



"He (Jesus) said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'" (Matthew 16:15 - 16)

January 18 is the day in the church calendar that we remember that Peter confessed Jesus as the Son of the living God. Peter's confession is recorded in Matthew 16:13 - 17,

Mark 8:27 - 30 and Luke 9:18 - 20. The words of Peter are bold and clear. Peter eventually paid for his confession with his life.

May we be bold and clear in our confession of Jesus Christ as the Son of the living God as Peter was, come what may! Here is a good prayer...

"Dear Father in heaven, as You revealed to the apostle Peter the blessed truth that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, strengthen us in that same faith in our Saviour that we, too, may joyfully confess that there is salvation in no one else; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, amen!"

Pastor Russ



January 2024 led by Arnold Kaiser
Includes Jean K., Gerty K., Kathy B., Sid K.

February 2024 led by Les Heron
Includes Linda H., Al & d'Arcy G., Brenda K., Sharon J., Dave N.

January Coffee Crew
Antonia Nissen, Katie & Jordan Hillman, Sharon Johannson & Randy Nicholson
Please refer to "Spare List" for extra help

February Coffee Crew
Elaine & Kurt Kure, Linda & Les Heron, Virginia & Fred Pedersen
Please refer to "Spare List" for extra help



January 2024 WORSHIP 10 AM

Monday January 1, 2024
New Years Day

Sunday January 7, 2024
Soup and Bun Lunch after worship

Sunday January 14, 2024
Sunday School resumes

Thursday January 18, 2024
Voters meeting

Sunday February 4
Baked Potatoes Lunch after worship

Christmas Dinner Hampers

King of Kings provided 18 families with a Christmas Hamper. So much thankfulness was expressed by the families to the point of tears for some.

Thank you to our congregation for the generous donations of funds and food. There was over 4000 dollars given, which allowed a very nice Co-op gift card along with the food.

Thanks also to, Dave and Margaret Ann, Jean and Arnold, Clint and Juanita, and Donna Stoyberg for buying all the items, packaging them into hampers, delivering several and organizing the rest for pickup at the Church.

We appreciated the Pastor's encouragement and Cheri's accounting.



And whatever you do,
whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of
the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the
Father through
him.

Colossians 3:17 NIV



Spruce View and District Food Bank

The Food Bank relies on the many gifts from the congregation, community members and several community organizations. It is wonderful to see a box or bag just show up, and often left anonymously.

This year we received several large food donation gatherings and many monetary donations. The Food Bank is well positioned entering into 2024. We have seen an increase in need in the last month. Noteworthy, was a humongous donation of food gathered by the Spruce View School in the weeks leading to Christmas. The hundreds and hundreds of pounds of food required the School Viking sport bus for delivery to the Church. Thank you, students, parents and staff.

Several other groups brought food, gathered at their various Christmas events, thanks.

Also and big thank you to the Central Alberta Co-op, Spruce View, and its staff, for year round help, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Thanks be to God for charging us with this mission.

A community of believers, proclaiming Christ's truth and practicing Christ's love!

Sunday School Pageant

Sunday December 17, 2023



Christmas Carolling on the Christmas Bus

December 18, 2023



Join us for soup and bun lunch after worship on Sunday January 7, 2024



Please join us for baked potatoes with pot luck toppings after worship on Sunday February 4, 2024.





Dear Friend in Ministry,

Merry Christmas from all of us here at Stephen Ministries!

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we're reminded that the stable in Bethlehem is both the place where the Son of God became one of us and the beginning of Christ's ministry here on Earth. The love and care Jesus demonstrated during his time among us provides a powerful model for all to follow, a model that inspired the mission of Stephen Ministries—to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

The past year has been an exciting one for Stephen Ministries as we've pursued this mission. Here are a few highlights.

The Gift of Empathy

In April, we published our newest book, [*The Gift of Empathy*](#). This book is the result of three years of researching, writing, editing, and refining, and we've been delighted by the response since its release. The world desperately needs more empathy, and our hope is that *The Gift of Empathy* can help meet that need.

Empathy in West Africa

The Gift of Empathy is also spreading internationally. In November, our own Steve Glynn visited Monrovia, Liberia, to teach concepts from the book to over 50 pastors and church workers from all over the country as part of a Practical Theology seminar. Here is Steve with some of the participants.



80,000 Trained Stephen Leaders

In May, we reached a major Stephen Ministry milestone: [**80,000 Stephen Leaders trained**](#) since 1978. The first Stephen Leader Training Course cohorts for 2024 beginning in January are already full, so the number of Stephen Leaders will continue to grow in the new year. What's most exciting about this landmark is not the number itself, but the ministry that number represents. Through the service of these Stephen Leaders, hundreds of thousands of Stephen Ministers have been—and will continue to be—trained to provide excellent care for millions of hurting people.

The year 2023 has been full of blessings, and we're excited about what God will do in 2024.

On behalf of the whole Stephen Ministries team, thank you for your ongoing support of our ministry and your partnership with us in making the world a more caring place.

May the birth and ministry of Jesus bring you joy this season and throughout the new year!

The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, "Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land" (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.



The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of "you shall not murder"? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes

Benevolent Auction Sunday December 3

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Benevolent Auction another huge success.

Approximately \$6,500 was raised.



Bible Readings for the Week of January 1-6

Monday: Genesis 19-20
Tuesday: Genesis 21-22
Wednesday: Genesis 1:1-5
Thursday: Psalm 29
Friday: Romans 6:1-11
Saturday: Mark 1:4-11

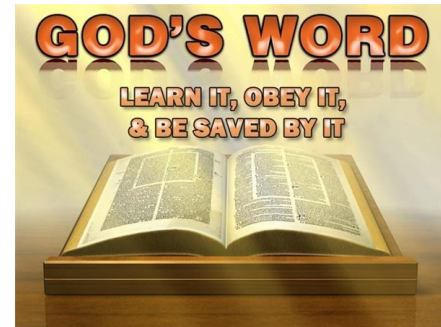


Bible Readings for the Week of January 8-13

Monday: Genesis 23-24
Tuesday: Genesis 25-26
Wednesday: 1 Samuel 3:1-20
Thursday: Psalm 139:1-10
Friday: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Saturday: John 1:43-51

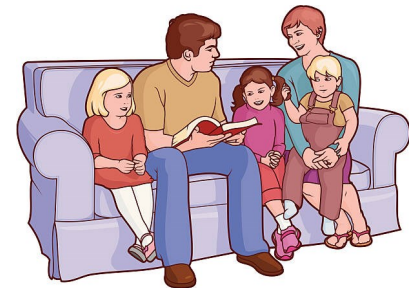
Bible Readings for the Week of January 15-20

Monday: Genesis 27-28
Tuesday: Genesis 29-30
Wednesday: Jonah 3:1-10
Thursday: Psalm 62
Friday: 1 Corinthians 7:29-35
Saturday: Mark 1:14-20



Bible Readings for the Week of January 22-27

Monday: Genesis 31-32
Tuesday: Genesis 33-34
Wednesday: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Thursday: Psalm 111
Friday: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Saturday: Mark 1:21-28



Bible Readings for the Week of January 29-February 3

Monday: Genesis 35-36
Tuesday: Genesis 37-38
Wednesday: Isaiah 40:21-31
Thursday: Psalm 147:1-11
Friday: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27
Saturday: Mark 1:29-39



April 18, 2024
September 19, 2024
November 21, 2024

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