through Isaiah that though their sins are like scarlet, "they shall be whiter than snow" (Isaiah 1:18). Jesus' forgiveness makes us new and spotless.

After one of your walks read 1 Corinthians 5:14-21. What does this have to say about us and being made new?

Talk about the dead, dry, filthiness of the sin that we are born with, and the struggles we have because of this (Romans 7:14-25). What struggles do you and your family members have? Take some time to share these struggles, and then pray together for God's forgiveness and help for the sake of Jesus. Share with your children that, because Jesus shed His blood for us, all who believe in Him are covered with His righteousness – made new and clean and spotless, just like the covering of snow makes the world look new and clean. Ask yourselves what that newness can look like this year, in terms of your life in Christ – in worship and His Word, in your family relationships, and in your life in your community. Think of ways that you can live out this newness as a family.

Blessings on the new creation that is yours in Christ!

God's blessings to you in this New Year!

Deaconess Miriam

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's Choir is back! Children age 4 and up are invited to join us for twice monthly practices where we will learn God's Word though song, learn what we can do with our voices, learn a bit about music, and learn how to sing with others. If you are interested in having your children participate, please contact Deaconess Miriam at 403-284-1342 or miriam@foothillslutheran.com.

What Christmas Has Meant to Me!

There is a popular Christmas song (which you may not hear again until next Christmas), done by many different performers entitled, "What Christmas Means to Me". Although we are pass the actual day, God's people still rejoice in the good news of Christmas. For us, as God's people, we can 'sing' our own version of that song:

Christmas to me is gift from above ---

a gift of salvation born of God's love.

For far beyond what my mind comprehends

my eternal future completely depends.

On that first Christmas night centuries ago,

when God sent His Son to the earth below,

For if the Christ Child has not been born

there would be no rejoicing on Easter morn.

For only because Christ was born and died,

and hung on a cross to be crucified,

Can worldly sinners like you and me,

be fit to live in eternity ...

So Christmas is more than getting and giving,

it's the why and the wherefore of infinite living,

It's the positive proof for doubting God never,

For in His Kingdom life is forever.

And that is the reason that on Christmas Day,

I can only kneel down and prayerfully say,

"Thank you, God, for sending Your Son,

so, when my work on earth is done,

I can look at last on Your holy face,

knowing You saved me alone by Your grace".

Foothills Direction Committee Update

Thank you to all of you who participated in the Foothills Long Term Direction Survey. We received many thoughtful answers from 59 members of the congregation. The Directions Committee met and sorted the major themes and comments from the surveys into four categories. The key points from the surveys were as follows:

Strengths of the Congregation: These are the things that we can build upon as we set our future direction:

- We have a ministry rooted in scripture this was a strong and consistent theme across the surveys without waiver.
- Mix of services already available.
- Mix of music already available.
- Christian education plentiful
- Bible studies
- VBS
- Sunday School
- Confirmation, Children's Ministry
- Sunday Fellowship works well.
- Prayer We encourage prayer in all aspects of our congregation.

Weaknesses of the Congregation: These are things that we could be better at:

- Lack of connection to other members or to the church outside of Sunday Worship. A strong theme desired by members to feel connected, know each other better within and across age groups and to have strengthened relationships outside of Sunday worship.
- Our membership is not engaged. We are short volunteers for leadership roles and many other roles in the congregation which limits our ability to expand and carry out the current and future programs of the church. For example, we need to address real and growing needs of senior members (e.g., driving, meals, support, visitations).
- We have an aging congregation that took on volunteer roles in the past and we need to germinate a new generation of leaders and enthusiastic members to lead us going forward. We need to focus on ministry to young families and youth. The committee noted that we actually have an increased participation of youth in our Sunday services as musicians, ushers,

sound and video system controllers and other volunteer roles. We need to communicate to members the impact our younger members are having and recognize the increased participation of youth and young adults.

- Have services people can relate to. In particular, there were many comments on having services that those under 40 can relate to as we have an aging congregation and need to attract young families and members. It was a theme of many respondents. We will need to dig further into understanding what our members mean when they say they want worship to be more relatable.
- We need to be more visitor friendly. Ensure members identify and reach out to visitors to make them feel welcome in our church. Ideas included identifying visitors in church, making sure we greet them when they arrive and make sure members introduce themselves and talk to them before and after service.
- We are not great at evangelism and outreach.
- We could be better at supporting our volunteers and staff. We have volunteer and staff fatigue. Need to get better at sharing of appropriate duties, gratitude for staff and volunteers and providing training as required.

