



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

One of 12,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 18, 2018

For Your Prayers – March 18-25, 2018

Monday: Exodus 4:10-31; 1 Corinthians 14:1-19; Mark 9:30-41

Tuesday: Exodus 5:1—6:1; 1 Corinthians 14:20-33a, 39-40; Mark 9:42-50

Wednesday: Exodus 7:8-24; 2 Corinthians 2:14—3:6; Mark 10:1-16

Thursday: Exodus 7:25—8:19; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18; Mark 10:17-31

Friday: Exodus 9:13-35; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12; Mark 10:32-45

Saturday: Exodus 10:21—11:8; 2 Corinthians 4:13-18; Mark 10:46-52

Next Sunday's worship readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1—15:47

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Doris Bass, Ed Brown, Martha Clements, Thord Einarsen, Fred Haecker, and Carol Harman**

Pray for these who are unable to get to worship: **Philip Arnold, Martha and Gene Clements, Sally Crocker, Bob and Angie Groom, Elsie Hall, Stan Hobday, Donna May Hochstetler, Mary Jamerson, Sonja Landvogt, Helen Lenox, Betty Rickerson, Dick Reeves, Jo Schumacher, Jean Shivel, Joanne Shue, Rudy Stegmann, and Jerry Trone.**

Pray God's blessings of Easter hope for **Margaret Krull** and her family mourning the death of **Gary Krull**.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Sharon, Roman, Jim, Mitchell, Philip Andrew, Ellen Benton, Tom and Bea Black, the Blume family, Eliza Bicknell, Kallie Burgess, Kim Calhoun, Marla Canny, Elaine Cari, Peter Cline, Shirley Cocke, Judy Cossit, Rosemarie Cristofolo, William Davis, Kathryn Dieter, Mary Jo Duncan, Holly Edwards, Craig Eichfeld, Inge Felbier, Mary Fitzgerald, Mertie Funkhouser, Bill Gottschalk, Jeff Hammock, Sara Jane Harlan, Joe Hause, Sam and Ronny Hayes, Alan Hochstetler, Marian Hunt, Anne Johns, Ben and Amy Johnson, Fran Kibler, Art Kirk, Dean Kreitzer, Terry Krull, Jean Lasche, Annie Layendecker, Frances Link, Mildred Lindblad, Charlotte Litterer, Mac family, Peter and Kelly McCann (awaiting the birth of their baby), Bruce Milne, Heidi Morris, Joshua Mullen, Joan Nares, Mary Newberg, Inge Petersen, Dick Phillips, Dino Polizois, Shann Rufer, Bruce Semanchik, James Smith, Evelyn Spear, Dave Splittorff, Pierrette Tipton, Betty Tulloh, BJ Vann, Tait Walker, Pat Ward, Debbie and Sam Weems, Sue Weilmuenster, Janea Whitacre, Adam Zabell.

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future, written on the hearts of God’s people. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who established “the new covenant in my blood” (Luke 22:20, 1 Cor. 11:25, quoted in our communion liturgy). It is late in Lent. We are coming closer and closer to that cross of Christ on our Lenten journey.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 – The prophet Jeremiah brings God’s words of grace and hope to the people, in the 6th century B.C. Their ancestors broke the covenant that God had established through Moses, and they are suffering the consequence: they are in exile in Babylonia. But God will establish a new covenant! There will not even be a need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts!

Psalm 51:1-12 – “Create in me a clean heart.” (v. 10)

Hebrews 5:5-10 – The author of Hebrews names Melchizedek, a mysterious priest from the Hebrew Scriptures. The risen Christ has shared in human suffering and is now the great high priest, interceding for us before God.

John 20:20-33 – In the gospel of John, Jesus goes to Jerusalem three times, over the course of three years. (In the other gospels, Jesus goes to Jerusalem once, at the end of one year.) In this story, Jesus is in Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Some Greeks (Gentiles, not of the chosen people) are now seeking Jesus, which means “the hour has come” for him to be glorified – by being lifted up on the cross, and then lifted up from the earth, to draw all people to him.

As We Gather

When you wear your name tag you are making newcomers feel more welcome!

Parents! Thanks for bringing your children to worship.

- Did you know that intergenerational worship is the single most important activity encouraging children’s faith formation? (See vibrantfaith.com)
- When parents and children need to take a break for a few minutes, there’s a play area with toys and books in the room right beneath the Worship Space.

