

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

One of 13,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World

We believe that community is *beautiful* and *messy* and *fulfilling* and *conflicted* and...the POINT. God calls us together into community for the sake of one another, our neighbors, and creation. We don't always get it right, but we trust that when we center the love and grace that Jesus taught, we will get it right more often than not. *You are welcome here!* We don't expect perfect, put-together people; we don't want you to conform to us and our ways; we want you to show up as who you are and to experience the love and grace of God as we have experienced it. And we hope that once you do, you will join us in sharing it with others too.



First Sunday of Advent Dec 1, 2024

For Your Prayers - Dec 2-8, 2024

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Numbers 17:1-11 2 Peter 3:1-18 Psalm 90

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 7:18-29 Revelation 22:12-16 Psalm 90

Wednesday: Isaiah 1:24-31 Luke 11:29-32 Psalm 90

Thursday: Malachi 3:5-12 Philippians 1:12-18a Luke 1:68-79 *Friday* Malachi 3:13-18 Philippians 1:18b-26 Luke 1:68-79

Saturday: Malachi 4:1-6 Luke 9:1-6 Luke 1:68-79

Next Sunday's Lessons: Malachi 3:1-4 Baruch 5:1-9 {alternate} Luke 1:68-79 (78)

Philippians 1:3-11

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Karen Arledge, Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Marcie Clark, Bob & Ginny Cummings, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Donna Kittelson, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Helen Nelsen and George Vonderheide.

<u>Pray for those unable to come to worship</u>: Martin Bleck, Ed Brown, Birdie Burton, York Doerr, Bob and Angie Groom, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Susan, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, , Eleftheria Beck, Tom Beck, Sally Blackburn, June Brantley, Sharon Brown, Linda Bonfiglio, Mary Bloom, Amy Carl, Karin Cavanaugh, Chris Clarke, Amaree Cluff, Ruth Ann Coski, Judy Craun, Judy Drezek, Becky Drury, Darrin and Rosemary Dunn, Time Ebel, David Gade, Joel Gillespie, Greg Gildner, Joan and John Goodhart, Charee Hampton, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Lisa Hill, Jaxon Ireland, Claudia Jacobik, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Marnah Lund, Trish and Sara and Matthew Macerelli, Keara Mahony, Laura Margolin, Jack Mayfield, Doug MacKenzie, The Keith Meins family, Liz Montalvo, Ed Moninger, Mya Moore, Kim Morris, Bob Myers, Silvana Oderisi, Coral Pumley, Kurt Recktenwald, Kurtis Schultz, Lou Schuster, Inge Seiter, Pamela Sharp, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Charley Underdahl, Brenda Webster, Caleb Winig, Elaine Wrich and Warren Wright.

First Sunday of Advent

I. Gathering: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Welcome

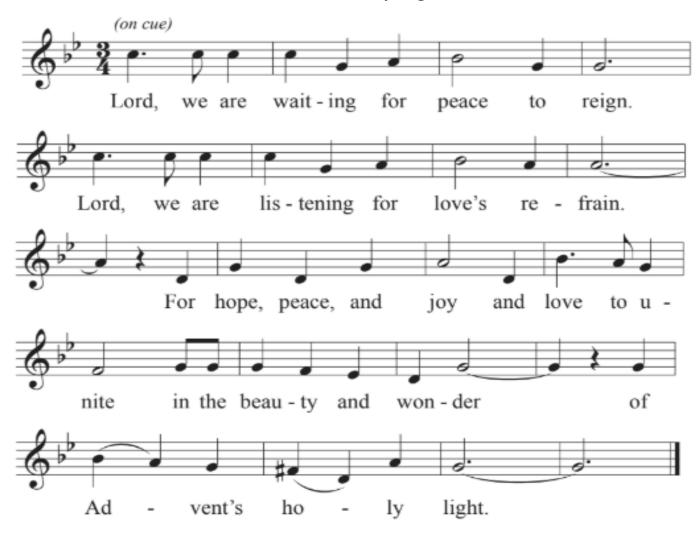
Centering Music

Come Now, O God

Anne Krentz Organ

Advent Wreath Lighting

Advent's Holy Light



FIRST SUNDAY - Hope

(The first candle is lit.)

