



Dear Friends in Christ Jesus:

If you were to look back at *The Lutheran Hymnal*, you would find the first hymn listed in the Lenten section is the hymn, “*Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*”. In our *Lutheran Service Book*, it is the last hymn in the Lenten section, leading into Holy Week.

I have a tendency to use that hymn at the beginning of Lent, because it expresses the very idea of what I want to do during the Lenten season: I want to ponder the mystery of love so great that it will do anything, give anything, risk everything for me.

The hymn says:

Jesus, I will ponder now on Your holy passion;  
With Your Spirit me endow for such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish  
Of Your suffering, pain and death, that I may not perish.

Make me see Your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,  
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Your crucifixion;  
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,  
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You. (LSB 440, st. 1-2)

As we come into these Lenten days, I wonder how many of us truly do *ponder* what God, in His mercy, has done for us. Do we think of the suffering that our Saviour endured for our sakes? Do we truly realize that it is for our sins that He is crucified? Do we understand that the Holy God of All is rightly displeased with us because of our sin, and that true justice demands that we be held accountable for that sin? Do we recognize the great love that our God has for us in transferring the guilt, shame and condemnation of our sin to Christ? As Paul says: “*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*” (2 Corinthians 5:21, ESV)

In our busy world, we don’t have time to do much pondering or meditating. If we are “pondering”, people might think we are daydreaming. Besides, do we really want to think about such thoughts as the suffering and death of Jesus?

My dear brothers and sisters, we need to focus our thoughts on the Saviour and His cross for us! It is so easy for us to go through our lives blinded to our own sinfulness—and the terrible consequences that sin holds for us. We live as though our lives were our own, to do with as we please. We quickly forget the terrible price that God paid through the death of Christ, as He carried out His plan for our redemption. We just don’t think that our sin hurts anyone but us.

#### **Foothills Lutheran Church**

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If you have a hymnal, I encourage you to read the words of the hymn (it's hymn 440 in *Lutheran Service Book*, or hymn 140 in *The Lutheran Hymnal*). If you don't have a hymnal, come and meditate on it before worship on Sunday, on Wednesday. Turn to it as you meditate during the distribution of communion during the Lenten season. Ponder all that Jesus has done for you. Be honest with yourself, and look at the sins of your life, and how they are part of the Saviour's suffering and shame! Think of how much He loves you that He gave His life for you on the cross.

But let us not forget that we are alive in Christ! Christ died for us, so that we might live in Him. He destroyed sin so that it would no longer hold us as slaves. Freed by His death and alive through His resurrection, we live to the honour and glory of God.

I do hope and pray that you will spend some moments pondering the depth of God's love for you. I especially pray that those of you who have been away from the church for a while will ponder this—so that you will come alive in the living Lord, as His Spirit opens your hearts and minds to the power of His grace.

Thanks be to God for His great and wonderful gift! May this Lenten season bring us a fresh appreciation and renewal of the life that is ours through Jesus Christ, to the glory of God our Father.

Marvelling at the mystery of His love,

*Pastor David M. Bode*

#### FAMILY EASTER EGG-DECORATING



Parents - bring your children to the church on **Holy Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**, from 10:00 am to 11:15 am to decorate Easter eggs together.

We'll have some fun decorating, followed by special egg hunt and a short devotion. Bring boiled eggs that you would like to decorate, and we'll have some eggs to decorate for the church's Easter breakfast. Decorating materials will be provided.

**Please let us know by April 6<sup>th</sup> if you are planning to come!**

403-284-1342

miriam@foothillslutheran.com

## Board of Christian Education

Already we find ourselves well into 2020 and the start of a new decade. Although the passing of time brings on many changes, the one constant is the need to stay connected to God's Word. We are blessed and grateful for the support that is offered to us from our pastors and deaconess, for the many Bible study opportunities, and the connection and fellowship we have within our Christian family. We encourage all to be involved and focus on the programs made available that help to strengthen us in our faith.

