



From the Pastor:

It has been very hard to escape the reality of disaster, death and destruction that has filled the news in the past little while. We hear of efforts going on in Jasper to restore and rebuild, but we are well aware of the damage and loss in that community. Hurricanes Helene and Milton were testimonies to the overwhelming power of God at work in nature and man's utter helplessness in the face of such power. We continue to hear about the attacks, the death and the hatred that is evident in the Israel - Hamas war that has now gone on for over a year. We see similar things in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. There are many other terrorist attacks, racially motivated killings and much more violence that we do not hear about day by day. What is going on in the world?

When God created the world, it was beautiful, peaceful and wonderful. But sin has corrupted and destroyed that perfection. Like a cancerous tumor, sin continues to grow in our world, affecting more and more things; bringing more and more suffering and uncertainty with it.

We live in perilous times, when unbelief, greed, selfishness and hatred bring more and more uncertainty to our world—and also to our lives. But as dark as things may be, we have a reason to hope. We have the assurance of God's help and strength for times such as these. We have the promise of Him who said: **"I will never leave you nor forsake you."** (Hebrews 13:5, ESV) The God who commanded light to shine in the darkness; the God who need only speak, and it is so, is the God who watches over us to bless us. He is the God who knows our need and still provides for us. He is the God who brings us through the darkest of days into the glory of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We have just celebrated another Thanksgiving. I truly hope that we remember—with great thanksgiving—the goodness of the Lord each and every day. He blesses us so richly! In his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, Luther teaches us: *"[God] richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."* (SC, 1st Article)

As wonderful as all this is, we have the joy, the confidence and the hope that comes from knowing all that God has prepared for us in His Son, our

Foothills Lutheran Church

3104 - 34th Avenue NW
Calgary, Alberta T2L 2A3
Phone: 403-284-1342
www.foothillslutheran.com

David Bode, Pastor

flcpastor@foothillslutheran.com

Eric Moffett, Associate Pastor

flcpastoreric@foothillslutheran.com

Miriam Winstanley, Deaconess

Children & Family Ministry
miriam@foothillslutheran.com

Eldon Ohlinger, Pastor Emeritus

Carol Kehler, Office Admin.

office@foothillslutheran.com



Continued on page 2...

...Continued from page 1

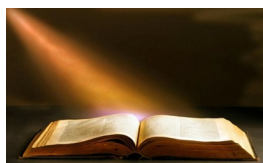
Saviour, Jesus Christ. He covers us with His forgiveness. He promises us: **“Because I live, you also will live.”** (John 14:19, ESV) That, my dear people, loved by God is the reason for our hope in the midst of this troubled world. We thank God for His protection and care. We thank Him for walking with us every step of the way. We thank Him that He will lead us through all the dark days of this world and into the glory of heaven’s eternal rest. We thank Him that His power is enough for times such as these, and that He will see us through it all by His grace.

There are times when we find it hard to be thankful, especially when we are faced with trials and tribulations. But thank God for this: we never face them alone. We face them with His help and strength. And with His help, we can’t lose. Rejoice in the victory that is yours in Christ!

In His Service,



Board of Christian Education



“Teach...that the next generation may set their hope in God.” – Psalm 78

All our usual educational opportunities are still in full flight. We encourage everyone to find one and join us in worshiping God and studying His Word with our church family. We have Sunday School, Bible studies throughout the week, family groups, youth group, and more. Contact the office or any of the staff for information on how to join one of the groups.

Thank you to everyone who helped set up our education displays for Rally Sunday, and to the Board of Fellowship for hosting a lunch that day – it was a great kick-off for the new education year.

If you haven’t visited the library lately, please stop by and check out something to aid in your spiritual growth over this coming year. With Advent and Christmas coming soon, you can find many resources to help learn more about this season and the gifts God gives us in Christ. If you have a title or subject you’d like to see added to the library, email us at education@foothillslutheran.com, call in to the office, or speak to the staff. And please check out the new artwork outside the library!

