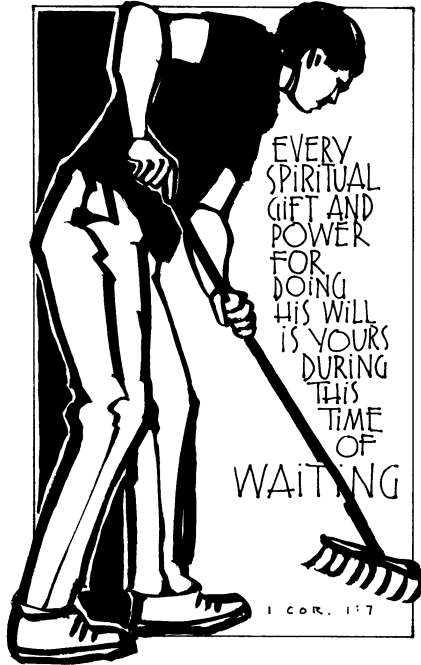


Foothills Lutheran Church

3104 – 34 Ave NW Calgary, AB T2L 2A3 403-284-1342 www.foothillslutheran.com

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



First Sunday in Advent
December 3, 2023

Senior Pastor: David Bode (flcpastor@foothillslutheran.com)	DPS: Deaconess Miriam Winstanley (miriam@foothillslutheran.com)
Associate Pastor: Eric Moffett (flcpastoreric@foothillslutheran.com)	Office Administrator: Carol Kehler (office@foothillslutheran.com)
Pastor Emeritus: Eldon Ohlinger	

A Prayer Upon Entering: Bless our observance of Advent, O Lord. Fill these days of waiting with new insights, fresh perspectives, moments of meditation, and times of peace and quiet. Prepare us for Your presence among us. Instil in us a desire to share the good news of Your coming with one another. Draw us to Your manger-throne, and so to life that knows no end.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE: Divine Service 3, p. 184

Please Note: We omit the Gloria in Excelsis during Advent.

HYMNS: 354; 357 (1-2, 7); 578; 583; 582; 355; 332

FIRST LESSON:..... Isaiah 64:1-9

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 11:1-10

SERMON: *Guided by His Word* – Revelation 1:3

WELCOME in the powerful and precious name of Jesus! We invite you to pray with us; sing with us; learn from God's Word with us. We are glad that you have joined us, and we hope you will come again. Please take a moment to sign our guest book at the back of the church. May God richly bless your worship here today!

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.

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!



THE FLOWERS that grace our altar this morning are given to the glory of God by Marilyn Harrison in loving memory of her husband, Bruce.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Music..... Deaconess Miriam Winstanley
 Ushers.....Anne Marie Kothari; Robert Kubke
 Acolyte..... Maliyah Chan
 Lector Stacey Bablitz
 Coffee Team.....Ralf Hinterleitner; Ellie Marshall; Bill & Erika Schultz
 AV Operators Brenda Bode; Michelle Funke

THIS WEEK AT FLC

Monday	6:30 pm	Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
Tuesday	10:00 am	LifeLight
	5:30 pm	Youth Fellowship (Purdy's)
	7:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Advent Worship
Thursday	1:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study
	6:00 pm	Children's Choir
Friday	2:00 pm	LWMLC Advent Tea at the Manor
		Youth at OCC
Saturday	1:00 pm	Children's Christmas Practise
	6:30 pm	Advent Tea & Family Night
Sunday	9:00 am	Education Hour
	10:15 am	Morning Worship

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

In Hospital:

Homebound:

For Special Intercession:

Family Focus:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The lesson this week is “*An Angel Announces*”. Mary receives an angelic announcement telling her that, despite her virginity, she will give birth to the long-awaited Savior. The child in Elizabeth’s womb leaps within her when the mother of the promised Messiah approaches. Elizabeth rejoices in the reaction and welcomes Mary to stay with her for a time. Mary’s song of praise, the Magnificat, resounds in the Church to this day.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS, entitled “*What Child is This?*” are also available on the Welcome Desk.

