

First Sunday after Christmas
29 December 2024

HIGHWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH
419 Northmount Drive NW
Calgary, Alberta T2K 3H7
Telephone: 403-289-8206

Pastor: Rev. Michael Wellman

Organist: Rick VanderWoude **Secretary:** Liz Northam

Office Email: secretaryhlc@outlook.com

Email: pastorhlc@outlook.com

Website: www.highwoodlutheran.com

Organist's Blog: <https://highwoodorganist.wordpress.com>

Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4111340591>

PW: highwood

Zoom by Telephone Dial 1-587-328-1099

Meeting ID: 411 134 0591 # Passcode: 592794 #



~~~~~

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**ORGAN PRELUDE** “Preludium in D” by D. Buxtehude

**GATHERING**

Pg. 211

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *Please stand as you are able.  
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at  
baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

L Gracious God, ...

Pg. 212

*The leader announces God's forgiveness with these or similar  
words.*

L God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in  
sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have  
been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are  
forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice **No. 288**

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

**KYRIE & CANTICLE OF PRAISE** O Little Town of Bethlehem **No. 279**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** Pg. 159

L We pray. Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**FIRST LESSON** **1 Samuel 2: 18-20 and 26**

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy clothed with a linen ephod. And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the LORD.” So then they would return to their home.

Now the young man Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and also with man.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Sung* **Psalm 148**

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;

praise God | in the heights.

Praise the LORD, | all you angels;

sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.

Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;

sing praise, all you | shining stars.

Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,

and you waters a- | bove the heavens.  
Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they | were created,  
who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.  
Praise the LORD | from the earth,  
you sea monsters | and all deeps;  
fire and hail, | snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;  
mountains | and all hills,  
fruit trees | and all cedars;  
wild beasts | and all cattle,  
creeping things and | flying birds;  
sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers | of the world;  
young | men and maidens,  
old and | young together.  
Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth  
and heaven.  
The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for  
all | faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. |  
Hallelujah!  
Glory be to the Father, and | to the Son,  
and to the | Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the begin-| ning, is now  
and will be forever. | Amen.

## **SECOND LESSON**      **Colossians 3:12-17**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach

and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Please stand as you are able.*

Pg. 160

**THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:39-45**

**C Glory to you, O Lord**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

The First Noel

**No. 300**

**THE APOSTLES CREED**

Inside Front Cover and Page 105

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *Please stand as you are able.*

A We pray. Almighty and everlasting God, you are worthy to be held in reverence by all the mortal race. We give you thanks for the innumerable blessings which, despite our unworthiness, you have showered upon us.

We praise you especially that you have preserved for us in their purity your saving Word and the sacred ordinances of your house. Grant and preserve to your Church throughout the world purity of doctrine and faithful pastors who shall preach you

Word with power, and help all who hear rightly to understand and firmly to believe your Word of truth.

Protect and defend your people in time of tribulation and danger, that we, in communion with your Church and in unity with all Christian people, may fight the good fight of faith and in the end receive the fullness of salvation.

Upon all the nations of the earth bestow your grace. Especially we ask you to bless our land and all its inhabitants and all who are in authority. Cause your glory to dwell among us, and let mercy and truth, justice and peace everywhere prevail. We commend to your care all our schools, that virtue and useful knowledge may be nourished and the wholesome fruits of life may abound.

In your mercy defend us from all calamities by fire and water, from war and pestilence, from scarcity and famine. Protect and prosper all who labour, and cause all useful arts to flourish among us. Show yourself to be the helper of the sick and needy, the comforter of the forsaken and distressed.

For those who suffer and those who care for them especially, Anna Berwanger, Simret Bogale, Chrystine Cuch, Mariette Erasmus, Adeline Erick, Ruth Gummo, Dolores Hollowell, Donna Harbor, Genevieve Janssen, Julie Janssen Downe, Eleanora Lahoda, Fay Larsen, Amy Lynch, Jean McCowan, Mark Mutschlechner, Bruce and Judith Nagel, Jerry Rasmuson and family, Jim and Joyce Rasmussen, David Sr. and Joan Richardson, Vern Schnell, Rose Sinclair, Sam Skogen, those we name aloud ... and those we carry in our hearts.

Accept, we pray, our bodies and souls, our hearts and minds, our talents, and powers, together with these gifts, as our offering of praise.

For all virtually gathered for this service, and those attending to the care of others and to beneficial endeavours that keep them away from worshipping.

For Ukraine, the Holy Land and all regions experiencing the terror of war. Let the bloodshed and war crimes come to an end. For wisdom, peace, and justice to prevail.

And as we are strangers and pilgrims on earth, help us to prepare for the world to come, doing the work which you have given us to do while it is day, before that night comes when no one can

work. And, when our last hour shall come, support us by your power and receive us into your everlasting kingdom, where, with your Son our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, God forever.

**C Amen.**

**THE PEACE**

Pg. 218

*Please be seated.*

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERING**

*The congregation remains seated as the offering is collected*

**OFFERTORY HYMN** “This Day is so Full of Joy” arr. J.S. Bach **No.**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Pg. 220

**L** Let us pray. Praise and thanks...

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (Version I)

Pg. 221

*Please be seated.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

Pg. 221

**L** Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Has Ended **No. 569**

**DISMISSAL**

Pg. 222

**L** Go forth into the world...

**C Thanks be to God!**

**ORGAN POSTLUDE** “Noel X” by L.C. Daquin

