

Third Sunday after Epiphany January 26, 2025

WELCOME AND A NOTE TO VISITORS

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.

Choir Introit

"Glory to God!"

"Greensleeves" Richard Purvis

The Gathering

Call to Worship "Come to the Water of Life" ACS #955

- 1. All who are thirsty for mercy, all who are thirsty for love; All who are thirsty for love, for mercy, come:

 Come to the Water of life.
- 2. All who are thirsty for healing, all who are thirsty for touch; All who are thirsty for touch, for healing, come:

 Come to the Water of life.
- 3. All who are thirsty for beauty, all who are thirsty for truth; All who are thirsty for truth, for beauty, come:

 Come to the Water of life.
- 4. All who are thirsty for justice, all who are thirsty for peace; All who are thirsty for peace, for justice, come:

 Come to the Water of life.

*Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding²minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act
With judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
We resist your call to oppose injustice;
We give in to scarcity and fear;
We assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults
And release us from their grasp.
Show us your loving kindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
That we may live in Christ's ways.
Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance;
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine."
In † Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
Live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #886

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, The glories of my God and king, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

The name of Jesus calms our fears and bids our sorrows cease, Sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.

He speaks, and list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive; The mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race! Look and be saved through faith alone, Be justified by grace!

To God all glory, praise, and love Be now and ever giv'n By saints below and saints above, The church in earth and heav'n.

*Greeting

^{*}P: Grace and peace from God our Creator,

from God who became one of us, Jesus Christ, and may the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*Kyrie

1. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.



- 2. Christe eleison. Christe eleison.
- 3. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Glory to God WOV #607





*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: May God be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...

C: (following the prayer) Amen.

The Word of God

First Reading Nehemiah 8:1-10 Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19 Celebrate pg. 2



Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 Celebrate pg. 3

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 4th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O God.

*Gospel Reading Luke 4:14-21

Celebrate pg. 3

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

<u>Sermon</u>

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"Christ, Be Our Light" #715

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, Light for the world to see.

REFRAIN

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice.

REFRAIN

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

Shared until all are fed.

REFRAIN

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

Walls made of living stone.

REFRAIN

(Hymn continued)

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Signs of your kingdom come.

REFRAIN

*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.

The Communion Meal

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

Offering Hymn "This Little Light of Mine"

#677

This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine; This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine; This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine; Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine; Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine; Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine; Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Music "God's Work, Our Hands" music, David N. Johnson

*Offering Prayer

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, And your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service; Our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, Now and always.

C: Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to God.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

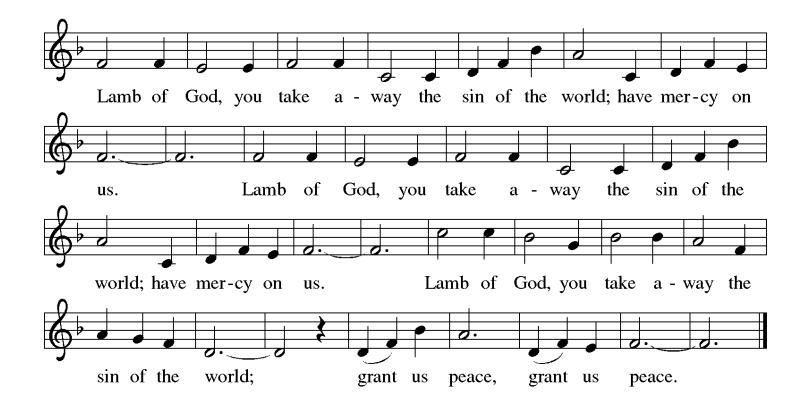
Invitation to Communion

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Holy Communion

Visitors: You are welcome to come forward to receive Communion Lamb of God



as part of this church family! Children are welcome to come and receive a special blessing if they have never communed. Communion is by intinction, we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Please follow the guidance of the ushers.

Communion Hymn "One Bread, One Body" #496

REFRAIN
One bread, one body,
one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many
throughout the earth,

we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew,
Servant or free,
Woman or man,
No more.

REFRAIN

Many the gifts, Many the works, One in the Lord

Of all. REFRAIN

(Hymn Continued)

Grain for the fields,
Scattered and grown,
Gathered to one
For all.
REFRAIN

Prayer after Communion

P: Nourishing God,

At this table you have refreshed us
With holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
And send us out to embody your good news
Of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

Post Communion Hymn

"Light Shone in Darkness" #307

Light shone in darkness at the world's creation, Bathing in beauty nature's revelation. All that has being cry in adoration, "Praise for the light. Amen!"

Light shone in darkness at the new creation; Christ rose in glory, won for us salvation. Sing, earth and heaven, hymns of jubilation, praise for the light. Amen!

Light shines in darkness till the full creation; Christ's body, groaning, suffers tribulation, longs for God's justice, Global transformation, prays for the light. Amen!

The Sending

*Blessing

P: The Spirit of the triune God † Bless you with joy, Anoint you with compassion, And send you in love.

C: Amen

*Closing Hymn "Arise, Your Light Has Come!" #314

Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey; Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door; Proclaim the captive's liberty, Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light has come!



All you in sorrow born, Bind up the broken hearted ones And comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

Music "Praise and Thanksgiving" Richard Thomas

SHORT TERM: Ruth Stiles, Mary Saccullo, Chad Fields, Ana Cardenas, Rose, Levi, Lisa J., John B., Trace Hull, Linda, Scoutmaster Scott, Connie & Family of Paul Cunningham, Glosier family, Julie Mouw & Family of Marty Lundin, Unemployed, George Webber, Isaac & Marissa, Chris Powers, Gloria, Beth & Family of Barbara Stiles, Marta's parents, Gary & Louse Matz, Friends in Tel Aviv, Nick, James, Mary D., Tom, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Francisco, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Sierra, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager.

LONG TERM: Those suffering with Mental Illness, James Sheehan, Biergiel—Colclough family, Carla Brown, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Will, Aaron Johnson, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Mike, Susan Anderson, Jan



New in January
We welcome
Nancy & Connie
to our choir

AND

We welcome

NOST ANY PLACE. Mary & Rebecca

to music ministry

We are looking for, strings & woodwinds to play for preludes, etc. and liturgy during worship.

Yours In Christ & Mission ~ Gary

Sunday Helpers Needed

- ~ Settting up Communion
- ~ Greeting people
- ~ Reading the scripture lessons
- ~ Hosting Coffee

Sign up in the Narthex, or call the office

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

TODAYAfter Worship

Refreshments will be provided

We gather together to hear the Long Range Task Force plan for our pastoral leadership for the next 5 years, elect leadership to our Church Council, elect 2 voting members for Synod Assembly, and approve a budget for 2025 that reflects our mission.

The Proposed Budget is available in the narthex today.

Please plan on attending to support your church as we continue to seek God's will for our ministry together.



Upcoming Events:

January Benevolence Offering—Community Bridges

Jan. 27 CDC Board 11:15 am

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

Jan. 28 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm

Jan. 29 Preschool Chapel 10:15

Jan. 29 Bible Study 11 am & 7:30 pm

Jan. 30 NL Collating 2:00 pm

Jan. 30 Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm

Jan. 31 A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm

Feb. 2 Scout Sunday

Feb. 9 kids Valentine delivery

Feb. 13 MMRR Circle 10:30

Feb. 16 No Sunday School

March 7-9 Women's Retreat Mt. Cross

Sign up for Altar Flowers — dedicate to loved ones

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

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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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