



*"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." (Colossians 3:12-13, ESV)*

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus, our Lord

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray: *"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us"*. Over the years, I have heard more than a few people express the thought, "what would it mean if God did forgive us only as we forgive others?"

Yet how blessed a thing God's forgiveness is! St. John assures us: *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:8-9, ESV) It is the power of God's forgiveness for us that enables us to be forgiving to others. He teaches us what it really means to forgive.

There was a wonderful illustration of this recently in Dallas, Texas. An off-duty police officer, Amber Guyger, came in to her apartment one night and saw a black man standing there. So she shot and killed him. But she had gone into the wrong apartment! She was the intruder, and she killed a man in his own home. At her trial in Dallas, she was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Afterwards, the victims' family gets to have a say. The slain man's brother, 18-year-old Brandt Jean, told Guyger that he forgave her and hugged the woman who killed his brother. But there is more to the story than that.

Cut out of many news reports is what the young man said to her. He was not just extending his personal forgiveness. He was reaching out to her with Jesus. Here is what he said, somewhat edited. From C. C. Pecknold, *The Day the World Saw God in a Dallas Courtroom*:

"I don't want to say twice or for the hundredth time how much you've taken from us. I think you know that."

"I hope you go to God with all that guilt. If you truly are sorry...I forgive you. I know if you go to God and ask Him, He will forgive you."

"I love you just like anyone else...I personally want the best for you... I don't even want you to go to jail. I want the best for you, because I

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know that's exactly what Botham would want...And the best would be to give your life to Christ. Giving your life to Christ is the best thing Botham would want you to do. Again, I love you as a person, and I don't wish anything bad on you."

Turning to the Judge, Brandt almost begged, "I don't know if this is possible, but can I give her a hug please? Please?" The Judge conceded to the request, and Amber wept in Brandt's arms. Brandt was sharing Christ's hard-won forgiveness, which poured over into his own ability to forgive.

Of course the killer wept. The guard wept. The aggrieved family wept. The judge wept and was moved to then give her Bible to the prisoner. Everybody in the courtroom, I dare say, wept. Brandt was under no obligation to forgive her. The killer was not let off. She still has to go to prison for 10 years. But Brandt was extending to her a tangible picture of God's grace, His unmerited favour, which is all the hope any of us have and which can lead us to treat others with grace as well.

Grace is indeed hard to understand. It isn't fair. But it doesn't let anyone off the hook. It is transformative.

My thanks to Dr. Gene Veith, for his *Cranach* blog, which shared this story. If you would like to see the blog, go to: <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/geneveith/2019/10/grace-in-a-courtroom>

You can also see the video of this scene at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkoE\\_GQsbNA&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkoE_GQsbNA&feature=youtu.be)

I also know of a family who showed that same power of forgiveness. They had very little, and lived hand to mouth. One December, they were the victims of a break-in; something they really couldn't afford. Yet the next day, they wrote a letter to the local paper, addressing the burglar. They shared their heartache, but they also spoke those words of forgiveness, and shared how Jesus suffered and died to take away all sins from all people. They wanted the burglar to know that they could also trust Jesus to forgive them.

When the four Mounties were murdered in Mayerthorpe, Pastor Schiemann spoke of forgiveness for the man who murdered his son. God's forgiveness of our sins enables us to be forgiving towards others, who have sinned against us.

Paul calls us to be Christ-like, especially in being able to forgive. *as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must*

*forgive.* This isn't always easy, but with the grace and help of God we can do it!

I appreciate the story of that young man in the Dallas courtroom. It speaks so well of what God's love for us in Christ truly does in our lives. I pray that we may see this same power of forgiveness at work in our lives, too!

Blessings in Christ,  
Pastor Bode



"Remember a couple of months ago? You prayed God would blow all those leaves away? Well, your prayer was just answered!"