Plans for our annual Lent Bible study are in the final stages. Our study this year will be on "The Sanctity of Life" and will begin with a presentation by Joe Askin on "A Lutheran Perspective on Medical Aid in Dying". That will be held on **Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm** at Foothills Lutheran. The study will continue the following four Mondays led by Pastor Eric. There will be much to hear and learn along with great discussions.

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 open to all. We extend a big thank you to Dianne Frayne for her time and dedication in sorting and organizing. Dianne is happy to hear from you with resource suggestions and activities of interest. Please stop in to say hello!

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/](http://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 7 and Preschool news on page 4. 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: Kayla Moffett & Tobi Stene; Staff Members: Pastor David Bode, Pastor Eric Moffett, Deaconess Miriam Winstanley, Preschool Principal, Betty Ann Chandler; Board Members: Trevor Heumann, Michelle Heumann*

# 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*

God's blessings to you in this season of Lent! Sunday School continues by the grace of God and with the service of our faithful teachers. In early April we will finish our high level look at salvation history in the Old Testament, and see the fulfillment of God's promises in the coming of Christ. 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.

Children will participate in the procession with palms on Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, and will also sing a song and lead the congregation in the Apostles' Creed on that day.

**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 March and April are:

Mar 01	A Divided Kingdom	1 Kings 11:9-13, 26-40, 12:1-24
Mar 08	Comfort in Captivity	Jeremiah 1:4-10; 29:1-14; 31:31-34; 33:14-16
Mar 15	A Trap and a Release	Daniel 6
Mar 22	Homecoming Hopes	Ezra 1:1-2; 7:11-28; Nehemiah 2:108; 12:27-43
Mar 29	Claimed and Tested	Luke 3:15-22; 4:1-13
Apr 05	Palm Sunday – Movie and Craft	
Apr 12	Easter Sunday – Join us for Easter Breakfast!	
Apr 19	Fishers Follow	Luke 5:1-11
Apr 26	The Wine Sign	John 2:1-11

Sunday School is part of our children's ministry and is supported by the congregation. We do, however, receive an offering at each Sunday School opening to remind us that all we have is a gift from God. Each year, Sunday School offerings are designated to a mission serving children. This year 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 **March 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>**. We have started a new study entitled "The Beauty of Mentoring", looking at our changeless Christ as we live in a changing world.

## 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: **March 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<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 studying the gospel of Luke, and there is always room for one more person. If you are interested in joining us, please speak with Deaconess Miriam or Gladys Byers.

## SATURDAY KIDS BIBLE CLUB!



Our monthly KIDS BIBLE CLUB continues under the theme **Jesus: Our Good Shepherd**. We will meet on Saturdays, **March 7<sup>th</sup> and April 4<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 having your child bringing a friend or offer to volunteer!

## A Peek Into Our Preschool

We had a new student join us after Christmas. Daycare was not a good fit for him. He was fearful, tearful, and anxious to the point of having re-occurring nightmares. Typically, a child needs to adapt to more noise, more people, and a structure that can be vastly different from family life. The child's parent pulled her child out of that environment. After registering her child in our preschool, the parent remarked, "You actually listen to my child!" Her child is happy to come to preschool. He feels safe, cared for, and scolds his teacher if there is a long weekend since she "made him have a holiday."

In our preschool, students hear, "God made you. He only made ONE you. You are special to Him. He cares for you. He loves you." God made and gifted each one of us as unique people. He cares for us daily in so many ways and even sent a Saviour out of His deep love for us. We have the privilege of sharing that love with those around us. During the Lenten season, consider that God loves you too. You are special to Him.

### **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. Each child is valued as a unique gift of God. 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.

Our staff are experienced, skilled, and well versed in children's developmental needs. We assist families in accessing various professionals such as a speech/language pathologist if a developmental need is indicated.

