

WORSHIP NOTES

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.

Need A Helping Hand? If you or someone you know needs assistance getting in or out of the church, please let us know. We're happy to arrange help - Your church family is here for you! Contact the office at office@stpaulsteinbach.org or (204)-326-3758.

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.

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

Office Hours: 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday

PRAYING WITH THE SAINTS IN ADVENT

The Sundays of Advent celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Midweek worship, grounded in the Sunday readings, offers an added time of prayer and praise as we honor December's commemorations. As we look to Christ—our light breaking through the winter darkness—we also see that light reflected in ordinary lives. Join us Wednesdays at 7 p.m. as we reflect on Sts. Nicholas (Dec. 3), Ambrose (Dec. 10), and Lucy (Dec. 17), preparing our hearts to receive in faith what they now see face to face.

COMMUNION DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

During this Christmas season, we want everyone to have the opportunity to share in communion. If you are unable to attend our Christmas service and would like to receive communion at home during Christmas week (Dec. 26-31), please contact the church office to make an appointment. We are thankful to share this season with you.

GIVE GIFTS FROM THE HEART THIS CHRISTMAS

Canadian Lutheran World Relief's new *Gift from the Heart catalogue* has something to inspire and delight anyone on your list this year. It's full of meaningful, tangible gifts that will touch your loved ones and share God's love with the world! Copies are available through the church, by emailing clwr@clwr.org, or you can shop online at clwr.org/GFTH.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR PICK-UP

Offering envelopes for 2026 are now available. A table has been set up in the narthex with your envelope package. The envelope boxes will be in alphabetical order by **last names**. Please take a moment after the service to stop by and pick yours up. If you don't see your envelope number, are new but do not have an envelope number, or have any questions, please contact the office and we'll be happy to help.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our junior youth numbers are increasing. One additional female adult volunteer is needed. Please contact Parish Assistant Steve to sign up.

IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for the life and witness of **Rev. Gordon Hendrickson** who passed into God's presence on **December 6**. Ordained in 1949, Rev. Hendrickson served parishes in Manitoba and Saskatchewan until his retirement in 1991. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints," (Ps 116:15).

SWEET BLESSINGS WANTED!

Our Youth Group loves to gather, grow in faith, and share life together—and a plate of cookies makes it all the sweeter! If you'd like to donate an assortment of cookies for their weekly gatherings, your kindness will be a true treat. Donations may be dropped off at the office during the week or brought to the church kitchen on Sunday mornings. Thank you for supporting our youth with both love and cookies!

HAWAIIAN DINNER

We are collecting supplies for the event. We are specifically looking for lunch-sized brown paper bags and burlap. If you have questions or have supplies to donate, please contact Sandy at 204-346-4682. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser!

SUNDAY SCHOOL IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 20th - 10:00 AM program rehearsal in Sanctuary

Dec. 21st - Regular Sunday school day - continue rehearsal & Christmas cookie treat!

Dec. 24th - At 7:00 PM Christmas Program - please have children at the church 45 mins - 1 hour early to get ready.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have participated in today's service.

ATTENDANCE: December 7, 2025

Traditional - 149

Family - 45

Sunday School - 54

OFFERING: \$ 26,811.3

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

MEMBER OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

465 Henry Street, Steinbach MB R5G 0H1

204-326-3758 Fax 204-326-2548

email: office@stpaulsteinbach.org www.stpaulsteinbach.org

Lead Pastor: Reverend Dr. Tim Perry 438-969-1362

Parish Assistant: Stephen Bilski 204-392-1444



Sunday, December 14th, 2025 Welcome to our Traditional Worship Service On this 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 14th
9:30 AM - Traditional Service
11:00 AM - Family Service

Monday, December 15th
6:30 PM - Junior Youth

Wednesday, December 17th
6:30 PM - Young Adults
7:00 PM - Scouts
7:00 PM - Pioneer Girls
7:00 PM - Mid Week Advent Service

Thursday, December 18th
6:30 PM - Senior Youth

Sunday, December 21st
9:30 AM - Traditional Service
11:00 AM - Family Service

Morning Prayer: 8:30 AM
(Mon. - Thurs. in Chapel)

Evening Prayer: 4:00 PM
(Mon. - Thurs. in Chapel)

HOLY COMMUNION

God feeds and renews us with the presence of Jesus Christ. In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission. In response to the Lord's invitation I come - confessing my sin, trusting that the Lord is truly present, believing that to receive Him is to receive forgiveness - to partake of the Lord's Supper. People of all ages and faith communities are welcome.

