



Dear Friends in Christ Jesus:

In our office devotions, we have been reading through the book of Deuteronomy. The title means, “Second Law”, yet Deuteronomy isn’t a second or new law. It is a restatement of the law, but it is actually more of a restatement of the covenant between God and His people. As the nation of Israel stands on the brink of the promised land, Moses reminds the people of all they have experienced over the past 40 years. He does speak of God’s will for His people, but also shows how God has worked for the good of His people.

One reading, in particular, caught my attention. Moses says:

***“Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end.”*** (Deuteronomy 8:11–16, ESV)

For 40 years, the Lord tested His people. Their hardships and their blessings were part of God’s test. They needed 40 years to learn the lessons that God wanted them to learn. We know that they didn’t always learn as they should. In their years in the Promised Land they would forget again and again the words that Moses spoke to them. God would often have to teach the lesson again and again.

In our last Foot Print, I spoke of the things God can teach us through COVID. God is using the present time to teach us patience, compassion and trust. (You may want to look at the September Foot Print again). But the lesson goes on, and there is more that God wants to teach us in these days. I think of two important lessons in particular:

- *God is calling us to repentance.* God is a loving Father. It is because of His love that He disciplines His children. It was His love that led to the people of Israel being taken into captivity. It is His love that

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*Continued on page 2...*

...Continued from page 1

moves Him to use the worries, struggles and illnesses of this world to lead us back to Himself. If sin had no consequences or negative results, we would be indifferent or hardened to it. The pains of life remind us of our fallen nature. They remind us how much we need God. They are ways of reminding us to turn from our sin and live. Of course, the unbelieving world doesn't see any need for repentance. They don't care what God thinks. They don't believe that the Lord has any control or power over COVID. It always reminds me of the words of Revelation: ***"They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory."*** (Revelation 16:9, ESV)

- *God is teaching us the blessing of forgiveness.* We've spent the past few weeks talking about the Office of the Keys and Confession. The ministry of the Church is a ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation. We are blessed to know that where there is repentance and confession, there is the promise of forgiveness. Forgiven in Christ, we also forgive others. We forgive those who have failed us or disappointed us in these days. We forgive those who haven't acted with patience, love and compassion for their neighbours. We forgive those who have hurt or angered us because their stance on issues is different than ours. We remember that we are lost apart from the forgiveness and grace that God has given to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Several times Jesus teaches us that we, who are forgiven, must forgive those who sin against us. Right now, we see such division in our world. We see struggles in our communities. People are angry and spiteful towards those with a different attitude toward COVID than they themselves have. There are those who see anyone who questions the protocols put in place as selfish and uncaring. We have come to judge people without listening to both sides. We need to learn to forgive. Without forgiveness the attitudes that people have toward one another will only turn into hatred. Forgiveness allows us to come together again.

It took forty years for the people of Israel to learn lessons which, sadly, they soon forgot. Even so, God never deserted nor abandoned His people. We can be sure that the same Lord will be with us and bless us. He will teach us, as we continue to go through these days that seem so unprecedented to so many. He will forgive us. He will deliver us and lead us beyond the struggles of this world as He

works all things for the good of His people.

Lord, help us to learn, and to grow in serving you and one another!

In His Service,



## Elders Report

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God assures us that He will never give us more than we can handle, however as this pandemic continues, I am sure many of us are asking how long will this endure. The Elders are concerned about the mental and emotional wellness of our congregation. More importantly, we are very concerned about your spiritual wellness. We encourage all of you to continue to attend our services on-line Sunday mornings at 10:15, Wednesday evenings at 6:30, or in person at those times. We are required by AHS and municipal guidelines to preregister for the in person services. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we follow required protocols in order to keep everyone safe and healthy. The Elders continue to contact as many individuals and families as we can, by telephone or social media, to inquire about your well being during these trying days.

The Elders are continuing the "Lost Sheep" initiative where they contact the individuals of past confirmation classes to inquire about and encourage them to be active in their Christian faith. If our past confirmands are still living in Calgary, we invite them to attend worship at Foothills.

