

Stephen Lutheran Church

One of 13,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World

We believe that community is *beautiful* and *messy* and *fulfilling* and *conflicted* and...the POINT. God calls us together into community for the sake of one another, our neighbors, and creation. We don't always get it right, but we trust that when we center the love and grace that Jesus taught, we will get it right more often than not. *You are welcome here!* We don't expect perfect, put-together people; we don't want you to conform to us and our ways; we want you to show up as who you are and to experience the love and grace of God as we have experienced it. And we hope that once you do, you will join us in sharing it with others

too.



January 7, 2024 ~ Baptism of Our Lord

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 (11) Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20 *Tuesday*: Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15 Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60 Psalm 148 *Wednesday*: Exodus 33:18-23 1 John 1:1-9 Psalm 148 *Thursday:* Jeremiah 31:15-17 Matthew 2:13-18 Psalm 148 *Friday* Isaiah 49:5-15 Matthew 12:36-50 Psalm 148 *Saturday*: Proverbs 9:1-12 2 Peter 3:8-13 Psalm 148 *Next Sunday's Readings:* Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Aaren Battle, Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, David Maris, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Marie Nelson, and Linda Reuben.

<u>Pray for those unable to come to worship</u>: Martin Bleck, Ed Brown, Birdie Burton, York Doerr, Bob and Angie Groom, Edith Haecker, Pat Janot, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Benita, Paula Battle, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, Mary Bloom, Steve Boyles, Ann Bunn, Amy Carl, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Doug Crinklaw, Katie Czajkowski, Sophia Czajkowski, Judy Drezek, Charlie Eidson, Joel Gillespie, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Deanna Harbison, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Char Henry, Lisa Hill, The Jacobs Family, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Marnah Lund, David Maris, Laura Margolin, Doug Mayes, Jack Mayfield, Becky Murphy, Ed Moninger, John and Pollie Morison, Maddie Murray, Bob Myers, Silvana Oderisi, Lori Ogborn, Katie Orcutt, Shary Raske, Paula Rega, Marci Ries, Sharon Rogers, Betty Roth, Lou Schuster, Inge Seiter, Kelsey Slay, Brant Smith, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig.

January 7, 2024 ~ Baptism of Our Lord

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

Welcome

Centering Music *Down Galilee's Slow Roadways*

Setting, Jacob B. Weber

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge, **we pour out our hearts before you.** We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn Take Me to the Water

ACS 957 Bulletin page 11

Kyrie



Gloria



Prayer of the Day

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after 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

Genesis 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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



⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the [|] forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are [|] crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned a-[|] bove the flood;

the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.

¹¹O LORD, give strength [|] to your people; give them, O LORD, the bless- [|] ings of peace. *Refrain*

Second Reading

Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

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



<u>Gospel Acclamation</u> (Sing Twice)(sing the 1st time in Spanish)

Gospel

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

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

Sermon	<i>Torn Apart</i> Silence for reflection and prayer.	Pastor Jon O Nelson
Hymn of the Day	Down Galilee's Slow Roadways	ACS 916 Bulletin page 12

Prayers

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

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

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church: preaching and teaching the good news of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, and caring for the poor. During the offering, the table is set for the Lord's Supper.

Offering of Music

At the River

Arr. Aaron Copland

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right ... and join their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

<u>The Lord's Prayer:</u> Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Holy Communion

When receiving Communion, either stand or kneel at the Rail. The Pastor will distribute the bread and a Communion Assistant will come with a tray of pre-filled cups of wine and grape juice. The juice will be in the middle of the 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.



Communion Hymn

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

ELW 304 Bulletin page 13

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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

Sending Hymn

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

ELW 310 Bulletin Page 14

Blessing God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, + bless you and remain with you always. Amen.

Dismissal Go in peace. You are God's beloved. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Setting, Anne Krentz Organ

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Take Me to the Water



Text: African American spiritual Music: TAKE ME TO THE WATER, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, 1935–2009 Arr. © 1992 Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Down Galilee's Slow Roadways



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993 Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized



Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt. Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561 Text © 1985 The Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt. Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

As We Gather

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.
- Age-appropriate activity bags are available in the Gathering Space ask an usher for assistance.

