

FOOT PRINT



A Letter from the Board of Elders

by Rick Nelson, Elder

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this, my calendar informs me that we are halfway through 2025, and it has been a time of change. The Board of Elders has had many challenges brought to us, and we are grateful for the support and prayers we do receive from the people of Foothills along the way.

Pastor Bode retired. Sort of. We celebrated his retirement in March. It was a short retirement. He is willing to fill our ministry vacancy part-time as the result of Pastor Eric answering his call from St. John's Lutheran Church in Beach Corner. So, we give thanks that God has provided for a shepherd for two congregations and pray that the good Lord will also fill our vacancy with a full-time shepherd.

The Board of Elders will see change as well. Robert Kubke and Austin Voss will end their terms at the end of June. We will miss their faithful service to Foothills and thank them for all they have done. We will be joined by Hans Dueck, Tim Hohm, and Trevor Heumann. Returning Elders are Rob Kaut, Lorne Rosenau, Kellen Rosenau, and Rick Nelson.

We are in a period of uncertainty. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any Elder. We are here to listen to you!

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A Letter from the Pastor

by Rev. David Bode, Vacancy Pastor

“But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.””

Romans 10:6–11

Dear Friends in Christ:

I missed noting something very important back in May of this year, as the Church marked the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Although the creed as we know it was not completed until a council in Constantinople in 387 A.D., (the creed originally ratified by the council ended with the words: “And in the Holy Spirit.”), the council of bishops who were called together by emperor Constantine met in the city of Nicaea in present-day Turkey from May 20 through August, 325 A.D. gave a great gift to the Church.

This was not an easy time for the church. There were a variety of heresies that were emerging. There was strife, violence and political manipulation that would take much time to explain. Yet, in the face of all of this, we are blessed to have this statement of faith that has been confessed in the church ever since it was formulated.

The creed was a confession written in direct opposition to a fourth-century Christian named Arius. He created conflict in the church by asserting that “there was a time when the Son of God was not”. For Arius, this meant that the Son of God was created by the Father and thus Jesus could not be true God. Sadly, this heresy continues today. A survey in 2022 seemed to indicate that up to 53% of Christians and 27% of evangelicals in the US agree or somewhat agree with the statement that “Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God.” I imagine that the numbers may be even a bit higher in Canada. This is a contradiction of what Scripture has always taught: **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”** (John 1:1, ESV) Christ Himself claimed: **“I and the Father are one.”**(John 10:30, ESV)

When we confess the creed, we confess the truth that is revealed in Scripture. Jesus is both true God and true man. He is God in the flesh. Luther said: “If Jesus were only a man, then we are in great trouble. For then His sacrifice would not be sufficient to pay for our sins. But because He is divine and human His sacrifice on the cross paid for the sins of the world.”

Paul reminds us **“Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”** He tells us that if you **confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** This is the truth that we confess in the Nicene Creed. It is the truth we are proud to confess as Lutheran Church–Canada. This is the Gospel itself. How wonderful to have this word in our hearts and in our mouths. Thanks be to God for the faithful witnesses who were true to the Lord and His Word of truth and who enable us to walk in their stead.

In Christ,
Pastor Bode

Our Summer Sermon Series:

I have always wanted to hear a sermon about...

For several weeks, we offered you an opportunity to say what you would like to hear in a sermon, as we seek to apply the wonderful, powerful, living Word of God to the questions of our lives. We had some interesting responses and appreciate your thoughtfulness.

As we hear that Word applied to our questions, may we be encouraged again in the fact that the Word of the Lord is the “one thing needful”, the very source of our hope, our life and our strength for each day.

The following is the schedule for this series, including the request that was made and the text and theme that will be the basis of that sermon. In two cases, we had similar requests. I have combined them into one sermon.

