

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”



*Simeon
was
there
and
took
the
Child
in
his
arms,
praising
God*

LUKE 2:28

First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 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: Open our eyes, O Lord, to see Your salvation. Open our mouths to praise You night and day. And open our hearts to receive You as our Redeemer and King.

Blessed Baby Jesus, we hold You close to us.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE: As projected
HYMNS: 389; 387; 388; 384; 390; 359; 386
FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 61:10-62:3
EPISTLE LESSON: Galatians 4:4-7
GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:22-40
SERMON: *Go! Tell! Rejoice!* – Isaiah 62:1-3

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!

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Organist..... Deaconess Miriam Winstanley
Ushers..... Tobi Stene; Ellen Wagner
AV Operators Derek & Sacha Kiefer
Coffee Team..... Knudtson Family

THIS WEEK AT FLC

Tonight	6:30 pm	New Year's Eve Vespers
Monday		<i>Office Closed</i>
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Midweek Worship
Thursday	1:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study
Saturday	9:00 am	Men's Bible Study
Sunday	10:15 am	Epiphany/LWMLC Sunday Pot Blessing

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. Sunday School will resume on January 7th.

LAST WEEK AT FLC

Week of:	December 24 (10:15)	December 24 (3 Special Services)	December 25 (10:15)
December 24	79	162/62/47	50

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GIFTS

Weekly Offering Needs	\$8,288.46	Our Budget Goal
Envelope Gifts Received Last Week	\$16,830.00	
Envelope Gifts Received to Date	\$372,342.35	+/- YTD
Total Offerings Needed to Date	\$431,000.00	-\$58,657.65

Non-Budget/ Miscellaneous Gifts: Plate 607.65; Visitor 600.00; Sunday School 5.00; Facility Rentals 285.00; Lutheran Hour Ministries 1500.00; Benevolence 2000.00; Other Misc Funds 100.00; Church Properties Recovery 30.00.

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 LUTHERAN HOUR: "The Exit from Regret" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes When life becomes an endless roundabout of regret, Christ is your entrance to forgiveness and a new start (Luke 2:27-28). 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.



JOIN US THIS EVENING as we give thanks for the blessings of the year gone by and pray for His blessings upon the new year. We will celebrate Holy Communion as part of this service. We will worship at 6:30 pm.

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

NEXT SUNDAY IS EPIPHANY/LWMLC SUNDAY. Following the worship service, the ladies of Foothills LWMLC Society will be hosting a pot blessing luncheon. Donations of “finger food” (sandwiches, vegetable & fruit trays, cheese & crackers, cookies & squares ...) are appreciated.

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.

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.**



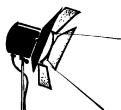


OUR MEN'S BIBLE STUDY will meet this Saturday, **January 6th** at 9:00 am. We start with breakfast at 9:00, followed by our study. We wrap up by 10:30. We invite the men of the congregation to join us.

MISSION PRAYER: This week, we pray for **Rev. Asefa Aredo** who serves as pastor of Shalom Oromo Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and LCC's Missionary-at-Large for Oromo Outreach. **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples in all nations, we lift up before You, Pastor Aredo, 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.**



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 8th**; the **Elders** meet **January 9th** and our **LifeLight** study resumes **January 9th**. 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.



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.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED TOMORROW. Our staff, along with so many others, will be celebrating the beginning of the new year. Regular office hours resume on Tuesday.

GET BACK INTO THE BIBLE! Many people have their New Year resolutions—why not resolve to spend more time in God's Word? We have bible reading plans for the year; our bible studies are also great opportunities to talk, to share and to see what God has to teach us. As we look for guidance for our lives in the new year, the best place to look is in God's Word. Make it a daily habit!

St. Nicholas and Good King Wenceslas

Did “Jolly Old St. Nicolas” and “Good King Wenceslas” ever exist?

