

## 2019



Dear Friends in Christ Jesus:

Happy New Year!

You've probably heard that greeting a few times in the past 48 hours. You will likely hear it a few times in the first weeks of January. While we never know what the new year holds, we all want it to be a good year for ourselves and for all those around us.

For most of us, the biggest thing about the new year is learning to write 2019 on our cheques—if we still write cheques. Other than that, it is often “business as usual”.

What does this new year mean to you? We may approach the new year with expectation. We may approach it with uncertainty. We may be fearful, or even complacent, seeing it only as the same old stuff.

I like the way one hymn writer expresses the way we can approach the year. While written in the 1600s, the message is just as powerful and important for us in 2019. You can find it in *Lutheran Service Book*, 896

*Now greet the swiftly changing year  
With joy and penitence sincere.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.*

*Remember now the Son of God  
And how He shed His infant blood.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.*

*This Jesus came to end sin's war;  
This Name of names for us He bore.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.*

*His love abundant far exceeds  
The volume of a whole year's needs.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.*

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Continued on page 2...

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*With Him as Lord to lead our way  
In want and in prosperity,  
What need we fear in earth or space  
In this new year of grace!*

*“All glory be to God on high,  
And peace on earth!” the angels cry.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace  
Another year of grace.*

*God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear!  
To all our pleas incline Your ear;  
Upon our lives rich blessing trace  
In this new year of grace.*

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

More than anything else, the new year is another year of grace. That grace is ours, because of the grace we have in Jesus Christ. As Paul tells Titus: **“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people”** (Titus 2:11, ESV). Jesus is the living manifestation of God’s grace. In Him, we have forgiveness, life and salvation. We are delivered from sin, death and the devil. We have a living hope in a living Lord, and the assurance of the victory that is ours in Christ. How blessed we are because Christ came to bring us His grace, and from that first Christmas to this day, God’s grace continues to be made evident in our lives and in our world.

Does this mean that this will be a perfect year? The Truth is we live in a world of sin. Problems, cares and struggles often present themselves. We make bad decisions. We turn from the guidance of God to follow our own ways, sometimes with dire consequences.

Yet we can greet the year in confidence. God, in His mercy, has blessed us with all that is ours through faith in Jesus Christ. We can’t say it enough: how blessed we are to know the grace of the Saviour, who came to redeem us from sin and death, and to give us the forgiveness that makes all things new—even more than a new year. As the hymn writer says: “His love abundant far exceeds the volume of a whole year’s needs.” He will be there every day. He will be with you every minute. His love will surround you, sustain you and strengthen you. That is why we say:

*With Him as Lord to lead our way  
In want and in prosperity,  
What need we fear in earth or space  
In this new year of grace!”*

May you grow in that grace, as you read, study and hear His Word at home and especially here in His house, with your family in Christ!

In His Service,

Pastor Bode

## Technology Boundaries



### Take it Home!

**Sunday, February 3, 2019**

**11:45 am**

**Foothills Lutheran Church**

With computers, tablets, 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. Come for a discussion over lunch about technology use and work together to establish healthy computer boundaries in your family!

RSVP to: [miriam@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:miriam@foothillslutheran.com)

Designed for children born in 2009 and their parents.

### Table of Contents

Page 2:	Pastor’s Pen continued; Technology Boundaries;
Page 3:	Children & Family Ministry
Page 4:	Youth Group (LYF)
Page 5:	Board of Christian Education Update
Page 6:	A Peek Into Our Preschool
Page 7:	Board of Fellowship; Noteworthy
Page 8:	Family Time in Christ
Page 9:	LWML-C; Parsonage for Rent; Saturday Kids Bible Club
Pages 10-13	Financials
Page 14:	Midwest Cycling Trails along the trails
Page 15:	50 Years!!; Silver Saints Upcoming Events
Page 16:	Birthdays & Anniversaries

# Children & Family Ministry

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

*"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psalm 119:103*

"My Dear Lord Gave to Me" was the theme for our Children's Christmas Service last month. Thank you to students, parents and teachers for your work in presenting the good news of our Saviour's birth! We are looking forward to seeing all of our students back in January.

We meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary for our opening, after which children will be dismissed to their classes. Their class time will end by 10:05 so that families have time to prepare for worship.

Beginning January 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be adding a fourth class. Our grade 3-5 class has grown, and we will be splitting the class, with a dedicated grade 3 group, team-taught by Deaconess Miriam and Brenda Bode. Patty O'Krafka will continue to teach the grade 4-5 group. We are grateful for the work of all of our teachers in Sunday School.

***Parents! You are encouraged to attend Adult Bible Study while your children are in Sunday School. If you have children not yet Sunday School age, you are welcome to bring your little ones along to Adult study, upstairs in the Fellowship Hall.***

Jan 06	Jesus Raises Lazarus	John 11:1-45
Jan 13	Jesus Seeks the Lost	Luke 15
Jan 20	Jesus Heals Ten Lepers	Luke 17:11-19
Jan 27	Jesus Blesses the Little Children	Mark 10:13-16
Feb 03	Jesus and Zacchaeus	Luke 19:1-10
Feb 10	The Triumphal Entry	Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-40
Feb 17	The Widow's Offering	Mark 12:41-44
Feb 24	The Lord's Supper	Luke 22:1-23

Sunday School is part of our children's ministry and is supported by the congregation. However, we do receive an offering at each Sunday School opening to remind us that all we have is a gift from God. Each year, Sunday School offerings are designated to a mission serving children. This year once again our offerings are being sent to Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Airdrie, for their children's programs. Offering envelopes are available from Deaconess Miriam.

## MOMS & TOTS

### *Mothers of infants and toddlers...*

Moms and their children not yet in school are invited to join us for a short Bible study, prayer and fellowship the first and third Thursdays of the month, from **9:30-11:00 am**. It's a great way to make new friends. Mark your calendars for **January 10<sup>th</sup> (note the change) and 17<sup>th</sup> and February 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**. Our current study is entitled *"The Beauty of Holiness"*.



## LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, you are invited to join us for Bible study and snacks at 7:30 pm the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. We are studying the minor prophets, Hosea, Joel and Amos. Mark these dates on your calendar: **January 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and February 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**. We meet at Deaconess Miriam's home, 10122 Hidden Valley Dr NW. Please bring a small snack to share AND YOUR BIBLES!

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR



In December, our children enjoyed presenting to family and friends the songs they have been learning in the first part of the year. We meet the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 6:00 – 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Bring your children age 4-10 to spend some time in song. Even though we have been rehearsing together for a few months, there is always room for more voices. We meet to learn a bit about music, learn how to use our voices, and most of all plant God's Word in our hearts through song. Please speak with Deaconess Miriam for more information or to register.

# Youth Group (LYF)

## Upcoming Youth Events

Youth group, or LYF (Lutheran Youth at Foothills), is for youth in grades 7 to 12, and usually meets every other Friday from 7 to 10 pm. Bring your friends! We also meet every Sunday during the school year at 9 am for Bible study in the youth room (except for long weekends).

The youth leaders are Pastor Eric and Kayla, and Trevor and Michelle Heumann, with help from Deaconess Miriam. Talk to any of us if you have questions!

Stay connected with youth news by joining the youth Snapchat (talk to Kayla or Michelle to join), giving Pastor Eric your email address, or joining the Facebook group!

[www.facebook.com/groups/foothillslutheranyouth/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/foothillslutheranyouth/)

New for 2019! We're launching a youth group waiver and registration form! This will help us have emergency contact info and other important info easily accessible. Parents will get an email from Pastor Eric with the forms attached, and they'll be available on the youth bulletin board.

**Sunday, January 6:** Youth Bible study starts back up in the Youth Room at 9am with the first in a video series on creation filmed at the life-sized ark replica in Kentucky. Topics for the rest of the school year include prayer, the Means of Grace, and marriage and family. Let the leaders know if there's anything you'd like to study!



**January 11:** Annual Family Games Night With A Twist



Meet at the church from 7 to 10 pm, and bring your friends/family, and a snack to share. Come and find out what the twist is! Everyone from the Foothills family is welcome!

