

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”



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

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: May the love You have for us, O Lord, transform our hearts. May we be more open to caring for the needs of our family and friends. And may we be more committed to developing deeper relationships with Your fellow followers.

Merciful Savior, help us to show mercy to others, as You show mercy to us.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE: As projected

HYMNS: 10000 Reasons; Blessed Be Your Name; Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me; This is Amazing Grace

FIRST LESSON:..... Acts 10:34-48

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 John 5:1-8

GOSPEL LESSON: John 15:9-17

SERMON:

WELCOME to all members and visitors with us this morning. Jesus told His followers to go and make disciples, and we exist here to carry out that task, by baptizing and teaching the Word of God. We invite you to worship with us again. Please sign our guest book at the back of the church before you leave.

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

In Hospital:

Homebound:

For Special Intercession:

Family Focus:

LAST WEEK AT FLC

Week of	Attendance/Communion/Online	Wednesday/Online
May 2	47/50/50	6/11

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Music..... Contemporary Musicians

Cantors Trevor and Michelle Heumann

THIS WEEK AT FOOTHILLS

Tues	10:00 am	Bible Study – contact Pastor Bode
	7:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study – contact Deaconess Miriam
Wed	1:15 pm	Ladies Bible Study – contact Deaconess Miriam
	6:30 pm	Worship – online only
Sun	9:00 am	Sunday School Opening (Zoom)
	10:15 am	Worship – online only



THE FLOWERS which beautify our altar today are given to the glory of God by Elnora Haas and family in loving memory of George and Kelly.

WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY and the glorious hope of the resurrection to Haas family at the death of Elnora’s sister, Marie, in Saskatoon. We pray that God would comfort this family with His everlasting love.

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD’S GIFTS

Weekly Offering Needs	\$8,784.62	Our Budget Goal
Envelope Gifts Received Last Week	\$4,927.00	
Envelope Gifts Received to Date	\$120,078.00	+/- YTD
Total Offerings Needed to Date	\$158,123.08	-\$38,045.08

Miscellaneous Offerings: Plate Offering 10.00; CLWR 50.00; Concordia Seminary 50.00; Lutheran Hospital Ministries 60.00; LWML 30.00; Youth 25.00.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our lesson is “A Servant’s Mission.” Abraham tasks a faithful servant with finding a wife for Isaac from his homeland. The servant prays for a sign and waits at a well outside the city of Nahor. Rebekah appears, offering to draw water for both man and beast – the sign the servant had asked for. Rebekah invites the servant to come to her family home. Having received gifts from Abraham, Rebekah’s family sends her to Isaac with their blessings.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: “Seriously?” – **Jonah 1-4.** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. A preacher who gets upset when people take his message seriously – that’s the story of Jonah. Hear this inspirational message on CHR 1140 AM at 8:00 am Sunday morning. Streaming audio and podcasts at www.lutheranhour.ca

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY: God gives a very precious gift in the gift of mothers. We thank Him for His blessings and provision for the mothers of our church family and for the encouragement, care and protection they bring to their children.

SPECIAL COVID UPDATE

ONCE AGAIN, THE STRUGGLES WITH COVID are impacting our society and our congregation. Even as we hope for a positive end of COVID, we find ourselves dealing with the surge in COVID infections that have brought the latest round of mandatory public health restrictions and which impact our worship together.



The Elders discussed how to approach these days. The restrictions that are in affect for the next 3 weeks (May 9, 16, and 23) mean that worship numbers in the city of Calgary are restricted to 15 people. We realized that there are already a certain number of people who are required to hold our worship--the pastors, organist, camera person and sound operator / PowerPoint. This limits our numbers even more. Therefore we have determined that, as hard as it is, we will return to the approach we had last year, at the very beginning of COVID. For the next 3 weeks our services will only be online. We will monitor this, based on the restrictions that are in place.

We do hope and pray that this is the short-term response to the present numbers of infections. Lord willing, we will be back to at least our present levels by the beginning of June.

This also means that we will not be holding services of Holy Communion. As we have in the past, we give you the opportunity to book private communion either here or in your home. We could have 2 groups at a time right now, and still be under the threshold numbers. We will book these in 15 minute intervals, following the service on Wednesday, May 12th and from 11:30-12:30 next Sunday. Please call the office to register for this.

It is disheartening for all of us that we have to face these restrictions again. We know how blessed we are by our gathering together in the name of the Lord around His Word. Our fellowship in the Word is such a key part of our lives as the people of God. Yet, as God's faithful, we also obey the laws of the land and seek all that we can do under the circumstances to be in that Word through our online services, and to share it with others who may not have that technology.

We also urge you to pray that God would deliver us from COVID; that He would strengthen us for these days and that He would continue to provide for His church. COVID may create complications, but it cannot keep us from the grace that God gives us in Jesus Christ. Your pastors are here to serve you. Your church is here for you. May God bless us in our mutual ministry together!

MISSION PRAYER: **Rev. Rufino Quintero Laínez** is a missionary in the community of Pita Ginotepe, Nicaragua. **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples in all nations, we lift up before You, Rev. Laínez, 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.**

YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER: Thank you to everyone who ordered through the youth group's Coco Brooks fundraiser! We raised \$559.30 toward attending events like the 2021 National Youth Gathering, and appreciate your support! The Youth Gathering is scheduled to be held in Winnipeg on July 15-19, 2022. The registration fee will be \$495/person, and it's been the same for over ten years because the costs of holding the NYG are subsidised by donations. If you'd also like to support the NYG directly, there's an online donation option at: <https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/>. Pastor Eric will be the main speaker at the NYG, and we're looking forward to taking all our youth!

