

For All the Saints

Where we meet as God's People of Joy!

December 2015

Volume 18, Issue 12

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Dates to Note!

- Advent Prayer & Carols
December 2, 9, 16, 23
- Decorating Day
December 5
- CrAfternoon!
December 6
- Messiah Sing-Along
December 12
- Wil-Mar Meal
December 19
- Seasoned Saints
December 19
- Sunday School Program
December 20
- Christmas Eve Worship
December 24
3:30, 5:30 & 10:30 pm
- Christmas Day Worship
10:00 am

Carols & Evening Prayer: New Schedule

We gather on Wednesdays during Advent (Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23) for a time of peaceful candlelight and singing favorite Christmas carols, with one more chance to hear Pastor Nick's stories behind them. This year the service will begin at 6:00. To make it family-friendly, there will be snacks after Joyful Noise. There will also be soup supper/potluck after worship, especially for Confirmation families and choir members, though all are welcome!

Lessons and Carols for Bethlehem

Sunday evening, December 6, join other congregations from around town for a beautiful service in fundraising support of schoolchildren at Dar al Kalima school in Bethlehem. We'll gather at 7:00 at Midvale Lutheran (corner of Midvale and Tokay).



Church Decorating

Starting at 8:30 on Saturday morning, December 5, we will be adorning our building for the festivals of the season. Come set

up trees, string lights, hang ornaments, and enjoy each other's company!



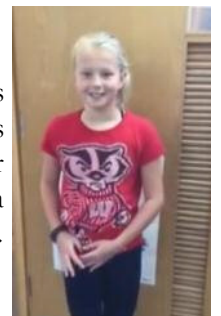
Christmas Worship

We will continue to have four worship services celebrating the Nativity of our Lord, with a few minor adjustments. All services will include your favorite carols and communion and the proclamation of the good news of Jesus' birth, and all Christmas Eve services include candle lighting.

- 3:30 continues to be the most rambunctious and kid-friendly, including Time for Children
- 5:30 adds the music of our choir this year, while remaining the richest liturgically
- 10:30 will be a new feeling, quiet and reflective amid the darkness
- 10:00 Christmas morning continues to be a simple service of Lessons & Carols

ELCA Benevolences & Gratitude

On Sunday, Nov. 15 we [shared videos in worship](#) of ways our giving supports the larger church mission—from malaria to water projects to church buildings to seminarians. We even included the "Great Thanksgiving" from our Sunday School students. With this, your Ministry Board voted to make a \$1500 benevolence payment in spite of significant ongoing budget shortfalls. Your year-end offerings are vital for ministry here and around the world!





From Our Pastor ...

A Visit from Nicholas (Or, A Winter Helping of BBQ & Soul Food)

humbly stolen from Clement C. Moore, since even Jesus said he'd come "like a thief in the night"

‘T was the night before Advent
when all through the church
not a creature was stirring, neither man nor perch.
The blue paraments were hung by Ruth Circle with care
for a season of hope—that Christ soon would be there.
The children had program lines in their heads
while Rena baked batches of Communion bread.
All was proceeding, according to reason,
just as it should for this time of the season.
But before settling down, ah! what was the matter?!
The fuzzy young pastor decided to scatter.
Around stained glass windows you saw a bright flash,
or was it merely a handle-bar moustache?
The moon on the breast of autumn’s fallen leaves
said something was changing here at St. Steve’s,
When—what a wonder!—still to appear
was a guy on a bike, ped’ling with only one gear.
The scrawny goofball rider was as thin as a stick
so you knew in a moment it must be that Nick.
I called out Bible verses, began to proclaim,
and rapidly shouted out name after name:
“Now! Peter, now! Matthew! now, Mark, Luke and John,
Galatians! Isaiah! And on to the Psalms!
‘Christ has broken down the dividing wall,’
this gospel is good news for one and for all!”
As dry leaves before the wild hurricane fly,
in the face of bad news make you keep asking, “Why?”