Leader: Our Advent journey begins today with the lighting of the first candle, the candle of Hope. Like the flame of a candle, may hope be ignited in our hearts, reminding us that brighter days are ahead.

For those of us facing difficult challenges

Ignite our hearts with hope.

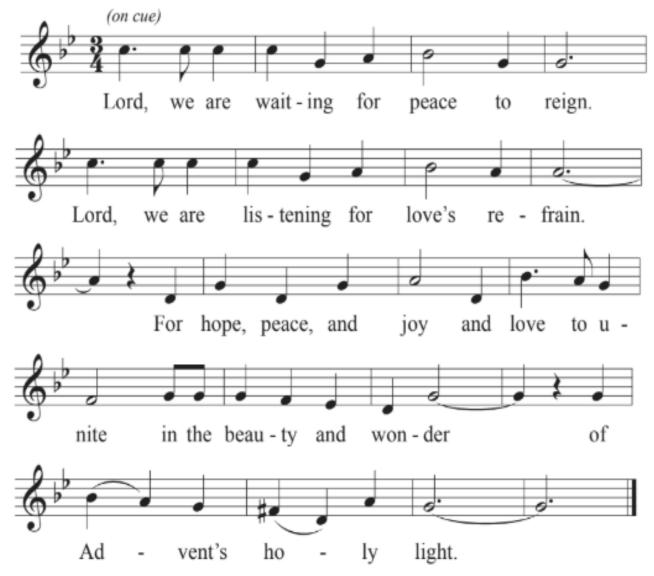
For the end of wars wreaking havoc and pain in our world **Ignite our hearts with hope.**

For safety for those fleeing the tyranny of oppression **Ignite our hearts with hope.**

For the light of forgiveness to shine in our hearts **Ignite our hearts with hope.**

Gracious Creator, in moments of uncertainty, we turn to you with hearts heavy but hopeful. Grant us the strength to navigate challenges, the wisdom to see possibilities, and the courage to embrace the journey ahead. May hope be our guiding light, leading us to a future filled with grace, love, and possibilities beyond our imagining. **Amen**

Repeat "Advent's Holy Light"



Gathering Hymn

Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying

ELW 436

Bulletin page 12 &13

Greeting: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie



Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

II. Word: God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

First Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."

Psalm Psalm 25:1-10



¹To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

- ² My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.
- ³Let none who look to you be | put to shame; rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
- ⁴Show me your | ways, O LORD, and teach | me your paths. *Refrain*
- ⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- ⁶ Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love, for they are from | everlasting. *Refrain*
- ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹ my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- ¹ ness, O LORD.
 - ⁸ You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners | in your way.
 - ⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice and teach the low- | ly your way.
 - ¹⁰ All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. *Refrain*

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."

Gospel Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

Response after announcement of the Gospel: "Glory to you, O Lord."

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Response at the conclusion of the Gospel: "Praise to you, O Christ."

"Let me not be put to shame" Sermon

Pastor Jon Nelson

Silence for prayer and reflection.

Hymn of the Day

Come Now, O God

ACS 902

Bulletin page 14

Prayers

Each petition concludes, "Lord, in your mercy," Response: "receive our prayer."

III. Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering

Offerings are gathered for the mission of the church: preaching and teaching the good news of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, and caring for the poor. During the offering, the table is set for the Lord's Supper.

Offering of Music

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

T. Shaw

Offertory Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Holy Communion

When receiving Communion, either stand or kneel at the Rail. Pastor will distribute the bread and a Communion Assistant will come with a tray of pre-filled cups of wine and grape juice. The juice will be in the middle of the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available as an alternative to bread. St. Stephen is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, so all are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.

