



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

One of 13,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World



December 3, 2023

For Your Prayers –December 4-10, 2023

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Micah 4:1-5 Revelation 15:1-8 Psalm 79

Tuesday: Micah 4:6-13 Revelation 18:1-10 Psalm 79

Wednesday: 6 Micah 5:1-5a Luke 21:34-38 Psalm 79

Thursday: Hosea 6:1-6 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Friday: Jeremiah 1:4-10 Acts 11:19-26 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Saturday: Ezekiel 36:24-28 Mark 11:27-33 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (13) 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Paula Agor, Aaren Battle, Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Marie Nelson, and Linda Reuben.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Martin Bleck, Ed Brown, Birdie Burton, York Doerr, Bob and Angie Groom, Edith Haecker, Pat Janot, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.**

Pray God's comfort and peace for **Nelia Lamoureux** and her family on the death of **Robert "Bob" Lamoureux.**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Dawn Allen, Paula Battle, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, Mary Bloom, Amy Carl, Ann Bunn, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Doug Crinklaw, Katie Czajkowski, Sophia Czajkowski, Judy Drezek, Joel Gillespie, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Catherine Harbison, Deanna Harbison, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzeman, Char Henry, Lisa Hill, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, the Kennedy family, Bob Lamoureux, Marnah Lund, Laura Margolin, Doug Mayes, John and Pollie Morison, Maddie Murray, Bob Myers, Silvana Oderisi, Lori Ogborn, Katie Orcutt, Paula Rega, Marci Ries, Sharon Rogers, Betty Roth, Inge Seiter, Kelsey Slay, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig.

December 3, 2023 First Sunday of Advent

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

Welcome

Centering Music

Come Now, O God

setting, Anne Krentz Organ

Advent Candle Lighting Litany

Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

stanza 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Litany

At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.
O Emmanuel, **Wake us up to your coming.**

We gather together to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable.
O Emmanuel, **Wake us up to your coming.**

We wait for the day when God will recycle tanks into tractors and transform minefields
into soccer fields. O Emmanuel, **Wake us up to your coming.**

We stay awake by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future and agitate dormant
hope within us. O Emmanuel, **Wake us up to your coming.**

Prayer

Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle, whose flame
brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope. **Amen.**

Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

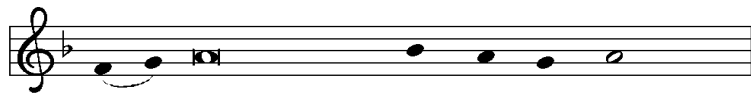
stanza 2

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

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.**

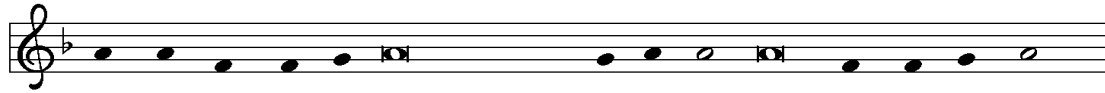
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father 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 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,

and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalmody

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19



- ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph ¹like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- ¹on the cherubim.
- ²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, ¹and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and ¹come to help us.**
- ³Restore ¹us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹shall be saved.
- ⁴**O LORD ¹God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your ¹people pray? Refrain**
- ⁵You have fed them with the ¹bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of ¹tears to drink.
- ⁶**You have made us the derision ¹of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh ¹us to scorn.**
- ⁷Restore us, O ¹God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹shall be saved.
- ¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at ¹your right hand,
the one you have made so strong ¹for yourself. Refrain**
- ¹⁸And so will we never turn a- ¹way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- ¹on your name.
- ¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD ¹God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹shall be saved. Refrain**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

