



Dear Friends in Christ Jesus:

Since many stores and even homes have had their Christmas decorations up since Halloween, I'm not surprised at how quickly people put them away after Christmas or, at the very least, right after the New Year. I saw at least 2 people who had taken down trees and had them outside on Boxing Day. One of my children has the 'tradition' of taking down the tree on New Years' Day. I don't know where she got that idea; I leave my decorations until the 12th day of Christmas, which is January 6th (and sometimes referred to as Ukrainian Christmas).

Decorations are a matter of personal choice. Whether you put them up, leave them up, or take them down early really doesn't matter. They can help us in our celebration of the birth of Christ, but in and of themselves they don't add anything to what God has done for us in giving us His Son. Decorations don't change the impact of the birth of Christ on our lives.

As we look to the beginning of this new year there is one "decoration" we want to keep in our homes and our church in each and every new day. Paul puts it this way: ***"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. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."*** (Colossians 3:12–15, ESV)

The one 'decoration' we take from Christmas is the new life that it brings us, because the Saviour is born to give us that life. Luther will talk about Baptism as "the greatest jewel to adorn body and soul". It is in our Baptism that we put on Christ—and covered in Christ, our lives are adorned with ***compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience . . . bearing with one another . . . forgiving each other.*** Adorned with the grace of Christ, we reflect His love, grace, mercy and forgiveness in everything we do.

My hope and prayer for this new year is that we will see this decoration in all we do. With Christ leading and guiding us we learn to be patient with one another, especially as we realize we don't always agree on everything. We learn to love one another, and to recognize the needs that we may see around us. We think more of each other than we think of ourselves. Most importantly, we forgive one another ***as the Lord has forgiven you.*** What

Foothills Lutheran Church

3104 - 34th Avenue NW

Calgary, Alberta T2L 2A3

Phone: 403-284-1342

www.foothillslutheran.com

office@foothillslutheran.com

David Bode, Pastor

flcpastor@foothillslutheran.com

Eric Moffett, Associate Pastor

flcpastoreric@foothillslutheran.com

Miriam Winstanley, Deaconess

Children & Family Ministry

miriam@foothillslutheran.com

Eldon Ohlinger, Pastor Emeritus

Foothills Lutheran Christian Preschool

Phone: 403-284-1360

Betty Ann Chandler

Preschool Principal/Teacher

school@foothillslutheran.com

Website:

www.preschool.foothillslutheran.com



...Continued from page 1

wondrous beauty God will bring to His church when His people don't 'take down', but 'keep up' the one Christmas decoration that we need, which is that new life we have through Jesus Christ.

We will face challenges in the days ahead. Things won't always seem beautiful and serene. We may feel that we are like an old Christmas tree: losing needles and looking bare and sparse. Yet God is with us. He waters and cares for us through our worship, where we are fed on His Word and on the Body and Blood of Christ in His sacrament of grace. He provides that same grace in our Bible studies and in our own devotions. May that Word keep your life beautiful in the decoration He has given you in your Baptism. May we see how He beautifies the church through the lives of His people, covered in Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer.

God's richest blessings to you all—and to us as one family in Christ—in this new year!

In His Service,
Pastor Bode

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Mission of the Month

JANUARY

CALGARY PREGNANCY CARE CENTRE

January is traditionally "Life Month". The efforts to counsel and support those seeking an alternative to abortion is part of those life efforts. We have supported this work through the Formula4Hope Baby Bottle campaign work in the past. Your support helps those who seek to preserve life and help those in distress due to an unexpected pregnancy.

Mission of the Month

FEBRUARY

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

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

Children & Family Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Welcome back to Sunday School after your celebration of the coming of our Saviour to be God-with-us. All of our lessons in Sunday School point to the fulfillment of God's promise to send One who would defeat sin, death and the devil for us. As we continue on with our new curriculum, our students will be encouraged in their faith in the one true God, who always keeps his promises! If your children need to miss a lesson due to illness or travel, their teacher would be happy to provide a copy of the lesson to you so that they can continue to see God's plan of salvation unfolding.

Thank you to all of the children who participated in our Children's Service, "Christmas Lights". We are grateful also to their parents and teachers, who worked with them at home, in class, and at rehearsals to present this account of our Saviour's birth.