Jesus, Lamb of God



Communion Hymns

Creator of the Stars of Night

ELW 245 Bulletin page15

In Silence We Wait

ACS 998 Bulletin page15

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

IV. Sending: God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Sending Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW 244

Bulletin page 16

Blessing

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,

→ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Greg Bottomley

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Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying





Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Come, Now, O God

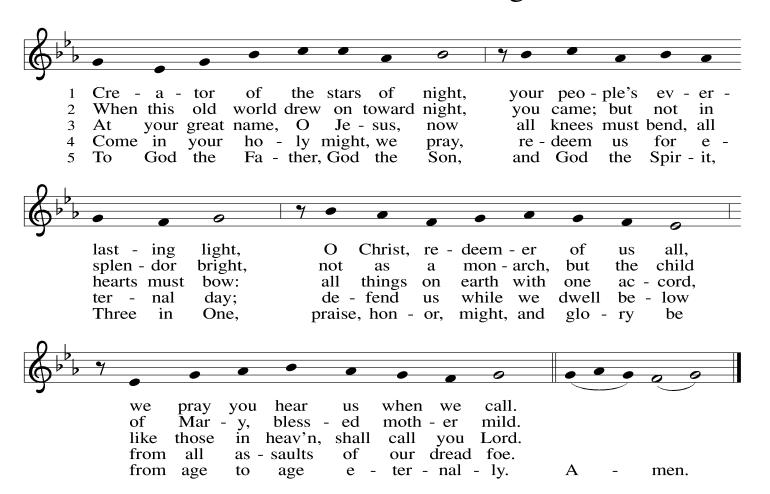


Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune

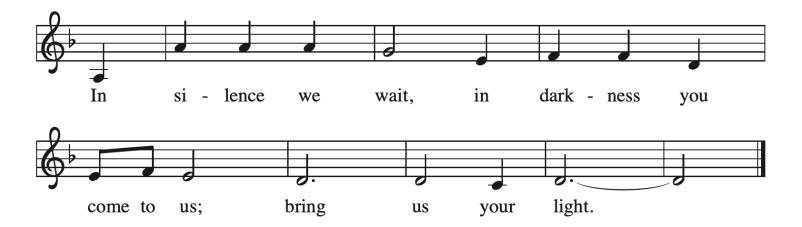
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Creator of the Stars of Night



Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt. Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