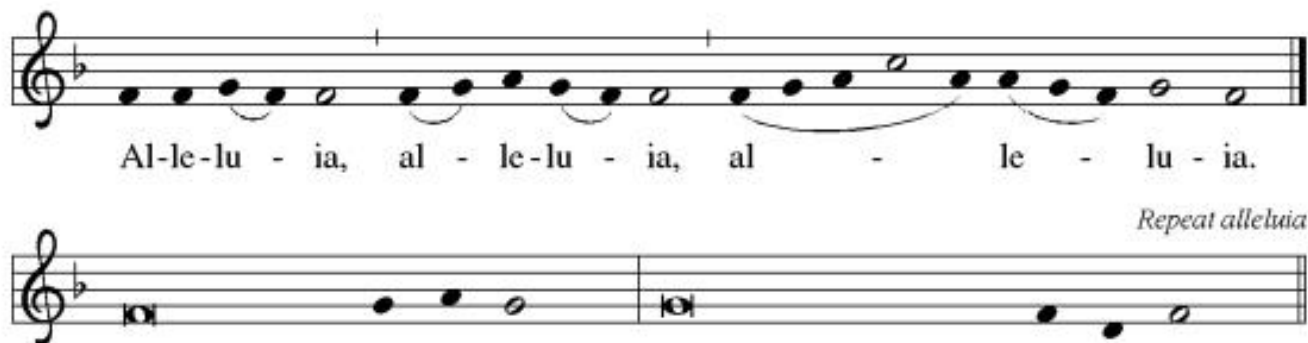
As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Cantor: Show us your steadfast | love, O Lord,* and grant us | your salvation.

Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

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

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the

watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

Sermon *Hope for a Hurting World* Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt

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

Hymn of the Day *Come Now, O God* ACS 902
Bulletin page 12

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 *We Are Waiting* arr. Priscilla Lamparter Landis

Offertory Prayer

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

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 to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

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.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

Communion Hymns *Each Winter as the Year Grows Older*

ELW 252

Bulletin page 13

Creator of the Stars of Night

ELW 245

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Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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

Blessing

**The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you
now and forever. Amen.**

Sending Hymn *The King Shall Come*

ELW 260

Bulletin page 15

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.



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Come Now, O God; Setting, Anne Krentz Organ ; Piano reflections on Advent tunes

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O Come O Come Emmanuel; Setting, Mark Hayes;

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Come, Now, O God



1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.



Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune
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Each Winter As the Year Grows Older



1 Each win - ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er,
2 When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for
3 Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from
4 So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the
5 O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and



too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; the
war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and
death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that
north, the liv - ing flame, in se - cret burn - ing, can
pain, bright - en to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re -



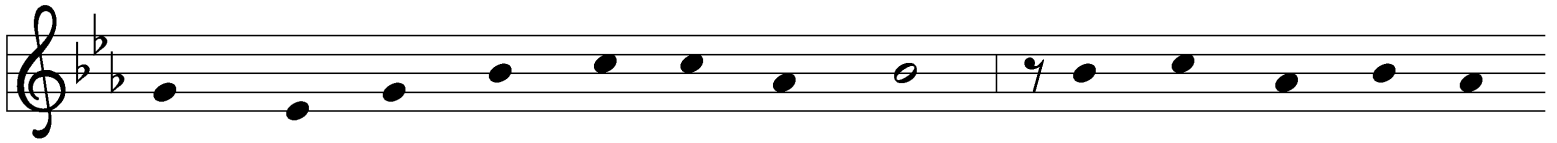
ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.
scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore.
we can catch our breath and turn trans - fixed by faith.
kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.
new our lives a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

Text: William Gay, b. 1920, alt.

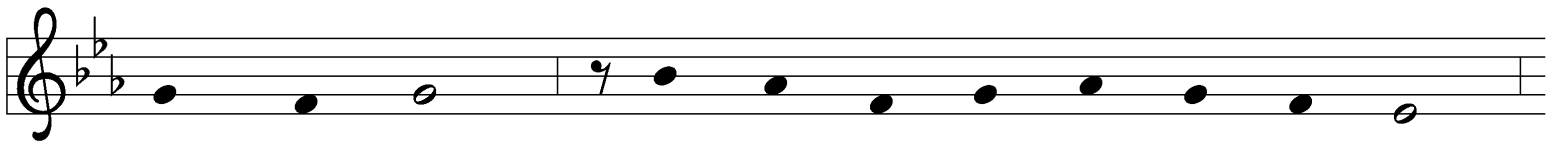
Music: CAROL OF HOPE, Annabeth Gay, b. 1925

Text and music © 1971 United Church Press.

