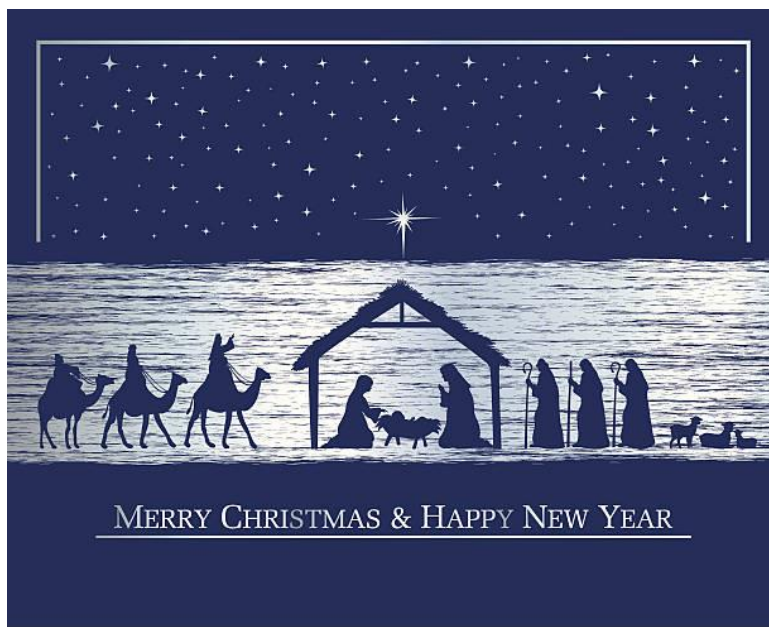




St. Stephen Lutheran Church

One of 11,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World



December 25, 2022

For Your Prayers –December 25 – January 1 ,2022

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Psalm 148; Wisdom 4:7-15; Acts 7:59—8:8

Tuesday: Psalm 148; Proverbs 8:22-31; 1 John 5:1-12

Wednesday Psalm 148; Isaiah 49:13-23; Matthew 18:1-14

Thursday: Psalm 20; Jeremiah 31:15-22; Luke 19:41-44

Friday : Psalm 20; Isaiah 26:1-9; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Saturday: Psalm 20; 1 Kings 3:5-14, John 8:12-19

Next Sundays reading: Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Karen Einarsen, Marj Gottschalk-Trone, Carol Harman, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Carole Meyer, Jeane Moore, Jim Mayfield, and Linda Reuben.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **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: 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, Joyce Davito, Jeris and Tony DeKievit, Judy Drezek, Paul Dwiggin, 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, Micah Maris-Wolf, Doug Mayes, Patrick and Kristin McGraw, Detra Michaels, 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, Vasili Soutoukis, Jerry and Evelyn Spear, Chad Strausbaugh, Kelly Theilen, Carolyn Williams, Travis Wilson, Kinnley, Teresa, and Robert Yazujian and the people of Ukraine

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

December 25, 2022- Christmas Day

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

Welcome

Centering Music *Of the Father's Love Begotten* - Setting, Christopher Uehlein

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 98)*

Sing to God something brand new!

For God has done wonderful things!

God has not forgotten to love us all!

Even the ends of the earth have heard!

Make a joyful noise!

Break forth in song!

With strings and horns,

sing praise to the Holy One!

With the roaring sea and everything in it!

With all the land and everything in it!

The floods clap their hands.

The hills sing for joy.

Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:

Justice for everyone, everything fair.

Sing to God something brand new!

For God has done wonderful things!

Christmas Proclamation

Gathering Hymn *O Come, All ye Faithful (Stanzas 1 and 4)* ELW 283 pg. 10

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

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer 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 52:7-10

Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: “Your God reigns!” Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

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

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus’ preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed.

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Angels We Have Heard on High (Stanza 3)

ELW 289

Come to Bethlehem and see

Him whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee

Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;

gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gospel

John 1:1-14

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

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be “full of grace and truth.”

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

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

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

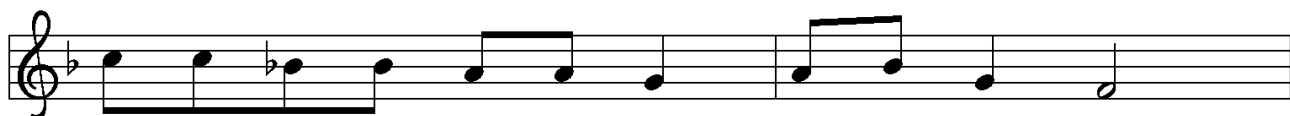
Let Our Gladness Have No End

ELW 291

Let Our Gladness Have No End



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 2 Proph - e - sies in days of old, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 3 See the love - liest bloom - ing rose, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 4 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!



for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has sent the one fore - told. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!

Refrain



On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to



save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

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.

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:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (stanza 3)

ELW 270

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!"

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.

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.



Copyright Information

Of the Father's Love Begotten; Setting, Christopher Uehlein © 2001 Augsburg Fortress

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful; Setting, Christopher Uehlein © 2001 Augsburg Fortress

Gifts for Immanuel; arr. David M. Kellermeyer © 2016 Augsburg Fortress

One License Licensing Permission Reprinted/Streamed with permission under, One License #A721099

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.



O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

In the Bleak Midwinter

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Where Shepherds Lately Kneled



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:
3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred.
sweet new - born babe, how frail! and in a man - ger bed:
his proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:
its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me;
a still, small voice to cry one day for me;
a child, a son, the Prince of peace for me;
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me;



but there is room and wel - come there for me.
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.
a child, a son, the Prince of peace for me.
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Information & Upcoming

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

St. Stephen Calendar – December 25- January 1, 2023

Our worship service is available on our website www.saintstephenlutheran.net, click on “Worship with Us” and “Services.”

SUNDAY, December 25 ~ *Christmas Day*

10:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)

8:00AM-8:00PM Alkothon (Fellowship Hall)

MONDAY, December 30

Office closed

TUESDAY, December 30

Office closed

WEDNESDAY, December 30

Office closed

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, December 30

Office closed

FRIDAY, December 30

Office closed

SATURDAY, December 31

8:00 AM-8:00 PM Alkothon (Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, January 1 ~ *First Sunday of Christmas/Lessons & Carols*

10:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)

8:00AM-8:00PM Alkothon (Fellowship Hall)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer	David Nelson
Altar Guild.....	Rosalie Frey & Diana Tiller-Dichtel
Audio-Visual Team	
Bread Baker.....	Pat Fretz
Cantors	
Communion Assistants	Harvey Nelson & David Nelson
Flower Delivery.....	Nelia Lamoureux
Greeters/Hosts	Ward Bourn
Lectors.....	Cyndy Touhsaent
Tellers.....	John McCurry, Carol Harman, Sandy Croushore
Ushers.....	Bill Dichtel

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

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

Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net

MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net

Office@saintstephenlutheran.net

Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.net

Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net