

St. 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 21, 2024 ~ Third Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Genesis 12:1-9 1 Corinthians 7:17-24 Psalm 46 Tuesday: Genesis 45:25—46:7 Acts 5:33-42 Psalm 46 Wednesday: Proverbs 8:1-21 Mark 3:13-19a Psalm 46 Thursday: Deuteronomy 3:23-29 Romans 9:6-18 Psalm 111 Friday Deuteronomy 12:28-32 Revelation 2:12-17 Psalm 111 Saturday: Deuteronomy 13:1-5 Matthew 8:28—9:1 Psalm 111 Next Sunday's Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 (10) 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28

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, 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, Linda Bonfiglio, Mary Bloom, Steve Boyles, Ann Bunn, Amy Carl, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Doug Crinklaw, Sophia Czajkowski, Judy Drezek, Charlie Eidson, Joel Gillespie, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Deanna Harbison, Nick Havola, 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, Mark Punchard, Marci Ries, Sharon Rogers, Betty Roth, Lou Schuster, Inge Seiter, Kelsey Slay, Brant Smith, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig.

January 21, 2024 ~ Third Sunday after Epiphany

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

Welcome

Centering Music I Love to Tell the Story

Arrangement, Mary McDonald

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm 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 I Love to Tell the Story

ELW 661 Bulletin page 12/13 **Kyrie**



Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

First Reading

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

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

Psalm	Psalm 62:5-12
	0
God a - lone is my rock and my sal - va -	tion.
⁵ For God alone I wait in silence;	
truly, my hope is in God.	
⁶ God alone is my rock and my salvation,	
my stronghold, so that I shall nev- er be shaken.	
⁷ In God is my deliverance and my honor;	
God is my strong rock and my refuge.	
⁸ Put your trust in God al- ¹ ways, O people,	
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge. Refra	in
⁹ Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate c	
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less ¹ than a breath.	
¹⁰ Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no $^{+}$ empty pride;	
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.	
¹¹ God has spoken once, twice ¹ have I heard it,	
that power be- [†] longs to God.	
¹² Steadfast love belongs to ¹ you, O Lord,	
for you repay all according to their deeds. <i>Refrain</i>	
for you repay an according to then accus. Nejrum	

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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

Gospel Acclamation (1st time in Spanish, 2nd in English)



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

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his

brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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

Sermon	Sacrificial Calling Silence for reflection and prayer.	Pastor Jon O Nelson
Hymn of the Day	Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult	ELW 696 Bulletin page 16

Affirmation of Love (inspired by 1 Cor. 13, from the World Council of Churches) I may speak in the languages of people and angels, but if I lack love, I am simply a resonant metal, a loud cymbal. I may have the gift of prophecy, understanding of all mystery and all knowledge; I may have the fullest faith, that moves mountains; but if I lack love, I am nothing. I may distribute all my goods to hungry people, I may even deliver my body to the flames, but if I lack love, I gain nothing. Love demands patience. Love serves. It does not walk away. It is not jealous. It does not brag. It does not seek its own interest. It is not irritable. It does not hold a grudge. Love does not celebrate injustice, but finds its joy in the truth. It excuses all. It believes all. It hopes for all. It endures all. Love has no end. Prophecies? They will finish. Tongues? They will come to an end. Knowledge? It will pass. Faith, hope and love continue. The greatest of these is love.

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

Come, Follow Me Forever Arr. Haydn/Liebergen

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, our duty and our joy...we praise your name 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

I want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815 Bulletin page 14/15

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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

Sending Hymn

Go to the World

ACS 991 Bulletin Page 17 <u>Prayer for Christian Unity (from the World Council of Churches)</u> Lord Jesus, who prayed that all might be one, we pray to you for the unity of all Christians, according to your will, according to your means. May your Spirit enable us to experience the suffering caused by division, to see our sin and to hope beyond all hope. Amen.

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

Go to the World

Setting, Charles Callahan

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I Love to Tell the Story









Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911 Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light









Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult



Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude, 1851–1922

Go to the World!



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993 Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

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."
- **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, 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.

What's Happening Today

Flowers are given by Karen Chenault in celebration of family and friends!

<u>Have Fun and Support our St. Stephen Preschool</u> during our annual Winter Carnival today Sunday, January 21, 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

Upcoming

<u>Communal Life: January Congregational Meeting</u>. 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. Please pick up your copy of the annual report in the Gathering space or check your email for an electronic copy.

<u>Communal Life: Game Night!</u> Join us on Saturday, February 10th at 5:30 PM_in the Fellowship Hall for a board game night! Learn a new game or bring an old favorite. Please bring a dish or snack to share, water and lemonade will be provided.

Education: Book Study. Pastor Alex will be leading a 7-week book study on "Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians" by Austen Hartke **beginning the week of February 5th.** Check the Quill or your email for more information on the book study. If you would like a copy of the book (\$20.00 each), please sign up on the bulletin insert and send your payment to the church marked "Book Study".

St. Stephen Calendar: January 21 –28 , 2024

<u>SUNDAY, January 21</u> ~ *Third 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

2:00 PM Winter Carnival

MONDAY, January 22

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor Office)
- 1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)

TUESDAY, January 23

11:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)

WEDNESDAY, January 24

11:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)

- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, January 25

- 12:00 PM Staff Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM St. Stephen Ringers (Worship Space)
- 7:00 PM SMCC Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

FRIDAY, January 26

SATURDAY, January 27

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, January 28 ~ Fourth 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 Musical Faith Formation (Worship space/Preschool Room)

11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion

12:00 PM Annual Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

•	
	(11:00) Nancy Egloff and Karen Arledge
Audio-Visual Team	
Bread Baker	Jennifer Dabel
Cantors	(8:30) Ina Berkey (11:00) Christina Nelson
Communion Assistants	
	(11:00) Nancy Egloff and Keith Egloff
Flower Delivery	Carol Wiers
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	stiansen (11:00) George & Linda Vonderheide
Lectors	(8:30) Harlan Schone (11:00) Jeane Moore
Preacher	
Presider	
Tellers	Jeanne Garrison, Linda Vonderheide
Ushers (8:30) Brian Agor and Jeff Bushmi	re (11:00) Jim Weilmuenster and George Bass

St. Stephen Lutheran Church 612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 <u>www.saintstephenlutheran.net</u> (757) 229-6688

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

(St. Stephen Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

All of Us, Called Through Our Baptisms	Doing Ministry in the World	
Pastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)	Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net	
Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt (717-434-5037)	Pastorasw@saintstephenlutheran.net	
Karen Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)	MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net	
Hollie Jones – Parish Administrator (229-6688)	Office@saintstephenlutheran.net	
Diana Tiller-Dichtel – Parish Nurse (232-5924)	Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.net	
Holly Ready – Preschool Director (229-6688)	Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net	
Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)		

Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church!

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

January 21, 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
<pre> Regular guest Guest (out of town)</pre>
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/we would like a copy of the book, "Transforming" for the book study

____ I/we will be attending game night on Saturday February 10th

Sign up to host LSA Dinners!