**January 25:** Mustard Seed Sorting Centre



We'll go to the Mustard Seed to help them in their warehouse facility where they organize donated materials. We'll meet at the church at 5:45 to leave no later than 6pm, and pickup will be at the church at 10pm. The Mustard Seed requires that all youth have a waiver signed by their parents, so make sure you get your signed waiver to Pastor Eric before your parents drop you off!

**Sunday, February 3:** National Youth Gathering Information Meeting

Interested in coming to the Youth Gathering in Langley on July 5-9? Join the youth leaders after the worship service for some lunch and info about the NYG. RSVP to Pastor Eric (and let him know about any allergies) no later than January 30 so we know how much lunch to order!

**February 8:** Laser Tag

Watch for details about cost and when to meet at the church!

**March 1:** Wacky Olympics at the church from 7 to 10 pm

**March 5:** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Fundraiser

Pancakes will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, and donations to the youth group will be gratefully accepted. Youth group fundraising efforts help subsidize the cost of attending events like the 2019 LCC National Youth Gathering and the 2020 District Youth Gathering.

Youth, come at 4pm, or as early as possible, to help set up and cook. You'll get to eat dinner, and help clean up, too!

**Save these dates for future youth events!**

Mid-March: plans TBA! We'll have another event after March 5 and before spring break starts on the 22nd.

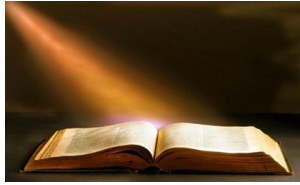
We'll also have events on: April 12, 26, May 10, 24, June 7, and 21

Our annual photo scavenger hunt will be June 7, and we're looking for a volunteer or two to organize it! If you're interested, talk to Pastor Eric, Kayla, or Michelle for more info.



# Board of Christian Education Update

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**“Teach...that the next generation may set their hope in God” – Psalm 78**

*Chair: Trevor Heumann*

*Staff Members: Pastor David Bode, Pastor Eric Moffett, Deaconess Miriam Winstanley, Preschool Director Betty Ann Chandler*

*Board Members: Dianne Frayne, Michelle Heumann, Kayla Moffett, Sydney Stene, Tobi Stene, Ron Voss*

**The National Youth Gathering** is in 2019 and will be held at Trinity Western University in Langley, BC. We are hoping to take 20 youth and 4 leaders to this gathering. For more information, please visit the website at <http://nyg19.ca/>. Thanks to everyone who so generously supported Foothills attendance at youth gatherings during the November 2018 Mission of the Month!

The annual **Lent Bible Study** for our church leaders (members of the PPC and the various boards and committees, as well as Sunday School and Bible study teachers) will be a 5-week Bible Study on March 11, 18, 25, April 1, and 8. We are providing an opportunity for the leadership to come together in Bible Study each week, and we encourage all the congregation to take an opportunity to spend time in the word during Lent as well. The topic this year is Lutheran Doctrine and Practice Today.

We will soon be restocking the **Creation Ministries resources** in the Narthex on the rack above the guest book. Let us know if you're looking for any info that's not there!

The **Fall Youth Retreat, The Best Defense**, was our NINTH annual fall youth retreat! We had a great committee (Heather Graham-Navis, Trevor & Michelle Heumann, Pastor Eric & Kayla, Monica Schultz, and Deaconess Miriam), and we're very thankful for Christine Heumann and those who help her in the kitchen, as well as all the youth and leaders who came (about 40 people in total). This year, for the first time, one of our own was the speaker, and Pastor Eric did an excellent job with the main sessions. Our chaplain was Vicar Mark Rekken, and he led the group in Evening and Morning Prayer, accompanied by the music team, which was made up of committee members. Bruce Winstanley also taught the youth some self-defense during an evening breakout session. The theme verse is from 1 Peter 3:15: “always being prepared to make a DEFENSE to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you,” and Pastor Eric's sessions and

the accompanying Bible studies (written by Miriam) equipped the youth to be able to give a defense to those who would question their faith. Watch for announcement coming soon about our plans for November 2019!

