

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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Youth & Young Adult Minister: Stephen Bilski 204-392-1444



Sunday, December 15th, 2024 Welcome to our Traditional Worship Service On this III Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 15th

9am - Confirmation

9:30 - Worship Service

9:30 - Sunday School

Coffee Time!!

11am - Family Worship

Thursday, December 19th

6:30pm - Youth Group

7pm - Midweek Advent Service

Saturday, December 21st

10am - Sunday School Christmas Rehearsal

Sunday, December 22nd

10am - Worship Service with the Sunday School giving us a special Christmas message

Tuesday, December 24th

6:30pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25th

10am - Christmas Day Service

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 love we cannot comprehend.

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!

Christmas
at
St. Paul's

22 D E C	Worship Service Join us for Worship this morning and hear Good News from the Sunday School Children. 10 AM
24 D E C	Candlelight Service Come honour the holiest of nights with word, song and light. 6:30 PM
25 D E C	Christmas Day Service Hallelujah! Christ is born! Let's celebrate his birth! Birthday Cake and coffee following service. 10 AM
29 D E C	Family Carol Service Sunday morning worship loaded with all of our wonderful Christmas Carols! 10 AM





THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 15TH, 2024

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: 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: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Saviour, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray,

C: **Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING: ISAIAH 12:2-6

L: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

C: **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

L: And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

C: **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

L: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: #168 (sung)

C: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

L: I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.

C: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 3:7-18

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

L: The gospel of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: #168 (sung)

C: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers" #244

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY - #884

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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - p. 129

WORDS OF INSTITUTION - p. 132

THE LORD'S PRAYER - p. 134

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Come to the Table of Mercy" #481 (2x)

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" #272

"The Love of God"

"How Deep the Father's Love"

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.

THE BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"The King Shall Come" #260

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER REMINDERS

In your prayers this week, please remember:

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

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

We have received a memorial donation in honour of **Norma Barkman** (November 5, 2024) from Angeline Mensch. *"Friendship is like a star. Even when it disappears, you know it is still there."*

We have also received a memorial donation from Duane & Marilyn Engel in loving memory of: **Gordon Pachal** (December 12, 2020), **Ken Schmidtke** (July 15, 2024), **Reg Freund** (August 19, 2024) and **Norma Barkman** (November 5, 2024). *"Silent thoughts and memories remain of those special ones we now miss. Forever in our hearts."*

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Please join us next Sunday at 10am for one very special service! Our smallest Sunday School children will be bringing to us the Good News of Jesus' birth during that service and we will also be blessed with all of the Sunday School children singing!

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!



ATTENDANCE:
Traditional - 127
Contemporary - 48
Sunday School - not reported

OFFERING: \$24,983