

First Advent

Darkness to Light

How long?



Grace Mennonite Church

December 3, 2023

Vol. 62 No. 49

Order of Service

Welcome, Life of the Congregation & Land Acknowledgement

Let's Walk Together VT #6

Call to Worship

10,000 Reasons VT #111

[Psalm 80:1-7,17-19](#)

Sharing - Shara Dueck

Special Music
(David Graham & Rose Dupuis)

Prayer of Longing

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming VT #216

[Luke 1:5-17](#)

Candle Lighting Liturgy

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

[1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#)

Sharing - Shara

Special Music

Prayer of Hope & Offertory

Hallmark, Jiu Jitsu, & Christmas Carols

Communion

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing VT #247
Angels We Have Heard on High VT #249
Go Tell It on the Mountain VT #252



Sunday December 3rd , 2023

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



9:30 am – Worship Service @ Cedarwood - If you are available to sing with the group, or can play an instrument, meet us there.

10:00 am – Worship Service @ Grace

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.

All are welcome to stay for coffee.

11:15 am – Adult Formation Book Discussion

Today in Room 26 downstairs, we will discuss chapters 7 & 8 of Strangers and Scapegoats by Matthew Vos.

Bring your book.



Worship Leader	Brenda Penner
Worship Speaker	Kyle Penner
Ushers	Audrey Brandt, Bernie Brandt
Musicians	Ron Dick, Shara Dueck, David Graham Leroy Penner, Kristy Rempel, Julie Sidorchuk
Children's Church	Sarah Barkman, Heidi Bergman, Curtis Krahn Enid Letkeman, Jason Rempel, Rod Thiessen
Scripture Readers	Avery Rempel, Jude Toews
Coffee Servers	Patrick Friesen, Trudy Friesen
Technicians	Lloyd Funk, Curtis Kulpa

Advent and Christmas Calendar at Grace

December 10th - 10 am - 2nd Advent

Join us after church to wrap books for the kids in Pauingassi!

Bring any extra wrapping paper you have!

December 11th - 6:30 pm - Grace Christmas Tea

December 17th - 10 am - 3rd Advent & Little Bits of Grace Pizza Lunch

December 21st - 7 pm - Longest Night Service

December 24th - 10 am - 4th Advent Worship Service

Christmas Eve Worship (time to be announced)

December 25th - 10 am - Morning Worship



We Pray Together

We pray for those in Care Homes: **Marie Dyck, Linda Martens & Christina Putz.**

Prayer for the week: Lord, we ask for hope, in times when we feel hopeless.

Prayer for the world: We give thanks for the small steps of a temporary ceasefire in Israel/Gaza. We pray that these small steps will turn into large ones.

This Week at Grace ❖ Dec 4 – 8

Monday	Private rental – sanctuary is reserved 9 am – 4 pm Soup's On - Lunch Program preparation @ 9 am
Tuesday	Private rental – sanctuary is reserved 9 am – 4 pm Soup's On - Dine in lower auditorium, 5-6:15 pm
Wednesday	Private rental – sanctuary & basement are reserved 9 am – 4 pm Little Bits of Grace – meet in the foyer. 10 am – noon. Middle School Youth – Christmas wind-up 7 – 8:30 pm at church.
Thursday	Private rental – sanctuary & basement are reserved 9 am – 4 pm, 6 pm – 8 pm High School Youth – Christmas Party Meet @ Boston Pizza @ 7:30. Bring money for dessert.
Friday	Soup's On - Dine in lower auditorium, 5-6:15 pm

Enid and I want to thank you all, Grace, for such a wonderful time last Sunday. 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

Upcoming Events

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.

Please RSVP by Dec 4th to nina@gracesteinbach.ca or call (204) 326-3707 to reserve a spot as seating is limited.



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

Time: right after church

Please RSVP by December 10th to Tamara Rempel at p_tamara@hotmail.com or (204)371-9872

Financial Update:

2023 Budgeted Giving:	\$ 469,550
Actual General Donations till end of October:	- 307,239
	\$ 162,311
Other non-designated gifts	- 31,000
Auction Proceeds	- 43,000
2023 Shortfall with 2 months remaining	\$ 88,311

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



Giving to Grace Mennonite Church

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

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



Advent Giving Project:

In this Advent season, 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

