

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”



ACTS 1:24

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 16, 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: You have made us one, O Lord--one in purpose, one in mission, one in spirit, and one in faith. Help us to remain united in our ministry and bonded by our beliefs as we continue to serve You and one another.

One Lord of all, may we worship You with one accord.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE:Confession and Absolution p. 151
Service of Prayer and Preaching p. 260
HYMNS: 779; 564; 842; 492
FIRST LESSON:..... Acts 1:12-26
EPISTLE LESSON: 1 John 5:9-15
GOSPEL LESSON: John 17:11b-19
SERMON: *Never Out of Sight* – John 17:11b-19

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.

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:
In Hospital:
Homebound:
For Special Intercession:
Family Focus:

LAST WEEK AT FLC

Week of	Attendance	Wednesday
May 9	65	17

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:
 Organist..... Deaconess Miriam Winstanley
 CantorsTim and Sarah Knudtson

THIS WEEK AT FOOTHILLS

Mon	7:00 pm	PPC
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

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GIFTS

Weekly Offering Needs	\$8,784.62	Our Budget Goal
Envelope Gifts Received Last Week	\$8,477.00	\$456,800.00
Envelope Gifts Received to Date	\$128,555.00	+/- YTD
Total Offerings Needed to Date	\$166,907.69	-\$38,352.69

Miscellaneous Offerings: Visitor Offerings 100.00; LWML 50.00; Organ Fund 1,190.00.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The account of Esau and Jacob serves as today's lesson, "Twin Troubles." When Isaac is sixty years old, Rebekah gives birth to very different twin boys – Esau and Jacob. Isaac ignores God's promise to Jacob and favors Esau. Esau's hunger gets the best of him and he sells his birthright for a bowl of stew. Rebekah enables further deception as she plots with Jacob, her favored son, so that he receives Isaac's blessing. When Esau vows to kill Jacob, Rebekah sends Jacob away for his own safety.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: "Gain a Heart of Wisdom" – Psalm 90:12. Hear this inspirational message on Pentecost by Dr. Michael on CHR 1140 AM at 8:00 am Sunday morning. Streaming audio and podcasts at www.lutheranhour.ca

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!

OUR PPC MEETS MONDAY at 7:00pm. We will meet via Zoom, and Pastor Bode will send the link on Monday. Please keep our leaders in your prayers, as they work for our mutual ministry together in these days.

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.



MISSION PRAYER: Rev. Edmundo Retana Jimmenes is a missionary pastor serving in Costa Rica. **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples of all nations, we lift up before You Rev. Jimmenes 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.**

**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.

VOTERS MEETING: We have scheduled a Voter’s Meeting for Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 1:30 pm. We will, Lord willing, be able to gather to receive the Annual Report and to elect officers. COVID protocols will have to be determined as we look to this meeting. We are looking into the ways of sharing this via Zoom as well. There are unique challenges for us in these days, but we do need to work to provide for the congregation, its leadership and its work. Please set aside the date and join us as we work together in the Lord’s Kingdom.



BABY SHOWER: As Pastor Eric and Kayla prepare for the birth of their twins, people are excited to have a baby shower for the new little ones. Respecting the health of all and the current gathering restrictions, we look forward to planning something for July. Watch the bulletin and Foot Print for further details. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Sommers at (403) 829-2366.

IT HAS PLEASED ALMIGHTY GOD to call to Himself the soul of our sister in Christ, Merceda Schmidt. Merceda just passed her 104th birthday in April. We pray for God’s comfort for her family, including her sisters, Irma Lucht and Marilyn Harrison here at Foothills. Due to COVID, the funeral will be a private family affair.

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.

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!



BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN: The Pregnancy Care Center is once again starting their Baby Bottle Campaign on Mother’s Day and ends on Father’s Day. But due to COVID

and the current Alberta Health restrictions, bottles will not be distributed.

Even with COVID, the Pregnancy Care Center has reached out to assist clients primarily via virtual classes and support. But volunteers met with families to deliver care packages and baby items. Thanks be to God for the 150 babies that were born and supported by the Pregnancy Care Center. Please go online to donate or you can mail a cheque. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Sommers at (403) 829-2366.

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 restrictions that are in affect remain for the next 2 weeks (May 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 of last year, at the very beginning of COVID. For the next 2 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 number of infections. Lord willing, we will be back to at least our present levels by the beginning of June.

While we aren't having in-person worship, we are providing an opportunity for Holy Communion. You can register to be part of a group of up to 15 people. We will book these in 15-minute intervals, following the service on Wednesday, May 19th and from 11:30-12:30 next Sunday. Please call the office to register for this.

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.

Please 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. Your pastors are here to serve you. Your church is here for you. May God bless us in our mutual ministry together!

WHY DIDN'T ANYONE ANSWER THE PHONE? We do remind you that the staff gathers for daily devotions from 9:00 – 9:30am each day. This gives us time together in the Word and time together in prayer for you and for our church. We don't want to miss your call, and we'll get back to you as soon as we can!

LOOKING AT OUR WEEKLY ATTENDANCE FIGURES? It is hard to record accurate numbers, but we will be combining those in person with those online during the live-stream of the service. This does not reflect those who view the service at a different time. May we continue to be faithful in our worship together as God's people, as best we can in these days!



Caring Conversations

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

1

What helps people become close to each other? What pulls them apart?

2

Jesus prayed that his followers would be 'one'. What do you think he meant by this?

3

Why is it important to stay connected to other Christians?



Devotions



Daily Bible Readings

S	John 17:6-19	Christ's prayer for his disciples
M	Acts 1:15-28	Matthias replaces Judas
T	1 John 5:9-13	Knowing about eternal life
W	1 Corinthians 1:10-17	Be perfectly united
T	John 17:20-26	Jesus prays for all believers
F	Ephesians 4:1-5	Keep the unity of the Spirit
S	Psalm 1	The way to happiness
S	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit is given

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

Rituals and Traditions



PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for praying for us and for all your followers. May we experience the unity of faith that you want for us. Amen.

BLESSING

May God protect you and keep you safe from all evil. May you live in peace.

Jesus prays for his disciples.

Creative Response

Read Psalm 1.

People who are faithful to God's teachings (law) are "like trees planted by streams of water". God's teachings oppose the 'wicked' around us that represent the worst of the world's standards.

These trees do not wither but yield fruit and prosper. Similarly, the lives of the followers of Jesus do not wither as they are fed by God's word.

To remember the importance of God's word in your life, designate or add a "faith plant" in your home.

As you water it, recall the importance of the flowing waters of God's word that feed and nourish your life "day and night" (v. 2).

mealttime prayer

God bless this food, God bless this day, God keep us safe in every way. Amen.

verse for the week

"And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

JOHN 17:11

Service



Talk together as a family about the ways you serve the Christian brothers and sisters that God has given you as your congregation. What gifts and resources has God given you for this purpose? How are you currently using these? Pray for your congregational family.