



**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**December 9, 2018**

*Through Faith, we walk on the path Jesus set for us.  
The people of St. Paul's Belong... Believe... Listen... Love... Lead.*

WE APPROACH OUR GRACIOUS GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME: Prepare the Way of the Lord (3x) # 10 Voices United

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

The God of our Past, our Present, and our Future

**invites us to worship as we prepare for Christmas.**

We come closer to the birth of Jesus

**the excitement is building, our preparations continue**

As we prepare ourselves, we sing, we pray, we reflect

**opening our eyes and hearts and souls to God's presence.**

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

**God of joy, sometimes it is hard to be joyful.**

**Sometimes all the bad news piles up and we have trouble seeing that you are at work around us.**

**But then we find out that some people with difficult lives still find a way to celebrate,**

**and we start to see the world differently.**

**Help us see where you are at work changing the world. Help us find the joy that lies waiting to be discovered, even if only for a moment. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (Sung to Away in a Manger – see screen for words)

Gathering Hymn: Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness # 28 Voices United

**WE SHARE AS GOD'S CHILDREN THE BIBLE'S STORY IN WORD AND IN SONG:**

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER FOR AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Joy! God sometimes Joy is hard.

**Sometimes we look at the world around us and find nothing to be joyful about.**  
If we are honest we know that the world is a troubled place  
**That is why we know we need you, why we need Jesus to be born in our world again.**

God as we sing about Christmas help us remember the Grace that Jesus preached.

**The Grace that helps us reform and reshape our lives and our world. Joy to the World, Jesus is coming!**

**Amen**

GIFT OF MUSIC: Bring Us Hope

*Choir*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

Luke 1:46-55

SILENT REFLECTION

(trusting that God is at work in our midst we allow the words we have heard to settle and stir in our souls)

SERMON *See The World Today*

Hymn: Tomorrow Christ is Coming

# 27 Voices United

**WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD AND PREPARE FOR MINISTRY IN THE WORLD**

THE OFFERING

Mission Minute

The Invitation:

Dedication Offering Hymn: Oh What a Wonderful Gift

Linnea Good

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn: People Look East

# 9 Voices United

COMMISSIONING:

In this season of Joy and Hope we get ready for the coming of the Prince of Peace

**We go from this time of worship to prepare our homes and our hearts.**

As you continue to prepare for the amazing birth that is a fortnight away be sure and secure in the knowledge that the God who breaks into the world as a Baby is with you everywhere you go.

**In trust we will walk with God: Parent, Child, and Spirit. Amen.**

Sung Benediction: Hope Shines as the Solitary Star

#220 More Voices

POSTLUDE

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## Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

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# Advent / Christmas Gatherings with St Paul's United Church Family

Sun., December 9<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am – Advent 3 – **JOY**  
*See the World Today*

Fri., December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm – Caroling at Heritage Lodge  
Social time afterward at Proudfoot's (beware of kitten!).

Sun., December 16<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am – Advent 3a - *Pageant*  
*Practice Christmas*

Sun., December 16<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 pm in Friendship Room  
*Blue Christmas Service*

Mon., December 17<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm @ McKenzie Place  
*The Bells of St Paul's are playing*

Sun., December 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 10:00 am – Advent 4 - **LOVE**  
*Shadows that Can be Changed*  
*The Bells of St Paul's will be playing*

Sun., December 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:00 pm –Worship at Wild Rose Manor  
Followed by Caroling @ 7:00 pm  
Social time afterward at Lodge party room hosted by Sharon and Alice

Mon., December 24<sup>th</sup> – @ 8:00 pm  
*Christmas Eve Service*  
*The Bells of St Paul's will be playing*



**Looking for an Alternate way to buy Christmas gifts?** Want to use your Christmas money to help make a change in the world? Check out the United Church's new Gift Catalogue **Gifts With Vision** in the foyer or Find it on-line at

<http://www.giftswithvision.ca/>

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## Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

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### Voice Enhancement Choir

Tuesday's @ 10:30 am - Grande Prairie Care Centre 9705 94 Ave  
The main goal of this choir is singing to maintain and improve vocal health. As we age, we need to work to keep our voices strong. We just happen to have a lot of fun singing together while we do it. Free to join and Everyone Welcome!

**United Church Women's Christmas Potluck – Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm**  
All women of the church and sister churches are invited. Please bring a dish to share as well as a plate, cup and cutlery for your own use.

**Property and Maintenance will be meeting Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am.**

### The 102 Street Stitchers.....

Quilters and Crafters are meeting again **December 14<sup>th</sup>** bring a project, work together on a project, do a community or outreach project, whatever you choose! The Friendship Room is booked 10-3. Bring your lunch or coffee and goodies to share. Conversation and advice is free! If you want more info call Gail Schau or Sherry Alstad.

### Stories Wanted.

For the month of February we need stories about why the church is important to you or what the church means to you. These will be read either by you or by Gord (your choice) during the sermon. Gord will add in some Theological Reflection to go with the story (so he will need to know what you are going to say beforehand). If you want to share your story talk to Gord. Otherwise he will be hunting for people to share their stories.