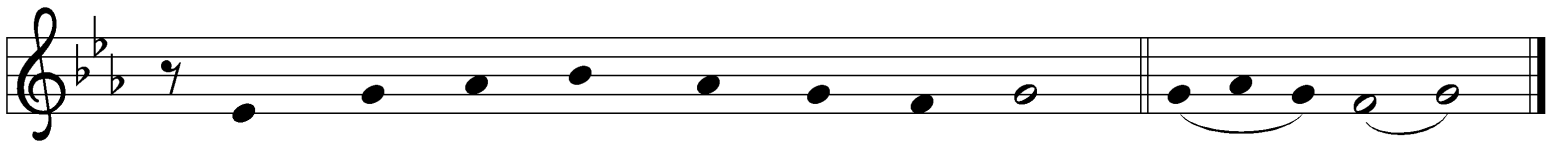
Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
from all as - saults of our dread foe.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.

Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV

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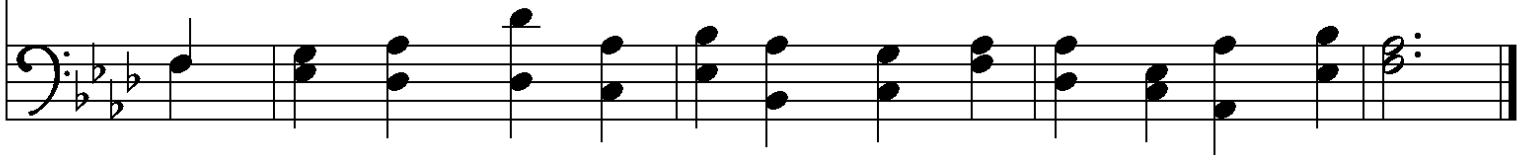
The King Shall Come



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.



Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

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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)
- ❖ When parents and children need to take a break for a few minutes, there's a play area with toys and books in the room right beneath the Worship Space.
- ❖ Age-appropriate activity bags are available in the Gathering Space – 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.

Health Update: We always encourage you to monitor yourself for symptoms of illness and to worship from home if you are experiencing any. We have masks and hand sanitizer available for use in our building should you require.

What's Happening Today

Flowers are given by **Sandi and Tom Witt** in memory of our parents.

Upcoming

Committee chairs, Council officers and staff: Annual Reports for 2023 are due to the church office no later than **Friday, December 22**. Please send your annual reports electronically to Parish Administrator Hollie Jones.

From the Financial Secretary Remember, the last day for all 2023 contributions is Sunday, **December 24**. Anything received after that date will be credited to 2024. Also, please return your pledge card to the office if you have not yet done so.

Dining Groups Shuffle. The consensus reached at our meeting recently was that we would reshuffle the dining groups every six months to encourage new connections and relationships (you are welcome to keep meeting with your old group too). Sign up on the insert if you would like to join a dining group for the first half of 2024.

Photo Directory Online Scheduling Available! Tuesday December 19th (12pm -6pm has been added to Calander) This will be the Last day!. To schedule your



photography appointment online, simply go to **www.ucdir.com** , click on photography appointment_scheduling login on the right side, enter **VA234** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have any questions please contact Hollie Jones in the office. You can also scan the QR code below and follow the instructions above. You will need to arrive 15 min prior to your appointment and enter through the office or Preschool side doors. Photos will take place in the Library.

Christmas Decorating! Friday, December 22nd at 2:00pm. If you would like to help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas services, please sign up on the insert sheet.

Christmas Caroling. We will go Christmas Caroling on **Sunday, December 17 starting at 4:00 PM.** Groups of carolers will visit several families of our congregation, singing to them outside their homes. Returning to Church, we will enjoy chili and cornbread. Come join us as we bring some Christmas cheer to our sick and home-bound members. Bring your favorite chili and/or cornbread to share afterward in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the insert if you will be able to attend.