The **Library** is under continual improvement right now. Please stop by and see the resources available, including the cart of videos that are free to a good home. We also have a cart of popular resource that Dianne sets up around the church some Sundays, so look for it. For any questions, please contact our librarian, Dianne Frayne, and we will help you find what you're looking for.

We are planning on hosting a **presentation and discussion** on the topic of assisted dying. This issue has become a very hot topic in our world these days and we want to provide an opportunity for everyone to learn about it and discuss it in a loving, Christian environment. Please stay tuned for more information as we plan and schedule this presentation.

There is some sort of Christian education opportunity at Foothills nearly every day of the week. If you are not already involved with something, please contact one of the staff to find out what opportunities interest you.

Have you joined the (private) Facebook group for Foothills members who want to connect to Christian Ed via social media?



[www.facebook.com/groups/flechristianed/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/flechristianed/)

We post announcements and event reminders to the group; if you use Facebook more than you read the bulletin, this group might be for you!

God bless us all as we continue learning about God and his great love for us!

# A Peek Into Our Preschool

## PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Foothills Lutheran Christian Preschool is a licensed, non-profit half-day program for 3 and 4 year-olds that facilitates the development of the whole child in a caring environment, nurturing them in their intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual, physical, and creative development utilizing a Christian world view. Both our teacher and teaching assistant are members of FLC, have first aid training, and are government certified. Children learn pre-printing, pre-reading, and pre-math skills through inquiry based learning and teacher directed time. Children have fun with friends, laugh and learn, paint and paste, pray and play, slide and sing. All our four year old students receive a free screening from a speech/language pathologist and an occupational therapist from Big PLANS for Little Kids in September. Foothills Lutheran Christian Preschool is not only a ministry to 3 and 4 year old children in our own church family, but a Christian education opportunity for other Christian families in our city, an outreach ministry to international families in university family housing, and an outreach to families from neighborhoods surrounding our church location. Our preschool is approved to accept families who qualify for government tuition subsidy and is a member of the Southern Alberta Preschool Teachers Association.

Registrations for the new school year, which will begin in September 2019 will soon be accepted. If you are considering registering your child for the fall or if you have a friend, neighbor, or family member who is looking for a preschool or junior kindergarten program, you may direct them to our website at [www.preschool.foothillslutheran.com](http://www.preschool.foothillslutheran.com). Registration forms will be available on the website or on the table outside our classroom on the walk-out level at the beginning of February. Alumni families and FLC families are welcome to register beginning February 11. Registration opens up to the community on February 19 at 11:45 a.m.

Email [school@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:school@foothillslutheran.com) or call 403-284-1360 for further information. Our preschool principal-teacher, Betty Ann Chandler, would be happy to speak with you.

## A PEEK INTO OUR PRESCHOOL

### A Smile for Your Day

As the weather turns cooler, cold and flu season begins. As part of “loving our neighbor”, learning social skills, and developing independence for children moving on to kindergarten next year, we have read stories such as Germes are Not for Sharing and learned songs that incorporate practise covering our mouth when coughing or sneezing. We practise hand washing protocols and have discussed what to do with a used tissue. (Hint: Handing it to the teacher is not the correct answer.)

In early childhood, observations are a big part of evaluating learning since preschoolers are not yet able to write exams. Allow me to share an observation in regard to one of the children in our morning class this past month. This boy was enjoying a robot that he had designed and built out of Duplo blocks. As part of his play, he imagined the robot sneezed. The boy carried his robot to the tissue box and guided the robot in pulling out a tissue. After the robot had wiped its nose, there was a pause as the boy considered what to do next. The boy realized that the robot was not real and was not really sick so the tissue was technically unused. Should he waste a clean tissue by throwing it in the garbage? He opted to continue his play so he walked over to the trash bin with the tissue in hand. He paused, recalling what he had learned. Reconsidering, he retraced his steps. With conviction, he placed the tissue in the robot’s hand, and had the robot place its own tissue in the trash. At 3 and 4 years of age, the line between fantasy and reality can be blurred, but the boy had successfully learned that one needs to place one’s own tissue in the trash to avoid sharing germs with a friend.

