

# 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.

Second Sunday of Advent



Second Sunday of Advent Dec 8, 2024

## For Your Prayers - Dec 9-15, 2024

#### **Lectionary readings for this week:**

*Monday:* Isaiah 40:1-11 Romans 8:22-25 Psalm 126 *Tuesday*: Isaiah 19:18-25 2 Peter 1:2-15 Psalm 126 *Wednesday*: Isaiah 35:3-7 Luke 7:18-30 Psalm 126

Thursday: Amos 6:1-8 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 Isaiah 12:2-6

Friday Malachi Amos 8:4-12 2 Corinthians 9:1-15 Isaiah 12:2-6

Saturday: Amos 9:8-15 Luke 1:57-66 Isaiah 12:2-6

Next Sunday's Lessons: Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 (6) Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

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, Paul Reier 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.

## Second Sunday of Advent

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

#### Welcome

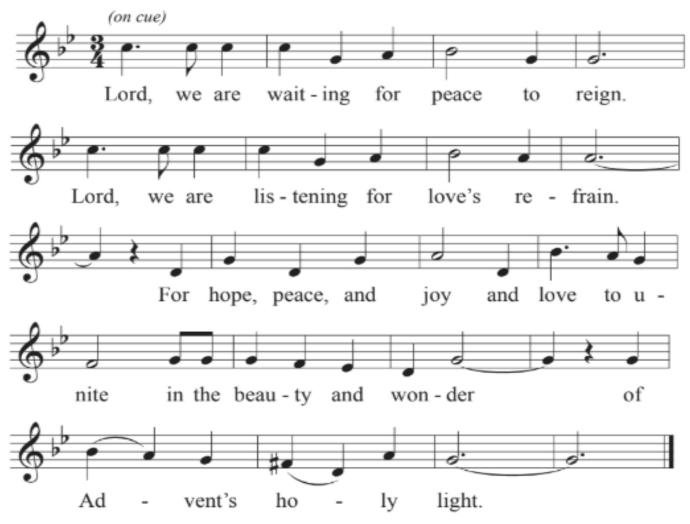
**Centering Music** 

Prepare the Royal highway
St. Stephen Ringers

Anna Laura Page

## **Advent Wreath Lighting**

## Advent's Holy Light



## **SECOND SUNDAY - Peace**

(The first and second candles are lit.)

**Leader:** We continue our Advent journey today with the lighting of the Hope candle and the second candle, the candle of Peace. Let the gentle glow of these candles symbolize the tranquility we seek in our hearts and homes, fostering a sense of peace that transcends the chaos of this world..

In a world filled with conflict and confrontations **We humbly seek the gift of peace.** For the storms that sometimes rage within us **We humbly seek the gift of peace.** As we rush and hurry our way through busy lives **We humbly seek the gift of peace.** 

And for those around us we know are carrying heavy burdens **We humbly seek the gift of peace.** 

Gracious Creator, in the quiet moments may we find solace in your presence, and in the noisy chaos of life may your peace prevail. Calm the storms that rage within and around us. May we be instruments of your peace, fostering understanding, compassion, and harmony in our hearts. **Amen**.

