



Advent 2025

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Chilliwack, BC

What Do You Want for Christmas?

"What do you want for Christmas?" is a frequently heard question this time of year. (But do not be like the husband who took his wife's "nothing" seriously and is still recovering.)

After more than fifty years of being a pastor, I have slowly compiled a list of things I do not want for Christmas. Perhaps you can relate.

1. Another Bible
2. Another monogrammed Bible
3. A Bible verse plaque
4. A Ten Commandments plaque with the Reformed order
5. To hear, "Pastor we always wanted to get married on Christmas Day. Would you mind?"
6. To hear, "Santa is real. Jesus was just a really good guy."
7. To hear "Happy Holidays" instead of Merry Christmas.
8. To hear, "Christians borrowed Christmas Day from pagans." (Actually, we had it first)
9. To hear, "It should be a great week for skiing. Too bad we have to miss church."
10. White socks. (Look great with my alb?)
11. To be sick.
12. To hear on December 22, someone just died.

Now some of these are deliberately silly, but others actually happened. "Going home for the holidays" is often a Christmas wish, but dispatching someone to their eternal home is not. Nevertheless, people continue to be born, and to die, up to and through the Christmas holidays. As much as we like to plan for parties, purchase gifts in advance, and make other preparations for the holiday season for the things that we want to do, we often forget that there are a lot of things simply beyond our control.

The Bible says, *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—* **14** *yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15* *Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."* (James 4)

The main problem with asking, "What do you want for Christmas?" is thinking that the holiday is all about gift giving and receiving, when in fact, it is not about material blessings at all, but about spiritual ones. *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Rom 8:32)* is not in any of the Advent or Christmas readings, but it does summarize what the reason for the season is: God's gifts. In the Apostles' Creed we confess that God gives us life, God gives us salvation, God gives us faith. The birth of Christ, the life, suffering and death of Christ as our substitute, and the resurrection of Christ from the dead, are all the gifts and guarantees that we need to know, and to rejoice, that "because He lives, we will live also."

I don't know what is on your "what-I-don't-want-for-Christmas list", but we do want to follow the biblical advice for every season: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5* *Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6* *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7* *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4).* Praying you all have a blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Pastor William Mundt

The Season of Lights

The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting longer. However, very soon many lights – colored Christmas lights – will appear on houses and on our streets and shops, and of course, on Christmas trees. These lights cheer and encourage us amidst the darkness.

Isn't it wonderful that Christmas, with its gaily-colored lights along with good cheer, good food and gifts, comes in this darkest part of the secular calendar year?

The church calendar year begins with the season of Advent. The word means "to begin or to come". The liturgical color is blue representing "Hope". Jesus is our hope.

Advent reminds us that Jesus - the light of the world - came into this world on the first Christmas in Bethlehem. He also comes now into the hearts of each one of us by faith. He will come again to banish evil into eternal darkness and to usher His people into the new, heavenly age of light. The book of the Revelation speaks about heaven as the place of glorious light. "And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light and its lamp is the Lamb." (Rv. 21:23)

Advent prepares us for the joyous celebration of Christmas. We will sing, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come". Human hearts become more open at Christmas time. We cheerfully greet one another. We give gifts and food. It is a time of good will.

The song the angels sang on the occasion of the first Christmas capture the spirit of the season best. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, Peace, good will to all people" (Luke 2:14)

We still have to live through the dark days, though. We still have to live in a world where there are wars and rumors of wars, pain, destruction, famine and death. The light of Jesus Christ is our hope's foundation that this

present darkness will be overcome by God's light. His light is already shining on us, giving us a foretaste of the never-ending light that is to come.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (Jn. 8:12)

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." (Jn. 1:5)

... Joy, Peace and many blessings be upon you in this Holy Season...

Pastor Dave Hilderman



A SPECIAL SEASON WITH MANY SPECIAL WAYS TO CELEBRATE



Candle Making Class
Saturday, December 13 at 1:00 pm
\$20 for supplies
register with Marjorie Nielsen



The ladies annual Christmas party will take place on December 11th in lieu of the regular meeting of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. This event is not just for LWML members. We hope all women and teen girls will come and join in the fun. The dreaded Christmas puzzles will be making a reappearance. Please bring a special treat to share.

Looking to make something special for Christmas? We can take care of that for you. LWML will be hosting a candle making class on Saturday December 13th at 1 pm. This is open to all who are interested. Please add your name to the signup sheet at the church if you plan to attend or contact Marjorie Nielsen. Cost is \$20 to help cover the materials.

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the BC Mission Boat Kits. It was nice to support a local mission and they were very appreciative of our help.



YOUNG-AT-HEART CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

FRIDAY, DEC 12 - 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

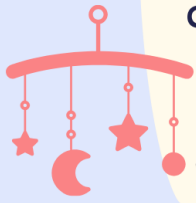
Our special guests will be from the Chilliwack Harmony Chorus. Come and enjoy the sounds of the season. All are welcome.