Foothills Lutheran Christian Preschool is now 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, view our website at [www.preschool.foothillslutheran.com](http://www.preschool.foothillslutheran.com). Registration forms are available on the website or on the table outside our classroom on the walk-out level of the church. Email [school@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:school@foothillslutheran.com) or call 403-284-1360 for further information. Our preschool principal-teacher would be happy to speak with you.

## Family Time in Christ

We have moved into the season of Lent, a season of quiet repentance in which we contemplate the magnitude of Jesus' sacrifice for us and prepare our hearts for the joyful celebration of His Resurrection. Christians through the ages have kept this season in a variety of ways – fasting, times of silence and prayer, giving to the poor, and service. This Lent, we encourage your family in your prayer life. Set aside some extra time for this discipline and see how you grow, together.

Start by reading Jesus' prayer on the night when He was betrayed, found in John 17:1-26. This is how He prayed for Himself, His disciples, and for all believers. Divide the prayer up into sections (verses 1-5, verses 6-19 and verses 20-26) and look at them over several weeks. Use the study notes in your Bible to discuss what Jesus is praying for, and what that means for you. Answer the questions:

- Jesus prays with confidence to His Father. Why?
- Why can you also pray with confidence to our Father? (Read Galatians 3:26 and Romans 8:15-16).
- What does Jesus desire for you?
- What was He asking of God for His disciples?
- What kind of relationship did Jesus have with His disciples?
- What kind of relationship does He want with you?
- What kind of relationship does He want you to have with other believers?

Build your prayers around Jesus' prayers. What do you need to ask of the Father for yourself? For your brothers and sisters in Christ? For the world? As you pray, consider trying:

- A silent prayer walk. Instead of talking to each other, walk and pray. Eyes open, mouths closed.
- Prayer in different positions: kneeling, lying down prostrate, arms raised to heaven, arms crossed like pretzels (children learned about the pretzel position in VBS a few years ago).
- Making pretzels together as a reminder of the relationship we can have with God through prayer.
- Starting a family prayer book. Write out your prayers in journal form and go back from time to time to note God's answers to your prayers.



# Board of Fellowship

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## ***PAST EVENTS***

### **Love Pot Luck – February 16, 2020**

What a fabulous turnout for the Love celebration. So many wonderful dishes were brought to share with the Foothills church family. And I was grateful for the assistance with set up and clean up.

## ***CONTINUING EVENTS***

### **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, Anne Marie Kothari and Colleen Judiesch
- 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***

### **Lenten Soup Suppers – starting in March**

Join us for soup suppers starting at 5:30. This is a wonderful opportunity to feed your body and then feed your soul with a Lenten worship service in preparation for Easter Sunday.

There is a sign-up sheet on the Fellowship bulletin board.

### **Stampede Breakfast – July 12, 2020**

The annual Stampede Breakfast was not allocated any funding in the 2020 budget but enough people have contributed to this cherished event that a deposit can be made for the cooking grills.

The Stampede Breakfast will be the Mission of the Month for March, please prayerfully consider contributing to this event to enable it to be a success. Any questions, please contact Anni Adams or myself.

*Do you have any suggestions, questions or concerns? Contact Heather Sommers at (403) 829-2366*



### ***Upcoming Voters Meeting***

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** following a light lunch after service.

Mark it on your calendars and plan to attend.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### Past Events

Thanks!

- \* to Art Hanger for giving us another interesting commentary on what life as a Canadian Member of Parliament is like. Thanks so much Art! We look forward to your next talk.
- \* to Loleta Ziprick for making the arrangements for our Chinese lunch at the Memorial Drive New Dynasty on February 12th. As usual, we had a fun time.
- \* again to Loleta for hosting a Social and Games afternoon on February 26th.

#### Upcoming Events

On March 10th, weather permitting, we plan on taking a trip downtown to visit the Calgary City Library. Cheryl and Phil Lemke are making the arrangements.