LAST WEEK AT FLC

Week of:	Sunday	Education Hour	Wednesday/Communion
November 26	110	28	15/15

**Attendance includes online participation.*

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GIFTS

Weekly Offering Needs	\$8,288.46	Our Budget Goal \$431,000.00
Envelope Gifts Received Last Week	\$3,105.00	
Envelope Gifts Received to Date	\$311,639.95	+/- YTD
Total Offerings Needed to Date	\$397,846.15	-\$86,206.20

Non-Budget/ Miscellaneous Gifts: Plate 21.00; Visitor 75.00; Sunday School 24.00; Facility Rental 3600.00; CLWR 50.00; Lutheran Bible Translators 150.00; Inn from the Cold 250.00; Lutheran Hour 5.00; Benevolence 200.00.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: "Before They Call" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. SOS and Mayday are distress signals that cry out for rescue. So is "Lord, have mercy!" (Isaiah 64:4). Hear this inspirational message on CHRB 1140 AM at 8:00 and/or CJLI-The Light-700 AM at 9:30 Sunday mornings. Streaming audio and podcasts are available at www.lutheranhour.ca.

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.



ADVENT AT THE MANOR, hosted by the LWMLC Foothills Society, **Friday, December 8th**, 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Singing Christmas carols, sharing memories of Christmas' past and enjoying goodies. Everyone is welcome. For more info, contact Jutta Colhoun at

jvc_mymail@yahoo.ca or 403-280-0980.

ADVENT TEA AND TALENT NIGHT: All are invited to participate in our second annual Advent Tea and Talent Night **Saturday, December 9th** at 6:30 pm. Share your talents by reading a poem, telling jokes, displaying artwork, performing a skit with your family, doing a gymnastics or ballet routine, playing an instrument, singing, or whatever your gift is! All for fun and fellowship. Please bring ½ dozen of your favourite cookies or squares to share. Sign up on the Fellowship Board or contact Sarah Knudtson.

A SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING will be held **today** to approve the budget to proceed to renovate the church kitchen. The meeting will be after the service. The PPC has approved a \$200,000 budget for this project. This is a major effort, and we appreciate your input. Information is on the Welcome Desk.

WHY AREN'T THE CANDLES LIT? For several weeks, we have had some problems with the projectors, which have been shutting down because of dirty filters. We have cleaned the filters and are trying to determine if some of the smoke from the candles is creating a problem. We are also re-examining our candle oil (which is supposed to be smokeless!) Please be patient with us as we seek to ensure that all goes well with our projection of our service each week.



OUR ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES: *Beyond the Cliches*

You will see the words *Faith, Hope, Love* together in so many places. The Bible links them in that great “love chapter” of Scripture: ***So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*** (1 Corinthians 13:13 - ESV)

People often speak of faith hope and love apart from the Lord who comes to save us. These words often become cliches without any real promise or power behind them. In our Advent services we will look beyond the cliches, and see how true faith, hope and love are tied to the coming of our gracious Saviour.

Join us this Wednesday at 6:30 pm as we look at ***Advent Faith***. Sadly we will **NOT** be hosting soup suppers. We will gather for the Word! We hope you will share in that time together, celebrating the Lord’s appearing!



THE JOYOUS SEASON OF CHRISTMAS is a wonderful time to share your joy and worship of the Newborn King. We know many people would consider coming to worship, if only someone would invite them. Will you invite someone to share the good news of the Saviour born to save us, with others?

Our festive services are as follows:

- ☆ Dec 24 Our regular morning service, and Candlelight Carol Services at 4:00 pm; 6:00 pm; 11:00 pm (Communion at 11:00 pm)
- ☆ Dec 25 10:15 am Christmas Day Family Celebration (Communion)
- ☆ Dec. 31 10:15 am: Our regular Sunday service, with Holy Communion, and a 6:30 pm New Years’ Eve Service with Holy Communion.

Please note that we will *not* have a midweek service December 27th. Midweek services will resume on January 3, 2024.

A CALENDAR OF OUR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE is available to you on the Welcome Desk. These outline the special services of the season and are also a reminder of what we celebrate. They are also a simple way to share with a friend, to invite them to join us. Pick up a copy today.

PURDY’S CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER: Your orders will be available for pick up on Sunday, **December 10th**. Thank you for your support!

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child by physically filling a box or doing one online or making a financial contribution.

We received 62 boxes at the church! I know that Samaritans Purse and the children receiving the boxes are very grateful to all of you.