Submitted by Betty Ann Chandler

FLCP principal/teacher



## Board of Fellowship

### **PAST EVENTS:**

#### **Ministry Appreciation**

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Elders served some wonderful pies provided by those fantastic bakers in the church to show our appreciation for our ministry staff at Foothills. Thank you to those that provided their time and talents for the Pastors and Deaconess.

### **CONTINUING EVENTS:**

#### **Coffee Teams**

We are blessed to have the following teams provide coffee, tea and a little treat to welcome us on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in joining a team, please contact Belinda Perrin at (403) 239-9100 or [Belindaperrin@gmail.com](mailto:Belindaperrin@gmail.com)



- Team 1 Mark Kihn, Art Hanger, Kim Harvey, Alice Churney, Ron & Diane Voss and Liane Voss-Roper
- Team 2 Anni & Brad Adams, Elfrieda Stewart, Jan Geggie, and Marilyn Harrison
- Team 3 Elise Glans, Vi & Otto Dusterhoft and Anne Marie Kothari
- Team 4 Pat & Lorne, Kristy & Kellen Rosenau and Lucy Oberhammer
- Team 5 Tracy & Tim Roth and Jay & Kim Anderson
- Team 6 Belinda & Dave Perrin, Herb & Jane Gurski and Brenda Bode
- Team 7 Ingrid Kubke and Robert Kubke
- Team 8 Shirley & Carl Berdahl, Ellen Wagner and Cheryl Lemke
- Team 9 Heather Sommers, Warren Kee, Merv and Kareen Borgeson
- Team 10 Carol & Lloyd Sandau, Joan & Tom Copeland and Bob & Elsie Will

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

#### **Love Pot Blessing – February 17, 2019**

God has blessed us as his children with his love. Let's celebrate that love as well as the love we have for each other as a family. Bring a dish to share with your church family on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Blessings,  
Heather

## Noteworthy

### **UPCOMING VOTER'S MEETING:**

**January 27<sup>th</sup>** following a light lunch after service. Mark it on your calendars and plan to attend.

### **LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY:**

Starting Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> Pastor Eldon and Marian Ohlinger will be leading another 9 week in-depth LifeLight Bible Study. These studies do require home work so we can all be prepared to share with the class and all grow together in our faith. If you plan to attend we will provide you with the necessary study materials.

We welcome back all previous members, plus any other interested members, to join us. We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m. and class ends at 11:30 a.m.

Also starting Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at the home of Helen Duholke there will be a 9-week LifeLight Bible Study on Kings. If you're interested in history, this study is for you. Contact Deaconess Miriam for more details.



## Family Time in Christ

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We are in the season of Epiphany. The Merriam-Webster dictionary offers one definition of the word “epiphany” as “a revealing scene or moment”. In our Gospel readings during this season, we hear of a series of scenes or moments in which Jesus reveals Himself as true God, the Saviour come to die for our sins. Take time each week to re-read the Gospel lesson and to discuss the ways in which Jesus showed His nature. Then talk about what that means in your lives today.

January 13 *The Baptism of Our Lord* Luke 3:15-22

At Jesus’ baptism God spoke to Jesus, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased”. The voice and the Holy Spirit in the form of the dove confirmed that Jesus is God. Jesus was baptized – even though He didn’t need to be. He did it to get the water ready for our Baptism. When we are baptized, we are joined to Jesus, and God calls us His son or daughter. What gifts does He give us to keep us connected to Him?

January 20 *Second Sunday after Epiphany* John 2:1-11

Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding of Cana. He showed that He had power over ordinary, earthly things. Verse 11 tells us why He did this, and what happened as a result. How do we think of Jesus’ glory today? Does He still show us His glory? What extraordinary things does Jesus do for you through ordinary, earthly things like water and wine?

January 27 *Third Sunday after Epiphany* Luke 4:16-30

Jesus reads words from a scroll of the prophet Isaiah (written more than 700 years before) that talk about the Messiah, and then says that those words are about Him. Why do you think people were angry? What things did Jesus come to do? Did He do them? Talk about Bible accounts that show that He did these things. Why do you think people reject Jesus today?

