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Church Office Hours
By Appointment

Address Service Requested

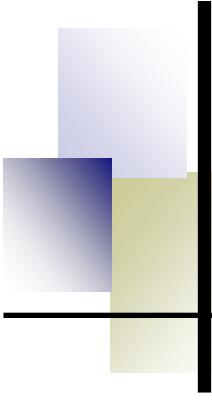


Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



"Preach and live as if Jesus was crucified yesterday, rose from the dead today, and is returning tomorrow."

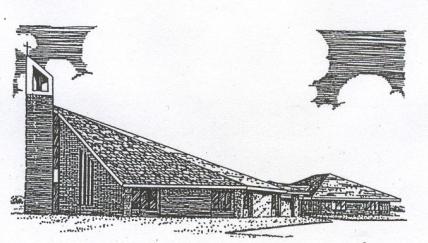
—Martin Luther



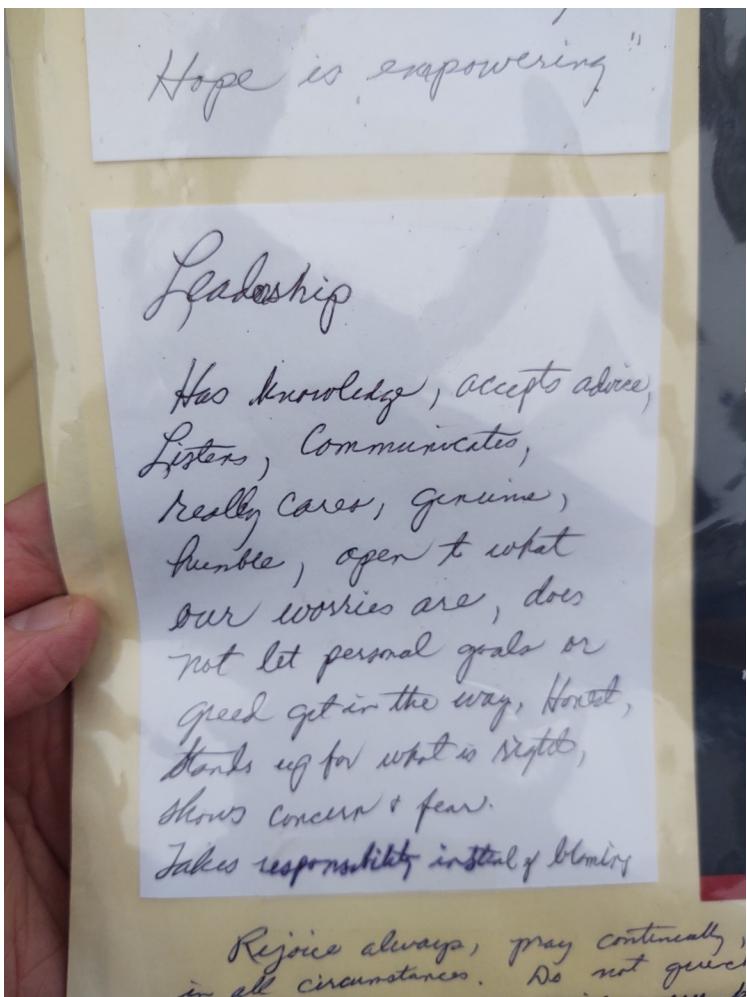
JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 •6:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous •7 pm Worship on Studio1	2 •9:30 am Karen 7th Day Adventist Service
3 •8:30 am Worship •9:30 am Worship	4 •4 pm Just-4-Kix •7 pm Alanon •8 pm Monday Night Fellowship	5 •10:30 am Second Harvest Heartland •4:30 pm Just-4-Kix •6 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics	6 •12 pm 12@12 •5:30 pm Confirmation •7:30 CIA/Sr. Youth	7 •10 am Worship on Studio1 •3:30 pm Just-4-Kix •5:30 pm Women's Recovery	8 •6:30 am FCA Mom's Bible Study •6:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous •7 pm Worship on Studio1	9 •9:30 am Karen 7th Day Adventist Service
10 •8:30 am Worship •9:30 am Worship	11 •4 pm Just-4-Kix •7 pm Alanon •8 pm Monday Night Fellowship	12 •4:30 pm Just-4-Kix •6 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics	13 •12 pm 12@12 •5:30 pm Confirmation •7:30 CIA/Sr. Youth	14 •10 am Worship on Studio1 •3:30 pm Just-4-Kix •5:30 pm Women's Recovery	15 •6:30 am FCA Mom's Bible Study •6:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous •7 pm Worship on Studio1	16 •9:30 am Karen 7th Day Adventist Service
17 •8:30 am Worship •9:30 am Worship	18 •4 pm Just-4-Kix •7 pm Alanon •8 pm Monday Night Fellowship	19 •4:30 pm Just-4-Kix •6 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics	20 •12 pm 12@12 •5:30 pm Confirmation •7:30 CIA/Sr. Youth	21 •10 am Worship on Studio1 •3:30 pm Just-4-Kix •5:30 pm Women's Recovery	22 •6:30 am FCA Mom's Bible Study •6:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous •7 pm Worship on Studio1	23 •9:30 am Karen 7th Day Adventist Service
24 •8:30 am Worship •9:30 am Worship	25 •4 pm Just-4-Kix •7 pm Alanon •8 pm Monday Night Fellowship	26 •4:30 pm Just-4-Kix •6 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics	27 •12 pm 12@12 •5:30 pm Confirmation •7:30 CIA/Sr. Youth	28 •10 am Worship on Studio1 •3:30 pm Just-4-Kix •5:30 pm Women's Recovery	29 •6:30 am FCA Mom's Bible Study •6:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous •7 pm Worship on Studio1	30 •9:30 am Karen 7th Day Adventist Service
31 •8:30 am Worship •9:30 am Worship						

