



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

DEC 2025/JAN 2026

News & Notes

3510 72nd Street • Urbandale, IA 50322 • 515-276-4628 • office@ststephenlutheran.org

Stewardship 2026 — A Chorus of Generosity

Dear St. Stephen People:

Thank you for being a part of St. Stephen, where our “Chorus of Generosity” shows whether we are collecting canned goods for the food pantry, donating mittens/scarves/hats to local school children, giving books to our Little Library, or providing space for another congregation to worship. Our voices lift as we sing praise, pass the peace of the Lord, pray for our neighbors, the world, and all creation. Our voices promise to share the love of God every day, everywhere with every person. This promise helps us embrace the current needs of our congregation as well as looking outside the church to understand how our ministry can support others. We can trust that even when we may sing off-key individually, together we make beautiful music through our stewardship.

Through your financial generosity, we were able to accomplish several significant goals in 2025. We’ve begun to share our God Sightings in newsletters. We sustained a tradition of life-changing youth trips as our high school students served our neighbors in Chicago. Our youngest disciples celebrated, sang, and joined together with kids from RFC for yet another fabulous VBS. We raised the money needed for a Capital Campaign that will allow us to complete facility projects that will benefit everyone. Personally, we have supported the Sabus/Stubbs, Richard, and Myers families during a very difficult year.

These experiences and resources, together with the rhythms of worship, fellowship, pastoral care, and faith formation, equip St. Stephen people to share the good news of God’s love wherever daily life takes us. **Your gifts are essential for making such ministry possible. Thank you!** We are excited about

our ministry goals for 2026! We will work to continue to build the programs and messages of Pastor Andrea as we pray for her healing and recovery. We will continue to offer creative, fun and meaningful faith formation opportunities for our children and youth. A synod-recommended 8.33% increase in giving equals a 13th month of offerings! This increase will allow us to fund the following priorities:

- Promote volunteerism for one of the many worship leader roles and/or committees
- Deepen connections between worship and daily living through ongoing Life of Faith initiatives
- Support Faith Formation trips including the Summer 2026 ELES trip
- Continue to support our interim pastors and worship leaders as they help us carry out our mission
- Offer enrichment opportunities for the congregation, such as the 2025 Neurodiversity seminar and the upcoming 2026 All Synod Reads initiative
- Achieve the goal of a balanced budget for 2026.

If you haven’t already done so, please complete your Giving Intent for 2026 and bring it to worship or send it to the church office. Our goal is to hear from 110 households about their 2026 giving intents. Your participation can help us reach that goal!

Thank you for lifting up your voice and joining the chorus, and most of all, for making the melodies of faith part of your life — for the love of God and neighbor.

In gratitude,

The Chorus of Generosity Campaign Team

The St. Stephen Congregational Council



Stewardship 2026 — A Chorus of Generosity

13 Months of Giving

**With an increase of 8.33% in your monthly giving,
it is equal to an additional month!**



The chart to the right shows the impact of increasing your giving by 8.33%: it is equal to an additional month of giving, and can be a huge difference maker!

Monthly Giving	2% Increase	5% Increase	8.33% Increase	10% Increase
\$25	\$0.50	\$1.25	\$2.08	\$2.50
\$50	\$1	\$2.50	\$4.16	\$5
\$100	\$2	\$5	\$8.32	\$10
\$500	\$10	\$25	\$41.65	\$50

A Letter from Bill and Cindy Scarpino

We are Bill and Cindy Scarpino and moved to Urbandale from Beaverville in 2015 after becoming empty nesters. At the time of our move, we were members of St John's Lutheran. We were looking for a church closer to our new home, with similar values that we appreciated at St John's. That is to say that all people are welcome and that the congregation supports the decisions of the ELCA 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

Cindy was raised at a small Lutheran church on the southside of Des Moines, and that means literally raised. "It felt like I had six sets of parents at church." So, a small congregation also appealed to us.