**Offering Envelopes** - Making your donation using a set of offering envelopes is the easiest way to ensure you receive a tax receipt for your givings. If you don't have a set of offering envelopes, and would like some, please contact Carla in the church office. Also, please make sure you indicate your envelope # on your givings so it can be accorded to the correct person.

**New to the church?** Want a photo directory? See Carla in the church office to buy your copy for \$15.00



### **JUST A REMINDER...**

For those parents with small children, please be reminded there is a nursery available when your children need more room to run around, or are upset and inconsolable.

The nursery is conveniently just down the hall across from the Friendship Room.  
**Parents** – If your children are using the nursery, please tidy it up before leaving.

### **ATTENTION ALL HOUSEHOLDS**

#### **Have you joined St. Paul's Recyclable program yet?**

St. Paul's has an easy fund raiser to help with the Church renovations. All you need to do is bag up all your empty bottles, cans and milk jugs and put our **church id # 1468-2415** visible on each bag and drop them off at the bottle depot on Resources Road and before you leave, check in with the cashier and let them know how many bags/boxes or bottles/cans you dropped off.

\*\*\* **\$544.70** has been brought in since January 1, 2018\*\*\*

**Rooms Booked With Carla In The Office Will Have First Priority.** - We are very fortunate at St Paul's to have a church that is busy and full of life. PLEASE be sure to check with Carla in the church office before you expect a room will be free for your use. We don't want to disappoint anyone if possible.

**The first Sunday of each month** there is a second offering that is dedicated to local outreach. **This month from November 1-30 we gave out 12 food/ gas vouchers for a total of \$1025.00 from** our local outreach fund. Please consider donating "in good used condition" warm clothing such as mitts, gloves, socks, toques and bath towels for the Saint Lawrence Center. Thank you for your continued support.

#### **St Paul's Mailboxes...are now in place.**

Communications has made a file folder for all the names in the Photo Directory, and a few others from the Birthday lists. If you don't have a file, our apologies please leave your name in the "Communications Team" file folder, and we'll get one made for next week!

We hope you'll find them useful for communicating with your fellow St Paul's family and ministry teams.

#### **Moved?? New to the Church??**

If you have moved, or you are new to the Church, please stop by the church office or send Carla a quick email ([secretary@stpaulsuc.ca](mailto:secretary@stpaulsuc.ca)) with your new details so we can keep our records up to date! Thank you!

# *Announcements*

**Ministry by: The Congregation**

**Enabling Minister: Rev. Gord Waldie Church Office: Carla Johnson**

**Telephone: (780-532-2415) Email: [secretary@stpaulsuc.ca](mailto:secretary@stpaulsuc.ca)**

**Sunday School: Holly Loughead**

**Youth Ministry: Janis Schau-Steinke Music Director: Alison White.**

*If you have a prayer request, please write it down in our prayer book on the table at the entrance into worship. Your needs will be added to our community prayer.*

*Thank you*

*If you have noticed someone missing from our congregation, please contact them by phone or visit them in person. You may be their "angel"*

**We are in need of Scripture Readers and Door Greeters every Sunday.** Please sign the lists in the foyer if you would like to volunteer to help during the worship services.

#### **Church Office Hours!**

Our Office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm

\*the Office is closed during the lunch hour.

**Thank you to Ashtyn Moran for her gift of Cello this Morning**

**2019 United Church Calendars** are now available for purchase. You can buy yours from Carla in the church office for \$5.00 but our quantities are limited so don't wait too long!

**Would you like to put an announcement in the Sunday bulletin?** Please have them to Carla in the Church office by **Wednesday at noon** in order to have them in for the current week's bulletin.

**St. Paul's Council** is seeking a Treasurer and a Member at Large. The current secretary would be happy to step aside too. So if you are interested and would be willing to join us in any one of these roles on council please contact Karen Scott or Rev. Gord

**If you're not able to get in to make your yearend donation** *Interac* e-Transfer is a simple, convenient, and secure way to send and receive money directly from one bank account to another. All you need is access to online or mobile banking through a participating financial institution, and you can send money to St. Paul's United Church — without sharing any personal financial information. It's a great alternative to cheques and cash.

To give using Interac e-Transfer please use this email address to send your donation to St. Paul's United Church - [secretary@stpaulsuc.ca](mailto:secretary@stpaulsuc.ca)

In the note field of your transaction request, please indicate your envelope number (if you have one, if not contact the Church office to get one) and what fund(s) you are wanting your donation to go to. You can split your donation between funds if you so desire. (Example: If your donations is \$100 your note could say - \$25 GF, \$50 MS, \$25 OU or any other combination of amounts and funds you would like to support).

Fund: (Code)

- General Fund (GF)
- Mission and Service (MS)
- Capital Fund (CA)
- Outreach (OU)

Any donations made without a fund code will be considered a "General Funds" donation.

After you have selected the amount and the fund, please email the answer to your security question to [secretary@stpaulsuc.ca](mailto:secretary@stpaulsuc.ca) so that we can accept your donation.

**The Communications Committee** is always looking for photographs! If you have any photos of recent St. Paul's events, please forward them to Carla for use in newsletters, narrative reports etc. Please let us know how we are doing with our messaging on the LED sign; in the Newsletter; on Facebook; and/or on the St. Paul's website.