



2025

PRAYER LIST

Jim Hayward, Jeanette Anderson, Carolyn Gibbons, Michele Mehne, Dani Zweifel, Jim Loehr, Norm Peterson, CarolAnn Peterson, Marcy Bell, Zane Heinkel, Family and friends of Ryan Cochems, and ALL THOSE MOURNING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES, MILITARY – and all loved ones serving overseas.

ST. PETER'S VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY

LADIES OF THE MONTH: All Women Of The ELCA
ALTAR CARE: Carlene Z. Leslie P.

CHURCH CLEANING:

Nov 30- Dec 6 Bonnie Hedding, Deann Batten
Dec 7-20 Leslie Peterson, Sara Stanek
Dec 21-Jan 3 Carlene Zaremba

ST. STEPHEN'S VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY

USHERS: Mike Macrafic
READER: JoAnn Salava
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Nancy Lauden
PREPARE COMMUNION: Helen Laehn, Jenny Dvorak

OCTOBER FINANCES

St. Stephen's

General Fund Income	3,969.41
Expenses	7,695.78
Balance of Funds	
General	(683.96)
Building	2,415.72
Memorial	12,117.91
Parsonage	13,911.16

St. Peter's

Income	4,740.53
Expenses	5,335.88
Balance of Funds	
General	2,478.05
Memorial	10,047.95
Congregational Care	1,047.21
Parsonage – Savings	13,472.45
Checking	2,223.61
Sabbatical Reserve Fund	2,263.61
Amount needed to meet our budget:	
\$ 6,744.40 per month based on our	
approved Budget of \$ 80,932.80,	

***If you have any pastoral care needs you can reach Pr. Brad through the office, email (brad_lindberg@yahoo.com), or cell phone (715-531-8876)

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

– John 10:10



The season of Advent is upon us. It's a season of the church year in which we prepare for the coming of the Christ child. This year the theme of our reading and preaching will be "Life." Hopefully, it will serve as a reminder to us all that God wants us to experience LIFE. We live in a world filled with so much death and destruction, yet we know this is not what God wants for us. So, this Advent we are going to explore the kind of life that God wants for us.

We kick off the season exploring "Faithful Life" as we hear the great story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. It's a fantastic Old Testament story where three men refuse to bow down and worship the statue made by the king...even under threat of being thrown into a fiery furnace. Where is your faith being challenged these days? How might God be calling you to remain faithful in the midst of the world's threats to your faith?

Our second week we will look at a "Restored Life" as we read from Ezekiel and hear about the Valley of Dry Bones coming back to life. Do you ever feel tired and worn out by life? Have you ever felt like you have put in your time and now it is somebody else's turn to pitch in? How might God be working to restore you to life? How might God still want to use you for the sake of God's Kingdom?

"Abundant Life" is our theme for week three. I sometimes have a tendency to approach life like the lazy river at a water park, just sort of floating along. Sometimes, that is exactly what we need. However, I believe God wants more for us than to just get along, taking in whatever life has to dish out. I believe God wants us to embrace life and to experience the abundance life has for us to experience.

By our fourth week of Advent we will be experiencing the darkest time of the year and we will be reminded that God has come to bring "Light & Life" to the world. Ever notice how light always chases away the darkness? In fact, it doesn't take a whole lot of light to be able to push away the darkness. How might you allow that light to shine through you to bring life into the world?

Finally, on Christmas Eve, we will be reminded that we can experience all of these forms of life because of the "Life Born for You!" So, come and join us this Advent as we explore what it means to experience the kind of "Life" God wants for each and every one of us!

Advent Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Brad".



St. Stephen's Council

The Council has reviewed the 2022/2025 ELCA Model Constitution and recommends adoption. The amendments will be available for your review on December 7. A vote to adopt these amendments by our Congregation will be held at our Annual meeting on January 18, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Woggon cwfoggon2@gmail.com or 608-343-3940.

We will once again have an "Intergenerational Play" for our Christmas Eve service! Come one, come all to take part in this special opportunity to celebrate the birth of our Savior. If you are interested in reading or have children that would be interested in participating, please let Colleen Woggon or Tanya Wilkinson know. The best part is – no practice is needed. We just need you to arrive by 3:45 pm on December 24 to prepare. A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the church.