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 January and February are:

Jan 05	Fiery Directions: <i>Moses</i>	Exodus 2:23-3:22
Jan 12	The Egypt Exit: <i>Exodus</i>	Exodus 14
Jan 19	A Loving Law: <i>The Ten Commandments</i>	Exodus 20:1-21
Jan 26	The Land at Last: <i>Joshua</i>	Joshua 3:1-4:18
Feb 02	A Judge Leads: <i>Gideon</i>	Judges 7:1-23
Feb 09	A Prophet Serves: <i>Samuel</i>	1 Samuel 3
Feb 16	A King Forever: <i>David</i>	1 Samuel 16:1-13; 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 7:4-17
Feb 23	The King's Table: <i>Mephibosheth</i>	2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13

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...

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. Mark your calendars for **January 2nd and 16th and February 6th and 20th**. We continue our study of "The Beauty of a Simple Life".



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. Our study is entitled ***Perseverance***, and focuses on prayer, based on Nehemiah. Mark these dates on your calendar: **January 14th and 28th and February 11th and 25th**. 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 have just begun a study of the gospel of Luke. If you are interested in joining us, please speak with Deaconess Miriam or Gladys Byers.

KIDS BIBLE CLUB



Our monthly Kids Bible Club continues under the theme ***Jesus: Our Good Shepherd***. We will meet on **Saturdays, January 4th and February 1st 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!

Youth Group (LYF)

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

January 24

Circuit games night: We'll be inviting the other Lutheran youth groups in the city to join us for some fun and games - watch your email and the Snapchat for more details!

February 7

We'll be going somewhere fun to do something active - details are TBA!

February 9

After worship, we'll be having an information meeting to give you details and answer questions about our trip to the IMPACT youth gathering on July 2-5. We'll provide lunch, so please RSVP to Pastor Eric by February 5, so we know how many people to feed.

February 21

The Cup Challenge: we'll be playing some wacky games at the church from 7 to 10pm. Invite a friend!

February 25

The annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, hosted by you the youth, will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Donations will help subsidize the cost of attending events like the 2020 IMPACT Gathering and the 2021 Lutheran

Church-Canada National Youth Gathering. 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 the dates

March events will be on the 6th and 20th! Also save July 2-5, 2020, for the IMPACT Youth Gathering in southern BC!

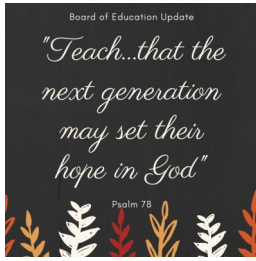


Hitmen Skating



Sledding

Board of Christian Education



As we move into a new year, the Board of Education would like to encourage you to spend time every day in God's Word. This can take many forms including Bible study, short devotions, going to church, Portals of Prayer, and many others.

Personally, I have been finding it helpful to have reading plans on my phone, with my goal being to get as far through the bible this next year. If you are having trouble finding something that's right for you, please contact the church staff, who would be happy to help.

We are still planning on hosting the presentation and discussion on assisted dying. Unfortunately, Joe Askin was sick when the original event was planned, and asked us to reschedule. As soon as we have an update, we will inform the congregation, and put up a poster with the details.

We will be hosting our annual **Lent Bible study** and encourage all church board members and their families to come and study God's word together. It will be held each Monday starting on March 2. We also encourage all congregation members to spend time during Lent studying God's Word, and encourage you to join the many bible study opportunities the church provides, which can be seen on the bulletin board.

Check out the **Creation Ministries** resources in the brochure rack above the guest book! The Board stocks information on dinosaurs, the age of the earth, carbon dating, and starlight, evolution vs natural selection, the ice age, continental drift, and Noah's ark. Let us know if you're looking for any info that's not there!

The **Library** is under continual improvement right now, and we thank Dianne Frayne for her efforts. If you have any resource suggestions, let Dianne know and we will look into getting them for 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/flcchristianed/

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!

For other Christian Education news see Sunday School and Family Ministry news on page 3, Youth on page 4 and Preschool news on page 6.

There is some sort of Christian education opportunity at Foothills nearly every day of the week; if you're looking to learn, we are here to facilitate. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly!

The Board of Ed is:

Chairs: Tobi Stene & Kayla Moffett

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

Board Members: Trevor Heumann, Michelle Heumann

- Submitted by Kayla Moffett

Campus Ministry

Want to know more about Pastor Eric's work on the University of Calgary campus? The *Canadian Lutheran* recently published an article about the fifth anniversary of his work there, and it's available online and in the most recent issue of the magazine, which you can find on the Information Centre in the Narthex.

<https://www.canadianlutheran.ca/fifth-anniversary-of->

The God Who Knows

I do not know the future,
But I know the God who knows,
And in his perfect wisdom,
Unknowing, I repose.
What good could come of knowing?
How little I could do
To meet the joys or sorrows
That I am coming to!
I do not know the future,
But I know the God who knows,
I make his love my study
And follow where he goes.
The path, its joys and sorrows,
I do not care to trace;
Content to know his goodness,
His mercy, and his grace.

