

Foothills Lutheran Church

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



First Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2019

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

A Prayer Upon Entering: O Advent Lord, come to us and share with us Your peace. Break down the walls that sin has set between us. Bring an end to all division and discord. Turn our attention away from weapons of destruction, and turn us toward the tools of justice, love, and service.

O coming Christ, grant us Your peace.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE: As projected

HYMNS:..... 333 (vs. 1-3, 4); 357 (vs. 7, 1); 332; 350; 795; (vs 1, 5); 331; 353; 334; 348

CHOIR: *Advent Gift*

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 2:1-5.....p. 722

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 13 8-14p. 1206

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 21:1-11p. 1049

SERMON:

WELCOME! It is a joy to have you with us today, especially the visitors who have joined us this morning. We gather together this day to be fed with the life-giving word of God. If you are visiting with us today, we hope you will join us again and find the joy, peace and life we have as God's people. We also hope you will sign our guest book at the back of the church.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION TODAY, in which our Lord offers us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. By partaking of this Sacrament together, we confess our unity in faith and are drawn closer to one another and to the Lord. If you are a visitor, not belonging to the Lutheran Church-Canada, and wish to commune, please speak with the pastor before the service. Anyone is welcome to come to the Altar for a blessing, please simply cross your arms across your chest and the Elders will know how to respond.

THE NURSERY is available for times that children are restless and is equipped with a sound system to enable parents to continue worshipping. Because some of our children and parents have severe nut allergies, **please keep the nursery a nut-free zone.**

LARGE PRINT HYMNS AND SERVICE are available for your use. Please pick up a copy from the tables at the back of the sanctuary or ask an usher for a copy.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS, crayons, scrap paper and busy bags are available on the bookshelves by the sanctuary doors for children to use during worship.



DID YOU LOSE SOMETHING? Lost and found items are on display in the narthex. Did you misplace a pair of reading glasses? They, too, are on the same table. Also on display are unclaimed dishes from the kitchen. Pick them up soon, before we pass them on to Goodwill.

LAST WEEK AT FLC

Week of:	Sunday Worship	Wednesday Worship/Communion	Education Hour
November 24	229	5/5	47

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Narthex Greeters Brian & Barb Vincent; Rick Bennetts
 Sanctuary Greeters Elke Bittman; Mark Kihn; Gary & Laurel Anderson
 Organist Miriam Winstanley
 Acolyte Calder Bishop
 Lector Carl Berdahl
 Coffee Team Taco-in-a bag lunch hosted by the Youth
 Counters Brenda Bode; Heather Sommers

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

In Hospital:

Homebound:

For Special Intercession:

For Our Missions: Thank God the preschool's unit on fire safety was well received and the children were excited about learning.

Family Focus:

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, and his wife, Marian. 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.



Altar Flowers **THE FLOWERS** which beautify our altar this month are given to the glory of God by Marilyn Harrison in loving memory of her husband, Bruce.

WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY and the glorious hope of the resurrection to Mabel Davis at the loss of her brother, Keith. We pray that God would comfort the family with His everlasting love and comfort.

This Week at Foothills

Today:	11:45 am	Taco-in-a-Bag Lunch
	12:15 pm	Voters Meeting
Monday:	7:00 pm	Sunday School Meeting

Tuesday:	6:00 pm	Elders
Wednesday:	1:00 pm	Ladies Bible Study @ Gladys Byers
	5:30 pm	Soup Supper
	6:30 pm	Advent Worship
	7:30 pm	Choir
Thursday:	9:30 am	Moms & Tots
	7:00 pm	Front to Back Bible Study @ Bodes'
Friday:	5:30 pm	Family Advent Activity (Pizza Night)
Saturday:	9:00 am	Men's Breakfast/Bible Study
	9:30 am	Kids Bible Club
	1:00 pm	Children's Sunday School Service rehearsal
Sunday:	9:00 am	Education Hour
	10:15 am	Contemporary Worship