Assistance is Available for You:

- **An induction loop** is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use, please switch your hearing aid to “T.”
- **Large print** worship materials are available - ask an usher.
- **Rest rooms** are accessible through the door in the wing to the left of the altar.
- **If someone should need emergency medical assistance**, an AED (Automated External Defibrillator), CPR supplies, and a first aid kit are located in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall.

March 18, 2018 ~ *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Setting One

I. Gathering: *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

Welcome, Prayer Concerns, Celebrations and Announcements

Centering Music *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* Karl Osterland

Confession and Forgiveness page 94

Gathering Hymn *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* Hymn 759

Greeting and Kyrie page 98

Prayer of the Day

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

II. Word: *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

First Reading **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt--a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."

Psalmody **Psalm 51:1-12**

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love; *
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

² **Wash me through and through | from my wickedness, ***
and cleanse me | from my sin.

³ For I know | my offenses, *
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight; ***
so you are justified when you speak and upright | in your judgment.

⁵ Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness, *
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

- ⁶ Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,*
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**
- ⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;*
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear | joy and gladness,*
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**
- ⁹ Hide your face | from my sins,*
and blot out | all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean | heart, O God,*
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**
- ¹¹ Cast me not away | from your presence,*
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your | salvation*
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you";

⁶as he says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."

Gospel Acclamation

page 103

Gospel

John 12:20-33

Response after announcement of the Gospel: "Glory to you, O Lord."

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal

life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say--'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Response at the conclusion of the Gospel: "Praise to you, O Christ."

Time with the Children

Sermon *Seeing Jesus* Virginia Synod Bishop Bob Humphrey

The Hymn of the Day will be announced in a few moments. First, please take time during the silence: What are your prayers in response to the sermon?

Hymn of the Day *Now the Green Blade Rises* Hymn 379

Apostles' Creed page 105

Prayers

Each petition concludes, "Lord in your mercy." Response: "Hear our prayer."

Sharing of the Peace

III. Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering

We give material goods for the church's mission, including the care of the poor. This is a sign that we give our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. During the offering, the table is set for the Lord's Supper.

Offering of Music *The Servant Song* Gilliard/O'Brien

Offertory *Create in Me a Clean Heart* Hymn 188

Blessing of Baby Care Kits and Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving page 107

Prayer of Thanksgiving page 111

The Lord's Prayer page 112

The Communion

*You have the choice of drinking the wine from the common cup,
taking an individual cup from the acolyte or taking one of the cups of grape juice
from the middle of the round tray.*

Gluten-free wafers are available as an alternative to bread.

*St. Stephen is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
so all are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.*

Lamb of God

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Communion Hymns

(11:00)

Create in Me, O God, a Pure Heart
Chancel Choir

Johannes Brahms

Now We Remain

Hymn 500

As the Grains of Wheat

Hymn 465

Seed That in Earth Is Dying

Hymn 330

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

IV. Sending: *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

Blessing

Sending Hymn

Restore in Us, O God

Hymn 328

Dismissal

Postlude

O Dearest Jesus

Johannes Brahms



What's Happening Today

We welcome Virginia Synod Bishop Bob Humphrey this morning! Bishop Humphrey will preach at both services and meet for informal conversation in the College Room to talk about our mission through the Virginia Synod.

Blood pressure screening today! Stop by the Health Ministry office (across from the Kitchen) to have yours checked, between the services. This Health Ministry service is available every third Sunday of the month.

Why do we pray for several area congregations each Sunday? We pray for one local Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregation and also for local congregations of churches in full communion with us in the ELCA.

- We are in full communion with the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, and the Moravian Church. (None of these other denominations are in full communion with each other!)
- Full communion is based on a common confessing of the Christian faith and a mutual recognition of Baptism and sharing of the Lord's Supper. The ELCA and these six other denominations worship together, may exchange clergy, and also share a commitment to evangelism, witness and service in the world. Each entity agrees that even with differences, there is nothing that is church-dividing.

Flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God by **Jane deSolms** in memory of her parents, Bettie and Irv deSolms.

Upcoming

The final Lenten Holden Evening Prayer service will be this Wednesday, **March 21**

- **6:00 PM** – Soup and Bread supper in the Fellowship Hall, with food provided by those who have signed up.
- **7:00 PM** – Holden Evening Prayer.

