

News & Notes

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

All Saints'Day Nov 2

On All Saints Sunday, we are reminded that God's saints include all the baptized people of God throughout the world. Worship will include a time to remember beloved family and friends who have died over the last year, including:

Ed Maahs
Brandy Schaffer*
Debbie White*
Denise "Denny" Molenburg

We remember these saints in thanksgiving, with our hope firmly fixed on the promise of resurrection to eternal life in Jesus Christ.

*non member funerals

Stewardship 2026



October 24, 2025

If you had to pick a favorite song, what would it be?

Members of the "Chorus of Generosity" Stewardship Campaign Team have favorites that range from Glenn Miller and Big Band to classic rock like the Beatles, to jazz and blues, Willie Nelson and The Eagles. And let's not forget Christian music icons like For King and Country, MercyMe, and TobyMac.

How about you? Music is a powerful presence in our lives, and not just while we're listening. It helps us celebrate, mourn, reflect, and feel the wonder and struggle of being alive. In short: music builds hope, culture, and community.

And that's where you come in. Communities of faith are one of the few places where neighbors create music together, and St. Stephen Lutheran Church is no exception, from hymns to prayers to instrumental music to choir anthems. But we'd go even farther: whenever we gather for worship, study, or engage in acts of compassion, we become a kind of music, a beautiful melody that sustains and inspires.



So as much as we might enjoy tuning in to our classic rock, country or heavy metal, our favorite music is the kind we make together every week. A chorus of generosity, supporting each other, our neighborhood, and God's wider world.

In the weeks ahead, our "Chorus of Generosity" Stewardship Team will share more about how you can invest in this extraordinary community of song and service. On **November 9, 16 and 23**, members of our congregation will be sharing their favorite hymns and praise songs, along with what makes it meaningful to them, and we will sing them together before worship. And on **November 23**, we'll celebrate **Commitment Sunday** with our famous Pie Potluck after service. Mark your calendars!

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.

Grace and peace,

The Chorus of Generosity Stewardship Campaign Team Bill Freeman, Denise Hawks, Audrey Jones, Tori Richard, Tracy Sabus, Tarra Sander, Donna Schroeder, Jana Taylor

The St. Stephen Lutheran Church Congregational Council Jane Burger, Greg Dahm, Larry Ewing, Bill Freeman, Peg Gilchrist, Audrey Jones, Ron Niceswanger, Tori Richard, Aaron Walck

p.s. This stewardship season, you're invited to practice generosity in all kinds of ways — and not just with your bank account. The "30 Day Generosity Challenge" on the next page offers simple, daily prompts to grow in gratitude, kindness, and joy. Give it a try!

Stewardship 2026

AY CHALLENGE ous every day. No act is too small

Write a note to someone in your church, school, or community. Tell them why you're grateful for them.	Smile or nod to as many people as you can today. especially strangers.	Be curious instead of defensive today. Offer the gift of a listening heart.	Offer to carry something (literally or figuratively).	Reflect on the past 30 days. What changed for you? What surprised you? What surprised you forward?
Let someone go ahead of you in line today.	Forgive a small (or big!) grievance today. Let grace do what grace does best.	Support a local business that builds community – with a purchase and a thank-you note.	Leave a kind note for someone to find. Tuck it in a library book, leave it on a co-worker's desk, or tape it to a mirror in a public restroom.	Leave a generous tip today. Even if the service was just okayl
Compliment a stranger. Sing a bright, unexpected note into someone's day. Kind words change the world.	Pray for someone you find difficult. Let this prayer retune your heart.	Donate food to a food panty today. Make sure it's something you'd want to eat, not just the leftovers from the back of your cupboard.	Learn about a culture beyond your own. Expand your songbook - read an article, watch a documentary, or try a new recipe.	Offer to pray for someone (then actually do iti).
Give away something you don't use. It might be exactly what a newcomer or refugee family needs to feel at home.	Share a favorite book, song, or recipe. Give someone a little joy from your own life.	Write a positive online review for a local business. Amplify the good!	Ask someone how they're doing. Then listen.	Speak well of someone behind their back. Sing their praises when they're not in the room.
Send a "thank you" text. Reach out to someone who has helped you along the way (even if it's been years!).	Take a walk and pick up litter. Beauty begets beauty.	Call someone who might be lonely. Your voice could be exactly what their heart needs today.	Text someone: "Just thinking of you!" No reason needed. Just let them know they matter.	Let someone else go first (in traffic and in conversation).
Give someone your full attention. Put down your phone, close your computer, be fully present for every conversation today.	Buy someone's coffee today. Could be a friend, a neighbor, or the person behind you in line.	Make a donation to your favorite organization today. A small note in a greater symphony of justice and joy.	Give your attention to the natural world. Listen for the music already playing - in rustling trees, birdsong, even the swirling stars.	Give someone the benefit of the doubt today.

