



The Shepherd's Story

A shepherd protects, feeds, and cares for the sheep. This is important work, right?

But out here on the Palestinian hills, this isn't how it's viewed by most people. For example, the Pharisees



say we don't follow religion. But think about it! We cannot leave our sheep and we are constantly looking for fresh new pastures. This schedule doesn't quite fit with Jewish faith practice—or any other religion's rhythm of worship. So they call us Gentiles, which really implies we are outsiders.

Living out here on the hills we have developed our own culture. We have no possessions and subsist on the barest necessities. We can be a bit rough around the edges. Protecting sheep from poachers makes us distrustful of strangers, so we tend to see the worst in people. Conversely, society doesn't have a very high view of us, so we are pushed aside, forgotten, and judged as inferior.

Website: <http://www.stpaulsestevan.ca>

So imagine our surprise that night when we heard the sound of angel voices. Angels! Many of us didn't even believe in angels! Yet, here they were on the hillside telling us they had a message from God! Some town folks were scandalized that we were the first to hear the news. Why wasn't the news brought to kings or Pharisees? Why was the news brought to the very people whom kings and Pharisees despised?

After being told the great news, the angels urged us to go to Bethlehem to find the child. Seriously? We tend sheep not children. We protect our stuff, our flocks, and now these angels expected us to risk our sheep being stolen while we went to find a baby. What was God thinking?

But what was really mind blowing was the fact that we went! It was just as the angels

Mission Statement: *St. Paul's United is a prairie-rooted, people church, centered on Holy Mystery. We experience the gift of grace – forgiveness, new life, God's unconditional love – as we open our doors and hearts to people of all ages, stages and walks of life. We live as a community of faith carried on the winds of God's Spirit.*

Office: 306-634-2885

said. The child was ordinary and extraordinary all at once. There was such peace and joy in the air around the manger where the baby lay. I spoke to the boy's father, Joseph. He was a gracious host and treated us well. We didn't feel like lowly shepherds that night. When we told him about the angels, he believed us. He made us feel like we were the right people to receive the message from God. Joseph encouraged us to share our story, his story, and the baby Jesus' story. So as we returned to the hills, we told anyone who would listen. And we never stopped sharing the news. Everywhere we went, we told the story of a miraculous birth and how God had chosen us—those who were once so lowly—to tell the story.

— Bethel Cameron, O'Leary West Cape Pastoral Charge, P.E.I. Advent Unwrapped - The United Church of Canada

Advent Unwrapped

Get ready for Christ(mas)! Advent—a holy, four-week countdown to Jesus' birthday—begins on Sunday, November 27! Get ready to make room for Christ and the radical, countercultural messages that Christ brings.



White Gift - Christmas Hampers

The hamper program will be run as a single city-wide program. Applicants for the hampers will be scheduled for a time of pick-up.

It is anticipated that 500 or more hampers will be needed for this Christmas. The average hamper cost is expected to range from \$150 (small hamper) to \$275.00 (large hamper).

You may help support this vital need by offering a White Gift. December 11 is designated as White Gift Sunday. However your gift can be given any time now. It may be placed in a white envelope, marked with your Giving Number. You also may do this by an eTransfer to stpaulsuc@sasktel.net.

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree program will run again this season. It will be at the Walmart Supercentre. St. Paul's is being asked to man the tree on December 10, 2022 from noon until 8:00 pm. If you can provide some of your time for this task, please contact the office.



Christmas Bazaar

A big thank-you to everyone involved in this year's Christmas Bazaar. It wouldn't have happened without the co-ordination of Lynn Kindopp and the many, many who helped to set up, priced items, made soup and sandwiches, manned the

kitchen and floor, provided bake-sale items, helped with the take down and pack-up. Financially, the Bazaar cleared over \$5,000. GREAT JOB!

Everybody Wins

We are all concerned about expenses and what the climate holds for us. One way we all win is to reduce the energy we use at St. Paul's. Turning off lights and refrigerators when not needed, wearing layers of clothing to worship on Sunday morning all help reduce expenses and help with climate change. These are only a few examples of what we can do as a church family to reduce our expenses and protect our future.

Community of Faith (CoF) Profile

The Leadership Team has started the process of completing our *Community of Faith Profile*.

The regional council uses this profile as part of their oversight of the community of faith and as part of a self-assessment. Completing a profile can help to articulate your community's beliefs, ministry needs, and financial realities. This is who we are, and these are the resources we have.

Members of the CoF Profile committee are Sharilee Schnell, Lori Holden, Emily Gillies and Cheryl Deren.