Thanks to those who have signed up to set up the Easter Sunday breakfast (at about 8:00 AM), and to clean up afterwards (at about 11:00). We could use one or two more for each task. Set up includes putting out coffee, plates, forks, napkins, etc. at about 8:00 and a couple of people to clean up at about 11:00 on **Easter Sunday, April 1**. If you'd like to help, please indicate that on the purple sheet.

There will be no parking around our building the week after Easter, **April 2 – 6, 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM**. A roofing contractor will repair the last section of the flat roof and some of the gutters while the Preschool is on their Easter break. **Parking will be available behind the Christian Science Church building** during those hours. Please display a St. Stephen parking permit on your dashboard when you park in their lot so that they know you are with St. Stephen. Parking permits are available in the tract rack in the Gathering Space or in the Church Office.

Would you like to be involved in planning Vacation Bible School? We'll partner with other congregations for the program. (We did this last summer.) If you'd like to be involved, please indicate that on the purple sheet!

Pastor Ballentine's next book study will be of *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation*. The book is by Richard Rohr a Franciscan priest considered to be a renegade by more orthodox Catholics, but a writer that many find to be deeply helpful. As traditional forms of the church decline, Fr. Rohr is envisioning what Christianity is becoming, how God is re-forming the faith and the church.

(Members of St. Bede will be joining the study!) The five-session **study begins Monday, April 23**. (If there are enough who sign up, Thursday afternoons will be offered as well, beginning April 26.) Want to join this adventurous exploration into who God is? Mark the purple sheet. Each copy of the book will cost \$13.50. *The deadline for ordering is April 1, Easter Sunday*,

Please Note

Have you noticed the new camera in our worship space? It's not functional yet, but will be able to record the sermons during our worship for posting on the Internet.

Would you like to pick up recycling materials from the containers in our church offices, kitchen, sacristy and Gathering Space to put them in the recycling bin once a week? Indicate that on the purple sheet and we'll call you with more information!

We have received a number of generous gifts from individuals outside of our congregation intended to augment our ministry to those without permanent homes. These individuals knew about our ministry to the homeless and/or participated in programs sponsored by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) in our building. A portion of these funds were used to purchase gift cards to Rack Room Shoes – to be used by those staying in the Community of Faith Ministry shelter. The gift cards were delivered to shelter guests last Wednesday evening. We give thanks for the generosity of our community and the ministry and witness of so many at St. Stephen.

Health Ministry

A Healthy Plate Makes a Healthy Mind

If you've been feeling forgetful lately, it could be for several reasons, including genetics, lack of physical activity, loss of sleep (aka time change!) or even environmental factors. However, there's no doubt that diet plays a major role in brain health. The best menu for boosting memory and brain function encourages good blood flow to the brain – much like what you'd eat to nourish and protect your heart. Research has found that a healthy diet, such as the Mediterranean Diet, helps keep aging brains sharp. And a growing body of evidence links foods such as those in the Mediterranean Diet with better cognitive function, memory and alertness.

SO.....Eat your veggies. You're not likely to forget this message. Getting adequate vegetables, especially cruciferous ones including broccoli, cabbage and dark leafy greens, may help improve memory.

Marcie Clark, Parish Nurse



Holy Week Worship

March 29, Maundy Thursday *worship at St. Stephen*

- **7:00 PM** – During this Holy Communion service, those who are interested will be invited to give and receive foot washing. We will recall the story in John’s gospel - of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, remembering that we are also to serve each other as the Body of Christ. The service concludes with the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

March 30, Good Friday *worship at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church*

- **7:00 PM** – Our worship is rooted in the cross: a full reading of the passion and its preached interpretation; intercessions that extend to all the needy creation; worship of the Crucified One at the throne of grace, the cross upon which he is lifted.
- We celebrate “Called to Common Mission,” our Full Communion with the Episcopal Church, Thursday and Friday nights. On this night, Pastors Griffin and Ballentine will be leading the worship at St. Martin’s, using the *Book of Common Prayer*.

March 31, the Easter Vigil *at St. Stephen*

- **8:00 PM** – “The light of Christ! Thanks be to God!” This most dramatic worship service begins in darkness. With hand-held candles, we enter into an ancient chant. In half-light we hear Scripture readings of God’s salvation history, and we return to our baptisms. We end in full light, with the first Holy Communion of Easter – followed by chocolate, strawberries, sparkling cider, and champagne!

April 1, Easter Sunday

- **8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM** – Festival Easter worship
- **8:30 – 11:00 AM** – Easter breakfast. Bring a dish to share!