Stewardship 2026

Stewardship Forum — Sunday, November 9, after Worship

Join us for a special Stewardship Forum with **Deacon Jodi Schuman**, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy and Operations, Southeastern Iowa Synod. She is responsible for supporting and relating to synod candidates and the candidacy committee, facilitating the work of synod governance, synod council, and Synod Assembly, and managing synod projects, operations, and events as well as visiting and accompanying congregations of the Southeastern Iowa Synod.

Even if you no longer itemize deductions, there are still smart and creative ways to give to the church and reduce your tax burden. Deacon Jodi will share helpful ideas and answer your questions.

- Sunday, November 9
- After Worship Room 103/105
- Pizza provided!

Please RSVP to Tracy (<u>tracy@ststephenlutheran.org</u>) by **Wednesday, November 5** so we can plan for food.

Come for the conversation—stay for the pizza!





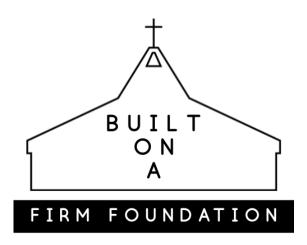
Capital Campaign

A Heartfelt THANK YOU!

We are overflowing with gratitude to everyone who contributed to the Built on a Firm Foundation Capital Campaign! Thanks to your incredible generosity, we raised an amazing \$354,540!

Your support is making a real difference. These funds are helping us ensure that our church remains a welcoming, accessible, and functional space for all—whether it's infants in strollers, individuals using walkers or wheelchairs, dedicated volunteers, or anyone who walks through our doors. Our building continues to be a place of connection, community, and discipleship because of you.

We're excited to share that progress is already underway! This fall, we completed important gutter and grading work, and we're now working with the elevator contractor to schedule the next phase.



ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2025

None of this would be possible without your faithfulness and generosity. We are truly grateful for your partnership in this mission.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Thanks to John Dieseth, Alma Grove, Ron Hintz, and Ron & Lynn Niceswanger for all their hard work to make the Capital Campaign a success!





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. At our
Nov 5 meeting we will have an
introduction to Max Lucado, author of
Anxious for Nothing. All are welcome!

Property Day, Saturday, Nov 15, 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



anxious

Nov. 14 for any special instructions. If Saturday morning doesn't work, contact Jerry Strawman for an alternative time.

There will be another date at the end of November for outside cleanup (clean up leaves, and other chores to get ready for winter. Bring rakes, blowers and trimers). This depends on when all the leaves fall. We will keep everyone posted!

Supper Club, Friday, Nov 14, 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, Donna and Dan Schroeder (<u>donna.schroeder4@gmail.com</u>), know that you will be attending.

Prayers for Healing, Sunday, Nov 16

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.

2024

News & Events



We heard it through the grapevine, Koinonia folks would like to meet up with more Sunday worship attendees. In response to that, Care Companions has planned an event that also includes St. Stephen's annual Pie Potluck Day. Since it is a Koinonia event, all the usual supports will be provided including rides and any assistance you need while in the building.

We hope you'll join us on **Sunday**, **November 23**, for worship at 10:00 a.m. and have a slice of pie afterward while you visit with your friends. Please let Chris Lang know if you want to come and if a ride is needed (no need to bring pie, there's always plenty) by calling 515-293-2293. If she doesn't answer, be sure to leave a message.







www.ststephenlutheran.org

Choir Schedule

The SSLC Chancel Choir welcomes all teenagers and adults! Please speak with Jana Taylor if you would like to be added to the Choir email list.

