

# ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH


## December 7, 2025

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**Acolytes This Sunday:**  
Mason Wecker & Anthony Becker

**Acolytes Next Sunday:**  
Lane Robson & Mia Kenny

 **PRAYER UPON ENTERING:** Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. 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; Drew Wilharm on his birthday today; Virgil & Mary Jane Krug on their anniversary 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's door offering is for College students Christmas gift.  
Dec. 14 – Choir door offering  
Dec. 21 & 28 – Christmas Committee door offering

### **THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN'S:**

Today	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Divine Service (HC)</b> Hayden Yates Baptism
	10:15 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday	8:30 am	CLS Chapel
	11:00 am	CLS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade/Women in Mission Luncheon
	1:30 pm	Midweek Class
	7:00 pm	Sunday School Christmas Program
Thursday	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal Fellowship Hall Reserved
Sunday	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Divine Service</b> Christmas Choir Concert
	10:15 am	Sunday School
	2:00 pm	Fellowship Hall reserved



**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR:** The altar flowers are lovingly placed in celebration of Baylee and Derek Hammes' first wedding anniversary. We thank God for their first year of marriage and pray for many blessed years ahead.



**BAPTISM:** Baptized this morning is Hayden Matthew Yates, infant son of Matthew & Brooke Yates. Sponsors are Chris Bates and Danielle Balvin. Witnesses are Mindy Amstutz and Amy Van Genderen. May Jesus, our Good Shepherd keep this little lamb in His protecting arms and baptismal grace.



**THANK YOU:** Thank you for the cards, messages, and phone calls while I was hospitalized. My new address and phone number is: Stoney Point Meadows, 1900 Stoney Point Rd. SW, Apt. 309, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. Cell #: 319-200-8935. Thank you, Joyce Plotz



**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** The children's Sunday School Christmas program is this Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 pm with pre-service music. Any Sunday School children interested in playing the piano, instrument, or singing during pre-service, please sign up on the table in the narthex by today!



**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** The 2026 offering envelopes are ready for pickup on the table in the narthex. If we inadvertently missed someone, please let us or the office know. Finance Officers: Kerry Beatty, Bonnie Thompson, and Mike Deklotz



**2026 FLOWER CHART:** The new 2026 flower chart is ready to be filled. Altar flowers may be placed at any service. Flowers from weddings, funerals, special functions or fresh from gardens may be used as well as those purchased. (We request no bows or ribbons). If you are interested in providing flowers for a Sunday, please sign up on the flower chart located on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please call or email the office with specific information for the bulletin.



**2026 GREETER CHART:** Beginning in January, we're bringing back our greeter ministry. If you'd like to welcome people before the service, please sign up on the chart posted on the bulletin board. We'd love to have you serve as a greeter!

### **Noses & Nickels Last Sunday & Wednesday Advent Service:**

Attendance: Last Sunday: Service Canceled  
Wednesday Advent Service: 20



**LAST CHANCE:** There are 2025 Thrivent t-shirts available in the Fellowship Hall. Please help yourself!



**EXTRA COATS:** There are four coats that were left at church. Three are children's sizes and 1 adult size. Please take a moment to check the coat rack near the church office to see if one might be yours. Thank you!



**NORTH CHURCH DOOR:** For security reasons, the Trustees have decided the north church door will remain locked and will only be used as an emergency exit door. Thank you for understanding!



**OPEN BOARD POSITIONS:** We are still looking to fill 2 open board positions...Outreach and Youth. If you have any questions about these boards, please talk to an Elder, Brian Wells, or Pastor. The terms begin January 1, 2026 and are a 3 year term.



**SCRIP** orders for Christmas must be submitted no later than the morning of Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support. If you have questions feel free to contact Dorothy Embretson at 319-551-1472.



**IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION:** In 15 years ILSTO has been able to award over 7 million dollars to benefit families wanting to send their children to Lutheran elementary & secondary schools. This money comes from donors like you that benefit two ways: 1) You get to see more children experiencing the love of God every day, and 2) You will receive a 75% tax credit on your Iowa state income taxes and possible charitable deduction on your Federal return. Please consider making this donation a part of your tax planning for 2025. For further information, please contact Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991. You may also check the website: [iowalutheransto.com](http://iowalutheransto.com)



## Looking for an easy way to support the ministry of St. Stephen's?

In just seconds, you can make a weekly or monthly offering to Home, Missions, Birthday Fund, Monthly Door Offering, or Capital Campaign!

To get started, visit our church website at:

**[sslchurch.org](http://sslchurch.org)**

Or go directly to the Vanco giving link at:

**<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z5RS>**

Or download the **Vanco Mobile** App on your phone, search for "St Stephens Lutheran Church"

You will be asked to set up an account. Contributions must be linked to your bank account. Due to surcharges, we are not accepting debit or credit cards at this time.

You may set up either a one-time offering, a one-time at a future date, every week, every two weeks, or monthly.

If you have any questions, please talk to Scott Minkel.