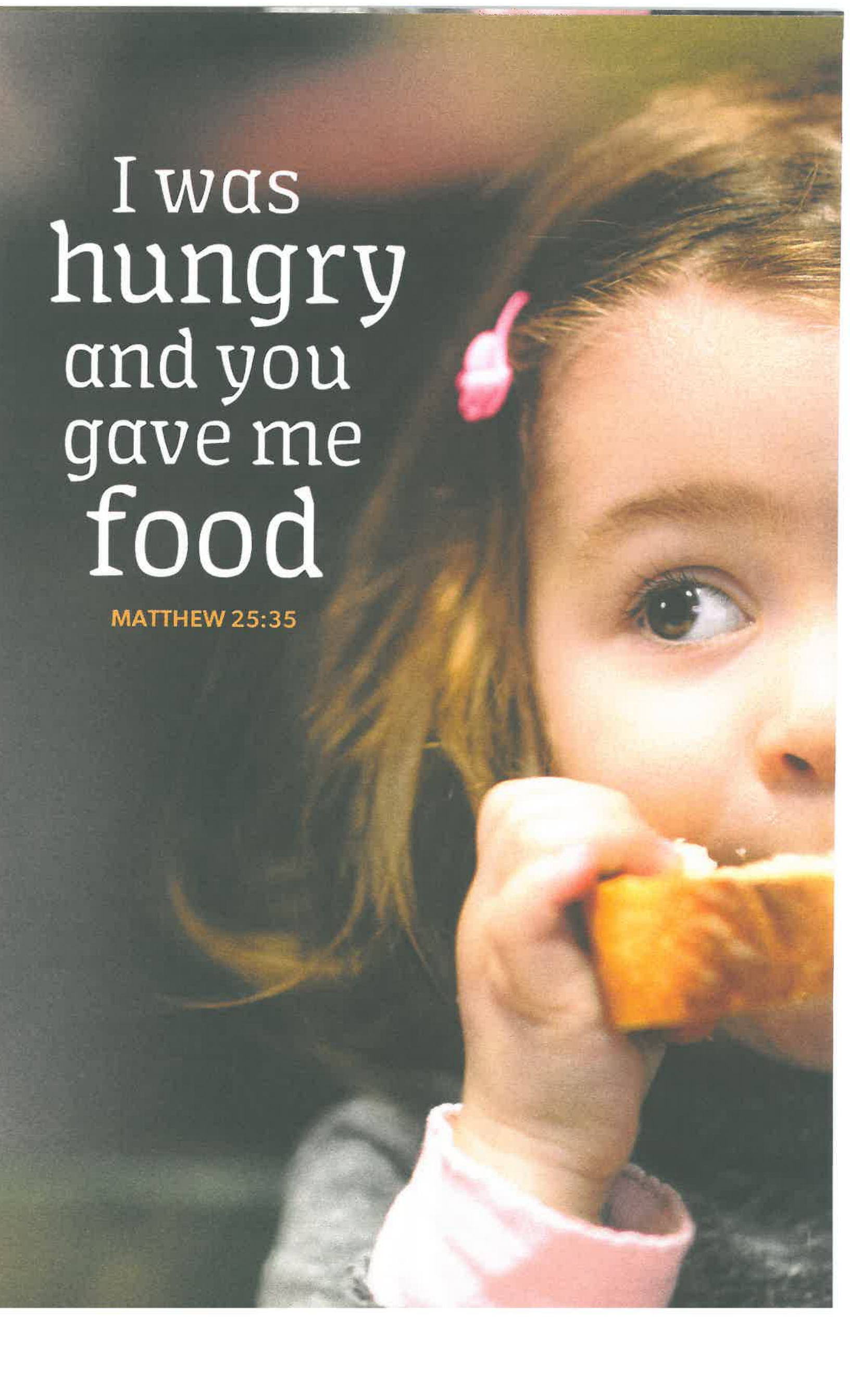


I was
hungry
and you
gave me
food

MATTHEW 25:35



Christ the King Sunday

November 26, 2023

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

*Opening Hymn

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Red #693

Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God’s own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God’s own field,
Fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
Whole~some grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come
And shall take his harvest home;

From his field shall in that day
All offenses purge away;
Give his angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store
In his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come
To thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified,
In thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come,
Raise the glorious harvest home!