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# Children & Family Ministry

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

*"Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations." Psalm 119:89-90*

Sunday School is now well under way for this year. We have just finished our 3-year journey through the Bible, and begin that journey once again as we dive into a new curriculum, entitled "Enduring Faith". In our first year we will touch on key Bible accounts through both the Old and New Testament that provide us with a view of God's plan of salvation in Christ Jesus. Our second and third year will focus on more in-depth studies of the Old and New Testaments. Watch your bulletins to see what children will be learning each week.

Children will soon be preparing for this year's Children's Service, "Christmas Lights". The service will be presented Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, during our regular 10:15 am service. Families should have received a note outlining our plans for rehearsals. See Deaconess Miriam if you have any questions.

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

Our lessons for November and December are:

Nov 03	A Mighty Wonder - Creation	Genesis 1:1-2:3
Nov 10	The Fall and a Promise - Fall Into Sin	Genesis 3
Nov 17	A New Beginning - Noah	Genesis 6:11-22; 7:11-24; 8:13-22
Nov 24	A Call to Action - Abraham	Genesis 12:1-9
Dec 01	A Promising Dream - Jacob	Genesis 28:10-22
Dec 08	Hope in Hardship - Joseph	Genesis 37; 45:1-10; 50:20
Dec 15	Christmas Lesson	
Dec 22	Christmas Lesson	
Dec 29	Christmas Activity	

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. This year 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

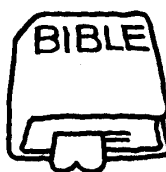
### Mothers of infants and toddlers...

Our regular schedule resumed in September. 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 10:00-11:30 am.



Mark your calendars for **November 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>** and **December 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>**. We will continue our study of "The Beauty of a Simple Life".

## LADIES' BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES



Ladies, you are invited to join us for Bible study and snacks at 7:30 pm the second and fourth **Tuesdays** of the month. Our study is entitled **Perseverance**, and focuses on prayer, based on Nehemiah. Mark these dates on your calendar: **November 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**, and **December 10<sup>th</sup>**. We meet at Deaconess Miriam's home, #201, 2000 Citadel Meadow Point NW. Please bring a small snack to share AND YOUR BIBLES!

Another group of ladies meets **Wednesday afternoons** at 1:00 pm in a member's home. We are just completing a study on "Women of the Bible" and are in the process of selecting our next topic. If you are interested in joining us, please speak with Deaconess Miriam or Gladys Byers.

## SATURDAY KIDS BIBLE CLUB!

Our monthly KIDS BIBLE CLUB is running again, under the theme **Jesus: Our Good Shepherd**. We will meet on **Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 11:30 am**. If you are interested in having your children participate, please contact Deaconess Miriam to register your child age 4-10 years. Don't forget that Men's Breakfast runs on the same days. Consider bringing a friend, or offer to volunteer!

## Family Time in Christ

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In November we celebrate All Saints' Day. It often gets lost after the excitement of the costumes and candy of Halloween, but it is a celebration in the Church Year worth spending some time on as a family.

First, who are the saints? The saints are all those who have been made holy through faith in Jesus Christ. Scripture says that when we are baptized into Christ, we put Him on (Galatians 3:27). He becomes our clothing, and in Him we are saints.

Help your children understand that when they were baptized, they were covered over with Christ's righteousness. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, remind them of their baptism. Light their baptismal candle and explain that because they are a child of God they can be called "Saint (name)". If you have his or her white baptismal clothes, show them, or show them pictures. Maybe put white shirts on as you remember your baptisms. Remind your children that the white tells them that they are covered with Christ's righteousness.

On this day we remember the saints that have passed away. Help your child to remember any people in his or her life that have died believing in Jesus Christ. Read Revelation 7:9-17, which tells us about the multitude of saints that are in heaven. Pray, giving thanks for the faith of these saints that have gone before us, and asking God to keep your family members strong in their faith. A blessed All Saints' Day!

### **PARENTING FAMILIES...FROM ME TO WE**



If you have children of any age, this course is for you! The 6-session course is a combination of video and discussion, covering basic strategies around Commitment, Communication, Consistency, Consequences, Conflict and Crisis and making Connections.

