

**Worship Assistants at St. John's This Month**

<u>St. John's</u>
Elder: Brian Moreau Altar Guild: Jill Erickson
<b>February 1</b>
Musician: Digital (Roxanne Orvis) Reader: Diane Buehring PA Tech: David Haley Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen Peterson/Karen Peterson Counters: Diane Buehring & Lynette Downing
<b>February 8</b>
Musician: Cindy Wendorf PA Tech: David Haley Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen Peterson/Karen Peterson Counters: Jill Erickson & Lynette Downing
<b>February 15</b>
Musician: Digital (Bernice Moreau) PA Tech: David Haley Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen Peterson/Karen Peterson Counters: Susan Scheff & Lynette Downing
<b>Thursday, February 19 — Ash Wednesday</b>
Musician: Digital (Bernice Moreau) PA Tech: David Haley Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen Peterson/Karen Peterson Counters: Jill Erickson & Lynette Downing
<b>February 22</b>
Musician: Digital (Bernice Moreau) PA Tech: David Haley Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen Peterson/Karen Peterson Counters: Jill Erickson & Lynette Downing
<b>Thursday, February 26</b>
Musician: Digital (Bernice Moreau) PA Tech: David Haley Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen Peterson/Karen Peterson Counters: Susan Scheff & Lynette Downing



<i>A Measure of our Discipleship Together in Christ</i>		
Day of Worship	Attendance	Offering
<b>12-21-2025</b>	37	\$3,330.00
<b>12-24-2025</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	54	
<b>12-28-2025</b>	Joint at SS	\$2,357.00
<b>1-4-2026</b>	34	\$1,435.00
<b>1-11-2026</b>	38	\$1,330.00
<b>1-18-2026</b>	34	\$1,185.00
<b>1-25-2026</b>	32	\$6,235.00



**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: stjohns@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*

**February 2026**

**During a Pastoral Transition**

**Remember that God will be with this church at all times.**

You are not forsaken. God is with us. "I will never leave you or forsake you (*Hebrews 13:5*).

**God is in control.**

God "works all things according to the counsel of His will" (*Ephesians 1:11*). This pastoral transition is not happening outside of the will of God, He is working this according to the counsel of His will. We need to rest in Him by trusting Him.

**Ministry must go on.**

"Go therefore and make disciples" doesn't only mean the Pastor, but all who are in the church. We are all in this together and will keep going to continue to make this a great congregation so that we are ready for the new pastor.

**The church must not scatter.**

Resist the temptation to scatter. Work more diligently to stay bound together in unity and love. This may be a season of testing, but we will endure. Uphold one another in love and prayer. Come to worship, Bible study and fellowship events.

**Reinforce our mission and vision.**

We are rooted in Christ. We will keep our ministry aligned with the church's vision and keep that focus during this transition.

**Maintain hope and expectation.**

As Romans 8 reminds us, "God works in all things to bring about good." Remain hopeful that we will carry on the work of God and that He will, in His time, have a Pastor to lead us. In the meantime, He will provide a temporary Shepherd and we will be fine.

**Pray.**

Pray as Jesus did in Matthew 26:39, "Not my will, but your will be done." Pray for God's guidance, for unity and for joy.

January 17, 2026

This letter serves an official notice of Pastor Grant Bode ending employment with St. John's and St. Stephen's congregations as of February 3, 2026.

I have accepted a Pastoral Call to King of Glory Lutheran Church, Blaine, MN.

I pray for the Lord's guidance for myself, and the congregations involved as this transition occurs.

Sincerely yours,  
Pr. Grant Bode



**NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE!**

Beginning on Sunday, February 8 our new worship time will be 8:30 am with services led by Pastor Paul Anderson of St. John - Weber. Pastor Steve Tischer from Zion in Princeton will be leading worship at St. Stephen's.

Our Lenten services will all be at St. John's on Thursdays with meal at 6:00 pm and worship at 7:00 pm.

**Longer Look Bible Study**

We will be starting with 1 & 2 Chronicles on February 9. "I will Hear from Heaven".

From 2 Chronicles 7:14 — "If my people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

In 1 & 2 Chronicles, we find encouragement for our lives through God's gracious work among His people.

We would love to have you join us on Mondays at 10:00 am in the education wing at church.

**February Birthdays & Anniversaries In Our Parishes**

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

- 1 Dick & Marge Scheele
- 6 David Lewerenz
- 7 Daniel Scheff
- 12 Brian & Bernice Moreau
- 18 Tracy McCoy
- 20 Arlen Peterson
- 22 Donna Mulholland

**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church**

- 1 Chad Olson, Morgan Stauffer
- 2 Elva Anderson, Jason Swanson
- 3 Merla Berg, Mel & Kendall Grell
- 4 Liz Cameron
- 9 Johan Pankan, Marisa Schmakael
- 10 Allyssa Mattson, Inga Siusta
- 11 Nick Mattson
- 12 Chris Olson, Joe Peterson, Karl & Sara Pautsch
- 13 Jereme Livingston
- 14 Mitch & Gini Vidor
- 15 Lincoln Gullerud
- 17 Bill Schmakael
- 20 Lowell & Sharon Jaques
- 22 Blake Swanson
- 23 Sam Schusted
- 24 Kaleb Cooper, Ethan Stauffer
- 26 Barb Gay



- Thank you to Kevin & Becky Garey and Gary Wendorf for painting the women's bathroom to give it a fresh look! And for the updating of the wall decorations in both of the bathrooms!
- Thank you to those helped take down the Christmas decorations.
- Thank you to those who helped deep clean and organize the kitchen.  
*You are all very much appreciated!*

