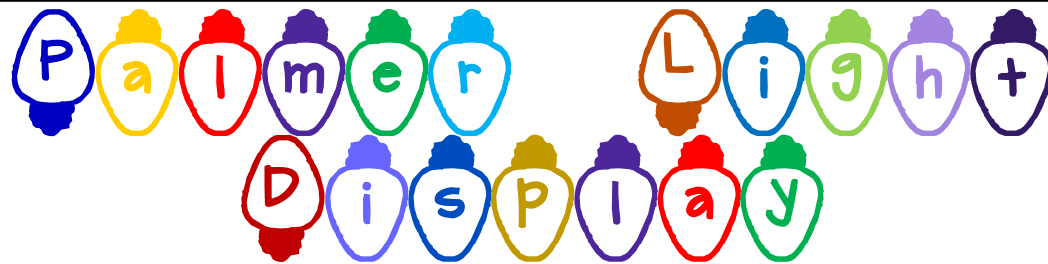




October 18, St. Stephen's, Braham ~ LWML Fall Zone Rally

Theme: Guess who's coming to dinner? Hebrews 13:1-2 The agenda included: a welcome and opening devotional, business meeting, offering, speaker Pastor Jake Gillard, LWML reports, closing devotional, and a delicious noon meal service by the Women of St. Stephen's. There were over 30 in attendance.



The Palmer Light Display will be open by Thanksgiving!

The lights will be on

Sunday-Thursday from 5:00-10:00 pm

Friday-Saturday from 5:00-11:00 pm

It is a drive through light display at

49307 Clover Trail of Rush City

It is a wonderful show of lights synced to music
that the Palmer Family puts hours and hours into.

Make sure this is part of your holiday plans!



St. John's Lutheran Church

A Member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

P.O. Box 368
980 West Fourth Street
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 8 am - 2 pm

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:

Rev. Grant Bode

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

November 2025

Thanksgiving

There are two particular times in which Jesus gave thanks that I draw your attention to this day.

Both of these had to do with bread.

The first is when Jesus fed the 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish. We are told in the text that when the meager amount was brought to Jesus that he blessed it exponentially! But tucked in the midst of the lesson of all four gospels are the words that Jesus, "gave thanks." The Greek words here used for thanksgiving are:

εὐχάριστος (John)

This word is transliterated into English as eucharist (thanksgiving).

εὐλογέω (Matthew, Mark and Luke).

This word is transliterated into English as eulogy (blessed words).

Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people. ~ Lk. 9:16

The second time that Jesus particularly gave thanks, or better said, the second time the Evangelists make a special point of noting Him doing so, was when Jesus celebrated the Lord's Supper.

Continued on next page

Here in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark both use the word εὐλογέω (eulogeo) while Luke chooses to use the word εὐχάριστος (eucharistos) and so does Paul in 1 Cor. 11:24. John's Gospel doesn't tell us of the Holy Supper, but focuses instead on other details surrounding the events of the Upper Room. The point that I make is this: Jesus gave thanks. This might surprise us. After all here was God in the flesh, and yet by example, he teaches us about what it means to be grateful, humble and thankful. He looks up to heaven and returns to God the Father his thanksgiving. Acknowledging that by the grace of God we live, move and have our being (Acts 17:28). Jesus in both situations lifted the bread and in both circumstances gave thanks. In fact I was once told by a Jewish man that in a Jewish home table grace is always said over the bread, the staple of life (manna). But too, it reminds us of Jesus who taught us to give thanks and pray... "Give us this day our daily bread." Jesus, who took bread and fed the multitude. Jesus, who took bread and said, "This is my body given for you."

So this Thanksgiving holiday as you sit down at your table and you look out over all that you have to support this body and life, and as your eyes gaze over the bread on your table may it be a reminder for you of Jesus who gave thanks and blessed the bread and broke it. Who said, "I am the bread of life (Jn. 6:48).

Therefore, let us **give thanks** for it is meet and right so to do!

In Christ,
Pastor Bode



A memorial gift in memory of
Vern & Arlene Dahlberg
has been given to St. John's.
What a beautiful gift!
We thank the Dahlberg Families for
helping this to become a reality in
memory of their parents.



Thanksgiving Worship Schedule

Thanksgiving Eve, November 26
7:00 pm at St. John's

Thanksgiving Day, November 27
9:00 am at St. Stephen's



All are Welcome!



On Sunday, November 26 following the worship service we will decorate for the Advent/Christmas season. Please stick around to help. Feel free to bring a pot-luck item and join in the fellowship. The voters meeting will be at noon. You will be home in plenty of time for the 3:00 Vikings game!

Are you desiring of a pastor home visit or need to be added to the church shut-in list for home communion? If so, please let Pastor or the church office know so as to arrange and meet that need.