Holiday Trifecta While you are hopefully counting all your blessings and feeling the love of family and friends during Thanksgiving, please do not forget the Social Ministry's Holiday Trifecta. They are offering us not one, not two, but **THREE** ways to show Christ's love. In the lobby are several decorated cartons. One is for toys for House of Mercy. If you prefer toys can be taken to House of Mercy or ordered from Amazon for direct delivery. The second box is to gather new or clean, gently used coats for children size 5 through adults. Hooded sweatshirts for teenagers are also needed. The third way to help goes in the collection plate marked for Lutheran World Relief. Monies collected will be used in the relief efforts in devastated Palestine/Israel.

Communal Life: Breakfasts. Come to build and deepen relationships – **at the Colonial Pancake House**, at the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road. Gatherings take place at **8:00 AM.**

Tuesday, December 5 - Women are invited to join together for breakfast

Thursday, December 7 - Men are invited to join together for breakfast

Have Fun and Support our St. Stephen Preschool during our annual Winter Carnival **Sunday, January 21, 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 insert sheet if you're able to help!

TOY DRIVE!

St. Stephen is again blessed to be able to assist the Williamsburg House of Mercy (WHOM) help over 700 children in our community enjoy Christmas morning this year! Gifts are for the children of Greater Williamsburg Area families, age's birth to eighteen years.

What/Where can I buy?

- Age-appropriate gifts including clothes, shoes, toys, small electronics
- Donate money and WHOM will shop for you. Make checks payable to **St. Stephen Lutheran Church**, with note for: **WHOM Toys**.
- Choose something from the Amazon Wish List <https://a.co/9HFgLYD>
- Scan the QR code
- Shop anywhere

What do I do with the gifts when I buy them?

- Drop them off at church, downstairs in Hollie's office
- Drop them off at church, in the Gathering Space
- Contact Jim Ivey and I will arrange to have them picked up from your porch/home
- Order online and send them to the church at 612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg VA 23185, Attn: WHOM Gifts

When is the deadline?

- Cash/Check donations **DUE TODAY Sunday, December 3**
- Gifts should be at the church or picked up no later than **Sunday, December 10**

Who do I contact if I have questions? Jim Ivey 757-608-8990, jivey@cox.net



VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

COMMUNITY OF FAITH MISSION HOMELESS EMERGENCY SHELTER

Thanks to those St. Stephen volunteers who have stepped up to fill staffing spots for our December 26th and 27th commitments for the Community of Faith (COFM) Emergency Shelter 2023-2024. With our volunteers and the COFM Volunteer Pool, most of those two days are filled. **THERE ARE A FEW SPOTS STILL OPEN FOR OUR TWO DAYS AND VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THAT WEEK AFTER CHRISTMAS THROUGH DECEMBER 31. YOU CAN HELP BY VOLUNTEERING FOR ANY OPEN SLOT! CHECK THE LIVE INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING COFM “SIGN-UP GENIUS” FOR OPENINGS!**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FA5AF23A6FCC16-46284900-emergency/160100060#/>

- While you cannot use the “SignUpGenius” to register, if you see a time you want to fill, email or text your name, email address, the date and time you want to fill to Donnie McDaniel, Executive Director, Community of Faith Mission, Text: 757-634-6787, Email: donniemcdaniel@cofm.info, telling her you are from St. Stephen Lutheran Church.
- The venue for the week after Christmas shelter has changed. It is: **Best Western Williamsburg Historic District; 351 York Street; Williamsburg, VA 23185; 3rd Floor.**
- If you volunteer, please be sure to review the attached COFM “**General Guidelines and Important Information.**”
- **View the required approximate one-hour "Volunteer Training Video"** located on the COFM website, <https://cofm.info>, under the heading Host Sites & Partners, Login, Password: *Faith!*

COFM continues to have the support of about 25 faith-based congregations, including St. Stephen, who provide the 7500 meals, 2500 volunteers that are all necessary to facilitate this Emergency Shelter program for the homeless in our community during the winter months. Please consider sharing your time during this special Season.