Yet our God knows exactly what to do,
with a chalice of wine—baptismal water, too.
So it was you heard, though in faith and not proof,
the preaching and praying of your pastor, the goof.
As Amazing Grace was sung, “lost and found,”
down came this Nicholas, your faith to re-ground.
I was dressed in an alb, with Chucks on my feet,
and my mouth rarely tasted e’en a bite of meat.
Sometimes a canoe was up on my back,
others, a Bible I’d pull from my camel sack.
My job is God’s grace, which makes sinners merry
(including in times where we’ve “married and buried”).
My mouth said, “You’re forgiven; that’s where we begin,
I swear by the hair of my chinny-chin-chin.”
Once more in these weeks as we’re gathered ‘neath
the candles and greens of our Advent wreath
you’ll hear me proclaim—but not with a bellow,
more like a round of good Lutheran Jell-O—
that it isn’t about fulfilling ourselves
but sharing and caring and offering help.
This is our faith, from Christ our head,
making us know we have nothing to dread.
We speak this word: Our hands, God’s work.
It’s what we’re up to, together as church.
This we believe, ‘mid life’s highs and lows,
for this Jesus was born, he died and he rose.
Before I pedal off into the sunset,
knowing that I am sure not done yet,
you can hear me proclaim, ere I ride to the west,
“I love you a lot, but Jesus loves you the best!”

+ nick

Pastor Nick's Journey — a note from our President

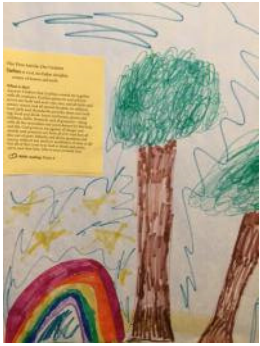
Saying good bye can feel very final and bittersweet. After so many wonderful years together, how can we possibly say good bye to Pastor Nick? A better term might be farewell. We wish him well on the next step of his journey with Christ and are grateful that his journey made a stop here at St. Stephen’s.

All too soon, Pastor Nick will continue his journey and follow his call to Madison Christian Community/Advent Lutheran. We know how lucky the members of Advent will be. We’ve been lucky to have had Pastor Nick in our midst! Pastor Jon and Pastor Kathy both recently explained that

even though a pastor stops being our pastor, it doesn’t mean that he stops being a part of our shared history. Pastor Nick will always be a joyful part of the history and heart of St. Stephen’s. And for that we are grateful!

In the coming weeks, we’ll all have plenty of opportunities to say farewell to Pastor Nick and celebrate his time with us. There will be lots of laughter, hugs, prayers and certainly tears. Lots of chances to say thank you! If you’d like to help in planning the celebrations, talk to any Ministry Board member. Your ideas and energy will be greatly appreciated.

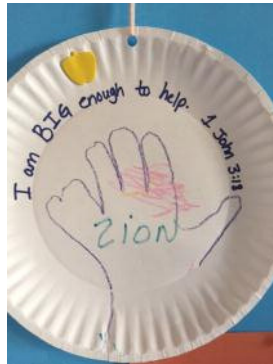
The Sunday School "Year of Stewardship" is a Blessing!



Sunday School thanks Sandy Knesting for talking with us about being a Fellowship Host. Thanks so much to Kimberly Mueller for letting us help you host! We had fun helping to serve treats, lemonade, and coffee! The treats the children brought were wonderful and much appreciated! Decorating the tables and keeping the room clean helped us

make others feel comfortable so that they could share in the love and Word of God. Your child (and you) would be so welcome as a Deacon, Usher, Lector or Fellowship Host! Just call/email the office to ask how to sign up.

This past month we've learned so much from God and each other! Ask your child about CROP Walk, what most people in the world have to eat and drink, Heaven, The Lord's Prayer, why Jesus wept with Mary about Lazarus, or why Martin Luther is important.



Family Advent Crafternoon!



Get yourself and your family in the Christmas Spirit by joining us for crafts, food, and fun on Sunday, December 6th from 11:00-1:00 in the newly refurbished Fireside Room. Several crafty volunteers will share child- and family-friendly crafts available to make and take with you—think handmade Christmas gifts and keepsake decorations for your home and tree! You don't have to be a kid to come and craft!!

This year, we'll also have cookies to decorate, snacks to nibble on, and a Nativity Photo Booth! Dress your family up as participants in the Holy birth (sheep costume, anyone!?) and take some selfies! A cool way to center the birth of Christ in Christmas and send out some awesome Christmas cards, at the same time! Don't miss the fun!



