

January

2026



"¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." – Matthew 2:10-11

There are many great things to enjoy about this time of year. However, one of them, generally, is not the lack of light we experience here in the Northern Hemisphere. The days seem so short and the darkness threatens to overwhelm us. Yet, on January 6 we will celebrate Epiphany, a celebration of when the three wise men arrived to visit baby Jesus. In fact, ironically, it is the season of light because it was a star that led them to the manger.

It's amazing, isn't it, how little light is needed to shatter the darkness. In fact, as we read both in Advent and Christmas from the Gospel of John, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." And what is this light. Again, from John, "the light of all people" who were created by the Word become flesh. If you ask me, that's pretty remarkable.

We probably need this celebration, this reminder of God's light, because we live in a dark world. Yes, physically our days are short, but metaphorically we see all kinds of darkness when we turn on the news. For those of us who watch a lot of news it can begin to feel hopeless because it makes us feel helpless. Yet God shines a light into this darkness, giving us hope once again. Even more remarkable is that it is God's light shining through you that defeats the darkness.

Pr. Dawn and I would like to celebrate that light once again by inviting you over to our house (2020 Grumann Dr, Tomah, WI) for an Epiphany Open House. You are invited to join us for treats, and basking in the light of each other, on January 10 from 1-3 p.m. Stop and say, "Hello" or sit and stay for a while. We would love to have you here as we celebrate this season of light!

Blessings,

Pr. Brad

Pr. Brad <><





Laura Chambers, Jim Hayward, Jeanette Anderson, Carolyn Gibbons, Jim Loehr, Norm Peterson, CarolAnn Peterson, Marcy Bell, Family and friends of Ray Daniels, and ALL THOSE MOURNING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES, MILITARY – and all loved ones serving overseas.

St. Peter's January Volunteers

Altar Care:

Jeannine Russell, Nanette Verhagen

Church Cleaning

Jeannine Russell, Nanette Verhagen

ST. STEPHEN'S VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY

USHERS: Mike Macrafi

READER: Colleen Woggon

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Hazel Ritchart

NOVEMBER FINANCES

St. Stephen's

General Fund Income	4,383.70
Expenses	4,510.42

Balance of Funds

General	(810.68)
Building	2,570.72
Memorial	12,117.91
Parsonage	13,145.40

St. Peter's

Income	5,823.95
Expenses	8,302.71

Balance of Funds

General	(82.41)
Memorial	10,047.95
Congregational Care	1,047.21
Parsonage – Savings	14,572.45
Checking	1,623.61
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,



ST. PETER'S WELCA NEWS

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

Handbooks are in your mailbox. PLEASE NOTE: there are many changes to the duties. We're hoping this will help when you are assigned and responsible. Also, 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 (when used), 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.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 9th Super Bowl/Sweet Fund Raiser Auction. That is based on getting an auctioneer.

THANK YOU to Michelle for decorating the tables so beautifully and providing games and prizes at the Advent Gathering. We had a delicious potluck and a wonderful social time together.

THANK YOU to Vicki S. and her elves for setting up and decorating our beautiful tree in the sanctuary.



St. Stephen's Worship Update

Starting January 4 St. Stephen's will be making a slight change to their worship procedures. With a desire to be safe we will be locking our outside doors approximately ten minutes after the start of worship. If you are late the ushers will be watching the doors to let you in. Those that are inside for worship will still be able to leave as needed. We just want to be particularly cautious given the state of the world today.

Discipleship Matters:

Winter Sessions

Dates: February 5, 12, 19, 26

Via ZOOM

Cost: \$35 per class / \$60 for both

Prayer

Time: 5:30 – 6:45

The Who, What, Where, When, Why and How of Prayer: Keeping a conversation going with God

Do you just want to pray better? So do I! Join a group in learning to meet this challenge and finding the blessing!

Teacher: Rev. Kathy Ingbritsen

Preaching the Gospels

Time: 7:15-8:30 PM

What is preaching? Going from the pew to the pulpit. How to read a text with an eye toward preaching. What to look for? Construction. Delivery.

Prerequisite to the in-person Spring Preaching Lab

Teacher: Rev. Nile Sandeen

January 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 (P)Heidi Kemp (P) Daniel Suther land	3 (S) 9:00 Quilting
4 9:00(P)Worship/ HC 10:30(S) Worship/HC	5 (P) 6:00 Wres- tling with the Word (S)Rod Wagenson (P)Stephany Dow- son (P)Don Waltemath	6 (P) 5:30 Quilting	7	8 (P)Beth Linenberg	9	10 (S) 9:00 Quilting Epiphany Open House 1:00
11 9:00(P)Worship/ HC 10:30(S) Worship/HC	12 (P) 6:00 Wres- tling with the Word	13 (P) 5:30 Quilting	14 9:30 Women's Birthday Break- fast 6:30 Confirmation @ Peace	15	16 (P)Randy Wal- temath	17 (S) 9:00 Quilting
18 9:00(P)Worship/ HC 10:30(S) Worship/HC (S) Annual Meeting	19 (P) 6:00 Wres- tling with the Word (P)Arisa Salvino	20 (P) 5:30 Quilting NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (P)Sadie Single ton	21 6:30 Confirmation @ Peace	22 (P)Audrey Chambers (P) Robert Olson (P)Karen Rogers	23	24 (S) 9:00 Quilting
25 9:00(S)Worship/ HC 10:30(P) Worship/HC (P) Annual Meeting (S)Nathaniel Wagenson	26 (P) 6:00 Wres- tling with the Word	27 (P) 5:30 Quilting (S)Sue Stickney (P) Andrew Krueger	28 6:30 Confirmation @ Peace (S)Amelia Noe	29 (S)Jenny Dvorak	30	31 (S) 9:00 Quilting (P)Donna Mathias

Please note the change in worship times on January 25 due to annual meeting at St. Stephens