

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

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



## Sunday, December 29th, 2024 Welcome to our Family Worship Service On this 1 Sunday of Christmas

**Sunday, December 29th**  
10am - Family Carol Service

**Sunday, January 5th**  
9am - Confirmation  
9:30 - Worship Service  
9:30 - Sunday School  
Coffee Time!!  
11am - Family Worship Service

**Thursday, January 9th**  
6:30pm - Youth Group

**Sunday, January 12th**  
10am - Worship Service with  
Baptisms and Reaffirmation of Baptisms

**Tuesday, January 14th**  
7pm - Council Meeting

**Thursday, January 16th**  
6:30pm - Youth Group

### 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!**



# THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 29TH, 2024

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATHERING SONG:** *“Hark The Herald Angels Sing” #270*

### GATHERING: PSALM 148

L: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

**C: Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

L: Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

**C: Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

**C: who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

L: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

**C: fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**

L: mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

**C: wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

L: sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

**C: young men and maidens, old and young together.**

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendour is over earth and heaven.

**C: 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!**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

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

**C: we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

L: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

**C: Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray,

**C: 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 you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## CHILDREN’S LESSON

**SONG:** *“Away in a Manger” #277*

### GOD’S WORD

#### FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEL 2:18-20, 26

<sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD”; and then they would return to their home. <sup>26</sup> Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup> As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52

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

<sup>41</sup> Now every year [Jesus’] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” <sup>49</sup> He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### MESSAGE

**SONG:** *“Peace has Come”*

### APOSTLES CREED

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

**OFFERING** *“Offering”*

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

#### THE TABLE

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your heads.

**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: All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for love of our fallen race humbled himself, was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us. In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Song:** *“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”*

L: Most merciful Lord,

**C: your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

L: Our Lord Jesus, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: 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. Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ’s holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood. Amen.

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

#### COMMUNION SONGS

*“What Child is This” #296*

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem” #279*

*“Do You Hear What I Hear”*

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

**C: Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

L: The God of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** *“Good Christian Friends Rejoice” #288*

### DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## PRAYER REMINDERS

In your prayers this week, please remember:

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

## SOUP & PIE FUNDRAISER

There is going to be a Soup & Pie Fundraiser on Sunday, January 19th at Friedensfeld Hall from 11am to 2pm to help raise money for Dalia Dyck’s medical expenses at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Dalia is Barb Dyck’s granddaughter and she has been battling an unknown illness her entire life. The family has exhausted all Canadian avenues of treatment/diagnosis and have decided that this is the best option for Dalia to try and help her. While there, Dalia will be undergoing a battery of tests and have multiple appointments with multiple specialists. This will all have to be paid for as well as travel, lodging and meals for her and her parents while they are doing all of this. Please consider supporting Dalia and her family and come out for a yummy lunch!

## THANK YOU ISN’T ENOUGH...

Our Christmas celebrations were made possible by lots of hard work, often behind the scenes. A huge thanks from Pastor Tim is offered to Don Neufeld and all who helped with extra caretaking duties, Jennifer Stepaniuk and all who helped prepare for multiple services, Sandy and Colin Kihn and all who helped with decorating, Susan Nickel and the Advent and Children’s Choirs, Cory Funk and the Sunday School teachers, and Sheldon, Chris and the Deacons who tended to the sanctuary, ushered, and looked after all the tech requirements. Thank you for freeing so many of us to worship freely over Christmas week, allowing us to focus on God’s gift to us in Jesus!

A note from pastor Tim: Thanks to all who sent good wishes, gifts and goodies this Christmas. Rachel and I are deeply touched by your kindness and generosity regularly, and especially at this time of year. Merry Christmas!

And thank you to those participating in today’s service!



**ATTENDANCE:**  
December 22nd - 237  
Offering: \$48,023  
Christmas Offering: \$18,515