## Repeat "Advent's Holy Light"

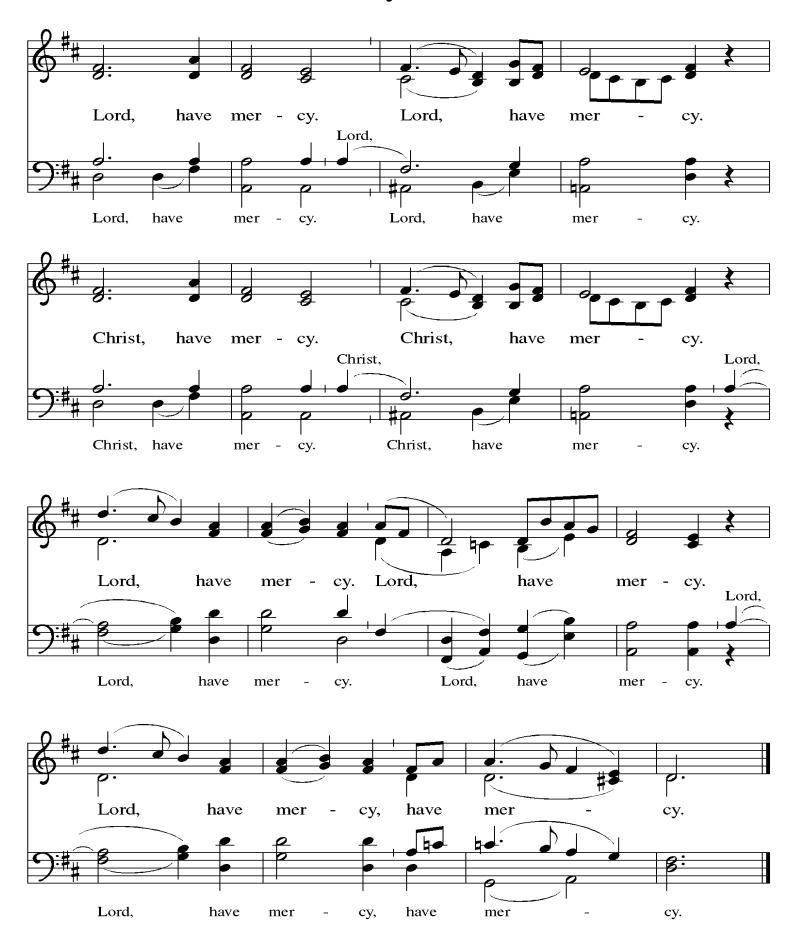


Gathering Hymn Freedom Is Coming

ACS 903 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

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

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

**Psalm Hymn** 

Blessed Be the God of Israel

ELW 250 Bulletin page 11

Second Reading Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

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

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

Sermon

"The Word Still Comes"

Rev. David Hindman

Silence for prayer and reflection.

**Hymn of the Day** 

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

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** 

Prepare the Way of the Lord

William Rowan

## **Offertory Prayer**

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

## 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.



**Communion Music** 

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel St. Stephen Ringers

## **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** 

On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand

**ELW 437** 

Bulletin page 16

## **Blessing**

#### **Dismissal**

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

**Postlude** 

Puer NobisSt. Stephen Ringers

Carl Wiltse

## **Copyright Information**

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## Blessed Be the God of Israel



## Freedom Is Coming





2 Oh, Jesus. Jesus is coming. Oh, yes, I know.

Text: South African; transc. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Music: FREEDOM IS COMING, South African; transc. Freedom Is Coming

Text and music © 1984 Peace of Music Publishing AB, admin. Walton Music Corp., a div. of GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

## Prepare the Royal Highway



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus

Tú, Jesús, nuestra esperanza



## On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand



## **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**

**Flowers this morning** are given today by Amy and Brian Bergh in honor of our 29th wedding anniversary!



<u>Preschool FUNdraiser</u>: Ice Cream you scream we all scream for Ice Cream! Dec 1<sup>st</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>. The Preschool has partnered with a local ice cream company to offer pints of ice cream right in time for the holidays. All flavors of ice cream can be purchased online using the QR code and will be delivered to the church on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> for pick up.

<u>Christmas Baking Traditions.</u> Join us in the Fellowship Hall today from 3-4PM to share in one another's Christmas treat traditions. Bring your dough or batter and any

special tools and share your traditions with others! The church ovens will also be available for baking. Not a baker? Come for conversation and to try some treats! Rides available, contact Pastor Jon.

## **Upcoming**

<u>Christmas Decorating.</u> We would welcome help putting up Christmas decorations on **Saturday, December 21st, 10:00AM**.

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

## A note from the financial secretary:

All donations for 2024 must be received by **Sunday, December 29**. Any donations that come in after that date will be credited to 2025. And if you procrastinated it's not too late to turn in an estimate of giving card for 2025. Questions—you can reach me at finsec@saintstephenlutheran.net - Karen Nester, Financial Secretary

New Women's Group Beginning in January. 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.