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: (Dec 8th) **“God’s Yes” (Romans 8:18-39)** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Loved and Sent Series – “If we say that God’s purpose is simply to take our souls to heaven when we die, we might miss God’s bigger ‘yes’... God’s ‘yes’ to putting bodies and souls back together again in the resurrection; God’s ‘yes’ to creation as He intended it to be”. Hear this inspirational message on CHRB 1140/am at 8:00 am Sunday mornings. Streaming audio and pod-casts at www.lutheranhour.ca.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: “A Promising Dream” was the title of this week’s lesson. Jacob undeservedly receives his father’s blessing—he and his offspring will dwell in the land of Canaan. As the days of Isaac’s life approach their end, Jacob rightly fears for his life. Following the urging of Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob sets out for the house of his uncle Laban. Along the way, Jacob dreams of a ladder reaching to heaven, with the Lord Himself standing at the top. The preincarnate Christ repeats God’s promise to give this land to Jacob and his descendants. As a family, consider discussing how God can use even sinful people to fulfill His plans.

CHRISTMAS BAKING: For those of you starting your Christmas baking, could you consider setting aside a batch for our church freezers to be used during fellowship time? The fellowship committee and teams wish to thank all of you who sneak baking into the freezers throughout the year! It is a valuable contribution! Please remember to date and label your goodies and leave the baking that contains nuts at home. Thank you.

SILVER SAINTS CHRISTMAS DINNER DECEMBER 11: A sign-up sheet is available for you to let us know that you will attend and what you will bring. It is posted on the Silver Saints bulletin board.

TACO-IN-A-BAG FUNDRAISER: After worship today, 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.



SOUP SIGN-UP: If you are someone who loves to make soup for the cold winter months, consider making an extra pot for one of our 5:30 pm Advent suppers. The sign-up sheet is located on the Fellowship bulletin board in the Narthex.

DO YOU STILL NEED OFFERING ENVELOPES? Many of our members have switched their giving to electronic contributions and no longer require offering envelopes. We have already ordered our 2020 envelopes; however, we will order our 2021 offering envelopes in January to take advantage of early order discounts. Please let the church office know if you no longer require offering envelopes and we will adjust our order. If we don't hear from you, we will proceed with ordering envelopes for you. Regardless of the way, may God enable us to be faithful stewards of His gifts first given to us!

OUR MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY meets this Saturday, December 7th, and we will look at another great hero of the faith from the Old Testament. We meet at 9:00 am for breakfast, and time together in the Word. We wrap up by 10:30. We invite all the men to come and join us.



KIDS BIBLE CLUB also meets Saturday, December 7th from 9:30 – 11:30. Children age 4-10 are invited to participate in music, a Bible lesson, crafts and games. This year's theme is God's Good Gifts: From Life to Eternal Life. Contact Deaconess Miriam for more information or to register your child!

MAXINE'S PASSION –ART AND MUSIC: You are cordially invited to Maxine's art show and sale on **Sunday, December 8th** (note correction to date) from 1 to 4 p.m. A large percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the Organ Fund. Enjoy refreshments while you browse. Bring your family and friends.

Maxine Abraham (former church organist)
640 Hunterfield Place NW



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: We received 48 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child as well as 66 comfort dolls and financial contributions. Each shoebox is filled with simple gifts and a blessing to a child who has little or nothing. God uses all of our gifts as an opportunity for that child to hear the gospel message about the love of Jesus. Thank you to Jutta Colhoun, Kathy Hilland, Anne Marie Kothari and the youth for finishing comfort dolls that will be included with our donation to Samaritan's Purse.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Our Children's Christmas Service will be presented on **Sunday, December 15th** during our regular service time. Children will soon be practicing their music and lines, and our rehearsals are scheduled for Saturday December 7th at 1:00 pm and Saturday December 14th at 10:00 am. Parents, please confirm with your child's Sunday School teacher that they will be participating. Please keep our children in your prayers as they prepare to present the good news of our Saviour's birth!