February 3 *Fourth Sunday after Epiphany* Luke 4:31-44

Jesus shows that He has power over demons and sickness. How does He cast out demons and heal sickness? Who do even the demons say He is? Jesus continues His healing work even today. How is it different? How is it the same?

February 10 *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany* Luke 5:1-11

Jesus is calling His first disciples. How does He reveal Himself as true God? What is Peter’s response? What does Jesus say to Him? What does He say to us when we recognize our sin?

February 17 *Sixth Sunday after Epiphany* Luke 6:17-26

Crowds of people come to Jesus. Why? How does He show love and care to them? What does He do that only God can do? How do His words to the people speak to you?

February 24 *Seventh Sunday after Epiphany* Luke 6:27-38

Jesus is teaching us to love people who are hard to love. Read His words here. How did He fulfill these words? How did He bring us from being enemies of God to children of God? How does this help us to love others?

March 3 *Transfiguration of Our Lord* Luke 9:28-36

On a mountain top, Jesus revealed His glory, not by what He did, but by how He looked. He gave Peter, James and John just a taste of what His glory looked like. This was the glory that He had set aside to become man, and to die for us. Why would He do that? As you prepare for the beginning of Lent this week, remember that Jesus came down off that mountain top, set his face toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:53), and made the journey to the cross – for you!

A blessed Epiphany season to you all!  
Deaconess Miriam



### Christmas 2018

#### Advent Tea at Foothills Lutheran Manor

On November 30, we brought in the festive season with the residents of Foothills Manor and their counselor Chaplain Bruce. Mark Kihn also joined us this time! Accompanied by Deaconess Miriam on the piano, we sang a variety of Christmas carols. We appreciated Mark leading the singing and keeping the conversation lively while we enjoyed refreshments.

#### Christmas Stocking Donations

At our monthly meetings throughout the year, money is collected in a Christmas stocking and proceeds are kept in a separate fund until Christmas time when we decide who the recipients will be. This year, monetary gifts were given to two seminary students and their families.

#### Epiphany Sunday on January 6, 2019

What an uplifting worship service we had on Epiphany Sunday! Thanks to everyone who contributed food for the luncheon and for your donations toward our mission projects.

#### Upcoming Meetings and Events

*All ladies are welcome!*

#### Saturday Morning Ladies' Bible Studies

January 5 & February 2 9:30 a.m.

*(Held in conjunction with Men's Breakfast Bible Study and Kids' Bible Club.)*

Current Topic: Women in the Bible

Bible Study Leader: Brenda Bode

#### Knitting Workshop

Saturday, January 12

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Come and learn how to make comfort dolls!

#### Foothills Lutheran Society Meetings

Monday, January 28 and Monday, February 25

Noon: Bring your own lunch and enjoy the fellowship.

12:30 - 1:15: Business Meeting

1:15-2:30: Bible Study

#### ABC District Convention

June 20 - 22, 2019

South Alberta Zone will be hosting ladies from throughout Alberta and British Columbia at the Coast Plaza and Conference Centre in Calgary. Mark your calendars and plan to attend! Registration will begin soon!

### ***OUR PARSONAGE IS ONCE AGAIN AVAILABLE AS A STUDENT RESIDENCE.***

We are looking for students to take up residence effective immediately. If you are aware of students who may be looking for residence, please let the office know. The rent is \$500/month.



### ***SATURDAY KIDS BIBLE CLUB!***

Our next monthly KIDS BIBLE CLUB dates are Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> (note the date change) and Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. This year our theme is **God's Great Gifts: Life to Eternal Life**. If you are interested in having your children join us for singing, a Bible lesson, crafts and games, please contact Deaconess Miriam to register your child age 4-10 years. Bring a friend, or offer to volunteer!