**Classes will run Saturday mornings, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and February 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.** Please contact Deaconess Miriam with questions or to register. Childcare will be offered during the sessions so that mom and dad can attend together!



All are invited to join in an evening of Christmas Caroling on **Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**. Bring the gift of music and goodies to the home or room of one of our members who is homebound or

in a care facility. We'll meet at the church at 6:15 to form groups, and leave the church by 6:30. When we're done, we'll meet at Pastor Bode's house for treats of our own! Watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex, and announcements closer to the time.

### **ADVENT FAMILY FUN**

The Foothills Family is invited to come **Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**, for some Advent fun. Come for pizza at 5:30 pm to join in a family devotion and Advent crafts, and to help set up and decorate the Christmas tree and sanctuary. We need to know how many people will be coming, so please use the sign-up sheet on Deaconess Miriam's door.

## Silver Saints

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*Thank You!*

**Ruth and Gunter Maelburger** for arranging for the Octoberfest Lunch at the Austrian Canadian Club.

**Pastor Bode** for Part 1 of his presentation on a Christian funeral and estate planning.

**Phil and Cheryl Lemke** for sharing their video travelogue on their experiences while living in Qatar and the Middle East.

The following activities will complete our events to the end of 2019:

**November 13** Part 2 Christian Funerals & Estates  
Speaker: Pastor Bode

**November 27** Remembrance Day Talk & Display  
Presented by Brian Printz

**December 11** Christmas Dinner  
Hosted by Vi & Otto Dusterhoft



# Renovate For Jaydon

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It's hard to believe that it has been 5 years today as I write this that we brought Jaydon home on October 20, 2014 after he had spent 157 days in the NICU – nothing short of a miracle!! Since the moment

he and his twin brother were born, everyone here in our church family at Foothills has surrounded us with their love, support and endless prayers. We firmly believe that if it wasn't for all those prayers made in earnest to our loving Father above, the boys may not be here with us today...

From the beginning, Jaydon has not had an easy life. The effects of being so premature and tiny were quickly recognized by us in the early days of him coming home, and it became quite evident that he would not reach the developmental milestones at the rate or age range that most children do who are born full term. Within his first year of life, Jaydon was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy which was caused by the trauma his brain suffered at birth, and dealt with many other issues associated with his prematurity. This included painful kidney stones which he has undergone multiple surgeries to remove, in addition to his epilepsy, which unfortunately is not currently managed under his current medications, and the doctors are still looking to find that right mix, and because most of his seizure activity goes on in his brain unnoticed to us, his cognitive and physical development continues to be affected by this.

Despite all of this, as hard as it is to process as a parent, we never feel alone for we are surrounded by such a loving community here at Foothills. We are still constantly amazed by the show of support and prayers, or just a kind word of encouragement that's much needed on those especially tough days. It is so wonderful to share those little triumphant moments with all of you, such as watching Jaydon after the children's message as he walks up the aisle to our pew in the back, with such determination and strength as he grips our hands tightly for support.

As we look back over these years, we are overwhelmed

and taken aback with how abundantly God has blessed us and Jaydon through this ordeal. But the biggest blessing yet, was in the summer when we had just moved in to our new house and it was announced that Jaydon would be the next recipient of a life-changing home renovation!! (For more information on ARK – Accessibility Renovations for kids, go to [www.arksociety.ca](http://www.arksociety.ca))

So for the next few months to come, the people from ARK will be building Jaydon a ramp from our house to the street and a completely accessible bathroom in our basement. Also on the wish list is a stair lift for both the upstairs and downstairs of our two-storey house which comes at a pretty high cost, so that will only be fulfilled if the project manages to raise enough money.

I'm sure we would both say that the most amazing part of this whole process, the one that keeps us asking *"should we pinch ourselves? Is this a dream,* is that this incredible renovation will not come at any cost to us. It is completely funded by donations from generous people who want to help make a difference in Jaydon's life. Each of the projects can only begin once we raise enough funds and materials to support the project. Another exciting part is that every dollar donated is being matched by the Calgary Children's Foundation up to \$15,000.

