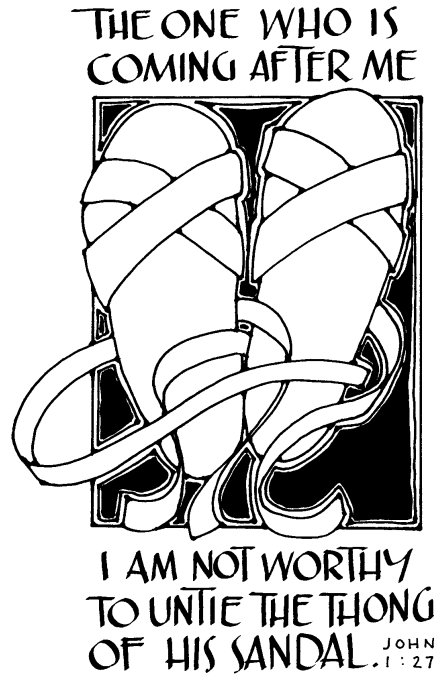


# Foothills Lutheran Church

3104 – 34 Ave NW Calgary, AB T2L 2A3 403-284-1342 [www.foothillslutheran.com](http://www.foothillslutheran.com)

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



*Third Sunday in Advent*

*December 13, 2020*

**Senior Pastor:** David Bode  
([flcpastor@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:flcpastor@foothillslutheran.com))

**Associate Pastor:** Eric Moffett  
([flcpastoreric@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:flcpastoreric@foothillslutheran.com))

**DPS:** Deaconess Miriam Winstanley  
([miriam@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:miriam@foothillslutheran.com))

**Office Administrator:** Carol Kehler  
([office@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:office@foothillslutheran.com))

**Pastor Emeritus:** Eldon Ohlinger

**A Prayer Upon Entering:** God, who is, who was and who is to come, help us to see this Advent who we are--for we are your children--and whose we are--for we belong to Christ. May our identity always be linked to His.

*God, our Father, keep us connected to Your Son.*

***OUR WORSHIP TODAY***

***ORDER OF SERVICE:*** .....as projected

***HYMNS:*** ..... Light One Candle; The Saving One; Hope of the Nations; King of Heaven

***FIRST LESSON:***.....Isaiah 61 1-4, 8-11

***EPISTLE LESSON:*** ..... 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

***GOSPEL LESSON:*** ..... John 1: 6-8, 19-28

***SERMON:*** My, How Things Change(d)!! – Isaiah 61:1-3

***WELCOME TO ALL***, especially our visitors this morning! We are happy to have you with us to praise the Lord together. Visitors, please honour us by signing our Guest Register before you leave, and, if you do not have a regular church home, please consider joining us here at Foothills.

***WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION WEDNESDAY***, 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 we will know how to respond.

***IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:***

***In Hospital:***

***Homebound:***

***For Special Intercession:***

***Family Focus:***

***SUNDAY SCHOOL:*** In this week’s lesson, “A Nativity Night,” Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where a simple stable serves as the birthplace for the promised Christ Child. Angelic hosts announce the birth of the Savior to ordinary shepherds, who hasten to worship the child. Having seen the Savior in the flesh, the shepherds quickly spread the news of His birth. Ask one another, “How can we share the message of the birth of the Savior today?”

**LAST WEEK AT FLC**

<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Attendance/Communion/ Online</b>	<b>Wednesday/ Online</b>	<b>Education Hour Online</b>
December 6	53/48/48	13/14	n/a

**SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:**

Organist ..... Deaconess Miriam Winstanley  
 Acolyte ..... Eliza Voss

**OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GIFTS**

Weekly Offering Needs	\$8,173.08	<b>Our Budget Goal</b>
Offerings Received Last Week	\$11,280.00	
Total Offerings Received to Date	\$371,908.70	<b>+/- YTD</b>
<b>Total Offerings Needed to Date</b>	<b>\$400,480.77</b>	<b>-\$28,572.07</b>

**Non-Budget and Miscellaneous Gifts:** CLWR 50.00; Concordia Seminary 50.00; LWML 75.00; Benevolence Fund 1,500.00; Robert Ohlinger Scholarship Fund 50.00; Organ Fund 186.10; Other 4,071.25.

**THIS WEEK AT FOOTHILLS**

**Monday** 7:00 pm PPC Meeting via Zoom  
**Tuesday** 10:00 am Bible Study– contact Pastor Bode  
 7:30 pm Ladies Bible Study - contact Deaconess Miriam  
**Wednesday** 1:15 pm Ladies Bible Study– contact Deaconess Miriam  
 6:30 pm Advent Worship/Communion in-person and at  
 Facebook.com\foothillslutheran)  
**Friday** 7:00 pm Youth Christmas Party Online  
**Sunday** 10:15 am Worship/Communion in-person and at Facebook.com\foothillslutheran

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR: (December 13) “The Prophet’s Paradox” – Daniel 10, 11 and 12.** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The prophet Daniel illustrates how to face the facts while never losing faith in how the story ends. Hear this inspirational message on CHRB 1140 AM at 8:00 am Sunday morning. Streaming audio and podcasts at [www.lutheranhour.ca](http://www.lutheranhour.ca)

**MISSION OF THE MONTH – ROBERT OHLINGER SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Supports students entering church work programs, that we may be an asset and help in their preparations for service to the Lord.

