ST. STEPHEN'S NEWS
Sunday, November 22, 2026
The Last Sunday after Pentecost
Christ the King

WELCOME!
If you are worshipping at St. Stephen's for the first time today, you are welcome to share in the Holy Communion. Please fill out a "Visitor" card at one of the Greeters tables and/or the guest book on the podium before you leave and get a welcome packet.

COMMUNION
If you are in need of a gluten free wafer during Communion, please let an usher know before the offertory or let one of the persons serving the host know. If you have a mobility problem, please let an usher know before the service begins and communion will be brought to you.

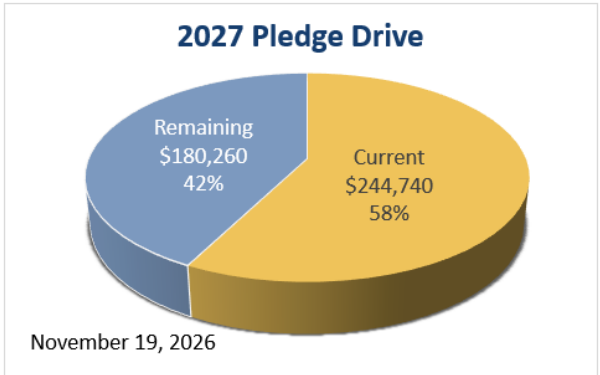
LOOKING FORWARD

The Pledge Drive currently is approx. 58% of our $425,000 goal. Remember to prayerfully submit your pledge by placing it in the plate, online, or by mail . Every gift matters. Each Pledge Card, whether electronic or paper, is welcomed.

Plenty Good Room

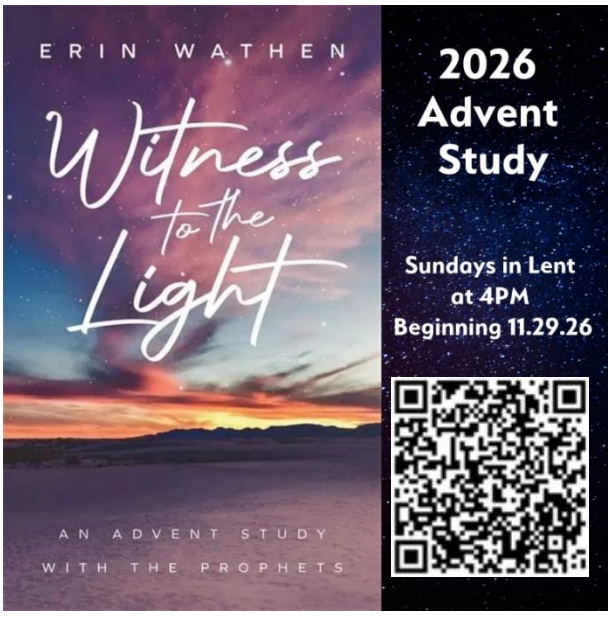
Links can be found on the giving tab of the St-stephens.org website or by using the QR Code. Thank you for your generosity and your prayerful consideration of your pledge to St. Stephen's.

To make a 2027 pledge
https://tinyurl.com/yduadbzs





Before we gather at our tables for the holiday let's gather at The Table here in our sanctuary and offer thanks for the blessing of our lives. All are invited to bring items that will be placed on their Thanksgiving tables (bread, wine, table dressings, etc.) to be blessed during the service. We look forward to seeing you there as we kick off the holiday weekend. This service will not be available via livestream.



"When the night is long, the light still comes. Find hope this Advent through the words of the prophets.
"For many, Advent and Christmas are celebrated in the darkest time of the year. The experience of waiting and longing for the first glimmer of sunlight over the horizon serves as a poignant and perennial metaphor for the human quest to find hope amid sorrow, hardship, and fear."

"This Advent study features the words and stories of prophetic figures in Scripture, from Major Prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and John the Baptist to lesser-heard voices like Miriam, Joel, Ezekiel, and Anna."
Join Rev. Christopher Sunday's at 4PM during Advent for this exciting and moving study.
https://tinyurl.com/mr2w29u3

Annual Nativity Display: Sunday, Dec. 6th!



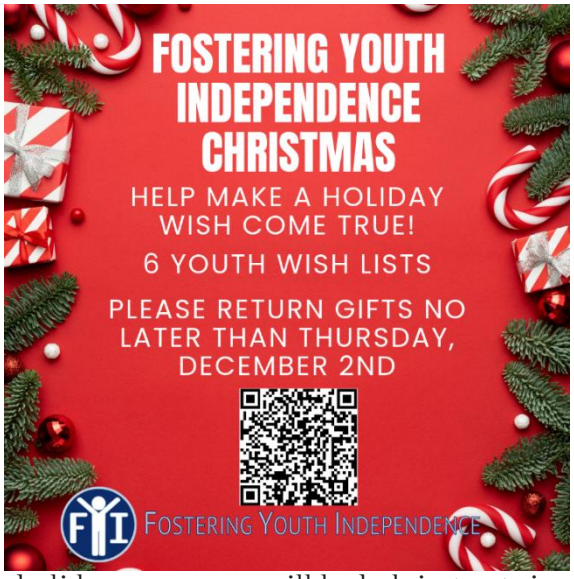
Everyone is invited to share their indoor nativities with our St. Stephen's community! **Bring your nativities and help set up on Sat, Dec. 5th, at 2pm, in the parish hall.** Different shapes, sizes and styles are welcome.