We called various ELCA churches and they were not what we were looking for. A friend suggested St. Stephen. We visited a couple of times and almost simultaneously said "This is the place for us!"

In this time of polarizing views and disagreement, St. Stephen is a refuge of caring and compassion. And we take that with us as we navigate the rest of the week. When we tell people about St. Stephen, we describe it as a space where if any division might exist, it is left at the doorstep. Worship at St. Stephen is a renewal every week.

We support the important work St. Stephen does to help the community, like the Urbandale Food Pantry, Backpack Buddies, and the mini food pantry; and the church youth activities that are so important as children grow into young adults in Christ.

We were already fulfilled by our worship experience at St. Stephen with the music and choirs. Then, Jana became the Director

of Worship & Music and took it to a new level. She is a virtuoso on piano and has real life educational experience in choosing a variety of music for the church band, the choir, and musical events. Additionally, we are so grateful that her husband Tanner shares his talents with us.

Without hesitation, we are inspired to share the fulfilling and warm experience at St. Stephen with anyone we know that may be looking for a church home.



Stewardship 2026 — A Chorus of Generosity

A Letter from Allison Barlow

St. Stephen is important to me because it has been a part of my life ever since I was a child. As a kid I always appreciated being able to connect with members and staff of St. Stephen as I participated in Sunday School, children's choir, confirmation, etc. It was a safe and welcoming place where I could forge friendships with my peers, be supported by adults, and develop my own value system and beliefs.

As a child I did not grasp what made a church function, but now as an adult with my own children attending here I am forever grateful for the generosity our congregation shows to the youth of our church. The ways that our congregation pours into our children through the volunteering of time, skills, and financial resources is something that I will forever be grateful for. My children get to grow up in a church that values them and provides them a positive and encouraging space to develop their own values and beliefs, just like I got to do more than two decades ago. To know when they walk into the doors at St. Stephen that they will be loved and accepted is a true gift.

The feeling of belonging is something I felt during my time as a child at St. Stephen, and I'm glad that my children get to experience the same. When you donate to St. Stephen, please know that your generosity is impactful and is felt in even our youngest congregation members. Thank you to all of those that donate as you are able. Every little bit counts!



A Letter from the Craig-Huey Family

We are the Craig-Huey Family. Our Family was established in Denver, Colorado in 2002. When our first son, Griffin was born, in 2013, we knew it was important for him to be baptized. His grandparents attended St. Stephen, and recommended we discuss it with the clergy at the time, Pastor Dan. When our second child, Graham, was born in 2016, we knew St. Stephen was where we wanted him baptized as well. We attended several different churches looking for a "good fit." They were mostly good, but not good enough. In 2020, work brought our family to Iowa. Closer to family, and St. Stephen, where it all began, and continues to this day.



St. Stephen Lutheran Church is like coming home. From the first son's baptism, our LGBT family has been received with open arms. There are activities for adults, but we especially love the youth activities. Griffin has been involved with Sunday School, and the Emerge program. He enjoys the service activities in the summer and throughout the year. His Moms also love them for him. Graham, who is 9, is involved with the Sunday School. He likes that he gets to listen to stories from the bible, that are about God and Jesus.

The difference St. Stephen Lutheran Church has made in our family's life can not be compared to any other. At a parent night for the Emerge group, we were asked to sign up to make dinner for Wednesday, Dinner at the Table. As I watched everyone sign up, I knew there was no escaping choosing a night. This was not something I have ever done before, and had no idea where to start. There have been so many St. Stephen family members who have checked in, and given advice, and even offered many boosts of support. This week, the Craig-Huey family will Prepare and Share Dinner at the Table.

Advent 2025



Blue Christmas Service, Wednesday, December 17, 6:00 p.m.

This service of hope and remembering is for everyone, but especially for those experiencing sadness, loneliness, or loss during the holidays. Scripture, music, candle lighting and communion remind us that Christ, the light, has come into our world to make a home among us and meet us wherever we are.

