

An Update from Pastor Jim

10 November 2022

Dear Fellow Members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church,

Greeting in Jesus' name.

It's been a while since I sent one of these updates out to the congregation, but as we approach the holiday season it seems appropriate to me to do so once again. As we think about the 2022 holiday season I'd like to update you and invite you to several events in the coming month.



One of the celebrations which I most look forward to, and really begins the holiday season, is our annual **Holly Boutique and Bake Sale**. Organized by the Women of St. Stephen, the Boutique offers a huge selection of Christmas and seasonal crafts and decorations as well as an amazing array of baked goods. The Boutique is **THIS SATURDAY, November 12, from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm**. I hope you'll take time to come and peruse the crafts, pick up some fresh, homemade baked goods (Lefse is always a favorite) and stay for a delicious lunch. In these days of high inflation prices are truly a bargain.

At the end of the month we will be hosting a joint **Thanksgiving Service** with Redeemer Lutheran Church. The service will feature a combined choir from both churches as we all take time to give thanks to our gracious Heavenly Father for all the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. The service will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 23 at St. Stephen. Following the Thanksgiving Service there will be a "Pie Fellowship"; so, please stay and enjoy a piece of pie along with great fellowship. Speaking of pie, both churches are recruiting 7-10 homemade pies to serve. Please contact the church office if you'd be willing to donate a pie. This Wednesday night service means we will NOT be holding a Thanksgiving Service on Thanksgiving Day.



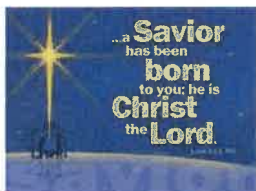
Immediately following Thanksgiving begins the season of **Advent**. Advent worship, Sundays, at 9:30 am is:



- November 27 Lessons and Carols
- December 4 Traditional Advent Worship
- December 11 Our Senior Choir Advent Concert
- December 18 A Christmas Carol Service

On Saturday, December 3, 8:30 am—noon, we will be decorating the facility for Christmas with our annual **"Hanging of the Greens"**. Please come and help prepare the church for our Christmas celebration.

Then on Saturday, December 17, 4:30-7:30 pm we will hold our **30th Annual Living Nativity**. The behind-the-scenes positions are well filled; now we need to fill all the live person Nativity positions (8-11 people for six 30 minutes sets.) No matter your experience or age, please consider signing up for one 30 minute slot as Mary, Joseph, an Angel, a Magi, or a Shepherd.



Finally, on Saturday, December 24, **Christmas Eve**, we will celebrate the birth of Christ! at 4:00 pm with a **Family Worship Service** and at 9:00 pm with a **Candlelight Worship Service**. Then, on Sunday, December 25, **Christmas Day**, we'll remember the birth of Christ at 9:30 am. Please make time to gather with your family of faith for one of these services.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Jim