

Worship online at 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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831/476-4700 FAX 831/476-3918

email: office@ststephenslutheran.org

Web Address: 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

Third Sunday in Advent December 13, 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

Chant Psalm 126

Celebrate pg. 2

*Opening Hymn

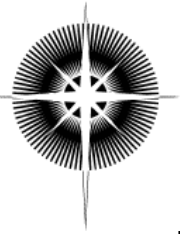
“Light Dawns on a Weary World” #726

**Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see all people’s dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes. REFRAIN**

**Loves grows in a weary world
When hungry hearts find bread and children’s dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world”
The promised feast of plenty comes. RERAIN**

**Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
The promised green of Eden comes. REFRAIN**

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 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."*

Proverbs 3:5-6

REFRAIN

The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
As all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

*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

*Prayer of the Day

P: May God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us Pray.

Celebrate pg. 1

The Word of God

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-11

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

2 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Celebrate pg. 3

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

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 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 for supporting our friends in El Salvador.



Help decorate the sanctuary & outdoor worship area for Christmas. Donate in honor or in memory of loved ones and it will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. To order, call the office. Cost is \$15. Please make the check payable to St. Stephen's, with memo "poinsettia". You may take your plant home after worship to enjoy. Proceeds benefit our church ministries.

Prayer Concerns

Short Term: Healthcare workers, teachers, The Wickham Family, Kent, Donna, Betsy, Tom, Anna, Krispa, Patsy, Zachary, Family of Al Mitchell, Family of Cheryl Denny, Jean Patterson, Frank Giammona, Heather, Kevin, Vanessa, Rose, Shelly Barker & family, Sam, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Lorraine Chavez, Lora Schraft Poulson, Nelleke, Hendrick, 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, Jeff Tarantino, 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

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

A recorded Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be available on our website, featuring special vocals and



“All That Brass”

Teen Jazz ensemble.
Donations for the band
are appreciated.

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. John
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*Gospel Reading John 1:6-28 Celebrate pg. 3

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

Sermon

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Red #254

- 1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

2. Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a king;
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

The Communion Meal

*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**

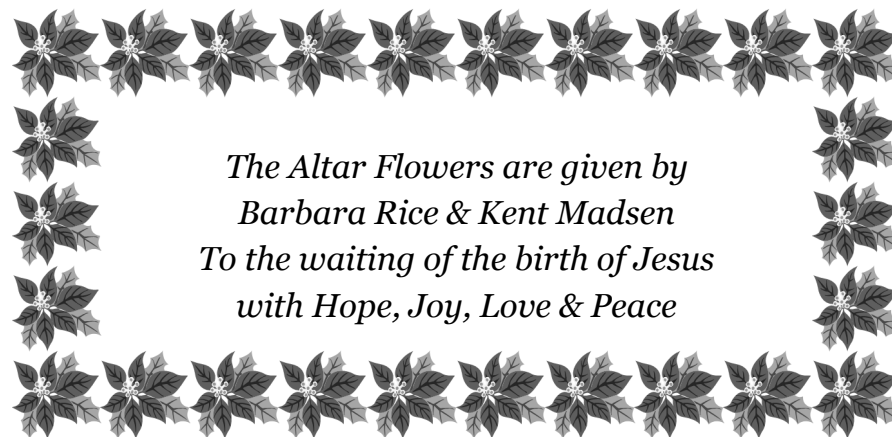
Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed. **REFRAIN**

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone. **REFRAIN**

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Signs of your kingdom come. **REFRAIN**

*Dismissal

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



*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.

*Blessing

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.

*Closing Hymn

"Christ, Be Our Light" Red #715

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.**

REFRAIN

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. REFRAIN**

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 your 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)

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!**

Holy Communion

As we continue to worship at a distance, please provide your own bread and fruit of the vine to commune with. Use the words "The Body of Christ given" and "The Blood of Christ shed" when you receive each of the elements.

*Invitation to Communion

P: Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with you.

Communion Hymn

"Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming" Red #272 (vs.1 & 2)

**Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As seers of old have sung,
It came, a flow'r so bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.**

**Isaiah had foretold it,
The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.**

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.