In other news, after 24+ years of youth ministry at Foothills, Michelle and I have decided to take a sabbath from youth group for the rest of the school year, partially to focus more on some of our other church-related responsibilities but also for some sabbath time together, during which we hope to be more deliberate about doing devotions at home. Please keep the rest of the youth ministry team in your prayers, and offer them your support if you can - we're thankful we can take a break and youth ministry will carry on.

Have you joined our (private) Facebook group for Foothills members? We post announcements and event reminders to the group, and occasionally share devotions; if you use Facebook more than you read the bulletin, this group might be for you! www.facebook.com/groups/flchristianed/

The Board of Christian Education is:

Chair: Trevor Heumann

Staff Members: Pastor David Bode, Pastor Eric Moffett, and Deaconess Miriam Winstanley

Board Members: Michelle Heumann (Secretary), Derek Kiefer, Kayla Moffett, Tobi Stene

Table of Contents

Page 2:	From the Pastor Board of Christian Education
Page 3	Children & Family Ministry Sunday School Ladies Bible Study
Page 4:	Family Time in Christ Children’s Choir Faith at Home LWMLC
Page 5:	Board of Elders Operation Christmas Child
Page 6:	Board of Fellowship President’s Report
Page 7	Youth Event News Mission of the Month
Page 7:	Youth Event News; November & December Mission of the Month
Page 8	Birthdays & Anniversaries

Children & Family Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

God’s blessings to all of our Sunday School students, our teachers, and our parents! Classes began September 8. Three classes are operating (P-K, 1-3, and 4-6), with team teachers for each class. We are pleased to have two youth acting as helpers, one in the P-K class, and one in the grade 1-3 class! Our lessons began with Jesus’ birth and continue through a high-level look at the New Testament for two quarters)

We had a special guest on September 23 – Mrs. Kara Kuhn visited with our group for the opening and then to talk a bit about Bible translation and life in Cameroon. The children were excited to hear from her and to look at the pictures she brought.

Our Children’s Christmas Service will be presented on **December 15** during our regular worship service. Parts will soon be distributed, so parents, please watch for them so that you can practice with your children at home.

Our teachers will be hosting a Sunday School Workshop for the circuit February 8, and are in the process of planning for that. If you have been considering teaching or helping at Sunday School or VBS, this would be a great opportunity to learn about faithfully teaching children about their Saviour. Watch the bulletin for more information!

Thank you to our teachers, who meet monthly for study and planning, and who work diligently to prepare their lessons each week.

Nov 03	Jesus Calms a Storm	Mark 4:35-41
Nov 10	<i>Remembrance Day Break—No Classes</i>	
Nov 17	Jesus Raises Jairus’ Daughter	Mark 5:21-24, 35-43
Nov 24	Jesus Feeds Five Thousand	John 6:1-14
Dec 01	Jesus Heals a Deaf Man	Mark 7:31-37
Dec 08	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37
Dec 15	The Lord’s Prayer	Luke 11:1-13
Dec 22	Christmas Lesson	Luke 2:1-20

LADIES’ BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Two Ladies’ study groups are running, with new members always welcome.

Our Tuesday group meets weekly at 7:30 pm at Deaconess Miriam’s home, and is just beginning a study entitled *Enough: Unpacking God’s Sufficiency*. It’s a good time to join in!

Our Thursday afternoon study meets weekly at 1:30 pm for an in-depth study of the readings for the upcoming Sunday.

Both studies take place in person, with the option of participation online via Zoom. Contact Deaconess Miriam for more information!

Family Time Devotions



Take it Home!

Sunday, December 1, 2024
following worship
at Foothills Lutheran Church

The daily rhythms of our lives - how we spend our time - teach our children what we are devoted to. Family devotions - regular time spent together with Jesus - keep Him at the centre of your home. At this session you will learn some tips for successfully incorporating family devotions into your regular routine.

Please bring your 3-year-old so you can participate together. Join us after worship in Room 1. Bring the whole family!

