

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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice #288

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; Music: German carol; Public Domain

Devotion

This medieval carol, originating in Latin, is simple and clear. I've always liked that about it. The first verse opens with an invitation to all Christ-friends to rejoice, and to do so fully, in heart, soul, and voice. We are free to wholly embody our praise. It announces the reason for our joy: that Christ is with us—in the manger now, born today. Note the immediacy, the present tense of the poetic imagination—what happened two millennia ago still is happening now, today. Jesus is born again today, and his birth will keep happening, for us, for all Christ friends, and for ox and ass and all the other creatures. Simple, clear words with a surprisingly grand message. Verse two calls us to rejoice in endless bliss, to sing that heaven's door is opened, to rest our souls in the blessings of this Child's coming. Verse three invites our hearts to no longer fear, even the grave, for Christ comes to rescue and to call all of us into this particular joy—the promise of life in him, now for each other, and beyond for all who have been and will be. The hymn proclaims that our present and our future are bound up in Christ's birth. Christ is our calling and our hope. His blessing is for ourselves and the whole community of Christ-friends. Indeed, so we rejoice and sing!

Prayer

Dearest Christ, let our voices, hearts, and souls resound in praise for your coming yet again, and for what that coming means for us—for the life of the present and its call to serve and the hope of the bliss to come, where we may join in the blessed, endless song of all your friends. Amen.

Wade Wacholz '17 M.Div. Retired, Eden Prairie, MN

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, January 5, 2025 Welcome to our Family Worship Service On this II Sunday of Christmas

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

Sunday, January 12th
10am - Worship Service Celebrating Baptisms and
Re-Affirmation of Baptisms

Monday, January 13th
6:30pm - Junior Youth Group *NEW* Grades 5-8

Tuesday, January 14th
7pm - Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 15th
6:30pm - Senior Youth Group *NEW* Grades 9-12

Looking Ahead:
Thursday, January 23rd
7pm - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 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!





THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS JANUARY 5, 2025

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG: “Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)”

GATHERING: PSALM 147:12-20

- L: Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,
C: who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.
- L: God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
C: God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.
- L: God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.
C: God scatters hail like breadcrumbs. Who can stand against God’s cold?
- L: The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.
C: God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.
- L: The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God’s judgments. 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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- L: 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: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN’S LESSON

SONG: “What Child is This”

GOD’S WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.” ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and

gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.” ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

- L: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

- L: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of

man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

- L: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

SONG: “Hope of the Nations”

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING “Offering”

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- L: Let us pray,
C: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

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

“Jesus, Feed Us”
“O Lord, You’re Beautiful”

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.

THE BLESSING

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: “Barocha”

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, Linda James, Herta Kihn, Robert Krentz, Tabrina Krentz, Ruby Myran, Gordon & Iris Pylpjuuk, Tony Sawatzky, Ray Schalla, Helmuth Renz, Khrista Vogt, Mary Wiebe and Bishop Geoff Woodcroft.

MEMORIAL GIFT

We have received a memorial gift from Norm & Glorian Mehling and Duane & Marilyn Engel in loving memory of their dear friend **Jim Lohr** (December 17, 2024). “*Silent thoughts of times together hold memories that will last forever.*”

QUILTING IS STARTING SOON!

Get your needles out! It’s time to quilt! Starting Wednesday, January 15th at 10am, All are welcome to have a little fun with fabric! You don’t even know how to sew! Bring a bag lunch. Bring a friend!



THANK YOU

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

**ATTENDANCE: December 29, 2024
Worship Service - 141**

OFFERING (Dec 25-29): \$55,797