

# FOOTHILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH



July/August  
2023

Dear friends in Christ:

I had debated writing an article that builds on the theme of the latest Canadian Lutheran, looking at the Gospel for hard times. With so much negative information and bad news in the world, it is important that we have the confidence of God's grace for our lives, and the assurance of the victory we have as the redeemed people of God through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. This is a message we need to hear again and again, but I decided to let you read it through the Canadian Lutheran articles.

So, borrowing from another pastor, I thought I would share a bit of humor. After all, when we think of all that God has done for us, we are like the psalmist who said: *"When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, 'The LORD has done great things for them.'"* (Psalm 126:1-2, ESV)

So, here is a bit of humor (followed by a bit of seriousness) that comes in the style of comedian, Jeff Foxworthy:

## ***You Might Be a Lutheran If ...***

You only serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color for the season.

During the entire service you hold your hymnal open but never look down at it.

During communion you hum the hymns so you can see who's at church that Sunday.

You think Garrison Keillor's stories are totally factual.

You forget to put water in the baptismal font but never forget to put water in the coffee pot.

In response to someone jumping up and shouting "Praise the Lord!", you politely remind him or her that we don't do that around here.

You think a meeting isn't legitimate unless it's at least three hours long.

The church is on fire, and you rush in to save the coffee pot.

The only open pew is up front, so you volunteer to shovel the sidewalk.

Someone asks you after church if there's any "decaf coffee" and you laugh because you *know* that if it doesn't have caffeine, it can't be coffee!

You were little you actually thought the Reverend's first name was "Pastor."

You hear something really funny and smile as loud as you can.

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## Pastor's Message (cont'd)

It takes 10 minutes to say good-bye.

Doughnuts or coffee hour treats are in the official church budget.

They have to rope off the last pews in church so the front isn't empty.

You're watching "Star Wars" in the theatre and when they say, "May the force be with you," the theatre replies, "and also with you."

You tap a church visitor on the shoulder and say, "excuse me, but you're in my seat."

You doodle on the back of communion cards.

You can say the meal prayer all in one breath.

Bach is your favorite composer just because he was Lutheran, too.

You actually think the pastor's jokes are funny.

You know all the words to the first verse of "Silent Night" in German but can't speak a word of it.

You carry silverware in your pocket to church just in case there's a potluck.

You have an uncontrollable urge to sit in the back of any room.

Your house is a mess because you're "saved by Grace," not by works.

The only mealtime prayer you know is "Come Lord Jesus."

Your idea of an affirmation is "This is most certainly true."

You feel guilty about not feeling guilty.

You count coffee among the sacraments.

You actually understand the folks from Lake Wobegon.

On the other hand, ***You Know You're a Lutheran If...***

You confess you are a sinner.

You know that Jesus died for you and forgave all your sins.

You believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the central doctrine of Scripture.

You know you are saved by grace through faith in Jesus.

You rejoice daily that you are a baptized child of God.

You have Ephesians 2:8-9 memorized.

You love to read Luther's Small Catechism.

You yearn to study God's Word.

You believe Scripture is your only source of doctrine.

You enjoy telling others about Jesus.

You would rather die than give up our faithful, biblical doctrine.

You love the hymn "A Mighty Fortress."

You desire to receive God's gift of Holy Communion at every opportunity.

You know you will be in heaven forever because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

*From the internet and from Rev. Scott Schmieding, Trinity Lutheran Church, Bacon Rouse, LA*

In all we do, may we truly rejoice (and that includes laughing) at all we are, but more so about all we have as God's people!

In His service,



## Mission of the Month

***July***

### ***Canadian Lutheran Bible Translators***

Canadian Lutheran Bible Translators is the agency that provides for the work done by the Kuhns in Cameroon and others like them. While we support the Kuhns, there is a need to provide for the administration of the whole programme.

***August***

### ***The Mustard Seed***

The Mustard Seed Calgary offers programs and services to help homeless men and women rebuild their lives. We have had a team serve dinner. Traditional area of support.

