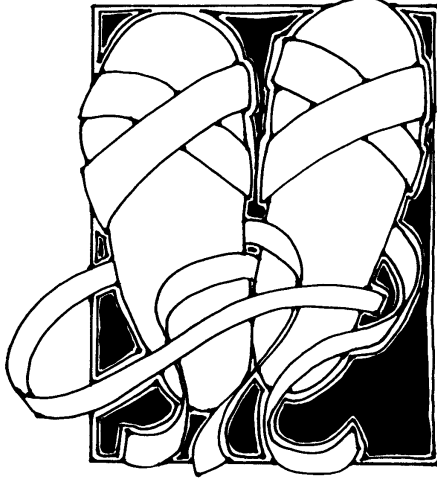


Foothills Lutheran Church

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

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

THE ONE WHO IS
COMING AFTER ME



I AM NOT WORTHY
TO UNTIE THE THONG
OF HIS SANDAL. JOHN
1:27

Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 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: God, who is, who was and who is to come, help us to see this Advent who we are--for we are Your children--and whose we are--for we belong to Christ. May our identity always be linked to His.

God, our Father, keep us connected to Your Son.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE:As projected
HYMNS: ...515; 349; 379; 361; 357 (1, 4, 7); 359; 365; 381; 367 (1-2, 4-5); 380
FIRST LESSON:.....Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:6-8, 19-28
SERMON: *That Wonderful, New Story!* - Zechariah 9:9

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 sisters Merceda Schmidt and Irma Lucht.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Organist..... Deaconess Miriam Winstanley
 Ushers..... Heather Sommers; Barb & Brian Vincent
 Acolyte..... Quinn Alcock
 Lector Heather Sommers
 Coffee Team..... Colleen Judiesch; Anne Marie Kothari
 AV OperatorsEden & Paxton Knudtson; Evan Stene

THIS WEEK AT FLC

Today		Children's Christmas Service
Tuesday	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 Concert
Friday	7:00 pm	Youth Christmas Party
Sunday	10:15 am	Worship
	4:00; 6:00; 11:00	Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Services

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

In Hospital:

Homebound:

For Special Intercession:

Family Focus:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: In today's lesson, "The Temple Testimonies," God fulfills His promise as Jesus is born in Bethlehem. Forty days later, in keeping with the law, the family travels to Jerusalem's temple for Mary's purification and Jesus' presentation. There, they encounter Simeon, a devout Jew whose song of praise lives on in the Church today. Likewise, Anna, the aging prophetess, rejoices at the coming of the Savior.

WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY and the glorious hope of the resurrection to Bruce and Miriam Winstanley at the death of Bruce's father, Ron. We pray that God would comfort this family with His everlasting love and peace.

LAST WEEK AT FLC

Week of:	Sunday	Education Hour	Wednesday/ Communion
December 10	136	37	23/19

**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	\$9,757.80	
Envelope Gifts Received to Date	\$332,964.75	+/- YTD
Total Offerings Needed to Date	\$414,423.08	-\$81,458.33

Non-Budget/ Miscellaneous Gifts: Plate 33.25; Visitor 350.00; Sunday School 1.00; FLSR 500.00; CLWR 75.00; Concordia Seminary 75.00; Inn from the Cold 50.00; Lutheran Hospital Ministries 50.00; Other External Designated Organizations 20.00.

THIS PAST WEEK 489,755 shares of Sage Properties Corp. were redeemed pursuant to the sale of the Prince of Peace Harbor and Manor properties at a value of \$1.00 per share. We have 130,188 shares remaining and anticipate these will be redeemed later in 2024 once the sale of the school is closed and Sage Properties Corp is wound up.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: "Life After Landing" What happens when a passenger suddenly has to be the pilot? Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about the power of words to save. (Isaiah 61:1-2). 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.



WE ARE BLESSED TODAY as the children of our Sunday, along with the teachers, helpers and youth share the good news of the Saviour's birth with us. We thank you, boys and girls, for adding a special element to our worship this day.

