



Dear friends in Christ:

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

(LSB 425, st. 1)

Text: Public domain

Over the centuries there has been one symbol that has meant more to Christians than any other. It is a strange symbol, when you think about it. It is, of course, the cross. The crosses in churches may be large and beautifully sculpted or small and simply adorned, but each cross has a way of telling the story of salvation. Each cross is a visible reminder of how God the Father revealed His saving love for the world in Jesus Christ.

The cross is a strange symbol for our focus. For the apostle Paul, the cross was not an object of art. It was an instrument of execution. Those who died on the cross were known to be criminals, convicted of the most serious crimes, and therefore subjected to a punishment that left them naked, mocked, dehumanized and shamed on the side of the road for all to see. Crosses were objects of horror not beauty, and those who hung on them were despised not celebrated. Paul, however, confesses a radically different understanding of the cross of Jesus. ***“But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”*** (Galatians 6:14, ESV)

Paul picks up that thought again and again. In 1 Corinthians 1, he has a testimony to the cross, in which he says: ***“but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”*** (1 Corinthians 1:23–24, ESV)

When we, as the hymn above says, survey the wondrous cross, we are reminded of all the gracious work that Christ has accomplished for us as He bears the eternal punishment of our sin so that He might bestow on us eternal life in His name. The cross may be despised by many, but as many of our hymns remind us, we are drawn to it and to the forgiveness and life we have, because the Eternal Son became one with us so that He could carry all our sin, failures and weakness in His own holiness, and pay the price for our sins. In God’s plan, that had to happen through the cross.

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...Continued from Page 1

It is sad that this powerful testimony to our sinfulness and God's grace is often removed from churches today. Many don't want to talk about the suffering of the cross. They know that the cross points to our sin because the only reason for the cross is to pay for our sinfulness. Yes, they know God loves them. Yes, they know that Jesus died and rose. Yet they don't speak so much of how Jesus saved us. They do say that He did save us and that He loves us (which is quite true); they say that God wants only good things for us (which is true, but only to a certain extent); and they say that we can be all that God enables us to be if we just work at it (which is false).

In a recent sermon, I spoke of Jesus as the Great Ophthalmologist, who opens the eyes of those who are blind—not just those who are physically blind, but all who are spiritually blind. Yet our Ophthalmologist leaves us with one condition: He leaves us *cross-eyed*. When we “survey the wondrous cross,” we give a careful examination and evaluation of it. When we survey the cross, we know the terrible consequences of our sins. But as we look, we also examine our lives in the light of that cross. We see the world in the light of the cross of Jesus. Finally, we see in that cross the love that God has for all mankind,

There is one more thing. The cross is not the end. We will focus on the cross on Good Friday, but we cannot, nor should we, ever separate this from Easter Morning. We glory in the cross, for it brings forgiveness. Yet that wouldn't be enough, were it not for the good news of Easter. The dying Saviour is the living Lord, who continues to bless us, pointing us to the forgiveness and freedom from sin through His cross and to all the hope that is ours in His resurrection from the dead.

As we celebrate Holy Week, may we again be drawn to the cross of Christ, our Saviour. And may we rejoice with exceedingly great joy in the knowledge that Christ is risen indeed!

April Mission of the Month

Our LCC Seminaries

Jesus bids us to “pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:38, ESV). We help support that work by our support of the seminaries. Your gift to this Mission of the Month helps in the training and preparation of those who will be labourers in His harvest field.

Board of Fellowship

The Board of Fellowship continues to organize coffee time after church and supply beverages and condiments. We rely on the congregation to provide goodies, so keep them coming if you like to have a nibble after church with your conversations! We are also in need of more volunteers to keep this service happening, so if you are interested in occasionally helping in the kitchen, please sign up on the fellowship board in the Narthex or contact Sarah Knudtson (knudtson.sarah@gmail.com). Thank you!

Recent Fellowship Special Events

- January 29 we held a sandwich voters meeting luncheon.
- March 5 our pot blessing lunch after church was a great success! Meatballs were definitely a favourite to bring but there were many different types. We served about 65 people, and are so **thankful** to each and every person who participated and brought their favourite foods!
- Unfortunately our plans for a square dance evening did not work out, but we are committed to try again! In the meantime, if you were itching for some dancing, feel free to contact Kelly Dueck to find out how to join her square dancing club which meets weekly.