# 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."

Our Sunday School season ended on June 25<sup>th</sup>, with the children participating in a service project. New backpacks and school supplies were collected, and on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> children packed the backpacks to be given (with a note from themselves) to children in need this fall (see photos below). Thank you to all who donated to this project!

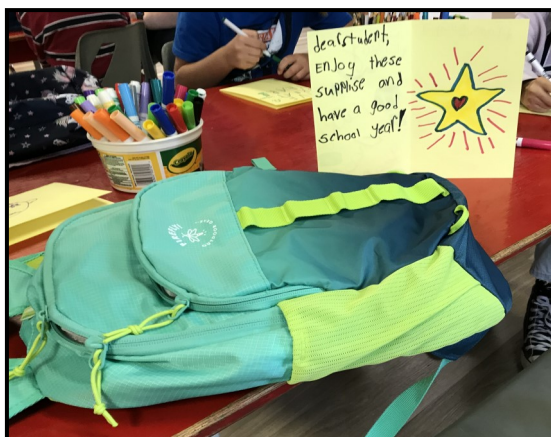
We give thanks to God for our students, their parents, and especially our teachers, who faithfully prepared lessons so that our younger members could learn of God's great love for them. Sunday School will resume on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

## LADIES BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Two Ladies' study groups have been running. Note some changes for the summer. Please contact Deaconess Miriam for more information or to join us.

The Tuesday Ladies will be meeting the second and fourth Tuesdays of July and August for a walk and a devotion. Please contact Deaconess Miriam if you plan to come.

Our Thursday afternoon study meets weekly at 1:30 pm for an in-depth study of the readings for the upcoming Sunday, and will continue through the summer as long as we have at least three ladies who wish to gather.



## 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 September we will have two sessions: On September 10<sup>th</sup> children turning 7 this year will receive their Bibles during worship service, and there will be a **"My Bible"** session following service. On September 24<sup>th</sup> children turning 4 and their families will be invited to participate in our **"My Church"** session, where we will tour the sanctuary (and especially the chancel area) to find out what all of the special items in our church teach us. You and your children will receive an invitation to the sessions appropriate for their age.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ("VBS")



We are getting ready for this summer's Vacation Bible School, running July 24-28 here at Foothills. Most classes are full, but children can be put on a wait list and we will notify parents when a space opens up.

Registration can be completed at [www.foothillslutheran.com](http://www.foothillslutheran.com) 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. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered a week of mornings to spend with the children! Talk with Deaconess Miriam or Pastor Eric for more information.



## Family Time in Christ

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Looking forward to summer vacation? However you travel and wherever you might be, look for opportunities to connect your family's experiences with God's Word in Scripture. Here are some ideas:

- When you get ready to travel, pray for the same protection that God provided for His people in Scripture, as this prayer from our hymnal notes:

"Lord God our Father, You kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, You led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star You led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now in this time as we set out to travel. Make our ways safe and your homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where You dwell in glory with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen". (*Lutheran Service Book p.287*)

- Are you tenting? Share the account of the children of Israel in the wilderness, and how God brought them safely into their new home. Pray that He will bring you safely back to your home and talk about how He promises also to bring you into the heavenly home He has prepared for you.
- Watch the sunset one evening and stay up to look at the moon and the stars. Read about the fourth day of creation (Genesis 1:14-19) and talk about the purpose of these lights that God has given us. What does light do? Now talk about Jesus, who is the light of the world. How is He our light? Why do we need His light?
- Will you be at the beach? Pay attention to what happens to the sand as the waves come in and go out. What happens to rocks? Read Matthew 7:24-27 and discuss the ways in which building on Christ is like building on the rock.
- When you worship as guests in an unfamiliar church on your travels, talk about family. How can we call a relative part of our family even though you've never met them? Now think about the family of God. What makes the people in this new congregation family even though you've never met them before? Discuss Baptism as the way God joins Himself to us and us to all of His family.

Have a blessed summer together!

Deaconess Miriam

## Upcoming Youth Events

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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 during the school year, 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, so we are now on break until Rally Sunday in September!

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.

