



Dear friends in Christ:

Back in 1999, at the turn of the millennium, there was a great sense of fear about the future, much of it tied to what was known as the Y2K bug and a belief that all computerized systems would crash, affecting utilities, banks, and even airplanes.

For a short time in the new millennium, some of those fears subsided. Yet they seem to be increasing again. A Roman re-enactor made a comment that went viral on social media. He said: “Ladies, many of you do not realize how often men think about the Roman Empire.” He urged women to ask their husbands, boyfriends, brothers, and fathers if they think about the Roman empire. One woman asked her husband, who replied, “every day.” Other women asked other men, and it turned out that men, do, in fact, think about ancient Rome pretty often, “at least three times a week,” according to a news story about the phenomenon.

Why do men think about the Roman empire? It seems that much of it centres on the fall of the Roman empire, and how they are feeling that our civilization is nearing the same conclusion. There are so many things happening in our world that make us wonder how long things can go on as they are. There are some alarming signs: sexual depravity, infanticide, loss of religion, failures of government, the national debt, escapist entertainment in the face of impending catastrophe (i.e., fiddling while Rome burns)—that can make us think that the Barbarians have burst through the gates. Add to that the many natural disasters that have people wondering about mankind’s destruction, or the tensions in Russia / Ukraine and between Israel and Hamas and it isn’t hard to see why people are feeling fears of the future again.

The psalmist said: **“But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.” My times are in your hand.”** (Psalm 31:14–15, ESV) Day after day, year in and year out, our great and gracious God is at work, ruling over all creation for the sake of His beloved people. What a joy it is to know that our present—and our future—is under His watchful eye. There is no fear in our future; if anything, we have hope for the future. We will soon be entering a new church year in the season of Advent. That joyous season is filled with hope—the hope that is ours because the Lord came to redeem His people; the hope that comes because it assures us that He is coming again to bring us at last into the joy of eternal life with Him.

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In the coming weeks we will hear the Scriptures speak of the last days. We will hear Jesus speak of the signs of His second coming. He says: ***“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”*** (Luke 21:25–28, ESV)

Let the world worry about the times. We will direct our thoughts to God, the ancient of days; the Lord of all time and all history. We will straighten up and raise our heads, facing the future in hope, for He is with us, and will be with us forever!

Looking forward in the hope He gives,



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Elders Report

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ. I pray that God blesses you and your family as we end the church year and, in Advent, wait with anticipation for the coming of our Saviour in human form at Christmas. We also pray a special blessing on our confirmand who will be confirmed on October 29th.

The Elders met in September where we welcomed new Elders, Robert Kubke, Rick Nelson and Brian Kehler. We welcomed back Austin Voss, Timothy Knudtson, Rob Kaut and Ralf Hinterleitner. We are continuing unfinished business and will be working on getting the budget ready.

It can feel at times that we are incomplete. That we are missing something in our life. In those times I remember the thanksgiving Paul and Timothy offered the church in Philippi.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. -- Philippians 1:3-6 ESV

I pray the same for you, that *he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion*. And may God grant your elders the guidance to pray and partner with the church to spread the gospel.

Timothy Knudtson

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



We have been experiencing some beautiful weather this fall and it got me thinking about a poem/song that goes, " 'm drinking from my saucer because my cup has overflowed." We are truly blessed with the many blessings God has given us including being in a country where we can worship freely. Our cups have indeed overflowed with blessings. Many of the countries these shoeboxes are being sent to suffer from political strife, poverty or natural disasters. It can bring a ray of joy in a child's life to receive these gifts and hear the good news of Jesus Christ. The gospel of Jesus is an eternal gift. If you have questions or need help please talk to me at church or email elkebittmann54@gmail.com

Children & Family Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

God’s blessings to all of our Sunday School students, our teachers, and our parents. We are well into our Sunday School year, seeing how God worked through the apostles to establish His Church. This unit will conclude our three-year cycle through Scripture, and in December we will begin again, “in the beginning...”