## Advent and Christmas Sunday & Midweek services

- **8:30** Am **&11:00** AM December 8 Advent 2
- ❖ 7:00 PM Dec 11<sup>th</sup>-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 18<sup>th</sup>-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 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve (Worship featuring sermon, choirs, and Holy Communion)
- ❖ 10:00 PM Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve (Contemplative Worship Service with Holy Communion)
- ❖ 9:45 AM Dec 29<sup>th</sup> Service of Lessons and Carols w/Holy Communion

## St. Stephen Calendar Dec 8-15, 2024

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

#### **SUNDAY, Dec 8** – Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube chann	8:30 AM	Worship – Holy	Communion (	(live-streamed on	our YouTube channe
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- 9:30 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 9:50 AM Adult Ed: Ministry Highlight (Fellowship Hall)
- 9:50 AM AOB/HS: Catechism Conversation (Library)
- 9:45 AM Faith Formation: Christmas Program rehearsal (Worship Space)

## 11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion

- 3:00 PM Sharing Baking Traditions (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 PM LSA dinner (College Room)

## MONDAY, Dec 9

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)
- 1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 3:00 PM Finance Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

### **TUESDAY, Dec 10**

7:00 PM Council Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

## WEDNESDAY, Dec 11

- 6:45 PM Chancel Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
- **7:00PM** Worship "Restore our Hope" (Worship Space)
- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:30 PM Christmas Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

## THURSDAY, Dec 12

- 11:00 AM Bulletin Review (Church Office)
- 5:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal (Worship Space)

## FRIDAY, Dec 13

## SATURDAY, Dec 14

- 9:00AM Christmas children's program rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM Al-ANON Family Meeting (Gathering space)

## SUNDAY, Dec 15 - Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 AM Worship Holy Communion (live-streamed)
- 9:30 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 9:50 AM AOB/HS: Spiritual Practice (College Room)
- 9:50 AM Adult Ed: Q&A with the Pastor, Christmas Edition (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:00 AM Faith Formation: Christmas Program rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 11:00 AM Worship Holy Communion (Children's program) (live-streamed)

## **Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today**

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Acolyte/Crucifer	(8:30) Stan York
	(11:00) Jeffery Berry
	(8:30) Rita Kristiansen
	(11:00)
Audio-Visual Team	(8:30) JR & Diana Lyons (11:00) Mike Morgan
Bread Baker	Janice Mayfield
Communion Assistants.	(8:30) Ellen Bushman and Stan York
	(11:00) George Bass and Jeffery Berry
Flower Delivery	
Greeters/Hosts	(8:30) Paul & Rita Kristiansen (11:00) Susan Kauffman
Lectors	(8:30) Karen Nester (11:00) Rosemary Stimson
Preacher	Pastor David Hindman
Presider	Pastor Jon Nelson
Tellers	Jane deSolms, Susan Britcher, Jim Larsen
Ushers	(8:30) Jeff & Lisa Bushmire (11:00) Art Nelson & Glen Joppa

## 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
<b>Pastor Jon Nelson</b> (320-295-8861)	Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net
Karen Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)	MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net
<b>Hollie Jones</b> – Parish Administrator (757-229-6688)	Office@saintstephenlutheran.net
<b>Jessica Kimball</b> -Preschool Director (757-229-6688)	Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net
<b>Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center</b> (757-873-22)	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 8, 2024

For guests and members with	h changes:		
Address (Home)			
City/State	Zip		
Telephone #			
E-Mail Address			
Guests Only: I belong to			
Church Address			
Please check as many as pertain Member	in:		
First time guest			
Regular guest			
Guest (out of town)			
Student at William & M	•		
Looking for a church ho			
Desire to speak with pas			
Would like more inform		•	
Would like a Stephen M	inister to cont	act me	
Any comments? Please be sur	e vour name i	s above, so we ma	v respond, if necessary

# **Prayer Requests**

Please <b>add</b> to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's <i>Quill</i> :	
Name:	
Please <b>remove</b> from prayer concerns:	
Name:	
I/We need a name tag:	

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

Dec 8, 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 necessary

# **Prayer Requests**

Name:	
Please re	move from prayer concerns:
Name:	