**June 30 to July 2:** Several of the youth and all of our leaders will be away at the IMPACT Youth Gathering this weekend - please keep the gathering in your prayers!

Some of the youth and leaders will be helping with **VBS the last week of July** - thank you to all those youth who will be there sharing their time and gifts with the younger kids!

**Save September 8th and 22nd for the first events of the fall!**

If you're in grade 11 or 12 as of September, we'll be in touch (after VBS) to see if you want to help with plan-

## Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

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Many of the shoeboxes packed in Canada for Operation Christmas Child are sent to warm weather countries. Summer is the ideal time to purchase summer clothes, toys and later in the summer; school supplies. These boxes are often the first gift a child may receive. But the most important gift that is shared, is the good news of Jesus Christ and the gift of eternal life He gives to all who believe. Please talk or text me if you have questions or need further information. Elke Bittmann [elkebittmann54@gmail.com](mailto:elkebittmann54@gmail.com)

### *A Good Question:*

What kind of church would my church be if every member were just like me?



## LWML-C

Foothills LWMLC Society had a busy spring, organizing and/or participating in a few inspiring events.

### **South Alberta Zone Spring Rally on May 27, 2023, hosted by St. Paul Society, Medicine Hat**

Under the theme, “Chosen & Elected”, based on 1 Peter 1:1-2, seventeen ladies gathered for worship, Bible study, fellowship and good food. Pastor Edel led our Bible study. He first gave us background into 1 Peter, written by Peter to Christians exiled from their homeland. We talked about immigrants and refugees who flee countries to find safety, freedom of worship and better opportunities. Some ladies present had come to Canada for those reasons years ago and shared stories of their adjustment to Canadian living. We also discussed how our present culture no longer supports Christian values and how even those of us who were born in Canada often feel abandoned in our own homeland. Just as the early Christians had to be encouraged by Peter, we too are given strength through the Word, worship and the sacrament of Holy Communion.

In keeping with our theme, “Saamis Immigration Services” was chosen for our community outreach.

### **ABC District Seminar on June 10, 2023, hosted by Grace Society, Calgary**

The “Oaks of Righteousness” national seminar was held at various locations across Canada from April to June and was prepared and presented by four ladies from various parts of Canada. In this in- depth Bible study, we delved into the meaning of Isaiah 61:3, from which our theme was derived. We discussed people of the Bible and how they were able to go through trials, mistakes, redemption and forgiveness, through the Lord’s help. Just as the oak trees can weather storms because of their deep roots, the Word and our faith sustains us and gives us strength to reach out to others in Christian love. God can work through us to display HIS BEAUTY.

Thanks to Grace Society for welcoming those of us who were able to attend in person and for making it possible for many to join us online. We were blessed to have participation from each of our ten ABC District zones! Monetary donations were given to “Calgary Dream Centre”.

### **LWMLC 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea on June 19, 2023, hosted by Foothills Society**

To commemorate the founding of LWML-Canada, in Edmonton in 1993, we hosted a tea for local long - time members of LWML. It was a great time of fellowship for 20 ladies as we reunited with old friends and made new ones. Pictured below are five of them who were at the founding convention 30 years ago!

**Check out our bulletin board display by the entrance to the kitchen. Our meetings resume again in September. Ladies, please consider joining us!**

God’s blessings,

Cheryl Lemke



*L-R: Doreen Unterschultz; Rose Schuelke; Jeanette Wood; Ingrid Kubke; Christine Sander*



## From the President

Originally we gave our old organ to Shepherd of the Valley – Canmore for a \$2000 asking price. As our Organ Fund for the new organ had been paid off in full due to generous contributions by a variety of members and non-members, PPC decided to forgive the \$2000 debt of Shepherd of the Valley.

This shows how God showers His blessings on our churches.

Tim Roth

### LETTER OF APPRECIATION

February 21, 2023

*The congregation of Shepherd of the Valley greatly appreciates your generous offer in outright donating your old organ to Shepherd of the Valley.*

*My brother Andy, from Saskatoon, had occasion to play for our service last Sunday and mentioned how lovely the organ was to play.*

*Since Covid attendance to our services has declined. We were all aware we still held a debt on our organ. It is therefore with thanks to Foothills Lutheran that this debt has been cleared.*

*God bless all of you,*

*Fran de Beer – Secretary*

*Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church*



"OF COURSE YOU CAN JOIN THE  
CHOIR . . . NONE OF US SING  
ANYMORE, WE JUST LIP-SYNC  
TO TAPES!"