We are considering having another luncheon at the Austrian Canadian Club on March 24th. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

### LEAVES FROM THE LIBRARY

Lots has been happening behind the scenes at the library lately. We've been gradually preparing new books for use, making new shelf labels, re-arranging some areas, and finding some of the treasures that we already have on our shelves but that have been overlooked. In the Fiction area, lists are available of book series on our shelves from various authors such as Jeanette Oke, Bodie Thoene, and Karen Kingsbury. And several of the commentary series are now shelved together – if you're looking for a particular topic, please feel free to ask and I may be able to find something helpful for you.



Watch the bulletin and the newsletter for more *Leaves from the Library* as we make more and more materials available for everyone. And also watch for news of our Library Open House (with special treats!) coming soon.

~ From Dianne in the Library

### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner February 25, 2020



### Mission of the Month

#### **MARCH: Stampede Breakfast**

This provides us an opportunity to be “visible” in the community, and to reach out to the neighbours by holding our outdoor service.

#### **APRIL: Our LCC Seminaries**

Jesus bids us to “pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:38, ESV). We help support that work by our support of the seminaries. Your gift to this Mission of the Month helps in the training and preparation of those who will be labourers in His harvest field.

## Youth Group (LYF)

### Upcoming Youth Events

Youth group, or LYF (Lutheran Youth at Foothills), is for youth in grades 7 to 12, and usually meets every other Friday from 7 to 10 pm. Bring your friends!

We also meet every Sunday during the school year at 9 am for Bible study in the youth room (except for long weekends).

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](http://www.facebook.com/groups/flcchristianed)



### March 13: Prayer retreat

Because of spring break, there will only be one youth event in March, and we'll be joining in on the confirmation retreat! Watch for more info coming soon.

### April 3: Swimming

We'll be heading to the wave pool at Village Square.

### April 11: Hockey viewing party

Join us in the Fellowship Hall to watch playoff hockey (hopefully the Flames)! We'll stream the game, and have a concession available as a fundraiser. Time TBA.

### April 17: Progressive supper

We'll travel around to three different houses to eat appetizers, the main course, and dessert. If you're interested in being a host location, let Michelle know ASAP.

Upcoming dates to save: May 1 and 22, and June 5 and 19  
Also save July 2-5, 2020, for the IMPACT Youth Gathering in southern BC! Have your registration form to Pastor Eric by May 15th. There will be a meeting for everyone attending IMPACT on Sunday, June 14, after the service.

## LWMLC

### Upcoming Events

- ♦ St. Patrick's Tea at Foothills Lutheran Manor  
Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m.

It's time once again for our annual St. Patrick's Tea at the Manor. Join us for an afternoon of singing Irish songs and enjoying refreshments and fellowship with the manor residents!

- ♦ Parkland Zone Spring Retreat  
April 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> at 4-H Centre, Westeros, AB

All ladies are invited to this event. The theme is "Unquenchable Joy". The guest presenter, Grace Fox, will teach participants practical strategies for experiencing joy in the midst of a busy life and show them how joy is directly related to obeying Christ. For more information, check out the poster on the LWML-C bulletin board by the kitchen entrance. If you are interested in attending, contact Cheryl Lemke or Brenda Bode. We may be able to arrange car-pooling.

- ♦ Mother/Daughter/Friend Dinner  
Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>

This year's theme is "Memory Lane". We will ask ladies to bring a baby or childhood picture of themselves, preferably with their mother, daughter, sister or friend. It's not too early to sort through your photos to find the perfect one! After dinner, we'll try to guess who's who. It should lead to conversations and interesting memories.

### Ongoing Projects

Thanks to everyone for your donations! Please place them in the designated bins in the foyer.

