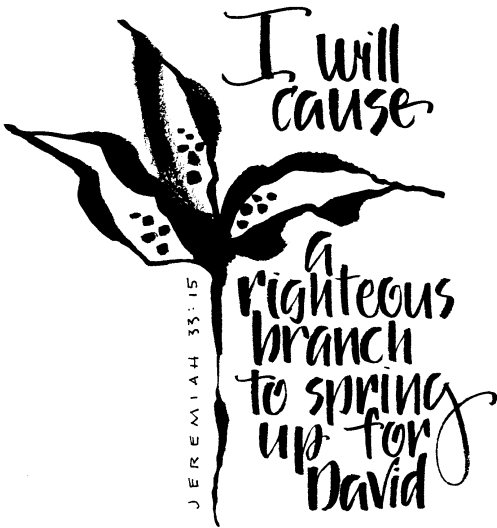


# Foothills Lutheran Church

3104 – 34 Ave NW Calgary, AB T2L 2A3 403-284-1342 [www.foothillslutheran.com](http://www.foothillslutheran.com)

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:30 am-12 pm.

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



## *First Sunday in Advent* *December 1, 2024*

Education Hour.....	9:00 am
Morning Worship (Holy Communion: 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays) .....	10:15 am
Wednesday Evening Worship.....	6:30 pm

Senior Pastor: David Bode – [flcpastor@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:flcpastor@foothillslutheran.com)  
Associate Pastor: Eric Moffett – [flcpastoreric@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:flcpastoreric@foothillslutheran.com)  
DPS: Deaconess Miriam Winstanley – [miriam@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:miriam@foothillslutheran.com)  
Office Administrator: Amber Myers – [office@foothillslutheran.com](mailto:office@foothillslutheran.com)  
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Eldon Ohlinger

**A Prayer Upon Entering:** O Lord, the time is near when You will be born among us. Be near us as we wait for You. And keep us aware of all the signs that let us know that You are on Your way.

*O Christ, who came at just the right time, we await the time of Your arrival.*

**OUR WORSHIP TODAY**

**ORDER OF SERVICE:** .....Divine Service 1  
*(Please note, we omit the Gloria in Excelsis during Advent)*

**HYMNS:** .....333; 359; 346; 342; 332; 357; 509

**FIRST LESSON:**..... Jeremiah 33:14-16

**EPISTLE LESSON:**..... 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

**GOSPEL LESSON:** .....Luke 19:28-40

**SERMON:** Now, *That’s A Christmas Tree!* – Jeremiah 33:14-16

**A JOYOUS WELCOME** to all who worship here this morning. May you find forgiveness and strengthening through God's Word and promise. If you are visiting, please honour us by signing our guest book at the back of the church. If there is any way we can be of service to you, please speak to the pastor or one of the elders. If you have no church home of your own, please consider making Foothills your church.

**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](mailto:financials@foothillslutheran.com).

**ADVENT SERVICES** begin this Wednesday, **December 4<sup>th</sup>**. Pick up a calendar of special services on the Welcome Desk!

**ADVENT DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**, in regular and large print are available to you on the Welcome Desk. May this help you in your Advent preparation.

**SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY**

Organist ..... Deaconess Miriam Winstanley  
Ushers..... John Voss; Ellen Wagner  
Acolyte .....Elliana Legroulx  
Lector ..... Stacey Bablitz  
Communion Assistant ..... Kellen Rosenau  
Coffee Team.....Heather Sommers; Brent & Beth Warwick

**THIS WEEK AT FLC**

<b>Today</b>	12:00 pm	Faith at Home: My Devotions
<b>Tuesday</b>	10:00 am	LifeLight Bible Study
	7:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30 pm	Advent Worship
<b>Thursday</b>	1:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir
<b>Friday</b>	2:00 pm	LWMLC hosts Advent Tea at Foothills Manor
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 am	Men’s Bible Study
	1:00 pm	Children’s Christmas Practice
	2:30 pm	Sunday School Meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am	Education Hour
	10:15 am	Worship

**IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:**

*In Hospital:*  
*Homebound:*  
*For Special Intercession:*  
*Family Focus:*

**PASTOR ERIC HAS RECEIVED A CALL** to serve as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Vernon, BC. Please keep him in your prayers, as well as St. John and Foothills, that he may know the Lord’s will for him and His church.