Helping Families Grow Closer to God and Each Other

One of the main goals for our Children and Families Ministry at St. Stephen's is to help families grow closer to God and to each other! And Christmas is the perfect time to do both! Throughout December there are lots of opportunities for families to come together for **Faith, Fun, and Fellowship**. We'd love it if every **St. Stephen's family** could **take part in one or more** of our Faith, Fun, and Fellowship Mini-Events during this month. The more you come, the more connected you feel! Pull out your calendar and jump in when you can, throughout Advent and Christmas! Grow closer to God and to each other!!

Here's how this works: Go to http://ststephensmonona.com/PDF/Grow_Closer_Advent_Christmas_2015.pdf to download and print the check-list. Decide which events you plan on attending, and put a check mark next to all that apply. Tri-fold, tape shut, and mail back to us or drop it off when you're at church. Save the top portion as a reminder of dates/times. The day before each event, Paige will contact the participants who signed up and let them know which other families to look for! It will be a great way to hang out with old friends and meet some new ones! And, as always, feel free to invite a non-St. Stephen's family along for the ride!



Nursery Attendants Needed on Christmas Eve

There are lots of kids around on Christmas Eve—which is AWESOME! Some families would prefer to use the nursery for their little ones during the 3:30 and 5:30pm Christmas Eve worship services. If you are available to help take care of these young ones at that time, please talk to Paige!



Kids' Program

Our Sunday School program will be December 20th during the 10:00am service. Practice will be during Sunday School on December 6 and 13. We would appreciate adult helpers with this

year's program. Please contact Jessica at ststlcvolunteer@gmail.com if you are available.

We welcome your child ages 3 through 5th grade on Sunday mornings from 9:45 AM until 10:30 AM when we are welcomed into worship.

Bold Fit

Our next Bold Fit gathering will be Saturday, Dec. 5, as we gather with others from the congregation to decorate the church for Christmas. Please bring some Christmas cookies or any snack to share. Decorating starts at 8:30 a.m.

Seasoned Saints

You're invited to breakfast at 9:00 am, on Saturday, December 19th, at Monona Gardens (located on the corner of Bridge Rd & Broadway). We will share in a "white elephant" gift exchange, sure to bring joy and satisfaction. Each person should bring a wrapped goofy surprise gift.

Bold Café

Bold Café will celebrate the season on Tuesday, December 22 at 6:30pm, at the home of Patti Ethridge, 501 Frost Woods Road, and you are welcome to join us! Check out the Bold Café website for the topic for group discussion in December. Also, check your closets for a white elephant gift to exchange, and bring a financial donation to help families needing support. Please feel free to contact Patti at cnpethridge.com.

Alzheimer's Association's Spouses'

Caregiver Support Group

3rd Monday of the Month; Noon-1 pm; Church Library

This group provides emotional, educational and social support for caregivers through regularly scheduled meetings. Participants develop methods and skills to solve problems. The group encourages caregivers to maintain their own personal, physical and emotional health, as well as optimally care for the person with dementia. We know caregiving can be hard; call 608 203.8500 or email Bonnie at bnutt@alz.org.

NOTE: This group is for spouses of persons with the disease.

Christmas Email/Facebook Blog!

Coming soon to a computer/mobile device near you! These daily updates for Advent prep have been one of our most popular "E-events" of the year! Tune in each day in December (via Facebook or your email address), to be inspired, refreshed, challenged, and encouraged during the Advent and Christmas seasons! Ideas for fun and special ways to spend time together as a family, help children understand the true meaning of Christmas, and connect more deeply to your faith and your family. If you received these emails last year, you're already on the list! If you haven't received these emails in the past and you'd like to be added to the list, send Paige an email at paige@ststlc.net! See you in the Blogosphere!



Join the Technology Ministry Team

If you are interested in anything "Tech" here at St. Stephen's then please join the Technology Ministry Team. Our work includes website/internet ministry, coordinate worship and special event "techies", office hardware/software, and upgrading networking capabilities throughout the facility. Contact Jessica Sullivan at ststlcvolunteer@gmail.com, or Bill Brendler at bill.brendler@charter.net to learn more.