- ✓ *Used eyeglasses* for Operation Eyesight
- ✓ *Used postage stamps* for Canadian Bible Society (Please remember to leave 1/4" border around the stamps.) Stamp collectors buy bags of stamps by weight and proceeds are used to buy Bibles for Canadian inmates.
- ✓ *Non-perishable food items* for hungry drop-ins and the Calgary Food Bank

### Upcoming Meetings

March 23<sup>rd</sup> & April 27<sup>th</sup>

Noon: Bring your own lunch and enjoy the fellowship!  
12:30 – 1:30 Opening Devotion and Bible Study  
1:30 – 2:30 Business Meeting

# Board of Elders

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## Board Members

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

Let's talk about membership in our parish... and, in particular, *Communicant Membership*. Under our Constitution, your parish membership will be that of a *Baptized Member* and/or a *Communicant Member*.

**Baptized members** are all members who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God with water and who are under the spiritual care of this congregation, including children who have not yet been confirmed. [FLC Constitution, Article IV (Membership)]. If your child(ren) are not yet confirmed, they will not (nor should they) be listed below as *Communicant Members*.

**Communicant Members** are those who:

- a) are baptized in the Name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
- b) accept all canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the only Divine Rule and standard of faith and life,
- c) are familiar with the teachings of *Luther's Small Catechism* and declare their acceptance of them,
- d) attend divine services frequently,
- e) lead Christian lives and do not live in manifest sin (*Galatians 5:19-21*),
- f) partake of the Lord's Supper frequently,
- g) contribute faithfully, as God has prospered them, toward the building of Christ's Kingdom in the community and throughout the world,
- h) devote their time and talents to the extension of the Kingdom of God,
- i) permit themselves to be fraternally admonished and corrected when they have erred, and
- j) are not members of an organization conflicting with the Word of God and the conduct of a Christian (*2 Corinthians 6:14-18*).

Our *Communicant Membership* as of December 31, 2019 was recorded as 616 souls. Regular weekly worship service attendance averages 185-200 souls. We have a problem!

OK... what do you want to do first with this list? Right... check to see if your name is on it. If it's not, see and submit tear-off slip below. Major oversight and the need for sincerest apologies. Time for a prayer of thanks that our Lord has seen fit to have you be a member of Foothills Lutheran Church.

What's next? Right... are my children's names on it? The answers are going to vary here. If your child was confirmed and is today worshiping regularly within another Lutheran church belonging to *Lutheran Church-Canada* (LCC), their membership should have been **transferred** to that parish and their names removed from our *Communicant Membership*. Please advise the Board of Elders if this is the situation with any of your children; i.e., that they regularly attend a sister LCC parish but still remain on our *Communicant Membership* list. - see tear-off slip below. If they are regularly worshiping our Lord in another Christian church (e.g. a Lutheran parish not in fellowship with LCC, one of the other mainstream Christian churches or an Evangelical church), the Board of Elders should be advised of this too and a determination will be made as to whether they should be **released** from our parish. Again, please see and submit tear-off slip. Has your child permanently moved out of the city? The Elders would like to know that too. And there are those (whether living in Calgary or not) that are inactive in their faith. Those are the troubling ones. Please share the faith life of those dear souls with your Elder when he visits you.

Now for some fun... some of you are surely itching to do this... so get out your highlighter and identify all those brothers and sisters in Christ you know. Sit back, reflect and thank the Lord that He has given you those friendships in His Church and in our 'church-family' here at Foothills Lutheran. In all likelihood, most of these are our **active members**. These are the dear souls that strive diligently, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live their faith in accordance with the qualifications of *Communicant Membership* set forth above.. Praise be to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

But now, you will see something else... and it's not so



# Board of Elders

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much fun. Rather, it saddens us because, while on this list, we don't see them regularly at our worship services. *Two thirds of our membership do not regularly attend our worship services.* These are our **inactive members**. Now it's possible they are still active in their Christian faith, Lutheran or otherwise, but we've lost connection and need to confirm their faith life. If souls you know on the list fit that descriptive, please talk to them and encourage their return to our parish. Advise the Board of Elders of their whereabouts using the tear-off slip, particularly if you know they have permanently moved out of the city. Your Elders have recently had a frank discussion regarding the foregoing and unanimously agree they face a major challenge. At times, we find this challenge overwhelming. Most importantly, the Elders acknowledge that a key collective responsibility is to bring inactive members back to our parish. If, however, inactive members are indifferent, or worse have fallen away from the faith, we need to know that too. Please keep your Elders in your prayers.