Upcoming

Pot blessing lunch May 7. Be sure to use the sign up sheet in the narthex when it is available to avoid everyone bringing brownies!

May Mission of the Month

VBS Programme

One of the special outreach efforts we have carried out over the years has been our VBS programme. Through the lessons we share from God's Word we have had the opportunity to witness to children from our neighborhood, as well as to those members of our church.

We are planning to hold an outreach VBS that will be off-site and is aimed at those who do not attend church. Because we are renting a facility there is an additional cost for this programme. Your gifts will help with this effort, and we also hope that we will have the support for our normal summer efforts. May God bless this work and give us a great opportunity to tell children of the Saviour who seeks and saves the lost!

Children & Family Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 3:14-15

God bless our families as they raise their children to be “wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Children age 3 through grade 5 are welcomed each Sunday morning at 9:00 am. We begin with an opening all together in the Fireside Room; after which children will go to classes for their age level. Thank you to our teachers who willingly give of their time each week to prepare and teach lessons, and to Mrs. Harrison, who looks after the Sunday School bulletin board so that everyone can see a visual image of the lesson of the day.

The Sunday School children will sing a special song on Palm Sunday, using a word that means, “Lord, save us!”

Our upcoming lessons include:

Apr 02	Standing Trial (Jesus on Trial/Peter Denies Jesus)	Mark 14:53-72
Apr 09	<i>No Sunday School—Join us for Easter Breakfast!</i>	
Apr 16	The Living Wonder (Jesus’ Death and Resurrection)	Mark 15:16-16:8
Apr 23	The Proof Room (Jesus Appears to Thomas)	John 20:19-31
Apr 30	The Thankful One (Jesus Heals Ten Lepers)	Luke 17:11-19
May 07	The Kingdom of Children (Jesus Blesses the Children)	Luke 18:1-8
May 14	A Trusting Widow (Jesus Teaches About Offerings)	Mark 12:41-44
May 21	<i>No Sunday School—Victoria Day Weekend</i>	

LADIES’ BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Two ladies’ study groups continue to run. New members are always welcome! Please contact Deaconess Miriam for more information or to join us.

Our Tuesday evening group meets at 7:30 pm at the church, and will, in April, be starting a study on Colossians entitled “*The Mighty and the Mysterious*”.

Our Thursday afternoon study meets weekly at 1:30 pm for an in-depth study of the readings for the upcoming Sunday.



Family Time In Christ—40 Days

We are approaching the end of the “purple” season Lent in the Church Year, and on April 9th we will enter the “white” season of Easter. The season of Lent is a quiet, contemplative time, meant to prepare us to observe the three important days in Holy Week – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Although the number of days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday is 46, we talk about the 40 days of Lent. That’s because Sundays, which are always considered to be “little Easters”, are not included in the count. The number 40 is significant in Scripture. When we see this number, it us a clue for us that God is doing something important. During these seasons, take some time to talk with your children about some of the “40” accounts in the Bible, and watch for the next important 40th day!

- While Noah and his family, along with two of every kind of animal, were kept safe on the ark, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. This cleansing flood is connected to baptism by Peter in 1 Peter 2:20-21. Talk about your child’s baptism. Remember the day and give thanks to God for making him or her His own dear child.
- Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights in the presence of God on Mount Sinai. There he received the covenant God was making with His people and brought down with him the tablets on which the Law was written (Exodus 24:18 – 31:18). Upon finding the Israelites worshipping a golden calf, he broke the tablets in anger. He went up the mountain again for another 40 days and 40 nights (Exodus 34), bringing down a second set of tablets for the people. Take a few weeks to review the Ten Commandments from Luther’s Small Catechism. For younger children, see Deaconess Miriam or resources. Help children to see how they show us our sin, and tell us that we need our Saviour, Jesus. Give thanks for His death and resurrection for us.
- Freed from slavery in Egypt, the people of Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years. During that time their feet did not swell, and their sandals and clothing did not wear out, because God was with them. (Deuteronomy 8:4 and 29:5). At the end of forty years, they were brought into the land that God had promised to give them. Discuss with your children how God provides for us in the wilderness of this life, and how He will bring us into our promised land, heaven!

