

Grace Mennonite Church
First Advent Worship Service
Sunday, December 2
10:00 am



... waiting

Grace Mennonite Church

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Pastors Mel Letkeman & Kyle Penner
www.gracesteinbach.ca
204-326-3707

First Advent

Welcome

Come, thou long-expected Jesus HWB# 178

Life of the Congregation

Call to Worship

Oh, how shall I receive thee HWB# 182
Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem

Micah 4:1-5

Waiting

O come, O come, Immanuel HWB# 172

Children's Time

Offering

Children may leave for children's church.

Magnificat Prayer

Luke 2:21-38

Black Flies, Peppernuts, & Year-End Tax Planning

Communion

Eat this bread HWB# 471***Taste and see*** STJ #86***I am the Bread of life*** HWB# 472

Congregational Prayer

Mary's Boy Child

Benediction

Participants in today's Worship Service

Worship Speaker:	Kyle Penner
Worship Leader:	Judy Hiebert
Song Leaders:	Jodi Unger, Donna & Shaun Neufeldt
Accompanists:	Kim & Rob Sidorchuk
Candle lighters:	Matthew, Jessica & Theodore Boese
Poetry Reader:	Gary Bergman
Children's Church:	Tom Wiebe, Sarah Dyck, Enid Letkeman, Blayne Stobbe-Wiebe
Ushers:	Monica Klassen, Brenda Enns, Bill Sawatsky
Coffee Servers:	John & Eileen Toews
Sound Tec:	Chris Peters
Computer Tec:	Kurt Barz

Please see bulletin insert for Advent Worship at Grace.



Sunday's at Grace

Children's Church for ages 3 to Grade 8 is held during the worship service.

You may pick up your children following the worship service in the upper level, classrooms 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14.

Sisters of Grace

We invite all women for a time of sharing and prayer as we read the book:

We Make the Road by Walking (Brian McLaren)

We will meet in the lounge located in the lower level.

We Pray

We pray for those that serve Internationally:

Mike & Cheryl Nimz in the UK

Daniel & Damaris Loewen-Rudgers and their family in Kenya

John & Karen Friesen in the Middle East

Prayer for this week:

Help us to pay attention to our most profound longings.

Let the truth behind those longings rise to the surface before suppressing them with lesser fare because the longings themselves may be the first reliable indicators of the coming one who is our true fulfillment and joy. Steve Bell

This week at Grace:

- Monday: Red River English classes (Monday thru Thursday)
Sandwich preparation for HSD students, 9:00 am
- Tuesday: Soup's On, 5:00 pm
- Wednesday: Little Bits of Grace Coffee, 9:30 am
- Thursday: Sweet Surrender book study, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
Mandate 10 - Commitment: Should marriage be a commitment to an institution?
Epilogue: Reclaiming Christian Marriage
- Friday: Soup's On, 5:00 pm
- Sunday: (9th) Little Bits of Grace Lunch - All families with children are invited to join us for a lunch in the lower level following the worship service.

A note from the Grace Women's Coffee Time: The Women's Christmas tea will not be held this year. All women are invited to our Christmas Coffee Time, December 19, at 10 am. More info to follow.

Building Fund Pledges: Just a reminder that for those people with outstanding 2018 building fund pledges, if you want these funds to be included on your 2018 tax receipt the funds need to be received by December 31. Thank you



Christmas has come to the library!

Come and check out our new children's, youth, juvenile and adult fiction books.

CALLING ALL SINGERS!

Please come and join the Grace Christmas Eve Choir!
Rehearsals on Sundays,
Dec. 2, 9, and 16 from 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.
All are Welcome!
Conductor: Shirley Bestvater ***Accompanist: Kim Sidorchuk***



You are invited to an evening with Steve Bell - Friday, December 14th 7:00 pm
at Steinbach Mennonite Brethren Church. Admission is free with a freewill donation to build Christian schools in Latin America. www.genrising.org

Faith and Life Male Choir and Women's Chorus Christmas Concerts:
December 15, 7:00 pm Springfield Heights Mennonite Church, Winnipeg
December 16, 3:00 pm Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church, Altona.
A freewill offering to support the choir ministry will be taken.

Grace contacts:

Pastor:	Mel Letkeman	mel@gracesteinbach.ca
Associate Pastor:	Kyle Penner	kyle@gracesteinbach.ca
Administrative Office: (hours: 9:30 – 1:30)		office@gracesteinbach.ca
Administrative Assistant: <i>Tuesday & Wednesday</i>	Cathy Barkman	cathy@gracesteinbach.ca
Administrative Assistant: <i>Thursday & Friday</i>	Audrey Frey	audrey@gracesteinbach.ca

Advent at Grace

Today Advent begins. This year we will be telling the Christmas Story in the Sundays leading up to Christmas. But, we will not tell the story chronologically. Rather we will begin, today, with a story about waiting which occurs shortly after Jesus birth.

It is the story of **Anna and Simeon** in **Luke 2:21-38**. In this story Simeon, is 'waiting' for God's work and Anna speaks about Jesus in relation to all who were 'looking forward' to the redemption of Israel.

What were they waiting for? What are we waiting for as we await Jesus coming (besides lights, music, candy, candles, food and gifts)? What is our world waiting for?

Hopefully we can wonder about that through our singing, our praying, our speaking, our candle lighting and our watching during the four Sundays of Advent. Each Sunday we will have Special Music with some visuals which represent our world and those in our world who are 'waiting' for something good to come from God, for them, for our earth.

While we here are not specifically 'pictured', may the visuals helps us to identify with their longings and to identify our own longings, that for which we wait, as we hope for God's work in Jesus in our lives and the life of our community.

And as we do may we pray in hope...
'Come thou long expected Jesus...'

Advent Worship at Grace

Sunday, December 2 - First Advent & Communion

Luke 2:21-38

Sunday, December 9 - Second Advent

Matthew 1:18-25

Little Bits of Grace Lunch after Worship

All families with children are invited to join us for a lunch in the lower level following the worship service.

Sunday, December 16 – Third Advent

Luke 2:1-20

Children Singing as part of Morning Worship

Paungassi Gift Wrapping after Worship

Thursday, December 20

7:00 pm – Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 23 – Fourth Advent

Luke 1:26-56

Monday, December 24

7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service



Tuesday, December 25

There will be no Christmas Morning Worship this year.

December 2 – December 23

The **Children’s Church** program will be collecting for both local and global needs over Advent.

During the service,

the youngest class will be collecting boxes of cereal to donate to Helping Hands Food Bank.

After the service,

the K-4 classes will be collecting donation money to create hygiene kits for MCC.

The children will run a “store” where you can buy the items needed to assemble the kits.