Please register in advance - To be included in the program, please send a brief description of your nativity (3 - *4 sentences*) **by Tues., Dec. 1st** via email to maryjohigg@gmail.com. Nativities from past years are welcome, just let us know if you want to use the same program description.

If you can't join us to help set up, please be sure your nativity is brought to the church office by Friday, Dec.4th. For more information, please talk with Kathleen Jensen or Mary Jo Higginbotham.

Vestry Nominations Are Now Open:

St. Stephen's is seeking nominations for four new members of the Vestry, who will be elected at our Annual Church Meeting in February 2027.
Do you know someone who would make a thoughtful and committed Vestry member?
Perhaps you feel called to serve yourself?
The Vestry plays a vital role in the leadership and stewardship of St. Stephen's.
Serving on the Vestry is an opportunity to contribute your talents, perspective, and experience as we continue building a vibrant and welcoming church community.
If you or someone you know is interested in being a member of the St. Stephen's Vestry or if you would like more information, please contact any members of the nominating committee or the church office by November 22, 2026.
St. Stephen's 2026 Vestry Nominating Committee:
Kelsey Raub/Vestry Member
Fred Chavez/Parishioner-At-Large
John Alexopoulos/Junior Warden: juniorwarden@st-stephens.org
Nick Vestuto/Senior Warden: seniorwarden@st-stephens.org
Parish office: office@st-stephens.org



This holiday season we will be helping out six young adults with Fostering Youth Independence. This is a time to help make their holiday wishes come true! FYI envisions a future in which every youth leaving the foster care system feels safe, connected and loved. They believe that with a consistent, nurturing community, foster youth can become successful, thriving adults. For some these are the only gifts they will receive this Christmas. Questions? Please contact Tracy in the Church office at 661-259-7307.

Upcoming holiday closures for the Church and Preschool offices.

Thanksgiving holiday
Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26-27.



Join us for a festive evening of creativity and fun as we decorate gingerbread houses together! Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy a delicious meal with friends before we start decorating. Please bring enough food to serve approximately 12 people. $5.00 per person. Please use the QR code or following link to sign up.
https://tinyurl.com/yeaensbk
Come ready to create, connect, and celebrate the season!



We are also looking to collect $25.00 gift cards to either Target or Walmart (as many as possible) to donate to the Children & Family Center.

St. Stephen's Prayer List

Current Needs: Joanne, Innocent victims of global and domestic conflicts and wars, especially involving the U.S. involvement in the Middle East, Eliza, Janet, Gail, Bill, John and the Nelson family, Lily and husband, Patrick, Maria, Moses, Jerome, Debbie, Jose Manuel, Peggy, Keith, Mahin, Rae, Susan, Susan, Greg, Neville, Desiree, Jim and Donna, Greg and Cathy, Vickie, Stephen, Rebecca and family, Dennis and Joy, Mike, Jake, Madelyn, Brad, Juan, Jim and Family, Ann Marie, Patti, Debbie, Michelle, Trish, Garrett, Ave Maria, Margo, Lonnie, Rebecca, Jeff, Malcolm, George, Laura, family and friends of Dolfin Cabuya, Noelie James H., Raph, Kelly and Julie, **Fran, Tom, the Doerksen family**

Rest in Peace: Delores Huerta, James Finn, Johnnie Miles, Dolfin Cabuya, Bonnie Valvo, Christopher Hoffman, Frank Sanchez, Joy Singletary, **Ron Doerksen, Pam Jones**

If you would like prayers for yourself or someone else, please email Peggy Stabile at pstabile@pegasus2.net or call the church at 661.259.7307. Please be aware that your prayer request will be shared with the prayer chain. If you wish to hold your prayer request in confidence, please clarify that in your submission. Prayer requests remain for 4 weeks and must be renewed through Peggy or the office.



GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S

If you are able to continue supporting the mission and ministry of St. Stephen's, you can pay your pledge or make a new or recurring donation online here st-stephens.org/giving. You can also text your donation by texting the word GIVE to 661.228.8909 and following the prompts. Click here for an easy How To Use Text Giving guide. We are deeply grateful for your commitment and support.

St. Stephen's Week	November 22, 2026 to November 29, 2026
TODAY'S SERVICE	9:00 AM
SUNDAY 11/22	VPOD: Michael Branda
9:00am Gratitude Sunday	Holy Eucharist (also livestreamed via Facebook live)
9:00am	Sunday School / Spurling Hall
12:00pm	Bring & Share / Spurling Hall
MONDAY 11/23	
6:45pm	Troop 2019 / Spurling Hall
TUESDAY 11/24	
6:00pm	Vestry meeting / Spurling Hall
WED. 11/25	Preschool office closed
7:00am	Holy Eucharist followed by breakfast
9:30am	Circle of Gratitude / Zoom
12:30pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service
6:00pm	EFM / Room 8
7:00pm	PFLAG / Spurling Hall
THURS. 11/26	Thanksgiving Day Church & Preschool Offices closed
FRIDAY 11/27	Church & Preschool offices closed
SAT. 11/28	
NEXT SUNDAY 11/29	VPOD: Hallie Browne
7:45am	Holy Eucharist
9:00am	Holy Eucharist (also livestreamed via Facebook live)
9:00am	Sunday School / Spurling Hall
4:00-5:30pm	Advent Study / Church



If you wish to have your birthday or anniversary prayed for during Sunday services or if you would like a white rose to signify a death in your family or a red rose to signify a birth in your family, please email Tracy in the Church office at office@st-stephens.org no later than 5:00pm on Thursdays with all of the relevant details.