## Midwest Cycling Trials along the trails

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*Note from Silver Saints organizer, Helen Duholke: The following is one of several “tales of the trails” of God’s providence as presented by Mark Kihn to the Silver Saints gathering on Oct. 10, 2018. For more great stories, be sure to attend the Foothills Lutheran Church Silver Saints gatherings.*

Three years ago, my high school buddy Brian and I drove to central Wisconsin near Madison in late-October. On a Sunday afternoon, we chose to try out a rails-to-trail near Interstate 94. We made great progress zipping thru the harvested cornfields and viewing the fall colours among the hardwood trees. We kept pedalling until we finally got to end of the trail 40 km later – the turn-around spot. We just weren’t thinking, because we were at the farthest point from our truck, we were quite tired, plus we forgot how short the late fall days had become.

Anyways, we got about half-way back and now the sunset glowed only faintly. Now exhausted, darkness was our obstacle. What to do? I suggested we bike more slowly and grope through the darkness to the next town, about 3 km away. Surely there would be a town policeman who we could approach and explain our predicament, and ask for help. I started to pray – my tired prayer was: “God, this is more desperate than I thought. Guide us safely back to the truck. I know you haven’t forgotten about us here.” Suddenly Brian yelled, “Skunk!” He narrowly avoided the striped rodent crossing his path. We stopped, awaiting the wave of stink. Miraculously, the skunk “perfume” never came. But where we had stopped was right before a pathway bridge, and part of the railing was broken. Had we not stopped for the non-spraying skunk, we likely would have hit that broken railing in the now-complete darkness. God’s protection, I say.

We continued persistently onwards to the lights of small-town Elroy. Once there we pulled into the Convenience store, and the clerk called the town cop. The cop claimed he couldn’t meet us for another hour. By this time, we were cold and sweaty fighting “the chills,” and so we ducked into the adjacent Laundry-mat to wait it out.

A mother and her 16-yr old son were struggling there – she wrestling with dirty clothes, and the son fighting procrastination with his evening English homework. He asked a question that his Mom couldn’t answer. I spoke up saying I was a magazine editor and I could answer it. He came over and I helped him. His mom came over and asked what our story was. I told her. She and her family had a farm about 12 miles away, and she knew exactly where my truck was parked. If I could wait 15 minutes while the dryer cycle finished, she’d give me a ride. Sure. And for good measure, she was Lutheran too.

Brian ran over to the Convenience store to call off the town cop. He stayed and guarded the mountain bikes. I jumped in her car and in no time, she and her son dropped me off at my old Chevy, and I was on my way back to Elroy to pick-up Brian and the two bikes.

Oh, and did I mention that the lady said she had never used that laundry-mat before? Her washing machine had broken the week before and she chose to use this small-town one? And then the son said that cougars had been spotted in the hilly heavily wooded area we would have had to cycle through – especially in the short tunnel, which was part of the path. And did I tell you how amazed I was then – and still am now – of how the Good Lord took care of two exhausted cyclists that late evening in the wilds of Wisconsin.

- by Mark Kihn, Calgary

## 50 Years!!!

It was a cold, January Epiphany in 1968, when a young Pastor Ohlinger and his family moved to Calgary.

This past Epiphany, January 6, 2019 marks 50 years of their presence among us.

Of course, people know of the years of Pastor Ohlinger's ministry (January 26, 1969 – June 30, 1997). But the twenty-eight years as pastor of the congregation were not the end of his service to the church and to the members of Foothills. In retirement he continued to serve—even as he does today. He has been “on call” to help our pastors over the years. He has been available to help with the distribution of Holy Communion. He has filled in as a guest preacher, when not offering vacancy services to other congregations. And, of course, he, along with Marian, continue to lead our morning LifeLight Bible Study.

We thank God for the blessings given to this congregation through the Ohlinger family, and through the ministry of Pastor Ohlinger. We pray that God would continue to bless Pastor and Marian, too. We congratulate them for this milestone, but like Johann Sebastian Bach, we say, “S. D. G.” – *Solo Deo Gloria* – to God alone be the glory!

### Silver Saints Upcoming Events

January 23	12 Noon	Chinese Takeout Dinner Hosts: Bob & Elsie Will; Helen Duholke
February 13	12 Noon	Valentine's Luncheon Hosts: Brad & Anni Adams
February 27	1:30 pm	Video Presentation, St. Petersburg, Russia Hosts: Phil & Cheryl Lemke

