

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759
Phone: 732-350-2121, Fax: 732-350-6000
ssechurch@gmail.com
www.saintstephenswhiting.org

A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

The Rt. Rev. William H. (Chip) Stokes, Bishop

The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector

Gerrie Vergona, Treasurer

Esther Graham, Music Director

Greg Mathews, Parish Administrator

Tom O'Brien, Sexton

Wardens and Vestry 2021

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden

Richard Smithson, Property Warden

Debbie Fisher, Marge Pomykala, Peter Quigley

Pat Russo, Maryann Payne, Dottie Kaster

Kay Karlick, Tom Larson, Ken Seda

Joanne Smithson, Clerk

Mission Statement

To proclaim the faith that our years have engendered: to use the diversity
of our Episcopal experience while working toward a common goal; to teach
the young about Jesus and to reach out and affect the lives of those in the community.

"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20

Welcome to St. Stephen's Church!

We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly with the Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector.

To Report Illness, Hospitalization, etc.

Please notify the church office 732-350-2121 of any illnesses or hospitalizations.

If it is an emergency you may also reach Stefanie Rotsaert, Rector's Warden at 732-350-2904 or

Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I

NOVEMBER 28, 2021
8&10:15 am

| Hymnal | The Word of God | BCP |
|--------|---|-----------|
| | Opening Acclamation | 319 |
| | The Decalogue | |
| | Opening Sentence | |
| | Confession and Absolution | 320 |
| S91 | Kyrie | 324 |
| | Collect of the Day | Insert |
| | First Lesson: <i>Jeremiah 33:14-16</i> | Insert |
| | <i>Psalms 25</i> | Insert |
| | Second Lesson: <i>I Thessalonians 3:9-13</i> | Insert |
| | Gradual: “Alleluia, He is Coming” (lyrics on next page) | |
| | Gospel: <i>Luke 21:25-36</i> | Insert |
| | Sermon — The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr. | |
| | The Nicene Creed | 327 |
| | Prayers of the People | 328 |
| | The Peace | 332 |
| | Announcements | |
| | Offertory Anthem: <i>Jubilate Deo</i> | Dale Wood |
| | Doxology: “All things come of thee O Lord” | |
| | HOLY COMMUNION | |
| | Eucharistic Prayer I | 333 |
| S112 | Sursum Corda | |
| S113 | Sanctus | |
| | The Lord’s Prayer | 336 |
| S152 | Breaking of the Bread | 337 |
| S157 | Fraction Anthem | |
| | Communion Hymns: | |
| 325 | “Let us Break Bread Together” | |
| 640 | “watchman tell us of the night” | |
| 58 | “Low! He come, with clouds descending” | |
| | Post Communion Prayer | 339 |
| | Blessing | |
| 496 | Recessional: “How Bright Appears the Morning Star” | |
| | Dismissal | |

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

BIBLE STUDY GROUP-
“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, Mondays at 11am, for info contact
Roberta Mackey at (917) 696-6863

CHOIR PRACTICE-
Wednesdays at 10am

HEALING SERVICES-
Thursdays at 10:00 am (No healing services on Dec 30th)
ORDER OF ST. LUKE-
2nd Thursday of each month after Healing Service



ARTS & CRAFTS-
Held every 3rd Thursday of the month, from 10-12am & 1-3pm

VESTRY MEETING-
Monday, November 29th

WHITING GARDEN CLUB -WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST-
at 10AM in the Parish Hall

CRESTWOOD CHORUS CONCERT -
December 5th at 2pm

ST. STEPHEN’S TREE LIGHTING-
December 9th at 4:30PM

**DEADLINE FOR CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES:SUNDAY, DE-
CEMBER 12, 2021**

If you have any questions, please call Altar Guild Flower Chair, Valerie Thompson,
at 732-657-4510.

DO YOU NEED PLEDGE CARDS?
Please see our Treasurer, Gerrie Vergona.

ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist are held every Sunday at 8AM and 10:15AM – join us in person or on zoom or you tube. Each evening at 7PM, join us for Compline on Zoom or You Tube. All are welcome!



COME AND SEE!!!

ST. STEPHEN'S TREE LIGHTING



At 4:30 pm on Thursday, December 9th, come join us for a special night of Singing and celebration with the Lighting of our Tree this season. Call the Church office for more details at 732-350-2121



CRESTWOOD CHORUS PROUD TO PRESENT HOLIDAY SINGERS

The Crestwood Chorus presents: Holiday Singers in a Winter Holiday Concert on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at 2 pm, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church – 180 Route 539 – Whiting, NJ (new venue). There will be refreshments served. There will also be a free will offering.

For further information please contact Bonnie @ 609-709-5780 or AJ @ 732-600-5716.

You may also contact the Parish Office @ 732-350-2121.



First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021
8&10:15am

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."



Gradual: "*Alleluia, He is Coming*";

"Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"

"Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"

"I looked up and I saw my Lord a coming"

"I looked up and saw my Lord a coming down the road"

"Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"

"Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"

Psalm 25

Ad te, Domine, levavi

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.



CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE ~ sells well to groups meeting at our church. Now accepting **Winter** clothes **ONLY** in **TOP** condition, (clean, with no missing buttons, tears or stains). Also, continue to use the **FOUR BINS** in our parking lot for *out of season clothing, all men's wear*, and other items. Our Summer clothes are now on clearance sale. We are very appreciative of your kind donations to, and purchases from, this fundraising project.

ST. STEPHEN'S PRAYER CHAIN ~ is in need of additional members. The Prayer Chain is a dedicated group of parishioners who will pray for any who are in need. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Greta Pearl at 732-350-7584 for details. Greta is the contact when placing, on the Prayer Chain, your name or the names of family, neighbors, or friends who would like prayers for healing, comfort, or any other purpose.

CARE GIVERS VOLUNTEERS ~ JoAnn Smithson is the Congregational Coordinator for Care Givers Volunteers here at St. Stephen's. Please continue to use the mailbox in the Office to put in your hours. JoAnn's phone number is 609/268-0821.

THE CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD IS IN THE NARTHEX FOR YOU TO SIGN~

cards and postage cost so much these days--sign your name and write a message to your church family

help wanted

COFFEE HOUR



Additional help is needed for the 8am hour. Sign-up in the Narthex. Everyone is so grateful for the delicious food that you share, your help, and they love chatting after the services. Any questions, contact Stefanie at (732) 350-2904

A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2022--sign up!





BLACKJACK NEEDS OUR HELP

Hi my name is Phyllis, my adopted shelter dog Blackjack is in very much need of dental work. I live solely on social security and need this financial help. He's a dog that gave up on life, I adopted him, I trained him myself, he is now a state certified therapy dog and has his k-9 good citizenship award...he is kind and gentle and has helped many people...thank you for your help...God Bless You...

Please visit the link provided below to support a good cause and help Blackjack with his much needed dental work. There is a basket on the back table in the church for your cash donation. Phyllis appreciates your help-- and so does Blackjack!

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/please-help-blackjack-with-dental-work/share?qid=c112c9>

Sincerely,

Miss Phyllis

YOUR PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING

Prayerfully consider making an endowment gift to St. Stephen's as part of your estate plan.

RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Thank you to all who have donated. There are parishioners as well as other members in our community who benefit greatly from this valued fund. If you wish to contribute, please use the basket on the back table for donations



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month-- December 9th and the 23rd after the Healing Service.

Prayer to send out LEMs with the Sacrament:

Celebrant: N. we send you out to share Communion this week with those who have been entrusted to your care.

People: May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this Sacrament of Christ's presence.

Celebrant: Continues with a closing prayer.

ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNION SERVICES

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| The Pines | 1st Sunday of each month | at 9:30 am |
| The Arbors | 2nd Monday of each month | at 2:00 pm |
| The Pines | 3rd Monday of each month | at 2:00 pm |



Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

On the first Sunday in Advent, the liturgy is concerned with our preparation for the return of Christ at the end of time. The Gospel reading today is a portion of Jesus' words concerning that time. He tells us to see the events of history as signs of the approaching end and to recognize that end as the coming of our redemption.

The Old Testament reading today from the prophet Jeremiah looks forward to the time when God will fulfill the promise of a successor to David. The New Testament Christians understood the "righteous Branch" of David's line to be our Lord Jesus Christ.

The second reading is from Paul's first Thessalonian letter. His letters to that church were prompted by difficulties in that congregation due to their misunderstanding of the Lord's promise to return. In today's reading, Paul encourages the Thessalonians to see their ministry and mutual love as the way to prepare for the Lord's return.

There is an "already, but not yet" aspect to the New Testament's discussion of the Lord's return. God's Kingdom is not limited to a time in the far off future; it began breaking into human history in Jesus' death and resurrection. The Lord comes to judge and to save in each moment in the life of his people. Above all, he is revealed in our encounter with him in the Eucharistic meal.

From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year.

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

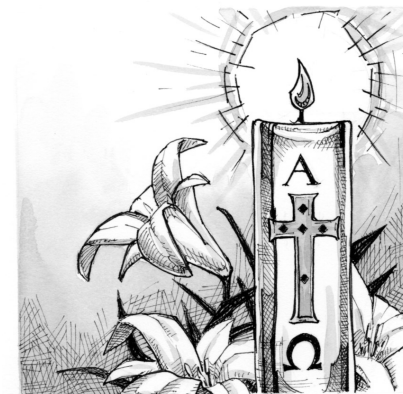
NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Serving in the Liturgy today:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Lector 8:00 am | Susan Quigley |
| LEM 8:00 am | Peter Quigley |
| Altar Guild 8:00 am | Debbie Fisher, Linda Chiappetta |
| Ushers 8:00 am | Mary Storey, Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine |
| Lector 10:15 am | Susan Quigley |
| LEM 10:15 am | Robert Virtue Kay Karlick |
| Altar Guild 10:15 am | Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro |
| Ushers 10:15 am | Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson |

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is given to
The Glory of God
in memory of
Luitgardis Rotsaert,
from her daughter Stefanie Bodine



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers are given to the
Glory of God
In Memory of
Robert Pomykala,
Given by his wife
Margery Pomykala
&
Luitgardis Rotsaert,
Given by her daughter
Stefanie Bodine