~~~~~

WELCOME to all gathered here today. Join us for refreshments and conversation downstairs after worship, Questions? Ask one of today’s servants or speak with the pastor.

SPECIAL THANKS to Jennelle Hughes for leading us in our service today, and to Sam Vander Woude for sharing his musical talents with us.

WE THANK TODAY’S SERVANTS

Usher: Our volunteer
 Lector: David Richardson
 Assistant: Jennifer Hanson
 Altar Guild: Clarice Rasmuson, Jennifer Hanson
 Refreshments: Clarice Rasmuson
 Zoom Host: Phil Tang, Ahmed Conteh

OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

Last week	22 Dec	24 Dec	25 Dec	Budget 2024
Current	\$ 2,025	2,071	675	\$2,911
Benevolence	\$ 0			
Building Fund	\$ 10			
Other	\$ 2,440			
Attendance	44	117	29	

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Today 29 Dec 11:45 PM Fellowship and Refreshments
 2:00 PM CFMA Worship
 Monday 30 Dec Office Closed
 7:00 PM 12 Step Program
 Tuesday 31 Dec Office Closed
 6:30 PM Never Alone Peer Support
 Wed. 1 Jan 2025 Office Closed
 9:30 AM 12 Step Program
 7:00 PM 12 Step Program
 Friday 3 Jan 7:00 PM 12 Step Program
 Saturday 4 Jan 9:00 AM House of Hope Worship
 10:00 AM Men’s Breakfast at
 Ace Casino Airport
 Sunday 5 Jan 10:30 AM Second Sunday after Christmas
 Holy Communion Service

VOLUNTEERS – Special thanks for our volunteers who stepped up during this holiday season. Everything went smoother with your help.

END OF YEAR DONATIONS – 2024 is almost over. A year-end donation benefits you on your taxes. Some companies will match your donation – check with yours. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our church throughout the year.

MEN'S BREAKFAST – All men and your guest(s) are welcome to join us at Ace Casino Airport for our monthly breakfast on Saturday 4 January 2025.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY will begin again on the 7th of January 2024. All ladies are welcome.

ANNUAL REPORTS are due to the office no later than 17 January 2024.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE - If you need a ride to church, contact Elizabeth Anderson 587 897 0548 or Bill Strand 403 239 9894

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS Second Sunday after Christmas Year C
Sirach 24:1-12 Wisdom 10:15-21
Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:1-18

May God's blessings be upon
you and your family
throughout the New Year.