House Groups

The House Groups have been re-visited. House Groups are assigned responsibilities for a month. House Group leaders are responsible to get greeters. Greeters are asked:

- to get a key from the office ahead of their Sunday;
- unlock the doors of the church;
- greet the worshippers;
- bring offering forward during the service;
- ensure candles are out and lights turned off;
- lock the doors after service; and
- drop the key in the brown mailbox outside the front door.

Scripture readers come from a list of individuals that have volunteered. As part of their duties they are asked to light the Christ Candle.

Christmas Services

A Christmas Eve Service will be held on December 24 at 7:00 pm. Regular Sunday, December 25 Worship Service is being led by Emily Gillies. Rachael and Audrey Andrist will provide the music.

Have you time?

The Leadership Team and the Ministry/ Personnel Committee have vacancies. Your service in filling one of these is essential. Contact Diane Wrubleski if you have an interest in these areas. Your input

and presence would be of great value and appreciated.

Financial Matter\$

January 1 — October 31, 2022

Income	\$106,878
Expenses	\$147,356

Givings for 2022



Your givings to be credited for 2022 will be received up to December 31, 2022. Drop

your givings off to the church or by e-transfer to stpaulsuc@sasktel.net.

Messy Church II

Messy Church II is being held Sunday, November 27, 2022 at St. Paul's Church from 4—6pm. This is the first Sunday of Advent. A birthday party will be held for Jesus. Come

out to celebrate with story, song, craft-making and food.

Want to volunteer to help? Call Sandi Klatt.

Everyone is invited to this event. Family attendance is encouraged.



Organists/Pianists Required

St. Paul's is looking for itinerant organists and pianists to provide Sunday Worship music. Anyone interested is asked to contact the church office.

Upcoming Events

- November 20, 2022 — Worship led by Kathy Kyle - **Communion Service** @11:00 am.
- November 27, 2022 — **Men's Ecumenical Breakfast** hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church @ 8:00 am. Free-will offering.
- November 27, 2022 — **Worship led by Henry Friesen** @11:00 am.
- November 27, 2022 — **Messy Church II** from 4-6 pm at St. Paul's.
- December 3, 2022 — **Southeast Chorus Concert** @7:00 pm at St. Paul's.
- December 4, 2022 — **Worship led by Emily Gillies** — Knox United @ 9:00 am and St. Paul's @11:00 am.
- December 11, 2022 — **Worship led by Heather Vermeersch** @11:00 am. **White Gift Sunday.** Gifts go to Community Hamper program.
- December 18, 2022 — **Worship led by Jim Pratt** @11:00 am.
- December 24, 2022 — **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** @7:00 pm.
- December 25, 2022 — **Worship led by Emily Gillies** @11:00 am.

- January 1, 2023 — **Worship** information to be provided later.
- The UCW is selling the **2023 Church Calendars** for \$10.00 each. If you would like a calendar, please contact the office prior to November 30th at 634-2885.
- **Broadview Magazine** subscription renewal. If you currently do not receive this publication you can obtain for a group rate of \$25.00/ year. If you are interested, please contact the Church office before November 30, 2022 and we can get you signed up! If you are not renewing, please contact the Church office and we can make those changes.

Memorial Gifts

You may wish to make a charitable donation to St. Paul's Memorial Fund in memory or honour of a loved one. Memorial gifts are used for special needs of the church, such as furnishings, instruments and music. Donations are recorded in a Memorial Book which is kept on display in the Church.

Ecumenical Advent Series: What Are We Waiting For?

As Christmas and the holidays approach, Christians experience the season of Advent as a time of expectant waiting

and preparation. This year, there will be a special ecumenical series of Advent meditations and conversations on the question: "What are we waiting for?," with Canadian church leaders, including:

- Rev. Dr. Robert Faris, Moderator, The Presbyterian Church of Canada
- Rev. Susan C. Johnson, National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada
- Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator, The United Church of Canada
- Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Primate, Anglican Church of Canada.



On each Thursday in Advent (Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 22), listeners are invited to join a live discussion at 6:00 pm SK time, via

Zoom, with one of the leaders on that week's Advent theme. Attendees will be able to ask questions during the online conversation.

Also, each Monday during Advent, the church leaders will release an ecumenical Advent meditation focused on one of the four Advent themes and will address challenges and opportunities facing the Canadian churches.

Find out more and register at <https://presbyterian.ca/2022/11/08/ecumenical-advent/> or check our Facebook page.