

# **St. Stephen Lutheran Church**

One of 13,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World



December 18, 2022

## **Lectionary readings for this week:**

Monday: 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Genesis 17:15-22; Galatians 4:8-20 Tuesday: 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Genesis 21:1-21; Galatians 4:21;5:1 Wednesday 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Genesis 37:2-11; Matthew 1:1-17 Thursday: Luke 1:46b-55; Isaiah 33:17-22;Revolution 22:6-7,18-20 Friday : Luke 1:46b-55; 2 Samuel 7:18,23-29; Galatians 3:6-14 Christmas Eve: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20 Christmas Day: Isaiah 62:6-12, Psalm 97, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:1-20

*Join your prayers for healing* with God's desires for **Ed Brown**, Jeffery Bushmire, Kristin Carter, Ginny Cummings, Karen Einarsen, Marj Gottschalk-Trone, Sharon Jacobs, Evelyn Kernan, Henry Mallue, Carole Meyer, Jeane Moore, Jim Mayfield, and Linda Reuben.

<u>*Pray God's comfort*</u> and peace for The Congregation of Saint Bede and family of **Monsignor Joe Lehman**, as they morn his death.

<u>Pray for those unable to come to worship</u>: Joyce Behlendorf, Martin Bleck, Birdie Burton, York Doerr, Bob and Angie Groom, Jack Harris, Edith Haecker, Pat Janot, Jeanne Nelson, Joanne Shue, Darlene Simon, Jerry Trone, and Kay Wasaff

*Pray for these loved ones of our congregation*: Gail & Bushmire family, Stephanie Altland, Philip A. Arnold, Jane Ayers, Gary Baumgarten, Rose Baumgarten, Susan Behrens, The Besser family, Toni Birch, Bill Blackburn & Sally Blackburn, John Butler, Lane Clark, Bob Cummings, Emmeline Daniels, Graham Darnell, Jeris and Tony DeKievit, Judy Drezek, Paul Dwiggins, Derald Edwards, Joan Fecondo, Gloria Flamm, Dan Flatin, Kay Flatin, Betty Frazee, Bob and Lois Friend, Andrea Gonzalez, Rex Harder, Andy Havola, Frank Hayes, Nicole Ingle, Crystal Isaac, Nate Jacklin, Sandy Kellogg, John Knestrick, Richard Kochanski, Rebecca Krueger, Monsignor Joseph Lehman ,Margaret Lewis, Jackie Locke, Isabelle Lutzle, Keith Margrey, Barry Marten, Doug Mayes, Patrick and Kristin McGraw, Judy Murphy, Jeremy Nelson, Lori Ott, Danielle Parrish, Phil Peters, Sue Plevelich, Pearl Retchin, Edith Roberts, Betty Roth, Shann Rufer, Paul Sampson, Inge Seiter, Cindy Sherwood, Patricia Simpson, Kelsey Slay, Mike Slyer, Brant Smith, Jerry and Evelyn Spear, Chad Strausbaugh , Kelly Theilen, Carolyn Williams, Travis Wilson, Kinnley, Teresa, and Robert Yazujian and the people of Ukraine

# **December 18, 2022** ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

I. Gathering: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

## Welcome

Centering Music	8:30 O Come, O Come Emmanuel	Setting, John Turner
Advent Candle Ligł	11:00 O Come, O Come Emmanuel Clarinet, Erika Cave nting Litany	Setting, Charles Callahan
In this season of longin		

we remember Mary and Joseph, giving thanks for their faithfulness, courage, and obedience, stepping out into the unknown in the strength of the Spirit, playing their part in the fulfillment of God's plan.

In this season of longing and anticipation, we pray that their example might be the pattern of our lives, that when God's gentle whisper breaks through the clamor of this world into our small corner, we might be ready to listen, and having listened, ready to act.

Season of Longing and Anticipation, stanza 4 Four candles are lit. Bulletin page 11

Let us pray.

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior. **Amen.** 

Gathering Hymn	We Are Waiting for Jesus
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ACS 905 Bulletin page 12

# Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.** 

# Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

# II. Word: God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

## **First Reading**

## Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."

# Second Reading

# **Romans 1:1-7**

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."



Response after announcement of the Gospel: "Glory to you, O Lord."