- Jesus prayed and fasted, and was tempted by Satan in the wilderness for forty days. He answered each temptation with God’s Word (Matthew 4:1-11). Help your children to identify their own temptations, and to think of ways they can answer them from God’s Word. Spend a few extra minutes in prayer each day during these forty days of Lent.

After Jesus rose from the dead, Scripture tells us that for forty days He spent time with His disciples, teaching about the kingdom of God, and showing Himself to more than 500 brothers (Acts 1:1-3 and 1 Corinthians 15:3-8). Remember that His resurrection demonstrates to us that His sacrifice for our sin was accepted by the Father. Remember that because He rose, we also will be raised from the dead! After the 40 days He ascended to heaven. Count forty days to the date when the Church will remember his Ascension and mark it on your calendar. Remember Jesus’ promise that He will come again to take all those who believe in Him to be in heaven with Him.

God’s blessings to you and your families,

Deaconess Miriam

Vacation Bible School

Loved By God

Planning is under way for this summer’s Vacation Bible School, running **July 24-28** here at Foothills. Registration is now open at www.foothillslutheran.com. Sign up your children, and invite a friend! Children age 4 to those who have completed grade 5 are welcome. We’ll also be having another Volunteers-in-Training class for those who are entering grade 6, or who have never volunteered with us before. As usual we are looking for volunteer teachers, helpers, and games and crafts leaders. Talk with Deaconess Miriam or Pastor Eric for more information!



Faith at Home

As a congregation we are encouraging the families of our congregation to adopt a Faith-at-Home lifestyle, where parents claim their God-given role as primary faith-teachers of their children. Deaconess Miriam has resources for families to help them fill this role at every age and stage. She'd love to talk with you! In **April** we offer a session on **"Family Service"** for families with children turning six, and in **May** we will have a special visitor to present children's Catechisms to those turning eight this year. You and your children will receive an invitation to the sessions appropriate for their age.



Board of Elders

Greetings from the Elders!

We are praying for every member of the congregation and working through the Shepherding list. You should be seeing an introduction card in your mailbox. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to your Elder; we are available.

The Elders are also preparing for Easter where we will be providing a meal that, we as a congregation, can share. We look forward to breaking bread and celebrating the resurrection of our Saviour.

On behalf of the Board of Elders

Tim Knudtson

FAMILY EASTER EGG DECORATING

Egg-decorating is back! Come to the church on **Holy Saturday, April 8th, from 10:00 am to 11:15 am** to decorate Easter eggs together. We'll have some fun decorating, followed by a special egg hunt for the children and a short devotion. Bring boiled eggs that you would like to decorate, and we'll have some eggs to decorate for the church's Easter breakfast. Decorating materials will be provided.

Please let us know by April 3rd if you are planning to come!

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ONE-DAY VBS MAY 29TH

We're trying something new this year. We've booked space at Capitol Hill Community Association to hold a one-day outreach VBS in the Community. That is a non-instructional day in Calgary Board of Education, so children will be off school. The VBS will be based on the lost and found parables of Luke 15, and will include all of the things we would normally do at VBS, only for a whole day. Registration will be open for this day April 1. We would love to have our member children attend and bring an unchurched friend!



TIME AND TALENTS SURVEY

During the month of February, we focused on what we can give back to our Lord out of thankfulness for all he has given to us. One of the key things that all of us can give back, is our time. Our Lord has gifted each of us with talents that we can use within our congregation and within the community. Our church needs volunteers in all areas to further our outreach to others and to provide Christian care, spiritual strengthening, and fellowship to our members. In March and early April, we ask each member of our congregation to examine your talents and gifts and fill out the "Time and Talents". We will then use these surveys to match the talents of our members with the various volunteer opportunities in our congregation and within our community. Our congregation cannot survive without active engaged members so we encourage each of you to prayerfully consider how you can use your talents to further God's work.

Every member of a household should fill out a time and talents worksheet **before April 17th**. There are two ways to do this. You can fill out a paper copy pdf form, scan and email back to daledust@shaw.ca, or you can complete the form online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/t/JLGNRMT>. Paper forms can be found in your mailboxes or at the church office.