~ William Luff

A Peek Into Our Preschool

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Foothills Lutheran Christian Preschool is a long standing, licensed, non-profit half-day pre-kindergarten program for 3 and 4-year-olds that facilitates the development of the whole child in a caring, Christian environment, nurturing them in their intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual, physical, and creative development. Children have fun with friends, laugh and learn, paint and paste, pray and play, slide and sing. This is a ministry of Foothills Lutheran Church to families in our community including student families living in University of Calgary housing. At our last inspection, our licensing officer noted in her written report that our staff have “an impressive knowledge and experience history” and are “well versed in children’s developmental needs.” At Foothills Lutheran Christian Preschool, we facilitate the assessment of children’s needs and use of community resources to assist with such needs as language development.

Foothills Lutheran Christian Preschool will soon be accepting registrations for the new school year, which will commence in September 2020. If you are considering registering your child for the fall or if you have a friend, neighbour, 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. Registration forms will soon be available on the website or on the table outside our classroom on the walk-out level. Registrations from alumni families as well as families from our church are welcome to register at the beginning of February and then will be open to everyone February 18. Email school@foothillslutheran.com or call 403-284-1360 for further information or to schedule a visit. Our experienced preschool principal-teacher, Betty Ann Chandler, would be happy to would be happy to speak with you.

Betty Ann Chandler, B.Ed.

Principal/Teacher

Foothills Lutheran Christian Preschool

school@foothillslutheran.com

preschool.foothillslutheran.com

A PEEK INTO OUR PRESCHOOL

As the Christmas account has unfolded in our classroom, the children have been coloring figures one by one for a creche mobile during the month of December. They were then able to take their completed creches home.

We strive to provide for our urban students a way for them to better understand Christmas vocabulary words that may be new to them. We like to have the wooden manger that is used in our sanctuary during the Christmas season in our classroom for a few days so our urban students can touch and experience the rough wood and the scratchy straw. Some our students have baby brothers or sisters so they can imagine their sibling lying there instead of in a clean crib, cradle, or car seat with a soft blanket in their heated home. The children also learned the Christmas carol, “Away in a Manger” now that they have a better idea what a manger is.

The children shared what they learned with family members at an informal concert. The morning and afternoon classes each had their own gathering. Five preschool families attended our Advent Wreath building evening at the end of November and were given a booklet of Advent devotions suitable for young families to use in the days leading up to Christmas.



Board of Fellowship

COFFEE TEAMS

Thank you to the wonderful teams that provide fellowship after service on Sunday mornings. Do you want to join a team or create your own, please contact Belinda Perrin at (403) 239-9100.



- 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 Kareen Borgeson
- Team 10 Carol & Lloyd Sandau, Bob & Elsie Will and Bill & Erika Schultz

UPCOMING EVENTS

Love Pot Luck – February 16, 2020

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 after service on February 16th.

Baking for Coffee Treats

What's coffee without treats? If you enjoy baking, we would greatly appreciate treats for Sunday morning coffee.

Please **label items with the date**, and put them in the up-right freezer in the kitchen. We **prefer cookies and squares** instead of whole loaves as they are easier to thaw on Sunday morning. Due to allergies, please do not use nuts in your baking. Thank you so much to those that faithfully provide.

Noteworthy

UPCOMING VOTER'S MEETING

January 26th following a light lunch after service. Mark it on your calendars and plan to attend.

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Starting Tuesday, February 4th Pastor Eldon and Marian Ohlinger will be leading another 9 week in-depth LifeLight Bible Study on Luke, Part 2. 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 9th 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.

THE ANNUAL SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

, hosted by the youth, will be on February 25, and pancakes will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Donations to the youth group will be gratefully accepted. Youth group fundraising efforts help subsidize the cost of attending events like the 2020 IMPACT Gathering and the 2021 Lutheran Church-Canada National 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!

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who bought lunch at the youth group's taco-in-a-bag fundraiser, and thank you to the 14 youth and the parents who helped us raise just over \$530.00! Your support helps with costs so the youth can attend retreats like the 2020 IMPACT Gathering (the registration fee is \$325) and the 2021 Lutheran Church-Canada National Youth Gathering (the registration fee will be about \$500), which are awesome opportunities for learning and fellowship.

Family Time in Christ

Over the next two months we move from the Christmas season, ending with the 12th day of Christmas on January 5th; through the season of Epiphany, beginning on January 6th; and into the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 16th. We are in the festival portion of the Church Year, and there is a lot going on!

