

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”



L U K E 3 : 2

Second Sunday in Advent

December 5, 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: Come to us, O Christ, and smooth out the rough spots in our lives. Fill in the empty spaces with Your love. And even out all the crooked pathways in our lives, so that we may be led straight to You.

*O Christ, our Leader and Redeemer,
be our constant companion on the road of life.*

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE: Divine Service, Setting 1

HYMNS: 354; 344; 646; 334; 620; 508

FIRST LESSON: Malachi 3:1-7b

EPISTLE LESSON: Philippians 1:2-11

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)

SERMON: The Brightest Decoration in the Church – Philippians 1:2-11

WELCOME: We gather to rejoice this day in the goodness of the Lord! We invite you to join us in our songs of praise, our words of love, our prayers, and as we listen to the Word of God. May God bless your worship here today and fill your life with His love as you go through this coming week!

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION TODAY as 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.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Music..... Miriam Winstanley

Ushers.....Robert Kubke; Ellen Wagner

Acolyte.....Paxton Knudtson



THE SACRED SEASON OF ADVENT is upon us and we look forward in joyful expectation to the Lord who comes to save His people. We invite you to make our midweek Advent Services a special part of this preparation. Services are Wednesdays, at 6:30 pm. Our theme is “Behold!”, and this week we look at “He is Coming”. We hope you will be with us for this special time of preparation and devotion!

THIS WEEK AT FLC

Monday	6:30 pm	Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
Tuesday	10:00 am	LifeLight Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Elders
	7:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
Thursday	1:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study
Sunday	9:00 am	Sunday School/Confirmation
	10:15 am	Sunday Advent Worship
		Children's Christmas Service

LAST WEEK AT FLC

Week of	Attendance	Wednesday/Communion
November 28	123	21/15

Attendance numbers include online participants

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

In Hospital:

Homebound:

For Special Intercession:

Family Focus:

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GIFTS

Weekly Offering Needs	\$8,173.08	Our Budget Goal \$425,000.00
Envelope Gifts Received Last Week	\$4,990.00	
Envelope Gifts Received to Date	\$342,775.00	+/- YTD
Total Offerings Needed to Date	\$392,307.69	-\$49,532.69

Miscellaneous Offerings: Plate 5.00; Visitor 175.00; Sunday School 10.00; Inn from the Cold 125.00; LWML 0.75; Organ 30.00.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Our Children's Christmas Service will be presented on **Sunday, December 12th** during our regular service time. We will again do this through video clips, provided by families across the generations. We hope you will join us for this special service.

OUR LORD HAS GIVEN US A PRECIOUS GIFT in that life-giving meal of the Lord's Supper. We rejoice that more and more of our members are able to commune, but we know there are those who are still restricted by health needs and concerns surrounding COVID. We are still here to help you! Christ gives us His body and blood in this meal to forgive our sins and strengthen our faith. He calls us to ***do this***. If you are unable to be with us on Sundays or Wednesdays for Holy Communion, let the pastors know, and we will arrange a time for you to receive this glorious gift of God's grace.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: "Because We Belong" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The world tells us we must be useful in order to belong, but that's not how God sees us. (Luke 1:5-25) Hear this inspirational message on CHR 1140 AM at 8:00 am Sunday morning. Streaming audio and podcasts at www.lutheranhour.ca

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Today, we will study "The Weakened Judge." God grants Samson great strength to defeat the enemies of God's people. Seeking to overcome Samson, the Philistines bribe Delilah to find the source of Samson's strength. Samson deceives Delilah each time she tries to uncover the secret, but he finally reveals the key to his power. Shorn and blinded by the Philistines, Samson is brought to entertain thousands of revelers at the feast to Dagon. Identifying the house's supporting pillars, Samson prays, and God grants him power to bring down the temple, killing everyone.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH
FLC 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 even larger needs than we generally support now.

YOU HAVE BEEN PATIENT, DEAR MEMBERS with our efforts to maintain a traffic flow that allows us to distance as much as possible. Now that we are dealing with winter weather, we ask you to help us keep that flow under control by keeping your coats with you. This will prevent the need for people to go back and forth and creating congestion in the narthex. Like so many things during COVID, we know this is an inconvenience, but we are thankful for the efforts we all put in to showing care and concern for one another.



DID YOU LOSE SOMETHING? Lost and found items are on display in the narthex. Did you misplace a pair of reading glasses? They, too, are on the same table. Also on display are unclaimed dishes from the kitchen. Pick them up soon, before we pass them on to Goodwill.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART: Give a meaningful gift from the comfort of home with CLWR's Gifts from the Heart catalogue. Your gift to a loved one will provide meaningful, tangible items for people around the world facing hunger, poverty and the threat of COVID-19. No matter which gift you choose, the gifts you give will change lives and touch your loved ones! Visit www.clwr.org/GFTH to learn more. Catalogues are located on the Welcome Desk.





THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT is a call to prepare for the coming days of our Lord's appearing, including the celebration of His coming as the Babe of Bethlehem. We are in our planning and preparation stages, and are planning services for Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 11:00 pm (as needed/desired). We will post these on our registration site early in December. We will not be accepting any registrations until that time. Yet you can let your pastors and elders know that you plan to be here, so that we can determine how best to provide for our worship in those days.

WITH MULTIPLE CHRISTMAS SERVICES it will be necessary to sanitize the pews before each service. With many hands this is a relatively simple task. Our caretaker, Brian Vincent, would love to have your help. Let him know, or let us know in the office, that you can assist with this.

The Oromo congregation will also be returning to worship December 5th. We will need to sanitize each week, to enable them to be able to worship. They will sanitize after their service. Again, if you can help, please let us know.

MANY OF OUR MEMBERS HAVE SWITCHED THEIR GIVING to electronic contributions and no longer require offering envelopes. We will order our 2023 offering envelopes in January to take advantage of early order discounts. Please let the church office know if you no longer require offering envelopes and we will adjust our order. If we don't hear from you, we will proceed with ordering envelopes for you. Regardless of the way, may God enable us to be faithful stewards of His gifts first given to us!

Your support in the Lord's work is highly treasured and we are pleased to be able provide you with a pre-authorized alternative of giving. Should you prefer this style of offering, please contact office@foothillslutheran.com. We will provide you with an agreement from the Bank of Montreal where you will be asked to provide your identification and financial institution details. A 'void' cheque is helpful as well. Once this form has been completed, return it to the church office.

CHRISTMAS GOODIE EXCHANGE: Just because we can't have gatherings doesn't mean that we can't enjoy some yummy Christmas baking, right? This is a fun way to connect a bit from a distance. You get to make a large batch of ONE type of (freezable) cookie, and in return, get a large variety of cookies made with care from fellow church members! Exact amounts and details will be determined based on interest but expect to be making MORE than a couple of dozen cookies (or squares) roughly 3 inches in size. Bring your cookies to church by Friday, December 17 so that they can be organized into easy pick-up packages for service on Sunday the 19th. If you won't be able to pick up your cookies, please contact Sarah. **DEADLINE TO JOIN IS THIS COMING TUESDAY** so that we can calculate numbers. If this sounds like something you would be interested in,

please email Sarah Knudtson (knudtson.sarah@gmail.com) or sign up in the Narthex on the sign up sheet by Miriam's office.

THE NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022 will be available soon. As we draw near to the end of the year, we want to use the blessings God provides to complete the work we do together through our tithes and offerings. God has blessed us to be a blessing, and provides for us, so that we may use His gifts to His glory. We encourage your faithful stewardship.

OUR MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

How do we memorize? For each verse take two minutes every night and say it through twice, together, or once in the morning and once in the evening." Do this as a family at mealtimes. Do it every day of the week. Repetition is important.

This week's verse: Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

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](https://www.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**)

- ☆ Dec 24 4:00 pm; 6:00 pm; 11:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Services (online at 4:00 pm)
- ☆ Dec 25 10:15 am Christmas Day Family Celebration (Communion)
(also online)
- ☆ Dec 31 6:30 pm New Year's Eve Vespers (Communion) (also online)

With all the festive services, there will not be a Wednesday service December 22nd or December 29th.



Growing
FAITH
at home

5th December 2021
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prepare the way

Caring Conversations



SHARE

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

1

How are you preparing for Christmas? What will you do over the coming weeks to prepare – at home and at church?

2

John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. How might we prepare the way for Jesus to come into our homes and communities?



Devotions



READ Daily Bible Readings

S	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord
M	Malachi 3:1-4	He will be like a refiner's fire
T	Philippians 1:3-11	Thanksgiving and prayer
W	Isaiah 62:1-5,10-12	Prepare the way for the people
T	Zechariah 2:10-13	The Lord will come to live among us
F	1 Peter 1:13-25	Prepare your minds for action
S	Luke 1:68-79	Zechariah's song
S	Luke 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming



TALK

Talk about the Bible verse. What word or phrase was important to you as you read these verses?

Rituals and Traditions



PRAY

Lord, prepare your way in us. Set us straight where we are crooked and make us smooth where we are rough. Amen.



BLESS

May God prepare your heart this Advent.



Advent

Advent is a time for preparing, a time of waiting and watching. We celebrate Advent with the colour BLUE as this communicates the message of hope. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that one day Jesus will come again.

Creative Response

Create a 'Jesse tree' to celebrate Jesus' heritage (Isaiah 11:1 and Matthew 1:1-16). Prepare symbols using card and string. Include the names of Jesus' ancestors and the related Bible references. Hang them on a small potted branch or on your Christmas tree during the remainder of Advent. Read your Bible verses as you hang them up.

STAR – Abraham – Gen 15:4-6

CROWN – David – 2 Sam 2:1-7

ALTAR – Isaac – Gen 22:9-12

TEMPLE – Solomon – 2 Chron 3:1-7

JUG – Rebecca – Gen 24:12-20

TOWER – Uzziah – 2 Chron 26:1-10

STAIRWAY – Jacob – Gen 28:10-17

NUMBER 7 – Rachel – Gen 29:16-20

SUN – Hezekiah – 2 Kings 20:1-11

COAT – Joseph – Gen 37:1-4

SCROLL – Josiah – 2 Kings 22:8-28

COINS – Judah – Gen 37:26-28

PRISONER – Jehoiachin – 2 Kings 24: 8-16

ROPE – Rahab – Joshua 2

ANGEL – Joseph – Matt 1: 18-25

WHEAT – Ruth – Ruth 2:1-12

SONG – Mary – Luke 1:39-56

SHEEP – Jesse – 1 Sam 16: 1-13

MANGER – Jesus – Luke 2:4-7



mealtime prayer

Lord Jesus, bless our home with hope this Advent.
As we enjoy your gifts, make us ready for your
coming again. Amen.

verse for the week

Get the road
ready for the
Lord! Make a
straight path
for him.

LUKE 3:4

Service



Look through this list
of ideas for sharing
during Advent. Choose
one or more to put into
practice this week.

- Look through your clothes for 'pre-loved' items that are still in good condition. Bundle them for delivery to a local thrift or charity store.
- Bake biscuits as a family. Keep half and give the rest away.
- Locate Israel and Bethlehem on a globe or world map. Pray for peace in the country and region of Jesus' birth.
- Write an encouraging note to a friend you haven't heard from in a while.



growministries
LIFE AND HOPE IN A WORLD OF DARKNESS

