

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If you are a guest today, please sign our guest book! Welcome here! We're very glad you came!

Children in Worship: We welcome and encourage children to share in worship. Even very young children see faith in action as we pray and sing and commune together. Children's lessons are available at both entrances, or by checking with any of the ushers.

Communion: If you are unable to reach the serving pastor during communion - they can come to you. Please let an usher know and they will make sure you receive communion.

Hearing Assistance: Devices are available at the sound booth.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for one for yourself or a loved one!

Cell phones and pagers should be turned to silent.

Washrooms: located in the narthex and Education Wing, upstairs and down.

Elevator: located next to the church office.

Masks are optional at all services.

Visitation: If you are homebound or in the hospital or know of someone who is and would like to receive visits from our Visitation Team or receive communion at home, please call Jen in the office and she'll make sure you are on the list!

Drop Box: The drop box at the side entrance nearest to the office is available for envelopes or small items.

Office Information: Please have all announcements in to the office by Thursdays at 10am if you want them in the bulletin for the upcoming Sunday. Bulletins are printed by 11am on Thursdays. If you have events or meetings to go on the monthly calendar, get them to the office the Wednesday before the last Sunday of the month.

Office Hours: 10am to 2pm, Monday to Friday

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STEINBACH INC.

MEMBER OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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Sunday, December 22nd, 2024
Welcome to our Family Worship Service
On this IV Sunday of Advent

Christmas at St. Paul's

22

DEC

Worship Service

Join us for Worship this morning and hear Good News from the Sunday School Children.

10 AM

24

DEC

Candlelight Service

Come honour the holiest of nights with word, song and light.

6:30 PM

25

DEC

Christmas Day Service

Hallelujah! Christ is born! Let's celebrate his birth! Birthday Cake and coffee following service.

10 AM

29

DEC

Family Carol Service

Sunday morning worship loaded with all of our wonderful Christmas Carols!

10 AM

ALL I WANT FOR
CHRISTMAS IS A
COMFY SPACE AND A
PILE OF BOOKS!

If this is your
Christmas wish -
check out our
Library!

Christmas titles for
everyone are on
display!



Thanks to Karen Neufeld, our
librarian, for getting
everything ready!





THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 22ND, 2024

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

WELCOME FROM KINDERGARTEN & GRADE 1 STUDENTS

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray,

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: MICAH 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 80:1-7

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

C: before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

L: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

C: O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

L: You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

C: You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.

L: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." ⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMME

SONG: "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" #251

APOSTLES CREED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: "Christmas Offering"

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray,

C: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: You, that to truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbour, and intend to lead the new life, following the commandments of God and walking in his holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort, and make your confession to Almighty God. God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

L: God of might,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbours. We have trusted false promises.

L: God in our midst,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

L: May Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE TABLE

L: Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ says to all that truly turn to him. "Come to me all that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you." "God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that all who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life." Hear also what Saint Paul says: "This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Hear also what Saint John says: "If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins."

L: The Lord be with you

C: and also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again, he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

SONG: "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"

L: On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory. Christ is the bread of life:

C: When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

L: We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

COMMUNION SONGS

"Round The Table"

"Communion"

"Behold The Lamb"

"Come To The Table"

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for

leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

L: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING SONG: "We Receive Your Blessing/Doxology"


DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Prepare for Emmanuel!

C: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER REMINDERS

In your prayers this week, please remember:

 Cari Doerksen, Dalia Dyck, Adelaide Freund, Chris Funk, Janet Harder, Tina Heckert, Herta Kihn, Robert Krentz, Tabrina Krentz, Ruby Myran, Gordon & Iris Pylpyjuk, Tony Sawatzky, Ray Schalla, Helmuth Renz, Khrista Vogt, Mary Wiebe and Bishop Geoff Woodcroft.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the family and friends of Jim Lohr who passed away on Tuesday, December 17th. The funeral was held here Saturday afternoon. "May God embrace you with his comfort and sustain you by His grace."

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

During our Christmas Eve service, the Sunday School children will be singing us several songs and the older children will have readings of Good News for us to hear. Come, see and hear what they all have to say!

CHRISTMAS HOME COMMUNION

If you or a loved one is unable to attend Christmas services (December 24th, 25th, 29th and January 5th) and would like to receive home communion from Pastor Tim during the Christmas Season (December 26th to January 6th) please phone the office to book a time. He is scheduling these visits in the morning, unless an alternate time works best for you.

THANK YOU

~Thank you to all who have participated in today's services!

~Thank you Susan, Cory and all the teachers and students for your hard work in preparing and presenting the Christmas story to us! We love hearing from our children!



ATTENDANCE: December 15, 2024

Traditional - 112

Contemporary - 44

Sunday School - not reported

OFFERING: \$55,377