

*Grace Mennonite Church
Third Advent Worship Service
Sunday, December 16
10:00 am*



... rejoicing and joining

Grace Mennonite Church

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

Third Advent

Welcome & Life of the Congregation

Come, thou long-expected Jesus HWB# 178 vs 1

Call to Worship

O come, all ye faithful HWB# 212

Angels we have heard on high HWB# 197

Isaiah 35: 1-6

Magnificat Prayer

Children's Program

Children's Time, Giving Project & Offering

Children may leave for children's church.

Waiting

Poetry/Worship Music /Candle lighting

The Innkeeper

Luke 2:1-20

The Innkeeper:

A Chronologically Impossible Modern Day Retelling of the Story

(based on the Innkeeper, by Frederick Buechner)

A Thousand Candles

Congregational Prayer

Even So, Lord Jesus Come

Benediction

Participants in today's Worship Service:

Worship Speaker: Kyle Penner

Worship Leader: Andrea Dick

Song Leaders:

Cindy Blatz, Wendi Friesen, Loretta Friesen, David Graham

Accompanist:

Karen Pries

Candle lighters: Garth & Stephanie, Lewis & Mabel Allan

Poetry Reader: Hannah Neufeldt

Children's Church:

Aria Klassen & Jennifer Rogalsky

Children's Church: Leni Schroeder, Rebeka Schroeder, Blayne Stobbe-Wiebe, Amanda Dupont

Ushers: Garry Barkman, Shannon Gerbrandt

Coffee Servers: Dennis & Judy Hiebert

Sound Tec: Tim Schmitt

Computer Tec: Kurt Barz

Sunday's at Grace

All are welcome to join us for coffee in the foyer,
following the worship service this morning.

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

11:15 am

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 **Jake Penner**, in Vita.
He has been seriously ill the past two weeks.

We pray for those dealing with ongoing medical concerns and treatments:

**Matt Rogalsky, John Neufeld, Regon Barkman, Laurie Kroeker,
Betty Koop, Elmer & Shirley Joy.**

Prayer for this week:

**Help us to be present to all the good things at Christmastime.
And give us peace when we "miss" some of the good things too.**

Grace Children's Church

Advent Project

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.

Each kit will cost \$10.

Congratulations to Paul & Elisa Barkman on the birth of a beautiful baby girl, Monday, December 10. **Dawn Rowayn S. Barkman** is a little sister to **Caleb, Joanna, Abigail**. She is also a Granddaughter to **Cathy Barkman**, Great- Granddaughter to **Evelyn Friesen**, along with many Aunties, Uncles and cousins at Grace.

A note from Grace office: We are looking for Mel's book, '*Streams in the desert*' (not dessert). If you have information on this book, please let Mel know at your earliest convenience.

Opportunities & Events at Grace:

A note from the Grace Women's Coffee Time: All women are invited to our Christmas Coffee Time, December 19, at 10 am. Please bring Christmas goodies to share. We will plan to have a 'cookie exchange' with the items that remain. For more information, please contact Sylvia Barkman.

Grace Financial Update:

General Giving Budget for 2018 - \$404,305

General Giving to Nov.30 - \$344,123

Less: Auction Funds designated to building - \$29,145.00

Balance to Collect in December: - \$89,327

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.

Accent Winter Series:

All are invited to Accent Winter Series performance on Thursday, December 20, 7:30 pm. Directed by Meredith Hutchinson & Accompanied by Annalee Schellenberg.

Faith and Life Male Choir and Women's Chorus Christmas Concerts:

December 16, 3:00 pm Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church, Altona.

A freewill offering to support the choir ministry will be taken.

This week at Grace:

Sunday: (16th) Choir Practice 11:30 – 1:30

Worship at Woodhaven, 9:30 am

Worship at Resthaven, 2:30 pm

Family gathering rental, 11 am – 7 pm

Monday: Red River English classes (Monday thru Thursday)

Sandwich preparation for HSD students, 9:00 am

Tuesday: Soup's On, 5:00 pm

Wednesday: Grace Women Christmas Coffee Time, 10 am

Thursday: Longest Night Service, 7:00 pm

Friday: Soup's On, 5:00 pm

Sunday: (23rd) Choir Practice 11:30 – 1:30

Please see the bulletin board for more information on church & community events.

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 Worship at Grace



Sunday, December 16

Third Advent

Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Music Presentation with the Grace Children

Thursday, December 20

Longest Night Service

7:00 pm

*A quiet service of prayer and reflection for all,
especially those experiencing pain or loss at this time of year.*

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.

~

Song of the Shepherds

Richard Bauckham

We were familiar with the night.

We knew it's favorite colors,

It's sullen silence

And it's small, disturbing sounds,

It's unprovoked rages,

It's savage dreams.

We slept by turns,

attentive to the flock.

We said little,

Night after night there was little to say.

But sometimes one of us,

Skilled in that way,

Would pipe a tune of how things were for us.

They say that once, almost before time,

The stars with shining voices

Serenaded

The new born world.

The night could not contain their boundless praise.

We thought that just a poem-

Until the night

A song of solar glory,

Unutterable, unearthly,

Eclipsed the luminaries of the night,

As though the world were exercised of dark

And, coming to itself, began again,

Later we returned to the flock.

The night was ominously black.

The stars were silent as the sheep.

Nights pass, year on year.

We clutch our meagre coats against the cold.

Our aging pipers fumbling fingers play,

Night after night,

In earthly echo of the song that banished dark.

It has stayed with us.