If you are finding it difficult to be joyful this Christmas, we invite you to this simple and intimate service at 6:00 p.m. Special music will be provided by the SSLC Chancel Choir and Kris Shay with Jana Taylor.

This service will also be live streamed. Join us before worship for Supper at the Table at 5:15 p.m.

From Audrey Jones —

Pastor Andrea started the tradition of this Wednesday evening service to recognize that Christmas is not a holly, jolly season for everyone. This service allows those who are grieving to light a candle for a loved one they miss. Even though I had not lost anyone in these last two years, I have still attended. To me, it is a special service just to recognize that not everyone likes the hustle and bustle of this season. People who have mental health issues can really struggle.

There are too many expectations, too much noise everywhere you go, crowds of people even at the supermarket. If you don't have the money, or the energy, this time of year can be overwhelming.

If you have a loved one or friend who you know suffers from depression or another mental illness, try not to expect them to participate in all the fun activities you want to plan. Get together with them someplace you know you can have a quiet meal, or go to an activity that doesn't have Christmas as its theme. Spend a quiet evening at home with a favorite take-out dinner and a non-Christmas movie. Allow that person to find a quiet place at the holiday get-together when they need a break. If you would like to learn more about mental health resources, please see page 12 of this newsletter.

*Regardless of whether you are feeling jolly or not during the Christmas season, this service welcomes all! We hope to see you **Wednesday, December 17** at 6:00 p.m.!*



Other Advent and Christmas Services

Sunday, December 14 — Sunday School Christmas Program

10:00 a.m. (during worship). Be sure to join us for this year's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 14. The program is "Shine Your Light" (written by Krista Brittain-Dial).

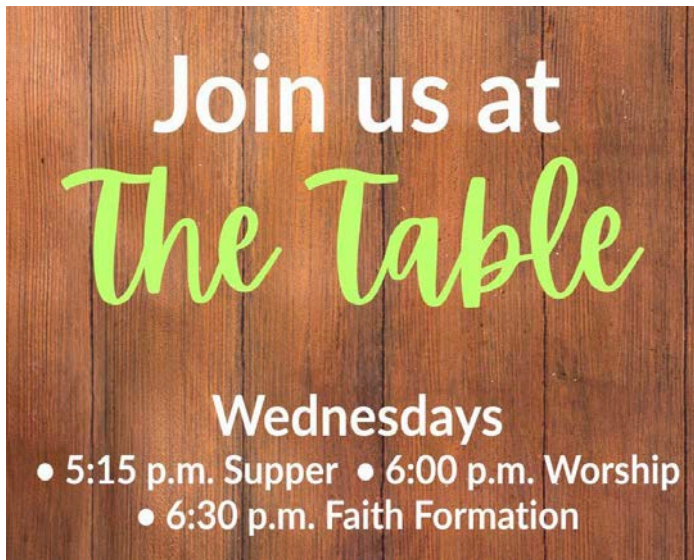
Wednesday, December 24 — Christmas Eve Worship

3:30 p.m. (Praise Band and Carols) and 5:30 p.m. (Organ/Piano and Carols). Both services will be live streamed on Facebook and YouTube.

Sunday, December 28 — Lessons and Carols Service

10:00 a.m.

News & Events



Join us on Wednesdays at The Table!

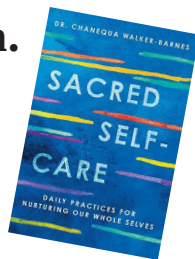
All are welcome each Wednesday night for Supper at 5:15 p.m., Worship at 6:00 p.m. and Faith Formation at 6:30 p.m.

Add a little sparkle to your week! — Join us on Wednesdays after worship as we celebrate Advent together and craft decorations for our gorgeous Christmas tree. **Wednesdays, December 3 & 10.**



Brown Bag Book Club Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.