So if you are able to, or know of anyone who can help donate any materials, labor or money to the project, please go to the ARK website, listed above, and click on the link for Jaydon, which sends you to a secure PayPal account. All funds raised go directly to his project.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

With gratitude in our hearts,

Matt and Amanda Roth



## A Peek Into Our Preschool

I am writing this just before the Thanksgiving long weekend, so thankfulness is on my mind. Being thankful for God's blessings has been a theme this past week in our preschool classroom. One of the books we read together was about a child who thought his friend was lucky having many toys, a maid to clean up his messes, and even a swimming pool in his back yard. The boy was feeling a little jealous. He was hesitant to reciprocate by inviting his friend over to play since he had fewer toys and was expected to help with chores around the house. However, when his friend did come, he had so much fun even though the dog chewed his shoe, the baby sister was pestering to be included, and they were expected to help by setting the table for supper. Surprisingly, his friend thoroughly enjoyed himself. The child with fewer toys had a pet, a sibling, more time with his parents and even grandparents who lived near by. He realized that he was blessed too, even if his blessings were different.

Some of our preschool parents are graduate students so they live on a modest income. They also pay increased university tuition as internationals so their children may not have as many toys and the family may not own a car. They may be far from grandparents and cousins.

ins. However, no matter whether we are blessed by having material possessions, loving family and friends, good health, enough food to eat, 5 senses, musical ability, athletic ability, or a keen mind that learns and retains concepts easily, Thanksgiving is a time to remember that all these gifts come from our loving heavenly Father. He loves us and blesses us every day.

The children made and illustrated a placemat that we laminated for them so they could use it for Thanksgiving dinner. It includes a traditional Thanksgiving prayer that families may wish to say before meals:

*"Thank you for the world so sweet.*

*Thank you for the food we eat.*

*Thank you for the birds that sing.*

*Thank you, God, for everything."*

**THANK YOU** for your prayers for the baby born 4 weeks early to one of our preschool families. The parents are hoping that their newborn will be able to go home in the next few weeks. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

### **November Mission of the Month** **Inn from the Cold**

The mission of Inn from the Cold is to provide emergency shelter, support and programs to homeless children, their families and others in need, with the goal of building healthy, stable families and ending homelessness. A number of churches, community associations and organizations have come together to provide emergency shelter and resources for Calgary's homeless. These Community Inns continue to operate on a rotating basis, 365 days a year, and are located in communities across Calgary. Inn from the Cold also operates Calgary's first Emergency Family Shelter.

### **December Mission of the Month** **Robert Ohlinger Scholarship Fund**

The Robert Ohlinger Scholarship Fund was set up to assist Foothills Lutheran members who are studying to go into professional church work. It is administered by the Board of Elders of Foothills Lutheran Church. The fund was initiated by donations in memory of Robert Ohlinger, the oldest son of our Pastor Emeritus, Eldon Ohlinger. Robert was struck and killed by a car in May 1975 at the age of 14 as he was walking home from a school band activity. Robert played clarinet, bass clarinet, piano and guitar. He enjoyed using his musical gifts as one of FLC's musicians for Sunday morning folk services.

# Board of Fellowship

## Past Events

### Ministry Appreciation



October is Ministry Appreciation month. After the October 20<sup>th</sup> service, the Elders of the congregation served the ministry staff and members pie. Lots of lemon pie was enjoyed which is Pastor Eric's favorite. We are always thankful for our faithful servants that lead us.

### Confirmation Dinner

To celebrate the confirmation of Jessika, Austin, Derek, Jonathan, Annika, Paige, Erica and Gillian, FLC hosted a dinner for the confirmands and their families. A lovely meal was enjoyed by all on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks for the kitchen helpers. God's blessings on the confirmands as they continue their Faith journey.

## Upcoming Events

### Advent Soup Suppers

Do you enjoy making soup? Sign up on the bulletin board for the Wednesday, Advent <sup>\*\*\*\*\*</sup> suppers starting in November. Fill your soul and your body.