**PURDY’S CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER:** Your orders will be available for pick up on Sunday, **December 15<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for your support!

**LAST WEEK AT FLC**

Week of	Sunday	Education Hour	Wednesday/Communed
November 24	104	34	15/13

*\*Attendance includes online participation.*

**OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GOD’S GIFTS**

Weekly Offering Needs	\$7,404.00	<b>Our Budget Goal</b>
Envelope Gifts Received Last Week	\$12,001.00	
Envelope Gifts Received to Date	\$322,755.00	<b>+/- YTD</b>
<b>Total Offerings Needed to Date</b>	<b>\$347,980.77</b>	<b>-\$25,225.77</b>

**Non-Budget/Miscellaneous Gifts:** Plate 88.05; Visitor 80.00; Sunday School 47.00; Inn from the Cold 20.00; Youth 2000.00.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** “Ephphatha . . . be opened” (Mark 7:34), Jesus says to a deaf man as He places His fingers in the man’s ears and touches his tongue in this week’s lesson, “A Hearing Aide.” The man’s ears open and his tongue releases, but Jesus warns the crowd not to tell anyone. The good news cannot be contained, however, and those who witness the miracle share the story. Discuss, “How can we share the Good News with our friends and family?”

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR: December 8 "Completely Ordinary Human"**  
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Everyone has a story to tell and yours can be one through which Jesus is working to make the world new again. (Malachi 3:7) 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](http://www.lutheranhour.ca).

**LWMLC FOOTHILLS SOCIETY** will host an Advent Tea at the Foothills Manor on **December 6** at 2:00 pm. You are welcome to join us!

**MISSION OF THE MONTH: LUTHERAN HOSPITAL MINISTRIES**

Through Lutheran Hospital Ministries of Southern Alberta, trained visitors give support to Lutheran patients in Calgary 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.

**GREETERS:** We are hoping to resurrect our greeting teams and have started to have greeters after our service. If you are interested, please contact Barb Vincent at (403) 590-7975 or email [barbaraann@shaw.ca](mailto:barbaraann@shaw.ca).

**THE MAINSPRINGS PREGNANCY AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER** (previously the Calgary Pregnancy Care Center) supports pregnant women and their families. As they prepare to collect for their Christmas Client Care Project, we encourage you to donate some of the items needed. A list is on the Fellowship bulletin board. You can drop off items with Heather Sommers. **New items only, please.**

**THE ALTAR GUILD:** is a special service in God's house. It is much more than just setting up the elements for Holy Communion. There are 4 different areas in which you can serve:

- *Communion* – Setting up for Holy Communion before service and cleaning it up after service as well as washing and ironing the various Communion and altar linens.
- *Paraments/Banners* which are changed according to the Sunday of the Church Year.
- *Special Decorating* – Beautify our sanctuary Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.
- *Flowers* – Organize flowers as per individual requests to put flowers on the altar.

Is God calling you to use your gifts in this way? Please speak to Brenda Bode for more information.

**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS** as we look to purchase another 60-80 new chairs to replace the older wooden chairs

We invite you to Buy a Chair, much in the same way that people bought bibles or hymnals for the church in the past. The cost of a chair is \$65.00. You can contribute to this effort in any amount--simply mark your gift, "Chairs". We will place the order once the money has been received. Thank you for your support of the church - and support for those who need to take a seat!



**THE NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2025** will be available soon. As we draw near to the end of the year, we want to use the blessings God provides to complete the work we do together through our tithes and offerings. God has blessed us to be a blessing, and provides for us, so that we may use His gifts

to His glory. We encourage your faithful stewardship. If you need a set of offering envelopes, please let the office know **OR** if you wish to contribute via Interact transactions, in which case you will no longer need a set of envelopes, please let the office know **today**.

**OUR MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** gathers this coming Saturday, and we continue our look at Revelation. Join us for breakfast and for time in God's Word!

**THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS** testifies to God's love for us, as He gives us His Son as Saviour. In the joy of that love, we also look to the ways that we show love to others. We are planning to prepare some "Christmas Hampers" for those in need. To make this practical and simple, we are planning to collect gift cards. We will give these to families in need within our congregation, as well as those outside our congregation. If you would like to help with this, simply bring a card of your choice (groceries are most practical) and leave it in the office or with one of the staff. Please bring the cards by **December 8, 2024**.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child by physically filling a box or doing one online or making a financial contribution. We received 71 boxes at the church! I know that Samaritans Purse and the children receiving the boxes are very grateful to all of you. *Elke Bittmann*

**OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S SERVICE** will be part of our worship on Sunday, **December 15<sup>th</sup>**. Over the next few weeks, the children will be preparing for their part in our worship that day. Please keep the children and the teachers in your prayers, as they prepare to share the good news of the Saviour's birth with us in this special part of our Christmas celebration.

**MISSION PRAYER** This week, we pray for **Rev. Seungwoo "Sam" Choi** who serves as pastor of Korean Lutheran Church in Toronto, Ontario. **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as Your Son sent forth His Church to make disciples in all nations, we lift up before You, Pastor Choi, 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.**



**THE BLESSED SEASON OF ADVENT** helps us prepare to celebrate the Saviour's birth—second in importance only to His resurrection on Easter Sunday. There are various traditions that help us in our Advent journey:

- The altar colour is blue, which symbolizes anticipation and hope in our coming King. Violet/purple are also used as a symbol of repentance in preparation for this King.
- We do not sing the Gloria in Excelsis during Advent. This is the angel's Christmas anthem of praise, and so we pass over this hymn in silent contemplation.
- The Advent wreath is used, with the four candles—one for each Sunday in Advent. As the candles are lit each week, our anticipation grows as we look forward to Jesus' coming among us.

There are other traditions, but the focus is always this: Christ is coming! Let's get ready! We have reason for great rejoicing in His appearing!



Growing  
**FAITH**  
at home

FIRST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

YEAR B

Advent is a  
time to be alert  
for the coming  
of Christ



growministries  
LEA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



www.growministries.org.au



CONVERSATIONS

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

1. Talk about a time you were waiting for something or someone.
2. Advent begins with a focus on Christ's second coming. How does your Christian faith help you keep alert for Christ's return? Reflect on how waiting for Christ's return is an important part of the Christian faith. Jesus said, "my words will never pass away" (Mark 13:31).
3. What words or stories of Jesus are especially important to you?



BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>S</b>	<b>Mark 13:24-37</b>	The day and hour unknown
<b>M</b>	<b>Isaiah 64:1-9</b>	A communal prayer for help
<b>T</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 1:3-9</b>	God is faithful
<b>W</b>	<b>Isaiah 9:1-7</b>	The promised messiah
<b>T</b>	<b>Matthew 24:29-31</b>	The coming of the Son of Man
<b>F</b>	<b>Revelation 1:1-6</b>	Christ sends a message
<b>S</b>	<b>Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19</b>	Prayer for Israel's restoration

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Beware, keep alert; for you do not  
know when the time will come.

MARK 13:33





## CREATIVE RESPONSE

Make a paper chain with a link for each day of December up to Christmas Day. Write one of the instructions listed below on each link. Remove a link each day and do what it says:

1. Share: "What gives you peace?"
2. Share: "What gives you joy?"
3. Share: "What gives you hope?"
4. Share compliments with each other.
5. Read Jeremiah 33:14-16.
6. Share hugs with one another.
7. Share good Christmas memories.
8. Read Isaiah 11:1-3.
9. Play a game together.
10. Sing a Christmas carol.
11. Share what you like about Christmas.
12. Read Micah 5:2-4.
13. Tell the nativity story to each other.
14. Prepare Christmas cards to give out.
15. Read Isaiah 7:14.
16. Sing another Christmas carol.
17. Do deeds of service for each other.
18. Share a Christmas food.
19. Read Isaiah 9:6-7.
20. Go for a walk together.
21. Draw a Christmas picture together.
22. Read Luke 1:26-38.
23. Read Matthew 1:18-24.
24. Read Luke 2:1-7



## ACTION RESPONSE

Part of Christian waiting for Christ's coming again is to care for others with loving service. Purchase nonperishable grocery items to donate to a local food shelf. Pray for the people who will receive the food.



## MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord God, thank you for giving us hope for the heart and food for the plate. For Jesus our Saviour we watch and we wait. Amen.



## PRAYER

Gracious God, we thank you for your love that reaches out to us through Christ our Saviour. Give us joy and gladness as we wait for his coming again. Amen.



## BLESSING

May the God of grace and peace and the Lord Jesus Christ keep you strong in your faith until Jesus comes again.