We thank all of you who are currently working or have worked in the past on a committee, board or initiative of our congregation. We also encourage those of you who are not currently volunteering to get involved.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Our congregational offering budget this year was set at \$431,000.00, which is the same as the previous year. We are currently slightly behind our target for this time of year so please continue to financially support our congregation in the upcoming months.

In Service to our Lord,

Dale Dusterhoft

Chairman, Board of Stewardship



St. Patrick's Tea at Foothills Manor

What a wonderful time of fellowship and reunion we had on March 17th, when we hosted a tea for the residents of Foothills Manor! Three years had elapsed since we had been able to gather together. With Pastor Bode leading our singing and Deaconess Miriam accompanying us on the piano, we sang Irish songs and a hymn. Refreshments were served and one of the residents was awarded the door prize – a real shamrock plant!

UPCOMING EVENTS

"Chosen and Elected" (based on 1 Peter 1:1-2)

This is the theme for the South Alberta Zone Spring Rally to be held on Saturday, **May 27th** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Medicine Hat.

"Oaks of Righteousness" Seminar (based on Isaiah 61:3)



This nationwide seminar will take place in every district in Canada on different dates this spring.

For ABC District, this seminar will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, Calgary, on Saturday, **June 10th**.

UPCOMING SOCIETY MEETINGS

April 24 and May 29 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

We begin with Bible Study led by Pastor Bode, followed by a short business meeting.

We invite all ladies to join us at our events and meetings. For more details, check out our bulletin board by the kitchen entrance or contact Cheryl Lemke.

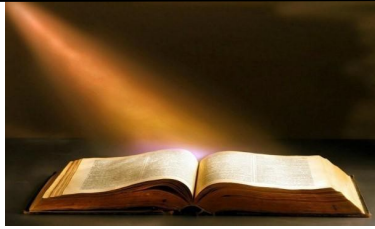
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD ("OCC")

In these first new months of spring, Christmas may seem a far way off. Although as I'm writing this on March 26 it is snowing outside. It's never too early to think about shoeboxes going to countries caught up in war, poverty or natural disasters. As you are shopping you may come across great items for your shoebox and they may even be on sale. These children always need your prayers. Look for the next Foot Print for further information. Please feel free to talk to me anytime or call my cell 403-830-2143.



Elke Bittmann

Board of Christian Education Update



“Teach...that the next generation may set their hope in God” – Psalm 78

The annual Lenten Bible study started on Monday, February 27th and will be completed on April 3rd. The study is looking at our wounded Saviour and the wounds of betrayal, apathy, denial, mockery and abandonment. Pastor Bode and Pastor Eric lead the group on alternate weeks.

The group shares in great discussions each evening as we continue to learn about God’s love for each of us and the many blessings that we receive from Him.

The library has been open to us all for several months now. There are many resources available to look at while there. You are also welcome to sign out material to read while at home. Simply sign out the card enclosed inside the book and leave it in the basket on the desk. A list has been compiled for new material to be added to the shelves. We are planning to place an order in the coming weeks. Let the Board or the office know if there is something in particular that you are looking for and possibly we can add that to the order list.

We have many Creation Ministries resources in the Narthex. There are 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. In addition, you will also find some response booklets from Concordia Publishing House. They are:

- A Biblical Response to Divorce
- A Biblical Response to Transgenderism
- A Biblical Response to Suicide

Please help yourself to those that are of interest to you. You can email the Board at education@foothillslutheran.com if there are other topics you would like to learn about.

The sorting of the preschool storage rooms has been completed. There are a number of items that have been passed along to the preschools of sister congregations, as well as to members here at Foothills Lutheran. In April we will begin preparing the remaining items for upcoming spring garage sales.

Regular scheduled adult Bible study opportunities continue to be 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. Sunday morning Bible study is held at 9am in the fellowship hall.

Pastor Bode is preparing for an upcoming Thursday evening Bible study. If any of these are of interest to you, email the Board or contact the office and we will ensure that arrangements are made for you to get started.

Plans are underway for a one-day VBS outreach, entitled “*Treasured by God*”, focusing on the Lost and Found parables of Luke 15. This will take place on Monday, **May 29th**, which is a non-instructional day for children in public school. It is planned to be offsite, at Capitol Hill Community Centre. Our member families are invited to attend, and we encourage your children to bring an unchurched friend. As well, organizing for VBS in July has also been started. There will be a need for teachers, helpers, a craft leader, and game leaders at both events. Talk with Deaconess Miriam and Pastor Eric if you are interested and watch the bulletin for more information.

