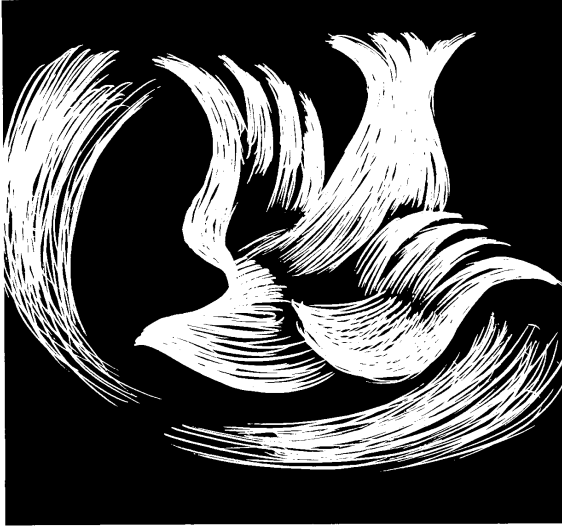


Foothills Lutheran Church

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

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



HE SAW THE HEAVENS
OPEN AND THE HOLY
SPIRIT DESCENDING
ON HIM.

M A R K 1 : 1 0

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024

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: The Wise Men presented their treasures to You, O Lord, of gold and frankincense and myrrh. May we, too, present to You what we treasure most--our time, our talents, ourselves. May we give You all the honor and the glory for everything we have and are. And may our worship of You be visible in every aspect of our lives.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

ORDER OF SERVICE: Divine Service 4; p. 203
HYMNS:590; 404; 595; Called To Serve; 594; Lord Jesus, You Have Called Us.
FIRST LESSON:..... Genesis 1:1-5
EPISTLE LESSON:Romans 6:1-11
GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:4-11
SERMON: Water-Marked! - Mark 1:4-11

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.....Robert Kubke; Lorne Rosenau
Acolyte Kieran Chan
AV Operators Eden/Paxton Knudtson; Brian/Barb Vincent
Coffee Hosts..... LWML-C

THIS WEEK AT FLC

Today		Pot Blessing hosted by LWML-C
Monday	7:00 pm	PPC
Tuesday	10:00 am	LifeLight
	6:30 pm	Elders
	7:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Midweek Worship
Thursday	1:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study
	6:00 pm	Children's Choir
	7:00 pm	Sunday School Teachers
Friday	7:00 pm	Youth/Family Board Games
Sunday	10:15 am	Worship

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

In Hospital:

Homebound:

For Special Intercession:

Family Focus:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The lesson this week is "A Mighty Wonder." In six days—through His spoken Word alone—the heavenly Father creates a universe so vast and complex it defies our limited human understanding. Humankind, the crown of His creation, made in His own image, comes to be through the intimate work of His hands and with His own breath. Discuss the wonders of God's creation with your family.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR: "As We Forgive" Lutheran Hour Speaker, Dr. Michael Zeigler, discusses forgiveness--what it is and what it isn't (Matthew 6:12; Luke 11:4). 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.

A NEW FLOWER CALENDAR is posted on the Worship Bulletin Board by Deaconess Miriam's office. We appreciate the gift of fresh flowers to beautify the Lord's altar. Brenda Bode has kindly offered to coordinate this effort.



LAST WEEK AT FLC

Week of:	Sunday (2 services)/ Communed	Education Hour	Wednesday/ Communion
Dec 31	145/100	5	11/11

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GIFTS

Weekly Offering Needs	\$8,288.46	Our Budget Goal
Envelope Gifts Received Last Week	\$14,653.00	
Envelope Gifts Received to Date	\$386,995.35	+/- YTD
Total Offerings Needed to Date	\$439,288.46	-\$52,293.11

**Attendance includes online participation.*

Non-Budget/ Miscellaneous Gifts: Plate 7.00; Visitor 85.00; Lutheran Hospital Ministries 150.00; Lutheran Hour 3.60; Benevolence 50.00; Youth 777.99; Other 550.00.

***PLEASE NOTE:** Our offering numbers/needs will be updated when the new budget for 2024 is adopted.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE - CANADA

Based on the biblical story of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4 KJV), "mites" – offerings above and beyond the support given to the congregation and the synod – are collected by women of Lutheran Church-Canada. Mite contributions amount to thousands of dollars, supporting LWML-Canada district and national grants to mission projects around the world as well as implementing the LWML-Canada program. Mite offerings are gathered at meetings, preferably with prayer or special devotions.

Today we celebrate LWML Sunday, and during this month we are giving all our members an opportunity to support this work through our Mission of the Month.

TODAY WE OBSERVE LWML-CANADA SUNDAY. The ladies of the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) support the work of the church through their mites and their gifts to various projects within the church. We invite you to join the ladies of the LWML following our worship service for a time of fellowship and a pot-blessing finger food luncheon.