The book club gathers each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the office Conference Room. We will continue reading *Anxious for Nothing* until February 11. We will not meet on: 12/24, 12/31 and 2/18. Beginning 2/25, we will begin the synod encouraged Bible study, *Sacred Self Care*. All are welcome!



Supper Club, Friday, Dec 19, 6:30 p.m.

Please join us for Supper Club! Supper Club provides once per month informal socializing in someone's home. Open to any adult

— with hosting not required. Just bring an appetizer to share and your beverage of choice. Please let our hosts, Jane & John Dieseth (jdieseth@bpgrp.com), know that you will be attending.



Property Day, Saturday, Dec 20 and Jan 17, 8 a.m.

We need your help to maintain and beautify our church. We typically work for 2-3 hours as needed.

Please check the Friday email on Dec 19 and Jan 16 for any special instructions. If Saturday morning doesn't work, contact Jerry Strawman for an alternative time.



Prayers for Healing, Sunday, Dec 28 and Jan 18

Once each month, Sunday worship includes an opportunity for individual prayer for healing and anointing (the sign of the cross placed on your forehead in oil). If you wish to receive this ministry, simply proceed to one of the healing ministers once you've received communion.



News & Events



LIFE LINE SCREENING®
The Power of Prevention

**You're invited to a
Life Line Screening event!**

Where: Urbandale –
St. Stephen Lutheran Church
When: Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings.**
Trusted by over 11 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend:
Anyone age of 40+

Special Pricing for \$129

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Call **800-324-9458** and use promo code **HABC001**

Visit  **LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC**

Text the word **"circle"** to **216-279-1607**

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?

Life Line Screening will be here at St. Stephen Lutheran Church on **Tuesday, December 9, 2025** offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today. Please refer to the flyer above to get more info about how you can sign up. There is no time like the present to take action!

Three ways to register:

- Call toll-free: 1-800-324-9458 promo code HABC001--
- Online: [LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC](https://llsa.social/habc)
- Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607

News & Events



Save the Date for the Cookie Walk! Saturday, December 13, 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Get ready for one of our sweetest traditions! Our annual Cookie Walk is coming soon, and we need your help to make it a success. We're looking for **beautifully decorated cookies and festive candies** to fill our tables.

Every year we sell out quickly—let's see if we can top last year's total!

All proceeds support our **high school youth trip**. This year, our youth are focusing on **prayer and reflection**—discovering new ways to stay grounded in faith and listening for how God is calling them forward. We'll wrap up our year with a meaningful retreat to **Wilderness Canoe Base**, where we'll put prayer into action surrounded by God's creation.

Your cookies—and your support—help make this journey possible. Thank you!



News & Events



ELES Advent Box Fundraiser

Support our ELES youth as they prepare for their summer trip! The students are creating and selling beautiful Advent Boxes—each one includes five homemade candles in jars, a devotional and prayer guide, and a touch of fresh greenery to help you center your home in hope and light this Advent season.

The boxes will be available starting Thanksgiving weekend.

Choir Schedule

The Chancel Choir welcomes all singers, teenager–adult! We hope to have you join us in December as we prepare for Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve services. Contact Jana Taylor with questions. Please note our upcoming schedule below:

- **Tuesday, Dec 2:** Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Dec 9:** Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Dec 16:** Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Dec 17:** Blue Christmas Service; warm-up at 5:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Dec 24:** Christmas Eve Service; warm-up at 5:00 p.m.

January Dates:

- **Tuesday, Jan 20:** Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Jan 27:** Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.



Let's Chase Away the Winter Blues with a

Game Gathering
in the Gathering Area

Saturday, January 24, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Bring a **snack** & a **game** to share and/or play with others.
All are welcome for fun and fellowship.
Bring a friend!