### Lutheran Quips

How does Moses make his coffee?  
Hebrews it.

Which servant of God was the worst lawbreaker in the Bible?  
Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

Who was the smartest man in the Bible?  
Abraham. He knew a Lot.

How long did Cain hate his brother?  
As long as he was Abel.

Why wouldn't the Pharaoh let the Hebrews go?  
He was in 'de Nile.

## Continuing Events



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.

### Coffee Teams

Thank you to the wonderful teams who provide fellowship after service on Sunday mornings.

- 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, Marilyn Harrison and Kathy Hilland
- 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 John & Diane Voss
- 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 Karen Borgeson
- Team 10 Carol & Lloyd Sandau, Bob & Elsie Will and Bill & Erika Schultz

*Blessings,*  
Heather Sommers

**TACO-IN-A-BAG FUNDRAISER:** After worship on December 1, join the youth for lunch in the Fellowship Hall! The popular taco-in-a-bag fundraiser is returning, and for a donation of \$8, you can enjoy a bagged taco, a drink, and a dessert square. Funds raised will support youth attending events like the IMPACT Youth Gathering in 2020, and the National Youth Gathering in 2021.



# LWML-Canada

## Past Event

October 6th—LWML-C Sunday

### Thank you for your mite donations!

*Jesus saw a poor widow put two very small mites (coins) into the temple treasury. "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." (Luke 21: 2-4)*



Mites go toward mission grants at home and abroad. Mission grant proposals are submitted and chosen by vote at national conventions every three years. Grants are paid to the recipients as required for them to carry out their mission work.

Example: \$5,000 grant toward the National Youth Gathering in Langley, B.C. July 5 – 9, 2019. This mission grant is complete.

To learn more about LWML-C mission projects for 2018 – 2021, view the poster on the LWML-C bulletin board by the kitchen entrance.

The same process is followed when choosing mission grants at the district level.

Example: In 2015, Pastor Eric Moffett was awarded a \$10,000 ABC District mission grant for Bibles and study materials for his students at the University of Calgary. He continues to draw on this support.

Foothills LWML-C Society Donations. Our society also donates to other organizations. Some of our favourites are LAMP, LBT and Malabar Mission Society.

Christmas Stocking Donation Throughout the year, we put money in our Christmas stocking at our monthly meetings. We will soon decide who will receive this year's Christmas gift.

Ongoing Donations **Used eyeglasses** are sent around the world to help people with vision problems. **Used postage stamps** are sent to the Canadian Bible Society and sold to stamp collectors. Proceeds are used to buy Bibles for inmates in Canadian prisons. (Please leave ¼ " border around the stamps.) **Food Bank Items** are sometimes given to hungry drop-ins who visit Foothills; surplus items are given to The Calgary Food Bank. Please place your donations in the designated bins in the church foyer. Thanks!

## Upcoming Event

### Advent Tea at Foothills Manor

Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m.

Join us as we bring in the Christmas season with the residents of Foothills Manor! We'll have a sing-a-long and enjoy Christmas refreshments.

### Foothills Society Meeting

Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> Noon – 2:30

All ladies are welcome!



On behalf of the Calgary Pregnancy Care Center, I would like to say thank you to the FLC members who contributed to the Baby Bottle Campaign. Together we raised over \$1,400 to support programs for men and women and families facing unplanned pregnancy.

To celebrate, the Center is looking for the following donations to make Christmas a little brighter. Donations can be given to Heather Sommers or dropped off at the FLC office during the month of November.

- ✓ nice journals
- ✓ picture frames
- ✓ bath and body products for Moms
- ✓ baby items, toys and clothing (12 mo. and younger)

Blessings, Heather Sommers (403) 829-2366



## Board of Stewardship

### **November is Stewardship Month!**

In the month of November we are going to reflect on our role as stewards of God's gifts to us. Stewardship is the giving of our time, talents and treasures out of thankfulness for all that God has done for us. We can give our time in a number of ways. We can volunteer at our Church, in our community, in one-on-one situations by helping others, by witnessing to others as opportunities arise or by simply taking time to worship, pray and spend time in the Word. Giving of our time basically means taking some time out of our busy lives to give some of this time back to God.