"JOLLIEST OF THEM ALL" HOLIDAY SHOPPING EVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2025

9AM – 2 PM

CAMP DOUGLAS COMMUNITY CENTER

"The Jolliest of Them All" holiday vendor fair, at the Camp Douglas Community Center, will be held on December 13, 2025. St. Stephen's has been asked to provide a lunch menu at the event as well as our usual table set-up for craft and bakery items. So, be getting at those craft projects, and check out your recipes in preparation for baking your specialties. If you can help or have questions, contact Nancy Lauden, at 608-343-3138.



ST. PETER'S WELCA NEWS

There are NO WELCA meetings during the months of December, January, and February.

Handbooks for 2026 are being complied. Please check your mailboxes in the near future.

There will be some changes that we are hoping will make it easier for volunteers to remember when they serve. Please remember that when you are on Altar Care, it is up to the team to clean up after communion and make sure the communion rail is wiped down or the basket is emptied, and the paper towel is replaced. If you are unable to serve a particular Sunday, please contact the other members of your team to make sure someone will be there to take care of the duties.

Thank you to everyone who donated and participated in the Packer Fund Raiser. There were many nice Chinese raffle and silent auction items with a potluck. Everyone had a good time. \$849.25 was raised, and 10% was given to benevolence and the remainder to General Fund.

Future DATE: There will be a Super Bowl Sweet Auction, Sunday-February 18th. An auctioneer will be needed.

Craft Days are scheduled for Friday, November 28th and Saturday, November 29th. Check with Leslie for details.



ST. PETERS SUNDAY SCHOOL

The St. Peters Sunday School will have its first Christmas program practice on December 7th, at the regular Sunday School time of 10:15 am. This may run until 11:30. There is a second practice on December 20th, from 10 am until approximately noon. Lunch will be provided. The program should be on December 21st during church service at 9 am. There will be a short get-together after church. Sunday School will have decorated cookies. Please bring a treat to share.

St. Peters Sunday School had their first Bible Bucks Store of this year on Nov 2, 2025. 5 Sunday School student shoppers purchased \$128 of goods from our store with Bible bucks earned from attending church, learning bible verses, attending SS classes, and doing lessons. Attending other churches also counts toward church attendance.

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 (P) 6:00 Wrestling with the Word (S) JoAnn Salava (P) Ella Singleton	2 (P) 5:30 Quilting (P) Lisa Singleton (P) Marci Martin	3 6:30 Confirmation @ Peace	4 (P) Cooper Alexander	5 (S) Jason Dvorak	6 (S) 9:00 Quilting
7 9:00(P)Worship/HC 10:30(S) Worship/HC (P) Advent Gathering - Potluck	8 (P) 6:00 Wrestling with the Word (S) Niles Meltesen (P) Jack Resop	9 (P) 5:30 Quilting	10 9:30 Women's Birthday Breakfast 6:30 Confirmation @ Peace (S) Deb Daniels	11	12	13 9:00-2:00 Jolliest of Them All" Vendor Fair Camp Douglas Community Center
14 9:00(P)Worship/HC 10:30(S) Worship/HC (P) Luke Scholze	15 (P) 6:00 Wrestling with the Word	16 (P) 5:30 Quilting (P) Kendall Wilson Leathers (P) Sophie Wozalla	17 6:30 Confirmation @ Peace	18	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20 (S) 9:00 Quilting
21 9:00(P)Worship/HC 10:30(S) Worship/HC (S) Brian Ritchart	22 (P) 6:00 Wrestling with the Word (P) Taylor Miller (P) Tyler Noth	23 (P) 5:30 Quilting	24 (S) 4:30 Worship/HC (P) 6:30 Worship/HC	25 Merry Christmas (P) Vicky Shisler	26	27 (S) 9:00 Quilting (P) Michael Damien
28 9:00(P)Worship/HC 10:30(S) Worship/HC	29 (P) 6:00 Wrestling with the Word	30 (P) 5:30 Quilting	31 (S) Rebecca Kramer (P) Geoffrey Russell	Annual Meetings will be (S) January 18, and (P) January 25. Annual Reports will be due 2 weeks prior to each meeting so they can be compiled and printed for review. Please e-mail your report to the church office as soon as possible		