The Elders have remained active assisting our Pastors, Deaconess, support staff and their families when required as they too are feeling the effects of the pandemic.

If an Elder has not contacted you within the past year and you would like to speak to an Elder, please call the church office and one of our staff will put an Elder in contact with you. The Elders are: Gary Anderson, Colin Bablitz, Thomas Benz, Hans Dueck, Lorne Rosenau, and Austin Voss. We welcome Austin as a new Elder this year.

In His service,

Lorne Rosenau

# Children & Family Ministry

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

*Lord; teach me your statutes!" Psalm 119:11-12*

Sunday School continues with the option of children either attending in person, or joining us for a Zoom opening and having Sunday School at home with their parents. A weekly e-mail is sent out with materials and a Zoom link for all families, so that families can decide what will work best! **To allow our teachers to plan well, we are asking that you let us know by Friday noon if your children will be attending the following Sunday.**

For those who attend in person, Alberta Health guidelines are being followed in terms of masking and distancing. Please screen your children for symptoms at home as you would for school and keep them at home if they are not well. We ask that you come in the lower west doors, where sanitizer will be available on your entry.

Our teachers met in early October for Bible Study and planning. At that time we discussed the annual Children's Christmas Service. In order to allow maximum participation, the decision was made to once again do a program that allows for pre-recorded segments done by children and their parents, with participation also by other members of our congregation. Please let us know if you would like your children to participate. The service will be presented the second Sunday in December.

Our upcoming lessons include:

Nov 07	The Fall-Short Report	Numbers 13:1-2, 25-14:24
Nov 14	The Unlikely Ally (Rahab Believes)	Joshua 2
Nov 21	The Downfall Wall (The Fall of Jericho)	Joshua 5:13-6:27
Nov 28	The Palm Tree Judge (Deborah)	Judges 4
Dec 05	The Weakened Judge (Sampson)	Judges 16:4-31
Dec 12	The Faith-Full Family (Ruth)	Ruth 1:1-2; 13; 4:13-17
Dec 19	Seasonal Christmas Lesson	
Dec 26	No Lesson Today	

## **LADIES' BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

Our Tuesday and Wednesday Ladies' Studies continue to meet weekly:

Our **Tuesday evening** group meets at 7:30 pm and is looking at a study on Philippians, entitled "JOY". We are currently meeting on Zoom only.

Our **Wednesday afternoon** study meets at 1:30 pm for an in-depth study of the readings for the upcoming Sunday. Some of us come in-person, and some join in by Zoom.

New members are always welcome! Please contact Deaconess Miriam for more information or to join us.

## **LWML-Canada**

Our Foothills Society continues to **SING** (Serve in Never-ending Grace). Recent monetary donations were made to:

**Foothills Lutheran Organ Fund** in memory of our dear sister in Christ, Merceda Schmidt, a lover of music who enjoyed sharing her passion with young and old alike.

**Malabar Mission Society.** Due to COVID-19, the mission work in India is severely affected. Several pastors, church workers and members of the church and community have contracted this disease. Although worship opportunities and outreach activities have been hampered, the leaders in India are finding ways to arrange for support in Malabar and Anantapur.

**Used postage stamps** were sent to the **Canadian Bible Society**, where they will be sold by weight to stamp collectors. Proceeds will be used to buy Bibles for inmates in Canadian prisons.

**Thirty-nine pairs of used eyeglasses** were delivered to **Optiks International**. They will be sent to countries around the world to help people with vision problems.

**We support LWMLC mission grants through our mite donations.**

We are now making plans to bring Christmas joy to the residents of Foothills Lutheran Manor.

***Our thanks to all of you for supporting our endeavours!***

Our next meeting is November 22nd from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. All ladies are welcome!

God's blessings,

Cheryl Lemke, Foothills LWMLC President

## Family Time In Christ

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“You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise”. Deuteronomy 11:19

Many of you make use of the *Growing Faith at Home* resource we put in the bulletin each Sunday. It provides daily readings with discussion questions for the family, a prayer, a blessing that can be shared amongst yourself, and ideas for activities to fit with the readings or the season. It’s meant to encourage you as a family to practice your faith with one another in a variety of ways, and to give you opportunities to check in with your children and how they are doing. Here are some words on expressing faith in the family, adapted from one of the Lutheran Church of Australia’s *Grow Ministries* corner posts for building faith.

