

St Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sunday 22nd February 2026
First Sunday in Lent

9.00am - Spoken + HC
10.30am - Chinese Worship
11.00am - Contemporary Worship + HC

Welcome
Please take a moment to sign our visitors book in the church foyer.

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Preacher: Peter Lockwood
Sermon Title: Why does Jesus say no?
Sermon text: Matthew 4:1-11

BIBLE READINGS

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY

Loving God, during this Lenten season, help us to be mindful of the power of our words. May we strive to cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media and every place our voice is heard. Help us not to speak ill of those who cannot defend themselves.

Creative God, as our city comes alive with all manner of arts performances, we give thanks for the freedom that we have to celebrate together and to express our opinions. May we use these freedoms in ways that please you.

Generous God, thank you for the rain that fell during the week. We pray for those who rely on rain for their livelihood. May their needs be met. We give thanks for our gardens and the beauty that they bring to our lives.

We pray for our community: that we would be refreshed by the worship opportunities that we have during Lent - and for those who are involved in making our Lenten worship happen; for those who are coming to the end of their earthly journey and for those who watch and wait with them; for those who are ill that they would be healed; for families who worship together - that they would be strengthened. For Pastor Tanya and for those who are providing pastoral care among us.

Worship is live streamed on YouTube.

To access, go to www.youtube.com and search 'St Stephen's Lutheran Church, Adelaide'



*An audio version of today's sermon will be available on the church website for you to listen to.
New sermons are posted during the next week.*

Next Sunday's Bible Readings

Genesis 12:1-4a
Romans 4:1-5,13-17
John 3:1-17

In the spirit of reconciliation we acknowledge the Kurna people, traditional custodians of the land on which the St Stephen's church stands. We pay our respect to their Elders, past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

9AM WORSHIP DETAILS

Organist: Morris Rieger

1. **TIS 437** 'Blessed Jesus at your word'
2. **LHS 756** 'O Lord, throughout these forty days'
3. **TIS 464** 'Seek, O Seek the Lord'
4. **TIS 559** 'A new heart, Lord, create in me'

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted in the wilderness, you know how often and how easily we are tempted. During the season of Lent make us more aware of our peculiar weaknesses, more conscious of the depth of your love, and more eager to be changed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you for putting us into this world where there are so many people and so much to make us glad. Inspire us to keep on seeing them, remembering them, enjoying them, and responding to them with grateful hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 32:1-7

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long,
for day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity.
I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,'
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to you.

At a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever more. Amen.

A Message from the Treasurer

Dear members, the 2026 offering budget has been endorsed by Church Council and will be presented to you for endorsement at the upcoming AGM. It proposes a 6% increase above actual 2025 offerings to ensure we can fund a full time Pastoral position going forward.

In the meantime, I request that you give prayerful consideration to increase your regular offering for the 2026 year if you can do so. REG forms are available in the Narthex, or alternatively from the LLL website. Thank you for your support.

With Christian Greetings, David Zweck

WHAT'S ON... WHAT'S NEW...

Call Meeting

The combined St Stephen's Congregation will hold a call meeting in the Wakefield Street Church on Sunday March 1st at 12 noon. It will be connected by Zoom to the Immanuel Church. Following the call meeting we will share a simple lunch.

We will provide food as we usually do after the 11 am service so please come and join us; if you wish to contribute and it's simple to do so, finger food that doesn't require heating, or cut fruit, would be welcome.



Lent 2026

Broken and Beloved

Stories of God's Steadfast Love

25th Feb Naomi – Broken by Grief
(Colleen Fitzpatrick)

4th March Elijah – Broken by Fear
(Peter Lockwood)

11th March The Syrophoenician Woman – Broken
by Desperation (Helen Lockwood)

18th March Mary Magdalene – Broken by Demons
(Suanne Tikoft)

25th March Peter – Broken by Failure
(Pr Tanya Wittwer)

10.30am at Immanuel
7.00pm at St Stephen's

Offering update for period to January 2026

Community	January Actual	January Budget	Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
English	16,596	17,692	1,096	16,596	17,692	1,096
Chinese	5,856	3,969	1,887	5,856	3,969	1,887
Total	22,452	21,661	791	22,452	21,661	791



Sunday School is held at 10.30am.
Come and join us!



THIS COMING WEEK'S MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Feb 2026			
Mon 23rd	1.00pm	Jazz Group	Hall
Wed 25th	9.30am & 5.45pm 10.30am 7.00pm	Yoga Immanuel Lenten Service St Stephen's Lenten Service	Hall Nth Adel Church
Thu 26th	7.30pm	City of Adelaide Band	Hall
Fri 27th	2.00pm	Funeral of Judith Leske	St Andrew's, Glynde
Sat 28th	1.00pm	Dungeons & Dragons Group	Hall
Sun 1st March	9.00am 10.30am 11.00am	Traditional + HC Chinese Worship Contemporary Worship + HC	Church U.Hall Church

UPCOMING PREACHERS

March 1st: Helen Lockwood

March 8th: Pastor Tanya Wittwer

March 15th: Susan Wood

March 22nd: Pastor Joyce Graue

Women's Fellowship:

Will resume in March

Regular Electronic Giving (REG)

Direct Debit Request Forms and Information are available from the brochure rack in the narthex.

PRAYER GROUP

For prayer requests and inquiries about the prayer group, please email Colleen Fitzpatrick on coljon@internode.on.net

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Our current Church Council members are:

Chairman : Karl Schenscher

Vice-Chair : Julie Rodda

Secretary : Janice Bartholomaeus

Treasurer : David Zweck

Additional members : Douglas Sia, Paul Bohlmann, Tim Chen and Marcia Lohe