

Foothills Lutheran Church

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



IT IS THE
GOOD NEWS
ABOUT HIS SON
JESUS CHRIST
OUR LORD
WHO CAME
AS A HUMAN

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2022

Senior Pastor: David Bode
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Associate Pastor: Eric Moffett
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DPS: Deaconess Miriam Winstanley
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Office Administrator: Carol Kehler
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Pastor Emeritus: Eldon Ohlinger

A Prayer Upon Entering: O Advent Lord, come to us and bring us Your salvation. For we would be lost without Your presence, we would be sinking in sin without Your love, and we would be scattered far and wide were it not for Your guidance and strength. May we see Your salvation at work even now, in all the events surrounding Your birth.

O Coming Christ, save us by Your grace.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE: As projected
HYMNS: 340; 621; 354; 900
FIRST LESSON:..... Isaiah 7:10-17
EPISTLE LESSON:Romans 1:1-7
GOSPEL LESSON:Matthew 1:18-25
SERMON: *What's In a Name? – Isaiah 7:14*

WELCOME! It is a joy to have you with us today, especially the visitors who have joined us this morning. We gather together this day to be fed with the life-giving word of God. If you are visiting with us today, we hope you will join us again and find the joy, peace and life we have as God's people. We also hope you will sign our guest book at the back of the church.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION WEDNESDAY 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.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR OFFERINGS: We are blessed through the faithful stewardship of God's people. Many of our members have chosen to give their gifts either through pre-authorized payments or by e-transfer. If you wish to give your gifts to the Lord by e-transfer, you can do it through your online account. The transfer address is: financials@foothillslutheran.com.

Offering plates are at the door, both before and after service, for those who want to give their offerings in God's house. These will be brought to the altar during the service.

In all things, let us remember that we give from the bounty that our Lord first bestows upon us. Thanks be to Him for every good and perfect gift!

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Organist..... Deaconess Miriam Winstanley
Ushers..... Carter Stene; Jaxson Stene
Acolyte.....Charlie O’Krafka
Lector Kelly Dueck
Coffee Team.....Sarah Knudtson; Ellie Marshall; Bill and Erika Schultz

THIS WEEK AT FLC

Friday	7:00 pm	Youth Christmas Party
Saturday	4:00; 6:00; 11:00	Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Services
Sunday	10:15 am	Christmas Day Family Celebration with Communion

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

In Hospital:

Homebound:

For Special Intercession:

Family Focus:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Thank you to the children, youth and adults who participate in our Children’s Service this morning. Your telling of the unfolding of God’s plan of salvation in “*Illustrations of Immanuel*” helps to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ’s birth. Please note that Sunday School will break over Christmas, resuming Sunday, January 8th. Today’s Sunday School lesson also shows us the fulfillment of God’s Old Testament promises! In this week’s lesson, “A Nativity Night,” Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where a simple stable serves as the birthplace for the promised Christ Child. Angelic hosts announce the birth of the Savior to ordinary shepherds, who hasten to worship the child. Having seen the Savior in the flesh, the shepherds quickly spread the news of His birth. Ask one another, “How can we share the message of the birth of the Savior today?”

THE FLOWERS that beautify the altar this month are given to the glory of God by Walter Zwick in loving memory of his wife, Lois. The poinsettias are gifts of love from Colin and Stacey Bablitz and Pastor and Brenda Bode.

LAST WEEK AT FLC

Week of:	Sunday	Wednesday/Communion	Education Hour
Dec 11	131	24/20	22

* Attendance numbers include online participants

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GIFTS

Weekly Offering Needs	\$8,288.46	Our Budget Goal
Envelope Gifts Received Last Week	\$9,050.00	
Envelope Gifts Received to Date	\$383,954.68	+/- YTD
Total Offerings Needed to Date	\$414,423.08	-\$30,468.40

Non-Budget and Miscellaneous Gifts: Plate 10.00; Visitor 290.00; Sunday School 7.00; Lutheran Hospital Ministries 250.00; LWML 25.00; Benevolence 10.00; Memorial 100.00; Other 50.00.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH
LUTHERAN HOSPITAL MINISTRIES**

Through Lutheran Hospital Ministries of Southern Alberta trained visitors give support to Lutheran patients in Calgary and area 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.

PORTALS OF PRAYER & THE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS FOOTPRINT are available on the Welcome Desk. Please pick up your copy today.