## Board of Fellowship

This spring we have been continuing with our regular Voter's meeting luncheons, coffee times and occasional pot blessings. Thank you for all of your volunteering and goodie donations to help this time of fellowship to be special.



We have also been planning for the upcoming Stampede Breakfast, which I am happy to announce has enough volunteers to once again host some of our surrounding community. This is important as it allows this event to be not only a fun event for all of us, but also an outreach event for other's who may not know our Lord or our church. If you haven't volunteered and are feeling led to, please contact Sarah Knudtson, Heather Sommers, or the church office as there are still some things that we will need help with before and/or during the event. Also, please plan to come to our event and invite your neighbours and friends! This year it is being held on **July 16** before our outdoor service.

## Board of Elders

I am happy to report that God has blessed us by moving three men of the congregation to join us. Brian Kehler, Robert Kubke, and Rick Nelson have all agreed to serve with us starting July 1. The other Elders continuing on are Ralf Hinterleitner, Rob Kaut, Tim Knudtson, and Austin Voss. I would also like to thank Hans Dueck for his dedication and the time he has spent serving the congregation on our Board.

We look forward to seeing and feeding you on July 16 at the Church's Stampede Breakfast! As is tradition, the Elders will be working on the grills, and wherever else we are needed. Yahoo!

We also encourage you to connect with us should you have any questions or concerns. God supports us when we need His help by blessing us with fellow Christians. We are honoured to serve the congregation and by supporting you, we are also blessed.

In His Service,

Ralf Hinterleitner

## Noteworthy

**AS YOU TRAVEL THIS SUMMER** we encourage you to attend a Lutheran church wherever you happen to be and ask that you bring back the bulletin from that church. Place the bulletin in the office mailbox and we will track that location on a wall-sized map of North America. The map is posted on the bulletin board outside of the library under the heading "This is My Father's World".

**SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT:** This year's West Regional Slo-pitch tournament is in Golden B.C. August 11-13. If you're interested in playing, please talk to Pastor Eric or sign up on the slo-pitch board. Book your campsite, hotel, VRBO, etc. today!

**NEEDED: PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR FOR EVANGELISM AND HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES.** We are looking for someone who is willing to fill these vacancies. Please contact Hans Dueck if interested.

**OUR NEXT VOTERS' MEETING** is scheduled for September 17<sup>h</sup>. Please mark it on your calendar and plan to attend.

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:** Please make sure to phone the office prior to coming by the church to ensure that someone will be here to let you in. Pastor Bode, Pastor Eric and Deaconess Miriam are out of the office at various

## Board of Stewardship

Can you give back some of your time and use your talents in our church? Volunteers and members who give back some of their time to our Lord are essential for our congregation to carry out our mission and ministry work. I ask each of our members to prayerfully consider how they can volunteer in our congregation. Volunteering does not need to be an onerous or extensive experience. It can involve helping at a single event for a few hours, or if you are so inclined, helping on a few events per year or running a church board. Volunteering will be a rewarding experience as you can participate in connecting our members and others in the community to Christ, as well as meet and form connections to other members of our congregation. Please examine your talents and look where you can apply your time and talents in our church.

We currently have a vacancy for the President of our congregation. This is an important role that we need filled going forward. Please contact me if you have leadership gifts and abilities.

We are falling behind a bit in our giving as our giving is about \$35,000.00 behind our budget year to date. I ask that each of you continue to give back some of the treasures that God has provided which will support our ministry and outreach programs.

May God bless your summer,

Dale Dusterhoft

Chairman – Board of Stewardship.

**NOTE:** While there are various organizations that will accept donations which are forwarded to Foothills Lutheran Church ("FLC") it is preferred that members deal directly with FLC. If a member has a specific request or issue please contact Gary Ring.



