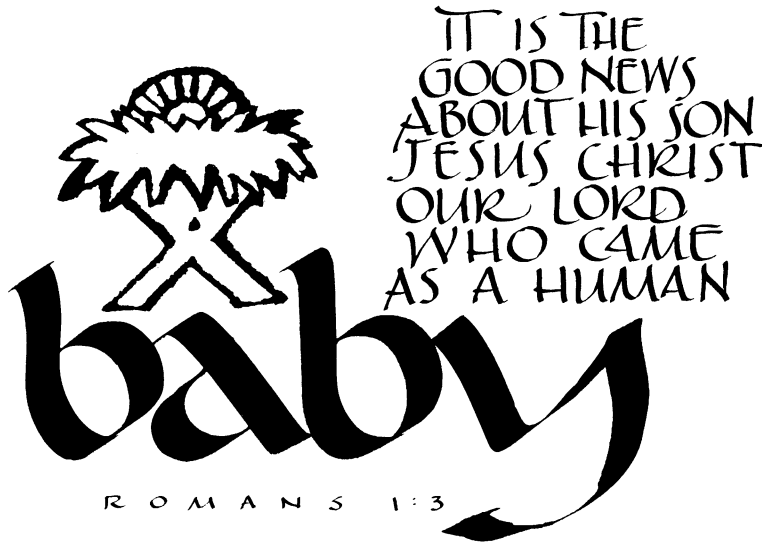


Foothills Lutheran Church

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

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



Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 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 bring us Your salvation. For we would be lost without Your presence, we would be sinking in sin without Your love, and we would be scattered far and wide were it not for Your guidance and strength. May we see Your salvation at work even now, in all the events surrounding Your birth.

O Coming Christ, save us by Your grace.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE: As projected

HYMNS:..... 340; 357; *Jesus Messiah*; *Your Name*; 352

CHOIR:..... *One Day Soon, We'll See Jesus*

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-17.....p. 727

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 1:1-7p. 1194

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25p. 1026

SERMON:

WELCOME TO YOU ALL! By God's grace we are privileged to worship and grow in Christ through our worship and Bible study opportunities this morning. We are pleased to have you be a part of this. If it is your first time with us, help us to get to know you by signing our guest book, and introduce yourself to the Pastor. We hope that you will join us again as we worship and praise God for His goodness to us in Christ Jesus, our Saviour.

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



THE FLOWERS which beautified our altar this month were given to the glory of God by Marilyn Harrison in loving memory of her husband, Bruce.

LAST WEEK AT FLC

Week of:	Sunday Worship/Communion	Advent Worship	Education Hour
December 15	220/156	32	59

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Narthex Greeters Brian & Carol Kehler; Lloyd & Carol Sandau
 Sanctuary Greeters Lorne & Pat Rosenau; Rick Bennetts; Hans Dueck
 Acolyte Kaylie Hennig
 Organist Walt Evans
 Lector Pastors
 Coffee Team Ingrid Kubke; Robert Kubke
 Counter Gary Ring

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

In Hospital:

Homebound:

For Special Intercession:

For Our Missions: Thank God that one of our student's finally had funding approved so that he will receive speech/language and occupational therapy in our preschool. This has been a 17-month process. Praise God!

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.

WE'RE HOLDING AN USHER TRAINING SESSION after service **today**. This is for new ushers, as well as our experienced ushers. We have a sign-up list posted on the bulletin board beside Deaconess Miriam's office. Even if you can't be with us, please sign up. We'll be about ½ hour, and it is important that we be working together to welcome those who come to be with us in worship. Please join us!

THANK YOU: Our family wishes to thank those who helped in the kitchen after the funeral for Al Chandler, Brian's father. We are also thankful for the cards and other expressions of sympathy from our church family during this difficult time. – Brian, Betty Ann, Amy and Adam Chandler

This Week at Foothills

Christmas Eve:	4:00 pm; 6:00 pm 11:00 pm	Candlelight Carol Services Candlelight Communion Service
Christmas Day:	10:15 am	Christmas Day Family Celebration/Communion
Thursday:		Office Closed
Sunday:	9:00 am 10:15 am	Education Hour Hymn Sing Sunday/Communion

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 11th, 18th, 25th, and February 1st, 8th and 15th. Please contact Deaconess Miriam with questions or to register. Childcare will be offered during the sessions so that mom and dad can attend together!



THE LUTHERAN HOUR: (Dec 29th) **“Dreams” (Jeremiah 23:24).** We end the year with a very inspiring message from Pastor John Nunes. Hear this inspirational message on CHR 1140 AM at 8:00 am Sunday mornings. Streaming audio and pod-casts at www.lutheranhour.ca.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: In the lesson for this week, “Wise Men Worship,” God leads Gentile scholars to worship the Christ. Following their visit, Joseph immediately flees with his young family to the safety of Egypt. When Herod’s insane jealousy dies with him, the Holy Family returns home to Nazareth. Discuss, “How does God keep you and I safe today?”