RSVP to: 403-284-1342
miriam@foothillslutheran.com
Designed for children born in 2021
and their parents

Family Time in Christ

Dolores Curran, in her book *Traits of a Healthy Family* identifies 15 characteristics that contribute to family health. Two of those traits resonate with us as Christians: family traditions and sharing faith. Every family has traditions – they are important to us. They serve us in a number of ways. They:

- Make members of a family feel part of something bigger than themselves (give a sense of community);
- Foster a feeling of belonging;
- Reinforce values of the family by “putting clothes on” those values;
- Bring predictability to family life, and
- Give members of a family connection to the past (a sense of history).

Traditions are especially helpful for young children because they tend to engage the senses, teaching that something is important even before it can be fully understood. As we approach the seasons of Advent and Christmas, it’s a good time to talk about traditions and maybe even start some new ones!

Talk with each other about traditions you grew up with that were meaningful and contributed to your faith development...observing baptismal birthdays in addition to chronological birthdays; prayers over hurt knees; Advent wreaths and calendars; Christmas gift-opening rituals, and others. Then consider as a family how you can borrow or develop new traditions to share your faith together, even with babies and very young children. Simple daily routines, seasonal family rituals, milestone celebrations – all of these are good opportunities to include faith-building practices that will serve your children well and may even be passed on to the next generation!



CHILDREN’S CHOIR



Children’s Choir is back! Children age 4 and up are invited to join us for twice monthly practices where we will learn God’s Word through song, learn what we can do with our voices, learn a bit about music, and learn how to sing with others. If you are interested in having your children participate, please contact Deaconess Miriam at 403-284-1342 or miriam@foothillslutheran.com.

FAITH AT HOME

As a congregation we are encouraging the families of our congregation to adopt a Faith-at-Home lifestyle, where parents claim their God-given role as primary faith-teachers of their children. Deaconess Miriam has resources for families to help them fill this role at every age and stage. She’d love to talk with you! See *Family Time Devotions* on page 3 for more information

LWML-Canada



We are now meeting downstairs at the church, usually on the fourth Monday of the month, from September to May, except December. Our meetings start at 12.00 noon with lunch and fellowship, followed by a Bible Study and a brief business meeting.

We invite all ladies to join us in our activities which focus on local, national and international mission projects.

On Friday, **December 6, 2024**, from 2 to 4 pm we plan to visit Foothills Manor where we will entertain the residents with refreshments, the exchanging of memories and singing Christmas songs. We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

As always we would like to thank the congregation for your prayerful and generous financial support of our work. Please continue to donate used eyeglasses for Optiks International and postage stamps for the Canadian Bible Society.

God’s Blessings

Geraldine Chimirri-Russell.

President

Board of Elders

The Elders serving you are Rob Kaut, Robert Kubke, Rick Nelson, Kellen Rosenau, Lorne Rosenau, and Austin Voss. (Brian Kehler resigned as of the end of Sept – we thank him for his service.) Please feel free to talk with them at any time for support, questions, or concerns.

Campus ministry – An overview document was prepared for the Sept 29 Voters Meeting, whereat it was decided to take a sabbath from this ministry. We are thankful that God has blessed many people from these efforts. If you haven't seen the document, please ask Pastor Eric for a copy.

Pastor Bode retirement – This has been announced for March 2, 2025. We thank God for Pastor Bode's dedicated service to Foothills since 2011! The months ahead will be very busy with various transition activities. The Elders have decided to not immediately proceed with a call for another Pastor, rather will wait until the Direction Committee reports on future congregational direction, by June 2025. This means that it will be challenging for a number of months in 2025, whereby the Ministry Staff will decrease from 3 to 2, making it impossible to do all that is currently being done. Many adjustments will be needed, but be assured that ministry to God's people will continue. Even though we will feel loss from Pastor Bode's retirement, we pray that we will continue to be blessed with the service of Pastor Eric and Deaconess Miriam.

Office Administrator transition – Carol Kehler is resigning, but thankfully has been patient and continuing in the role while we search for a successor. We anticipate hiring a new person and transitioning in November, so please be patient and encouraging through this.