- Sun., Nov. 2: Worship Performance; 9:30 a.m. warm-up
- Tues., Nov. 4: Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues., Nov. 11: Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
- Sun., Nov. 16: Worship Performance; 9:30 a.m. warm-up
- · No rehearsal Nov. 18 or 25



St. Stephen Crafters

The St. Stephen Crafters will meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. until we get tired of crafting. There will also be a meeting on the second Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend either or both meetings. Bring a project to work on and wander down to room 103-105. Tables and chairs will be provided, as will an iron and a cutting mat for those quilters. Bring a snack to share. Hope to see everyone there. Questions contact Jennifer Ewing, jgewing@gmail.com.



Backpack Buddies Dates TBD

St. Stephen will continue Backpack Buddies for the 2025-2026 school year, providing food to help children get through the weekend without going hungry. This year, the bags will be going to Metro West Academy in Urbandale, as the elementary schools now each have food pantries in place. This ministry is made possible by your regular offerings as well as designated gifts. Please check the Friday email for upcoming backpack packing dates.

To get involved with this ministry, please contact our project coordinator, Carol Mahlendorf: 515-991-3586.

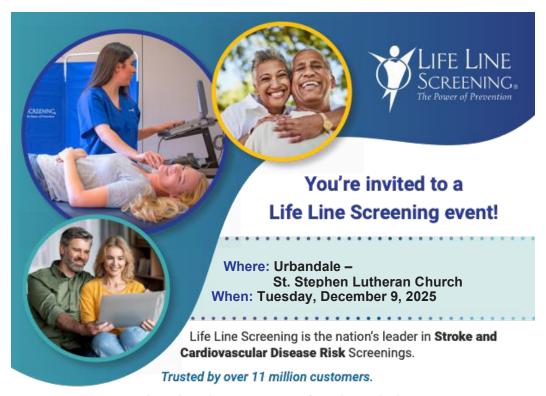




ELES Advent Box Fundraiser

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.



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





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
- Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607



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!



Around the Church



New Members of St. Stephen

On Sunday, October 12, we officially welcomed the following people as new members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church.



Susan Fairchild



Keith and Cathy Jaben



Ardith Jenison



Doug and Jane Phillips



Katie Rawson and Evelyn

Around the Church



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

25	
Church rm 202	NAME
ე ლ	EMAIL
Lutheran (Order For	QUANTITY x \$20 = TOTAL
Luth	DEDICATION:
nen tia (In Honor In Memory
Stephen	In Honor In Memory
St. S	In Honor In Memory

Around the Church

Life of Faith — God Sightings

This fall we are 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:

1) On Sunday, October 5, St. Stephen members John Dieseth and Marsha Arens shared their experience from their 2019 Westwood Experience on Life of Faith. This experience lead St. Stephen to the Life of Faith Initiative and a discussion of how we might deepen our faith and relationship with God and others in the community.

2) The following is an anonymous story turned in:

I was in a line to order at McDonalds and a lady in front of me with two children was told the cost of her order. She hesitated and then asked the order taker to remove her item from the total but keep the two kid's meals for her children. She then asked, "What would be the new total?" The person in front of me quickly stepped up and gave the order taker his credit card saying, "Here, I got the full amount. Have a good lunch."

3) God Sighting — Jesus Bread

Every Sunday during worship, we get "Jesus Bread" as Charlie calls it. The bread sort of magically appears every Sunday and Wednesday. Unless calamity happens. Every Sunday and Wednesday the elements of Communion magically appear, the candles get lit and the font gets filled with water.

Every Sunday, this is my favorite God Sighting. And it is all due to the dedicated members of the Altar Guild. They tirelessly prepare the sanctuary for worship every time, they support each other, always help one another and bake the bread. And most of the time, no one knows who they are. They are absolutely AMAZING!

So, the next time you get to receive the gift of "Jesus Bread", please remember those wonderful members of the Altar Guild. I thank God for them daily and they are one of my favorite God sightings.

Jennifer Ewing

Three Students Affirmed their Baptisms on Sunday, October 26

Congratulations to Connor Moriarty, Peighton Ritz and Madie Weinberger! Mya Gude was not able to attend.



