

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
Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. Noon—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

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany January 29, 2023

WELCOME AND A NOTE TO VISITORS

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

*Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
Who creates us,
Redeems us,
And calls us by name.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: *Most merciful God,*

***We confess that we have sinned against you
And your beloved children.***

***We have turned our faces away from your glory
When it did not appear as we expected.***

We have rejected your word

When it made us confront ourselves.

We have failed to show hospitality

To those you called us to welcome.

Accept our repentance for the things we have done

And the things we have left undone.;

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe

In the glory of your Son Born among us,

And reflect your love for all creation.

Amen.

Upcoming Events:

January Benevolence Offering = Community Bridges

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|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| TBA | Confirmation Class 6:30 pm |
| Jan. 30 | Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm (helpers needed) |
| Jan. 31 | Boyscouts 7:00 pm |
| Feb. 1 & 15 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm |
| Feb. 2 | Preschool Chapel 10:15 |
| Feb. 2 | Bible Study 11:00 & 7:30 pm (Zoom) |
| Feb. 5 | Scout Sunday |
| Feb. 14 | Church Council 6:30 pm |
| Feb. 14 | Embroider's Guild 7:00 pm Fireside |
| Feb. 16 | Knitters Guild 10 am |
| Feb. 20 | Embroiders Guild 7 pm |

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

Sign up to help on Sundays

It takes a lot of us to make things run smoothly during worship. Welcoming new folks & each other is our priority, so we cannot do without GREETERS. There are also spots for READERS and SET UP. Don't be shy, training is available. And let's be honest, COFFEE is always nice.

Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa, Family of Sandie Sanders, Craig Dahl, Family of Kurt Bell, Genell Csik, Mike Homa, Mateo, Family of Mark Cronquist, Erica Curry, Rosio, Barbara Stiles, Alessandra, John W., Family of Connor Kowalski, Shiela P., Mary Smith, Paul Cunningham, Barbara Allen, Beth Stiles, Anita & Howard, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, Deborah Henry, Carla, Ellie, Adrian Cameron, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Kirsten Skiles, Nancy, Marisa & Isaac, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Sam, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.

LONG TERM: April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Dom, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Michelle, Josh, CJ, Bobbie Erickson, Lupe, Joyce, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Miller, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, Our Nation’s leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen’s Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

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ANNUAL
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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
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TODAY
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We gather together immediately following
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worship to elect leadership to our Church Council,
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elect voting members for Synod Assembly, and
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approve a budget for 2023 that reflects our mission.
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Please stay to support your church as we
.
continue to seek God’s will for our ministry
.
together.
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P: Rejoice in this good news:
In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.
Your are descendants of the Most High,
Adopted into the household of Christ,
And inheritors of eternal life.
Live as freed and forgiven children of God.
C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn “Gather us In” (Here In This Place) Red #532

**Here in this place new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day**

**Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now, and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name**

**We are the young; our lives are a myst’ry
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of hist’ry
Called to be light to the whole human race**

**Gather us in, the rich and the haughty
Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song**

**Here we will take the wine and the water
Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
Call us a-new to be salt for the earth**

**Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
Here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, and now is the day**

(continued)

**Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone**

*Greeting

*P: Grace and peace from God our Creator,
from God who became one of us, Jesus Christ,
and may the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*Kyrie

Kyrie 18



Music: George Bortol
© 1998, Les Editions de Saint-Jean Publications, Inc. - Agnes

1. **Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**
2. **Christe eleison. Christe eleison.**
3. **Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

Glory to God

WOV #607

*Closing Hymn

"We Are Marching in the Light"

Red #866

**We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of God.**

Additional stanzas ad lib:

**We are dancing...
We are praying...
We are singing...**

*Dismissal

P: Go with Christ into a weary world.
Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Altar flowers are given By Shelly Barker
in celebration of her mother Joan's birthday*



Serving Today

Reader: Bill Schraft

Coffee Host & Snacks: Connie Cunningham & Jeanette Dawson

Teach me your patience; share with me
 A closer, dearer company,
 in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
 in trust that triumphs over wrong,

In hope that sends a shining ray
 far down the future's broad'ning way,
 in peace that only you can give;
 with you, O Master, let me live.

Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ
 strengthen us and keep us in God's grace now and forever.

C: Amen

Prayer after Communion

P: We give you thanks, gracious God,
 For we have feasted on the abundance of your house.
 Send us to bring good news
 And to proclaim your favor to all,
 Strengthen with the richness of your grace
 In your Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

The Sending

*Blessing

P: God who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
 Who rejoices over you,
 And who calls you by name,
 † Bless your going about and your coming in,
 Today and forever.

C: Amen

8

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, —

and peace — to God's peo -

ple on earth! —

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y

God and Fa - ther, — we wor - ship you, we

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. —

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, — and peace — to God's

peo - ple on earth! —

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

Fa - ther, — Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world: have mer - cy on

us; ————— you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. —————

☐ Glo - ry to God in the high - est, ————— and peace ———

— to God's peo - ple on earth! —————

☐ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, ————— ☐ you a - lone are the

Most — High, Je - sus Christ, ————— with the

Ho - ly Spir - it, ☐ in the glo - ry of God, the

Fa - ther. ————— A - men! ————— A - men! —————

☐ Glo - ry to God in the high - est, ————— and peace ———

— to God's peo - ple on earth! —————

Holy Communion

Visitors: You are welcome to come forward to receive Communion as part of this church family! Children are welcome to come and receive a special blessing if they have never communed. Communion is by intinction, we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Please follow the guidance of the ushers.

#195

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

"O Master, Let Me Walk with You" Red #818

**O Master, let me walk with you
In lowly paths of service true;
Tell me your secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

**Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
And guide them in the homeward way.**

(hymn continued)

619a

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might:
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
 in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*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

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to God's table.
 There is a place for you and enough for all.

*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: May God be with you. **C: And also with you.**
 P: Let us pray... **C: (following the prayer) Amen.**

The Word of God

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8-4

Celebrate pg. 1

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

Psalm

Psalm 15

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Celebrate pg. 3

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

*Gospel Acclamation

ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 5th Chapter
C: Glory to you, O God.

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

Celebrate pg. 3

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

Sermon

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" Red #712

Lord, whose love in humble service
Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken,
Worked your mercy's perfect deed:
We, your servants, bring the worship
Not of voice alone, but heart;
Consecrating to your purpose
Ev'ry gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless;
Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom;
Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
By your Spirit send your power
To our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision,
Till your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness
Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens
Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to ardent service,
Your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
That your servants, Lord,
in freedom may your mercy know and live.

*The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

*Passing of the Peace

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

C: And also with you.

The Communion Meal

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

*Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God,
Sovereign of the universe
You offer us new beginnings
And guide us on our journey.
Lead us to your table,
Nourish us with this heavenly food,
And prepare us to carry your love
To a hungry world,
In the name of Christ our 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 up to God.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....and join their unending hymn: