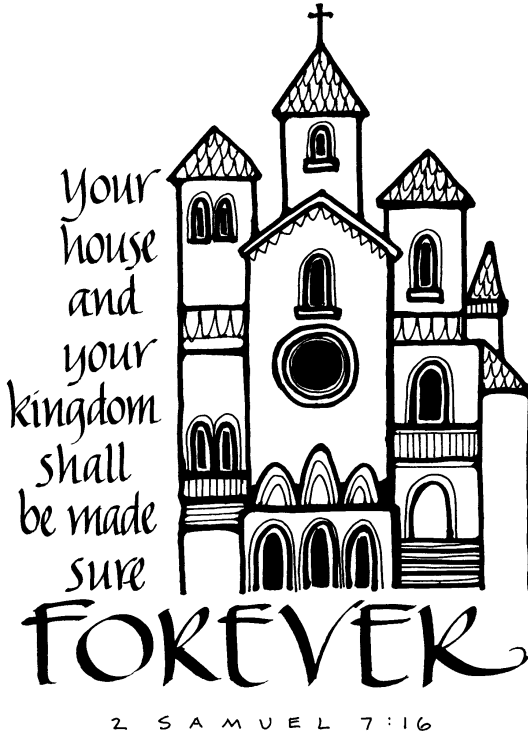


# Foothills Lutheran Church

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

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



*Fourth Sunday in Advent*

*December 24, 2023*

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

**A Prayer Upon Entering:** O God above, overshadow us with Your power from on high, fill us with Your greatness, and surround us with Your peace. And may we, like Mary, dedicate ourselves to Your service.

*Sender of the Son, we magnify Your name.*

**OUR WORSHIP TODAY**

**ORDER OF SERVICE:** ..... As projected  
**HYMNS:** ..... Hark the Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven; 348; 357;  
..... Glory (Let there be Peace); 338  
**FIRST LESSON:**..... 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
**EPISTLE LESSON:** ..... Romans 16:25-27  
**GOSPEL LESSON:** ..... Luke 1:26-38  
**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 CHRISTMAS EVE AT 11:00 PM AND CHRISTMAS DAY AT 10:15 AM** 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](mailto: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!

**SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY**

Music..... Contemporary Musicians; Deaconess Miriam Winstanley  
Ushers..... Anne Marie Kothari; Bruce Winstanley  
Lector ..... Rick Goebel  
AV Operators ..... Derek & Sacha Kiefer

### **THIS WEEK AT FLC**

<b>Today</b>	4:00 pm & 6:00 pm 11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Services Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Service with Communion
<b>Mon</b>	10:15 am	Christmas Day Worship/Communion
<b>Tues</b>		<i>Office Closed</i>
<b>Wed</b>		No Midweek Worship
<b>Sun</b>	10:15 am	Hymn Sing Sunday/Communion

### **IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:**

***In Hospital:***

***Homebound:***

***For Special Intercession:***

***Family Focus:***

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** There was no Sunday School class today, as children are on Christmas break. We pray that God would bless them as they celebrate the birth of our Saviour with their families. We thank our Sunday School children, Confirmation students, and Youth for their presentation of this good news last Sunday! Sunday School will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **LAST WEEK AT FLC**

<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Sunday/ Communion</b>	<b>Education Hour</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
December 17	152/131	39	17

*\*Attendance includes online participation.*

### **OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GIFTS**

Weekly Offering Needs	\$8,288.46	<b>Our Budget Goal</b>
Envelope Gifts Received Last Week	\$22,547.60	
Envelope Gifts Received to Date	\$355,512.35	<b>+/- YTD</b>
<b>Total Offerings Needed to Date</b>	<b>\$422,711.54</b>	<b>-\$67,199.19</b>

**Non-Budget/ Miscellaneous Gifts:** Plate 2.75; Visitor 700.00; Sunday School 16.00; Concordia Lutheran Mission Society 100.00; Lutheran Hospital Ministries 135.00; Youth 200.00; Other Internal Misc Funds 200.00.

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR: "Community and Conversation"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. This Christmas Eve, God wants to be found in the human community gathered in the name of Jesus and in the conversation connected with Him (John 1:1). Hear this inspirational message on CHR 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](http://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.

***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 31<sup>st</sup>, then please use the new envelopes starting January. 1<sup>st</sup>, as numbers may have changed.**



***JOIN US THIS EVENING*** as we rejoice in the news of our Saviour's birth—and invite someone to share in the joy of this wonderful, good news.

Our festive services are as follows:

- ☆ Dec. 24 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 27<sup>th</sup>. Midweek services will resume on January 3, 2024.**

***IT'S HYMN SING TIME!*** December 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

***ANNUAL CHURCH FAMILY BOARD GAMES NIGHT:*** Everyone is invited to join the youth on Friday, January 12, from 7 to 10 pm for board games! Please bring a snack, invite a friend, and bring a game if you have one you would like to share! RSVP to Pastor Eric by January 10 so we know how many people to set up for.

