

Worship Assistants

	<u><i>This Week</i></u>	<u><i>Next Week</i></u>
Advent Candle	Simon Utecht	Nate Lenoble
Assisting Minister	Sue Holster	Kathy Robinson
Coffee Hour	Stephen's Angels	_____
Communion Asst.	Sue Holster Randy Van Natta Gail Wolfe	Gail Wolfe
Lector	_____	Kathy Robinson
Organist/Pianist	Delores Kessel	Phil Giese
Preaching/Presiding	Pastor Karoline Schwantes	Pastor Karoline Schwantes
Projection	Lydia Lenoble	Shauna Robinson
Soloist	Jim Lenselink	_____
Special Music	Bell Choir and Vocal Choir	_____
Usher	Verlyn Oelke	Darrin Koehler
Video	Elizabeth Lenoble	Lydia Lenoble

Staff

Pastor	Karoline Schwantes
Administrative Assistant	Nancy Henke
Assistant Treasurer	Mary Beth Tolley
Worship Service Custodian	Dave Skola
Worship Service Custodian	Gail Wolfe
Maintenance Custodian	Cecil Wold

Music Staff

Director of Music	Delores Kessel
Director of Combined Adult Choir	Jim Lenselink
Director of Bell Choir	Darlene Johnson

Executive Committee

Pastor	Karoline Schwantes: prkaroline@sslcwausau.com
Past President	Kathy Robinson: krobinson91063@gmail.com
Council President	Sue Holster: sueholster@gmail.com
Council Vice President	Dick Holster: Dick@Holsterconstruction.com
Treasurer	Verlyn Oelke: verlynoelke@gmail.com
Secretary	Vicki Romang: vicki.romang.sslc@gmail.com

Website: www.sslcwausau.com

Facebook: Wausau St. Stephen Lutheran Church <https://www.facebook.com/wausausslc>



ADVENT CHORAL SERVICE

*Presented by the
Bell Choir and Vocal Choir*

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
512 McClellan Street
Wausau, Wisconsin 54403-4882
715-845-7858

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024



The Prelude

RINGING of the BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

In a world that is lonely,
we will save a seat for you.

In a world that is anxious,
we will light candles against the gloom.

In a world that is weary,
we will sing songs of joy and truth.

I am not alone.
We are not alone.

For here in this place, God is weaving us together.
Light the candles! Sing with joy!

Opening Hymn: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

#254

CANDLE LIGHTING

In a weary and worn world,
how do we begin again?
Where do we start?

**Let us begin together.
Let us begin arm in arm.
Let us begin by holding each other up,
instead of tearing each other down.
Let us begin with words of peace.**

Yes, let us begin with peace.
Today we light the candles of hope and peace.
**May these lights remind us of what could be.
May these lights mark a new beginning.
May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.**

Arm in arm,
hand in hand,
side by side.
May we begin again.
Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

BELL CHOIR

Angels We Have Heard on High

*The Advent Choral Service bulletin covers
were sponsored by Mary Beth Tolley,
in loving memory of her Brother, Ken Prieve
and her Niece, Melissa Prieve Fleming*

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN CHURCH

Sunday, December 8th	9:00 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm 12:00 pm 7:00 pm	Worship/Advent Choral Service Trust Fund Committee Mtg. Worship Telecast on Spectrum Channel 980 Worship Telecast on TDS Channel 14 AA
Monday, December 9th	1:00 pm 3:00 pm 5:30 pm 7:00 pm	St. Stephen Grief Group Worship Telecast on Spectrum Channel 980 Bell Choir Dartball
Tuesday, December 10th	10:00 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 10:30 pm	Worship Telecast on Spectrum Channel 980 Congregation Council Mtg. Little Scholars Christmas Program Worship Telecast on Spectrum Channel 980
Wednesday, December 11th	1:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Women's Bible Study Midweek Advent Worship at Good Shepherd Choir Practice at Pilgrim
Thursday, December 12th	8:30 am 4:00 pm 6:00 pm	Quilting Worship Committee Mtg. Al-Anon
Saturday, December 14th	9:00 am—4:00 pm 10:30 am—2:00 pm	Saturday Crafterday Wrapping Party for Adopt-A-Family in Chapel
Sunday, December 15th	9:00 am 9:00 am 12:00 pm 12:00 pm 7:00 pm	Worship Choral Service at Pilgrim Worship Telecast on Spectrum Channel 980 Worship Telecast on TDS Channel 14 AA

St. Stephen Weekly

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 8th, 2024

On Sunday, December 1st, 62 people attended the 9am Worship Service.