Opportunities that the Congregation has:

These will be the basis of our future goals. At a high level two main areas of focus for the congregation were identified. We have opportunities to be better at in-reach (ministry and connections to our members, and outreach – ministry and connections to the community and to those who are un-churched).

In-reach: Overall theme was we need to have our members more connected to each other outside of Sunday services.

- Focus on In-reach to our members. Create a more friendly, caring church to all members of all ages. Create connections outside of Sunday services through visitations and small groups.
- Explore having Pastors visiting with members with eventually having members perform more visitations easing Pastors workload.
- Ministering to aging population within the congregation. Need to look at a number of programs that includes driving, meals, support, and visitations.

Foothills Direction Committee Update

- Teach members about why we do what we do (e.g., singing and liturgy) to enhance participation and understanding.
- Small groups (e.g., youth, youth adult, young families, middle age, seniors) and possibly intergenerational.
- Service format.
- Engagement volunteering many are interested and seeking short term volunteer opportunities. Identify short term volunteer opportunities and match these opportunities with volunteers. Provide training of volunteers and for those in leadership. Provide care of volunteers. May need to look at a different Parish Planning Council model that allows to govern ourselves with less volunteers.
- Teaching Bible studies Having more members involved in Bible studies will yield fruit in all areas of our congregation. Continue to focus and expand on having plentiful Bible studies in various formats, locations (home and FLC), and age groups.

Outreach: Overall view was that outreach was important for the congregation. We will not thrive if we are only inwardly focused.

- Outreach use of our facility 7 days a week to connect to our community. (committee added: with necessary considerations of FLC ministries and commitments as a priority)
- Become more visitor friendly. Encourage wearing of nametags, explore having visitors identify themselves at the start of service, re-initiate welcoming greeters upon arrival and post service greeters, don't usher people out at the end of service to allow people to visit in the sanctuary.
- Explore other outreach initiatives in the community. Numerous ideas were presented without a consistent theme.

Threats to Growing God's Church/FLC:

What will prevent us from achieving our goals?

- Lack of Communication of our vision and goals which results in the congregation not becoming engaged.
- Lack of volunteers. Lack of training for volunteers.

- Aging congregation perception from respondents that God's church will die with aging members, rather than faith in God maintaining and supporting us to spread His word and grow His church.
- Finances sustainable It is significant and not typical of a church to be blessed with the savings we have from previous fundraising efforts. Saying that, we cannot cover our annual operating costs without using the interest from our savings. We need to have a sustainable church and then also start using our savings to support our future goals and initiatives. Survey results expressed a fear that our giving will decrease as members pass away which will affect our ability to fund our yearly costs.
- Lack of volunteers or how we steward our volunteer resources.
- Volunteer fatigue. A small group of members are handling the majority of the work in the congregation.

Quick Wins:

The committee identified several quick wins that arose from the surveys. These are changes we can implement immediately that will align with our future goals or are just good ideas.

- Upgrade hearing system an unknown concern until shared in the survey is that our hearing-impaired system does not work well and needs to be upgraded. We will look at this immediately.
- Stop ushering people out of church this has been discussed before as something that can be removed so that members/visitors can feel welcome to stay and visit within the sanctuary and/or together to the Fellowship Hall. We will need to communicate this to our members on Sundays.
- Nametags in place, can easily encourage members to wear to be more welcoming/approachable to visitors
- Recognizing visitors easy to do with the size of our congregation. Also need to look at how to follow-up/ support/connect visitors.
- Increase availability of Large Print Increased number of order of service and bulletins in large print. Need to communicate that sheet music can not be made available to accompany contemporary songs due to copywrite issues.

Direction Committee Update

- After service greeters We have already initiated this program of having lay people greet at the doors after service. We do need more volunteers to take this on.
- Before service greeters had a greeter training program in place and greeters in use prior to pandemic.
- Greeter training and recruitment can be returned to welcome visitors with more intention and follow-up (including where visitors may best be seated among supportive and welcoming members).

Next Steps:

The committee will be working to set some 3-to-5-year goals and direction from the information provided.

We will be holding two town hall meetings to get further input from members who did not respond to the surveys or would like to provide further input into our future direction. These are scheduled for February 2^{nd} and February 8^{th} .

