



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

One of 11,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World

First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025

Lessons and Carols

For Your Prayer – December 29, 2025 – January 4, 2026

Lectionary readings for this week:

Mon - Dec 29: Jeremiah 31:15-22 Luke 19:41-44 Psalm 20

Tue – Dec 30: Isaiah 26:1-9 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Psalm 20

Wed – Dec 31: 1 Kings 3:5-14 John 8:12-19 Psalm 20

Thurs- Jan 1: Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Psalm 8 (1)

Fri – Jan 2: Genesis 12:1-7 Hebrews 11:1-12 Psalm 72

Sat – Jan 3: Genesis 28:10-22 Hebrews 11:13-22 Psalm 72

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 (12) Ephesians 1:3-14 8 John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Ingrid Brown, Preston Burton, Kristin Carter, Bob & Ginny Cummings, Edith Haecker, Sharon Jacobs, Rita Kristiansen, Jim Mayfield, Julie Meeks, Carole Meyer, Carl and Mitchell Stauffer, and George Vonderheide.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: Ailene Bartlett, Ed Brown, Bob and Angie Groom, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Jerry, Kay C. ,Susan, Rosa, Celeste, and Isaac, Sam Areheart, Randy Altona, Mary Anderson, Phyllis Andrews, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, Robi Bayard, Jeffrey Berry, Sr., June Brantley, Carol Bergh, Mary Bloom, Richard Boger, Doug Bolick, Kay Braman, Bob Britcher, Raymond Bunn, Cagel Family, Karin Cavanaugh, Joyce Clemens, Amaree Cluff, Ruth Ann Coski, Marie Davito, Pat D'Orazio, Judy Drezek, Becky Drury, Darrin and Rosemary Dunn, Eric Farrell, Neal & Julie Fenstermaker, Kay Flatin, Tanya Fritz, Joel Gillespie, Joan Goodhart, The family of Scott Hadly, Charee Hampton, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Bradley, Kim, Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Lisa Hill, Doris Hillenbrand, Michelle Holdsworth, Jaxon Ireland, Claudia Jacobik, Justice Jefferson, Naomi Jefferson Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Jenn Kramer, Elaine Lane, Jeff Laub, Pat Layton, Marnah Lund, Keara Mahony, Trish Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Ellen Martin, Mabel Mater, Jack Mayfield, Jackie Mazzone, Tom Mifflin, Jimmy Mitchell, Liz Montalvo, Ed Moninger, Kim Morris, Bob Myers, Jeanette Osborn, Maricel Paulin, The Peterson family, Coral Pumley, Scott Radley, Kurt Recktenwald, Brian Ritter, Lou Schuster, Pamela Sharp, Kelsey Slay, Vasili Soutoukis, Kenneth & Laura Spencer, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, Janis Stevenson, George and Jewel Thomas, Karli Wallace Thompson, Jenn Tyson, Brenda Webster, Jim

Weickgenant, Matt Weilmuenster, Roselee Williams, Caleb Winig, and Elaine Wrich.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

December 28, 2025~ *Lessons and Carols*

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

Greeting

Bidding Prayer

Hymn *Once in Royal David's City* Hymn 269

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

Silence for reflection.

Hymn *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Hymn 272
 Stanzas 1 and 2

Second Lesson *Micah 5:2-5a*
(*The Promised ruler from Bethlehem*)

Silence for reflection.

Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Hymn 279
 Stanzas 1 and 4

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

Silence for reflection.

Hymn *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child* Hymn 297

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

Silence for reflection.

Hymn *Silent Night* Hymn 281
Stanzas 1 and 3

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

Silence for reflection.

Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High* Hymn 289
Stanzas 1 and 2

Sixth Lesson *Matthew 2:1-11* Hymn

(The Visit of the Magi)

Silence for reflection.

Hymn *As With Gladness Men of Old* Hymn 302
Stanzas 1- 3

Seventh Lesson *Matthew 2:13-23*
(The Escape to Egypt)

Silence for reflection.

Hymn *Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning* ACS 1060
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Responsive Prayer

Glory to God in the highest, **and peace to God's people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world. Amen.

Musical Offering *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby boy (West Indian)* arr. Earlene Rentz

Offertory Prayer

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through 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...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Spoken)

**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. All are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.*

Communion Music

In the Bleak Midwinter

Hymn 294

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Hymn 282

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love

in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

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

Sending Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels sing

Hymn 270

Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, [†] Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you 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

Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning



1 Gen - tle Jo - seph heard a warn - ing from an an - gel in the night;
2 Tar - gets of a ty - rant's ar - my, seek - ing safe - ty, flee - ing strife,
3 Give us, God, such faith and cour - age when we move from place to place,



val - iant Mar - y, maid-en moth-er, roused from sleep, pre - pared for flight:
leav-ing house and land and kin - dred, spurred by dreams of peace-ful life;
and to those who come a-mong us, make us chan - nels of your grace.



thus the Christ-child's fam - ly lived out what the proph-et had fore - told,
through the des - ert of un-know-ing and the night of doubt they went,
Let us see in ev - 'ry strang-er ref - u - gees from Beth - le - hem,



that he might be called from E - gypt as God's peo - ple were of old.
guid - ed by God's prom - ised pres - ence, by that trust made con - fi - dent.
help us of - fer each one wel - come and re - ceive the Christ in them.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: PLEADING SAVIOR, J. Leavitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830

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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 5th. 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 **Jessica Kimball** in the Preschool Office for more information.

Have Fun and Support our St. Stephen Preschool during our annual Winter Carnival **Sunday, February 1, 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!

The Women's Monthly Study on Thursday, **January 8**, will be led by Ina Berkey. We'll be discussing "Treasures". Please join us at 1:00 pm or 7:00 pm in the library.

Monthly Breakfasts

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

- **Tuesday, January 6 - Women** are invited to join together for breakfast
- **Thursday, January 8 - Men** are invited to join together for breakfast

Our annual congregation meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 12:30 PM.**

Yoga will take a break for the holidays from **Now- Jan 6th** . Yoga classes will resume on **Jan 7th 2026**

St. Stephen Calendar – December 28, 2025- January 4, 2026

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

SUNDAY, December 28 ~ 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, December 29

Office closed

TUESDAY, December 30

Office closed

WEDNESDAY, December 31

Office closed/ No Yoga

8:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, January 1- HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Office closed

FRIDAY, January 2

Office Closed

SATURDAY, January 3

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 PM Al anon Meeting (Gathering Space)

SUNDAY, January 4 ~ Second Sunday of Christmas

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..... Harvey Nelson
Altar Guild Diana Tiller-Dichtel
Audio-Visual Team..... Nancy Carter
Bread Baker..... Heidi Flatin
Cantors
Communion Assistants Heidi Flatin and Harvey Nelson
Flower Delivery
Greeters/Hosts Chris Punchard
Lectors
Pastor Pastor Jon Nelson
Tellers Tom & Sandy Peterkin and Sandy Croushore
Ushers Reed and Karen
Nester

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)

Jessica Kimball – 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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