Poinsettia Order Form 2025

Poinsettias can be ordered to adorn the worship space on Christmas Eve and to honor or memorialize a loved one. Each plant will be \$20. Checks may be made payable to St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Orders and payments need to be returned to the church office by Thursday, December 4. Attach payment and drop in the collection basket or mail to

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
3510 72nd Street
Urbandale, IA 50322

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
Poinsettia Order Form 2025

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

QUANTITY _____ x \$20 = _____ TOTAL

DEDICATION:

_____ ☐ In Honor ☐ In Memory

_____ ☐ In Honor ☐ In Memory

_____ ☐ In Honor ☐ In Memory

Pie Potluck — Sunday, November 23



Pie Potluck



Pie Potluck — Sunday, November 23



Around the Church

Life of Faith — God Sightings

This fall we have been looking for God Sightings. What is a God Sighting? A God Sighting is a spiritual practice of being alert to the presence of God in our daily lives. This practice tunes our awareness and attention so that we more intentionally look and listen for signs of God's activity in and around us. By sharing our stories of God Sightings with others, we gain practice in speaking words about God (also known as theology). By hearing the stories of others, our imagination is deepened so that we anticipate and expect to see signs of God's presence among us.

Here are a few God Sightings you have shared since our last newsletter:

"On an early morning I looked out to say good morning to the birds on the feeder.

The leaves on the trees were sparkling with dew in the sunshine. What wonderful things God shows us if we just pay attention."

— Wanda Malaney

"Yesterday, I heard from a friend that I had been praying for many things in her life. She received some great news and the feeling of prayers being answered was amazing, I had tears of joy and immediately thanked the Lord!"

"What a blessing it is to see God's beautiful sunset! This week I missed the Northern Lights, and the next day God gives me this beautiful view in my backyard (see photo, right). This is a reminder of all the glorious gifts God provides!"

~Marsha Arens

If you have had a "God Sighting" please share by writing your story on a "God Sighting" card. The cards are in the pews or at the back on tables. Turn them in by placing them in the collection plate or a basket on the table.



Care Companions

The Care Companions team has taken on a new look this year. We changed our meeting time a few meetings ago to 4:00 p.m. Then our meetings have gotten a bit longer so that after finishing our meetings, we all go into the worship area, find a place to sit, and spend as much time, as each one of us desires, in prayer. We are praying for all those that the team has contact with, but we are praying for each other...cause that is important as well!

Our team has grown in size, and I'm grateful for each one!! But there is always room for more. So if you are moved by the Holy Spirit to join us, please contact me. I look forward to hearing from those whom the Spirit sends to us!!

Pastor Chris Lang

Churchly Ballot Update

The churchly ballot nominations have been collected and the Nomination Committee is working through the process to fit the nominees into the available positions. Please pray for those who have accepted nominations and who will be serving our congregation, beginning in February 2026. Thanks be to God!

Outreach

Not Everyone Gets Excited about the Holidays

Many people love the holidays and enjoy the shopping, decorating, extra activities and parties that are a big part of December. However, some people quietly struggle. They might have Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and just want to hole up until Spring. Others may have lost a loved one this year and will be having the first holiday without them. An adopted person may feel sad that they don't know their biological family and wonder about what family traditions would have been like. There are services available for anyone struggling, as well as resources for the families of those suffering. Here are just a few important resources to know about during this holiday season:

#988 — connects you with counselors across the U.S. and its territories for emotional support. You can call, text, chat, or use ASL to access services in English or Spanish, and get help for various issues such as suicide, crisis, LGBTQI+, veterans, and more.

988
LIFELINE

NAMI — the National Alliance for Mental Illness has a local chapter in Des Moines. They facilitate support groups for those with mental illnesses as well as family members who can benefit from meeting other people who understand their circumstances. Phone: 515-254-0417, <https://namiowa.org>.



MINDSPRING MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE — offers free webinars on a variety of mental health topics. Also facilitates support groups for adults and their families, as well as for parents of children with mental health diagnoses. Provide local and national resources. Phone: 515-850-1467, www.mindspringhealth.org.



