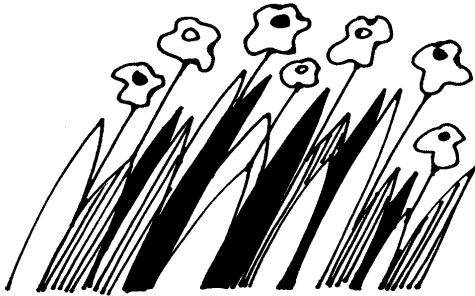


Foothills Lutheran Church

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

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

THE GRASS WITHERS.
THE FLOWER FADES.
BUT THE WORD
OF THE LORD
STANDS FOREVER.



I S A I A H 4 0 : 8

Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 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: May we prepare Your way this Advent, O Lord, as John the Baptist did--preaching and teaching, baptizing and believing what the prophets had foretold. Help us to boldly proclaim what Your coming means to the world ... and to each of us.

*Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,
come into our world and bring us Your salvation.*

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE: As projected
HYMNS: How Great Is Our God; Amazing Grace; Always;
..... All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises; One Thing Remains
FIRST LESSON:..... Isaiah 40:1-11
EPISTLE LESSON: 2 Peter 3:8-14
GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:1-8
SERMON:

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 SUNDAY 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 Donna Poirier and family in loving memory of Cliff and Ruth Oberhammer and Jeff Poirier.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Music..... Contemporary Musicians
 Ushers..... Ellfrieda Heiden; Tobi Stene
 Acolyte..... Keira Puchbauer
 Lector Christine Heumann
 Coffee Team..... Ingrid Kubke; Robert Kubke
 AV Operator..... Evan Stene

THIS WEEK AT FLC

Today		Purdy's Chocolates Pick Up
Tuesday	7:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Advent Worship
Thursday	1:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study
Saturday	10:00 am	Children's Christmas Practise
Sunday	9:00 am	Education Hour
	10:15 am	Worship including Children's Christmas Presentation

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

In Hospital:

Homebound:

For Special Intercession:

Family Focus:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Today, we will study "Silence Before a Son". Doubting the angel's announcement of his coming son, Zechariah finds himself silenced until the boy's birth. Upon writing "His name is John," Zechariah regains his voice and prophesies concerning his son's work.

NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER in regular and large print are now available on the Welcome Desk.

LAST WEEK AT FLC

Week of:	Sunday/Communion	Education Hour	Wednesday
December 3	139/94	25	17

**Attendance includes online participation.*

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GIFTS

Weekly Offering Needs	\$8,288.46	Our Budget Goal
Envelope Gifts Received Last Week	\$11,567.00	
Envelope Gifts Received to Date	\$323,206.95	+/- YTD
Total Offerings Needed to Date	\$406,134.62	-\$82,927.67

Non-Budget/ Miscellaneous Gifts: Plate 65.00; Visitor 170.00; FLSR 1,000.00; Inn from the Cold 150.00; LWML 25.00; Mustard Seed 25.00.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: "A-T Walker" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. A wilderness can be scary, but if someone is with you who knows the way out, you're not really lost. (Isaiah 40:3). 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.

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 Hope***. 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.

FROM OUR VOTERS MEETING: Our special meeting last Sunday approved two items: necessary repairs to the eavestroughs at the parsonage and around the church; and the adoption of the budget for the kitchen renovation. We thank the voters for their support of the church and for helping us serve together in the name of the Lord.

FROM THE BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP: Our plans to host a square-dancing event require postponement until the new year due to availability. And because we will be having a kitchen renovation (yay!), we may need to work around that schedule. Keep your eye out in your bulletins for updates in 2024!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR AN 8-FOOT STEP LADDER for use at the church. If you can help with this, please speak to Hans Dueck.

MISSION PRAYER: This week, we pray for **Rev. James D. Kay** who serves as pastor of the Sudanese congregation of Grace Lutheran Church in Edmonton. **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples in all nations, we lift up before You, Pastor Kay, 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.**



OUR TUESDAY LIFELIGHT BIBE STUDY will take a little break for the busy holiday season. We will resume our study (presently in the epistles of 1, 2, 3 John) in the new year, on Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

Kids in the DIVINE SERVICE



What is “Advent”?

Advent marks the beginning of the church year. Advent is made up of the four Sundays that come right before Christmas. In other words, the deeper into Advent you go, the closer you get to Christmas Day. For Christians, the First Sunday in Advent is kind of like the “New Year’s Day” of the church year calendar.

Why do we celebrate Advent?

The word “Advent” means “coming.” During Advent, we prepare for the coming of the One who was born that first Christmas in a stable. We prepare for the One who saved us from sin, death and the power of the devil—our Lord Jesus Christ! What a wonderful and exciting time of preparation!

FOR PARENTS

At home, in order to help your children better prepare for the birth of Jesus, try using an Advent devotional booklet provided by your congregation for family devotions.



Growing FAITH at home

SECOND
SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

YEAR B

Now is the time
to prepare the
way of the Lord



GrowMinistries

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. Talk about how you have been comforted during a time of need.
2. Tell about a time you have felt God's comfort in your life.
3. Mark 1:1 speaks of the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. Reflect on how this good news is filled with the comfort of God's love and forgiveness.



BIBLE READINGS

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

S	Mark 1:1-8	The beginning of the good news
M	Isaiah 40:1-11	Comfort my people
T	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Promise of the Lord's coming
W	1 John 4:16-21	God is love
T	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Gratitude for God's mercy
F	Malachi 3:1-4	God promises a messenger
S	Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13	A prayer for God's peace

VERSE OF THE WEEK

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

ISAIAH 40:3





CREATIVE RESPONSE

As a household decorate and number enough envelopes for each day left before Christmas.

String them on a ribbon or cord and hang it up.

Place a symbol, Bible verse or small treasure (e.g. an ornament, or lolly) in each envelope and seal it.

Take turns opening a packet each day.

The anticipation grows as the line of packages decreases and Christmas approaches.



ACTION RESPONSE

We can share God's message of love with others by doing deeds of kindness.

Using card or other materials, make a "road" to attach to a wall in your home. Write the words of Mark 1:3 on your road. As your household journeys through the second week of Advent, use sticky notes to record any acts of service you perform. Attach these notes to your road. Pray that your acts of service may help others to see and know Jesus.



MEALTIME PRAYER

God our Saviour, thank you for this food and all who prepared it. Help us to prepare the way for you. Amen.



PRAYER

Lord God, make us ready to be your messengers of comfort, love, and forgiveness through Christ our Lord. Amen.



BLESSING

May the God of love and comfort, fill you with the good news of Jesus Christ and give you peace.