### ***Faith Talk in the Home***

Faith is built when it is expressed naturally within the context of the family. It is not reserved for Sundays or formal prayer times, which are certainly important, but it becomes part of the fabric of daily life. For example:

- Start a habit of sharing highs and lows of the day with each other, and use them to help formulate prayers.
- Share things that might be ongoing struggles or choices that have to be made. Talk together about how God’s Word applies to issues that arise in your lives. Pray together for strength to stand firm on His Word.
- When conflict arises, remind each other that God’s forgiveness in Christ enables us to confess our sins to each other and to forgive each other. Use the words “I forgive you” when someone says “I’m sorry”.
- Share “God-sightings”. Encourage each other to watch for ways that God has been working in your lives and in your family, and share them with each other. You might keep a family journal of “God-sightings” that you can look back on.
- Look for unscripted opportunities for faith talk as your days unfold, for example an event that reminds you of a Bible lesson, or recognition of signs of God’s faithful care for His creation and for you.

God’s blessings on your family faith-talk!

## Board of Fellowship

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Covid has been a major struggle for many of us in the last two years in so many ways. One of the most obvious problems with the restrictions we currently have is the inability to safely gather together for fellowship. Fellowship is so important to the encouragement of our Christian community! We currently are waiting for improvement in case numbers as well as lessening of restrictions to be able to start up our coffee time, but in the meantime I would like to encourage you to continue your fellowship with those around you and in the church family through phone calls, video chats, or safe gatherings with those you know are vaccinated. Also consider whether you would like to support the fellowship of the church when we are blessed to be able to gather together again. Would you be willing to help with coffee time? How about other events? Please prayerfully consider the opportunities available until we can meet again! Please contact Sarah Knudtson to put your name on a list or with any questions. ([knudtson.sarah@gmail.com](mailto:knudtson.sarah@gmail.com)).

## Operation Christmas Child

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Operation Christmas Child reaches out to children in many remote areas where the Word of God has never been heard. Your shoebox is bringing the gospel message of Jesus's love to the child who receives it. As the shoeboxes are given out, the children participate in 12 lessons of *The Greatest Journey* where they learn about following Christ and sharing the good news. Through the power of the Holy Spirit they in turn share their faith with friends and family who in turn disciple others. Families are reached, churches grow and communities are formed. If God is moving you to fill one or more boxes - they are on the table in front of Miriam's office as well as brochures and bookmarks.

Sunday after church, a mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming." 

## President's Report

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It seems that we always have to focus on the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the effects it has had on our congregation. I want to reassure you that we do worship at the church as well as have online coverage of our worship services. We follow the restrictions that Alberta Health Services and the Province of Alberta have put in place for our safety. We wear masks and socially distance during worship. We have a Covid Committee that ensures we follow the restrictions. Members need to register online to attend services but we still accommodate visitors attending our church. We all sing hymns during the services now. As the restrictions are lifted we will adapt and try to normalize our activities at Foothills Lutheran Church. Please, come and join us!

Back in April, our insurance company (Ecclesiastical Insurance) performed a safety inspection of our church and the student residence. In May, they produced a "Risk Assessment Report" and set down expected improvements needed to increase our safety and reduce liability issues around our church.

- We have done repairs to our parking lot and sidewalks to reduce tripping hazards as well as slipping hazards due to icy spots.
- An electrical inspection has been done and we will endeavour to correct deficiencies as recommended.
- Windows have been installed in all Sunday School classroom doors so that parents may look in to ensure that their students are engaged in safe activities.
- A contractor has been engaged to correct roofing and gutter issues pointed out in the Risk Assessment Report.
- I have called in a sewer cleaning company, Dr. Drain, to clear our obstructions to our sanitary sewer line. We will be removing a poplar tree whose roots have been problematic to correct that issue.
- Other corrections have been made to office procedures to prevent liability issues from arising when outside groups utilize our church for meetings. We now have accident reporting forms to help us correct problems.