Giving of our talents means using the gifts God has given us to further his ministry on earth. Each of us has been given unique talents by our Lord. In Romans 12:6-8 the Bible says, "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith, if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach, if it is to encourage, then give encouragement, if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently, if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." Everyone of us has been given talents and we must be good stewards of those talents and ensure we use them in service to our Lord. Our Lord told us to use our talents and not hide them. In Matthew 5:14-16 the Bible says, "You are a light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Giving of our treasures involves giving back to God what he has already blessed us with. Everything we have comes to us as a blessing from our Lord. Giving some of our treasures to our church or towards helping our neighbors when we are blessed with abundance is the right thing to do. 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

During the month of November we will be highlighting various ways to be good stewards of our time, talents and treasures. We will highlight opportunities in which we can give back to our church, community, or to our neighbors.

Dale Dusterhoft  
Chairman – Board of Stewardship

## LCC Issues Financial Update



**ONLINE** – The Board of Directors of Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) has released a bulletin insert for congregations providing Synod's up-to-date financial information. LCC will issue updates on Synod's financial information on a quarterly basis.

The insert highlights the variety of work Synod does on behalf of congregations in such areas as national and international missions, church worker education, leadership and member care, and community building. "To accomplish this work together," the insert notes, "generous offerings of faithful members throughout the country are needed. A portion of gifts laid upon the altar at local congregations is remitted to LC. In total, these gifts make up 68 percent of LCC's overall revenue and are critical for funding the vital work we do together."

The insert goes on to note, however, that LCC is currently facing a deficit "due to overall congregational remittances being less than expected." To that end, the BOD encourages congregations to "bring this matter to the Lord in prayer, trusting God to provide the resources needed to carry out His great commission."

Access the full bulletin at <https://www.canadianlutheran.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/10/LCC-Services-Bulletin-Insert-final.pdf>

The Board of Directors will provide an update on LCC finances in the November/December issue of *The Canadian Lutheran* magazine, as well as by email and via the InfoDigest.



**MARTIN LUTHER OFTEN SPOKE OF MUSIC** as one of the greatest gifts that God has given to His people. Luther saw music as a way to praise God, and as a way to keep our hearts buoyed by His

Word. We are blessed in the new organ that helps us in our praise of God. While funds came from a bequest for a good portion of the cost, it did not cover everything. Will you consider a Thanksgiving gift to God, supporting this major purchase in the life of our congregation? We will look to dedicating the organ at the beginning of Advent this year.

## 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).

We are committed to making youth group available to everyone no matter the cost. If paid events are a concern for your family, please let one of the youth leaders know, as we do have funds set aside for these situations, and the youth group is supported by people who donate to the church's ministry budget.

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 or Instagram (talk to Kayla or Michelle to join), giving Pastor Eric your email address, or joining the Facebook group!



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

**November 1-3:** Fall youth retreat at the church - the registration deadline was October 13th! Youth Bible study that Sunday morning will be in the Sanctuary.

**November 15:** Solo Night: bring a friend and come for games at the church from 7 to 10 pm!

**November 29:** Hitmen game: It's Shine FM's Christmas Miracles night. Tickets are \$15, the game is at 7pm, and we'll be able to skate at the Saddledome after the game! Meet at Brentwood Station at 6pm, or at the Saddledome at 6:30. Families are invited to join us. RSVP to Pastor Eric by November 17 so we can order tickets.

**December 1:** We'll be having a taco-in-a-bag fundraiser after church. Funds raised will help support youth group trips to gatherings, and all families are asked to participate. Watch for an email with more details soon!

**December 14:** Depending on the weather, we plan to do tubing or sledding during the day. More info will be announced closer to the date.

