



**Advent 2024**  
**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Chilliwack, BC**

## Introducing .. Pastor Vic Esperanza

On Sunday, November 3 the Voters Assembly agreed that the next step in our journey towards getting a new full-time Pastor, would be to call a Vacancy Pastor to assist us through this process and to ensure that important ministries do not fall by the wayside in the interim.

We thank God that he has led Pastor Vic Esperanza to answer that call and to be our Vacancy Pastor. We also thank the congregation of Savior Lutheran Church in Ladner for coming alongside to help us through this transition.



Greetings to all the members of St Paul's Lutheran Church! I look forward to meeting and serving all of you as your vacancy pastor for the next little while. Over the past 23 years, I have served churches in Winnipeg and Edmonton, and I have been the pastor of Saviour Lutheran Church in

Ladner for the past 10 years. I am very happy to be able to lend a hand to your congregation during this transitional period. Even though you may not see me every Sunday morning, I'll be working at your church on Wednesdays and possibly even leading midweek Advent worship services.

I look forward to seeing God reveal the plans that he has for you as you work toward calling your next regular pastor.

*In Christ,*  
*Rev. Vic Esperanza*

**CHRISTMAS**  
**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE 6:30 PM**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 AM**

# THE SEASON OF ADVENT

## *The Meaning of Advent*

Advent, a season of four Sundays, begins the church year. The season begins on the Sunday closest to November 30. This year our first Sunday in Advent is December 1.

The word, Advent, consists of two Latin words: ad - venire, "To come to." Advent's message is that God in Christ is coming to the world. This coming may be:

- A past experience. God did come in Christ at Christmas. The prophets' promise was fulfilled in the Babe.
- A present experience. God may come to you this Christmas in terms of re-birth, either for the first time, or a renewed birth in deeper understanding of the Gospel.
- A future experience. Christ will return unpredictably at the end of the world. "He shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead." Since Advent promises the sure coming of the Lord, its message is "prepare." The Lord is coming whether the world is ready or not.

*To help our congregation experience the blessings of this season we will have expanded opportunities to learn more about the Advent of our King through a series of Sunday Worship Services and Bible*

## *studies entitled:*

### **"Prophecies and Promises: Made and Fulfilled"**

CHRIST said, "Search the Scriptures. They testify of me!" (John 5:39)

WHERE?

HOW?

WHY?

The Old Testament was the only Bible of the early Christians. Where did they find Christ in it? What about the Old Testament people? Were they saved without a knowledge of Jesus Christ?

THESE questions (and more) will be considered in our Sunday Worship Services and Bible studies during Advent as well as our special Christmas Worship Services.

## *Advent Midweek*

In addition to our regular Sunday morning worship service and Bible study, we will have three midweek Advent services on Wednesday evenings in December. These will begin with a meal at 5:30 pm, followed by a Service at 7:00 pm. Between the meal and the Service we will have a Servant Event – making plates of Christmas baking for our shut ins and for the young people at the Cyrus Center Youth Shelter. Please bring some goodies to share with them when you attend the first two Advent services (December 4 and 11). On December 18 we will have our congregational Christmas Potluck Supper prior to the final Advent midweek service.

## **Advent Evening Series**

### **Wednesdays in December**

**Dec 4 - Dinner 5:30; Service 7:00**

**Dec 11 - Dinner 5:30; Service 7:00**

**Dec 18 - Congregational Potluck  
Dinner 5:30; Service 7:00**



## A SPECIAL SEASON WITH MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO CELEBRATE



JOIN US FOR OUR

# Ladies' Christmas Party

HOSTED BY THE  
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S  
MISSIONARY LEAGUE

**12** December | 6:30 pm  
At the church

## YOUNG-AT-HEART CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

FRIDAY, DEC 13 - 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

*Please register by adding your name to the sign up sheet on the bulletin board, or emailing the church office.*



## AND MORE WAYS TO SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS

### Eat, Share, Care

We want to deliver some Christmas treats, and love, to Cyrus Center Youth Shelter and our shut-ins. Please bring cookies or bars to the Advent Evening Services on Dec 4 and 11  
No Nuts Please!



The LWML invites you to share a little warmth this winter

We're collecting socks, toques, gloves & mitts for adults and children



In support of Ann Davis Transition Society

## GRIEFSHARE PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED



Become a  
**Prayer  
Warrior**

We are looking for prayer warriors who will support our GriefShare outreach to those who experience deep pain due to the death of a loved one. We are hosting **Surviving the Holidays, Nov 24, a 2 hour session, and GriefShare, a 13 week session starting January 7.** We ask for your prayers for the program, the facilitators, and the attendees, for the Holy Spirit's healing in the process of their grief journey, for guidance of the facilitators, for God's leading and a closer or new

relationship with God for each participant. We have a prayer manual that describes topics that will be discussed so you know specifically what to pray for in each session. Please contact Monica Pain if you feel you would like to participate in this important mission. Thank you. **To register for any of our GriefShare programs follow this link to our registration page ... <https://www.griefshare.org/ministries/212189>**

"Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work." —Oswald Chambers

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains." —Apostle Paul (Col. 4:2-3 NIV)

"Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel." —Apostle Paul (Eph. 6:19 NIV)

### Holidays can be difficult GriefShare can help!

There is no doubt that grief is harder to bear around the holidays. But like a trusted guide, a 2-hour Surviving the Holidays event will prepare you to navigate the season's changes.