Birthdays & Anniversaries In Our Parish

St. John's Lutheran Church

- 1 Deanna Moodie
- 9 Wendell Swanson (Wendy)
- 15 Tim Heinrich
- 17 Bob Downing
- 19 Becky Garey
- 21 Brian Moreau, William Bartos
- 22 Lexi Rognstad
- 23 Nate Wendorf
- 27 Lana Lewerenz
- 29 Jeff Erickson



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

- 1 Randy Orvis, Darrin Stauffer
- 2 Steve & Marge Baker
- 5 Mary Schultz
- 7 John Sutcliffe, Allyssa Swanson
- 9 Nickole Duvernay, Alanna Sundermeyer
- 12 Lucy Anderson
- 17 Karl Pautsch
- 20 Brian Gudilias, Chad & Jennifer Olson
- James & Kathryn Zelinsky
- 21 Rick Hultman, Adam Kelling
- 22 Daniel Downing
- 23 Rene Barn, Jon & Karna Knapp
- 24 Joseph Duvernay, LaTisha Pierson,
- Brian Sutcliffe
- 26 Bennett Schmakel
- 29 Phil Gelhorn
- 30 Sue McGivern



Elder: Brian Moreau
Altar Guild: Jill Erickson

November 2
Joint Worship at St. Stephen's at 10:30

November 9
Musician: Digital (Roxanne Orvis)
Reader: Brian Moreau
PA Tech: David Haley
Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen/Karen Peterson
Counters: Sandy Minor & Lynette Downing

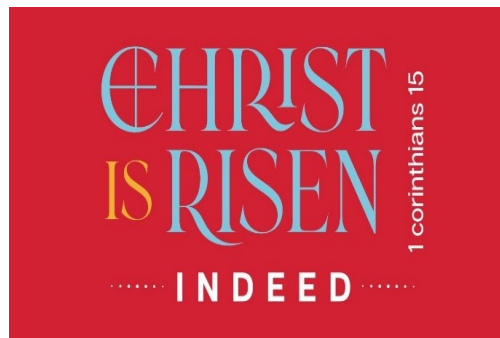
November 16
Musician: Digital (Bernice Moreau)
Reader: Jill Erickson
PA Tech: Roxanne Orvis
Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen/Karen Peterson
Counters: Susan Scheff & Lynette Downing

November 23
Musician: Digital (Cindy Wendorf)
Reader: Brian Moreau
PA Tech: David Haley
Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen/Karen Peterson
Counters: Diane Buehring & Lynette Downing

November 26—Thanksgiving Eve
Musician: Digital (Roxanne Orvis)
Reader: Jill Erickson
PA Tech: David Haley
Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen/Karen Peterson
Counters: Jill Erickson & Lynette Downing

November 30
Musician: Digital (Cindy Wendorf)
Reader: Brian Moreau
PA Tech: Roxanne Orvis
Camera/PowerPoint: Arlen/Karen Peterson
Counters: Susan Scheff & Lynette Downing

<i>A Measure of our Discipleship Together in Christ</i>		
Day of Worship	Attend- ance	Offering
9-28-2025	33	\$5,161.00
10-5-2025	31	\$1,215.00
10-12-2025	33	\$2,120.00
10-19-2025	32	\$1,700.00



Plans are underway for the 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), set for July 18–23, 2026, in Phoenix.

The convention theme will be “Christ Is Risen Indeed,” based on 1 Corinthians 15:20–22: “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as

by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”

About the 2026 theme, LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison said, “For the last convention our theme was ‘We Preach Christ Crucified.’ We chose that because it was Paul’s fantastically blunt and direct message — foolishness to the world — that this is the center of our faith. ... Our price is paid in the cross, and we preach this cross to everybody to know that your sins are forgiven here.

“And now, we follow on at this convention knowing [that] in the resurrection of Christ is our justification, and in fact, the world’s justification. The world is released from sin. The world’s sins have been forgiven in Christ’s resurrection. The Resurrection is our great hope and joy for the future.”

The convention will take place at the Phoenix Convention Center in downtown Phoenix.

Our Rum River Circuit Delegates are: Delegates:

Rev. Terry Grzybowski (Emmanuel, Elk River) and Bonnie Giese (St. Paul, Milaca)

Each congregation will be assess a fee for covering the costs of the convention and delegates.

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3BaB80HtSq>

This is a 13 minute video that gives a good oversight of the LCMS and the upcoming Convention.

Fruit, Cheese, Sausage, Nuts, Candy & Coffee Sale for the Youth

The annual sale is now on! The sign-up sheet is on the back counter. Please fill out the order form and then turn the money into the church office. Checks need to be written out to St. Stephen’s Lutheran Youth, although money collected from St. John’s will come back to the youth group here at St. John’s. Orders and money need to be in by Sunday, November 16.

The estimated delivery is between Thanksgiving and Christmas break.
Thank you!



Daylight Savings Time ends November 2.
Remember to turn your clocks back
1 hour on Saturday night!

The fall voters meeting for St. John’s Lutheran Church will be a noon on Sunday, November 30. All members are encouraged to attend.

Thank you for the Pastor Appreciation Gifts. I am humbled by your kind expression and blessing.
~ Thank you, Pastor and Gail



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.