

Foothills Lutheran Church

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



The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2022

Senior Pastor: David Bode
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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 Jesus, born in Bethlehem, be with us now as we journey on the path of life. Keep us safe from all danger, and guard and protect us as we travel from place to place. Wherever we may be, help us to remember that You will never leave us or forsake us.

O Jesus Christ, our Lord, bless us with Your presence.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE: As projected
HYMNS: 376; 387; 897; 372; 387; 383; 370
FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 52:7-10
EPISTLE LESSON: Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)
GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:1-14 (15-18)
SERMON: *Finally! A Promise of Rest!* – Hebrews 4:9

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 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.

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

Music..... Deaconess Miriam Winstanley
Ushers.....Anne Marie Kothari; John Voss

THIS WEEK AT FLC

Monday		<i>Boxing Day - Office Closed</i>
Tuesday	1:00 pm	Irma Lucht Memorial Service
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Midweek Worship/Communion
Sunday	10:15 am	New Year's Day Worship/Communion

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

In Hospital:

Homebound:

For Special Intercession:

Family Focus:



WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY and the glorious hope of the resurrection to Lucht family at the death Irma Lucht, the sister of Marilyn Harrison. Irma passed away December 18th, 57 days before her 103rd birthday. We pray that God would comfort this family with His everlasting love.

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.

**Thank
YOU!**

THANK YOU...to the Sunday School children, Confirmation students, and youth who participated in “*Illustrations of Immanuel*”, our Children’s Christmas Service, last week. Special thanks also to our parents and teachers, who worked with the children to help them prepare. The service explored six pictures God uses to impress upon us His plan of salvation, pointing to the fulfillment of that plan in Jesus, birth, life, death and resurrection. In the narthex, near the entrance to the Fellowship Hall, you can see those six illustrations. Each of our three Sunday School classes completed two of the tiles. Please take time to look at them and see how each illustration is fulfilled in our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Please note that Sunday School will resume on **January 8th**.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: "A Shoot from the Stump" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. A shoot springs forth from the stump of Jesse. Is it a sign of hope--or a threat? (Isaiah 11:1). 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

LAST WEEK AT FLC

Week of:	Sunday/Communion	Wednesday	Education Hour
Dec 18	135/86	n/a	42

* 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	\$16,460.10	
Envelope Gifts Received to Date	\$400,414.78	+/- YTD
Total Offerings Needed to Date	\$422,711.54	-\$22,296.76

Non-Budget and Miscellaneous Gifts: Plate 40.00; Visitor 1,580.00; Sunday School 40.00; Facility Rental 195.00; FLSR 500.00; Inn from the Cold 50.00; Lutheran Hospital Ministries 25.00; LWML 150.00; Other 270.00.

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.

"FAMILY" BOARD GAMES NIGHT: The whole Foothills family is invited to join the youth on **Friday, January 13**, for our annual board game night from 7 to 10pm in the Fellowship Hall. Invite a friend and bring a snack and come prepared to try some new games and meet some new people! Please RVSP to Pastor Eric by January 11 so we have an idea of how many people to set up for.



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.**

MISSION PRAYER: Deaconess Candidate Sopean Da currently studies at the Luther Institute for Southeast Asia.

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 Da 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**

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 – 30	Reduced Staff through the week
January 2	Office Closed

AS WE REJOICE AND CELEBRATE IN THESE HOLY DAYS and take time away from many routines, 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.



+ + +
**KIDS IN THE
DIVINE SERVICE**
+ + +



What is The Festival of the Nativity of our Lord?

The Festival of the Nativity of our Lord is the traditional way of saying Christmas Day. December 25 is one of the most important festival days in the Church Year. This is the day that we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus!

Why do we do the things we do at Christmas?



Many of the things that we do at Christmas have their beginnings with the Romans. Early Christians soon saw some of these things as outward reminders of Christmas and began to use them in their own celebrations. For example, when we give and receive presents, we can remember the greatest gift that has ever been given, our Lord Jesus! After all, today we celebrate Jesus' birthday, and He is the real reason for the season!



Parents: What a great way to spend Christmas! Thanks be to God that you have brought your children to hear the wonderful Good News of Jesus today! When you go home, be sure to remind your children that Jesus is the best present we could ever have. He gave up His life so that we might have eternal life. What a great message to share!





Growing FAITH at home

25 December 2022

CHRISTMAS DAY

ADVENT IS A
SEASON OF
FAITH AND
HOPE



Grow Ministries

LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



LUTHERAN
CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life

www.growministries.org.au



CONVERSATIONS

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

1. What do you know about your own birth, or the births of others in your family?
2. What is your favourite thing about Christmas?



BIBLE READINGS

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

1st reading

Isalah 9:2-7

To us a child is born

2nd reading

Titus 3:4-7

Doing what is good

Gospel reading

Luke 2:1-20

The birth of Jesus

DISCUSS

What does Jesus' birth mean for you?



ACTION RESPONSE

Make a list of all the people who have sent Christmas cards, letters or emails to your household. Write each name on a slip of paper. Distribute them to each member of your household and take turns in praying for them. A simple prayer will suffice for younger household members, such as,

***Dear God, please bless (name)
this Christmas season.***



PRAYER

God, you are the giver of all good things. Today we celebrate the wonderful gift you have given us in the birth of Jesus, as our Saviour. Amen.



MEALTIME PRAYER

God, we join in celebration of the gift of Jesus our Saviour. Bless our meal. Fill all those gathered here and elsewhere with Christmas joy, love and peace. Amen.



BLESSING

May God's peace and favour rest on you this day and always.

BUT THE ANGEL SAID TO THEM, "DO NOT BE AFRAID. I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY. IT IS FOR ALL THE PEOPLE. TODAY IN DAVID'S TOWN A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU; HE IS CHRIST THE LORD."

LUKE 2:10-11

VERSE OF THE WEEK