THANK YOU to those who donated and helped to prepare and serve food for the Community Dinner. It was a huge success! We distributed 107 meals to those in need. A special thank you to the Angels for helping make the pasta salad and homemade sandwiches. Your help is truly appreciated.

Stephen's Angels put together 16 holiday gift bags for our members who are unable to attend church. If anyone would like to deliver a gift bag, see the list in the conference room. Please check off the name if doing a delivery. Also, couples get 2 bags (1 for each).

We are doing Adopt-A-Family again this year! We have adopted 10 kids. There are gift tags in the back of the church and they will be available through Sunday, December 8th. All gifts need to be back to the church by Friday, December 13th. We will be having a "Wrapping Party" on Saturday, December 14th from 10:30am until 2pm if anyone is interested in helping wrap gifts.

On Wednesday, December 11th, the Women's Bible Study group will meet at 2510 Restaurant at 11:30 am for a Christmas celebration. Each person will order off of the menu, and pay their own way. If you wish to attend, please call Jane Seubert at 715-297-6407, so she can make reservations. Following lunch, a Bible Study will be held at church in the Conference Room. Any women in the congregation who would like to attend are welcome!

A beautiful representation of collaboration! The Wausau Lyric Choir is joining with Wausau Pro Musica, Inc. for a holiday performance to remember. We hope you'll join us! Tidings of Comfort and Joy, at First Presbyterian Church, 406 Grant Street, Wausau, on Friday, December 13th at 7:30pm and Saturday, December 14th at 3pm. This is presented FREE to the public. In lieu of ticket sales, freewill donations are accepted and appreciated.

Saturday Crafterdays are back! December 14th from 9am until 4pm. Bring your favorite craft and join us upstairs in the choir room. Come for the morning or the afternoon, or both! We'll have fun and we'll have snacks and coffee. Pack a lunch or there are many restaurants downtown.

The office will be closed starting Friday, December 20th until Monday, January 6th as Nancy Henke will be on vacation. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please call Pastor Karoline Schwantes at 715-370-5514.

Our 2 family restrooms are located in the hallway by the church office.

A changing table has been installed in the family restroom that is in the hallway closet to the church office.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Love! by Joel Raney

VOCAL CHOIR

Love Is Born

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. John 1:1,4*

VOCAL CHOIR

The King of Love and Light

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. Isaiah 9:2*

VOCAL CHOIR

Lift Up Your Eyes

*The sun shall no longer be your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night;
but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Isaiah 60:19*

VOCAL CHOIR

Love Came Down at Christmas

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never ends. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

VOCAL CHOIR (accompanied by the Bell Choir)

Away in a Manger

*Then an angel of the Lord stood before the shepherds. The angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior.
You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12*

VOCAL CHOIR

Christmas Joy

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us."*

*So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.
When they saw this, they make known what had been told to them about this child;
and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. Luke 2:13-18*

VOCAL CHOIR

Love Is Born

*Now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;
and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13*

PRAYERS

The Assisting Minister ends each petition with, "Lord in your mercy," the congregational response is, "**receive our prayer.**"

PEACE is shared

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

Jim Lenselink singing, "The Gift of Love" by Hal Hopson

*If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels,
but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,
and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,
but do not have love, I gain nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3*

OFFERTORY HYMN

#296 (verse 3)

OFFERING PRAYER

SUNG WORDS OF INSTITUTION (to the tune of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")

(proceed to center aisle for communion)

The God of grace be here with you.

The God of grace be also with you.

Lift up your hearts in thanks and praise.

Our hearts and hopes to God we raise.

Rejoice! Rejoice! For holy is the Lord,

On earth and in the heav'nly heights adored.