FROM THE BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP: Thank you to everyone who participated in our Advent Tea and Talents evening on Dec 9. It was a great success and we enjoyed supporting the community of Christ in the many gifts and talents He has given our members!

A note about upcoming coffee times during this joyous season: we will **not** be serving coffee on Christmas Eve (Sunday) or Christmas Day (Monday) due to

low volunteer availability as well as less interest on those days. We look forward to serving everyone again on New Year's Eve!

THE NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2024 are available on the table outside Deaconess Miriam's office. If you need offering envelopes, and don't see a set with your name on them, please let the office know. **Continue to use your current envelopes until December 31st, then please use the new envelopes starting January. 1st, as numbers may have changed.**



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 Love***. We hope you will share in that time together, celebrating the Lord's appearing!

Please note that this is our last midweek service until January 3, 2024



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.

OUR TUESDAY LIFELIGHT BIBE STUDY is taking 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.

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.

FROM OUR VOTERS MEETING: Our special voter's meeting held December 3rd 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.

IT'S HYMN SING TIME! December 31st is a fifth Sunday, and we are looking for your hymn suggestions for our worship that day. If you have a favourite, please share it with Pastor Bode before Christmas.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for January – March 2024 are now available on the Welcome Desk. Please pick up your copy today.

THANK YOU to all those who joined in to get to Handel's Messiah on December 2nd. We had 32 people out for the Saturday matinee with our half price tickets (\$40). We cheered on talented tenor Richard Harding, who has been attending our church. He is Nelson Meyers' son in law. He was front and centre under the director's glare in the 100-voice chorus. We had a great lead-in for the season of Advent. ~ *Mark Kihn*

MISSION PRAYER: This week, we pray for **Rev. Daniel Barr** who serves as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Kakabeka Falls, and Street Chaplain with Street Reach Ministries in Thunder Bay, Ontario. **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples in all nations, we lift up before You, Pastor Barr, 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.**



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS: With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, please make sure someone will be here if you need to access the church. Please note that since the holy days and holidays are Monday, our staff will be taking other days for a break from the busyness.

December 26 - Office Closed

December 27-29 - Reduced Staff through the week

January 2 - Office Closed



Growing FAITH at home

THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

YEAR B

Advent is a
time for joy as
we look to the
birth of Jesus.



GrowMinistries
LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



www.growministries.org.au



CONVERSATIONS

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

1. What does it mean to be joyful? Tell about a time you were filled with joy.
2. Is there a difference between joy and happiness? Explain your answer.
3. The apostle Paul tells Christians to be "joyful always". Why can all Christians be joyful? How do we show our joy?



BIBLE READINGS

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

S	John 1:6-8, 19-28	John's witness to the light
M	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Good news of deliverance
T	Thessalonians 5:16-24	A call to rejoice
W	Luke 1:46b-55	Mary's song of praise
T	Psalms 63:1-8	In God's presence I sing for joy
F	Acts 16:25-34	A jailer is filled with joy
S	Psalms 126	A people who dream

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Always be joyful, pray continually and give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18





CREATIVE RESPONSE

Advent is a time to slow down, savour and see things in the light of Christ.

Use or imagine a nativity set. Hold or imagine one piece of your nativity set each day.

Think what it was like to be that character in Bethlehem. What did that character see? Experience? Hear? How was that person changed? How are you changed?

Talk about your thoughts with family and friends.

Conclude by singing *Away in a Manger*.



ACTION RESPONSE

We show the joy that we have because of Jesus by putting others ahead of ourselves.

Share your Christmas joy with your neighbours by baking Christmas cookies for them. If possible, use icing to write the word "joy" on the cookies.



MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord God, you fill the hungry with good things. With all my heart I praise the Lord, and I am glad because of God my Saviour. Amen.



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we are joyful because of you. Help us to be thankful no matter what happens each day. Amen.



BLESSING

God is the God who gives peace. May he make you holy through and through.