Board of Elders

Happy New Year from the Board of Elders,

According to the Constitution of Foothills Lutheran Church, our "primary responsibility shall be the spiritual health of the whole congregation. They assume this responsibility when they, together with the Pastor(s), concern themselves with the welfare of every individual within the congregation". This past year we focused our attention on our Ministry Team to provide support when it was requested. We gratefully acknowledge the many prayers the Ministry Team and the Elders received from the congregation. Thanks be to God.

With the coming of fall we were able to turn our attention to the requirement of preparing the budget for each member of our Ministry Team and the Church Staff. This has now been completed and has been forwarded to the Parish Planning Council which will be part of the Church's budget to be approved at the January Voters Meeting.

The vacancy of the Office Administrator has been filled by Amber Myers. We gratefully acknowledge the many years of faithful service from Carol Kehler. Pastor Eric and Deaconess Marion have both been interviewed for the new position of Associate Director-Family Ministry for the LCC. Pastor Eric has received a call to serve as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Vernon, BC. This could have an impact on our Ministry Team and we will adapt once these decisions are known. May God's will be done.

As we begin the new year, we will be turning our attention to be other Elder responsibilities:

- Answer questions, listening to comments and concerns from the congregation
- Support Staff (role clarification, performance, hiring, compensation, etc.)
- Respond to changes (calls, retirements, leaves, etc.)
- Budgeting and expenses related to worship and related matters

Shepherding is an ongoing responsibility to stay in contact with our members to get to know them and vice versa and show our care for the congregation.

Your Elders are Robert Kubke, Rob Kaut, Austin Voss, Lorne Rosenau, Kellen Rosenau, and Rick Nelson.

After some preliminary work from the Elders, responsibility for determining long term planning has been turned over to the Parish Planning Council. The Planning Committee sent out an initial survey which has identified several areas on which to build future planning initiatives. The response to the surveys exceeded expectations. This shows that our membership is very much engaged in fulling the purpose of Foothill Lutheran Church.

The Season of Epiphany begins January 6. We receive the message that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, was born of flesh. We follow His path and His instruction in the weeks ahead. We feel His presence among us in His Word and the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and The Lord's Supper.

May we all be witnesses to the indescribable Love that has been provided to us by our Father throughout this coming year.

For the Board of Elders,

Rick Nelson



Thank you to the ministry staff, and you, my church family, for the opportunity to serve you and His church these past 7.5 years. It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know you and to learn the many var-

ied responsibilities as your office administrator. I wish my replacement, Amber Myers, all the very best and challenge her to love and appreciate the role as much as I did. God bless you all. *Carol Kehler*



"Teach...that the next generation may set their hope in God" - Psalm 78

We encourage everyone to check out one of our Christian education opportunities and join us in studying God's Word with our church family. We have Sunday School, confirmation, Bible studies throughout the week, family groups, youth group, and more. Contact the ministry staff to join an existing group – or maybe to start a new one?

Also, please watch for news about our upcoming Lent Bible study!

Don't forget to visit the library occasionally, and be sure to check out the brochure rack on the wall right outside the sanctuary for short booklets on a wide range of interesting topics. If you're looking for a specific resource, please ask!

Join the private Facebook group: <u>www.facebook.com/</u> groups/flcchristianed/

Thank you to the Sunday school staff for all their hard work on the children's Christmas service in December! Children are valued members of our church family, and having them involved in worship is a vital part of their faith formation. Repetition helps them learn and be active in worship before they can read, and learning their parts to present the Christmas account also helps them digest what they are being taught. Our Sunday school teachers take on an important job, so please keep them in your prayers.

Sunday school staff in 2024 included:

Lynn Morine, Pat Rosenau, Amanda Kiefer, Tobi Stene, Marilyn Harrison, and Brenda Bode

Youth: Eden Knudtson and Emmy Legroulx

Also, a special thank you to the young adults who helped with the children's service: Hannah Edel, Derek Kiefer, Jaxson Stene, Evan Stene, and Siddaly Alcock

And thank you to everyone else who served in a Christian education role at Foothills in 2024, including:

Sunday morning adult Bible study:

Pastor Bode, Pastor Eric, and Rob Kaut

Confirmation: Deaconess Mirim and Pastor Eric

Youth Bible study (including young adult Bible study as of September)

Pastor Eric, Trevor and Michelle Heumann, Austin Voss, Renee Alcock, and Deaconess Miriam

Youth leaders: Pastor Eric, and Trevor and Michelle Heumann

Young adults: Evan Stene, Kayla Moffett, Derek Kiefer, and Siddaly Alcock

A special thank-you to Sarah Knudtson for organizing the Purdy's fundraiser, and to Jean Bauer for helping with the spring bottle drive and with driving youth to laser tag! Also to Pastor Bode, Sarah, and Jean who also helped with driving for the youth retreat. And to Deaconess Miriam for leading a session for youth parents on parenting Gen Z. And to Stacey Bablitz for helping with the fundraising account bookkeeping.