AND MORE WAYS TO SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS

ADVENT SERVENT PROJECT

We are collecting
disposable diapers
for some of
Chilliwack's
youngest citizens



BRING YOUR GIFTS TO THE
CHURCH BY DECEMBER 14 -
OR DONATE TO OUR LOCAL
RELIEF FUND

Eat, Share, Care

We're delivering
Christmas treats to
Cyrus Center Youth
Shelter and our shut-
ins. Please bring
cookies or bars to
the Christmas Lunch
on Dec 14
No Nuts Please!



Our seasonal Servant Events give us a chance to pour out some blessings on others, just as our Lord has poured out blessings on us. During December we have two opportunities to help. The first is to support of work of the Meadow Rose Society. These dedicated volunteers ensure that no baby goes without by providing diapers, food and other necessities for struggling parents in the Chilliwack area. Diapers are EXPENSIVE and those precious little ones go through a lot of them We can help by collecting packages of diapers (all sizes are needed). Just drop off you gift at the church any time before December 14.

Also, we want to remember the young people who will be spending Christmas at the Cyrus Center Youth Shelter and we want to shower them with love And cookies. We will be making up plates of Christmas treats for the youth (and for some of our dear shut-ins in the congregation). Please bring your baking to the church by the Christmas Potluck Lunch on December 14. Please do not include any baking with nuts..

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

Our Youth group meets every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the church and is open to anyone in Grades 6-12. Each meeting we play games, have a snack and share in a bible lesson with our Youth Leader Mark Fenske. We would love to see some more faces come out to help build our program. Friends are always welcome. Speak to Amanda G. if you would like more information.



Our annual Corn Maze event was held on Thursday October 18 (our original date got rained out). Youth were free to run around the farm and do any activity they wished! There was a rambunctious game of tag played on the giant jumping pillow, much human burying done in the corn pit and guess what? We only lost like 2 of our members in the Corn Maze! Kidding! We did find them. We made it through the maze in record speed this year at a time of 25 minutes.



Jingle, Jingle



The Youth Christmas party will be during our regular meeting date on December 18 but we will start @6:00pm so that we can enjoy a free dinner! Come hungry. There will be some festive games, a craft and possibly some cookie decorating. Hope to see you there!

Call Committee Update – Next Call Meeting Dates Set

*After Pastor Prenzler declined our call, the Call Committee has researched and reviewed nine different potential candidates. We have prepared a new shortlist of three candidates. We will be having a Voters' Meeting on **November 23** to serve as our Pre-Call Meeting, where the Call Committee will present its proposed short list of candidates for the final ballot. At that meeting, the congregation may either accept that short list as the final ballot to be used at the Call Meeting or amend it by rejecting some or all of the proposed names and/or adding others from the floor. Any acceptance, amendment, or rejection of that short list would be determined by simple majority of those Voting Members present at the Pre-Call Meeting. As a reminder, the Pre-Call Meeting is the final deadline for any new nominations, as our bylaws require an opportunity for floor nominations to be made. We thank you for your continued prayers, patience, and support as we seek God's guidance in this process. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any member of the Call Committee if you have questions or suggestions.*

Mom & Tots

Mom & Tots meets on the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:30am at the Rohde Family Farm. Our group has become a gathering of both new and "experienced" Moms as well as ladies who are simply looking for some fellowship. And of course...Tots! Kids of all ages are invited. The teenagers also love to come to the farm during school breaks in summer and winter to entertain the little ones while Moms relax.

Everyone brings a snack to share while we enjoy some tea and coffee. Once we are able to wrangle the little ones together, there is a puppet show, songs and a bible story. Later, Rose leads the ladies in a devotional.

Please join us on December 4th! Contact the church office or Rose Rohde for the farm location.



This time of year is hard. GriefShare can help!



Thank you to those who organized and led the "Surviving the Holidays" course from our GriefShare ministry. The next short session will focus on those who have recently lost their life partner. The "Loss of a Spouse" session will be **Saturday, November 29 at 1:00 pm.**

A full 13-week GriefShare course will begin in January 2026. Click on this link to learn more about all of our Grief Share programs. [St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church GriefShare | Grief Recovery Support in Chilliwack, BC - GriefShare](#). Or speak with Monica Pain.

DECEMBER

Dec 6 - Men's Christmas Fellowship - 7:00 pm

Dec 11 - Ladies' Christmas Fellowship - 6:30 pm

Dec 12 - Seniors' Potluck & Harmony Chorus - 11:30 am

Dec 13 - Christmas Candle making class - 1:00 pm

Dec 14 - Congregation Christmas Potluck - 11:30 am

Dec 18 - Youth Christmas Party - 6:30 pm

DEC. 24
SERVICE
6:00 PM*

DEC. 25
SERVICE
10:00 AM



Celebrating with our Church Family

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK LUNCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Immediately after
the worship service

Please bring either
a main dish or large salad to share,
and dessert if you wish ... and of
course, invite your family & friends





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 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 ... [2025 Christmas Catalogue — Canadian Lutheran World Relief](#)

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 November 30 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 29th at 1:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

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, November 30th**. 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 _____