### *Food for Thought:*

If absence makes the heart grow fonder,  
how some people must love the church!



## FLC Elders & Parish Planning Council (effective July 1, 2023)

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President	vacant
Vice President	Hans Dueck (1 year)
Treasurer	Robert Heumann
Elders	Ralf Hinterleitner; Rob Kaut; Brian Kehler; Tim Knudtson; Robert Kubke; Rick Nelson; Austin Voss
Board of Evangelism	vacant
Board of Fellowship	Co-Chairs: Sarah Knudtson; Heather Sommers
Board of Human Care	vacant
Board of Stewardship	Dale Dusterhoft
Board of Education	Trevor Heumann (1 year)
Board of Church Properties	Pam Goebel
Recording Secretary	Barb Vincent
Financial Secretary	Gary Ring

### Board of Church Properties

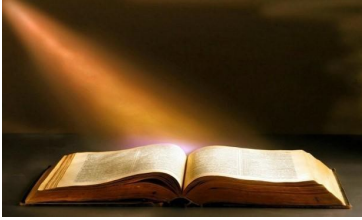
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Thank you to Hans Dueck for supervising the shed project. Also thanks to his entire family Kelly, Faith, and Amelia. Tobi and Carter Stene, Christine and Robert Heumann, Brian Vincent, and Pam Goebel also lent helping hands. After 2 days effort the old shed was removed, the foundation was excavated and the base frame was installed. It will still require a lot of work. Anyone willing to give a helping hand can contact Hans Dueck.





## Board of Christian Education



Summer is here and I think we all look forward to enjoying the warm sunshine and hopefully a bit of relaxation.

Confirmation class finished up on May 14th for this year and it will resume in the fall. Sunday School and Youth Bible study will continue until June 25th. All Confirmation students have been invited to attend Youth Bible study Sunday morning at 9am. It was decided at the most recent Sunday school teachers' meeting that on that last day before summer break, the Sunday School students will take part in a servant event. They will work at putting together backpacks filled with school supplies for students in need. And then finish up with a tasty snack. The Adult Bible study on Sunday morning will also break for the summer months and start up again in September.

The One Day VBS on May 29th was a great success. It was held at Foothills Lutheran and it was a day filled with learning, games and crafts. We look forward to the next opportunity to offer this once again. Summer Vacation Bible School is being held July-24-28th titled "Loved by God". VBS is an exciting week that students, staff and volunteers all look forward to. Registrations are still being accepted. However, most classes are near full and a wait list has been started. Volunteers are welcomed. Contact Pastor Eric or Deaconess Miriam if you wish to help in any way.

The Library will be available throughout the summer. There has been some new reading material recently added to the shelves. We invite you to come in and borrow some items to enjoy while relaxing during the weeks ahead. We have discussed the possibility of an additional order this fall so if there is a title or subject of suggestion, just email us at [education@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:education@foothillslutheran.com), call in to the office or speak to a staff member.

The youth look forward to the Impact Youth Gathering at Pines Bible Camp in Grand Forks, BC. They will be there from June 30-July 3rd. The theme is "Born Again to a Living Hope" based on 1 Peter 1:3-5. The schedule for the weekend includes Bible Study and prayer time, sessions that are led by various speakers, fellowship and games, a servant event on Saturday along with the opportunity for swimming, bazooka ball, high ropes and archery. It is sure to be a fun-filled weekend.

Preparations have been looked at for the fall and Rally Sunday is scheduled to take place on September 10th. Further details will be included in the next Foot Print as well as the Sunday bulletin.

God's Blessings to us all throughout these upcoming summer days.

The Board of Christian Education is:

Chair – Trevor Heumann

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

Board Members – Michelle Heumann, Derek Kiefer, Kayla Moffett, Tobi Stene

### ***THINGS YOU NEVER HEAR IN CHURCH:***

- Hey! It's MY turn to sit on the front pew!
- I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went over time 25 minutes.
- Personally, I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.
- I've decided to give our church the \$500.00 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.
- I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Sunday School class.
- I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
- Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.
- Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!