OUR VOTERS WILL BE MEETING to adopt the budget for 2024 on **Sunday, January 28th**. Voter packages will soon be available on the Welcome Desk.

IF YOU HAVEN'T YET PICKED UP YOUR 2024 ENVELOPES, they are still available on the table in the narthex. We appreciate your attention to this.

ANNUAL CHURCH FAMILY BOARD GAMES NIGHT: Everyone is invited to join the youth on Friday, **January 12th** 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.



PLEASE USE YOUR 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES: We made some adjustments to the numbers, so your envelope number may have changed. Please **do not** use your old envelopes anymore. God has blessed us to be a blessing, and provides for us, so that we may use His gifts to His glory. If you need offering envelopes, but don't presently have them, please let the office know.

How much should you give? Scripture says: ***Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*** (2 Corinthians 9:7 - ESV) But as we look at the Scripture guidelines for giving, we would note that we should:

- ***Give regularly*** - we should set aside a portion of our income weekly (and yes, even when we are absent) for the work of the Lord's church.
- ***Give faithfully*** - recognize that it is God who has provided all we have. He entrusts it to us, to be used properly and to His glory. This also includes the fact that we should give first to the Lord, not from the leftovers we have.
- ***Give generously*** - its not about our fair share or simply giving to the budget. We are to give from our hearts, especially the heart that is overjoyed at knowing the wonderful blessings of God.

May God enable us to be faithful stewards throughout the whole year!

MANY OF OUR MEMBERS HAVE SWITCHED THEIR GIVING to electronic contributions and no longer require offering envelopes. We will order our 2025 offering envelopes in January to take advantage of early order discounts. Please let the church office know if you no longer require offering envelopes and we will adjust our order. If we don't hear from you, we will proceed with ordering envelopes for you. Regardless of the way, may God enable us to be faithful stewards of His gifts first given to us!

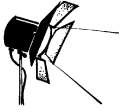
Your support in the Lord's work is highly treasured and we are pleased to be able provide you with a pre-authorized alternative of giving. Should you prefer this style of offering, please contact office@foothillslutheran.com. We will provide you with an agreement from the Bank of Montreal where you will be asked to provide your identification and financial institution details. A 'void' cheque is helpful as well. Once this form has been completed, return it to the church office.

OUR LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY resumes this Tuesday, as we continue our look at the epistles of John. We're also looking ahead to our next topic. We welcome you to join us for this time in the Word. We meet at 10:00, and finish at 11:30.

MISSION PRAYER: This week, we pray for **Rev. Van Ravy** who serves as assistant pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and also serves with Lutheran Hour Ministries.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples in all nations, we lift up before You, Pastor Ravy, 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.**



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.

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!

DO YOU FILL IN A "COMMUNION CARD?" These cards help in a variety of ways. First, by reviewing the card, you are reminded of the ways that you can prepare to take the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner. They help you remember the precious gift Jesus gives us as He gives us His body and blood. When you fill them in, it also helps us know our attendance at communion, which helps in our preparing the altar, and which helps the Elders and Pastors as they minister to the needs of God's people. It only takes a moment, and it does help us help you. Please remember to fill them in each time you come to Holy Communion!





Growing FAITH at home

EPIPHANY

YEAR B

Come to
worship Jesus
the King.



GrowMinistries
LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



www.growministries.org.au



CONVERSATIONS

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

1. Share about a memorable trip you were part of.
2. Wise men travelled from the far east to visit the child Jesus, guided by a star. What can you remember about their adventure?
3. The wise men brought special gifts to give to Jesus. What gifts would you have taken?



BIBLE READINGS

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

- | | | |
|----------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| S | Matthew 2:1-12 | The visit of the Wise Men |
| M | 1 Kings 10:1-13 | The queen of Sheba visits Solomon |
| T | Isaiah 60:1-6 | Nations will come to your light |
| W | Matthew 2:13-18 | The escape to Egypt |
| T | Matthew 2:19-23 | The return to Nazareth |
| F | John 19:38-42 | Nicodemus brings myrrh |
| S | Psalms 72 | Kings will present him gifts |

VERSE OF THE WEEK

They came to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

MATTHEW 2:11



CREATIVE RESPONSE

The wise men were guided by a star in their search for Jesus, the newborn King.

As Christians, we are "stars" God uses to point other people to Jesus (see Philippians 2:15-16).

Cut out star shapes from yellow or gold paper. Write onto these different ways you can "shine" for Jesus before others. Attach these stars to the ceiling of your home. Pray together that God may use you to draw others to know and worship Jesus as their King.



MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you light our path and make bright our days; receive our gifts of thanks and praise. Amen.



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, like the star that guided the wise men to you, guide us to worship you each and every day. Amen.



ACTION RESPONSE

A bright star guided the wise men to the home of Jesus. Bake star-shaped cookies to give away as gifts to children in your church or local community.



BLESSING

May God lead you to see and worship Jesus. May he fill you with great joy.