I have contracted a snow removal company for the winter of 2021-22.

Late in the summer our Church Properties Chairperson resigned for personal reasons. In the interim, I have taken on the responsibilities of that role to ensure that the Risk

Assessment deficiencies are attended to in a timely fashion. I could really use help in that regard. If somebody would step forward to take on this role of Church Properties Chairperson, I would be happy to help that person get up to speed. I am not very "handy" and do what I can, but I am not the best person for this role. Please email me if you would like to help on the Church Properties Committee at: [t-troth@shaw.ca](mailto:t-troth@shaw.ca)

On a different note, the Parish Planning Council has been meeting to carry on with the business affairs of the congregation. We are starting a new cycle of preparing the 2022 budget for presentation to the Voters Assembly in January.

As a congregation we are blessed with 2 pastors and a deaconess who work continually to handle worship services, Sunday school, confirmation classes, youth programming, Bible studies, maintain contact with university students and do some counselling as well. They strive to share God's Word with our congregation and to others in the community.

We are also blessed with a caretaker, Brian Vincent, who keeps our church clean and maintains our grounds. Brian does many of the simple repairs needed to maintain our church.

Also we have an office administrator in Carol Kehler who keeps so many things going smoothly in the office. She usually is the first person you speak to when phoning the office. She is so pleasant and helpful!

Thank you to Trevor Heumann for all the work he has done to improve the quality of the picture and sound for the streaming of our service for on-line worship. Trevor and his wife, Michelle, work with Pastor Eric to lead us and provide the musical accompaniment for singing contemporary hymns.

Finally, If you see a problem with our facility that needs to be repaired, please send me an email with a description of the problem so that we can keep our church in good repair. We are compiling a list of repairs that need attention.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Roth



## Board of Christian Education

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September was the kickoff to in-person Sunday School class, Confirmation and Youth Bible Study. Sunday School opening is again offered on Zoom allowing families at home to connect together before starting their at home learning. Resources to each lesson are emailed out to parents enabling them to use the same material that is covered in class. Confirmation and Youth Bible Study take place in-person on Sunday morning. Adult Bible Study is in full swing with opportunities available throughout the week for in-person study. Some of the Bible Studies are also combined on Zoom to allow people at home to join in God's Word. Student campus studies have also resumed meeting together on-line for study and fellowship.

We were optimistic that we could get started back to work in the library. However, with the recent restrictions those plans have been postponed. None-the less, we look forward to when we can open its door and invite people to enjoy the resources that are in it. In preparation for that day we are currently looking for someone to fill the role of librarian. This could be one individual or two people who could share the leading role. We will also be asking for volunteers to assist the librarian with organizing and shelving. If that is something of interest to you, email and let us know.

We have many Creation Ministries resources in the Narthex. Some of the resources were getting low while others needed a complete top up. There are now booklets available on a variety of topics including Noah's Flood, Who was Cain's Wife, How Did We Get Our Bible, Is Human Life Special plus many more. Please help yourself to those that are of interest to you. You can email the board at [education@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:education@foothillslutheran.com) if there are other topics you would like to learn about.

Have you joined the (private) Facebook group for Foothill members who want to connect to Christian Ed via social media? [www.facebook.com/groups/flchristianed/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/flchristianed/) We post announcements and event reminders to the group; if you use Facebook more than you read the bulletin, this group might be for you!

Preparations continue for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season. Keep an eye on your bulletin for these plans and events to be announced. We wish everyone a joyous Christmas season as together we share in God's love for each of us.

The Board of Ed is:

Co-Chair – Kayla Moffett and Tobi Stene

Staff Members – Pastor David Bode, Pastor Eric Moffett and Deaconess Miriam Winstanley

Board Members – Michelle Heumann, Trevor Heumann

## FLC Outreach Updates

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**Our FLC Men's Bible Study** continues on the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. at the church. We have about 10 men out each time. We study topics like "Heroes of the Bible" for 90 minutes (& we regularly stray from the topics). We're always open to newcomers, friends, neighbours, co-workers & relatives.

