

Second Advent

Darkness to Light

What Shall We Do While We Wait?



Grace Mennonite Church
December 10, 2023

Vol. 62 No 50

Order of Service

Welcome, Life of the Congregation & Land Acknowledgement

We Come VT #225

Call to Worship

Comfort, Comfort, O My People VT #212

Longing

[Isaiah 40:6-8](#)

Sharing – Jen Rogalsky

Special Music – Let My Heart Break - (David Graham & Rose Dupuis)

Prayer of Longing

Hope

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming VT #216 (vs 2)

[Luke 2:21-38](#)

Candle Liturgy

Time with the Children

(Children ages 3 through grade 8 may leave for Children's Church)

[Isaiah 40:1-2a, 8-9](#)

Sharing – Jen Rogalsky

Special Music -Pray, Pray Again

Prayer of Hope

O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem VT #275

Becoming While We Wait

Congregational Prayer & Offertory

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus VT #218

Benediction

Sunday December 10th, 2023

9:00 am - Sisters of Grace – all women are invited to a time of reading, sharing and prayer together.

10:00 am – Worship Service

Livestream will be available between 10-11 am.

Audio recording can be accessed on the church website after the service.

Children’s Church for ages 3 to Grade 8 will be held during the service. You may pick up your children following the worship service from the upper level classrooms.



Bring your spare wrapping paper and join us after church to wrap books for our kids in Pauingassi!

All are welcome to stay for coffee.

Worship Leader	Jenn Kulpa
Worship Speaker	Mel Letkeman
Ushers	Andrew Unger, Erin Unger
Musicians	Julie King, Donna Neufeldt, Shaun Neufeldt Kim Sidorchuk, Rob Sidorchuk
Children’s Church	Stephanie Allen, Olivia Dupont, Kate Hiebert Rebeka Lecias, Will Loepky, Kyle Penner, Sheldon Peters
Scripture Readers	Heather Bergman, Otto Goertzen
Coffee Servers	Sherril Reimer, Wes Reimer
Technicians	Lloyd Funk, Curtis Kulpa

We Pray Together

We pray for our International Workers: **Daniel & Damaris Loewen-Rudgers**. (Kenya)

Prayer for the week: Lord, help me to become who you want me to be.

Prayer for the world: Lord, we continue to pray for those trying to escape the fighting in Gaza.



This Week at Grace ❖ Dec 11 - 16

Monday	Soup's On - Lunch Program preparation @ 9 am Grace Christmas Tea – 6:30 pm – punch, 7:30 pm - program
Tuesday	Soup's On - Dine in lower auditorium, 5-6:15 pm
Wednesday	Private rental – sanctuary/basement: reserved 5 – 8:30 pm
Thursday	Senior's Coffee @ 2:30 pm Steve Bell Concert @ 7:30 pm
Friday	Soup's On - Dine in lower auditorium, 5-6:15 pm Private Event – sanctuary and basement are reserved.
Saturday	Choir Rehearsal – 1 – 3 pm

Enid and I want to thank you all, Grace, for such a wonderful time November 26th. It was very special. Both for us and our family who joined us. We don't have words that express all of our feelings and gratitude for all the years and that very meaningful 'send-off'. So, we hope this simple 'thanks so much' will be understood as saying it all. And, thank-you for the 'retirement experiences' which you gave us as gifts. We'll enjoy them and think of you as we do.

Mel and Enid

With Mel's retirement Dec 31, and Kathy Koop's interim ministry starting Jan 1, our church will be going through a time of transition. As church council, we would like to intentionally use this time to engage the entire church in discussion about the future of Grace Mennonite church, including our own sense of God & spirituality, our church's priorities, pastoral job descriptions, our strengths and growth areas, and the structures that support the work we do. As such, we are working with Credence and Co. to design a process to help us to discern who we think God is calling us to be here at Grace. We're anticipating this work starting shortly after our AGM on Jan 28, 2024. When we are finished the process, we are expecting it to lead us into forming a search committee for our new pastor. We will have more info later in January, and will keep you updated as best we can. If you have any questions, please feel free to be in touch with Church Council.



Giving to Grace Mennonite Church

To support Grace, point your smartphone camera at this QR code or visit: gracesteinbach.ca/donation/

Pastor
Pastor
Grace Office
Admin Assistant


Mel Letkeman
Kyle Penner

Nina Pauls

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Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
www.gracesteinbach.ca

Financial Update:



2023 Budgeted Giving	\$ 469,556
Actual General Donations till end of November	<u>364,448</u>
	\$ 105,102
Other non-designated gifts	31,000
Auction Proceeds	<u>43,000</u>
2023 Shortfall with 1 month remaining	<u>\$ 31,102</u>

Year-to-date expenses are tracking the budgeted expenses very closely.

Advent and Christmas Calendar



December 11th – Grace Christmas Tea

6:30 pm ☞ Punch

7:00 pm ☞ Program

If you are able, please bring a plate of sweet or savoury goodies to share with everyone.

December 14th – Steve Bell Concert at Grace Mennonite at 7:30 pm.

Tickets are available online at

<https://stevebell.com/event/steinbach-mb-solo-concert-2/> or at the Grace Church office. (Please make cheques payable to **Signpost Music.**)

December 17th – Little Bits of Grace PIZZA Lunch!!!

Who: Families/caregivers with children under 5 years of age

Time: right after church

Please RSVP by December 10th to Tamara Rempel at

p_tamara@hotmail.com or (204)371-9872



December 21st – Longest Night Service

December 24th – Christmas Eve Service @ 6:30 pm

“News of Great Joy!”

Our offering this evening will be given to MCC and relief work they are doing with Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Gaza.

December 25th – Christmas Day Worship Service @ 10 am





Advent Giving Project:

In this season Advent, we want to remember those in our community who face difficult circumstances and are unable to provide healthy nourishing lunches for their children in school.

The school lunch program being run by Soups On, here at Grace, is experiencing increasing demands for school lunches. For the next 4 Sundays of Advent, we ask you to bring one or more of the items on the list of School Lunch Program needs.

As the children come forward for their time with the puppets, they will be coming to us in our seats to collect the items that we bring to help build a mountain of supplies needed for the school lunches.

School Lunch Program Needs:

- ◆ Fruit to go
- ◆ Cookies – Dad's (individually wrapped)
- ◆ Rice Krispies treats (individually wrapped)
- ◆ Fruit sauces - mostly apple
- ◆ NUT FREE Granola bars- regular with chocolate chips (not chocolate covered)
- ◆ Gummies- Welch's or Sunkist- individual packages
- ◆ Pudding- snack packs in either chocolate or vanilla
- ◆ Fish crackers - in boxes
- ◆ Fruit cups- peaches
- ◆ Spoons- plastic- teaspoons
- ◆ Miracle Whip – 500 gram
- ◆ Peanut butter - Kraft 500 gram
- ◆ Jam - strawberry - 500 ml

