



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

One of 11,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World

If you are seeking God you are welcome here.

If you have been hurt in a judgmental church, here you will not be judged.
Here you will be nurtured in the grace and Good News that our salvation has been
accomplished in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Here you may discover that, in fact, it is God who has been seeking you!

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022 ~ 7:30 PM & 10:00 PM

As We Gather

While a student at William & Mary, Thomas Jefferson sketched a seating plan for an octagonal worship space, with a central altar, for a college chapel. The design of this worship space is based on his sketch.

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** an AED (Automated External Defibrillator), 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 “low” 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.

If you have sponsored poinsettias, feel free to take them home following the 10:00 PM service tonight. Poinsettias that are left will remain in the Worship Space through the First Sunday of Christmas, January 1.

The Church Office will be closed the week after Christmas, reopening January 3. If you have emergency need for pastoral care between Christmas and January 3, please call **Pastor Nelson**.

Christmas Day Worship 10:00 AM.

New Years Day Worship 10AM- Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion for the First Sunday After Christmas.

*Christmas Eve
Order of Service*

December 24, 2022 ~ 7:30 PM and 10:00 PM

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
In The Bleak Midwinter
Joy to the World
Away in a Manger
St. Stephen Ringers

arr. Groth/McChesney
arr. Linda Scholes
arr. Catherine McMichael
arr. Catherine McMichael

The Savior of the World is Born
Matins and Chancel Choirs

Gustav Holst

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Matins and Chancel Choirs

Arrangement, Mark Schweizer

Rise up and Go Tell It
Women's Choir

Arrangement, Anthony Giamanco

Of the Fathers Love Begotten
Matins and Chancel Choirs

Arrangement, Stephan Casurella

Welcome

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

Gathering Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful (stanzas 1-3)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:

O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

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.

Hymn of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High (stanza 1)

(Ring your bells during the refrain!)

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (stanza 1&2)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

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

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Gospel Response

*To Us a Child Is Born arrangement Richard Shepard
Martin and Chancel Choirs*

Sermon

Embodied Divinity

Pastor Jon Nelson

The Hymn of the Day will be announced in a few moments. First, take time during the silence: What are your prayers in response to the sermon?

Hymn of the Day

On Christmas Night (stanzas 1 & 4)

- 1 On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring.
On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful king's birth.
- 4 All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night.
All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God in highest heav'n;
peace on earth, and goodwill. Amen."

Prayers

Offering

Offering of Music

Still, Still, Still!

Chris Biemesder.

Matins and Chancel Choirs

Marj Gottschalk-Trone, Soloist

Offertory Hymn

What Child Is This (Stanza 3)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Offertory Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving (spoken)

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:

Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The bread and wine we're about to share joins us to the people throughout history and across the world who have come to this meal in search of life.

Just as Jesus' birth was for the whole world this bread and wine is for everyone:
for the hungry
for the lost
for those who search
and those who are found
for those who question
and those who know peace
this is bread and wine for everyone.

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people, and for the life we know in Jesus Christ your son. Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Leading his followers, he guides us. Dying on the cross, he loves us. Risen from the dead, he gives new life.

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.

We pray, God of love, that you will send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here: that we and these signs, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other and to all the world. **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.**

The 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 Music

What Sweeter Music

Arrangement, Eleanor Daley

Matins and Chancel Choirs

Silent Night

arr. Catherine McMichael

St. Stephen Ringers

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

Lighting of Nativity Candles

As you give and receive light for your hand-held candles, please tilt the unlit candle toward the flame. Please hold your lit candle upright, to prevent wax spills.

Hymn after Communion

Silent Night, Holy Night!

- 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

(Silence for Prayer)

Please extinguish your candle when the Pastor extinguishes his.