Requested Theme	Text and Theme	Date
Love and patience in times of grief	Our Hand in His - Isaiah 66:10–14	July 6, 2025
Praying for others / Praying for leaders who encourage evils like MAID	It's Important! - 1 Timothy 2:1-8	July 13, 2025
The Christ with us; the Christ in us	You're Surrounded! - Colossians 1:24-27	July 20, 2025
Guest Preacher – Pastor Hautz		July 27, 2025
Justification by faith / God's gifts in the Sacraments	From Futility to Faith - Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–26	Aug. 3, 2025
Job	When the Going Gets Tough, God is Still There - Job 42:1-9	Aug. 10, 2025
What is the Lutheran view of the Millenium? / Understanding Revelation	Don't Take It Too Literally - Revelation 20:1-6	Aug. 17, 2025
Confession and Absolution	Cleaning the Slate - Psalm 32:3-5	Aug. 24, 2025

We try to match the topics with the lessons for the day, but that isn't always possible. We know that in setting the schedule, your request may be addressed while you are on holidays, and we apologize. You can get the text of the sermons from the website: www.foothillslutheran.com

As we look to God's Word, may it bring blessings to us, and encourage us for all we do in His name!

The President's Report

by Dale Dusterhofs, President

At our annual general meeting on June 8 the congregation unanimously approved our long-term direction goals that we will be pursuing over the next 3 to 5 years. The goals were a summary of input from the congregation over the past year. Thank you to all of you who participated in the various surveys and town halls and in particular, thank you to the Long-Term Direction Committee consisting of Deaconess Miriam, Michelle Heumann, Stacey Bablitz, Evan Stene, Rick Nelson, Ralf Hinterleitner, and Kellen Rosenau for the hours of work compiling and summarizing the feedback from the congregation. We will now start formulating action plans to achieve our goals and when required, bring these back to the voters for approval. The Parish Planning Council will be working to achieve the goals set out in the plan.

At the voters' meeting we also discussed a request from the Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church for a donation to their building project. The congregation was in support of this and approved having further discussions with the Oromos as to amounts, timing, and conditions of this donation and that to bring this back to the voters approval by year end.



We also elected our new Parish Planning Council.

The new council is:

Dale Dusterhofs – President – 1 year remaining on term

Austin Voss – Vice President – 2-year term

Lorne Rosenau, Kellen Rosenau, Rob Kaut – Elders – 1 year remaining on term

Trevor Heumann, Rick Nelson, Tim Holm, and Hans Dueck – Elected for 2-year terms

Margit Hopkins – Treasurer – 2-year term.

Heather Sommers – Fellowship – 1 year remaining on term.

Michelle Funke – Board of Stewardship – 2-year term

Tobi Stene – Board of Education – 2-year term

Tim Roth - Board of Church Properties – 2-year term

Christine Heumann – Board of Human Care Ministry – 1 year term.

The board of Evangelism position is still vacant. If you have a heart for Evangelism, please contact me as it would be great to have all PPC positions filled this year.

I want to thank Robert Kubke (Elder) and Ralf Hinterleitner (Vice President) who will be stepping down this upcoming year from their positions. Thank you for your dedicated service to our Lord and our congregation.

Last year the PPC set two major goals. One was to present a long-term direction plan to the congregation by June and the second was to increase engagement in the congregation. Based on our ability to fill PPC roles this year, I believe we accomplished both goals. Thank you to all of you who serve our Lord by working in congregation in various roles. You are essential to our success.

In service to our Lord,
Dale Dusterhofs

Children and Family Ministry

by Deaconess Miriam Winstanley

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

On Sunday, June 15 our Sunday School students, teachers and helpers gathered to close out our Sunday School year with a service activity. Students put together dry ingredients for a “Country Soup-in-a-Jar.” Handmade cards were also made. Some jars will be distributed to some of our senior members as visits are made, and some went home with students to give to their fathers for Father’s Day.

We give thanks to God for our students, the parents who bring them, and our teachers and helpers who bring the word of God to them!

Our first day back in Sunday School will be **Sunday, September 7**. Watch for more information in your bulletins.



CHILDREN’S CHOIR

Children’s Choir is wrapped up for the summer. On June 5, we gave a short concert at Foothills Lutheran Manor, where children also had an opportunity to visit with the residents there. Keep an eye out for our start-up again in the fall!

If you are interested in having your children participate, please contact Deaconess Miriam at 403-284-1342 or miriam@foothillslutheran.com.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Our pattern for Ladies’ Bible Studies changes a bit during the summer.

Our Tuesday group has opted for a bi-weekly walk and devotion, with each member of the group taking charge of one of the evenings. The schedule is on the FLC calendar, but if you plan to join us, check in with Deaconess Miriam to find out where we will be walking.