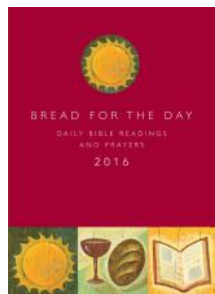
December Fireside Forums (9:10)

Dec. 6 – Join Pastor Kathy for some "Interim" learnings and open forum conversation.
Dec. 13 and 27 – Seminarian Sterling Lynk continues the theme of Jesus as King, St. Stephen's as an embassy, and each of us as ambassadors of this kingdom. Particularly connected to the work of the Transition Team, bring your Bible and join the conversation.

Church Library Help Needed

Phyllis Miller has served as our church librarian for about 8 years now. She continues to dedicate herself to other roles (such as scheduling Sunday Servers) and is looking to hand off the library role. It only takes a couple hours per month to organize materials and receive occasional new items. If you might be interested, talk to Phyllis or a staff member.





Devotion Books

If you're looking for a new resource for devotions in 2016, church has available some copies of Bread for the Day: Daily Bible Readings and Prayers. Books cost \$8 and also help prepare for weekly worship. We've also got beautiful 2016 calendars for \$4.50 which include a list of lectionary Bible readings for the year.

Cold-Weather Homeless Needs

Winter is here, so many who are homeless in Madison need your help. Bethel's Homeless Ministry needs: socks, long pants, sweatshirts, gloves, jackets, boots, blankets, etc. Clothing should be gently used and clean. Barb Kepler will take items to Bethel to be given to needy homeless. Men are often released from jail without a jacket and only the clothing on their back, even in inclement weather. Your support of this ministry is deeply appreciated. It .

Thanksgiving at Wil-Mar

The traditional Thanksgiving dinner was delicious! A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated and baked the turkeys: Joann Esser, Doris and Bill Brendler, Ed and Edie Nowicki, Bill and Sharrie Heibl, Steve Day, Nancy Anthony, Sandy Knesting, Judith Bodden, Dave and Linda Norsman, Phyllis Miller, and Monica Hansen. The dinner preparers faced many obstacles in the kitchen at Wil-Mar. The coffee pot wouldn't work, one oven was down for repair, several outlets were dead, one spoon became lost several times in the gravy, and a pan of potatoes was slightly burnt on the bottom! Despite all, "Murphy" was defeated and your St. Stephen's people put together a wonderful dinner with compliments galore!

Giving Good Gifts

Not interested in buying STUFF for everyone on your shopping list? Would you like to reduce holiday commercialization while also being in line with the arrival and birth of a God of love and blessing in our world at Christmas? ELCA Good Gifts is a chance to buy goats, chicks, bees, mosquito nets, health kits and more. Visit www.elca.org/goodgifts to learn more.

God's Global Barnyard
is growing!



"Incarnation" by Richard Caemmerer, who also designed our creation stained glass window

December Bible Readings

While looking forward to the Christmas story from Luke 2, Advent lectionary Bible readings follow a pattern of preparation. The 1st Sunday (Nov. 29) is about the "second coming." The 2nd and 3rd Sundays (Dec. 6 & 13) deal with the ministry and proclamation of John the Baptist, and only on the 4th Sunday (Dec. 20) do we get to news of a pregnancy. At the start of Advent, we begin a new church year. This is Year C, framed by readings from the Gospel of Luke. It's also a season notable for other responses of psalmody (both Old and New Testament songs) instead of from the book of Psalms.

Dec. 6 - Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79 (the "Benedictus," the song heralding John the Baptist's birth); Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Dec. 13 - Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7 ("Rejoice always!"—This 3rd Sunday is traditionally known as Gaudete ("rejoice") Sunday); Luke 3:7-18

Dec. 20 - Micah 5:2-5a ("...but you, O Bethlehem"); Luke 1:46b-55 (Mary's song, the "Magnificat"); Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Dec. 27 - 1st Sunday of Christmas - 1st Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Colossians 3:12-17



Holy Land Connections

Several important updates:

- Soup for Schools groups have openings and NEED YOU! \$5/month to support students at Lutheran schools and build small group connections
- Prayers for Peace on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 9:10 will be a chance to connect with the "Little Town" of Bethlehem.
- Remember that fair trade gifts give twice. Especially with violence in the Holy Land, your purchase of olive wood carvings is important this year. We have new nativity scenes and also fresh olive oil!

