

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 21, 2025


Church Office	319-446-7675
Pastor Doug Woltemath	Home: 319-446-6222 / Cell: 319-521-8201
Administrative Assistant, Carol Woodley	319-310-3682
Organist, Susan Voss	319-446-7402
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Central Lutheran School	319-223-5271


Acolytes This Sunday:

Lexi Hlas & Allison Wolf

Acolytes Next Sunday:

Mason Wecker & Lane Robson

 **PRAYER UPON ENTERING:** Dear God, Help us to focus on You today, remembering that the gift of Christ, Immanuel, is our most treasured gift for the whole year through. Amen

 **IN OUR PRAYERS:** Members of our congregation: Haley McNulty, Joyce Plotz, Don Waterman, Nancy Rinderknecht, Carla McLarty, Gayle Reese, LaVonne Sass, Kathryn Waterman, Doris Porazil, Denny Lohrer, Dan Voss, Allan Schanbacher, Laurie Davis, Ken Popenhagen, Carrie Sperfslage, and Marcey Jensen; Whitley Pierre on her birthday today.

Others: Ongoing illnesses, issues, and recoveries: Clara Fry, Karen Smith, Molly Voss, Leslie Strottman, Holley Haerther, Brandon Pflug, Terri, Valerie, and Jeff.

 **DOOR OFFERINGS:** Today and next Sunday's door offerings are for the Christmas Committee

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN'S:

Today	9:00 am	Divine Service (HC)
Wednesday	7:00 pm 11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service (HC) Candlelight Service by Senior Youth
Thursday	9:00 am	Christmas Day Service
Friday		Fellowship Hall reserved
Sunday	9:00 am	Divine Service Installation of Officers

Noses & Nickels last Sunday:

Attendance: Sunday: 109
Offering: Home: \$24,434.70 Missions: \$80.00

Xmas is Christmas without Christ. Don't X him out.



FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR: The flowers on the altar have been given in loving memory of David Waterman by his family; honoring his earthly birthday tomorrow, December 22, and the 5 years he has been in his heavenly home. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say rejoice." Philippians 4:4



CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Sheyenne & Haley McNulty on the birth of their daughter, Parker Rae, on December 15th. She weighed 5 pounds and was 19 inches long. She was born at 34 weeks and is currently in the NICU at St. Luke's Hospital. We pray that the Lord bless this family and their new addition.



INSTALLTION OF OFFICERS: Next Sunday we will be installing the new officers for the congregation. If you are on a board committee, please make an effort to be here. Thank you!



FINANCIAL BOOKS: The financial books for the church will be closed on December 31st. This includes weekly offerings. Any gifts received after December 31st will be recorded as 2026.



BLOOD DRIVE: The next blood drive will be at St. Stephen's on January 22. More than 4.5 million people need blood transfusions each year and you can help. Please sign up to donate blood at our next drive on Thursday, January 22 from 3:00-6:30 p.m. Contact Pam Jennings at 319-400-4149 or call ImpactLife at (800) 747-5401.



ILSTO: Time is short – December 31 is almost here! The Iowa Lutheran Student Tuition Organization (ILSTO) will gladly accept your gift that will provide financial assistance to our students. Your donation needs to be postmarked no later than December 31. Tax credits are available but the closer you donate to the deadline please call to make sure credits are available. You will receive a 75% tax credit on your Iowa taxes and possible charitable contribution on your federal form. To get more information for donating to the ILSTO go online to www.iowalutheransto.com or call Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991 or email deweytorkelson@gmail.com



JUNIOR AND SENIOR YOUTH: St. John Newhall's Junior and Senior Youth (6th-12th graders) are hosting their annual event: Thrift Store Prom, Saturday, January 24th from 7-9 pm at Central Lutheran's Student Center. Bring a friend, games & dancing, prizes for best outfits, and snacks. What to wear? Anything OLD, doesn't have to be prom style, anything thrift store, or a random costume! Event will be held at Central Lutheran School. Questions, please call Vanessa Palmer at 319-361-7378.



Central Lutheran School Staffing for 2026-2027

CLS is looking to fill some staffing positions for the 26-27 school year. Mrs. Becky McKinney has announced her retirement. We are starting the search for a licensed early childhood teacher for next year. We would prefer a Synodically trained early childhood teacher, but as long as he/she has an Iowa teaching early childhood license that would be ok.

CLS is also looking for a part time Ag teacher. This teacher should have an Iowa teaching license as well as an Ag background. CLS is looking to continue our Ag/FFA chapter and need someone to teach the Ag curriculum we have as well as lead our school's FFA chapter.

CLS is also looking for a part time Physical Education (PE) teacher. This teacher should have an Iowa teaching license and be able to teach K-8th grade PE.

If you are interested, know of anyone that the school could ask, or need more information, please contact Mr. Parris at principal@centrallutheralschool.org.



News from CHRIST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Preparing Students to be Christian Leaders in all Walks of Life

The CLHS Board of Directors has had a busy few months. In October we attended a six hour workshop led by a representative of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Church Extension agency. We learned about the type of Governance that will need to be established as we open CLHS. This rather long meeting has been followed up by one hour Zoom meetings to help us develop our plan and use the proper wording for policies, job descriptions, etc. We have been told more than once that starting a high school is a marathon, not a sprint. At the same time we continue to await approval from the IRS of our application for tax exempt status. Due to the government shut down this could still take months. This makes it challenging to do any major fund raising. We ask you to keep praying for Christ Lutheran High School. Want to know how you can get involved? Contact Mark Mueller at themarkmueller56@gmail.com

The Christ Lutheran High School Board of Directors