Care for our leaders – Our Ministry Staff and volunteer leaders are a vital part of our ministry for God. Please encourage them, so that they can joyfully continue serving our Lord. Be caring, patient, listen with open ears and heart, and express your opinions respectfully. As we seek to show Christian love, please show that to your leaders too.

As 2024 has been a year of changes and adjustments, we can look ahead to the Christmas season with true hope. The first Christmas brought lots of change too, in the midst of a hard, sinful world. But Jesus' birth brought life saving change! We can look forward knowing that God will guide us, and give us the strength needed through change.

We pray that this Christmas season you will find renewed joy and wonder in what it brings. Please take time to slow down and truly appreciate the real meaning of Christmas. Read the Bible passages. Imagine the amazement of the Shepherds as the Angels sang, and as they marvelled at the Christ child. May you marvel too, and sing in praise and great joy. And may God bless you, and strengthen you, to live your faith and share it with those around you.

On behalf of the Elders,

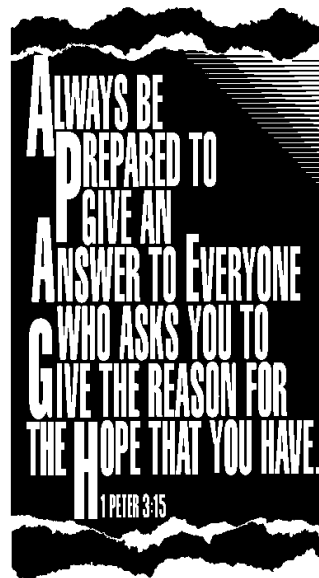
Robert Kubke, Director

Operation Christmas Child



Luke 10:27 - *Love your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love Him with all your strength and with all your mind. And, love your neighbor as you love yourself.*

We are privileged to share the blessings we have with children around the world. Shoeboxes filled with hygiene items, school supplies and toys are sent to children around the world living in poverty, war and areas of natural disasters. Your small shoebox can make a big difference to a child. More importantly, the Gospel message is shared with them in a 12 week discipleship course. Boxes and brochures are available on the table beside Miriam's office. Please contact me if you need further information. Elke 403-830-2143.



Board of Fellowship

Coffee Fellowship

Are you interested in assisting on a coffee team or providing treats for Sunday fellowship as we return to our coffee time after Sunday service?



Rally Day BBQ - September 8

To celebrate the start of the education programs, we held a hamburger BBQ. The men did a great job flipping those burgers and the ice cream bars were happily enjoyed. Watch for the return of our Stampede Breakfast next summer.

Kitchen Grand Opening Celebration - September 15

Our kitchen renovation is complete and the kitchen committee made a wonderful mix of snacks to enjoy to celebrate the grand opening. Rave reviews of the new kitchen design were heard during the tours.

Ministry Appreciation - October 20

Foothills is truly blessed with the ministry staff at Foothills. The pie social was a hit with a wide variety of pies brought in this year.

Confirmation Dinner - October 24

With some great help, a lovely dinner was put on for the families of our confirmation youth, Emmy, Kieran and Quinn and the ministry staff. God bless them as they share their confirmation with their Foothills family.

EVENTS COMING UP

Pot Blessing - November 17

Bring your favorite recipe to share with the congregation for a pot blessing lunch. Watch for news in the bulletin.

Advent - November 30

Save the date for some fun activities in preparation for Advent and the Christmas season.


President's Report

One of the main objectives of this years Parish Planning Council (PPC) is to bring a long-range plan and statement of direction to the voters by June of next year. We have formed a sub-committee to work on this. The committee has been chosen from the congregation to represent various age groups and demographics of our congregation. It consists of myself, Ralf Hinterleitner (our Vice President), Pastor Eric, Deaconess Miriam, Stacey Bablitz, Michelle Heumann, Rick Nelson (representing the Elders), Kellen Rosenau and Evan Stene. I thank all these individuals for providing their time to serve on this very important committee.