Our Thursday afternoon study group will continue its practice of meeting weekly at 1:30 pm for an in-depth study of the readings for the upcoming Sunday. Members are asked to confirm their attendance, and if there are at least three of us, we will gather.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is scheduled for **July 21-25**. Thank you to the many people who have stepped forward to volunteer! Many of our volunteers took part in training on June 16, and others will participate on July 3 and July 10 (10:00am). Please pray that God would prepare the hearts and minds of the children who will be attending, and that He would bless the preparations of our teachers and helpers.



SILVER SAINTS

Is on a break for the summer. Watch for information about the plans for the fall!

FAMILY TIME IN CHRIST

Summer is here! Vacation plans are being made, children's activities are booked, and everyone is looking forward to spending more time outside. The summer goal for many families is to spend more time together. As you enjoy each other's company, spend some time each day on faith conversations. Families who talk about faith together when their children are young have an easier time engaging in more difficult conversations when their children approach their teen years. Lay a solid foundation now. Summer, when everyone is spending more relaxed time together, is a perfect time to practice.

- As you reflect on the activities of the day at supper time or before bed, talk about the highs and lows of the day (what was the favourite part, what was not so good). Look for God's blessings in both, and take time to pray together.
- Make your family a set of cards with faith-conversation starters. (Who is your favourite person in the Bible and why? What Bible passage comforts you when you are afraid? What do you like to talk with God about? What is your biggest question about God?) Deaconess Miriam has some other resources to help you with this. While you are in the car, or together at home, select one. Have everyone – parents too - answer. You might be surprised by the depth of your child's answer (or your own!) and the discussion that will ensue.
- Select a family devotion book to take on vacation or to begin using at home. Set aside time (first think in the morning or before bed are good times) to spend time in God's Word together. Some devotion books have discussion questions, or parents can devise their own questions. If you don't know the answer, parents, say so! It's an opportunity to show your children how to make use of Bible notes, concordances, and dictionaries to dig deeper. Your pastors and deaconess are here to help too!
- Don't forget to worship together, whether you are in town or out of town. You can find sister congregations during your travels at <https://www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca/find/>.

God bless your family faith conversations this summer!

Operation Christmas Child

Christmas may seem a long way off, however shoebox items can be purchased all year – especially when after-season items go on sale. You can find stuffies, toys, clothes and more for up to 75% off. Please consider shopping for this as we go through the year. Please let Elke know if you have any questions.

ABC Slo-pitch Tournament

Golden, BC - August 8-10

We have a Team Foothills! Twelve players from the Didsbury congregation will be joining our team. If you are still interested, please sign up as we can always make two teams. More information to come about potential practices in July.

Email McKenna at mckbablitz@gmail.com with any questions.

Board of Fellowship

by Heather Sommers

Wow - from the Pre-Call meeting, Voter's meeting and Call meeting, we have shared a lot of meals together in the month of June! I would like to thank all those that have assisted in the kitchen especially the Young Adults. They are always a blessing to spend time with.

The Hot Dog Indoor Picnic and High School Grad Recognition held on June 15 was a huge success. Thanks to Trevor, Colleen, Tobi and Sarah for preparing food, serving cake and just being there! Special thanks to the Hohm family for contributing two big boxes of potato chips.



SUMMER FELLOWSHIP TIME

As the past few months have been so busy and to give the coffee teams time to enjoy the summer, we will only have fellowship coffee time after service on the following non-communion Sundays:

July 13 & 27, August 10, 24, & 31

DEACONESS MIRIAM'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY

June 27 was Deaconess Miriam's 15th anniversary of her consecration as a rostered deacon, and Foothills has been very blessed through all her years of service with VBS, Sunday school, confirmation, youth and youth retreats, ladies' Bible studies, leader training, choir and music, support and care for people in difficult times, and so much more. Join us after service today as we celebrate with a cake to thank Deaconess Miriam for all she does for the church, and please continue to pray for and support her in her role as DPS of our congregation - God has given us a great blessing in calling her to serve here, and we are very thankful.



RALLY DAY SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 7TH

Watch for notices in the bulletin of a special event to celebrate the start of the various education programs at FLC. Have a wonderful summer!

LWMLC News

By Geraldine Chimirri-Russell, President

We have had an busy, exciting and inspiring time since the last edition of the Footprint where I reported on our upcoming plans. These have been realized with great success.

Our visit to the Manor in May for our annual Spring Tea went very well. Everyone was so grateful for Deaconess Miriam's musical talents as we all joined in singing seasonal songs and hymns. There was an abundance of food, as well as goodwill and companionship. How blessed we are.