December Birthdays at St. Stephen's!

"Experience Connection – Connect Experience!"

A Senior Ministry Team Mission. If you have changes to the list, please contact the office!

12/1 Barbara Minor Joseph Tenuta Tricia Thompson	12/6 Samantha Cooper Wava Grinde Arlene Holmgren Marjorie Lanphear Mary Tygum	12/13 Carrie Ebert Ken Felleron	12/20 Lily Foster Timothy Mueller Barbara Powers	
12/2 Nadia Lee Samuel Scher Janelle Stine Tammy Worl	12/7 Kent Bahler Sandy Knesting	12/14 Kristen Anderson Quinton Lippitt	12/21 Michael Anthony Lee Johnson Pamela Zebell	12/27 Thomas Aldrich Sherry Kuehl
12/3 Laurine Carstens Sally Iverson Brenda Kepler-Leske Mary Nervig	12/9 Sharon Eley Becky Mitchell Tracy Yunker Tori James	12/15 Gail Gawenda Natasha Lippitt Kevin Rogers	12/22 Nick Utphall Wayne Winans	12/28 Lawren Kunz Phyllis Seiler
12/4 Christian Burk Butch Denson Braeden Dietz Gene Hanson Bob Simons	12/10 Drake Lucas	12/16 Sylvia Reinholdt John Schoff	12/23 Alex Hanfeld Nancy Morris	12/29 Charles Leske
	12/12 Dick Benzine Doris Evans Dale St. John Phillip Tygum	12/18 Christina Klehfoth Jill Ruffridge Andrew Walder	12/24 Jessica Esser	12/30 Nancy Kinson Michele Miller Clayton Semmens Terri Winans
		12/19 Catherine Briddell Bryan Geil	12/25 Jesus	12/31 Lorran Celley



Special Prayers

Condolences

Roxanne Robinson, Kevin Miller, and family on the death of aunt, Marilyn Miller 11/5

Ann Schroeder and family on the death of father, Donald 11/13

Tom Speranza and family on the death of Judy O'Leary, 11/14

Teri O'Connor and family on the death of father, Fred DuBois, 11/17

Baptism

Sally Keyel's granddaughter, Ada Florence McLoon

Birth

Sawyer Frederick, son of Kia Gruenberg & Brad Dietz

Finance Information

Through October 2015

Year-to-Date Expense \$ 433,957

Year-to-Date Income \$ 397,721

Difference (\$ 21,426)

Original Mortgage (10/2010) \$1,361,512

Principal Paid \$ 427,20 4

Remaining Balance \$ 934,308

Monthly Mortgage Payment \$7,063

I'm Grateful

For St.
Stephen's
Because...



In November we've been collecting Generosity & Gratitude notes and want to keep sharing them and encouraging YOUR reflections.

"I'm grateful for St. Stephen's because of its warm and inviting atmosphere, its ability to give you what you need as you come away from a service, and for the people that walk the same journey as we live and grow in our faith." – Becky McConnell