**Save January 10 for the first youth event of the new year!** Also save July 2-5, 2020, for the IMPACT Youth Gathering in southern BC!

## Family Time Devotions



**Take it Home!**

**Sunday, November 24, 2019**

**9:15 am**

The daily rhythms of our lives - how we spend our time - teach our children what we are devoted to. Family devotions - regular time spent together with Jesus - keep Him at the centre of your home. At this session you will learn some tips for successfully incorporating family devotions into your regular routine.

Please bring your 3-year-old so you can participate together. Join us at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary for Sunday School opening. Our session will begin in Room 3 right after our opening. Younger children are welcome to attend with you, and older children may attend Sunday School during this time.

**RSVP TO:**

**[miriam@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:miriam@foothillslutheran.com)**

**Designed for children born in 2016**

# Board of Elders

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Gary Anderson; Colin Bablitz; Thomas Benz; Darcy Drysdale; Hans Dueck; Robert Heumann; Philip Lemke; Goodluck Nwaerandu; Lorne Rosenau

At the September 15, 2019 Voters meeting, I shared that the Board was initiating a review of its duties under the parish's Constitutional By-Laws. Our first undertaking has been to discuss and align on what these By-Laws mean insofar as the Board of Elders' "*primary responsibility*" ... "*the spiritual health of the whole congregation*". As your Director, I sought the Board's understanding of how they interpreted the intent of this responsibility... What do we mean by "*spiritual health*"? How is this assessed? What do we mean when we refer to the "*whole congregation*"? i.e., what is the scope of '*whole congregation*'? This is what the Elders had to say:

- Positive "*spiritual health*" is evident when members are regularly attending worship services, partaking of Holy Communion, participating in Bible studies, and volunteering for service opportunities within the parish.
- The "*whole congregation*" means the current total of 657 Communicant Members, which includes all active members (+/-200) and inactive members (+/-450).
- Spiritual health is assessed through feedback from Elder-Member visitations.

I was very pleased with the aforementioned response by your Board members and see evidence of their commitment to member visitations.

I have a couple sobering concerns... (i) the apparent slow decline in attendance to regular Sunday worship services; and (ii) whether our parish will be able to sustain its *Statement of Direction*.

- Slow Decline in Attendance of Regular Sunday Worship Services Last year, our year to date (YTD) average attendance (as of September 2018) was 218 per Sunday worship service. Our 2019 YTD average attendance, from January 1, 2019 to and including this past September, was 194. For the month of September 2019, specifically, 176. I believe the Board of Elders will need to make a concerted effort to try to determine *why* this is happening.
- Sustainability of our Statement of Direction As you're aware, our parish's *Statement of Direction* has three key focus areas:

- **Christian growth of the family of God in Christ** – connecting and building relationships with new and prospective members, offering regular alternative worship styles, initiatives to engage and support seniors, young and young adults.
- **Pre-school Ministry** – development of Christian faith among preschool children and their families, teaching the basics of God's Word and Christian values and actions, building connections for students and their families with our church community.
- **Campus Ministry** – development of Christian faith among university students, friends and family, forming relationships with students through meals, activities and other events (e.g., weekly on-campus Bible studies).
- A whole lot of 'real good stuff' is going on here! Exemplary leadership by our Pastors/Deaconess/Preschool Principal in offering high quality, doctrinally sound worship services, Christian education programs and evangelical mission into the community... the *University of Calgary*, in particular. Today, our financial 'picture' is not good. As of the end of September, we are over \$100,000 below budget on 'receipts'... largely due to 'below budget' offerings (\$73,000). While expenses are down by roughly \$41,000, that still leaves a concerning deficit. It is not my intention to overstep into the duties of the Board of Stewardship... but I encourage all of you to ask yourself whether you see, as I do, the wonderful, God-pleasing scope of our mission activity at Foothills Lutheran Church. If you do and, like me, value it, the next question to each of us – me included – is what must each of us do to ensure that sustainably prevails?

The Lord's blessing upon each and every one of you, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

Phil Lemke

Director, Board of Elders