



*Prepare the way  
of the Lord*

LUKE 3:4



# Second Sunday of Advent

## December 8, 2024

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

Music            “O Little One Sweet”  
                          German J.S. Bach

                  “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”  
                          Polish Carol, D. Wilcocks

                  “Ding Dong! Merrily on High”  
                          French Carol, C. Wood

### Welcome

### Advent Wreath Lighting

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown  
That marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent.  
As we light the first candle on this wreath,  
Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord  
When he comes with all the saints and angels.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
And prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
Whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn

*“Joy To The World”* Red #267 verses 1~2

1. 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!

2. 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.

\*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, Page 1

# The Word of God

Christmas Pageant

Sunday School, Preschool & You

\*Hymn of the Day

“Away in a Manger”

Red #277

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing;  
The baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus;  
Look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus;  
I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

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.**

Please share o sign of God’s Peace with the words:  
“Peace be with you.”

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

Music          Choir Introit “Christ Our Peace”

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: 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 Child, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

\*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**

## **The Sending**

### **\*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 verses 3-4

**3. 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.**

**4. 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. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music

“Good King Wenceslas”

Tune—Piaw Cantiones R. Jacques

Coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall hosted by MMRR

AND



Purchase treats to take home  
at the annual Bake Sale







## Prayer Concerns

**SHORT TERM:** James Sheehan, Trace Hull, Linda, Scoutmaster Scott, Family of Ryan Fairrington, Connie & Family of Paul Cunningham, Glosier family, For Julie Mouw & Family of Marty Lundin, Unemployed, George Webber, Michelle & Family, Family of Travis, Boci,

Isaac & Marissa, Chris Powers, Gloria, Jack & Kim Sanford, Lucia, Dennis Lewis, For Beth & Family of Barbara Stiles, Marta's parents, Adrienne, Gary & Louse Matz, Friends in Tel Aviv, family of Barbara Klapper, family of Lauren Patrick, Patrick & Family, The Moore family, the Brown Family, Family of Sandra Barker, Nick, Beth Mills, Mary D., Tom, Galahad, Susan O., Debbie, Sam, James, Michael Lee, Nate Barker, Grandpa Dennis, Bob & Shirley Salter, Monica & Family, Lurline Moore, Beth Butler, Jen, Robbin, Maria Mendoza, Ila & Reina, Francisco, Margot Wilson, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Tim Oldfield, Sierra, Julie R., Rosie, Janet, Sue, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, James, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Gary & Marjie Toops, Paul Paustian, Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Will, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager.

**LONG TERM:** Biergiel—Colclough family, Carla Brown, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Mike, 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, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, People of Palestine/Israel, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.



## **Pageant Cast**

### **Emcee Narrator**

*Sam Garcia*

### **Dramatic Narrator**

*Christa Garcia*

### **Light Pros**

*Aria, Julia & Liz*

**Readers** *Aria, Julia & Liz*

**Shepherds** *Conrad & Galahad*

**Angels** *Ila & Savannah*

### **The Friendly Beasts**

*Gus, Douglas, Quinn, Sebastian, Georgia,  
Ginny, Maggie, Jules, Zellie & Emilia*

**Live Trees, Xtra Shepherd & Angel, The Star,  
Wise People, and Mary & Joseph**

*Willing Congregants (surprise!)*

### **Directors**

*Miss Leslie & Miss Kathy*

Advent is here!

Join the Music Team 2025! 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? There is always room for more celebration through music.

*It is the beautiful task of Advent  
To awaken in all of us memories of goodness  
and thus open doors Of HOPE.*

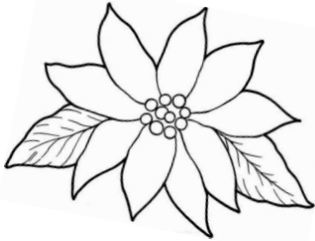
Good News Singers will sing for us and All that Brass will play TBA during Advent.

Please donate to the "Musicians Fund" to enhance our worship together.

Yours in Christ & Mission, Gary.

**PEACE THROUGH HOPE**





## 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 Tuesday Dec. 24, 8pm to enjoy. Proceeds benefit our church ministries.

Advent is a time of hope and longing for the coming of the Messiah. Beginning with the candle on the front left and then moving clockwise, one candle is lit each week. The candles represent the four **themes of Advent: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.** The



large white candle in the middle of the wreath represents Christ. It is called the "Christ Candle" and is lit on Christmas Eve. In many churches it burns until Epiphany which marks the visit of the Magi. The body of the wreath is made of evergreens that represent eternal life, because they are always green.

This year as in past years, the Johnston family **dedicates the Advent Wreath to the memory of her mother Kathryn Lewis Greso who long ago taught her the meaning of the Advent Wreath and to her old friend Sibbi who taught her how to tie the greens into a wreath.**

We hope as we light each candle on the wreath, your thoughts will turn inward away from the hustle, bustle, and pressures of today's world, and help you focus your thoughts toward Christ who entered the world that long ago Christmas night.

## Holiday Events



**Dec. 12** MMRR Circle Party  
10:30 am (cookie & gift exchange)

**Dec. 16** Women's Café Party  
6pm off site 476-4700

**Dec. 20** A.A. Holiday Potluck 7 pm

**Dec. 22** Christmas Potluck for ALL 11 am  
Gary's bringing the Ham, you bring the rest!

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**

**Tues. Dec. 24th — 7pm**

Invite someone to come with you as we celebrate God's love for the world in a newborn baby! This season is a time when folks may be needing to feel more included and connected with other loving people at a home church. So let's extend that welcome! Livestream & recorded  
[www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)







## 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

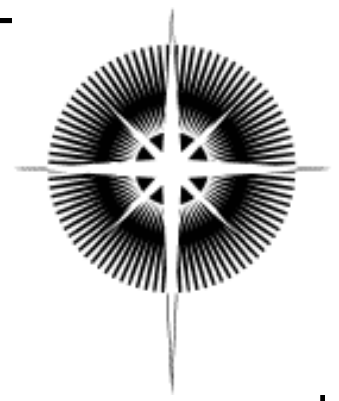
Your 2025 Offering envelopes are here, if you'd like to stop by and pick them up.

**"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](http://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 Tuesday 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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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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