IOWA OFFICE OF RECOVERY SERVICES — helps people navigate Iowa's mental health and substance use services including providers, support groups and intensive service. Phone: 855-622-4692. <https://orsiowa.org>



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CaringBridge Page for Pastors Andrea & Ronald Myers

Pastor Andrea and Ronald have created a CaringBridge page, and have been posting regular updates on Pastor's health journey.

You can view her page at caringbridge.org then search for "Andrea Myers."

In addition, cards/care packages can be mailed to Pastor Andrea and Ronald's home address, which can be found in the directory. Andrea's email address: revandreamyers@gmail.com



MealTrain for Pastors Andrea & Ronald Myers

Meal Train is a free meal calendar tool that makes planning meals among a wide group easy and less stressful. We will be providing some physical meals at this time but continue needing funding for take-out/delivery meals and cash to cover extra expenses.



If you wish to bring a meal or make a donation, scan the QR code to sign up.

Outreach

Social Ministry Report for November, 2025

Committee members: Jane Dieseth, Tracy Sabus, Sue Koch, Leslie Dahm

Urbandale Food Pantry Collection

For the month of **October**, we collected:

- 11 Packages of stuffing
- 15 Packages of potatoes
- 14 Cans of beans
- 12 Pie filling
- 38 Cans of vegetables
- 12 Cans of soup
- 9 Hamburger Helper
- 2 Peanut butter
- 19 Miscellaneous
- 3 Juice/Soda
- 5 Toothpaste
- 2 Laundry detergent
- 1 Hand soap
- 3 Packages of Diapers
- 8 Shampoo

154 Total Items, weighing 159 lbs



Our Next God's Work. Our Hands Project:

For our Christmas project we are participating in the Adopt-A-Family Program through UCAN (Urbandale Community Action Network). We are providing Urbandale families gifts for Christmas. We started collecting on Sunday, Nov 23 and all gifts must be back by **Sunday, Dec 7**.



Urbandale Food Pantry Collection for December, 2025

In **December** we will gather **dish soap, cooking oil, peanut butter, pasta and pasta sauce**. Please place items for the Urbandale Food Pantry in the shopping carts (Gathering Area). Financial gifts marked "food pantry" are always welcome, and can be shared in worship or sent to the church office.

Free Little Pantry

Donate "dry goods" groceries by placing them in the Free Little Pantry itself. If there's not enough room in the Little Pantry, overflow can be placed in the designated tote inside the Office Entry door. Please be sure to close and latch the pantry door to keep weather and critters out.

Free Little Library

Donate books for all age groups by placing them in the designated tote inside the Office Entry door. Contact the church office for assistance with an after-hours donation.

For assistance with the Free Little Pantry or Free Little Library, please contact our team: Sarah Tomjack, Krista Dial, and Janet Davis.



Church Business

Stewardship Forum

Several church members met after worship on Sunday, Nov 9 for a Stewardship Forum with Deacon Jodi Schuman, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy and Operations, Southeastern Iowa Synod. She spoke of smart and creative ways to give to the church and reduce your tax burden even if you no longer itemize deductions.



SSLC Office Hours: Late December-Early January

- **Wednesday, Dec 24:** 8:30 a.m.-Noon
- **Thursday, Dec 25–Tuesday, Dec 30:** CLOSED
- **Wednesday, Dec 31:** 8:30 a.m.-Noon
- **Thursday, Jan 1:** CLOSED
- **Friday, Jan 2:** 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- **Monday, Jan 5-Friday, Jan 9:** CLOSED (Jana will be available by appointment)

*Regular office hours resume **Tuesday, Jan 13.***

Year-End Giving in 2025

The final day to share an offering for 2025 will be Wednesday, December 31 by 10 a.m. Any gifts received after this will be reflected on your 2026 giving statement.