This session, on Saturday, November 23, is hosted by St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Chilliwack and is open to the public. Anyone grieving this holiday season is welcome to attend.

For more information contact the church office at [info@chilliwacklutheran.com](mailto:info@chilliwacklutheran.com) or you can register at this link ...

<https://www.griefshare.org/holidays/events/48760>

GRIEF SHARE  
**SURVIVING  
THE  
HOLIDAYS**  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23**  
**1:00-4:00 PM**  
**CONTACT MONICA PAIN FOR MORE  
INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER**



## The Library is OPEN!

It's been a long process, but finally we are done ... and it looks great. I do appreciate your patience while we were whipping things into shape. A big thank you to Stephanie for all of her help.

The Library is located on the south side of the Sanctuary and is open after the service and during office hours if needed. There is a lovely collection of fiction and nonfiction Christian books. Books are available for a three week loan and are not to be reshelved but left in the clear Return Bin.

If anyone has books they wish to share, now is a good time to do so. Please leave the books with me as anything new needs to be catalogued.

*Marjorie Nielsen*



them about the special gift made in their honour.

3. Your gift changes lives — thank you!

Learn more about CLWR and Gifts from the Heart, follow this link ...

[2024 Christmas Catalogue — Canadian Lutheran World Relief](#)

### GIFTS FROM THE HEART

Your gifts have the power to change lives this Christmas! Share God's love with the world and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others with Canadian Lutheran World Relief's **Gifts from the Heart!**

Here's how it works:

1. You choose just the right gift for that person on your list, like a pair of goats or a flock of chickens!
2. We'll send you a beautiful card you can share with your loved one to tell

### NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

BEGINNING DECEMBER 1, READ ONE CHAPTER OF THE BOOK OF LUKE EACH EVENING. THERE ARE 24 CHAPTERS. ON CHRISTMAS EVE YOU WILL HAVE READ AN ENTIRE ACCOUNT OF JESUS AND WAKE UP CHRISTMAS MORNING KNOWING WHO AND WHY WE CELEBRATE!



## Youth Update

Join us for a special Youth event called "BBQ and Bible Study" on Sunday November 24 from 3:30-6:00pm at the Rohde's Family farm. This free event is open to all Youth in Grades 6-12 and will run rain or shine. Bring a friend! We will do some fun activities while enjoying the farm followed by a BBQ supper. Our Bible Study will be all about **Trust** and what this means to a young person in today's society. Please RSVP to Amanda or the office to be provided the location details and also so that we know how much food to prepare. We encourage and welcome any Young Adults who would like to attend this event as leaders. Please connect with Amanda if you would like to come.

This event will act as our Youth's Advent/Christmas event this year as December is

already showing as too busy in our Youth Family's schedules. Thank you in advance to the wonderful Rohde Family for graciously offering to host this Youth event.

## Confirmation Update

Confirmation class is resuming! After an "extended summer hiatus" our five students are thrilled to welcome Pastor Vic Esperanza as our teacher. Our first class will be on Wednesday November 20 with and meet and greet and some pizza for dinner. The students have 10 lessons left to complete in their study books. Following that we will plan a Confirmation Sunday service led by Pastor Vic in the New Year. This will be a beautiful celebration for our Confirmation Families and our entire congregation at St. Paul's. You won't want to miss it!

## Altar Guild Prepares for Advent

### Poinsettia Fundraiser

St. Paul's Altar Guild Advent fundraiser has begun! A 6-inch poinsettia is available for purchase with your donation of \$15. Please fill out one of the forms – printed below or located on the table in the Narthex - before December 1st and return it to the office or place it in the offering box. The poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season, after which those who purchased a poinsettia may take them home to enjoy. The Altar Guild is thankful for these donations which allow us to purchase new items for the sanctuary.



### Decorating for Advent

Anyone who would like to help with decorating the sanctuary and Narthex for Advent is welcome to join us on Saturday, November 30th at 1:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

**Advent Candles for your Home** As we are now using blue as our Advent colour for paraments and candles in the sanctuary, the Altar Guild would like to offer what is left of our supply of purple candles to families in the congregation to take home and use in their own Advent wreaths as part of your family devotions. These sets of candles will be available in the NaRthex on Sunday November 24th.

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, fill out the following form and place it in the offering box on or before **Sunday, Dec. 1st**. A 6" red poinsettia is \$15.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants @ \$15 each \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Do you wish to place this plant (please check one):*

In memory of a loved one (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

To celebrate a special occasion (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God \_\_\_\_\_

# HARVEST FESTIVAL

October 25 was our Fall Festival with enough candy, food and laughter for more than 20 children and 30 adults who attended. It takes a LOT of volunteers to pull off an evening full of fun, fellowship and the Good News of the Gospel. The program began with a chapel time featuring some of the favorite songs from Kids' Club followed by a lesson about God's Harvest – bringing the lost into fellowship with Christ. Then the families headed downstairs for some very creative games, crafts, pumpkin carving, dinner ... and of course candy. Thank you to everyone who participated, especially our event organizers Martina Rohde and Emma Underhill. The evening was an exciting experience for all the families who participated.