Love & peace,

Jim Ivey, Social Ministry Coordinating Committee

Worship and Fellowship for Advent and Christmas –

Allow the Spirit to nourish you with some moments of contemplation, as we gather at **7:00 PM** on these **Wednesdays in Advent**:

- December 6, **7:00PM** (Praise)
- December 13, **7:00PM** (Trust)
- December 20, **7:00PM** (Lament)
- Dec 21, **7:00PM** at **Our Saviors Lutheran Church** Longest Night Service

Children's Christmas Program

- **Sunday, December 17** at our **11:00 AM** Worship Service

Christmas Caroling outside to some of our ill and homebound folk.

Sunday, December 17

- **4:00 PM** – We meet in the Fellowship Hall to organize.
- **6:00 PM** – We'll return to the Fellowship Hall to share a meal together. Bring chili and/or cornbread to share! (If you're not able to make the caroling, feel free to join the meal gathering – and vice versa!)

Christmas Eve (all evening services with candlelight):

- **9:45 AM** – Worship and Holy Communion (**Advent 4**)
- **7:30 PM** – Worship featuring sermon, choirs, and Holy Communion
- **10:00 PM** – Contemplative Worship Service with Holy Communion

Christmas Day at **Our Saviors Lutheran Church** 10:30am Service

New Years Eve , December 31:

- **9:45 AM** – Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

St. Stephen Calendar: December 3 – December 10, 2023

SUNDAY, December 3 ~ Advent 1

- 8:30 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)**
- 9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism (Library/Conference Room)
- 9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 10:00 AM Children’s Christmas Program Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:00 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion**

MONDAY, December 4

- 10:00 AM Staff meeting (Pastor Jon’s Office)
- 1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)

TUESDAY, December 5

- 8:00 AM Women’s Breakfast (Colonial Pancake house)
- 11:30 AM** **Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)**

WEDNESDAY, December 6

- 11:30 AM** **Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)**
- 7:00 PM** **Advent Evening Prayer – Praise (Worship Space)**
- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, December 7

- 8:00 AM Men’s Breakfast (Colonial Pancake house)
- 12:00 PM Staff Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM St. Stephen Ringers Rehearsal (Worship Space)

FRIDAY, December 8

SATURDAY, December 9

- 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, December 10 ~ Advent 2

- 8:30 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)**
- 9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism (Library/Conference Room)
- 9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space) (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:00 AM Childrens Christmas Program Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:00 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion**



Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer..... (8:30) John McCurry
..... (11:00) Alina Dabel
Altar Guild (8:30) Diane McCurry
..... (11:00) Gerri Bass
Audio-Visual Team..... (8:30) (11:00) Tobias Janke
Bread Baker..... Amy Bergh
Cantors (8:30) Ursula Recktenwald (11:00) Jane deSolms
Communion Assistants (8:30) Ellen Bushman and Rosalie Frey
..... (11:00) Lori Harms and Emily Rossiter
Flower Delivery Karen Nester
Greeters/Hosts..... (8:30) Chris Punchard (11:00) Alison Carney
Lectors..... (8:30) Paula Agor (11:00) George Bass
Preacher..... Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt
Presider Pastor Jon O Nelson
Tellers..... Jane Gingerich, Ursula Recktenwald, & Russ White
Ushers..... (8:30) Brian Agor (11:00)

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

www.saintstephenlutheran.net

(757) 229-6688

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

(St. Stephen Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

All of Us, Called Through Our Baptisms

Pastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)

Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt (717-434-5037)

Karen Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)

Hollie Jones – Parish Administrator (229-6688)

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

Holly Ready – Preschool Director (229-6688)

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

Doing Ministry in the World

Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net

Pastorasw@saintstephenlutheran.net

MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net

Office@saintstephenlutheran.net

Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.net

Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net

Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church!

*Please fill this out and drop it in the offering plate
or give it to an usher.*

December 3, 2023

Name: _____

For guests and members with changes:

Address (Home) _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____

E-Mail Address _____

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

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*:

Name: _____

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: _____

_____ I need a name tag

_____ I will help decorate the sanctuary

_____ I would like to help with the Preschool Winter Carnival

_____ Set up/work at a game station: _____

_____ Bake a cake for the cake walk

_____ Bake or provide goodies for the snack stand

_____ I/we will be Caroling on Dec 17th _____

_____ I/We would like to be a part of the next round of dining groups.

_____ I am willing to be a convener of a dining group

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