With our 2021 Men's Bible Studies, I have invited 10 - 20 people for each Saturday morning via phone call or text message. Consider this an invitation, and also this is a great opportunity in a relaxed atmosphere to bring friends who may not have a home church.

**Keep in touch!** Since late August, we have been making 10 phone calls weekly to single members (including widows, widowers) of the congregation. We want to check on needs and opportunities that may be out there. Sometimes we just spend time listening to those who may be lonely, which is fine too.

**Safeway/Sobey's Grocery Gift Cards**—We approached Safeway Beddington again and we obtained grocery gift cards, courtesy of their generosity. We handed them off in smaller increments to single parents of Foothills Lutheran Church. Our recipients greatly appreciated them and it gave them a small boost.

We hope to obtain more gift cards as Christmas season approaches.

**Organ Fund Update**—Thank you for your sharing of God's blessings. Our Organ Fund continues along well. At the end of September, we had only \$18,500 outstanding on the new organ, which had cost \$112,000. All gifts go through the Church and are tax receiptable.

To bolster the fund, we have made a variety of contacts to church members, former church members, non-church members, and organ music lovers. We have met with great success as we carry on to eliminate this capital expense for the church.

Please contact Mark Kihn if you have any questions.

Let me know if you have any ideas to act upon, or needs that perhaps we can meet.

Mark Kihn

# Youth Event News

Youth group, or LYF (Lutheran Youth @ Foothills), is for youth in grades 7 to 12, and friends are welcome! We usually meet every other Friday from 7 to 10 pm, although sometimes the dates and times change slightly depending on the event or to avoid long weekends.



We also meet every Sunday during the school year at 9 am for Bible study (except for long weekends and the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's).

For the four Sundays in November, we'll be doing a series on "Faith in an Anxious World," and we hope that you'll join us for this really important topic, even if you don't usually come to Sunday morning Bible study.

If you weren't able to make it to the **IMPACT...but shorter** event on September 10, you can watch the sessions with Pastor Eric and Pastor Scott Brayall, Alex Steinke, and the Q&A on the IMPACT Youth Gathering YouTube channel. Go to [www.impactyg.ca](http://www.impactyg.ca) and look for the IMPACT..but shorter page, or right to <https://youtu.be/Y590qxO5zkA>.



Thank you to everyone who came out to the family slo-pitch game on September 26, adults vs youth! Thirty people were there to play, watch, and enjoy the beautiful weather. A special thank you to Amanda Kiefer, who kept score for *both* teams! We also finally had beautiful weather for visiting the corn maze on October 15 - we've been snowed out a couple of times before!

## Friday, November 5: Laser tag

Watch for details on cost and timing.

## Saturday, November 27: Operation Christmas Child

**NOTE THE DATE CHANGE.** Operation Christmas Child wasn't able to get us in on a Friday, so we're going on a Saturday evening instead. We'll be helping inspect and sort the packed shoeboxes at the OCC processing centre. They require that volunteers be 14 years or older, and there will be waivers for the parents to sign. Watch for an email with the waivers and info about what time to meet!

## Friday, December 3: Skating

If the weather cooperates, we hope to go skating at Bowness and enjoy a fire.

## Sunday, December 5: NYG info meeting

We'll meet right after the worship service to give you the details on the National Youth Gathering in Winnipeg from **July 15-19, 2022**. Visit [www.lccnyg.ca](http://www.lccnyg.ca) for more info.

## Friday, December 17: Christmas party

We'll be at the church from 7 to 10 pm for some Christmas fun!

### Save these dates!

The first youth event in January will be on Friday the 14th.

## November Mission of the Month Inn from the Cold

Homelessness is a problem in Calgary, and like the Mustard Seed, Inn from the Cold seeks to help. Other programs work on support and prevention.

## December Mission of the Month Foothills Benevolence Fund

There are many times when our members have been in need of help and support. Different from our Human Care Ministries budget, this fund would provide for special needs, typically within Foothills or ever larger needs than we generally support now.

Coming soon to a Welcome Desk near you

Advent 2021 Devotion booklets

In regular and large print.