Help your children to note the changing seasons at home. Talk with them about what we remember and observe during each season, and note the colours that we use in the church to represent each season. Do you have a place in your home where you do regular family devotions? Decorate that area with the colour of the season, or an object that reminds you of what is being observed in the Church year. Learn a Bible passage together that reminds you of the season. Here is some information to get you started!

The colour for Christmas is white – telling us about Jesus, who is true God, eternal, perfect, and the light of the world. Teach your children the words of the angels: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased” (Luke 2:14).

The colour for the day of Epiphany and for the first Sunday in Epiphany (when we observe the Baptism of Our Lord) is also white. During Epiphany, Jesus is revealed as true God. For five Sundays the colour shifts to green, telling us about the growth of Jesus’ ministry (His teaching and His miracles), the growing of His Word as it is given to all nations, and how we also grow in faith as we hear His Word. On the last Sunday of Epiphany (on February 23rd this year) we go back to white to observe the Transfiguration of Our Lord, where His glory was revealed to Peter, James and John on a mountain. Teach your children the words God spoke at Jesus’ transfiguration: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him” (Matthew 17:5).

On February 26th we begin the 40 days of Lent, a season to focus on our need to repent of our sins (turn away from them) and our need for a Saviour (to turn to Jesus for His forgiveness). The colour of repentance is violet, or purple. During this time we put away the Alleluia, saving it until Easter, when we use it to express our joy at Jesus’ resurrection. Teach your children the words of repentance spoken by the tax collector praying in the synagogue, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” (Luke 18:13b).

God bless you as your family as you observe the changing seasons in your home!

LWML-C

CHRISTMAS GIVING BY FOOTHILLS SOCIETY

International Servant Event—Youth Retreat at Foothills November 2, 2019

Many unfinished comfort dolls and Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes on the go and an idea was born: to finish some dolls to include in the Samaritan’s Purse shoeboxes! This became a reality, thanks to Jutta Colhoun, Kathy Hilland and Anne Marie Kothari and the youth when they finished 66 dolls at the youth retreat. Special thanks to Elke Bittmann for her continued leadership in heading up Operation Christmas Child at Foothills. We received 48 shoeboxes as well as financial contributions.

Advent Tea—Foothills Manor November 29, 2019

We had a good turnout for this annual tea, welcoming the Christmas season with the Manor residents over story, song and refreshments. Mark Kihn was our emcee and Deaconess Miriam accompanied us on the piano while we sang Christmas carols. Many shared personal Christmas memories. Mark read us a story of the interesting origin of “Silent Night”. Heidi Bommer was in attendance and revealed she came from a German town close to Oberndorf, Austria where this famous carol was sung for the first time in Saint Nicholas Church on Christmas Eve, 1818! I shared that Christmas Eve worship services at Foothills always close by singing “Silent Night”, with lights dimmed and everyone holding a lit candle.

Jutta Colhoun looked after the decorations and many ladies brought baking, fruit and cheese. Marilyn Harrison contributed poinsettia plants, which were given as door prizes to Maxine Abraham and two Manor residents. Thanks to everyone who made this event special!

Stocking Donation to ARC

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 recipient will be. This year, our donation will go to ARK (Accessibility Renovations for Kids), specifically for renovations on the Roth home to make life more manageable and enjoyable for Jaydon and the whole family.

Upcoming Meetings

January 27, 2020 & February 24, 2020

Noon: Bring your own lunch and enjoy the fellowship!

12:30 – 1:30 Opening Devotion and Bible Study

1:30 – 2:30 Business Meeting

All ladies are welcome!

Board of Elders

Board of Elders

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

Release of Souls from our Parish's Baptized and Communicant Membership Lists

The Board of Elders' comprehensive review of our parish's baptized and communicant membership continues. At the December 1, 2019 Voters' Meeting, you were advised of release of 19 *Baptized Members* and 40 *Communicant Members*, together with 12 additional souls – visitors, prospective members, friends of members – that, over time, were incorrectly included as either *Baptized* or *Communicant Members*. Release of members from our parish is not a matter taken lightly. Due process requires *inactive* members, further to Elder contact, to have either expressed a request for removal from membership or that a minimum of 3 documented Elder contact attempts have been made to encourage them back to active membership. In the case of failure under the latter scenario, formal notification of terminated membership still leaves the 'door open' for return, should those souls reconsider at a later date.