Soon our students will begin work on our Children’s Service, “What a Story!” Information has gone out to parents, and scripts will be handed out shortly. Please pray for our Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth students as they make their preparations. Rehearsals will be held Saturday, December 9th at 1:00 pm and Saturday, December 16th at 10:00 am. “What a Story!” will be presented during our regular service time on Sunday, December 17th.

Our upcoming Sunday School lessons include:

Nov 05	Paul’s Shipwreck	Acts 27:9-44
Nov 12	<i>Remembrance Day Break—No Classes</i>	
Nov 19	Paul Writes to Timothy	2 Timothy 1;3:14-17
Nov 26	Jesus Will Return	Matthew 25:31-46 Revelation 22:6-21
Dec 03	The Angel Visits Mary	Luke 1:25-56
Dec 10	The Angel Visits Joseph	Matthew 1:18-25
Dec 17	A Nativity Night	Luke 2:1-20
Dec 24	<i>Christmas Break—No Classes</i>	
Dec 31	<i>Christmas Break—No Classes</i>	

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! You and your children will receive an invitation to the sessions appropriate for their age. Our next session will be in the new year, where we will talk about “Technology Boundaries” with children turning 10 in 2024.

LADIES’ BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Two Ladies’ study groups are running, with new members always welcome.

Our Tuesday group is studying the book of Colossians with a resource called “The Mighty and the Mysterious”. We meet weekly at 7:30 pm.

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

Both studies take place in person, with the option of participation online via Zoom. Contact Deaconess Miriam for more information!

DECEMBER 9th ADVENT TEA AND TALENT NIGHT:

Come Saturday, **December 9th** at 6:30 pm for an Advent Tea and Talents Activity event! This will be for everyone - activities for the kids, goodies to share, and talents on display! Start thinking of any talent you can share with our church family: reading a poem, displaying artwork, playing waterglasses, gymnastics display, ballet routine, family skit, musical instrument, singing or whatever you can come up with! We would love to have your submission. It’s all for fun and fellowship! Bring ½ dozen of your favourite cookies or squares to share. Sign up on the Fellowship Board or contact Sarah Knudtson.

Family Time in Christ

After what seems like a long summer, the seasons are changing. In the next few months we will move from fall to winter. Leaves will be off the trees, the temperatures will plummet, and we will begin to see more of that white stuff that we all love so much.

Take a walk with your family and note the changes in nature that are happening around you. We have changing seasons in our lives as well. Infants become toddlers, toddlers become preschoolers, and so on, all the way to senior-hood. Share in your family the changes that you have weathered individually and together in the past year and talk about the feelings that accompanied those changes.

Regardless of the changes that happen to us and around us, we have one constant. Hebrews 13:8 tells us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Jesus never changes. He is always the same Jesus who was born for us, who lived, died and rose again for us, and continues to be with us as He has promised. What does it mean to you to have a changeless Saviour?

- Explore Bible passages that tell us about the changeless nature of God: Psalm 90:1-2; Matthew 19:26; Psalm 139:1-4; Jeremiah 23:24; Leviticus 19:2; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 145:13; and Exodus 34:6-7. How do these descriptions of God comfort you in times of change?
- Look at pictures of the members of your family over the years and talk about the ways you have changed and grown. How has your unchanging Jesus been with you through these years?
- Create a mini gallery with things that reflect the changeless nature of Jesus (you might include artwork, a poem, a musical piece).
- Write a family prayer giving thanks for our unchanging Saviour and lift up any concerns or fears around changes that are happening for your family members. Use this prayer in your devotions, and see how He brings you through those changes.

God be with you through all of your times of change!

Deaconess Miriam

CHILDREN'S CHOIR



Children's Choir is back! Children age 4 and up are invited to join us for twice monthly practices where we will learn God's Word through song, learn what we can do with our voices, learn a bit about music, and learn how to sing with others. If you are interested in having your children participate, please contact Deaconess Miriam at 403-284-1342 or miriam@foothillslutheran.com.

LWML-Canada

Foothills LWMLC Society meets monthly, usually on the fourth Monday of the month, from September to May, except in December. We gather in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 pm for Bible study, some socializing and a short business meeting. We invite all ladies to join us and bring some new ideas for local, national or international mission projects!