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinelybegotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus."

Response at the conclusion of the Gospel: "Praise to you, O Christ."

(8:30 )Sermon Do Not Be Afraid

Pastor Jon Nelson

# (11:00) Children's Christmas Program

Waiting! -"The Birth of Jesus" - Toni Sullivan arr. Brian Hehn and Mark Burrows

<u>Narrator-</u> John Harms <u>Mary</u> – Sara Teague <u>Joseph</u> – Walker Beatty <u>Ange</u>l- Penelope Sulouff <u>Shepherdess</u> – Evelyn Judy <u>Shepherdess</u> – Mira Powell

<u>Wise Ones</u> - Armond Teague, Coleman Beatty, Magnolia Sulouff <u>Percussion</u>- Walker Teague, David Nelson, Clara Cave, Mollie Teague, Sonja Cave, Alina

Dabel

Each Little Lamb -

Diane Beckstead

<u>Narrator-</u> Alina Dabel <u>Soloists-</u> Mollie Teague and Sonja Cave

Congregation joins the choirs:

# Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus Lay down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky look down where he lay, The little lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

**Hymn of the Day** *Come, thou long-expected Jesus* 

ELW 254 Bulletin page 13

### **Prayers**

Each petition concludes, "Lord in your mercy." Response: "Hear our prayer."

### III. Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

### Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church: preaching and teaching the good news of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, and caring for the poor. During the offering, the table is set for the Lord's Supper.

Offering of Music 8:30	O Come, O Come Immanuel St. Stephen Matins Choir	Natalie Sleeth
11:00	When Christmas Morn Is Dawning St. Stephen Chancel Choir/ Clarinet, Erika Cave	Kyle Pederson

# **Offertory Prayer**

# The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

# Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.** 

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come Holy Spirit.** 

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and Forever. **Amen.** 



**The Lord's Prayer** 

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### **Holy Communion**

When receiving Communion, either stand or kneel at the Rail. Pastor will distribute the bread and a Communion Assistant will come with a tray of pre-filled cups of wine and grape juice. The juice will be in the middle of the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available as an alternative to bread. St. Stephen is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, so all are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.



### Communion Hymn

8:30 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW 265 Bulletin page 14

# **Communion Music**

11:00 Christmas Duets: We Three Kings – David Nelson and Karen Ives Medley Deck the Halls/Sing We Now of Christmas – Sonja and Erika Cave

Anthem: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* arr. Evelyn R Lauter Chancel choir with Erika Cave, Clarinet and Terri Larsen, Soloist

## **Table Blessing**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

#### IV. Sending: God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Sending Hymn:

8:30 Joy to the World

ELW 267 Bulletin page 15

11:00 It Came upon the Midnight Clear (Stanzas 1,4)

Bulletin page 16

#### Blessing

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever. Amen.

#### Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Joy to the World

Setting Zach Unke

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Infant Holy, Infant Lowly, ; Evelyn R. Lauter

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When Christmas morn is dawning; Kyle Penderson;

© 2022 Morning Star Music Publishers, Inc Joy to the World I; Contributor, Zach Unke;

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# Season of Longing and Anticipation Candlelighting Song



# We Are Waiting for Jesus



Text: John Helgen, b. 1957 Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

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# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



# The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



# Joy to the World



# It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

# Verse 1

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king." The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing

# Verse 4

For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing



# As We Gather

# **Parents!** Thanks for bringing your children to worship.

- Did you know that intergenerational worship is the single most important activity encouraging children's faith formation? (See vibrantfaith.com)
- In order to pursue the faith value of inclusivity, you will find a dedicated space (aka "pray ground") in the east wing of the Worship Space. A pray ground is a developmentally appropriate space within the Worship Space for children and their parents to be present and active within worship.
- Age-appropriate activity bags are also available in the Gathering Space if you prefer to be in the pews ask an usher for assistance.

# Assistance is Available for You:

- An induction loop is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T."
- Large print worship materials are available ask an usher.
- **Rest rooms** are accessible through the door in the wing to the left of the altar.
- If someone should need emergency medical assistance, CPR supplies, and a first aid kit are located in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall.