YES! There was a real Saint Nicholas, upon whom Santa Claus is based. He was a priest who was probably born during the 4th century of wealthy parents in what is now Turkey. Back then it was simply called Asia Minor. He was a very faithful and good priest and eventually he was elevated to the position of Bishop in Myra, a run-down diocese. There he became known for his holiness, zeal, and miracles. He was imprisoned for his faith during the persecution of Christians under Emperor Diocletian and was present at the Council of Nicea, where he denounced the heresy of Arianism.

Nicholas' reputation as a gift giver is based on a legend that he assisted a hardworking, but poor man by secretly donating doweries for his three daughters. The story goes that St. Nicholas dropped the bags of gold down the family's chimney and the bags fell into the stocking of the girls that had been hung there to dry. St. Nicholas was always looking out for ways to use his inherited wealth to help the poor, especially the children of Myra.

Most everyone knows the familiar carol “Good King Wenceslas” and how the good king and his page braved the bitter cold of winter to bring food and firewood to a poor peasant. But few may know that this good man did indeed exist.

Wenceslas was born in 924, the son of King Vratislaw of Bohemia. The kingdom was in great unrest, and King Vratislaw himself was murdered. The young Wenceslas was to become king, but it was feared that his life was in danger too. To protect him, his grandmother sent him to a monastery in the country. While at the monastery, Wenceslas learned much about the Christian life and grew to be a devout follower of Jesus. Meanwhile, his brother Boleslas tried to take the throne. He was an evil man, and he treated the people of the kingdom cruelly.

When Wenceslas returned to the capital from his time in the monastery, he was distressed to find the poor people being so illtreated. He strove to bring his people to the Christian faith and for a time there was peaceful rule in the land, and the people prospered. But Boleslas was still plotting, and in the year 949, he succeeded in having Wenceslas murdered.

Today, Wenceslas is remembered as a wise and kind ruler who lived out his Christian faith as an example to all.



Growing FAITH at home

FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER
CHRISTMAS

YEAR B

We praise
God for
Christ's birth.



growministries
LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



www.growministries.org.au



CONVERSATIONS

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

1. Tell about when you waited a long time for something. What was it like waiting and what was it like when the waiting was over?
2. What were Simeon and Anna waiting for (Luke 2:25-38)? How did they react to seeing baby Jesus?
3. Imagine yourself in the place of Simeon and Anna. What would you say?



BIBLE READINGS

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

S	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple
M	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Rejoice in the Lord
T	Galatians 4:4-7	Adoption as God's children
W	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15	For everything a season
T	2 Corinthians 6:1-10	Now is the time of salvation
F	Isaiah 43:16-21	The Lord is doing a new thing
S	Psalms 148	All creation praises God

VERSE OF THE WEEK

*I have seen your salvation which you
have prepared for all people.*

LUKE 2:30-31



CREATIVE RESPONSE

Take time this New Year's Eve to reflect on the past year with family and friends. As the evening proceeds, share memories together.

Consider using the following questions:

- What were some good things that happened this past year?
- What were some challenges you faced?
- What are your hopes and concerns for the coming year?
- What have you learned from your experiences this past year and how does it connect with your faith in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem?
- What commitments would you like to make for reading the Bible and to prayer in 2021?

Finish this time of conversation with prayer for one another, asking God to bless and care for one another, the church, and world in the coming year. End with the Lord's Prayer.



ACTION RESPONSE

In the temple in Jerusalem, Simeon and Anna encouraged and blessed two young, first-time parents, Mary and Joseph.

Contact parents with young children in your church or community and offer to carry out a household act of service. (e.g. Help out with cleaning, ironing or childcare so they can enjoy some time out together.)



MEALTIME PRAYER

Praise the Lord all children, women and men, for God gives us food for our bodies and Jesus as our Saviour. Amen.



PRAYER

Lord God, thank you for Jesus, through whom we are adopted as your children. Let all you have made praise you! Amen.



BLESSING

May the Lord make you strong and wise, and bless you with God's saving grace.