In Silence We Wait

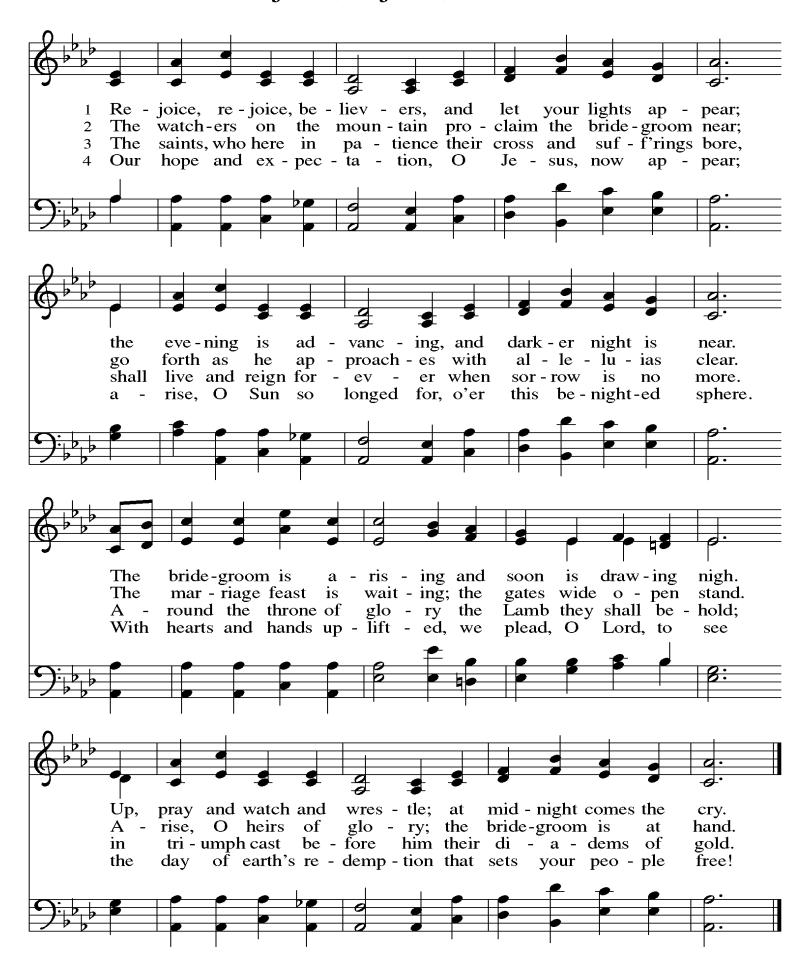


Text: Susan Masters, b. 1957

Music: IN SILENCE WE WAIT, Susan Masters

Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



As We Gather

Restrooms & First Aid

- ❖ A gender-neutral, family restroom and a Women's restroom can be found in the hallway behind our Worship Space.
- ❖ Additional Men's and Women's restrooms can be found on the lower level of the church building.
- ❖ A first aid kit and an A.E.D. can be found hanging on the wall in the hallway behind our Worship Space.

Live-streaming

❖ We regularly live-stream our services and cannot guarantee that you will not appear on our YouTube channel. Sitting in the East Wing or the NE section of the Worship Space will minimize your chances of being on screen. We can also bring communion to you if you inform an usher of that desire.

Parents! Thanks for bringing your children to worship.

- ❖ Did you know that intergenerational worship is the single most important activity encouraging children's faith formation? (See vibrantfaith.org)
- ❖ When parents and children need to take a break for a few minutes, there's a play area (aka "prayground") with toys and books in the East wing of the Worship Space.
- ❖ Age-appropriate activity bags are available in the Gathering Space ask an usher for assistance.

Assistance is Available for You:

- ❖ An induction loop is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T."
- **❖ Large print** worship materials are available ask an usher.

<u>Health Update</u>: We always encourage you to monitor yourself for symptoms of illness and to worship from home if you are experiencing any. We have masks and hand sanitizer available for use in our building should you require.

What's Happening Today

<u>Flowers this morning</u> are given today by Susan Britcher in memory of her parents, Kathryn and Jacob.

2024 TOY / GIFT DRIVE FOR GREATER WILLIAMSBURG

<u>AREA CHILDREN</u> Today is the last day to Donate to the WHOM toy drive or donate money. Please Scan the QR Code to have the Toys sent directly to Williamsburg House of Mercy or drop cash or a check made out to Saint Stephens with" toy drive" in the memo in the offering plate.



Upcoming

<u>Breakfasts.</u> Come to build and deepen relationships – **at the Colonial Pancake House**, on the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road. Gatherings take place at **8:00 AM**. **Tuesday, December 3 - Women** are invited to join for breakfast **Thursday, December 5 - Men** are invited to join for breakfast

New Women's Group Beginning in January. We are kicking off a new monthly Women's Group in January! Facilitated by St. Stephen member Sandy Johnson and using a shared leadership model, sessions will be on the second Thursday of each month. We will offer both an afternoon and an evening session. First Session: Thursday, January 9, 2025; Location: St. Stephen library; Choice of Times: 12:30-2:00 PM or 7:00-8:30 PM. No registration required. Just come and bring a friend! If you want to join the new group but foresee a barrier to accessibility keeping you from doing so, please let us know and we will do our best to support your participation. Questions? Reach out to Ina Berkey.