**ORGAN FUND BOTTLE DRIVE UPDATE:** As many of you may know, I have been doing a passive Bottle Drive this fall for the Organ Fund. I do want to wrap it up before Christmas, and I am still short of my \$\$ goal. So, if you want to clean-out your empties, please bring to church anytime and set them inside the gate of the Student Residence House. Thank you to the many who have contributed. ~ Mark, Ph. 403-390-4970

**COVID CONTINUES TO CREATE CONCERNS** that have led to more restrictions by the government of Alberta. The one that most affects us is the restriction of in-person worship to 15% of the legal capacity of the church. This means that 49 people can be here in worship at one time.

We do require registration, for we don't want to turn anyone away and we want to make the best use of the space that we have available. Our online registration is accessed by going to <https://reopen.church/r/aTJSxeNQ>. No internet? Call the office by noon on Friday to register for the Sunday service. For Wednesday registration, please call / go online by Tuesday noon. If you need to cancel, you can do this online. If you have any difficulties, please call the office.

We do hope that you remember that we have services both Sunday *and* Wednesday. There is a schedule for Holy Communion at both of these services.



**PURDY'S FUNDRAISER:** Thank you to everyone who ordered chocolates through Purdy's for the youth group fundraiser. We raised \$888! The National Youth Gathering registration fee is \$495/person, plus travel, so essentially this fundraiser raised enough to send one youth to Winnipeg in 2022! Your support is greatly appreciated.

If you placed a Purdy's order, it will be available for pickup after the worship service on December 13 in the Fireside Room via the Preschool doors. You'll need to leave the sanctuary as directed by the ushers, then go around outside and back in through the basement doors, in order to allow foot traffic to flow out of the sanctuary without getting congested. If you aren't able to pick up your order on the 13th, please call the church to find a time when someone will be in the office during the week.

**MISSION PRAYER: Rev. Deaconess Fernanda Mendoza** serves as an instructor of the faith at Cresito Resucitado Lutheran Church, Nicaragua. **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, since Your Son has saved the world through His holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death and sent forth His Church to proclaim the Good News of this salvation to the ends of the earth and to distribute His saving gifts of grace, we pray that You would sustain Deaconess Mendoza by Your Spirit and richly bless her labours for the sake of the Gospel; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

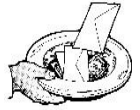


The Season of Advent

**THE SACRED SEASON OF ADVENT** prepares us to greet the Lord who comes to save His people. We invite you to make our midweek Advent Services a special part of this preparation. Services are Wednesdays, at 6:30 pm (also available at Facebook.com/foothillslutheran). We hope you will be with us for this special time of preparation and devotion! We will focus on the ancient "O Antiphons". The hymn "O, Come, O, Come, Emmanuel" (LSB 357) is a rendition of these medieval antiphons, also called the "Greater Antiphons." An Antiphon is a selection of Scripture and prayer that set the focus for the reading selected for that particular day of the Church year.

The O Antiphons were to be sung during Vespers one on each day seven days before the feast of the Nativity of Christ: from December 17<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Each Antiphon focuses on a Scriptural title for Christ as He is named in Biblical prophecy and a petition to Christ to come fulfilling the promise made through that title and prophecy. We'll look at two each Wednesday and hope you will join us for this countdown to Christmas, and celebration of the Christ who comes to save us. Services are at 6:30 pm, both in-person and online. This week: O Dayspring; O Come, King of Nations.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2021** are available in your mailbox. 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 December 31<sup>st</sup>, then please use the new envelopes starting January. 1<sup>st</sup>, as numbers may have changed.**



**THE JOYOUS SEASON OF CHRISTMAS** is a wonderful time to share your joy and worship of the Newborn King. We continue to hear that many people would consider coming to worship, if only someone would invite them. Of course, this year we don't have the same in-person opportunities as in the past but invite them to join us online. **Our 4:00 pm service will be streamed at [facebook.com/foothillslutheran](https://www.facebook.com/foothillslutheran).** If you cannot watch it live, you can

always access it after that time.