January 2021



From the Pastor's Desk...



Before the pandemic, I had a Monday morning tradition. I would have coffee every Monday with a very good friend. We'd talk about the ills of the world, all of the solutions we provide to fix it, the local gossip, all of that kind of stuff. When the pandemic hit, we kept on with our Monday morning tradition, but we did so outdoors. The winter ended that tradition for now. Once it gets warmer in the Spring, or all of the pandemic stuff is gone, we get to meet with each other again.

We'd often bring artifacts to each other to show, to teach, and to learn. He brought this one. It was a quote that was really meaningful to him. It reads:

"Leadership. Has knowledge, accepts advice, listens, communicates, really cares, genuine, humble, open to what our worries are, does not let personal goals or greed get in the way, honest, stands up for what is right, shows concern & fear. Takes responsibility instead of blaming."

I whole-heartedly agree with this quote and my friends understanding of leadership. For those who have had conversations with me about all of the ills of our day (elections & pandemics), they have heard me say I believe we have a failure of nerve on the part of leaders at all levels, from presidents to governors, to institutions & organizations, all the way down to families.

Leadership is the ability to move a group of people from point A to point B. As a people in the United States, we are stuck. We're not moving to any point at all.

We're about to enter the time of Epiphany. Epiphany is the realization that Jesus was the Son of God. Sure, Jesus came to Earth, but how many knew and understood who he was? The whole Gospel of Mark has almost everyone oblivious to who Jesus was! So Epiphany is like the light bulb going off... Bingo! We know who this Jesus is! He's the Son of God!

Epiphany really starts with the Magi. With the Kings. With the Astrologers.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.

The author of Matthew's Gospel was using a bit of persuasion. He was saying, “even these foreigners, these Zoroastrian Astrologers who aren't even Jewish understand and see that Jesus is Lord. You should too.”

The wisemen were fraught with all sorts of anxiety and challenge. 1st, they're traveling a whole long way. 2nd, they've

gotta navigate this Herod guy, who probably wants to kill them along with this newborn king. 3rd, they're foreigners of a different religion. It's not like the were favorites of the locals. But they made it from point A to point B. How did they make it there? That star. That star guided them.