ST. STEPHEN ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 15
After Worship

www.ststephenlutheran.org

December Celebrations

December Birthdays

Dec 1 Sharon Zinselmeier
 Dec 2 Gentry Cairo
 Dec 3 Steven Davis, Dana Nelson
 Dec 6 Allison Barlow, Kelsey Walker
 Dec 7 Jeff Moats, Bill Scarpino
 Dec 9 Cooper Weinberger
 Dec 10 Jeff Lorenz, Dennis Van Orsdall
 Dec 13 Adam Haugerud, Jr., Steve Nelson,
 Ron Niceswanger
 Dec 14 Tori Richard, Kathy Winger
 Dec 15 Eric Gude, Connor Moriarty
 Dec 17 Owen Tomjack
 Dec 19 Jeff Caskey, Deb Nelsen, James Walck
 Dec 20 Penny Lorey

Dec 21 Audrey Van Loon
 Dec 26 Jerry Strawman, Maren Turner
 Dec 29 Tom Killion
 Dec 30 Susan Koch, Andrea Taylor
 Dec 31 Donna Kaus

December Anniversaries

Dec 7 John & Jane Dieseth, Matt and Renee Kuker
 Dec 16 Katie and Nick Rawson
 Dec 29 Tom Killion
 Dec 30 Larry & Jennifer Ewing
 Dec 31 Bill & Sherry Schaffer,
 Dennis & Barb Van Orsdall

December Calendar

Tuesday, Dec 2

SSLC Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec 3

Brown Bag Book Club, 11:30 a.m.

Supper at The Table, 5:15 p.m.

Worship at The Table, 6:00 p.m.

SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

EMERGE, 6:30 p.m.

ELES, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec 4

SSLC Chapel Chimers Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec 5

Fortnightly Ladies Group, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, Dec 6

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec 7, Second Sunday of Advent

Spark Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast Club, 9:00 a.m. (6th-8th grade)

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

RFC Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec 9

St. Stephen Crafters, 10:00 a.m.

SSLC Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.



Wednesday, Dec 10

Brown Bag Book Club, 11:30 a.m.

Supper at The Table, 5:15 p.m.

Worship at The Table, 6:00 p.m.

EMERGE, 6:30 p.m.

ELES, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec 11

SSLC Chapel Chimers Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

AA Meeting, 6:30 a.m.

Saturday, Dec 13

Cookie Walk, 9:00 a.m.

St. Stephen Crafters, 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Program Practice, 10:00 a.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.

December Calendar (continued)

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec 14, Third Sunday of Advent
Spark Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Breakfast Club, 9:00 a.m. (6th-8th grade)
Christmas Program, 10:00 a.m.
Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.
Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
RFC Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec 16
SSLC Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.
Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec 17
Brown Bag Book Club, 11:30 a.m.
Supper at The Table, 5:15 p.m.
Blue Christmas, 6:00 p.m.
SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
EMERGE, 6:30 p.m.
ELES, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec 18
Care Companions, 4:00 p.m.
AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec 19
Supper Club, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec 20
Property Committee, 8:00 a.m.
Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.
Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent

NO Spark Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
NO Breakfast Club, 9:00 a.m. (6th-8th grade)
Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.
Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
RFC Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec 23

SSLC Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec 24, Christmas Eve

No Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.
Christmas Worship, 3:30 p.m.
Christmas Worship, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec 25, Christmas Day

NO SSLC Chapel Chimers Rehearsal
AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec 27

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.
Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec 28, First Sunday of Christmas

NO Spark Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
NO Breakfast Club, 9:00 a.m. (6th-8th grade)
Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.
Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
RFC Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec 31

No activities



Happy
New Year!



