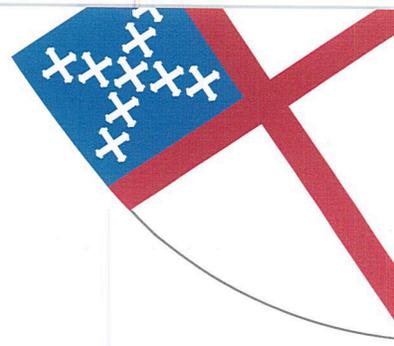


# SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## BILLINGS, MONTANA



The Twenty-Third Sunday after the Pentecost – November 16, 2025

Dear People of Saint Stephen's,

Greetings! I just wanted to update everyone about some recent developments in the life of the congregation.

First, a very happy 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday to Joe Huckel! Q2 or KTVQ had a piece on their site about his birthday on November 7, so check it out!

As you likely remember, we began working with Bethlehem Lutheran Church at the end of August this year on exploring opportunities for collaboration. On Sunday, November 16, we will be worshipping together for the fourth time. So far, this has gone very well! Our vestry and the leadership of Bethlehem are very supportive of the progress we are making. This past Monday I met with the lay leadership there along with the new ELCA Bishop for Montana. He was very supportive of our progress and encouraged our continued collaboration. Our own bishop is also very supportive of this endeavor.

The next step in our collaboration is beginning the new liturgical year with routine joint worship. This will begin with the First Sunday of Advent on **November 30 at 9:30 am**. Initially, we will continue to alternate between Episcopal and ELCA liturgies. There is plenty more to be figured out, so stay tuned for more details. The following Sunday, December 7, I will be out of town visiting family.

On **November 23 (at 10:30 am)**, we will be blessed with a new preacher – our very own George Kimmet! George is enrolled in an online course through an Episcopal seminary and is pursuing becoming a Licensed Lay Preacher. Please come and join us as we welcome this new voice, or a familiar voice in a new role! Bethlehem has a couple of licensed lay preachers too, so we will likely end up with a rotation of preachers.

Looking further ahead, Bethlehem's traditional worship time for Christmas Eve is pretty much aligned with ours, so on Wednesday, December 24 we will celebrate the Nativity at 5 pm at Bethlehem. We will continue offering Christmas Day worship at 10 am on Thursday, December 25. The following Sunday, I will take off, as is my tradition following Christmas. That Sunday I will be attending St. Luke's and will represent the Diocese as the President of Standing Committee at the last worship service for Mother Melinda as the Rector there.

As always, please reach out to me or Lance Doerr, our Senior Warden, if you have any questions or concerns.

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In honor of George's continued ministry with those in prison, allow me to close with an appropriate prayer from the *Book of Common Prayer*:

Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment. Remember all prisoners, and bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice. Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. *Amen.* (pg. 826)

Lovingly yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "St. L. Day".

Father Stephen Day