Watch for updates on the progress of LWMLC Mission Grant initiatives, as well as upcoming society events on our bulletin board by the entrance to the kitchen.

On **December 8th**, from 2-4pm, we plan to entertain the residents of the Foothills Manor with an Advent Tea, providing goodies, singing Christmas carols and exchanging memories. You are welcome to join us!

We are always thankful for our congregational support: your prayers, financial contributions, and involvement in our events and projects. Please continue to donate used postage stamps for the Canadian Bible Society and used eyeglasses for Optiks International.

God's blessings,

Geraldine Chimirri-Russell, Vice-president



Board of Stewardship

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

VACANT PPC POSITIONS

We currently have vacancies in the following positions in our congregation's Parish Planning Council (PPC). Please prayerfully consider if you have gifts of leadership or service that fit any of these positions. If you have an interest in discussing these roles further, please contact Dale Dusterhoft – Chair Board of Stewardship, Hans Dueck – Vice President, or Pastor Bode.

- **President:** Our President is a position held by a male member of our congregation that is responsible for coordinating and presiding over meetings of the PPC and the voters of the congregation. He ensures that the various boards work together to carry out the mission and work of the congregation and that the PPC and congregation follows the constitution and by-laws of the congregation.
- **Chair – Board of Human Care Ministries:** The Chair of the Board of Human Care Ministries works to recruit a committee of other church members who coordinate programs within the congregation to provide human care to members of our congregation and in the community that are in need. The committee coordinates our congregation to help our members who may require various needs, and coordinates our congregational efforts with various Christian social agencies that provide for the needy in the community. (Food Bank, Mustard Seed, Meals on Wheels, etc.)
- **Chair – Board of Evangelism.:** The Chair of the Board of Evangelism works to recruit a committee of other church members who work with the church staff to engage and train the congregation for outreach in the community, in our circle of friends and family, and within the congregation.

PHOTO DIRECTORY VOLUNTEER

We have discussed creating a new updated photo directory for our congregation. We will need a volunteer to coordinate this project before we proceed. If you have any interest in leading our photo directory initiative, please call Dale Dusterhoft.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

We have seen a steady decline in our giving from our congregation as the year has progressed which has left us with a deficit of approximately \$65,000.00 below our budget for 2023. We often fall behind during the summer months when attendance is low and make up for it in the fall and winter. As we have fallen substantially behind this year, we ask that everyone prayerfully consider their giving in the upcoming months so that we can continue with the work of the congregation in supporting our members and reaching out to the community in spreading the good news of Christ.

DONATIONS OF STOCK

Do you know that you can donate stocks to the church? Donating stocks is normally a tax advantage for the giver and an easy way to donate to our church. Our congregation is set up to receive these types of donations with an easy simple process for the giver. Please contact Dale Dusterhoft if you would like more information on this program.

Dale Dusterhoft

Email: daledust@shaw.ca

Cell: 403 803 8854

Board of Church Properties

NEW SHED

Robert Heumann and Hans Dueck led a congregational team to build the new shed. This was a lot of work and saved the church several thousand dollars.

Thanks to everyone who participated.



Board of Fellowship

Vice President's Report

MINISTRY PIE SOCIAL

To show our appreciation for the ministry staff we are blessed to have, a lot of pie and ice cream was eaten. The Elders did a great job of slicing and plating before service and scooping ice cream for the social. Thank you to all those who brought pies in to share with our church family, looks like strawberry/rhubarb was the popular pie this year. Fortunately, Sarah ensured Pastor Bode had his favorite pumpkin pie while Deaconess Miriam was covered with her favorite gluten free apple pie. We missed Pastor Eric as he was away attending his grandmother's funeral.

POT BLESSING

We are planning a Pot Blessing lunch after service on **November 19th**. Please sign up in the narthex to bring your favourite mains, appetizers, sides or salads to bless each other this fall! We ask that you **DO NOT** bring desserts, as we actually had too much pie at our successful pie social and will use the extra pies and ice cream for the dessert portion.