January Celebrations

January Birthdays

Jan 1 Sylvia Nelson
 Jan 2 Carol Koepplin
 Jan 3 Cindy Scarpino
 Jan 4 Gary Folkerts
 Jan 5 Billye Jo Ryan
 Jan 6 Madison Henderson
 Jan 10 Bev Waddell
 Jan 11 Krista Cairo
 Jan 12 David Stucker
 Jan 15 Ken Greethurst
 Jan 17 Gayle Gustafson, Elizabeth Koepplin,
 Leann Stubbs
 Jan 18 Chris Lang, Ronelva Reiman



Jan 20 Jennifer Boohar
 Jan 21 Jana Taylor
 Jan 24 Ethan Drown
 Jan 25 Jane Dieseth, Bill Goebel
 Jan 28 Mark Courter
 Jan 31 Jennifer Ewing, Cyndy Quam



January Anniversaries

Jan 2 Scott & Jill Chapman, Jerry & Ardie Strawman
 Jan 16 Rick & Sharon Jorgenson
 Jan 20 Randall & Tracy Hersom
 Jan 21 Mark & Jeannette Haugen
 Jan 28 Ronald & Janice Andersen

January Calendar

Thursday, Jan 1, New Year's Day

NO SSLC Chapel Chimers Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan 3

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.
Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan 4, Second Sunday of Christmas

Spark Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Breakfast Club, 9:00 a.m. (6th-8th grade)
Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.
Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
RFC Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan 7

Brown Bag Book Club, 11:30 a.m.
Supper at The Table, 5:15 p.m.
Worship at The Table, 6:00 p.m.
SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
EMERGE, 6:30 p.m.
ELES, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan 8

SSLC Chapel Chimers Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
AA Meeting, 6:30 a.m.

Saturday, Jan 10

St. Stephen Crafters, 10:00 a.m.
Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.
Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan 11, Baptism of Our Lord

Spark Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Breakfast Club, 9:00 a.m. (6th-8th grade)
Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

RFC Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan 13

St. Stephen Crafters, 10:00 a.m.
Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan 14

Brown Bag Book Club, 11:30 a.m.
Supper at The Table, 5:15 p.m.
Worship at The Table, 6:00 p.m.
SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
EMERGE, 6:30 p.m.
ELES, 7:30 p.m.



Thursday, Jan 15

Care Companions, 4:00 p.m.
SSLC Chapel Chimers Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan 16

Supper Club, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan 17

Property Committee, 8:00 a.m.
Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.
Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan 18, Second Sunday after Epiphany

Spark Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Breakfast Club, 9:00 a.m. (6th-8th grade)
Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.
Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
RFC Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

January Calendar *(continued)*

Tuesday, Jan 20

SSLC Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan 21

Brown Bag Book Club, 11:30 a.m.

Supper at The Table, 5:15 p.m.

Worship at The Table, 6:00 p.m.

SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

EMERGE, 6:30 p.m.

ELES, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan 22

SSLC Chapel Chimers Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan 24

Game Gathering, 1:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan 25, Third Sunday after Epiphany

Spark Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast Club, 9:00 a.m. (6th-8th grade)

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

RFC Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan 27

SSLC Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan 28

Brown Bag Book Club, 11:30 a.m.

Supper at The Table, 5:15 p.m.

Worship at The Table, 6:00 p.m.

SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

EMERGE, 6:30 p.m.

ELES, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan 29

SSLC Chapel Chimers Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan 31

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.



ST. STEPHEN INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

**IF URBANDALE SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED,
CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED AND
ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED.**



www.ststephenlutheran.org

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
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Urbandale, IA 50322
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Lent 2026

Ash Wednesday — Wednesday, February 18

“All Synod Reads” for Lent 2026!

Imagine congregations across the Southeastern Iowa Synod reading the same book this spring!

For Lent 2026, join Pastor LeAnn Stubbs, Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop, in reading *Sacred Self-Care: Daily Practices for Nurturing Our Whole Selves* by Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes.

This Lenten devotional invites readers to explore what it truly means to love God, love our neighbor, and love ourselves through the lens of justice, wellness, and grace.

More details will be shared soon. Grab your book and start thinking about how the Spirit will lead you this Lent!

