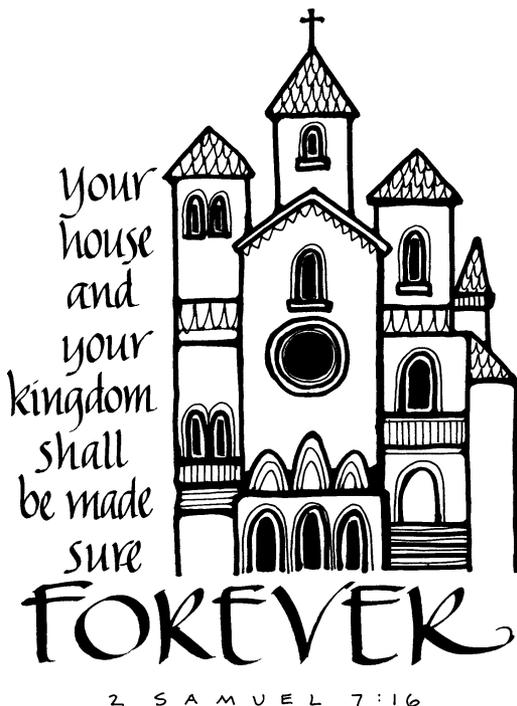


Foothills Lutheran Church

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 20, 2020

Senior Pastor: David Bode

(flcpastor@foothillslutheran.com)

Associate Pastor: Eric Moffett

(flcpastoreric@foothillslutheran.com)

DPS: Deaconess Miriam Winstanley

(miriam@foothillslutheran.com)

Office Administrator: Carol Kehler

(office@foothillslutheran.com)

Pastor Emeritus: Eldon Ohlinger

A Prayer Upon Entering: O God above, overshadow us with Your power from on high, fill us with Your greatness, and surround us with Your peace. And may we, like Mary, dedicate ourselves to Your service.

Sender of the Son, we magnify Your name.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE: as projected

HYMNS: 383: 506

FIRST LESSON:..... 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 16:25-27

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:26-38

SERMON:

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

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

In Hospital:

Homebound:

For Special Intercession:

Family Focus:

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?”

LAST WEEK AT FLC

Week of:	Attendance/ Online	Wednesday/Communion/ Online	Education Hour
Dec 13	49/60	12/11/10	n/a

SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Organist..... Deaconess Miriam Winstanley
 Cantors Mark Kihn; Ellen Wagner
 Acolyte..... Sebastian Kaut

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD’S GIFTS

Weekly Offering Needs	\$8,173.08	Our Budget Goal \$425,000.00
Offerings Received Last Week	\$7,425.00	
Total Offerings Received to Date	\$379,088.70	+/- YTD
Total Offerings Needed to Date	\$400,480.77	-\$21,392.07

Non-Budget and Miscellaneous Gifts: Organ Fund 53.25; Robert Ohlinger Scholarship Fund 65.00; Other 630.00.

THIS WEEK AT FOOTHILLS

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
Thursday	4:00; 6:00	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services (online at 4:00)
Friday	10:15 am	Christmas Day Worship/Communion (also online)
Sunday	10:15 am	Worship in-person and online

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: (December 20) “Experience God” – John 1:1-18.

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. We will never fully grasp the idea of God, but that doesn’t keep us from experiencing God’s love for us in Christ. Hear this inspirational message on CHRB 1140 AM at 8:00 am Sunday morning. Streaming audio and podcasts at www.lutheranhour.ca

PLEASE NOTE: Due to concerns related to COVID, Pastor Eric is in isolation at this time. He is working from home and available to you as needed.



We thank the children, confirmation students, youth and parents for their participation in this morning's service. We were not able to have our typical children's Christmas service this year and appreciate the work that has gone into today's recorded presentation. We appreciate the efforts of Evan Stene in putting the video together. Thanks also to Faith Dueck for playing the organ for our preservice music and postlude! The service will be available for our members by request from Pastor Bode but will not be left on our Facebook page after our worship today.

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 31st, then please use the new envelopes starting January. 1st, as numbers may have changed.**

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

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.

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.

MISSION PRAYER: Rev. Sorn Sein is the pastor of Sihanouk Lutheran Church in the province of Ville, Cambodia. **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples of all nations, we lift up before You Rev. Sein, asking You to sustain him by Your Spirit and bless his labours for the sake of the Gospel; Lord in Your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**



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.** 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 23rd or December 30th.

*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. The year drawing to a close has been a call to prayer, but that is also the reason why

the coming year calls us to prayer, too! 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. We invite you participate in this way of caring for one another and for our world once again in a prayer vigil, beginning at 6:00 am on December 31st and running to midnight on January 1st. Sign up for a ½ hour time slot by going to this link: [Prayer Vigil - New Year's 2020-21 - Google Sheets](#), by contacting us at the church office, or by emailing Deaconess Miriam at miriam@foothillslutheran.com. We will provide resources for your prayer time. Please join us!

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14, ESV)

OUR COMMUNION PREPARATION

Many of our members have used the cards in the pew racks to help them with their preparation for Holy Communion. We removed the cards and the pencils because of the difficulty of proper sanitization in these days of COVID-19. To help you, we have the questions from the card below, along with the prayers before and after Communion that were in the hymnal. We pray that this will help you prepare your heart as you come to the Lord's Table.

By celebrating Holy Communion, I give witness that:

- I believe that Jesus Christ is my Saviour and Lord.
- I have examined my life in the light of God's Word and have confessed my sinfulness to God.
- I believe that Christ's body and blood are truly present in, with and under the bread and wine.
- I believe that in this Sacrament God gives me the forgiveness of my sins.
- I believe that God the Holy Spirit strengthens my faith and renews my life.
- I resolve, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to amend my sinful ways.

A Prayer before communing:

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation we come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let us find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of our souls and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send us Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouths received the holy Sacrament, we may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



Growing FAITH at home

20 December 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

Caring Conversations

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

1

Can you remember a time when you had an unexpected visitor? Tell your story.

2

Read
Luke 1:26-38.

What can we learn from Mary in these verses?



3

Have you ever been challenged by God to do something difficult?

Devotions



Daily Bible Readings

S	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold
M	Titus 2:11-14	God's kindness
T	Isaiah 9:2-7	The coming king
W	Titus 3:4-7	The mercy of God
T	John 1:1-14	The word became flesh
F	Isaiah 52:7-10	Message of hope
S	Psalm 96	Sing a new song
S	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple

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

Rituals and Traditions



PRAYER

Dear loving God, give us faith like Mary to accept the good news of Jesus' birth, and confidence to go out into the world as a servant of your love in Christ. Amen.

BLESSING

May the Lord be with you. May God's favour rest on you and the Holy Spirit come to you and give you peace.

God's message to Mary

Creative Response

Place figures from a Christmas nativity set (e.g. wise men, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, animals) throughout your home.

During this week, move them closer to the manger.

Have Mary and Joseph arrive first, followed by the shepherds and wise men.

Last of all, place Jesus in the manger (on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day).



mealtime prayer

Lord God, thank you for the gift of food, family and friends, signs of your love for us. Most of all, thank you for your gift of Jesus. Amen.

verse for the week

Mary said,
"I am the Lord's
servant. Let it
happen as you
have said."

LUKE 1:38

Service



As a disciple of Jesus,
find ways to be a
servant of others in
your own home during
this busy time of year.



Worship with
purpose
and intentionality