There is a *secondary* consideration in ensuring the diligent stewardship of our *Communicant Membership*. LCC convention costs are assessed and charged to parishes based on *Communicant Membership*. National (Synodical) conventions are now held every 4 years; the next one is scheduled for 2021. Last October, we received an invoice

for the first 50% of our parish's 2021 convention levy, along with a further assessment for a 2020 *Pastors and Deacons Conference*. In total, the assessments payable between now and the 2021 National convention total just over \$15,000, this based on Foothills Lutheran Church having a *Communicant Membership* of 676 souls (as reported to LCC Synod office at year-end 2018). Again, keep in mind that our regular weekly worship service attendance is 200 or less. You can easily appreciate that inactive membership drives poor financial stewardship in the order of \$4000-\$7000... this every four years. So, again, although first and foremost, the Board of Elders wants to see our inactive membership actively back within our church family, we cannot ignore indifference.

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

Phil Lemke  
Director, Board of Elders



**Attention:** Philip Lemke, Director, Board of Elders

Please be advised of the following information that may be of assistance to the Board of Elders:

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In His Service,

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## Forgiveness in the Family



**Take it Home!**

**Sunday, March 22, 2020**

**12:00 pm**

What would happen in your family if you regularly confessed how you have hurt each other, and practiced speaking clear words of forgiveness to each other? What would that mean for your children's understanding of God's forgiveness, and for their future relationships?

Come, learn and practice simple ways you can lay foundations for relationships based in God's grace.

Please bring your child so you can practice together. Lunch will be provided, and younger children are welcome in the session so that mom and dad can come together.

**RSVP TO:**

**Deaconess Miriam**

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

Designed for children born in 2011 and their parents.

## Family Servant Events



**Take it Home!**

**Sunday, April 26, 2020**

**12:00 pm**

God uses each of us to point to Him when we love and serve our neighbour. What happens when parents and children serve others together?

Come and learn how the shared experience of a simple service project can strengthen your family's bonds to each other and to Christ.

Please bring your whole family so you can participate together.

**RSVP TO:**

**Foothills Lutheran Church**

**3104 - 34 Avenue NW**

**403-284-1342**

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Designed for parents with children born in 2014.

### Answers to "Blessings" quiz

- |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. man, Psalm 1:1       | 6. die, Revelation 14:13     |
| 2. nation, Psalm 33:12  | 7. seen, John 20:29          |
| 3. man, Psalm 84:12     | 8. marriage supper, Rev 19:9 |
| 4. he, Psalm 118:26     | 9. hear, keep, Luke 11:28    |
| 5. waters, Isaiah 32:20 | 10. iniquity, Psalm 32:2     |

Some of the loveliest verses of Scripture are those that speak of **God's blessings** — God's wonderful favor. We are familiar with the Beatitudes of Jesus in Matthew 5, each beginning with "Blessed are . . ." Can you fill in the missing words in the following blessings?

1. "Blessed is the \_\_\_\_\_ who walks not in the counsel of the wicked."
2. "Blessed is the \_\_\_\_\_ whose God is the Lord."
3. "Blessed is the \_\_\_\_\_ who trusts in [him]."
4. "Blessed be \_\_\_\_\_ who enters in the name of the Lord."
5. "Blessed are ye that sow beside all \_\_\_\_\_. " KJV
6. "Blessed are the dead who \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord."
7. "Blessed are those who have not \_\_\_\_\_ and yet believe."
8. "Blessed are those who are invited to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lamb."
9. "Blessed . . . Are those \_\_\_\_\_ the word of God and \_\_\_\_\_ it!"
10. "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputes no \_\_\_\_\_."

*(Answers on page 10)*