

Worship 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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email: office@ststephenslutheran.org

Web Address: www.ststephenslutheran.org

Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30 am—2:30 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 in Advent December 20, 2020

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

Chant Psalm 1:46-55

*Opening Hymn

"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" Red #436

**1 Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
Awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The Bridegroom comes! Awake;
Your lamps with gladness take! "
Alleluia! Rise and prepare the feast to share;
go, meet the Bridegroom, who draws near.**

**2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
Her dear friend comes down, all glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious:
Her star is risen; her light is come.**

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.

Santa Cruz al Salvador Sister Parish

provide scholarships, school supplies, pure water and composting toilets in two rural poverty communities.

Lutheran World Relief improve the lives of people living in poverty around the world. 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 potable water after disaster strikes. 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**

Continued help for Fire Victims Lutheran Social Services of Nor. Cal. and Lutheran Disaster Response. 100% of these monies will be given directly to churches and ministries that have been affected by the fires.

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.

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 2021 Offering envelopes are here, if you'd like to stop by and pick them up. Call the office and we can leave them outside 476-4700.

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

**Now come, O Blessed One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son.
Sing hosanna! Oh, hear the call!
Come one, come all, and follow to the banquet hall.**

**3 Gloria! Let heaven adore you!
Let saints and angels sing before you,
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,
with angel choirs around your throne.
No eye has caught the light,
no ear, the thund'ring might of such glory.
There we will go: what joy we'll know!
There sweet delight will ever flow.**

*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!**

**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 pg. 1

The Word of God

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-16

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



**CHRISTMAS
EVE**

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

**Thursday, Dec. 24 @ 3:00 pm
in the Parkinglot**

A recorded Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be available on our website www.ststephenslutheran.org featuring special vocals and



"All That Brass"

Teen Jazz ensemble.
Donations for the band are appreciated.

**He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love.
And wonders, wonders of His love!**

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.
C: **Thanks be to God.**



*The Altar Flowers are given by
Judith & Robert Alvarado
Celebrating their 25th Anniversary*

Prayer Concerns

Short Term: Healthcare workers, teachers, Janet Keighley, The Wickham Family, Kent, Donna, Betsy, Tom, Anna, Krispa, Patsy, Zachary, Family of Al Mitchell, Family of Cheryl Denny, Jean Patterson, Frank Giammona, Heather, Kevin, Vanessa, Rose, Shelly Barker & family, Sam, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Lorraine Chavez, Lora Schraft Poulson, Nelleke, Hendrick, Kayla, Don, Lina, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Miller, Kyle, Noah, Esdras, Jackson, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim and Our Church Family. **Long Term:** The Sanders Family, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, John B., Michelle, Josh, CJ, Jeff Tarantino, Susan Anderson, Rick, Bobbie Erickson, Edna Lindquist, Richard C., Eric VonSchell, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Barry & Barbara, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Karin, Will, Chris, Pat Hubbard, Cathy, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27 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 1:26-38 Celebrate pg. 3

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

Sermon

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“Unexpected and Mysterious” #258

**Unexpected and mysterious is he gentle word of grace.
Ever loving and sustaining is the peace of God’s embrace.
If we falter in our courage and we doubt what we have known,
God is faithful to console us as a mother tends her own.**

**In a momentary meeting of eternity and time,
Mary learned that she would carry both the mortal and divine.
Then she learned of God’s compassion,
of Elizabeth’s great joy,
And she ran to greet the woman who would recognize her boy.**

**We are called to ponder myst’ry and await the coming Christ
To embody God’s compassion for each fragile human life.
God is with us in our longing to bring healing to the earth,
while we watch with joy and wonder
for the promised Savior’s birth.**

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.

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

“Joy To The World” Red #267

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart, prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing!**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

(hymn continued)

3. This is he whom seers in old time
 Changed of with one accord,
 Whom the voices of the prophets
 Promised in their faithful word;
 Now he shines, the long expected;
 Let creation praise its Lord
 Evermore and evermore.
4. Let the heights of heav'n adore him;
 Angels hosts, his praises sing;
 Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him
 And extol our God and King;
 Let no tongue on earth be silent,
 Ev'ry voice in concert ring
 Evermore and evermore.
5. Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
 And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
 Hymn and change and high thanksgiving
 And unwearied praises be:
 Honor, glory, and dominion,
 And eternal victory
 Evermore and evermore! Amen

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,

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 you love,
 That our faith shine 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)

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!**

Holy Communion

As we continue to worship at a distance, please provide your own bread and fruit of the vine to commune with. Use the words "The Body of Christ given" and "The Blood of Christ shed" when you receive each of the elements.

*Invitation to Communion

P: Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with you.

Communion Hymn

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Red #295

- 1. Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.**
- 2. Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore.**

(hymn continued)