Lent Bible study:

Pastor Bode and Pastor Eric

Library staff:

Barb Vincent, Michelle Funke, and Rick Nelson

As well, Deaconess Miriam teaches Faith at Home sessions, leads two ladies' Bible study groups, and organizes seasonal family activities (with thanks to Brenda Bode and Heather Sommers). And Pastor Bode leads the Saturday men's Bible study, new member classes, and a Life-Light group.

And last but not least, VBS:

Heather Sommers, Brenda Bode, Renee Alcock, Michelle Heumann, Pastor Eric, Deaconess Miriam, Pastor Bode, Diane Voss, Lynn Morine, Siddaly Alcock, Barb Vincent, Michelle Funke, Tobi Stene, Donna Poirier, Christine Heumann, Sarah Knudtson, Stacey Bablitz, Nora Jarowicz, and Jean Bauer, plus 2 non-member adults. Youth: Emmy Legroulx, Sam Zwick, Kieran Chan, Karl Wong, Eliza Voss, Quinn Alcock, Eden Knudtson, Griffin Voss, and Morgan Alcock, plus 5 non-member youth.

Volunteers-in-training: Maliyah Chan, Faith Dueck, Julia Han, and Paxton Knudtson, plus 4 non-member students.

And thank you to Jessica Tonn, who painted the daily theme posters for the downstairs hallway.

As you can see, it takes many hands and a great deal of time and dedication to provide all of these various Christian education opportunities for our church family – and youth, young adults, and adults all serve in a variety of ways (and the danger of making a list like this is the possibility that a name might get missed - if we missed you, please do let us know!). The board is very thankful for everyone who helped in any way, and looks forward to continuing to teach the Word in 2025.

The Board of Christian Education is:

Chair: Trevor Heumann

Staff Members: Pastor David Bode, Pastor Eric Moffett, and Deaconess Miriam Winstanley

Board of Fellowship

COFFEE TEAMS

I feel so blessed to the members who serve as part of Sunday coffee fellowship after Sunday service but we could use more volunteers. If you are interested in providing goodies or serving on a coffee team, please contact Heather Sommers.

LOVE POT BLESSING



Join a pot blessing after service on February 16th to celebrate the four very special types of love captured in the scriptures. Agape (unconditional love), Storage (family love), Eros (romantic love) and

Philia (friendship love). Sign up on the fellowship board in the narthex to share your favorite main dish, side dish or salad or dessert. Lets share our love for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ

If you have ideas for events you would like to see happen at Foothills, please talk to me.

Heather Sommers

LWMLC News

On December 6th 2024, we hosted our annual Advent Tea at Foothills Manor. We had a great time seeing old friends and making some new friends there. We sang carols with a joyful gusto, and encouraged the residents to join us at Church, especially during to Christmas season. We were very grateful that Pastor Bode was able to lead us in the singing and that Deaconess Miriam could use her musical skills to accompany us on the piano. We all enjoyed the tasty goodies that were provided by our members.

During the year our members make regular monetary donations that we keep in a Christmas Stocking. Every Christmas we donate the accumulated funds to a cause voted on by our members. This year our "Stocking Fund" will be donated to the LCC Seminary Guild in Edmonton, who provide Pastors, Deacons and Deaconesses in training with financial, emotional and prayerful support.

Epiphany Sunday will be celebrated on **January 5th.** In conjunction with this special service, the day will acknowledge the mission work of LWMLC. We thank the congregation for their continuous financial support and especially for their prayers and interest. We look forward to telling you about the various missions in Canada and abroad being supported by the LWMLC mites. We are grateful for making LWMLC the Mission of the Month.

Our upcoming meetings will be **January 27th** and **February 24th**. We meet downstairs at the church at 12.30 pm for a Bible study, a brief business meeting and socializing. We invite all ladies to join us.

Geraldine Chimirri-Russell

President

Youth 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 by the red basement doors either before or after service. The Youth of FLC thank you!