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."
- **Charge 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, CPR supplies, and a first aid kit are located in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall.

Health Update: We always encourage you to monitor yourself for symptoms of illness and to worship from home if you are experiencing any. We have masks and hand sanitizer available for use in our building should you require.

January Health Focus

As January 1st comes around every year, many people make a resolution to lose weight. The idea to lose weight is everywhere. It is difficult to resist the lure to lose weight quickly, a promise of many fad diets.

I recommend you check with your physician before beginning any diet. Discuss the pros and cons of what is being offered. Some problems that can arise from losing too fast are dehydration, headaches, dizziness, fatigue, even things such as gallstones and electrolyte imbalances.

The way to lose weight is decrease the amount of calories consumed and increase the number of calories being used by the body.

I will delve into some ways to do those things in future articles this month.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel Parish Nurse

What's Happening Today

Flowers are given by Janice Mayfield to the glory of God!

Upcoming

Have Fun and Support our St. Stephen Preschool during our annual Winter Carnival Sunday, January 21, 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Want to help with Winter BINGO, Ice Fishing, Winter Putt-Putt, Penguin Bowling, and more? See the insert and mark the insert sheet if you're able to help!

Communal Life: January Congregational Meeting. The January Congregational Meeting will be held following the 11am service on **Sunday, January 28th, 2024**. At our January meeting we review our mission statement, receive annual reports, elect delegates to the VA Synod Assembly, and approve a budget. We will also be taking up a constitutional amendment intended to allow youth representatives to church council to serve 4 years rather than 2. More details forthcoming!

<u>Communal Life: Breakfasts.</u> Come to build and deepen relationships – **at the Colonial Pancake House**, at the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road. Gatherings take place at **8:00 AM**.

Tuesday, January 9 - Women are invited to join together for breakfast



St. Stephen Calendar: January 7-14, 2023

SUNDAY, January 7 ~ Baptism of our Lord

- 8:30 AM Worship Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)
- 9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism (Library/Conference Room)
- 9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 10:00 AM Faith Formation (Preschool Room)

11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion

MONDAY, January 8

- 10:00 AM Staff meeting (Pastor Jon's Office)
- 1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)

TUESDAY, January 9

8:00 AM Women's Breakfast (Colonial Pancake house) 11:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)

WEDNESDAY, January 10

- 11:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)
- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, January 11

12:00 PM Staff Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)

5:30 PM Handbell Practice (Worship Space)

FRIDAY, January 12

SATURDAY, January 13

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, January 14 ~ Second Sunday after Epiphany

- 8:30 AM Worship Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)
- 9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism (Library/Conference Room)
- 9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 10:00 AM Faith Formation (Preschool Room)
- **11:00 AM** Worship Holy Communion

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

-		
	Pat Fretz	
Cantors		
Communion Assistants		
	(11:00) Cyndy Touhsaent and Emily Rossiter	
Flower Delivery		
Greeters/Hosts		
Lectors		
	Pastor Jon O Nelson	
Presider	Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt	
	Jane Gingerich, Ursula Recktenwald, & Russ White	
Ushers(8:30)	Reed and Karen Nester (11:00) Art Nelson and Russ Dabel	



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Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

(St. Stephen Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

All of Us, Called Through Our BaptismsDoing Ministry in the WorldPastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)Pastorin@saintstephenlutheran.netPastor Alex Sheppard-Witt (717-434-5037)Pastorasw@saintstephenlutheran.netKaren Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.netHollie Jones – Parish Administrator (229-6688)Office@saintstephenlutheran.netDiana Tiller-Dichtel – Parish Nurse (232-5924)Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.netHolly Ready – Preschool Director (229-6688)Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.netPeninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)Doing Ministry in the World

Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church!

Please fill this out and drop it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.

January 7, 2024

Name:
For guests and members with changes:
Address (Home)
City/StateZip
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 a 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*:

(please note all names will be removed at the end of the following month, if you wish for someone to be added back on to the prayer list please resubmit their names here)

Name:

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: ______

I need a name tag

I will volunteer with the winter carnival

I will bake/bring a festive cake, or cookies for the Winter carnival