<u>Committee chairs, Council officers and staff: Annual Reports for 2024</u> are due to the church office no later than <u>Monday</u>, <u>December 23</u>. Please send your annual reports electronically to Parish Administrator Hollie Jones

Advent and Christmas Sunday & Midweek services

- **❖ 8:30 AM &11:00 AM** December 1 Advent 1
- ❖ 7:00 PM Dec 4th Restore Our Hope midweek service
- **❖ 8:30 Am &11:00 AM** December 8 Advent 2
- ❖ 7:00 PM Dec 11th-Restore Our Hope- midweek service
- * 8:30 AM December 15 Advent 3
- ❖ 11:00 AM December 15 Advent 3 Children's Program
- ❖ 7:00 PM Dec 18th-Restore Our Hope- midweek service
- ❖ 8:30 AM &11:00 AM December 22 Advent 4 (Caroling 3PM-5PM meet at the church at 2:30 PM)
- ❖ 7:00 PM Dec 24th Christmas Eve (Worship featuring sermon, choirs, and Holy Communion)
- **❖ 10:00 PM** Dec 24th Christmas Eve (Contemplative Worship Service with Holy Communion)
- ❖ 9:45 AM Dec 29th Service of Lessons and Carols w/Holy Communion

St. Stephen Calendar Dec 1-8, 2024

Our worship service is available on our website <u>www.saintstephenlutheran.net</u>, click on "Worship with Us" and "Services."

SUNDAY, Dec 1 – First Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM	Worship – Holy (Communion (live-streamed o	on our Yo	ouTube channel)

9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

9:50 AM Adult Ed: Catechism (Fellowship Hall)

9:50 AM AOB/HS: Catechism (Fellowship Hall)

10:00 AM Faith Formation: Christmas Program rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion

MONDAY, Dec 2

10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)

1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)

TUESDAY, Dec 3

8:00 AM Women's Breakfast (Colonial Pancake House)

WEDNESDAY, Dec 4

6:45 PM Chancel Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

7:00PM Worship "Restore our Hope" (Worship Space)

7:30-8:20PM Christmas Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, Dec 5

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Colonial Pancake House)

5:15-6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal (Worship Space)

FRIDAY, Dec 6

SATURDAY, Dec 7

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

5:30 PM Al-ANON Family Meeting (Gathering space)

SUNDAY, Dec 8 – Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)

9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

9:50 AM Adult Ed: Ministry Highlight (Fellowship Hall)

9:50 AM AOB/HS: Catechism Conversation (Library)

10:00 AM Faith Formation: Christmas Program rehearsal (Worship Space)

11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer	(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel
Altar Guild	(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel
	(11:00) Gerri Bass
Audio-Visual Team	(8:30) Nancy Carter and Tim Judy (11:00) Charles Osborn
Bread Baker	Jennifer Dabel
Cantors	(8:30) Ellen Bushman (11:00) Marj Gottschalk-Trone
Communion Assistants	
	(11:00) Lori Harms and Liam Janke
Flower Delivery	
Greeters/Hosts	(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel (11:00) Alison Carney
Lectors	(8:30) Harlan Schone (11:00) Cyndy Tousaent
Preacher	
Tellers	Jane Gingerich, Ursula Recktenwald, & Russ White
Ushers.	

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 <u>www.saintstephenlutheran.net</u> (757) 229-6688

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

(St. Stephen Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

All of Us, Called Through Our Baptisms	Doing Ministry in the World
Pastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)	Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net
Karen Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)	MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net
Hollie Jones – Parish Administrator (757-229-6688)	Office@saintstephenlutheran.net
Jessica Kimball -Preschool Director (757-229-6688)	Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net
Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (757-873-227	73; counselors are in Williamsburg
on Thursdays)	

Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church! Please fill this out and drop it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.

Dec 1, 2024

Name:	
For guests and members with changes:	
Address (Home)	
City/StateZip	
Telephone #	
E-Mail Address	
Guests Only: I belong to	
Church Address	
Please check as many as pertain:	
Member	
First time guest	
Regular guest	
Guest (out of town)	
Student at William & Mary	
Looking for a church home	
Desire to speak with pastor	
Would like more information about Stephen Ministry	
Would like a Stephen Minister to contact me	
Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if necessar	у.

Prayer Requests

Name: _	
Please remove from prayer concerns:	
Name: _	
I/W	Ve need a name tag:
	would like to Participate in the Book study of "Killers of the Flower by David Grann Feb
Moon"	1