MISSION PRAYER: Deaconess Erm Roun [Rue-un] currently serves in the Church at Rotanakiri, Cambodia.

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 Roun 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, one God, now forever. **C: Amen**



THE LUTHERAN HOUR: "Gestures of Hope" Lutheran Hour speaker, Dr. Michael Zeigler, shows how even the smallest acts of kindness can go a long way, by God's grace (Isaiah 7:14). Hear this inspirational message on CHRB 1140 AM and/or 1060 AM at 8:00 Sunday morning. Streaming audio and podcasts at www.lutheranhour.ca

THE NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023 are available on the tables outside Deaconess Miriam's office. 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 31st, then please use the new envelopes starting January. 1st, as numbers may have changed.**



THANK YOU to Maxine Abraham and Lynn Morine who helped with my Christmas concerts of carols and stories at Huntington Manor Retirement Home.
~ Mark Kihn



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.

Our festive services are as follows

- ☆ Dec 24 4:00 pm; 6:00 pm; 11:00 pm - Candlelight Carol Services
- ☆ Dec 25 10:15 am: Christmas Day Family Celebration (Communion)
(also online)
- ☆ Jan 01 10:15 am: New Year's Day Service (Communion)

Please note, there will not be a Wednesday service December 21st.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, please make sure someone will be here if you need to access the church. Please note that since the holy days and holidays are Sunday, our staff will be taking other days for a break from the busyness.



December 26 - Office Closed

December 27 - Reduced Staff through the week

January 2 - Office Closed

MANY PEOPLE ARE ALREADY IN HOLIDAY MODE, but we hope that you will also remember the various things that begin again very early in the new year. Our LifeLight study resumes January 3rd, and the elders will also meet on Tuesday, January 3rd. We will also have our men's breakfast bible study the first Saturday in the new year. Watch for other events, classes and activities that give us the opportunity for spiritual growth and encouragement, for fellowship and for mutual encouragement.

AND A REMINDER... There is no midweek service this coming Wednesday. We will have a midweek service on December 28th.

Kids in the DIVINE SERVICE



What does it mean when four candles are lit on the Advent wreath?

You've been preparing and patiently waiting for Christmas—that wonderful day of celebration. When four of the candles on the Advent wreath have been lit, it means that Christmas is almost here! That's right! The day we remember the birth of our Savior is right around the corner!

What does this mean to me?

Today is the Fourth Sunday in Advent. Today is the last Sunday of preparation for the birth of Jesus. This week the church will celebrate Christmas Day, one of the most important days of the whole year. As you can see, Advent has prepared us for the coming of Jesus, our wonderful Savior from sin!

FOR PARENTS

Remind your children of the important part that Advent plays in the life of all Christians. This is the time in the church year that prepares us for the coming of our Savior. Be sure to bring your children to both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.



Growing FAITH at home

18 December 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

ADVENT IS A
SEASON FOR
CELEBRATING
GOD'S
PROMISES



GrowMinistries
LGA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



www.growministries.org.au



CONVERSATIONS

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

1. What does your name mean?
2. Do you know why it was chosen for you?



BIBLE READINGS

*Read the following Bible readings throughout this week.
Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.*

1st reading

Isalah 7:10-16
Isaiah prophesies
the birth of Jesus

2nd reading

Romans 1:1-7
Obedience comes
from faith

Gospel reading

Matthew 1:18-25
Immanuel – God
with us

DISCUSS

A title for Jesus is 'Immanuel' which means 'God with us'. How have you experienced God 'with you' recently?



ACTION RESPONSE

Simple acts of kindness can be a wonderful gift. Make up 'kindness vouchers' to give to one another as gifts this Christmas. Each voucher should list a kind deed that is redeemable during the year e.g. a night off the dishes, a bed made, a room cleaned, a massage provided. Have fun thinking of voucher ideas and preparing them for one another!



MEALTIME PRAYER

Bless our table, heavenly Father, and all who sit at it. As we wait for Jesus' return, give us the gift of sharing with others. Amen.



PRAYER

O come, O come, Immanuel.
Please fill us today with your light and grace.
Amen.



BLESSING

May God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ be kind to you and bless you with peace.

SO THE LORD'S PROMISE CAME TRUE, JUST AS THE PROPHET HAD SAID, "A VIRGIN WILL HAVE A BABY BOY, AND HE WILL BE CALLED IMMANUEL," WHICH MEANS 'GOD IS WITH US.'

MATTHEW 1:22-23

VERSE OF THE WEEK

