



# **St. Stephen Lutheran Church**

**One of 11,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World**

***First Sunday of Christmas***

***December 31, 2023***

***Lessons and Carols***

## For Your Prayer – January 1 – January 7, 2024

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

***Monday:*** Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 (1) Galatians 4:4-7

***Tuesday:*** Proverbs 1:1-7 James 3:13-18 Psalm 148

***Wednesday:*** Proverbs 1:20-33 James 4:1-10 Psalm 110

***Thursday:*** Proverbs 3:1-12 James 4:11-17 Psalm 110

***Friday:*** Proverbs 22:1-9 Luke 6:27-31 Psalm 110

***Saturday: (Epiphany)*** Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (11) Ephesians 3:1-12

***Next Sunday's Readings:*** Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 (3) Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11

***Join your prayers for healing*** with God's desires for **Aaren Battle, Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, David Maris, 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 for these loved ones of our congregation:*** Benita, Paula Battle, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, Mary Bloom, Steve Boyles, Ann Bunn, Amy Carl, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Doug Crinklaw, Katie Czajkowski, Sophia Czajkowski, Judy Drezek, Charlie Eidson, Joel Gillespie, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Catherine Harbison, Deanna Harbison, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Char Henry, Lisa Hill, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, the Kennedy family, Marnah Lund, David Maris, Laura Margolin, Doug Mayes, Becky Murphy, Ed Moninger, John and Pollie Morison, Maddie Murray, Bob Myers, Silvana Oderisi, Lori Ogborn, Katie Orcutt, Shary Raske, Paula Rega, Marci Ries, Sharon Rogers, Betty Roth, Lou Schuster, Inge Seiter, Kelsey Slay, Brant Smith, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig.

**St. Stephen Lutheran Church**  
December 31, 2023 ~ *Lessons and Carols*

**Centering Prelude**      *The Bells of Christmas*      Setting, Marty Schaefer  
*A Medley of Carols*

**Greeting**

**Bidding Prayer**

**Hymn**      *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*      Hymn 275

**First Lesson**      *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*  
*(Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold)*

*Silence for reflection.*

**Hymn**      *Go Tell It on the Mountain*      Hymn 290

**Second Lesson**      *Isaiah 11:1-9*  
*(The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown)*

*Silence for reflection.*

**Hymn**      *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*      Hymn 282  
*Stanzas 2 and 3*

**Third Lesson**      *Luke 1:26-35,38*  
*(The angelic salutation of Mary)*

*Silence for reflection.*

**Hymn**      *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*      Hymn 265  
*Stanzas 1 and 2*

**Fourth Lesson**      *Matthew 1:18-23*  
*(The birth of Jesus)*

*Silence for reflection.*

**Hymn**      *Of the Father's Love Begotten*      Hymn 295  
*Stanzas 1 and 2*

**Fifth Lesson**                    *Luke 2:8-16*  
(*The shepherds go to the manger*)

*Silence for reflection.*

**Hymn**                            *Twos in the Moon of Wintertime*                            Hymn 284

**Sixth Lesson**                    *Matthew 2:1-12*  
(*The Wise Men are led to the manger*)

*Silence for reflection.*

**Hymn**                            *We Three Kings (stanzas 1 and 5)*

1 We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*Refrain*

Oh, star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!

5 Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
heav'n sings alleluia:  
alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

**Seventh Lesson**                    *John 1:1-14*  
(*John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation*)

*Silence for reflection.*

**Hymn**                            *He Came Down*                            Hymn 253

**Gospel**                            *Luke 2:22-40*

**Gospel Anthem:**                    *Nunc Dimittis*                            Ralph Vaughan Williams

**Prayers**

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

**Musical Offering**

*Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*

setting, Marty Schaefer

**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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.*

**First Communion Celebration**     *Mira Powell*

<b>Communion Music</b>	<i>It came Upon the Midnight Clear</i>	setting, John Turner
	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	setting, John Turner

**Table Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

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



## **Blessing**

**God bless you and keep you,  
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

**Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

*God Rest You Merry*

setting, John Turner



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*It Came upon a midnight clear List*

*Carols for a Starry Night Contributors: John Turner*

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*Away in a manger*

*Carols for a Starry Night Contributors: John Turner*

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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 is 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 this morning** are given to the Glory of God by **Shoenfelt Family** in celebration of the New Year!