Holy Communion is served in a continuous format unless announced otherwise. Participants are asked to fill out a registration card, available in the pews or at both entrances, and place them in the baskets at the entrances, or in the offering plates.

Ushers will direct you toward the aisle to come forward to the serving stations. If you desire to commune, extend your hand to the server who will place a wafer in your hand. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, simply say "gluten-free" to the server. Wine is served from the chalice or individual cups; white grape juice is served from individual cups.

Come and hold in your hand and taste on your lips the

OUR MISSION

God's purpose for
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church is:
Accepting all people through God's grace,
sharing our faith in Christ,
and making disciples.



KEEP IT REAL! BRING IT HOME!



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 7TH, 2025

Welcome & Announcements

Scripture Sentence

L: Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem;

C: for the Lord has comforted his people. (Isaiah 52:9)

Advent Wreath Liturgy

Song: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ELW 257, st. 1

Litany

L1: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming. O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.

L2: We gather together to allow our deeply held hopes to be reshaped by God's promises. O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.

L1: We wait for the day when God will make for us a future that is no longer predicated on our fear. O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.

L2: We find a new receptivity within us that desires God's will over our own will and relies on God's justice and mercy to accomplish it. O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.

L1: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.

C: Amen.

Light The Three Candles

Song: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ELW 257, st.4

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.

Canticle Of Praise: "Fling Wide The Gate" v.1&4 only #259

Prayer of the Day

L: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God,

C: and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GOD'S WORD: Robin & Norman Paisley

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.]] ³Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of

jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; he unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: Luke 1:46b-55

L: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

C: for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:

L: you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

C: You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

L: You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

C: casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

L: You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

C: You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,

L: the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: "Hark A Thrilling Voice" #246 v.1 (tune of 696)

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

C: Glory to you, O Lord

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you,

and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

L: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Hymn of the Day: "Prepare The Royal Highway" #264

Apostle's Creed

Prayers of the People

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Doxology - #884

Offertory Prayer

L: Nourishing God,

C: you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this sacrament, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving - p. 129

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:

C: (sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution - p. 132

L: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophet's hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me

L: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

L: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

L: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

L: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer - p. 134

Invitation to Communion

L: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

Communion Hymns

"Word Of God, Come Down To Earth" #510

"O Jesus, Joy Of Loving Hearts" #658

"Christ Be Our Light" #715

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" #254

The Blessing

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

L: We give thanks, Lord, for these heavenly gifts, kindle us with the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Benediction

L: May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for life eternal. May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light. May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ, help you bear the fruits of holiness.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" #251

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. The Lord is coming soon!

C: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER REMINDERS

In your prayers this week, please remember: John, Mario & Kayla Dupont, Dalia Dyc, Adelaide Freund, Chris Funk, Ed Harder, Tina Heckert, Linda James, Val & Nathan Kehler, Ruth Ketter, Pastor Al Maier, Rick Martins, Glorian Mehling, Ruby Myran, Mary Pelletier, Gordon & Iris Pylypjuk, Helmuth Renz, Tony Sawatzky, Ray Schalla, Khrista Vogt, Mary Wiebe, Kathy Wintoniw (Abby & Julia), and Bishop Geoff Woodcroft.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is offered in the **Continuous Format today**. Registration cards are available in the pews and at both entrances. Participants are asked to fill out a card and place it in the basket provided or in the offering plate. All are welcome at God's table.