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1-Dec	2	3	4	5
		9:15am Devotions 9:45am Staff Meeting 3pm Pastors' Text Study 6:30pm Fibro/MS Group	9am Wed. Bible Study 10:30am Yoga 5pm Joyful Noise 5:30pm AA 5:30pm TOPS 6pm Advent Service 6:30pm Soup Supper 7pm Sanctuary Choir	8am Morning Prayer 6:30pm Messiah Rehearsal 7pm Steadfast 7pm AA		8:30am Church Decorating 9:30am Al-Anon 9:30am Worship & Music Team Meeting 2pm Messiah Rehearsal 2:45pm Lighted Holiday Train in Wisconsin Dells 5pm Bereaved Parents Service
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8am Worship 9:10am Children's Christmas Book Fair 9:10am Forum - "Interim" Learnings 9:45am Sunday School 10am Worship 10:30am God's Word Alive 11am Family Advent CrAfternoon 11am Emerging Worship 7pm Midvale Lutheran Lessons & Carols	6pm Cub Scouts 6pm Finance Committee 6:30pm Messiah Rehearsal 7pm Yoga 7pm Boy Scouts	9:15am Devotions 9:45am Staff Meeting 1:30pm Oak Park Service 3pm Pastors' Text Study 6:30pm Fibro/MS Group 6:30pm Messiah Rehearsal	9am Wis. Council of Churches annual meeting 9am Wed. Bible Study 10:30am Yoga 5pm Joyful Noise 5:30pm AA 5:30pm TOPS 6pm Advent Service 6:30pm Soup Supper 7pm Sanctuary Choir	8am Morning Prayer 10:30am Heritage Monona 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Steadfast 7pm AA 8pm Guy's Night	6pm Messiah Dress Rehearsal	9:30am Al-Anon 7pm Messiah Sing-A-Long
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8am Worship 9:10am Forum - Jesus as King 9:10am Forum--Children's Christmas Book Faire & Story Corner 9:45am Sunday School 10am Worship 10:30am God's Word Alive 11am Emerging Worship 11:15am Crochet/Knit Ministry 3pm Madison Area Handbell Concert 3pm Nutcracker Fantasy	6pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Ministry Board 7pm Yoga 7pm Boy Scouts	9:15am Devotions 9:45am Staff Meeting 3pm Pastors' Text Study 5pm Learning/Faith Ministry Team 6pm Building & Grounds 6:30pm Fibro/MS Group	9am Wed. Bible Study 10:30am Yoga 5pm Joyful Noise 5:30pm C&F Team Meeting 5:30pm AA 5:30pm TOPS 6pm Advent Service 6:30pm Soup Supper 7pm Sanctuary Choir	8am Morning Prayer 5:30pm The Road Home 7pm Steadfast 7pm AA	6pm Friday Family Christmas Movie Night	9am Seasoned Saints Breakfast 9:30am Wil-Mar Center Meal 9:30am Al-Anon
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8am Worship 9:10am Prayers for Peace 9:45am Sunday School 10am Worship with Children's Christmas Program 10:30am God's Word Alive 11am Emerging Worship 4pm Piano Recital	12pm Alzheimers Caregiver's Support Group 12pm Ruth Circle 6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Yoga 7pm Boy Scouts	9:15am Devotions 9:45am Staff Meeting 3pm Pastors' Text Study 6:30pm Fibro/MS Group	10:30am Yoga 4pm Birthday Party for Jesus in Agape 5:30pm AA 5:30pm TOPS 6pm Carols by Candlelight	3:30pm Christmas Eve worship 5:30pm Christmas Eve worship 7pm AA 10:30pm Christmas Eve worship	10am Christmas Day worship	9:30am Al-Anon
27	28	29	30	31		
8am Worship 9:10am Forum -- Jesus as King 10am Worship 10:30am God's Word Alive 11am Emerging Worship	6pm Cub Scouts 7pm Yoga 7pm Boy Scouts	9:15am Devotions 9:45am Staff Meeting 3pm Pastors' Text Study 6pm AA District 20	10:30am Yoga 5:30pm AA 5:30pm TOPS 7pm Steadfast	7pm AA		

