

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 Statement

“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.—Fri. 12—5:00 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

Second in Advent December 5, 2021

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

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
That marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the first candle on this wreath,
Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord
When he comes with all the saints and angels.
Enlighten us with your grace,
And prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
Whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Prepare the Royal Highway" Red #264

- 1. Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory,
Foretold in sacred story: 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**

Sponsor a Prayer Child

With our Sister Parish in El Salvador. Contact Kent Madsen for more info: 408-812-1141

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. You may also choose socks for women and children. Sponsored by the Association of Faith Communities.

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 2022 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

Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!

2. **God's people, see him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! **REFRAIN****

3. **Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
Their voices join your singing: **REFRAIN****

4. **His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding; **REFRAIN****

*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.**

(kyrie continued)

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.

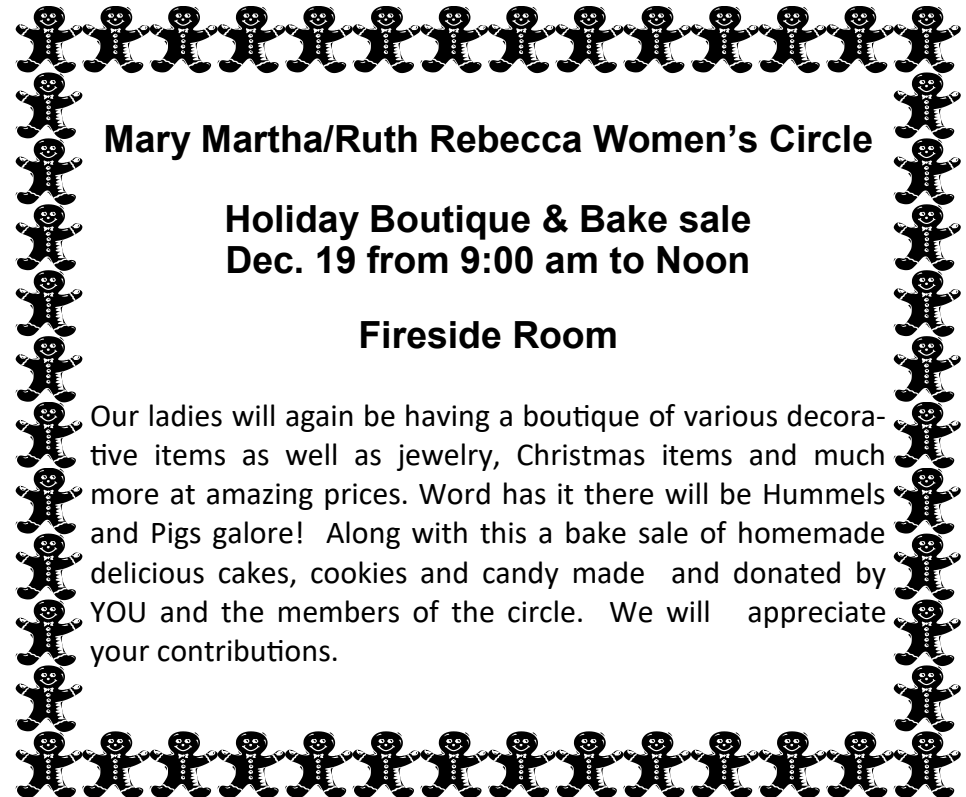
C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us Pray.



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 or sign up in the narthex (by Dec. 10). 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 8:30 pm December 24 to enjoy. Proceeds benefit our church ministries.



Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Women’s Circle

**Holiday Boutique & Bake sale
Dec. 19 from 9:00 am to Noon**

Fireside Room

Our ladies will again be having a boutique of various decorative items as well as jewelry, Christmas items and much more at amazing prices. Word has it there will be Hummels and Pigs galore! Along with this a bake sale of homemade delicious cakes, cookies and candy made and donated by YOU and the members of the circle. We will appreciate your contributions.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight Worship

Friday, Dec. 24
5:00 pm & 7:30 pm



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

Upcoming Events:

December Benevolence Offering =
Lutheran World Relief

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Today | Confirmation 6:30 pm |
| Dec. 7 | Boyscouts 7:00 pm |
| Dec. 15 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm (off site) |
| Dec. 9 | Bible Study 11:00 & 7:30 pm (Zoom) |
| Dec. 19 | Confirmation 6:30 pm |
| Dec. 14 | Church Council 6:30 pm |
| Dec. 20 | Embroider's Guild 7:00 pm Fireside |

Pastor's Office Hours Weds. & Thurs. 10:00 to 1:00

The Word of God

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4 Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God, Word of Life.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Philippians 1:3-11 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. Luke
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Gospel Reading Luke 3:1-6 Celebrate pg. 3

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

Sermon

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“ On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” Red #249

1. **On Jordan’s banks the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!**
2. **Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.**
3. **We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without your grace we waste away
Like flow’rs that wither and decay.**
4. **Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
And make us rise to fall no more;
Oh, let your face upon us shine
And fill the world with love divine.**
5. **All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.**

The Prayers of the Church

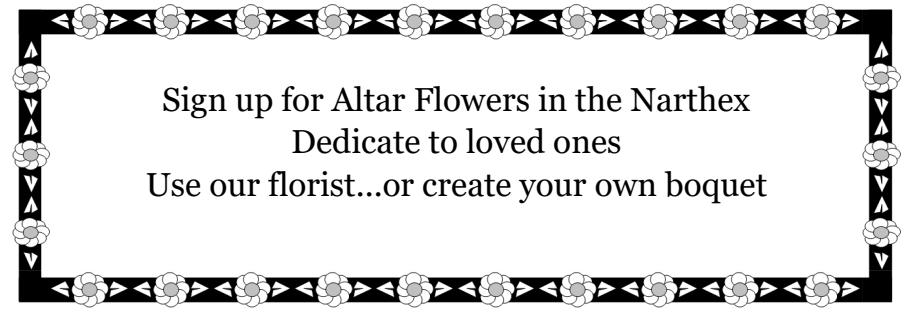
Celebrate, Page 4

The Communion Meal

*Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**



Serving Today

Usher—

Reader — Elke Spires

Coffee Host — Margaret & Bill Schraft



SHORT TERM: Family of Ryan Barker, Tyler Slay, Family of Rick Oldfield, Family of Ron Buswell, Family of Edna Lindquist, Chris & Patty, Gaye Cornell, Harriet Edsall, Dorothy, Laura, Bobbie Erickson, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Jane Davis, Kirsten Skiles, Jane, Nancy, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Rose, Sam, Aaron Johnson, Don, Lina, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Cabel, Miller, Noah, Esdras, Shelby, Healthcare workers, teachers, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation’s leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen’s Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family.

LONG TERM: Kyle Lapp, Jan Wagner, The Sanders Family, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, John B., Michelle, Josh, CJ, Susan Anderson, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

*Blessing

P: The God of hope

Fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
So that we may abound in hope
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
Through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest..

C: **Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

Red #239

**Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.**

**He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
To enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With your beloved name.**

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Offertory

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace" Red #247 vs. 1 & 2

1. Come, now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
2. Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Offering Prayer

P: God of our waiting and watching,

We offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
To the service of all your people.

Prepare the way before us

As we meet you in this simple meal,

Through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

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.*

Invitation to Communion

Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.

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

"Wait for the Lord" Red #262 (repeat often)

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

The Sending

*Prayer after Communion

P: Most High God,
You have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
Sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
Through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

C: Amen.