


Worship Assistants at St. John's This Month

<div>St. John's</div> <div>Elder:</div> <div>Altar Guild:</div>	
<div>January 4</div> <div>Reader: Diane Buehring</div> <div>Musician:</div> <div>PA Tech: Roxanne Orvis</div> <div>Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen Peterson/Karen Peterson</div> <div>Counters: Diane Buehring & Lynette Downing</div>	
<div>January 11</div> <div>Reader: Jill Erickson</div> <div>Musician:</div> <div>PA Tech: David Haley</div> <div>Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen Peterson/Karen Peterson</div> <div>Counters: Jill Erickson & Lynette Downing</div>	
<div>January 18</div> <div>Reader: Jill Erickson</div> <div>Musician:</div> <div>PA Tech: Roxanne Orvis</div> <div>Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen Peterson/Karen Peterson</div> <div>Counters: Susan Scheff & Lynette Downing</div>	
<div>January 25</div> <div>Reader: Brian Moreau</div> <div>Musician:</div> <div>PA Tech: David Haley</div> <div>Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen Peterson/Karen Peterson</div> <div>Counters: Diane Buehring & Lynette Downing</div>	



St. John's Annual Voters' Assembly

The Annual Voters' Assembly will be held on Sunday, February 1, time to be determined. All members of St. John's who are 18 years of age and older are encouraged to come.

ANNUAL
Committee
REPORTS

St. John's Annual Reports Due

All boards, committees and organizations within the congregation are asked to prepare your report for the activities of this past year and looking ahead into the coming year. Please have them in by January 7. If possible email the reports to the church office, otherwise submit a written copy. Please submit these as soon as possible. Thank you.



If you have old eye glasses and want to get rid of them, the Rush City Lions have a donation box at St. John's in the narthex where you can drop them off. They will pick up the glasses periodically and they will help others to be able to see better!

St. John's Lutheran Church

A Member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
980 West Fourth Street
P.O. Box 368
Rush City, MN 55069

Secretary: Karen Peterson
Church Phone: (320) 358-3623
Church Email: stjohs@midco.net
Church Website: www.stjohnsrushcity.org
Normal Office Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8am-2pm

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

A Member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
400 SE 8th Street
Braham, MN 55006



Secretary: Amanda Bruggman
Church Phone/Fax: (320) 396-3103
Church Email: ststephens1913@msn.com
Church Website: www.ststephensbraham.org

Normal Office Hours:
Thursday 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Rev. Grant Bode
Phone: (507) 766-6483
rev.bode3209@gmail.com

January 2025

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, The everlasting Light,
The hopes and fears of all the years,
Are met in thee tonight

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" is a Christmas carol based on an 1868 text written by Rev. Phillips Brooks. Rev. Brooks was born in Boston, Dec. 13, 1835, graduated from Harvard College 1855, and was ordained in 1859. Successively Rector of the Church of the Advent, Philadelphia, and Trinity Church, Boston, he became the Episcopal Bishop of Massachusetts in 1891 and died at Boston in Jan. 1893.



His Carol, "O little town of Bethlehem," was written for his Sunday School in 1868, the author spent the season of Christmas in the village of Bethlehem (1866).

The Organist Lewis Redner wrote his recounting of the story:

"As Christmas of 1868 approached, Mr. Brooks told me that he had written a simple little carol for the Christmas Sunday-school service, and he asked me to write the tune to it. The simple music was written in great haste and under great pressure. We were to practice it on the following Sunday. Mr. Brooks came to me on Friday, and said, "Redner, have you ground out that music yet to "O Little Town of Bethlehem"? I replied, 'No,' but that he should have it by Sunday.



On the Saturday night previous my brain was all confused about the tune. I thought more about my Sunday school lesson than I did about the music. But I was roused from sleep late in the night hearing an angel-strain whispering in my ear and seizing a piece of music paper I jotted down the treble of the tune as we now have it, and on Sunday morning before going to church I filled in the harmony. Neither Mr. Brooks nor I ever thought the carol or the music to it would live beyond that Christmas of 1868.

It's good to know and learn something of the hymns we enjoy and sing at Christmas and throughout the year. It adds to our appreciation and love of such hymnody. It grows in its meaning as we age and mature. And it is something of true value we can pass on to our children and grandchildren, future generations.

It is our Christian heritage.

So rich in meaning that in a “throw away” age here is something in our Church of “heirloom” value.

*O come, let us sing unto the Lord:
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. ~ Psalm 95:1*

God's Blessings!
Pastor Bode



A Measure of our Discipleship Together in Christ		
Day of Worship	Attendance	Offering
11-30-2025	37	\$4,665.00
12-3-2025 <i>Advent at SS</i>	29	
12-7-2025	36	\$2,960.00
12-10-2025 <i>Advent at SJ</i>	29	
12-14-2025	32	\$1,555.00
12-17-2025 <i>Advent at SS</i>	33	

**Pastor will be on vacation
December 29 - January 17**

Each church will have worship at their original times. If an emergency arises, please let one of the elders or the church office know. Pastor Jake Gillard will be available for emergencies.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries In Our Parishes

<u>St. John's Lutheran Church</u>		<u>St. Stephen's Lutheran Church</u>	
2	Yvonne Swanson	1	Mike Johnson, Brian & Mary Schultz
7	Karen Peterson	3	Allison Knapp, Jim Zelinsky, Sr.
8	Bernice Moreau	4	Alyssa Klepsa, Bryce Lucht
9	Wendell M. Swanson	11	Kurt Lundahl, Phil & Mary Gelhorn
15	Erling Olson	12	Pat Mattson
18	Lucas Nelson	13	Duane Olson
19	Dick Scheele	14	Jennifer Johnson, Michele Mattkins
20	Roger Palmer	15	Bryon Hackler
22	Richard Bittner	18	Craig Lucht, John Swanson
24	Leah Palmer	19	Chris Anderson, Sharon Jaques
26	Carl Huston	24	Amanda Bruggman, Vern Schusted
28	Jeremiah Friday	26	Kyle Citterman
29	Gracen Gerold	27	Evelyn Skow Johnson
30	Melanie Gerold	29	Jim Zelinsky, Jr.
		30	Jay Pierson



Joint Worship and Joint Voters Meeting
NEXT Sunday, December 28 at 10:30 at St. Stephen's
To finalize Pastor's compensation package. Please come!

Please keep in prayer Pastor Bode and Gail as divine calls were extended by King of Glory Lutheran of Blaine, MN and Grace Lutheran of Paris, TX. As we pray for them in his deliberation and discernment for God's purpose and plan so we keep in prayer our congregations and pastor's call here to St. John's and St. Stephen's.

**Start the year off with
your church family in
fellowship! We will be
having a potluck brunch
after worship on
Sunday, January 4.
Make plans now to come
enjoy the fellowship!**