The mandate of the committee is to develop a long-range plan (5 to 10 years) for our congregation that will focus our ministry and mission efforts. The previous plan was outdated as it still had a pre-school and campus ministry as objectives. The plan will be run past the Elders and the PPC and will be brought before the voters of the congregation for approval in June next year.

We have not changed our mission statement which is "*Connecting People with Christ through Worship, Relationships, and Service.*" We now must develop a few goals and focus areas for our congregation that align with and help us achieve this mission statement.

The first step of this plan is to get input from all congregational members on what we should be pursuing. Each congregational member, both active and inactive and regular Foothills attendees who are not yet members will have an opportunity to fill out a survey that will help the committee develop our goals. After the surveys are compiled, we will have one or more town hall meetings to discuss results and provide preliminary feedback. Of course, not all ideas will be pursued, but I can assure you all will be heard and discussed.

It is important that we get input from as many members as possible so please take the time to submit your survey responses. This is your chance to participate in setting the direction for our congregation. Surveys are available either in your church mailbox, via email or in your regular mail. Lastly, you can also access the survey by scanning the QR  code.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Dale Dusterhofs

President

Youth Event News

Youth group, or LYF (Lutheran Youth @ Foothills), is for youth in grades 7 to 12, and friends are welcome! We meet every second and fourth Friday, whether it's a long weekend or not, usually from 7 to 10 pm.

Even if we don't specifically ask for an RSVP for an event, it is helpful to know if people are coming or not, so please do let the youth leaders know if you're not going to be able to make it to an event or Bible study!

Sunday morning youth and young adult Bible study is every week at 9am in the youth room, except for long weekends - there will be no Bible study on Nov 10, Dec 22 and Dec 29



Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser: To help support youth group trips like the 2025 National Youth Gathering, we will be selling chocolates from Purdy's, and they will be delivered in time for Christmas! Purdy's has a great selection of Christmas goodies, boxed chocolates, and sugar-free chocolate. You can order online and pay with a credit card by going to: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/1986020-121761>.

The order/payment deadline is November 29. Orders will be available for pick up on Sunday, December 15. Thank you for your support!

November 8: Movie Night

Bring your favourite movie snacks. We're going to go back to 1999 for this one and have a great discussion and study afterwards.

November 22: Tobogganing (weather permitting)

We will be heading to the slope of St. Andrew's hill. Dress warm and bring your favourite sled (or two). While the youth head to the slope the parents will be invited to a learning session with Deaconess Miriam at the church.

Sunday, November 24: NYG Info Lunch

After worship on November 24 we'll be having a lunch meeting to share info about the 2025 NYG! The youth gathering will be in Waterloo, ON, from July 4 to 8. Pastor Eric, Kayla, and Michelle are on the planning committee, so we'll have lots of info to share. We will be providing pizza for all who attend, so you should come just to hear about the wonderful NYG and have a slice on us.

December 13: Operation Christmas Child

This is a special night for us to go to the OCC warehouse. The timing for this is different than our other events 5PM on the Friday night. We will coordinate all of the driving closer to going.

December 20: Ice Skating

We will either be going to the Olympic Oval for a skate or if the weather is nice skate at Bowness Park, have a fire and cook s'mores.

If you have questions, please ask Pastor Eric, Kayla, Evan, or Derek, and stay connected with youth news by giving a youth leader your email address.

November Mission of the Month Inn from the Cold

For over 25 years, Inn from the Cold has supported families in finding stability during times of crisis. They empower independence and foster resilience, guided by the belief that every child and family should have a safe and stable place to call home.

To help bring the vision to life they provide three main programs: homelessness prevention and diversion, emergency family shelter, and supportive housing. Trauma-informed and housing-first principles guide everything they do and they strive to adapt their programs to meet the unique needs of each family they serve.

December Mission of the Month Lutheran Hospital Ministries

Vision: To envision and expand Lutheran Hospital Ministries-Southern Alberta Society as a serving, caring Christ centred ministry, which is integral to spiritual, emotional and physical healing.

Trained Visitors give support through compassionate listening, prayer and Scripture. Currently serving all Lutheran patients in Calgary Hospitals and Care Centres regardless of their home address.