



Jesus
increased
in wisdom and
in years

LUKE 2:52

First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 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.

Music

The Gathering

***Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism , as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

God—with—us,
We confess that we have turned away
Those seeking shelter,
Claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
While you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
Expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
Instead of your peace.

**Turn us from our ways to your ways.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
And forgive our sin,
Through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!
You are God's chosen ones,
Holy and beloved,
+ Forgiven in Christ,
And freed to respond in joy.
Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

#288

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say;
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*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

First Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-26

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

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 . . . i n e x c e l s i s D e o

G l o ——— r i a . . . i n e x c e l s i s D e o

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Luke, the 2nd Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O God.

*Gospel Reading

Luke 2:41-52

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

#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.

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 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.

Music

Offertory

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” #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: God of heaven and earth,
From the beginning, you have called forth life,
In which you take delight.

The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
That we may join the chorus of creation
To tell of your salvation from day to day.

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.

Invitation to Communion

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Lamb of God

“Love Has Come” #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

“Away in a Manger” #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 Sending

*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ
Strengthen you and keep you in God's grace now and forever.
C: **Amen.**

*Prayer after Communion

P: Merciful God,
We thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
Send us forth to announce your peace,
Comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.
C: **Amen.**

*Blessing

P: The God of love,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
Lavish you with grace,
Illumine your path,
And increase your joy,
Today and always.
C: **Amen.**

*Closing Hymn “Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

#290

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching
Over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angels chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth

Refrain

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

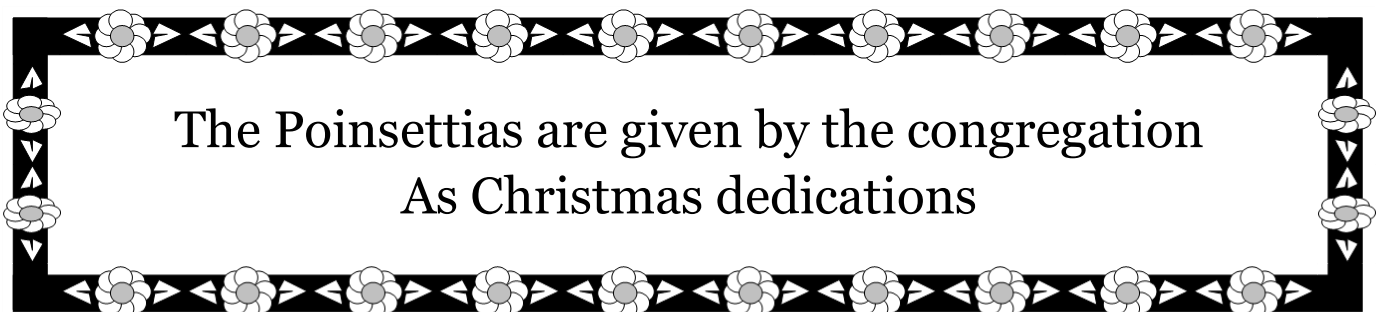
Refrain

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Reader— Barbara Johnston
Coffee Host—
Altar Guild—





SHORT TERM:

Chad Fields, Ana Cardenas, John B., Trace Hull, Linda, Scoutmaster Scott, Family of Ryan Fairrington, Connie & Family of Paul Cunningham, Glosier family, 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, 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, Moore family, Brown Family, Family of Sandra Barker, Nick, James, Beth Mills, Mary D., Tom, Galahad, Susan O., Debbie, Sam, Michael Lee, Nate Barker, Grandpa Dennis, Bob & Shirley Salter, Monica & Family, Lurline Moore, Beth Butler, Jen, Robbin, Maria Mendoza, Ila & Reina, Francisco, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Tim Oldfield, Sierra, Julie R., Rosie, Janet, Sue, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, 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:

James Sheehan, 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.



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

Upcoming Events:

December Benevolence Offering—Lutheran World Relief

Through Jan. 5 Preschool Closed

Jan. 2 Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm

Jan. 3 A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm

Jan. 7 Church Council 6:30 pm

Jan. 7 Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm
Discretion Brew 41st Ave. Kathy Allen 430-6359
(1 hour, 1 faith question, 1 drink)

Jan. 7 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm

Jan. 8 Bible Study 11 am & 7:30 pm

Jan. 9 MMRR Women's Circle 10:30 am

Jan. 13 & 27 Women's Café Group Mondays at 6:00 pm

Jan. 14 Knitter's Guild 6:15 pm

Jan. 16 Knitters Guild 10 am

Jan. 20 Embroiders Guild 7:00 pm

Jan. 26 Congregational Annual Meeting 11:00 am
Plan on coming to support your church as we continue
to seek God's will for our ministry.

Pastor's Office Hours: Weds. & Thur. 10:00—1:00 pm

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 Wednesdays 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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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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