Our festive services are as follows (**please note that registration is required for all these services**)

December 24	4:00 pm; 6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship (online at 4:00 pm)
December 25	10:15 am	Christmas Day Family Celebration (Communion) (also online)
December 31	6:30 pm	New Year's Eve Service (Communion) (also online)

***With all the festive services, there will not be a Wednesday service December 23<sup>rd</sup> or December 30<sup>th</sup>.***

**OVER THE CENTURIES**, the Christian Church has recognized the "church year" or "liturgical calendar." Most people could name a few seasons of that calendar, such as Christmas, Lent, and Easter. But what is the purpose of observing these different seasons? And what is the benefit of maintaining the distinctiveness of the seasons even as fewer and fewer people are aware of them?

We are now midway through the season of Advent. Advent comprises the four weeks that precede Christmas Day. Its purpose is not to celebrate the birth of Jesus - that will come at Christmas - but to humble ourselves before the coming King.

It's during Advent that we're reminded how ancient Israel waited for the promised Saviour. This is the season in which we hear the preaching of John the Baptist who points us to Jesus. Advent is a time of patient waiting as we pause to ponder the great gift whose birth we will celebrate on Christmas.

The world, of course, has no idea as to what the season of Advent is even about. Long before December rolls around, the trappings of Christmas can be found everywhere. The reasoning is quite simple: if lights and tinsel and seasonal signs can get you into the Christmas spirit, you'll be more generous with your purchases. But once December 25 passes, don't expect to find many reminders of Christmas.

How different it is in the Church. By keeping Advent as a distinct season, we give ourselves the opportunity to savour the beauty of God's plan of salvation. Then, when Christmas finally arrives, our celebration knows the joy of the shepherds as we join in the song of the angels.

Our observance of Advent might be compared to children who wait for weeks to open the presents that temptingly rest under the Christmas tree. The excitement builds and builds until finally the day arrives and the gifts are opened. By sharing in the anticipation of Advent, we arrive at Christmas -- including the 12 days after it which lead up to Epiphany on January 6 - with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the great gift that God has given by sending His Son in the flesh to save this world from sin and death.

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# Kids in the DIVINE SERVICE



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## What is “Advent”?

Advent marks the beginning of the church year. Advent is made up of the four Sundays that come right before Christmas. In other words, the deeper into Advent you go, the closer you get to Christmas Day. For Christians, the First Sunday in Advent is kind of like the “New Year’s Day” of the church year calendar.

## Why do we celebrate Advent?

The word “Advent” means “coming.” During Advent, we prepare for the coming of the One who was born that first Christmas in a stable. We prepare for the One who saved us from sin, death and the power of the devil—our Lord Jesus Christ! What a wonderful and exciting time of preparation!

### FOR PARENTS

At home, in order to help your children better prepare for the birth of Jesus, try using an Advent devotional booklet provided by your congregation for family devotions.



# Growing FAITH at home

13 December 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Caring Conversations

Share your highs and lows of the day, or respond to the following questions:

1

What does it mean to be joyful? Tell about a time you were filled with joy.



2

Is there a difference between joy and happiness? Explain your answer.

3

The apostle Paul tells Christians to be "joyful always".

Why can all Christians be joyful?

How do we show our joy?

## Devotions



### Daily Bible Readings

<b>S</b>	John 1:6-8, 19-28	John's witness to the light
<b>M</b>	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	1 Good news of deliverance
<b>T</b>	Thessalonians 5:16-24	A call to rejoice
<b>W</b>	Luke 1:46b-55	Mary's song of praise
<b>T</b>	Psalms 63:1-8	In God's presence I sing for joy
<b>F</b>	Acts 16:25-34	A jailer is filled with joy
<b>S</b>	Psalms 126	A people who dream
<b>S</b>	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold

Discuss the bible reading. What word or phrase was important to you as you read these verses?

## Rituals and Traditions



### PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we are joyful because of you. Help us to be thankful no matter what happens each day. Amen.

### BLESSING

God is the God who gives peace. May he make you holy through and through.

Advent is a time for joy as we look to the birth of Jesus.

## Creative Response

Advent is a time to slow down, savour and see things in the light of Christ.

Use or imagine a nativity set. Hold or imagine one piece of your nativity set each day.

Think what it was like to be that character in Bethlehem. What did that character see? Experience? Hear? How was that person changed? How are you changed?

Talk about your thoughts with family and friends.

Conclude by singing *Away in a Manger*.



### mealtime prayer

Lord God, you fill the hungry with good things.  
With all my heart I praise the Lord, and I am glad  
because of God my saviour. Amen.

verse for the week

Always be joyful,  
pray continually  
and give thanks  
whatever happens.  
That is what God  
wants for you in  
Christ Jesus.

1 THESSALONIANS  
5:16-18

## Service



We show the joy that  
we have because of  
Jesus by putting others  
ahead of ourselves.

share your christmas  
joy with your  
neighbours by baking  
christmas cookies for  
them. if possible, use  
icing to write the word  
"joy" on the cookies.