MISSION PRAYER This week, we pray for **Rev. Seungwoo “Sam” Choi** who serves as pastor of Korean Lutheran Church in Toronto, Ontario. **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples in all nations, we lift up before You, Pastor Choi, asking You to sustain him by Your Spirit and bless his labours for the sake of the Gospel; Lord in Your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**



PASSING THE PLATE: The psalmist says: “*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!*” (Psalm 96:8, ESV)

Those words of the psalmist remind us that giving our offerings is an act of worship. Our gifts, which come from His gifts to us, show our trust of His goodness and declare our thanks to Him. They remind us that God is worthy of our praise and worship. We use them to rejoice in the glory He has made known to us, especially that glory of salvation in Christ.

During the days of COVID isolation and our concerns about transmission of that disease, we made the careful and wise decision to leave the offering plates by the doors, rather than “passing the plate”. We know that many of our members have changed their giving to e-transfers and online giving. Yet there are also those who miss the act of receiving offerings in our worship.

The elders have discussed this and have made the decision to begin receiving our offerings in the service. We believe that this act of worship will also help us think of our stewardship of God’s gifts in a positive light. Children also benefit and learn from these actions, as they see us bring our gifts to the Lord. It is an opportunity to remind them that in our offerings we are simply saying “thank you” to God for all His wonderful gifts. We don't do this because we have to, but by faith, we want to!

The past few months have been hard months for us financially. Stewardship has fallen off substantially. Our online giving has dropped even more. We thank our members for their support of this church. We thank God for all His gifts to us. We encourage your faithful stewardship and pray that God will continue to bless us as we use His gifts to His glory.



Growing FAITH at home

FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

YEAR B

Advent is a
time to be alert
for the coming
of Christ



GrowMinistries
LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



www.growministries.org.au



CONVERSATIONS

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

1. Talk about a time you were waiting for something or someone.
2. Advent begins with a focus on Christ's second coming. How does your Christian faith help you keep alert for Christ's return? Reflect on how waiting for Christ's return is an important part of the Christian faith. Jesus said, "my words will never pass away" (Mark 13:31).
3. What words or stories of Jesus are especially important to you?



BIBLE READINGS

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

S	Mark 13:24-37	The day and hour unknown
M	Isaiah 64:1-9	A communal prayer for help
T	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	God is faithful
W	Isaiah 9:1-7	The promised messiah
T	Matthew 24:29-31	The coming of the Son of Man
F	Revelation 1:1-6	Christ sends a message
S	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Prayer for Israel's restoration

VERSE OF THE WEEK

*Beware, keep alert; for you do not
know when the time will come.*

MARK 13:33



CREATIVE RESPONSE

Make a paper chain with a link for each day of December up to Christmas Day. Write one of the instructions listed below on each link. Remove a link each day and do what it says:

1. Share: "What gives you peace?"
2. Share: "What gives you joy?"
3. Share: "What gives you hope?"
4. Share compliments with each other.
5. Read Jeremiah 33:14-16.
6. Share hugs with one another.
7. Share good Christmas memories.
8. Read Isaiah 11:1-3.
9. Play a game together.
10. Sing a Christmas carol.
11. Share what you like about Christmas.
12. Read Micah 5:2-4.
13. Tell the nativity story to each other.
14. Prepare Christmas cards to give out.
15. Read Isaiah 7:14.
16. Sing another Christmas carol.
17. Do deeds of service for each other.
18. Share a Christmas food.
19. Read Isaiah 9:6-7.
20. Go for a walk together.
21. Draw a Christmas picture together.
22. Read Luke 1:26-38.
23. Read Matthew 1:18-24.
24. Read Luke 2:1-7



MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord God, thank you for giving us hope for the heart and food for the plate. For Jesus our Saviour we watch and we wait. Amen.



PRAYER

Gracious God, we thank you for your love that reaches out to us through Christ our Saviour. Give us joy and gladness as we wait for his coming again. Amen.



ACTION RESPONSE

Part of Christian waiting for Christ's coming again is to care for others with loving service. Purchase nonperishable grocery items to donate to a local food shelf. Pray for the people who will receive the food.



BLESSING

May the God of grace and peace and the Lord Jesus Christ keep you strong in your faith until Jesus comes again.