St. Stephen Calendar – March 18-25, 2018

SUNDAY, March 18 ~ Virginia Synod Bishop Bob Humphrey Visits

- 8:30 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion**
- 9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM Coffee and Fellowship with Bishop Humphrey (College Room)
- 10:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class (Library/Conference Room)
- 10:00 AM High School Youth (Youth Room)
- 11:00 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion**
- 6:00 PM Lutheran Student Association Dinner (College Room)

MONDAY, March 19

- 7:00 PM Book Study of *Being Disciples* (Library/Conference Room)

TUESDAY, March 20

- 7:00 PM National Alliance on Mental Illness - Williamsburg (Fellowship Hall)

WEDNESDAY, March 21

- 6:00 PM AA Board Meeting (Library/Conference Room)
- 6:00 PM Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 PM** **Holden Evening Prayer**
- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice

THURSDAY, March 22

- 2:30 PM Book Study of *Being Disciples* (Library/Conference Room)
- 7:00 PM Social Ministry Coordinating Committee (Library/Conference Room)

FRIDAY, March 23

- 3:00 PM Al Anon Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

SATURDAY, March 24

- 2:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 8:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 8:00 PM Al Anon Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

SUNDAY, March 25 ~ Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

- 8:30 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion**
- 9:45 AM Combined Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)
- 10:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class (Library/Conference Room)
- 10:00 AM High School Youth (Youth Room)
- 11:00 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion**
- 6:00 PM Lutheran Student Association Dinner (College Room)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer..... (8:30) Theo Bergh & Christine Drake
.....(11:00) Margie Ehrhardt & Emily Rossiter
Altar Guild.....(8:30) Martha Reier & Pat Janot
..... (11:00) Gerri Bass & Heidi Flatin
Bread Baker.....Paul Kristiansen
Cantors (8:30) Tara Grove (11:00) Leslie Weber
Communion Assistants (8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel & Donna VanDuyse
..... (11:00) Heidi Flatin & Marj Gottschalk-Trone
Flower Delivery.....Rosemary Stimson
Greeters/Hosts (8:30) Marcie Clark (11:00) Jeffery Berry
Lectors.....(8:30) Paula Agor (11:00) Marj Gottschalk-Trone
Sound System..... (8:30) Alan Balma (11:00) Doug Moore
Tellers..... Jack Harris, Nelia Lamoureux, Jeanne Garrison, Joe Beene
Ushers.....(8:30) Bob Achenbach & Dave Clark (11:00) John Harms

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

www.saintstephenlutheran.net

Voice (757) 229-6688

**We gather to worship and study God's Word to deepen our faith and live our
Christian witness and service in the community.**

(St. Stephen Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

All Of Us, Called Through Our Baptisms

Pastor Andy Ballentine (229-6742)

Pastor Cheryl Ann Griffin (876-6371)

Karen Ives – Director of Music (828-242-1133)

Sandy Peterkin – Parish and Preschool Administrator (229-6688)

Marcie Clark – Parish Nurse (603-6346)

Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)

Doing Ministry in the World

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Pastorcg@saintstephenlutheran.net

MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net

Office@saintstephenlutheran.net

Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.net

Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church!
Please fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate
or give it to an usher.

March 18, 2018

Name: _____

For guests and members with changes:

Address (Home) _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____

E-Mail Address _____

Guests Only:

I belong to _____

Church Address _____

Please check as many as pertain:

____ Member

____ First time guest

____ Regular guest

____ Guest (out of town)

____ Student at William & Mary

____ Looking for a church home

____ Desire to speak with pastor

____ Would like more information about Stephen Ministry

____ Would like the Parish Nurse to contact me

Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if necessary.

Prayer Requests

Please **add** to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's *Quill*:

Name: _____

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: _____

_____ I will help make the **Easter Sunday breakfast** happen.

_____ I will help set up at about 8:00 AM.

_____ I will help clean up at about 11:00 AM.

_____ I would like a copy of *The Divine Dance* for the next book study.

_____ I prefer Monday evening sessions.

_____ I prefer Thursday afternoon sessions.

_____ I would like to help those from other congregations **plan Vacation Bible School**.

_____ I would like to know more about **collecting recycling materials each week** in the church building.

_____ I am interested in **joining one of the "From His Hands" food ministry teams**, taking meals to the homeless living in motels.

_____ I can help with **welcoming folks to worship!** Call me!