

An abstract painting featuring several golden, swirling patterns on a dark, textured background. The spirals are composed of concentric, overlapping brushstrokes in shades of gold, brown, and green, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall composition is centered and balanced.

*We have all received,
grace upon grace*

JOHN 1:16

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 5, 2025

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 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" #275

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth;

REFRAIN

Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light;

REFRAIN

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations,
You have seen his natal star.

REFRAIN

(Hymn Continued)

4. All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son.
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.

REFRAIN

*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

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

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. John, the 1st Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O God.**

*Gospel Reading

John 1:10-18

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes”

ACS #908

In a far off place, Jesus comes to earth.
Sheep and cattle grace the site.
As the angels songs begin, like the whisper of the wind,
Nature’s hope awakes again; Jesus comes.
For the poor in heart, Jesus comes to earth.
Humble shepherds start the news.
For each homeless infant born,
for the meek and those who mourn,
For the weary and the worn, Jesus comes.

In our deepest night, Jesus comes to earth;
Radiant star light our way.
Summer’s heat or winter’s chill,
with a warm and loving will,
To a world that needs him still, Jesus comes.

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.

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

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” #490

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way;
As the Light of light, descending
From the realms of endless day,
Comes, the pow'rs of hell to vanquish,
As the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six winged seraph,
Cherubin with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry;
“Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

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 *“Let All Together Praise Our God”* #287

Let all together praise our God before the highest throne;
Today God opens heav’n again and sends the only Son,
And sends the only Son.

From God’s right hand the Son descends,
Is born an infant small, and lies in poverty,
his bed a manger in a stall, a manger in a stall.

O tender Child, you veil in flesh
the splendor of our might;
A servant’s garb now wraps the one
who clothes the sky with light,
who clothes the sky with light.

Your mother feeds you tenderly,
Sings you a lullaby, while angels, hailing David’s heir,
You glory magnify, your glory magnify.

*Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Reader— Elke Spires
Coffee Host— Margaret Schraft
Altar Guild— Tina Gates



SHORT TERM:

Mary Saccullo, Chad Fields, Ana Cardenas, John B., Trace Hull, Linda, Scoutmaster Scott, Family of Ryan Farrington, 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 Poinsettias are given by the congregation
As Christmas dedications

Sign up for 2025 Altar flowers





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:

January Benevolence Offering—Community Bridges

- 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. 9 Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm
- Jan. 10 A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm
- 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.
- Jan. 27 CDC Board 11:15 am

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."

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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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