*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!

(Kyrie Continued)

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, Page 1

The Word of God

First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading Ephesians 1:15-23 Celebrate pg. 3

L: 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

G l o ——— r I a . . . in excelsis Deo
G l o ——— r i a . . . in excelsis Deo

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew, the 24th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O God.

*Gospel Reading Matthew 25:31-46 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Red #840

Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all harm In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

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

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,
 So that our faith shines 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! The wine is red. The grape
juice is white. Children are always 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

“The King of Love My Shepherd is” #502

1. The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
And he is mine forever.

2. Where streams of living water flow
With gentle care he leads me,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With heav’nly food he feeds me.

3. Perverse and foolish I have strayed,
But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

4. In death’s dark vale I fear no ill
With you, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
Your cross before to guide me.

5. You spread a table in my sight,
Your saving grace bestowing;
And O what joy and true delight
From your pure chalice flowing!

6. And so through all the length of days
Your goodness fails me never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
Within your house forever.

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.

*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

"For the Fruit of All Creation" Red #679

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.

In our world wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Reader — Janet Slay
Coffee Host — Connie Cunningham

Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: *Middle East Peace, Jan, Jacque N. Diane Strong, Family of Jean Patterson, San Diego families of Nancy & Sam, Renee, Brandon, Tom Dawson, Rena Brown, James, Tina, Lurline Moore, Keith, Taiyo, Marisa, Isaac, George Webber, James Boudreau, Alvarado family, Frank, Dustin, Julie, Caitlin S., Family of Lupe Rodriguez, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, Corcoran family, Keith, Frank, Susan, Mike Homer, Charlie & Tracy, Andre, Irma, Sam, Jamie Sheehan, Ralph, Aria Brown, Karin Zaun, Atlas, Tony, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, Amy Wimmer, Gray, Hailey, Jesse, Joyce, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Kathy, Joel Hurttgam, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Genell Csik, Barbara Barte, Barbara Stiles, Paul Cunningham, Anita & Howard, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.* **LONG TERM:** *Biergiel—Colclough family, April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Joyce, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Noah, Esdras,*

Holiday Events

Dec. 3 Angel Tree (wrapped gifts due)

Dec. 6 Women's Café party 6pm
(offsite) 476-4700

Dec. 10 Sunday Worship
& Christmas Pageant—10am

Dec. 14 MMRR Circle Party—10:30 am
(cookie & gift exchange)

Dec. 24 Sunday Worship—10 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Sun. Dec. 24th— 7:00 pm

Shine your light & invite a friend to this momentous, joyful service. The livestream and recorded Christmas Eve Service will be available on our website:

www.ststephenslutheran.org





Poinsettias

Help adorn 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 Sunday, 7pm service to enjoy. Benefit our church ministries.

Music at St. Stephen's



Join the Music Team 2024! Hey friends, there is music in the air, can't you just feel those harmonic progression and intervals, bursting all around you. We all like music, and appreciate our gifts. Why not share with our church family and join the music team? If you teach an instrument or voice, please let me know. There is always room for more celebration through music.

Heb. 2:12 "I will declare your name to my sisters, & brothers in the assembly and will sing your praises."

Thank you Jeanette Dawson for donating material for our new music banner.

Good News Singers (GNS) will sing for us in November and during Advent. Thank you Janet, Tina, Bill, Margaret, Kirstin & Jeanette.

Advent Christmas Brass — December 17

Full Brass Ensemble 10 am

Please donate to the "Musicians Fund" to enhance our worship together. Yours in Christ & Mission, Gary.

PEACE THROUGH MUSIC



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.

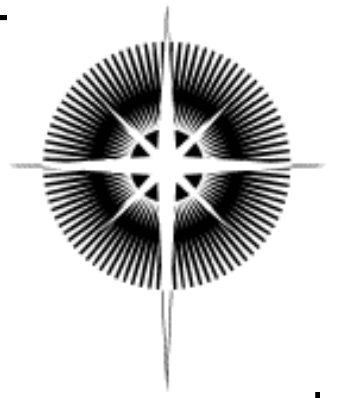
For more info. contact Janet Slay 475-5668

Your 2024 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

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**

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. Sponsored by the Association of Faith Communities.

Worship livestream 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
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Web Address: www.ststephenslutheran.org
Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 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, Jay Johnston

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