As a result of the foregoing, *Communicant Membership* of our parish has recently been reduced from 656 to 616 souls. Weekly worship attendance averages approximately 200. This disparity is obviously still a profound concern, but it also presents financial stewardship implications. The following serves to illustrate. Convention costs are routinely assessed and charged to parishes based on *Communicant Membership*. With the corporate restructuring of *Lutheran Church Canada* that occurred at the Synod's 2017 convention, the convention cycle (which previously required separate District and Synodical conventions within a 3-year cycle) has now been replaced by one (1) National (or Synodical) convention every 4 years. The next such convention is scheduled for 2021 but last October, we received an invoice for: (i) a 2020 *Pastors and Deacons Conference* (\$2.25 per *Communicant Member*), and (ii) 50% of a \$20.00 per *Communicant Member* assessment for the 2021 National Convention (i.e., half pre-payment in 2020 and the second half in 2021). That's potentially a \$22.25 per *Communicant Member* assessment against Foothills Lutheran Church. That October assessment for these 2 pending events is based on 676 *Communicant Members*. Again, keep in mind regular weekly worship service attendance

is 200. We can all 'crunch' our own speculative numbers, but it is not difficult to conclude that questionable financial stewardship exists within our parish because of neglect in responsible oversight and management of our *Communicant Membership*.

Worship Service Attendance

In the November-December issue of *Foot Print*, the Board of Elders shared concern regarding decline in worship service attendance relative to 2018. The statistics shared at the time are summarized in the first line of the table below. All numbers reflect a combination/sum of worship attendance at Wednesday evening and Sunday morning worship services for each given week. This table now also shows what has happened for the months of October and November. As Pastor Bode has pointed out to the Elders, things didn't pick up as of *Rally Sunday* like they have in earlier years... there's at least a one-month lag in return to fall routine when it comes to our collective faith practice. While an encouraging trend has prevailed over the past couple months, there is still reason for concern, and the Elders are making concerted efforts to try to determine *why* this underlying and disappointing trend continues.

	Average Weekly Worship Attendance for the Month	2019 Year-to-Date Average Attendance	2018 Year-to-Date Average Weekly Attendance
Sep 2019	176	194	218
Oct 2019	199	194	207
Nov 2019	209	196	208

If you attended the December 1st Voters' Meeting, you are aware of the Parish Planning Council's challenges in proposing our parish's budget for 2020. No doubt this challenge stems in part from the underlying messages conveyed above.

Board of Elders

Member Visitations As shared with you at the December 1st Voters' Meeting, I am honored to have the men that serve with me as your Board of Elders. In the course of discussions related to various subjects that come under the Elders' purview, we have all come to a greater appreciation of the importance of making more than just a *casual* contact with you as members of our Christian family at Foothills Lutheran Church. In reflecting on their respective Shepherding Lists (which are the basis for you having received an Elder Greeting Card from your designated Elder), my Brother Elders have asked... what should our focus and priority be... the *active* or the *inactive*? My answer to them has been "Both!" The Elders must concern themselves with *both* because both are important for different reasons. For the *active*, we need to confirm whether our Christian worship services and programs are inspiring individual spiritual growth. Do worship services and Christian education programs provide the inspiration for your life-long spiritual growth and relationship with our Lord? A thoughtful discussion with your Elder will allow you to share your thoughts on that question. In the case of the *inactive*, we need to understand why their attendance is as it is and assess whether The Word and our Church's Doctrines can accommodate expressed expectations.

Do You Fill in a "Communion Card"? A quote from our Worship Service Bulletin for December 15, 2019..."*These cards help in a variety of ways. First, by reviewing the card, you are reminded of the ways that you can prepare to take the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner. They help you remember the precious gift Jesus gives us as He gives us His body and blood. When you fill them in, it also helps us know your attendance at communion which helps in our preparing the altar, and which helps the Elders and Pastors as they minister to the needs of God's people. It only takes a moment, and it does help us help you. Please remember to fill them in each time you come to Holy Communion!*" Imagine for a moment an Elder reviewing his Shepherding List, seeing you on his list, confidently regarding you as an *active* member... but then seeing your record reflecting that you had not partaken of Holy Communion over the past year. How do you think your Elder (not to mention your Pastors!) might react to that?

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

Phil Lemke, Director

Board of Elders

Technology Boundaries



Take it Home!

**Sunday, February 2, 2020
11:45 am at Foothills Lutheran Church**

With computers, ipads, and smartphones in every home, and access to the internet easily available, Christian families are faced with questions of proper use, appropriate supervision and boundaries. Come for a discussion over lunch about technology use and work together to establish healthy boundaries in your family!

RSVP TO:

miriam@foothillslutheran.com

Designed for children born in 2010 and their parents.