

Worship online at [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)

Recorded for you to view anytime.

Please participate by having your worship bulletin and Celebrate ready

Zoom Bible Studies with Pastor Jim on Thursdays 11am & 7:30pm.

Check your email on Wednesday for the link to the Zoom meeting.

### Our Mission Statement

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community who worship  
God in Christ, nurture people growing in faith,  
serve others with acceptance and love,  
invite people to share the joy of the spirit.

### Reconciling in Christ

"We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.

We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race  
or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity,  
gender expression, or relationship status.

We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or  
mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances,  
or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ."

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.

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Web Address: [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)

Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30 am—2:30 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's

Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp

Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp

Church Musician: Gary Roberts

Sunday School: Leslie Lapp

Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens

Custodian: John Hopping

Videographers: Kent Madsen & Barb Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

## First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2020

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day.

### The Gathering

#### Advent Wreath Lighting

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,  
**Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

#### \*Opening Hymn

*"Awake , Awake, and Greet the New Morn"* #242

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,  
for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,  
Behold the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door  
and lives now inside us forever.**

## Give a Gift. Change a Life.



What better way to celebrate the season of Jesus' birth than to give gifts of comfort and joy to those who are in need. Give meaningful gifts that inspire leadership, nourish the hungry and heal the sick.

### Lutheran World Relief

provides gifts that improve the lives of people living in poverty around the world. For example: A Goat not only provides a woman farmer with milk to sell, but also helps her build a herd. Coffee seedlings help a farmer grow a lucrative crop that has the potential to significantly improve income. Seeds help farmers grow more and better crops when climate conditions are challenging. Emergency Water delivers immediate, potable water after disaster strikes. **LWR.org/gifts or 1-800-597-5972**

### Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

stands ready to welcome the most vulnerable refugees who are seeking safety and hope in America. Our gifts are essential in rebuilding their lives. Gifts from "Basic Needs Kit" to "Ready for Work kit" can mean so much to those who have nothing but the clothes on their backs. **LIRS.org or 877-291-7061**

### Continued help for Fire Victims

Lutheran Social Services of Nor. Cal. and Lutheran Disaster Response. 100% of these monies will be given directly to churches and ministries that have been affected by the fires.

### S.P.I.N. Socks for People in Need (box in narthex)

NEW socks are a blessing for many reasons, especially health, but also because they provide comfort and a sense of dignity. Basic white crew socks are appreciated by everyone. But you may also choose socks for women and <sup>15</sup>children.

## **The Season of Giving**

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported St. Stephen's this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead.

If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions.

For more info. contact Janet Slay 475-5668  
Your 2021 Offering envelopes are here, if you'd like to stop by and pick them up.

### **God uses money to confirm direction.**

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not rely on your own insight.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make your paths straight."*

To us, to all in sorrow and fear,  
Emmanuel comes a singing,  
his humble song is quiet and near,  
yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul  
and hymns of loving kindness,  
the thunder of his anthems roll  
to shatter all hatred and blindness.

In darkest night his coming shall be  
when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free,  
so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song,  
the lame shall leap in wonder,  
the weak be raised above the strong,  
and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,  
though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light,  
be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer  
and love our endless story;  
may God fill ev'ry day we share  
and bring us at last into glory.

### **\*Greeting**

P: The steadfast love of God, the life of Jesus Christ  
and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

Kyrie "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" # 257 vs. 1 - 2

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 thee, O Israel!

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**

Hymn of Praise

*"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"* #270 vs 1 & 3

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!"

**REFRAIN**

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

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 **REFRAIN**



## Poinsettias

Help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Poinsettias may be donated in honor or in memory of loved ones and will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Call the office. Cost is \$15. Please make the check payable to St. Stephen's, but keep it separate from your regular offering to make bookkeeping easier. You may take your plant home after 4:00 pm December 24 to enjoy. Proceeds benefit our church ministries.

## Sister Parish Prayer Children



We all know this has been a trying year in so many ways ... we will not be able to send a delegation to El Salvador in January. This means we will not be asking you to make a gift bag for the delegation to deliver to your prayer child. We are asking that you open up your hearts and make an additional contribution in lieu of a gift bag. It only takes a little from us to make a big difference in the lives of the children we have come to know and love in Ungo. We are requesting an additional \$50 donation to provide for the families this year. We will be very happy should you decide to give more, the need is ever greater this year.

