

Grace Mennonite Church

December 31, 2023

Vol. 62 No. 53

Order of Service

Welcome, Life of the Congregation & Land Acknowledgement

Angels, from the Realms of Glory VT #265

Call to Worship

What Child Is This VT #267

Reflections on the past year

Prayer

Reflections for the New Year

Prayer

Go Tell It on the Mountain VT #252

([Luke 5:16](#), [Luke 6:12](#), [Matthew 11:28-30](#), [1 Peter 3:13-18a](#))

Q&A with Mel

Time with the Children

As with Gladness VT #277

Q&A with Mel

A Blessing as We Go

Benediction

Joy to the World VT #240

Sunday December 31st , 2023

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.

All are welcome to join us for coffee following the service.

Worship Leader	Tamara Rempel
Worship Speaker	Mel Letkeman
Ushers	Doug Kathler, Elsie Kathler
Musicians	Emmy Friesen, Barb Lane, Harv Lane, Julia Lane Karla Lane, Alexandra Nikkel, Wes Reimer, Gerry Sapinsky
Coffee Servers	Marlene Hoeppner, Theresa Sawatzky
Technicians	Bruce Blatz, Chris Peters

Sisters of Grace will resume meeting again on January 7th, 2024.

Children's Church will resume on January 14th, 2024.

We Pray Together

Pray for Laurie & Arthur Wiens and their family as Laurie continues receiving cancer treatments.

Pray for Dorothy Reimer, as she recovers from surgery, here in Bethesda.

Prayer for the week: Lord, show us yourself and how to live life with you, and subsequently others, in the year to come.

Prayer for the world: Lord, we pray for the people of Gaza and Israel who are experiencing fear and violence. We pray for a cessation in the fighting.

This Week at Grace ❖ January 1st – 6th, 2024

Tuesday	Soup's On – Dining in the lower auditorium, 5 – 6:15pm
Friday	Soup's On – Dining in the lower auditorium, 5 – 6:15pm
Saturday	Private Rental – basement/kitchen is reserved 3-7 pm

Our interim pastor, Kathy Koop, will be starting on January 1st. She will be our pastor for a minimum of 12 months. We have hired her to work 0.8 FTE (full-time equivalent), and she will be driving in from Winnipeg.

She will be in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays, and will be working from home on Wednesdays. She will be taking Mondays and Fridays off. You can reach her via email at kathy@gracesteinbach.ca, or at (204) 794-5554 when she's working from home.

If you have any questions, feel free to be in touch with Church Council.

Upcoming Events

The church has booked the ENTIRE POOL for swimming on Saturday, January 13th, 6pm-7:30pm.

If you would like to join in the fun, the cost is \$10/person.

Please RSVP with nina@gracesteinbach.ca by January 3rd, 2024.

Sunday January 14th, 2024 we will be officially celebrating

Kathy Koop's Installation Service here at Grace.

Please come and join us to officially welcome her here!

We are having our next **Men's Breakfast** get-together on January 20th, 9am in the basement of the church. Come and enjoy some good food and fellowship. Come and see what the cooking crew is going to surprise us with for a great meal.

Cost will be approx. \$5.00 to cover the cost of groceries.

There is a sign-up sheet on the coffee bar counter.

Any questions, contact Kurt Barz.

Young Adult Prayer Retreat, Sunday, January 21 –

If you're between the ages of 18 and 28, join us for a prayer retreat at a rustic wood-stove heated cabin in the woods. We'll leave after church, have lunch there together, and pray until supper.

Please RSVP with Kyle.



Giving to Grace Mennonite Church

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

If you wish your **donations** to be receipted for the 2023 tax year, please remit them today.

Kyle Penner remains on vacation until January 7, 2024.

Pastor	Mel Letkeman	mel@gracesteinbach.ca
Pastor	Kyle Penner	kyle@gracesteinbach.ca
Grace Office		office@gracesteinbach.ca
Admin Assistant	Nina Pauls	nina@gracesteinbach.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

www.gracesteinbach.ca

for beginnings and endings

This life is made up of so many beginnings and so many endings.

We start new jobs and leave old ones.

We move to new cities and leave our childhood hobbies in our parents' basement. (Sorry, Mom.)

We become new people slowly (hopefully kinder and funnier?).

Friends and relationships come and go. Dreams blossom and then they wither.

And we find ourselves here once again at the precipice of change. Afraid to let go, and afraid of what will happen if we don't.

Might this be a place of blessing too?

Blessed are we standing in the hallway between closed doors and ones still to come, between the old and the new, between the worn-in and the doesn't-quite-yet-fit, between who we were and who we might become.

God, make it remotely possible to grow and change, become open to new adventures, and untethered to routine or to the same-old. Because the anxiety rising in my shoulders and filling my throat tells me I am unlikely, unwilling, to step forward.

Blessed are we who take a minute to look over our shoulder at all we learned from what was, the people we became, the people who loved us into becoming. The peace that came with familiarity.

Blessed are we who trust this timing, and who open our hearts anew to change, to new friends, to hope. Nervous, maybe heavy-hearted, but brimming with gratitude for a life so beautiful that it hurts to say goodbye.

Blessed are we, turning our eyes ahead toward a new path not yet mapped. God, give us courage to take this next step,

and enough for the one after that, too. Remind us that you have gone before, and behind, and around, and are with us now.

In our leaving, in our arriving, in our changes, expected or shocking, surprise us with who we might become.