I don't put much hope in presidents and governors. I don't foresee elections, pandemic, and the anxieties of the world getting better anytime soon. Instead, I put my hope to where it's most hopeful. Into families. Moms & Dads. See, as a dad, the best shot I got at fixing elections, pandemics, and the anxieties of the world is by raising a 9 year-old daughter and a 4 year-old son into being self-giving people for the world, into being people who will love their neighbor and their community. It's about

partnering with my co-worker to be a star for them. Leadership is about being that star.

So how are you going to be that star? How are you going to be a star for others, for the sake of your neighbor, for your community, your church, and your world? That's the challenge given to us at Epiphany. We know and understand that Jesus is Lord. So what are we going to do with that?

How are you going to be that star?

In Christ



+Pastor Lyle Snyder

Staff

- Rev. Lyle Snyder, Pastor
- Seth Boerboom, Parish Associate
- Lauren Winn, Financial Assistant
- Judy DeCramer, Organist
- Gunvar Dombek, Organist
- Mary Hauschild, Organist
- Seth Boerboom, Pianist
- Judy Hoeft, Pianist
- Melinda Grohs, Preschool Director
- Lisa Rosenboom, Assistant Teacher
- Melissa Doose, Assistant Teacher

Congregation Council

- Daren Kesteloot, President (term ends Jan. 2021)
- Jasmine Steffen, Vice President (term ends Jan. 2021)
- Josh Allerson, Treasurer (term ends Jan. 2022)
- Paula Petersen-Giles, Secretary (term ends Jan. 2021)
- Jennifer Marty (term ends Jan. 2022)
- Bill Cowden (term ends Jan. 2022)
- Abby Dubs (term ends Jan. 2021)
- Carlton Johnson (term ends Jan. 2022)



December 31st, 2020

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:..."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear St. Stephen Congregation:

Our annual meeting usually happens on the 3rd Sunday in January. Church Council decided at its December 15th meeting to postpone the meeting to May 23rd. The reason is because of the pandemic. It was figured that with the unknowns of our time, it'd be very difficult to get a quorum of 50 people required by the constitution. Council figured that a May 23rd meeting (whether inside or outside) has a much greater chance of reaching a quorum.

- For those concerned about the Church Constitution, it reads "The annual meeting shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws." Our church currently does not have a time specified in the bylaws, it's only been a tradition that it be the 3rd Sunday in January.
- The council members who would be going off council have graciously agreed to continue their service until the meeting in May.
- In January we still will prepare and publish a 2020 annual report, complete with financial reports, as well as a proposed budget to be voted upon at the May 23rd meeting.

The council is deeply thankful to the congregation for its grace, understanding, and flexibility during this time.

+In Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lyle Snyder".

Pastor Lyle Snyder

Readings for January 2021

Date	1st Lesson	2nd Lesson	Gospel
01/03	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
01/10	Genesis 1:1-5	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
01/17	1 Samuel 3:1-10	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
01/24	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
1/31	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

Worship in Sanctuary!

- Three services at 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m.
- Strongly encouraging the elderly or those with vulnerable health to attend at 8:30 a.m., as the least amount of people will likely attend 8:30 a.m.
- We ask that those medically not able to wear a mask, refrain from attending the 8:30 a.m. service.
- Our pews will be labeled for 8:30 or 9:30, limiting our capacity to the sanctuary and eliminating the need to clean immediately after use. Overflow seating will be available in the Fellowship Hall.
- We encourage everyone to follow the mask mandate in accordance with state law.
- We encourage everyone to offer grace and understanding to those not wearing masks.
- We will not have coffee or fellowship during this time.
- We will continue 9:30 worship until Sunday School is back in session, then switch to 10:30.
- Method of communion will be prepackaged cups with juice.