Sending Hymn

Joy to the World

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

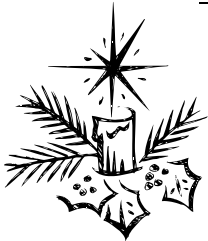
4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

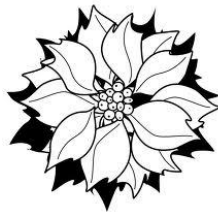
Postlude

Variations "Joy to the World"
V. Fantasy

Arrangement, Michael Helman



Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God by the following:



Helen Allen and family in loving memory of John E. Allen, Ervin and Mina Kreitzer, her brothers and sister

George and Gerri Bass in memory of George's mother, Doris Bass

Ward Bourn in memory of Harriet and Ward Bourn Sr. and Beatrice and James Lamb

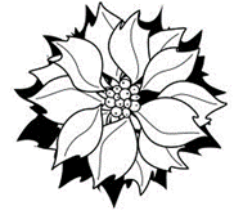
Susan Britcher in memory of her parents, Jacob and Kathryn Britcher, and Linda Laity

Hite

Ed and Ingrid Brown in memory of their parents

Russ, Jenny, & Alina Dabel to the Glory of God

Jane deSolms in memory of her parents, Irv and Bettie deSolms



Bill Dichtel & Diana Tiller-Dichtel to the Glory of God

Heidi Flatin to the Glory of God

Steve and Beth Grant in memory of loved ones

Bob and Carol Harman to the Glory of God

Tim and Stephanie Judy to the Glory of God

Susan Kauffman in memory of her parents, Carl and Helen Herzog, and her uncle and aunt, Bernie and Marie Herzog

Jan MacQueston in beloved memory of Bill MacQueston; Mildred and Arthur Lindblad; Alice, Harold, Kenneth, and Jim MacQueston

Tom and Sandy Peterkin in thanks and love for the St. Stephen Community

Randy and Chris Punchard in thanks for God's many blessings

Paul and Martha Reier in memory of their parents, Arch and Ruth Ennis and John and Jean Reier

Keith and Connie Roberts in memory of Larry Shoberg and in honor of Karen Shoberg

Karen Shoberg in memory of Larry Shoberg

Don and Donna VanDuyse in memory of their parents and grandparents

George and Linda Vonderheide in memory of their parents

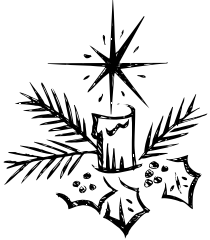
Jim Weilmuenster in memory of Sue Weilmuenster and Linda Hite

The Wiers Family in honor of teachers everywhere

Susan and Wallace Williamson in memory of Herbert and Ada Mae Sullivan

Sandi and Tom Witt in memory of their parents and in honor of their children

Contributions to the Jean Kuhn Memorial Fund



Charles and Rosalie Frey to the Glory of God

Steve and Beth Grant in memory of loved ones

Edith Haecker to the Glory of God

Bob and Carol Harman to the Glory of God

Arnie and Pat Janot to the Glory of God

Marilyn Johnson in thanks for Gods many Blessings

Tim and Stephanie Judy to the Glory of God

Jim and Terri Larsen to the Glory of God

Harlan and Anne Schone in thanks for the love and care of Tom and Sandy Peterkin

Karen Shoberg in memory of Larry Shoberg

Cyndy Touhsaent in memory of her parents, Betty and Wilson Touhsaent

Don and Donna VanDuyse in memory of their parents and grandparents

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Tonight

Acolyte/Crucifer (7:30 PM) Bethany Brisson
..... (10:00 PM) Heidi Flatin
Altar Guild..... (7:30) Amy Bergh
.....(10:00)Linda Vonderheide & Carol Wiers
Audio-Visual Team (7:30) (10:00)
Bread Baker..... Pat Fretz
Cantors (7:30) (10:00)
Communion Assistants (7:30 PM) George Bass & Lori Harms
..... (10:00 PM) Heidi Flatin & Nancy Egloff
Flower Delivery.....
Greeters/Hosts (7:30) None needed (10:00) None needed
Lectors..... (7:30) (10:00)
Tellers..... John McCurry, Carol Harman, Sandy Croushore
Ushers.....(7:30 PM) Reed & Karen Nester (10:00 PM) Robert Achenbach & Glenn Joppa


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St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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www.saintstephenlutheran.net

(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

Pastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)

Karen Ives – Director of Music (229-6688)

Hollie Jones – Parish Administrator (229-6688)

Diana Tiller-Dichtel – Parish Nurse (232-5924)

Kristie Kelley – Preschool Director (229-6688)

Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)

Doing Ministry in the World


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Wishing you a blessed and beautiful Christmas Eve, as we celebrate God's love and the great gift He gave us on the first Christmas.