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Narthex and are in alphabetical order. If you need offering envelopes, and don’t see a set with your name on them, please let the office know. **Continue to use your current envelopes until Dec. 31st, then please use the new envelopes starting Jan. 1st, as numbers may have changed.**



THE JOYOUS SEASON OF CHRISTMAS is a wonderful time to invite people to come and worship the Newborn King. We continue to hear that many people would consider coming to worship, if only someone would invite them. You are our best advertising—speak positively of your church, and joyously invite others to come and see Jesus! Our festive services are as follows:

December 24	4:00 pm; 6:00 pm	Candlelight Carol Service
December 24	11:00 pm	Candlelight Communion Service
December 25	10:15 am	Christmas Day Family Celebration (Communion)
December 31	6:30 pm	New Year’s Eve Service (Communion)

Please note: there will **not** be a Wednesday service on Christmas Day or on January 1st.



HYMN SING SUNDAY: December 29th is the fifth Sunday of the month and we invite you to submit your favourite Christmas hymns for this service. Please let Pastor Bode know your choices as soon as possible.

EPIPHANY LUNCH: The LWML is hosting a congregational lunch on Epiphany Sunday, January 5th. Contributions of “finger food” (hot and cold appetizers, sandwiches, cheese, veggies, fruit, cookies ...) would be appreciated. Thanks!

USED EYEGLASSES & POSTAGE STAMPS: Operation Eyesight sends used eyeglasses to countries around the world to help people with vision problems. Canadian Bible Society sells postage stamps to stamp collectors. Proceeds are used to purchase Bibles for inmates in Canadian prisons. (Please leave 1/4" border around the stamps.) These are ongoing mission projects. Please place your donations in the designated bins in the church foyer. Thanks!



A VERY IMPORTANT REMINDER: *Please do not leave keys or valuables unattended* or in coat pockets. As the weather turns colder and people are wearing coats, there is a tendency to leave keys or other important items in coat pockets. Sadly, we have had people in the past come into the building during our worship, and go through coats, taking keys, money, cell phones, etc. We live in a fallen world, and, while we try to be vigilant, problems do arise. Let us pray that God would turn the hearts of the evildoers to His grace and truth in Christ. But, until that day, your caution is important – please be careful with your valuables!

"FAMILY" BOARD GAMES NIGHT: Join the youth on Friday, January 10th, 2020 for our annual family board games night! The whole Foothills family is invited to play board games from 7 to 10 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Invite a friend and bring a snack to share and come prepared to try some new games and meet some new people! Please RVSP to Pastor Eric so we have an idea of how many people to set up for.

OUR THANKS to the children and staff of our Sunday School, for the excellent job they did with their Christmas Service presentation last Sunday. We are grateful for you sharing your faith with us. A special thank you to Faith Dueck for her organ prelude.

We also appreciate the efforts of those who provided for our midweek soup suppers. As we came together, you provided the good soup that fed our bodies, as we prepared for the Word that fed our souls. Thank you all for your service to one another.



THE NEW YEAR IS A GREAT TIME TO GET BACK INTO THE BIBLE! Many people have their new year resolutions—why not resolve to spend more time in God’s Word? We have bible reading plans for the year; our bible studies are also great opportunities to talk, to share and to see what God has to teach us. Come and join us for LifeLight (Tuesday and Thursdays); Front to Back (Thursdays); and of course, Sunday mornings. Check out other studies for men, for women and for youth, too!

FROM THE PRESIDENT: We have a letter for our members, regarding our staff Christmas gift. We hope you read it and respond soon, as God moves you.

AND A REMINDER...With people travelling, and with holiday times, there will be reduced office hours. If you are planning to come to the church for any reason it is advisable that you call to make sure that someone is available at that time.

*Thank you for
Praying*

ONE OF THE GREATEST SERVICES we can give to the church and to one another is to pray for—and with—one another. As we begin the new year, we hope you will join us in praying for the church and its needs; for our members and for all we do together by the grace of God. What a blessing it is to lift up one another in prayer! God calls us to prayer, and as we pray, we have the wonderful assurance of our God: He hears and He answers!

FROM ONE OF LUTHER'S NATIVITY SERMONS: Her time came as they were drawing near, and Joseph sought room for them in the inn. But there was no room in the inn. Of course there was! There was all the room in the inn, but nobody would give up a room! Shame on you, wretched Bethlehem; you should've been burned with brimstone!

And don't let you people in this congregation think you'd have done any better if you were there. I can just hear you say, "Oh, we would have loved to take care of the Baby Jesus. We would have washed his diapers." No you wouldn't! If you'd been there you wouldn't have done a bit better, and if you think you would, why don't you do it for your neighbor in your midst, who is Christ among you? . . .

Mary and Joseph were obliged to take refuge in a stable, to share with the cattle, lodging, table, bedchamber and bed, while many a wicked man sat in the hotels and was honored as lord. . . .O what a dark night this was for Bethlehem, that was not conscious of that glorious light! . . .

"And she brought forth her firstborn child, and laid him in a manger." Think of it, women! She didn't even have a cradle to lay the baby in. She didn't have anything. No warm water, no cold water, no pan, no towels, no table — nothing that our German women have at such a time. It's a wonder the little fellow didn't freeze to death. . . .

I wouldn't have believed. If I'd been God and wanted to save the world, I wouldn't have done it that way. I would have just called in the devil and twisted his nose and said, "Let my people go!"

But God is amazing. He sends a little baby, as weak as an earthworm, lying in the feedbox of a donkey, and that little baby crunches the devil's back and overcomes all the power of Hell, and sin, and death. (Translation by Roland Baiton, in *Here I Stand*)



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Pastor Emeritus: Eldon Ohlinger