Financials Through November 2020

Nov	Actual	Budget	B/(W) Budget
Giving/Income	32,823.63	27,516.00	5,307.63
Expenses	22,139.17	26,997.50	4,858.33
Net Income	10,684.46	518.50	10,165.96

Nov YTD	Actual	Budget	B/(W) Budget
Giving/Income	313,638.30	303,276.00	10,362.30
Expenses	251,369.56	296,942.50	45,572.94
Net Income	62,268.74	6,333.50	55,935.24

Preschool Happenings in December



Working on an art project with Mrs. Lisa.



Playing outside!



We got a new indoor basketball hoop!



Christmas Book Exchange



Decorating the Tree

HyVee Gift Cards

The preschool will continue selling HyVee Gift Cards this year. We will not have them on hand at the church but if you would like to order some contact Melinda @ melinda.grohs@ststephenmarshall.org or at (507) 537-1516.

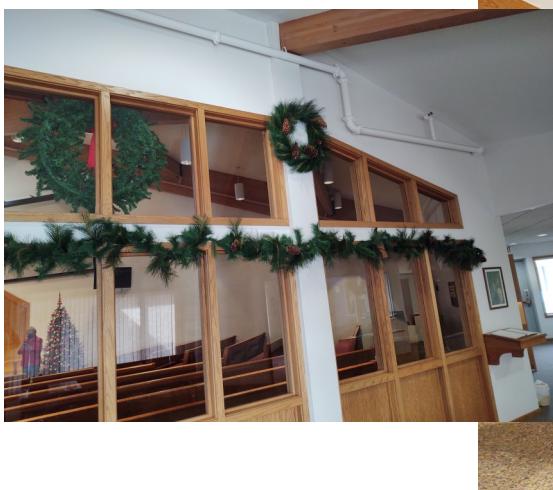
Thank You for supporting St. Stephen Preschool!

St. Stephen December Happenings!



Sr. High Youth/CIA Youth packed for Marshall Food4Kids on December 2nd.

Our Christmas Decorating Committee wasn't stopped by any pandemic!





For Christmas, Sr. High Youth/CIA sponsored a family Through New Horizons Community Center.



On December 26th, Beckham Johnson was baptized. Beckham is the son of Carlton & Taylor Johnson. His sponsors are Donovan & Brianna Johnson. Welcome to the Lord's family Beckham!



*On December 13th, Emily Soehl was confirmed at the 9:30 service.
Congratulations Emily!*



Christmas Eve: Chasubles look much cooler on 4 year-olds than on pastors!



January 2021



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www.shetek.org

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



As part of our “Building on the Foundation” campaign facility improvements, we are upgrading our water treatment facility. The exterior was done the first part of Dec. and now we’ll work on the interior and begin putting equipment in this winter. Next spring we’ll get it all operational and hooked into our current water lines as well as running a new line to the site for the Adult/Youth Lodge.

Help send kids to Camp...Become a Pelican Club or Timber Society member today. Pelican Club members support the ministry with a gift of \$100 - \$499 a year and Timber Society members give \$500 or more a year. Thanks for your support!

Events at camp!
(Go to shetek.org for more info.)

December 6 Scandinavian Drive through dinner was a huge success – 228 meals!

Thanks to those who participated!

Jan. 8 – Friday, 8-10pm - Snowshoeing and Stargazing, Come to camp for an evening of fun and learning.

Jan. 10 – Sunday, 3-4:30pm – Come out to learn more about snow!

Jan. 15-17 – Friday – Sunday – Quilting/Crafting Retreat – Bring your projects to camp and enjoy time with other creative folks.

Jan 24 – Sunday – Family Ski/Snowshoe Day – 2-4pm – Bring the whole family!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
Our donors and congregations have been very supportive during this time. We continue to need your help to start 2021 in a strong position as we move towards a summer of programming.

Our “Building on the Foundation” capital campaign is slowly starting again. So far, we’ve raised \$1,100,000 in gifts/pledges towards our \$1,500,000 goal!

Watch for more information about our progress as we begin 2021.