DECEMBER IS A BUSY MONTH, with many special activities in which we share. Among those are:

- **Foothills Family Advent Festival:** On Friday, December 6th we gather as a church family for pizza and a devotion at 5:30 pm, followed by tree decorating and crafts. This is for all our members, and

we hope you will join us. Please sign up on the list on Deaconess Miriam's door so we know how much pizza to order!

- ***Carolling to our homebound members:*** We will bring Christmas cheer to our homebound members on **Friday, December 13th**. Meet at the church at 6:15 pm to form our carolling groups and pick up the plates of goodies to take to those you visit. After carolling, quench your throats and palates with fellowship and goodies at Pastor Bode's home. Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

ON THE WELCOME DESK: Please note the many things available to you, such as:

- Our Time, Talent, Treasures survey. Please fill this out and return it to the office, or drop it on the offering plate.
- The ***Agenda & Minutes*** for the Voters Meeting today.
- The ***Advent Worship Calendar***, which lists our special Advent services and the various opportunities for worship during this holy season.
- ***Gifts from the Heart***, opportunities to give gifts that also become gifts to those in need.
- ***Advent Devotional Booklets*** from Lutheran Hour Ministries, to assist you in your celebration of the coming Saviour.
- ***Portals of Prayer*** for January – March 2020



TODAY WE DEDICATE THE NEW ORGAN, giving thanks to God for this gift to our church, and for the gift of music that we raise in His glory and praise. We also dedicate a drum set donated for our contemporary musicians, as they accompany those songs of praise, too. We thank the giver of this gift for their support of our music ministry.

Martin Luther always praised music as the highest gift, next to theology, that God has given to us. With music we do praise God, confess our faith, and rejoice in His love and goodness to us. Music has long been a powerful way of communicating the truth of Scripture and teaching the faith. Those long hymns—they were devotions, for people who didn't have the luxury of books learned songs, and sang them as the prayers they were. We are blessed through our organists, and through all the musicians who add to the worship of God's people. Thanks be to God, for His gift of music and song!

We encourage you to consider a gift to the organ fund, as we still have some costs associated with this. Just mark "Organ" on the *Other* line of your offering envelope

Senior Pastor: David Bode
(flcpastor@foothillslutheran.com)

Associate Pastor: Eric Moffett
(flcpastoreric@foothillslutheran.com)

DPS: Deaconess Miriam Winstanley
(miriam@foothillslutheran.com)

Office Administrator: Carol Kehler
(office@foothillslutheran.com)

Foothills Lutheran Christian Preschool

Phone: 403-284-1360

www.preschool.foothillslutheran.com

Preschool Teacher/Principal:

Betty Ann Chandler
(school@foothillslutheran.com)

Pastor Emeritus: Eldon Ohlinger

WE WILL SOON BE DISTRIBUTING THE NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2020. As we prepare for this, we want to give you a little encouragement on how to use those envelopes wisely and well.

Foothills operates with what is known as a Unified Budget—in other words, all the things we plan to do come (for the most part) out of what is typically referred to as a *Current Account*. We also have special *Mission of the Month* projects, along with the odd special need that arises (such as the *Organ Fund*).

Your offering envelope has three lines, designed to help you give your tithes and offerings to the Lord.

Weekly Budget refers to that unified budget, or the church operating budget. Gifts to the weekly budget needs support the work of the church by providing funds that pay salaries, provide for building maintenance, bulletin costs, etc. Basically, all our work is funded through this line. This includes our mission commitment to Lutheran Church—Canada, to help support the synod, sponsor new congregations and provide for our seminaries.

Special Mission Projects is the money that supports the various efforts we seek to support outside our own congregation. This refers to our *Mission of the Month* efforts. You could also write on this line your designated mission gift, say to Lutheran Hour Ministries or the Mustard Seed. Any amounts on this line that are not designated by name are credited to our Mission of the Month.

Other allows you to designate any specific need or fund in our church. We ask that you write in the name of the fund, such as *Flowers* or *Organ Fund*. Any amounts on this line that are not designated by name are credited to our Mission of the Month.