Outreach

First, THANK YOU for all who prayed for and participated in the **LifeServe Blood Drive on October 24 in honor of Pastor Andrea**. St. Stephen helped sustain and save up to 78 lives through the 26 units of blood collected. Again, as Pastor continues her journey, her need as well as our neighbors' needs continues to be great. We encourage all who are able to donate to do so whenever possible.

LifeServe shared their deep gratitude for the grace you all shared during a bumpy start to the evening. One of their staff shared the following earlier this week: "You should be proud to be part of such



a supportive congregation. When leading events, we expect some scheduled and some walk-ins...Your people really showed up for the cause."

God shows up. Thank you for all of the ways you (donor or not) show up in our community.



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 <u>caringbridge.org</u> 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.

Urbandale Food Food Pantry Collection for November, 2025

In **November** we will gather **body wash, instant oatmeal, canned chicken and tuna, canned chili and stews.** 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.



Outreach

Social Ministry Report for October, 2025

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

Urbandale Food Pantry Collection

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

- 11 Hamburger Helper: Beef or Tuna
- 32 Canned Tuna & Chicken
- 1 Peanut Butter
- 4 Cereal
- 8 Protein Bars

- 1 Tomato Sauce
- 8 Miscellaneous
- 2 Dryer Sheets
- 52 Toothbrushes
- 35 Toothpaste
- 46 Floss



30 Miscellaneous Greeting Cards 191 Total Items and weighing 69 lbs.

God's Work. Our Hands

For the months of August and September we collected school supplies for Karen Acres School in Urbandale. We collected:

- 27 tissues
- 19 headphones
- 45 rulers with inches and centimeters
- 169 Sharpies
- 180 Fidget toys
- 294 Reward Box items
- 734 Total Items





Our Next God's Work. Our Hands Project:

We will be collecting **hats, mittens and gloves** for the elementary and preschool children at Urbandale schools. Look for the display in the Gathering Area starting **Sunday, October 26–November 16**. All Items need to be NEW.

November Celebrations

November Birthdays

Nov 2 Randall Hersom Nov 3 Leslie Dahm

Nov 5 Bob Johnson, Doug Winger

Nov 7 Terry Dennis

Nov 10 Blake Arntzen, Mark Haugen

Nov 11 Dakota Townes

Nov 12 Dale Christians

Nov 13 Janice Andersen, Britta Dial, Carl Peters

Nov 14 Joanne Debord, Katie Linthicum,

Betty Salzsieder

Nov 15 Lynn Niceswanger

Nov 16 Lainey Drown

Nov 17 Shelby Meza

Nov 18 Sue Johnson

Nov 20 Sherri Briegel

Nov 23 Charlene Jorgensen

Nov 24 Ianet Webster

Nov 27 Anne Thomas

Nov 28 Ronald Andersen, Harlan Bohnsack

Nov 29 Mary Lou Bandstra, Pat Linthicum

Nov 30 Jaymie Bruse

November Anniversaries

Nov 3 Allen & Lynn Rappold Nov 4 David & Peg Gilchrist

Nov 15 Ron & Lynn Niceswanger,

Nov 26 Gary & Charmian Folkerts

November Calendar

Saturday, Nov 1

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

Sunday, Nov 2, All Saints Day, Daylight Saving Time Ends

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, Nov 4

SSLC Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov 5

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, Nov 6

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

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 8

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

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Nov 9, 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Spark Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

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

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Stewardship Forum, 11:00 a.m.

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

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

Tuesday, Nov 11

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

Gathering Area Reserved, 11:00 a.m.

SSLC Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov 12

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, Nov 13

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

AA Meeting, 6:30 a.m.

Friday, Nov 14

Supper Club, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 15

Property Committee, 8:00 a.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Nov 16, 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

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, Nov 18

Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov 19

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, Nov 20

Care Companions, 4:00 p.m.

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

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 22

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00~p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Nov 23, 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Spark Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

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

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Koinoinia Worship & Fellowship, 10:00 a.m.

Pie Potluck. 11:00 a.m.

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

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

Wednesday, Nov 26 No Activities due to Thanksgiving

Thursday, Nov 27, Thanksgiving

NO SSLC Chapel Chimers Rehearsal

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 29

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Nov 30, First Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

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

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



St. Stephen Lutheran Church 3510 72nd St. Urbandale, IA 50322 Appress Service Requested