***MISSION PRAYER:*** This week, we pray for **Rev. David Milette** who serves as pastor of *l'Eglise luthérienne du Bon Berger* (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church) in Moncton, New Brunswick. He also provides support for LCC's French Ministries. **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples in all nations, we lift up before You, Pastor Milette, 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

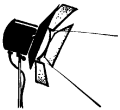
December 27-29 - Reduced Staff through the week

**AS WE REJOICE AND CELEBRATE IN THESE HOLY DAYS** and take time away from many routines, we hope that you will also remember the various things that begin again very early in the new year. The PPC meets January 8<sup>th</sup>; the Elders meet January 9<sup>th</sup> and our LifeLight study resumes January 9<sup>th</sup>. We will also have our men's breakfast bible study the first Saturday in the new year. Watch for other events, classes and activities that give us the opportunity for spiritual growth and encouragement, for fellowship and for mutual encouragement.

**THE PAST DAYS HAVE BEEN BUSY** for our staff. That they, too, may have a bit of a break, we are closing the office on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

We also express our thanks to the many volunteers who have made this a special time of celebration: to the musicians; to the hosts; the ushers and altar guild. We are blessed through your service to God's church in these days.

**PASTOR ERIC, KAYLA AND FAMILY** will be on vacation, visiting with family over the Christmas week. He will return to the office on January 3, 2024. We pray for safe travel and enjoyable time celebrating this season with their family.



**WE AGAIN REMIND YOU** that in our fallen world, there is a great temptation for people to use the busyness of our worship to steal coats and to steal things from coats. Please do not leave any valuables in coat pockets; while we do seek to be vigilant, we know that problems can arise. Let's all work together to protect and care for the church and for the protection of one another's property.

+ + +  
**KIDS IN THE  
DIVINE SERVICE**  
+ + +



## **What is The Festival of the Nativity of our Lord?**

The Festival of the Nativity of our Lord is the traditional way of saying Christmas Day. December 25 is one of the most important festival days in the Church Year. This is the day that we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus!

## **Why do we do the things we do at Christmas?**



Many of the things that we do at Christmas have their beginnings with the Romans. Early Christians soon saw some of these things as outward reminders of Christmas and began to use them in their own celebrations. For example, when we give and receive presents, we can remember the greatest gift that has ever been given, our Lord Jesus! After all, today we celebrate Jesus' birthday, and He is the real reason for the season!



**Parents:** What a great way to spend Christmas! Thanks be to God that you have brought your children to hear the wonderful Good News of Jesus today! When you go home, be sure to remind your children that Jesus is the best present we could ever have. He gave up His life so that we might have eternal life. What a great message to share!





## Growing FAITH at home

FOURTH  
SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

YEAR B

### God's message to Mary



Grow Ministries

LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



where love comes to life

[www.growministries.org.au](http://www.growministries.org.au)



## CONVERSATIONS

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

1. Can you remember a time when you had an unexpected visitor? Tell your story.
2. Read Luke 1:26-38. What can we learn from Mary in these verses?
3. Have you ever been challenged by God to do something difficult?



## BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>S</b>	<b>Luke 1:26-38</b>	The birth of Jesus foretold
<b>M</b>	<b>Titus 2:11-14</b>	God's kindness
<b>T</b>	<b>Isaiah 9:2-7</b>	The coming king
<b>W</b>	<b>Titus 3:4-7</b>	The mercy of God
<b>T</b>	<b>John 1:1-14</b>	The word became flesh
<b>F</b>	<b>Isaiah 52:7-10</b>	Message of hope
<b>S</b>	<b>Psalm 96</b>	Sing a new song

## VERSE OF THE WEEK

Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant.  
Let it happen as you have said."

LUKE 1:38





## CREATIVE RESPONSE

Place figures from a Christmas nativity set (e.g. wise men, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, animals) throughout your home.

During this week, move them closer to the manger.

Have Mary and Joseph arrive first, followed by the shepherds and wise men.

Last of all, place Jesus in the manger (on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day).



## ACTION RESPONSE

As a disciple of Jesus, find ways to be a servant of others in your own home during this busy time of year.



## MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord God, thank you for the gift of food, family and friends, signs of your love for us. Most of all, thank you for your gift of Jesus. Amen.



## PRAYER

Dear loving God, give us faith like Mary to accept the good news of Jesus' birth, and confidence to go out into the world as a servant of your love in Christ. Amen.



## BLESSING

May the Lord be with you. May God's favour rest on you and the Holy Spirit come to you and give you peace.