SQUARE DANCING

We also are in the planning stages of having a square dance event, though we need to work with the schedule of the dance caller who is currently out of town for a few weeks. We will keep you posted, but this may cause a delay in our expected time line.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Sommers



The Board of Education would like to thank the Ministry staff for all their hard work throughout the past year in bringing God's word to our members and many people outside our walls. You have blessed us so abundantly, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. And thank you to the Board of Fellowship for putting on such a nice thank you pie lunch as well.

As I am writing there is always a bit of sadness as I winterize the trailer and rake the leaves in the yard. I often remember the warm summer days, and just the time spent outside. This is the time to think of how fast the summer has gone by, and now its time to find the winter coats and make sure the furnace will start in the house.

Having said all this, it is also a time to look forward and to start planning for an exciting 2024!

On another note I must say that Foothills is a fantastic, vibrant and welcoming community. We are very blessed with many long time members and so many members volunteering their time to make FLC a wonderful place to worship and commune together.

We have so much going on at Foothills all the time, and we have many dedicated volunteers and church workers who make so much happen every week.

Our big project for 2024 that is currently on the table will be the kitchen renovation project (yet to be approved by the congregation). The kitchen committee has been diligently working hard over the past several months to come up with the best option for our needs.

One thing that is missing at Foothills as several volunteer positions on the Parish Planning Council and the Elders have gone unfilled, and we could really use some more volunteers out of the congregation. Having said this I only have to state the pastors latest sermon series on the gifts of the spirit. Also if God is calling you to volunteer for anything at Foothills remember you are not doing the work alone, we have so much support in the FLC community.

Of course if you ever have any questions or concerns feel free to reach me after service and/or email me. hans-dueck@hotmail.com

In closing I look forward to serving this Foothills Lutheran Church as Vice President.

Hans Dueck

Christian One Liners....

- ◆ The task ahead of us is never as *Great* as the Power behind us.
- ◆ God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.
- ◆ Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.
- ◆ When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

Youth Event News

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.

Sunday morning youth Bible study is every week at 9am in the youth room, and will continue through December 17 - but there is no study on November 12 (the Remembrance Day long weekend). Bring your Bible!

November 10: Games at the church

Choose your own adventure. We are meeting at the church from 7pm to 10pm and the youth are going to play leader and put on activities for the leaders to do - I really hope this doesn't backfire on us. Think about your favorite activities and come with ideas!

November 24: TBA

It's likely we'll be going somewhere and doing something - watch your email for details!

November 26: Purdy's fundraiser deadline

To help support youth group trips like the 2025 National Youth Gathering, we will be selling chocolates from Purdy's, and they will be delivered in time for Christmas! Purdy's has a great selection of Christmas goodies, boxed chocolates, and sugar-free chocolate. You can order online at <https://fundraising.purdys.com/26420-107953> and pay with a credit card. Please share the ordering link with your family and friends!



If you are willing to make an announcement about the fundraiser on a Sunday morning, or are able to help organize the orders on Tuesday, December 5 at 6pm, for about an hour to an hour and a half, let Michelle know.



Orders will be available for pick up on Sunday, December 10.

December 8: Operation Christmas Child

We'll be leaving the church at 5:15, so this is a much earlier start time than usual. Our time will be spent helping prepare shoebox gifts for shipping, so there will be a lot of standing and moving around, and maybe some heavy lifting if you're up for that - wear comfy shoes! And please be sure to bring a water bottle, and a snack if you want one. We might stop somewhere for a snack if there's time after, so you may want to bring some spending money.

Also, due to their safety rules, you must be at least fourteen years old to participate. Apologies to those of you who are too young!

Pickup will be back at the church at 10. Please RSVP to Michelle by December 1 - this is very important for rides!

December 22: Christmas party at the church

Save January 12 (annual church family board games night!) **and the 26th!**

Also save April 19 to 21 for a central Alberta youth retreat! The fall youth retreat we used to host regularly at Foothills is being rebooted and it's going to be a great weekend.

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.

November Mission of the Month Inn from the Cold

Homelessness is a problem in Calgary, and like the Mustard Seed, Inn from the Cold seeks to help. Other programs work on support and prevention.

December Mission of the Month Lutheran Hospital Ministries

Trained visitors provide spiritual care to those in the hospitals and nursing homes in Calgary and nearby regions.