Fellowship Host	Usher	Sacristan	Greeter	Deacons	Lectors	Other
6						
8:00 Joann Esser	8:00 Tygum Team	8:00 Signe Thompson & Phyllis Seiler	8:00 Ken & Carol Koscik	8:00 Jim & Donna Schroeder	8:00 Brenda Kepler-Leske	Bread Bakers: 6 Angela Heyworth
10:00 Diane Ward	10:00 Lee Team	10:00 Monica Hansen	10:00 Dale & Vicki Scovill	10:00 Dale & Vicki Scovill	10:00 Kat Pluff	13 Eileen Koch
	11:00 Patti Ethridge		11:00 Patti Ethridge	11:00 Patti Ethridge	11:00 Anne Johnson	20 Mary Tygum
						24 Sue Eley ,
						Joe & Kaylee Herfel
						25 Angela Heyworth
13						27 Lois Offerdahl
8:00 Meg Nielsen	8:00 Sullivan Team	8:00 Cindy Cerro & Sandi Staves	8:00 Lynn & Shirley Lauersdorf	8:00 Mary Tygum & Tom Speranza	8:00 Ken Koscik	Emerging Worship
10:00 Lois Beld	10:00 Johnson Team	10:00 Rhonda Mork	10:00 Tom & Jean Boehnen	10:00 Annie Engebretson & Barb Kepler	10:00 Sydney Powers	Bread Baker: Rena Clark
	11:00 Beth Johnson		11:00 Beth Johnson	11:00 Sandi Staves	11:00 Lisa Manion	Nametag Host for 1st Sunday of the month:
20						8:00 am
8:00 Sandy Bahler	8:00 Scovill Team	8:00 Leone Helstad	8:00 Ron Schroeder	8:00 Terry & Maren Tiffany	8:00 Lynn Lauersdorf	Sally Iverson
10:00 Angela Heyworth	10:00 Mork Team	10:00 Angela Heyworth	10:00 Deb Boushea	10:00 Beth & Anne Johnson	10:00 Jill Riffidge	10:00 am
	11:00 Anne Leske		11:00 Anne Leske	11:00 Mark Weerda	11:00 Kevin Miller	Matthew Hadden
24 Christmas Eve						
4:00 Sandy Knesting	3:30 Lee Team	3:30 Phyllis Seiler	3:30 Jim Wink	3:30 Art Braatz, Jim Wink, Ken Koscik, Ron Schroeder	3:30 Tom Offerdahl	
5:30 Nancy Morris & Kimberly Mueller	5:30 Sullivan Team	5:30 Virginia Bollinger	5:30 Bob & Phyllis Seiler	5:30 Judy Muth & Kjersten Gurda	5:30 Deb Boushea	
10:30 Jessica Theisen	10:30 Tygum Team	10:30 Leone Helstad	10:30 Rick & Sue Eley	10:30 Don Lehman & Diane Ward	10:30 Monty Clifcorn	
25 Christmas Day						
Sandy Bahler	Mork Team	Diane Helmenstein	Terry & Maren Tiffany	Brienne Carlson & Sally Iverson	Art Braatz	
27						
8:00 Doris & Bill Brendler	8:00 Scovill Team	8:00 Phyllis Seiler	8:00 Mary Tygum	8:00 Dick Benzine & Lynn Lauersdorf	8:00 Maren Tiffany	
10:00 Mary Nervig	10:00 Johnson Team	10:00 Nancy Kinson	10:00 Bea Fadness	10:00 Gordy & Jan McChesney	10:00 Steve Halverson	
	11:00 Russ Theel		11:00 Russ Theel	11:00 Lisa Manion	11:00 Kat Pluff	

St. Stephen's values your opinion. Please fill-in and return this survey by December 13.

You are welcome to mail the survey back to St. Stephen's or drop it in the survey box before/after worship. Or if it is more convenient for you, fill-in the survey online at <http://tinyurl.com/surveystst>

As St. Stephen's moves through this period of transition, the Transition Team has been asked to gather and examine our church's strengths, weaknesses, and goals as seen by, you, our congregation. Your feedback will guide the direction of our church, as we move forward.

Pastor Kathy, Pastor Nick, and the Transition Team

Please indicate how much you personally agree or disagree with the following statements. Please indicate your choice with a X	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion
1. I am satisfied with St. Stephen's.				
2. I feel a strong sense of connection to this church.				
3. I feel included at St. Stephen's.				
4. I wish there were more opportunities to form meaningful relationships with others here.				
5. St. Stephen's could do more to assist my spiritual growth.				
6. I regularly participate in church programs.				
7. Information about how to get involved with church programs is easily available.				
8. I would like to become more involved at St. Stephen's.				
9. The leadership at St. Stephen's is good at identifying my talents and engaging me in the work of the church.				
10. I would like to take advantage of some programs offered, but the times do not work for my schedule.				
11. St. Stephen's has a sufficient outreach ministry program (e.g., food pantry, homeless ministry).				
12. I would like more opportunities to share my faith and grow my spirituality with others in a small group setting.				
13. I am able to reach St. Stephen's staff by phone/email/in-person when needed.				
14. I would like more electronic options to give my offerings.				
15. The office hours at St. Stephen's are convenient.				
16. The pastors are available when I need them.				