### Holiday Alternative Gifting

Again this year we have a Donation Acknowledgement Card with a picture greeting from Salvadorian children and notation inside that "A donation has been made in your honor ...." On the back is our motto: "Building Relationships for Better Lives" with the explanation that donations provide scholarships, school supplies, pure water and composting toilets in two rural poverty communities. Contact Kent Madsen to make donations & receive Donation Acknowledgment Card(s). Thanks again for supporting our friends in El Salvador.



## Prayer Concerns

**Short Term:** Healthcare workers, teachers, The Wickham Family, Barbara J., Kent, Family of Eleanor Zoellner, Donna, Betsy, Tom, Anna, Krispa, Patsy, Zachary Sherilyn Jager & family, Family of Delores Price, Family of Al Mitchell, Jennifer & family, Family of Cheryl Denny, Jean Patterson, Frank Giammona, Heather, Kevin,

Family of Suzanne Duval, Vanessa, Rose, Shelly Barker & family, Sam, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Marlene Simmen & family, Lorraine Chavez, Kimberly & Danny, Lora Schraft Poulson, Nelleke, Hendrick, Chuck, Michael, Kayla, Don, Lina, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Miller, Kyle, Noah, Esdras, Jackson, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim and Our Church Family. **Long Term:** The Sanders Family, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, John B., Michelle, Josh, CJ, Susan Anderson, Rick, Bobbie Erickson, Edna Lindquist, Richard C., Eric VonSchell, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Barry & Barbara, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Karin, Will, Chris, Pat Hubbard, Cathy, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

## Outdoor Worship Christmas Eve

**Thursday, Dec. 24**  
**3:00 pm in the Parkinglot**

A recorded Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be available on our website.



### \*Prayer of the Day

P: May God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us Pray.

Celebrate, Page 1

## The Word of God

### First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Celebrate pg. 3

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### Gospel Acclamation

"Angels We Have Heard on High" #289 vs. 1

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains

*Gloria... in excelsis Deo*  
*Gloria... in excelsis Deo*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.  
**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

\*Hymn of the Day

**REFRAIN**  
**My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;**  
**Oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.**

**You will hear the trumpet sound,  
To wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand,  
When the stars begin to fall.      REFRAIN**

**You will hear the sinner cry,  
To wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand,  
When the stars begin to fall.      REFRAIN**

**You will hear the Christian shout,  
To wake the nations underground,  
Looking to my God's right hand,  
When the stars begin to fall.      REFRAIN**

The Prayers of the Church Celebrate, Page 4

## The Communion Meal

P: May God direct your ways in peace,  
Make you abound in love for one another and for all,  
And strengthen your hearts  
as we wait for the coming of Christ  
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” Red #244

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom  
near;  
Go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**

**The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff' rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.**

**Our hope and expectations, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way;  
As the Light of light, descending  
From the realms of endless day,  
Comes, the pow'rs of hell to vanquish,  
As the darkness clears away.**

**At his feet the six winged seraph,  
Cherubin with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry;  
“Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!”**

## **The Sending**

### **\*Communion Blessing**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
Strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.  
**C: Amen.**

### **\*Prayer after Communion**

P: God for whom we wait,  
You come to us  
In the broken bread and the cup we share.  
Make us ready always  
To welcome Christ into our hearts,  
And send us forth to be your people in the world,  
Announcing your coming among us  
In Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

P: May the peace of God be with you always.  
**C: And also with you.**

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of  
the gifts with which we have been blessed.

### **Offertory**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Red #283 vs. 1

**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**

### *REFRAIN*

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

### **Offering Prayer**

P: Savior of the nations, come.  
Make your home here in us.  
Feed us with you love,  
That our faith shine ever new  
And our lives reveal your light.

**C: Amen**

\*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....

\*Words of Institution

\*Lord's Prayer

**C: 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**

P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.  
Share in the feast of salvation.

*(You may be seated)*

Holy Communion

*Guests: You are welcome to come forward to receive Communion as part of this church family! Children are welcome to come forward and receive a special blessing if they have never communed before.*

Lamb of God

*"Love Has Come" Red #292 vs. 1 & 3*

**Love has come a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
Hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!**

**Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us,  
Hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

Communion Hymn

*"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Red #490*

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
For with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descending  
Comes full homage to demand.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food.**

*(Hymn continued)*