Keep your eye on the Sunday bulletin for upcoming events and announcements.

God bless us all as we continue learning about God and His great love for us. And a blessed Easter to everyone.

The Board of Ed is:

Chair – Tobi Stene

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

Board Members – Michelle Heumann, Trevor Heumann, Kayla Moffett, Derek Kiefer

Lutheran Youth @ Foothills (LYF)

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Youth group, or LYF (Lutheran Youth @ Foothills), is for youth in grades 7 to 12, and friends are welcome! We meet every second and fourth Friday, whether it's a long weekend or not, usually from 7 to 10 pm.

We also have Bible study every Sunday during the school year (except for long weekends) in the youth room at 9 am.

If you have questions, please ask Pastor Eric, Kayla, Evan, Trevor, or Michelle, and stay connected with youth news by giving a youth leader your email address.

IMPACT Youth Gathering dates:

April 11: deadline to be registered online and to have your paper forms to Pastor Eric

May 28: lunch for the families of the youth who are going to the gathering

June 30 to July 2: the Gathering

April 14: Frisbee golf

We'll meet at Baker Park (at the end of Scenic Bow Rd off of 85th St NW) at 6:30pm to make the most of the daylight. Dress for the weather, with shoes that can get muddy, and bring a water bottle, a snack, a friend, and a frisbee or two if you have them. Pickup will be back at the church at 10pm. RSVP to Michelle by April 13 so we can make sure we have enough vehicles to get everyone back to the church!

April 28: TBA

May 12/13: Activate and overnighter

We're going to go to Activate Games and have an overnighter at the church. Activate is hard to describe but super fun - some of the youth leaders visited one in Winnipeg a couple of years ago and have been waiting for one to open here so we can all go. Admission is \$25 plus tax. RSVP to Kayla by April 14 so we can make sure we book enough spots!

May 26: Photo scavenger hunt

The annual photo scavenger hunt - with a twist! This year we're also inviting not just everyone from Foothills to join us, but also everyone from the other LCC churches in town. We will be asking for RSVPs by April 30, and watch for more details about where and when to meet. Bring your friends and something to take photos with/navigate Calgary in your quest for clues and pho-



NEW DATE!

06/30 to 07/3, 2023

**PINES BIBLE CAMP
GRAND FORKS, BC**

**Attention all
LCC Youth and
Leaders!**

**Born Again to a Living
Hope
1 Peter 1:3-5**

IMPACT
youth gathering

@impactyouthgathering
www.impactyg.ca



"I'm eager to find God's will for my life. Mom's will for my life centers on taking out the garbage."

Did You Know?

Q: Why does the date of Easter change from year to year?

A: Easter Day is always the Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox on March 21. This full moon may happen on any date between March 21 and April 18 inclusive. If the full moon falls on a Sunday, Easter Day is the Sunday following. Easter Day cannot be earlier than March 22 or later than April 25.

The Eastern Orthodox Churches have a later Easter because they use a different calendar to date the arrival of spring, rather than the actual astronomical spring equinox. In the year 2001, however, both Eastern and Western churches (including LCC) celebrated Easter Day on the same Sunday--the first time in many, many years.

Is there a theological reason behind all of this? Not exactly. The root problem is this: How exactly do you date when Jesus was crucified and risen? We know it happened on a Sunday, but since Sundays do not always have the same date (i.e., April 23), another system of calculating a date had to be devised. Some in the early church worked it out according to the Jewish Passover, but that also fluctuates with the moon and other factors. Sometimes it even falls on a Sunday. Thus, after nearly 300 years of hassling around with when to celebrate Easter, a church council (Council of Nicea, AD. 325) consisting of all the churches of the day settled on a way to decide when Easter would be celebrated, and that's the way it's been ever since. This can be very confusing, but thankfully we have calendar makers to figure this kind of thing out for us!

A Little Humor . . .

Only in Church...

A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping."

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother," she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, Johnny what is the matter? Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."



"Wait! Wait! He doesn't stay dead!"