# **COVID-19 Guidelines:**

- Community transmission of COVID-19 in **James City**, **Williamsburg** and **York County** are **low**. Following CDC guidelines, masks are optional in public, indoor settings.
- Masks, if needed, are available in the Gathering Space.

# Health Update

While COVID rates remain "<u>low</u>" in our area we find ourselves in the midst of the worst flu season in over a decade. In order to try to keep ourselves and our neighbors healthy **we strongly encourage the wearing of masks in our building** at this time, especially for those who are more vulnerable to viral illnesses. We also encourage you to monitor yourself for flu (and COVID) symptoms and stay home if you are experiencing any.

# What's Happening Today

# **Sunday Morning Faith Formation for children and youth:**

Parents and young children gather in the sanctuary for Christmas program practice.

<u>Flowers are given</u> to the Glory of God by Arnie & Pat Janot in honor of their 64<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

# **Upcoming**

<u>Weekly Bible Study</u>. Come join us as we study the upcoming Sunday's texts! Tuesday's at 10:00 AM in the Library/Conference Room. It will be led by the Rev. Jim Larsen and the Rev. Harvey Nelson

<u>Advent Midweek Services.</u> . In lieu of a fourth Wednesday evening service, this year we will have a "Longest Night Eve" service on Dec 20 at 7:00 PM

<u>Committee chairs, Council officers and staff:</u> Annual Reports for 2022 are due to the church office no later than Friday, **December 23**. Please send your annual reports electronically to Parish Administrator Hollie Jones.

<u>The Flower Chart for 2023</u> is posted in the display area of the Gathering Space. Please mark the date for which you would like to sponsor flowers! Sponsor sheets are in the envelope below the chart.

<u>Christmas Decorating</u>! Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00pm. If you would like to help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas eve and Christmas services please sign up on the Blue sheet.

<u>Preschool Art Showcase</u> The preschoolers art will be showcased thru out the month of December at the Williamsburg Regional Library, located on 515 Scotland St. Every child has a piece displayed along the walls leading to the children's area.

VA Synod Assembly Voting Members Needed. The 2023 VA Synod Assembly will be held in Roanoke from June 9-11. On top of the typical business of the Synod, there will also be an election for a new Bishop. At our January meeting St. Stephen will elect two voting members to attend Synod Assembly and two alternates (we will be sending one who identifies as male, and one who identifies as female) on behalf of St. Stephen. If you would like to be on the ballot at the January meeting for this position, please mark the Blue Sheet. Expenses to attend the Assembly are covered by the church. <u>Have Fun and Support our St. Stephen Preschool</u> during our annual Winter Carnival Sunday, January 29, 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Want to help with Winter BINGO, Ice Fishing, Winter Putt-Putt, Penguin Bowling, and more? See the insert and mark the blue sheet if you're able to help!

Advent Gifts for Godparents for Tanzania Fund. As its global ministry project for Advent, the St. Stephen Social Ministry Coordinating Committee is encouraging congregational members to help grow our Godparents for Tanzania Fund. This fund allows us to continue our generous contributions toward the education of young adults in Tanzania. Please see the bulletin board in the Gathering Space highlighting photos and letters written by our most recent student recipients! Consider giving generously by placing your donations in the offering plate on Sundays or mailing them to the church office anytime during December. Checks should be made to St. Stephen Lutheran Church with "Godparents 4 Tanzania" in the memo line. Many thanks for your generosity.



# HEALTH MINISTRY

# **Health Ministry**

# Holiday blues

Sometimes people experience what is known as "holiday blues" during the month of December. It can be a time of sadness, loneliness, anxiety and even depression. Some of the causes can be stress, lack of sleep, financial worries, excessive eating or drinking, or unrealistic expectations to name a few.

Things you can do to avoid the holiday blues include regular exercise, find time for yourself but don't isolate yourself from others too much, learning to say no, and setting realistic expectations.

If you find yourself in a "funk," call a friend or reach out to me. If you notice someone who is not quite themselves, reach out to them. The pandemic has made it harder to help but certainly not impossible.

My door is open and my phone is always on. You can also reach out to the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) <u>https://www.nami.org/Home.</u>

Diana Tiller-Dichtel Parish Nurse

# Worship and Fellowship for Advent and Christmas –

Blue Christmas Eve (also called the Longest Night Eve) This worship service honors people that have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief.

• Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve (all services with candle light):

- 7:30 PM Worship featuring sermon, choir and Holy Communion
- 10:00 PM Worship featuring sermon, choir and Holy Communion

First Sunday of Christmas, December 25: 10:00 AM – Worship and Holy Communion



Art work from our preschoolers Ornament by Iliana (Frog class) Tree by Mallory (Hippo class)

### St. Stephen Calendar – December 18-December 25, 2022

### SUNDAY, December 18~ Advent 4

- 8:00 AM Matins Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
- 8:30 AM Worship Holy Communion
- 9:30 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class (Library/Conference Room)
- 10:00 AM Children's Rehearsal for Christmas Program (Worship Space)
- 10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
- 11:00 AM Worship Holy Communion Children's program

(Livestreamed on our YouTube channel)

## MONDAY, December 19

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)
- 2:30 PM Stephen Ministers' Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

## **TUESDAY, December 20**

10:00 AM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)

7:00 PM Blue Christmas Eve – Longest Night Eve (Worship Space)

### WEDNESDAY, December 21

- 6:15 PM St. Stephen Ringers (Worship Space)
- 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

## THURSDAY, December 22

12:00 PM Staff Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)

## FRIDAY, December 23

2:00 PM Decorating for Christmas

## SATURDAY, December 24~ Christmas eve

8:00 AM-8:00PM AA Alkathon (Fellowship Hall)

- 7:00 PM Prelude Music for Christmas Eve Choirs and Bells
- 7:30 PM Worship Holy Communion
- 9:30 PM Prelude Music for Christmas Eve Choirs and Bells
- **10:00 PM** Worship Holy Communion

SUNDAY, December 25 ~ Christmas

10:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion

(Livestreamed on our YouTube channel)

8:00 AM-8:00PM AA Alkathon (Fellowship Hall)

# Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

-	
	(11:00) Eva Nelson
Altar Guild	
	(11:00) Gerri Bass & Linda Vonderheide
	(8:30) (11:00) Beth Grant
Bread Baker	Ned Neidlinger
Communion Assistants	
	(11:00) Sandy Croushore & Eva Nelson
Flower Delivery	
Greeters/Hosts	(8:30) Sue Voigt (11:00) George & Linda Vonderheide
Lectors	
Tellers	Jeanne Garrison, Nelia Lamoureux, Joe Beene
Ushers	

# St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 <u>www.saintstephenlutheran.net</u> (757) 229-6688

# We gather to worship and study God's Word to deepen our faith and live our Christian witness and service in the community.

(St. Stephen Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

All of Us, Called Through Our Baptisms	Doing Ministry in the World	
Pastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)	Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net	
Karen Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)	MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net	
Hollie Jones – Parish Administrator (229-6688)	Office@saintstephenlutheran.net	
Diana Tiller-Dichtel – Parish Nurse (232-5924)	Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.net	
Kristie Kelley – Preschool Director (229-6688)	Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net	
Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)		

# Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church!

Please fill this out and drop it in the offering plate or give it to an usher. December 18, 2022

For guests and members with changes:   Address (Home)   City/State   Zip   Telephone #   E-Mail Address   Guests Only:   I belong to   Guests Only:   I belong to   Church Address   Please check as many as pertain:   Member   First time guest   Regular guest   Guest (out of town)   Student at William & Mary   Looking for a church home   Desire to speak with pastor   Would like more information about Stephen Ministry   Would like a Parish Nurse to contact me	Name:	
City/StateZip Telephone # E-Mail Address Guests Only: I belong to Church Address Church Address Please check as many as pertain: Member First time guest Regular guest Guest (out of town) Student at William & Mary Looking for a church home Desire to speak with pastor Would like more information about Stephen Ministry	For guests and members with changes:	
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Would like more information about Stephen Ministry		

Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if necessary.

# **Prayer Requests**

Please add to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's Quill:	
(please note all names will be removed at the end of the following month, if you wish for someone to be added back on to the prayer list please resubmit their names here)	
Name:	
Please <b>remove</b> from prayer concerns:	
Name:	
I need a name tag	
I will help decorate the sanctuary	

I would like to be on the January annual meeting ballot for voting member to the 2023 VA Synod Assembly

I will help with Winter Carnival on January 29th