We were welcomed at Grace Lutheran Church, here in Calgary, at the end of June for our annual Zone Meeting. It was a very fulfilling day spent with friends and new acquaintances from the LWMLC, Southern Alberta Zone.

The first of our Memory Books has been completed and is ready to be delivered. It represents the many talents and creativity of our members. Our last meeting of the season will focus on creating more such books, now we have a fine template.

We will resume our monthly meetings in September. We meet on the fourth Monday of the month for lunch, a social period, Bible Study and a brief business meeting. We welcome new members, new project ideas and mission opportunities.

Our thanks as always to the members of Foothills Lutheran Church who have so consistently supported us with your prayers and also with your financial contributions to our missionary work.

July Mission of the Month

*Lutheran Bible Translators
of Canada*

Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada (LBTC) believes that no language or cultural barrier should prevent people from having access to the Holy Word of God. With the help of God, they strive to translate the Bible into the heart languages of the world so that every person has the opportunity to read, hear, and understand the Good News of Jesus Christ.

This year marks their 50th year in service.

LBTC conducts linguistic research, translates the Bible, facilitates literacy, promotes Scripture use, trains indigenous people, and cooperates with local governments and educators, national church leaders and the local community. They involve Lutherans in Canada in building awareness through recruitment and by seeking partnerships for prayer, financial support, and encouragement.

August Mission of the Month

The Mustard Seed

The Mustard Seed is a Christian non-profit organization that has been caring for individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty since 1984. Operating in seven cities across Western Canada, The Mustard Seed is a supportive haven where people can have their physical, mental, and spiritual needs met and grow toward greater health and independence.

Programs and services include: basic needs - emergency shelter, meals, clothing, and hygiene items, health and wellness, housing, employment, spiritual care, community engagement, community impact centres.

Pastoral Call Extended

On June 22 the congregation met and reviewed five pastoral nominees for the Divine Call to FLC.

Pastor Fraser Pearce from Adelaide, Australia was selected.

The Call Committee and church leadership have contacted Pastor Pearce and sent the official call package to him.

We would expect his decision within approximately six weeks. Logistical and immigration timing will need to be determined if he accepts the call.

Please keep Pastor Pearce, his family and congregation, and our congregation in your prayers.

The Scripture Readings

Q: What is the rationale behind the three readings from the Holy Scriptures each Sunday?

A: The reading of the appointed texts of the Holy Scriptures in the Divine Service dates back to the practice of the Jewish people in the synagogue. This was practiced by our Lord in His hometown synagogue where He read a portion from the prophet Isaiah (St. Luke 4:16). The Church Father Justin Martyr (A.D. 150) tells of Scripture readings in the Divine Service “for as long as time permits.”

By the fifth and sixth centuries, certain texts or pericopes (pronounced “per-IK-ohpees”—from the Greek meaning “cutting around”) became associated with certain Sundays and festival days. Later these would become firmly established throughout the Western Church. The Lutherans of the Reformation time retained this system of reading the Holy Scriptures in the Sunday Divine Service because it was a time-honoured, time-proved way to proclaim God’s Word in the Church.

In 1969, the Roman Catholic Church issued a completely new series of Scripture readings. This lectionary (reading) series is a three-year series, each year focusing primarily on one of the three synoptic Gospels (St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke). In addition, the three-year series allows for greater scope in the presentation of Old Testament readings and Epistle readings than was previously known in lectionary systems of the past. In the new system, it is also possible, over the course of several Sundays, to maintain a continuous reading from one of the Epistles.

By the late 1970’s this system had been moderately revised for Lutheran Churches and is now commonly used by Lutherans of all stripes throughout North America.

Of the three readings, the Gospel Lesson is the highpoint. The reading of the Holy Gospel is the peak of the first half of the Divine Service, for it proclaims the Good News of our salvation in Jesus Christ. The sermon, which many look upon as the highpoint, actually stands in service of the Holy Gospel, acting as the means for illuminating and explaining the Gospel text. The Holy Gospel sets the theme for the day and from the earliest of times has been given a place of pride and honour in the readings at the Divine Service.

As Origin (an early Christian writer from about A.D.212), once said, “The Holy Gospel is the crown of all Holy Scriptures.”