MISSION OF THE MONTH
LUTHERAN HOSPITAL MINISTRIES

Through Lutheran Hospital Ministries of Southern Alberta, trained visitors give support to Lutheran patients in Calgary hospitals and care centres through compassionate listening, prayer and Scripture. Visitors are always needed, and regular training is scheduled. Your gift helps provide the resources and staffing that makes this ministry a blessing to those in the hospital and care centres of our area.



A FINANCIAL UPDATE IN THESE COVID DAYS: Our offerings for this year have dropped substantially from the previous years. Even while we may be dealing with restrictions, the mission and ministry of our parish continue. May God enable us all to be faithful in our stewardship of His gifts to us.

A REMINDER: We have established an *auto deposit* account with our bank. If you do an e-transfer through your branch, just send the transfer to **financials@foothillslutheran.com**. The bank will tell you that this is an auto deposit, which does not need a password, or even an action from us. Your gift is automatically deposited into our bank account. Or you can still use the other options:

- Direct Deposit: forms available from FLC Office (provision of bank account details to authorize auto debit; presently processed the 20th of every month; more frequent dates may be made available). Contact the church office and a copy of the form can be emailed to you, you can fill it in, scan it and send it back or drop by the church and fill in the information.
- Mail (or drop off) cheques to FLC Office.

NOMINATION NOTICE: Please prayerfully consider if you or your fellow members can serve our congregation in these positions of leadership – President, Elder, Treasurer, Evangelism, Fellowship and Church Properties. All positions are for 2-year terms (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023). You can email your suggestions to the church office, and we will pass them on to the committee.



SUMMER VBS “JESUS, OUR GOOD SHEPHERD”: Thank you for your patience as we have watched and waited to see how VBS will look this year. We have made the decision, in the interest of both children and volunteers, that for this year again VBS will be offered online only. **Beginning July 19th families with children age 4 to 11 are invited to join us for our online VBS this summer to learn how Jesus, our Good shepherd, leads us, guides us, and cares so much for his sheep (us!) that He even lays down his life for us.**

For more information or to register, pick up a paper registration form at the information desk or go to our website at www.foothillslutheran.com. Register by June 15th to receive a craft pack to go with the program. We hope that your children and their friends will be able to join us!

The Holy Catholic Church

Q: In the creed, we can confess our faith in the holy catholic church. Are we catholic?

A: Yes, Lutherans are catholics, but not part of the denomination called “Roman Catholic” which many people, including most Roman Catholics, mistakenly call the Catholic Church. Lutherans are catholic because Lutherans confess the Christian faith according to the Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds. In the original Greek of the Nicene Creed and the Latin of the Apostles’ and Athanasian Creeds, the word “catholic” was used to describe the Church. In the century before Luther, the German word “christliche” (Christian) was used to translate the Latin “catholicam” (catholic) in these creeds. Since older Lutheran hymnals were translated into English from the German rather than the original languages, the term “Christian” was used in these creeds. Today, many Lutherans have returned to using the word in the original: catholic.

The word “catholic” comes from the Greek and is often translated as “universal.” St. Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons in France (a Lutheran before his time), wrote in A.D. 189, “the Church, although scattered in the whole world, carefully preserves it (this faith), as if living in one house.” We can see then that the word “catholic” may mean that the Church is universal, not limited by space or time, or the word also may simply be a synonym for “Christian.” So “Roman Catholics” are Christians who recognize the bishop of Rome as the head of their Church. “Greek Catholics” are Christians who adhere to the practices and beliefs of the Eastern Orthodox Churches. Lutherans are sometimes referred to as “Evangelical Catholics” because we are Christians who emphasize the centrality of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and faith in Him.

The Augsburg Confession at the end of Article XXI states, “As can be seen, there is nothing here that departs from the Scriptures or the catholic Church or the Church of Rome, insofar as the ancient Church is known to us from its writers.” Thus, within our own confession of faith, we are identified as “catholic”; Christians who believe in Jesus as our Saviour.



Growing
FAITH
at home

9 May 2021
SIXTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

Caring Conversations

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

1

Share about someone who has been a good friend to you. What makes a good friend?

2

Jesus says, "Love one another other as I have loved you" – how has Jesus shown his love for you? How can you show love to people around you?

3

Explore how Thursday's reading (Romans 12:9-21) prompts us in ways to love others.

Devotions



Daily Bible Readings

S John 15:9-17	Love one another
M Acts 10:44-48	Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit
T 1 John 5:1-6	Faith conquers the world
W Isaiah 61:1-11	Good news of deliverance
T Romans 12:9-21	Love with sincerity
F 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10	The church's faith and example
S Psalm 98	Make a joyful noise
S John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples

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

Rituals and Traditions

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, your love is so great. Help us to show your love for others today. Amen.

BLESSING

May God surround you with his love, and fill your heart with love for others.

Love one another

Creative Response

Jesus says 'Love each other as I have loved you'.

Try some of these ways to express your love to others this week:

- Write 'I love you' notes and place them in surprising places (e.g. school lunchboxes, under pillows or plates, in purses or wallets)
- Place a flower or small treat on the seat of a car before someone leaves for work or school.
- Make heart-shaped coupons to give to one another (e.g. shoulder massage, extra story book reading, a walk or play together, a cuddle, act of service)
- Write notes of appreciation, thanks and support on cut out hearts. 'Post' these into paper bags with each person's name on them. At the end of the week distribute the bags and enjoy reading your notes of love.

mealttime prayer

God at our table, giver of bread, bless us to love,
just as you've said. Amen.

verse for the week

This is my command. Love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends.

JOHN 15:12-13

Service



Mother's Day is an opportunity to shower love upon someone who has cared for you. It might be your mum or grandmothers or godmothers in your life. Take time to recall, give thanks and pray for the women who have cared for you. Plan acts of service and love. Ask how they would best like to be served and make arrangements for this.