Where should you give your offering? That is up to you. We cannot maintain our church and its programs without support of the weekly budget, nor can we do the outreach work that is necessary without our support of Missions. We always remember that we give as God has given to us, for we are stewards, entrusted with blessings from our Master.

The gifts of God's people allow us to serve the Lord and His people in His church. Even as we have been struggling the last little while, especially with the challenging economy in Alberta, we would have to confess that we have been richly blessed, and that God enables us to do great things by His grace. We are confident that ***He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ***. (Philippians 1:6 - ESV) We know that, with the help of God, we will be able to meet the goals we have undertaken.

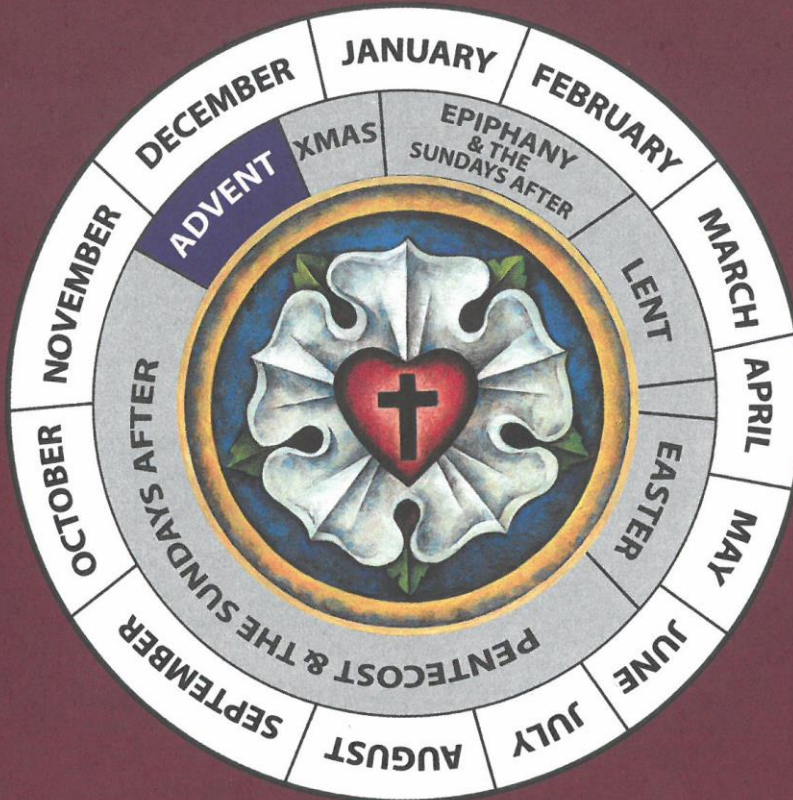
How much should you give? Scripture says: ***Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver***. (2 Corinthians 9:7 - ESV) We are encouraged in Scripture to:

- ***Give regularly*** - we should set aside a portion of our income weekly (and yes, even when we are absent) for the work of the Lord's church.
- ***Give faithfully*** - recognize that it is God who has provided all we have. He entrusts it to us, to be used properly and to His glory. This also includes the fact that we should give first to the Lord, not from the leftovers we have.
- ***Give generously*** - we are not to worry about our fair share or simply giving to the budget. We are to give from our hearts, especially the heart that is overjoyed at knowing the wonderful blessings of God.

May God enable us to be faithful stewards throughout the whole year!

ADVENT

*Begins the fourth Sunday before December 25,
or the Sunday closest to St. Andrew (November 30),
and ends with midday prayer on December 24.*



The Savior's birth is second in importance only to His resurrection on Easter Sunday. During the Time of Christmas, Christians reflect on God's great and gracious gift of Himself.

The Church Year begins with Advent (from Latin *adventus*, which means "coming into"), a four-week period of preparation before Christmas. The story of Jesus during Advent is the story of hope coming into the world. When the time was just right, God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. The Advent season teaches us to prepare to receive Jesus, the hope of the world.

In Advent, we wait for our coming King.

Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 11:1-2
Matthew 1:18-25

Micah 5:2
Luke 1:26-38, 46-55