When looking at the following list, please select seven programs you feel are the most important to create or maintain at St. Stephen's. Please identify your choices with an X

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Learning Opportunities for Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Learning Ministries for Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Care for Elderly/Infirmed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-week Learning for Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-week Opportunities for Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Relationships with people in Holy Land |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Music Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Music Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Art and Worship Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary Issue Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation Instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer/Spiritual Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Group Formation for Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship Formation for Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Organ Music/Special Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship Opportunities for Older Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Providing Food for the Hungry | <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting Community/Facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Congregational/Intergenerational Meals | <input type="checkbox"/> Offering Shelter to the Homeless | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming Ministries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Refugee Support and Resettlement | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications (Newsletter, Website, Facebook, etc.) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Media Presence |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Care for Environment/Grounds |

1. What could St. Stephen's do to help your faith grow and advance your spiritual journey?

4. Complete the following sentence: *To work towards God's calling for St. Stephen's, we need to ...*

2. What do you like least about St. Stephen's?

5. Do you have any needs that you feel are unmet at St. Stephen's?

3. What do you like best about St. Stephen's?

6. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us or think is important for us to know?

Please tell us about yourself. Place an X by the answer best fitting you for the questions below:

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to answer

Which best captures your marital status?

- Single
- Cohabiting
- Married
- Divorced
- Widowed

What best captures your average church attendance?

- 2-4 times per month
- 1-2 times per month
- 6-12 times per year
- Less than 6 times per year

What is your race/ethnicity?

- Please check all that apply.
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
 - Asian/Pacific Islander
 - Black or African American
 - Hispanic or Latino
 - White
 - Prefer not to answer

Do you have children under the age of 18 living at home?

- Yes
- No

Which worship services do you attend most often?

- 8:00 AM service
- 10:00 AM service
- 11:00 AM service
- It varies

What is your age?

- Under 20
- 20-35
- 36-54
- 55-70
- Over 70

How long have you been a part of St. Stephen's?

- Less than a year
- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- Over 20 years

Optional: If you'd like to, please write your name: _____

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



You are invited to honor or memorialize family, friends, or events by ordering a poinsettia to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas or by supporting a ministry.

Poinsettias are available for \$10 per plant. Plants may be taken home after Christmas services.

Your order form and payment (cash or checks payable to St. Stephen's) can be placed in the offering plate or returned to the church office.

Names will appear in the Christmas worship bulletins and in the January newsletter.

Order Deadline is Wednesday, December 9. Please print names.

Your Name: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

of WHITE____ # of RED____ # of PINK____

Total for plants at \$10 each \$_____

And / Or

Donations to support ministry:

\$_____ in support of summer youth events

\$_____ for animals through ELCA Good Gifts/World Hunger

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
5700 Pheasant Hill Road
Monona, WI 53716-3198

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 1306
MADISON, WI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

Missing Worship?

YouTube If weather keeps you away, you can find the past week's service on Monona Community TV Sundays at 10:00 Charter Channel 990 or AT&T Uverse Channel 99). Videos of each week are posted and archived on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/results?q=st+stephens+monona>. You can also pick up copies of recent past sermons at church, or "friend" St. Stephen's on Facebook.

FATS: E-Version? Paper Copy?

Would you like to receive an emailed newsletter with links and color pictures? Do you need a hard copy by mail? If you'd like to get the other version (or aren't receiving the newsletter at all!) please contact Roxanne in the office at office@ststlc.org.

Snowy Sundays — Accessibility

When the snow comes on Saturday nights, plan on entering the church only from the Fireside or Office entrances. This will keep us safer as the sidewalk can be cleared on Mondays.

Contact Us!

Rev. Kathy Gerking, Interim Senior Pastor	kathy@ststlc.net
Rev. Nick Uthall, Associate Pastor	nick@ststlc.net
Rebecca Redmann, Director of Music Ministries	music@ststlc.net
Paige Gubbrud, Children & Family Ministries Coordinator	paige@ststlc.net
Rev. Edward Johnson, Sr. Visitation Ministries	edward@ststlc.net
Terry Tiffany, Custodian	terry@ststlc.net
Tim Mueller, Organist	mueller@ststlc.net
Dick Benzine, Food Pantry Administrator	Ststpantry@netscape.net

Phone: (608) 222-1241 Fax: (608) 222-2005

Church Office office@ststlc.net

www.ststephensmonona.com

St. Stephen's is a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA, welcoming people of all sexual orientations!



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.