When Jesus sat at table with his friends,
He took the bread, and blessing it, he said:

"This is my body, offered for you;

Take, eat, this meal of grace and truth."

Rejoice! Rejoice! We share this living bread,

And seek a day when all shall be fed.

When supper ended, Jesus took the cup.

He blessed it and he raised it up.

"This cup is life poured out for you.

My promise to make all things new."

Rejoice! Rejoice! We share the cup of peace

With those who thirst for justice and release.

O Spirit, fire of hope sent from above

Unite us in salvation and love.

Bless these, your gifts of bread and wine

And fill us with your joy divine.

Rejoice! Rejoice! We share this meal

And bless our God, who feeds and heals.

DECEMBER 2024 MEMORIALS

In loving memory of Jerry Hoppe

Capital Campaign -- \$500

Family and Friends

Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund

In loving memory of my Sister, Grace Berg –

Kathleen Jaecks

Capital Campaign

In loving memory of my Parents, Pat & Iris Brown; my Aunt & Uncle, Dawn & Jim Henke;
my Grandparents, Alfred & Sue Zillman; and my Great Grandparents, Albert & Emilie
Zillman, all of whom were members of St. Stephen –

Kelly Brown

In loving memory of Charles Deffner and Jerry Hoppe –

The Kasten Family

In memory of loved ones –

Pam Kohnhorst

In loving memory of Jerry Hoppe –

Sarah Lonsdorf

In loving memory of Chuck Deffner, Jerry Hoppe, and Ralph Kohnhorst –

Mary Beth Tolley

Current Expense Fund

In loving memory of Jerry Preller, Butch Skinner, and Perry Barr –

Kay Preller

Seidel Meyer Pastoral Ministry Fund

In loving memory of Harold & Sue Kratwell, Kenneth & Sadie Borth, and Norman & Bertha
Zietlow –

Sandy & Ron Borth and Family

These are the memorials received through Monday, December 1st. If you would like a
memorial placed in the December bulletins and January newsletter, it needs to be to the office
by Monday, December 16th. Thank you!



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS!!!

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th

2pm & 5pm at Good Shepherd

4pm & 10pm at St. Stephen

5pm at Pilgrim

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th

9am at Pilgrim

10am at Good Shepherd

LORD'S PRAYER

Together we unite our voices in hope, praying the words your son taught us to pray, saying together:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn during Communion: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

#279

Hymn during Communion: *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

#281

(Eucharistic Ministers may come forward for a communion kit at this time.)

BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Blessing of Aaron

Announcement of MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Sending Hymn: *Joy to the World*

#267

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

The Postlude

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Sung Words of Institution © 2019 Rev. Melissa A. Bills

Children's Worship Bulletin | Prompts by Hannah Garrity | Coloring Pages by Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

When Will You Be Back?

*Yesterday I visited an old man in the hospital.
I was not the only one. We talked on the elevator ride down—
Has he gained any weight? Will he stay in that room?
Does he like the food? Has he called?
All the man wanted to know was, When will you be back?*

*We ask that question in a thousand different ways
every single day,
our hearts leaning over themselves,
bending to get closer to love.
We say, Text me when you're home.
Call me when you're free.
One more kiss!
I love you all the time.
When will you be back?
What we really mean is—
I can't go through life alone.
Please don't let me go through life alone.*

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



*The Bell Choir and Vocal Choir
would like to wish everyone a*

**VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a BLESSED NEW YEAR!**

*Director of Music
and Accompanist*

Delores Kessel

Bell Choir Director

Darlene Johnson

Vocal Choir Director

Jim Lenselink

Narrator

Sue Holster

Bell Choir

Sarah Lonsdorf

Crystal Nielson

Ryan Schwantes

Rhonda Will

Janet Williams

Vocal Choir

Tom Brown

Charlene Buttner

Dale Clark

Joanne Diestelhorst

Pat Erdman

Dawn Felch

Charlie Freiberg

Pam Hackbart

Jeffrey Kessel

Frank Koerten

Karen Larson

Verlyn Oelke

Kay Preller

David Skola

Rachel Tordsen

Jean Trempe

Jerelyn Weinke

