



THE Messenger

December Edition, 2023

Advent Unwrapped

Get ready for Christ(mas)! Advent—a holy, four-week countdown to Jesus' birthday — begins on Sunday, December 3!



Get ready to make room for Christ and the radical, countercultural messages that Christ brings.

Christmas Services

On Sunday, December 24 we will be joining St. Martin's for regular worship at 10:30 am.

A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on December 24 at 7:00 pm. Plans are tentative at the moment and will be communicated by announcement and email. Rachael and Audrey Andrist and James Stern will provide the music.

Worship Service on Sunday, December 31, 2023 will be an Ecumenical Worship Service hosted at St. Giles Anglican Church at 10:00 am.

White Gift - Christmas Hampers

The Christmas hamper program will be organized as a single city-wide program this year.



It is anticipated that 350 or more hampers will be needed for this Christmas. The average hamper cost is expected to range from \$65 (for an individual) to \$300.00 (large family).

You may help support this vital need by offering a White Gift. Sunday, December 10 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 indicating it is for White Gift. All givings

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.*

will be forwarded to the Community Hamper Program.

Thank you for your generosity!

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree program helps provide Christmas gifts for hundreds of children around Estevan and area each year. It will be at the Walmart Supercentre. St. Paul's is being asked to man the tree on Saturday, December 9, 2023 from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm in four 2-hour shifts. If you can provide some of your time for this task, please contact Patty at 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 \$7,500.00. GREAT JOB EVERYONE!



Ecumenical Informational Meeting

Members of the Ecumenical Shared Ministry Committee will be holding an informational meeting on Sunday, November 26 immediately following the worship service at St. Paul's. Committee members from St. Paul's, Trinity Lutheran, and St. Giles Anglican churches will be there to give an update on discussions and happenings to this point. There will also be a time for questions.

EBEX Awards Winner

Bert Baxter Transport was inducted into Estevan's Business Hall of Fame in October of this year. Our congratulations to the Graham and Nancy Shirley family for this achievement.

Messy Church

Messy Church is being held Sunday, December 3, 2023 at Trinity Lutheran from 4 – 6pm. Everyone Welcome!



Sunday School at St. Paul's

The Leadership Team has been discussing and brainstorming in regards to having Sunday School (children's time) at St. Paul's. If you



have any ideas or thoughts concerning this idea, please share with a member of the Leadership Team.

Men's Ecumenical Breakfast

At time of fellowship and discussion over breakfast will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church at 8:00 am on Sunday, December 10, 2023. All men are welcome to attend.

Stay in Touch

Important and timely information often needs to be shared with our church family.

The most efficient method is to email our church family. Thank you for sharing your email address with us!



We ask that you please keep your contact information up-to-date with our office.

Have a favourite hymn or a suggestion?

If you have a favourite hymn that you would like to have sung during worship, please write it down on a suggestion card and place in the suggestion box in the Narthex. The same for any suggestion you may have to make worship more meaningful for you.

Birthdays

December Birthdays
– are you
celebrating a



birthday this month? Please let us know by signing the birthday board in the Narthex.

Financial Matter\$

January 1, 2023 — October 31, 2023

Income: \$117,835.79

Expenses: \$120,293.78

Surplus (Deficit): \$(2,457.99)

Response to Third-Quarter Statements

Third-quarter statements were sent out to all of our givers. The statement highlighted our need to pay back the unforgivable portion (\$40,000) of the \$60,000 CEBA loan by end of this December. The response to this need was met by the generosity of several of our church family!

Thank you for your gifts!

Givings Deadline

Givings to be credited to your 2023 givings must be received by Friday, December 29, 2023.

Special Music

If you are able to provide special music for our worship services, please contact the office. Solo, duet, small ensemble — whatever you may be part of would be appreciated.



Ministry & Personnel Committee

We are still seeking someone to service on the this committee. If interested, please contact Chairperson Diane or the church office. Your volunteerism would be greatly appreciated.

House Groups

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.

December's hosting House group will be "The Way Walkers".

Worship Service Leaders (WSL) involved with Rural Connect are assigned by the office from a list of volunteers or from the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The WSL participates in the service where agreed to and lights the Christ Candle.



Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization

The 44th General Council met virtually between February 2022 and August 2022.

At that meeting, the General Council approved an amendment to the Basis of Union in The Manual of The United

Church of Canada to establish an autonomous National Indigenous Organization. It also authorized a

Category 3 Remit to test the will of the church with respect to this change.

Information and a study guide for leaders and communities of faith can be found on our website.

An educational opportunity for our church family is being planned for the month of January following worship services. More details will follow.

Leadership within St. Paul's for 2023:

Leadership Team

Diane Wrubleski - Chairperson

Lawrence Burnard

Cheryl Deren

Jordan Cantwell - Regional Rep

Gail Schlamp

Greg Suchan



Wendy Suchan

*Astrid Friesen - Recording Steward

*Don Kindopp - Treasurer

* — non-voting member

Ministry & Personnel Committee

Emily Gillies

Jim Pratt

* Reserved for you

Trustees

Dennis Bode

Paul Deren

Diane Wrubleski

Dr. A.E. Elliot Education Fund Rep

Diane Wrubleski

Living Skies Regional Rep

Don Kindopp

Ecumenical Shared Ministry Committee

Cheryl Deren

Sandi Klatt

Jim Pratt

Upcoming Events

- *November 26, 2023* — **Rural Connect Worship Service** @10:30 am
- *November 26, 2023* — **Ecumenical Shared Ministry Information Meeting** following worship service.
- *December 3, 2023* — **Worship Service** — 9:00 am at Knox and 10:30am at St. Paul's led by Jim Pratt.
- *December 3, 2023* — **Messy Church** at Trinity Lutheran @4-6 pm.
- *December 9 2023* — **Angel Tree** at Walmart Superstore @10am-6pm manned by St. Paul's.

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

- *December 10 2023* — **Ecumenical Men's Breakfast** @8:00 am. Hosted at Trinity Lutheran Church.
- *December 10 2023* — **Rural Connect Worship Service** @10:30 am.
- *December 13 2023* — **Leadership Team Meeting** @7:00 pm. All are welcome!
- *December 17 2023* — **Rural Connect Worship Service** @10:30 am.
- *December 24 2023* — **Rural Connect Worship Service** @10:30 am.
- *December 24 2023* — **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** @7:00 pm. Plans are tentative. More information to follow by announcement and email.
- *December 31 2023* — **Ecumenical Worship Service** @10:00 am hosted at St. Giles Anglican Church.
- *January 7, 2024* — **Worship Service** — 9:00 am at Knox and 10:30am at St. Paul's led by Don Kindopp.



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