

# Foothills Lutheran Church

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



*St. John, Apostle and Evangelist*

*December 27, 2020*

**Senior Pastor:** David Bode  
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**Pastor Emeritus:** Eldon Ohlinger

**A Prayer Upon Entering:** Open our eyes, O Lord, to see Your salvation. Open our mouths to praise You night and day. And open our hearts to receive You as our Redeemer and King.

*Blessed Baby Jesus, we hold You close to us.*

### ***OUR WORSHIP TODAY***

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

**HYMNS:** .....Joy to the World; Our God Saves; 392; Jesus Messiah; 389

**FIRST LESSON:**.....Isaiah 61:10-62:3

**EPISTLE LESSON:** ..... Galatians 4:4-7

**GOSPEL LESSON:** ..... Luke 2:22-40

**SERMON:** You've Got to Love John! – Revelation 1:1-3

**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 NEW YEARS EVE**, 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:***

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR: (December 27) "Welcome to the Family!"** Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook. The book of Galatians gives us a glimpse inside the family of God. It describes the Christian family as one that stands firm in Christ's freedom, walks united in the Spirit, and bears one another's burdens in love. (Galatians 4:4-7). 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)



**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.

*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 31<sup>st</sup> and running to midnight on January 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto: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)*



**GET BACK INTO THE BIBLE!** We've said it before, and we'll say it again: the new year is a great time to rededicate yourself to spend more time in God's Word! Bible reading plans will be available, along with the various studies we have. Come and share in the study of the Word, as we hear and heed the voice of our God.

**By the way, you can always join in the virtual Front to Back schedule.** This can be a great way of sharing some answers to questions that arise as you read! Contact Pastor Bode for more information.

**MISSION PRAYER: Deaconess Then BunTha** serves the Lutheran Church in Phnom Penh, Cambodia as an instructor of the faith. As well as studying at the Luther Institute for Southeast Asia. **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 BunTha 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. **C: Hear our prayer.**



**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.**



# Growing FAITH at home

27 December 2020

FIRST SUNDAY  
AFTER  
CHRISTMAS

## Caring Conversations

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

1

Tell about when you waited a long time for something. What was it like waiting and what was it like when the waiting was over?

2

What were Simeon and Anna waiting for (Luke 2:25-38)? How did they react to seeing baby Jesus?

3

Imagine yourself in the place of Simeon and Anna. What would you say?

## Devotions



### Daily Bible Readings

<b>S</b>	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple
<b>M</b>	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Rejoice in the Lord
<b>T</b>	Galatians 4:4-7	Adoption as God's children
<b>W</b>	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15	For everything a season
<b>T</b>	2 Corinthians 6:1-10	Now is the time of salvation
<b>F</b>	Isaiah 43:16-21	The Lord is doing a new thing
<b>S</b>	Psalm 148	All creation praises God
<b>S</b>	John 1:10-18	The word became human

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

## Rituals and Traditions



### PRAYER

Lord God, thank you for Jesus, through whom we are adopted as your children. Let all you have made praise you! Amen.

### BLESSING

May the Lord make you strong and wise, and bless you with God's saving grace.

We praise God for  
Christ's birth.

## Creative Response

Take time this New Year's Eve to reflect on the past year with family and friends. As the evening proceeds, share memories together.

Consider using the following questions:

- What were some good things that happened this past year?
- What were some challenges you faced?
- What are your hopes and concerns for the coming year?
- What have you learned from your experiences this past year and how does it connect with your faith in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem?
- What commitments would you like to make for reading the Bible and to prayer in 2018?

Finish this time of conversation with prayer for one another, asking God to bless and care for one another, the church, and world in the coming year. End with the Lord's Prayer.



## mealtime prayer

Praise the Lord all children, women and men, for God gives us food for our bodies and Jesus as our saviour. Amen.

verse for the week

I have seen your  
salvation which  
you have prepared  
for all people.

LUKE 2:30-31

## Service



In the temple in  
Jerusalem, Simeon and  
Anna encouraged and  
blessed two young,  
first-time parents,  
Mary and Joseph.

Contact parents with  
young children in your  
church or community  
and offer to carry  
out a household act of  
service. (e.g. Help out  
with cleaning, ironing  
or childcare so they  
can enjoy some time out  
together.)