**The Church Office will be closed** through January 3. If you have emergency need for pastoral care please call **Pastor Nelson**

## Information & Upcoming

**St. Stephen Preschool Registration** for the 2024-2025 year is now open to members of St. Stephen, who receive a *10 percent discount on tuition!* Please contact Preschool Administrator **Holly Ready** in the Preschool Office for more information.

**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? Would you like to bake a festive cake or cookies! See the insert and mark the white sheet if you're able to help!

**VA Synod Assembly Voting Members Needed. The 2024 VA Synod Assembly will be held on Zoom Saturday, April 27 from 9 am until noon.** On top of the typical business of the Synod. At our January meeting St. Stephen will elect two voting members to attend Synod Assembly and two alternates (we will be electing 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 White Sheet.**

**Our annual congregation meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 12:30 PM.**

## **Health Ministry**

### **A Safe and Healthy New Year**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year.

#### ***A New Year's Prayer***

As we head into the New Year, it remains important to be vigilant and stay safe. A few things you can do to plan ahead for events:

- Be extra careful days ahead of an event.
- Focus on hand washing and wearing masks in crowded indoor spaces.
- Make sure you are up to date on your vaccines.
- Always be respectful of others and enjoy a little space if they give that indication.

Also, be aware that after the holidays, suicide rates go up. If you know someone who has extreme mood swings, talks about being hopeless or is obsessed with death, reach out to them and let them know are there for them. You can also call or text **988** and talk to a trained counselor.

My door is always open and my phone is always on. Reach out to me if you need someone to listen.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel  
Parish Nurse

*Our worship service is available on our website [www.saintstephenlutheran.net](http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net), click on “Worship with Us” and “Services.”*

**SUNDAY, December 31 ~ *First Sunday of Christmas/Lessons & Carols***

**9:00 AM** Coffee and Conversation (Gathering Space)

**9:45 AM** Worship – Holy Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)

**MONDAY, January 1**

Office closed

**TUESDAY, January 2**

Office closed

**WEDNESDAY, January 3**

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Worship Space)

**THURSDAY, January 4**

8:00 AM Men’s Breakfast (Colonial Pancake House)

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

**FRIDAY, January 5**

**SATURDAY, January 6**

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

**SUNDAY, January 7 ~ *Baptism of Our Lord***

**8:30 AM** Worship – Holy Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)

9:30 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

10:00 AM Faith Formation (Undercroft/Preschool Room)

10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)

**11:00 AM** Worship – Holy Communion

## **Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today**

Acolyte/Crucifer.....	David Nelson
Altar Guild .....	Rosalie Frey
Audio-Visual Team.....	Doug Moore
Bread Baker.....	Paula Agor
Cantors .....	
Communion Assistants .....	Pam Buckley and Rosalie Frey
Flower Delivery .....	Rosemary Stimson
Greeters/Hosts.....	Diana Tiller-Dichtel
Lectors.....	Diana Tiller-Dichtel, Jane deSolms, George Bass, ..... George Martin, Christina Nelson, Hans Tiefel
Preacher and Presider .....	Rev. Jon O. Nelson
Tellers.....	Stan York, Jane deSolms, Susan Britcher
Ushers.....	John McCurry and George Bass

## ***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

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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 31, 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*:

(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 **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I need a name tag

\_\_\_\_\_ I will volunteer with the winter carnival

\_\_\_\_\_ I will bake/bring a festive cake, or cookies for the Winter carnival

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to be put on the Ballot as the voting member for the  
**2023 VA Synod Assembly**