

## 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 28, 2024 ~Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

#### For Your Prayers – January 29 – February 4, 2024

#### **Lectionary readings for this week:**

Monday: Numbers 22:1-21 Acts 21:17-26 Psalm 35:1-10

Tuesday: Numbers 22:22-28 1 Corinthians 7:32-40 Psalm 35:1-10

Wednesday: Jeremiah 29:1-14 Mark 5:1-20 Psalm 35:1-10

Thursday: Proverbs 12:10-21 Galatians 5:2-15 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

*Friday* Job 36:1-23 1 Corinthians 9:1-16 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c *Saturday*: Isaiah 46:1-13 Matthew 12:9-14 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (3)1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

<u>Join your prayers for healing</u> 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, Bob Myers, Silvana Oderisi, Lori Ogborn, 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 28, 2024* ~ Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

#### Welcome

**Centering Music** 

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come Setting, Anne Krentz Organ

#### **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,

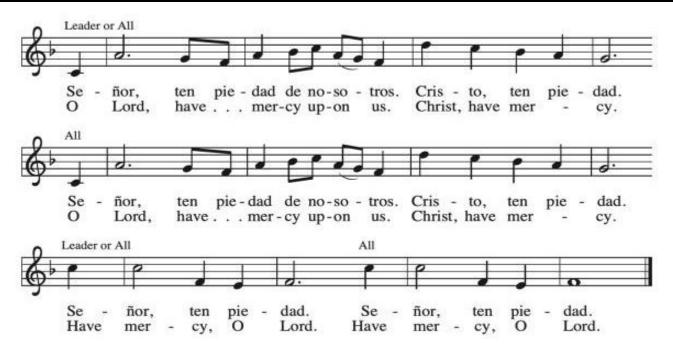
your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

ELW 610 Bulletin page 12



#### Gloria



#### **Prayer of the Day**

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

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

First Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

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

Psalm Psalm 111



<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with <sup>|</sup> my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the <sup>|</sup> congregation.

<sup>2</sup>Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who de- light in them.

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds, and your righteousness en- | dures forever.

<sup>4</sup>You cause your wonders to | be remembered; you are gracious and full | of compassion. Refrain

<sup>5</sup>You give food to | those who fear you, remembering forev- | er your covenant.

<sup>6</sup>You have shown your people the power | of your works in giving them the lands | of the nations.

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithful- ness and justice; all of your pre- cepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup>They stand fast forev- | er and ever, because they are done in | truth and equity. Refrain

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever; holy and awesome | is your name.

<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the begin- <sup>|</sup> ning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- <sup>|</sup> dures forever. Refrain

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

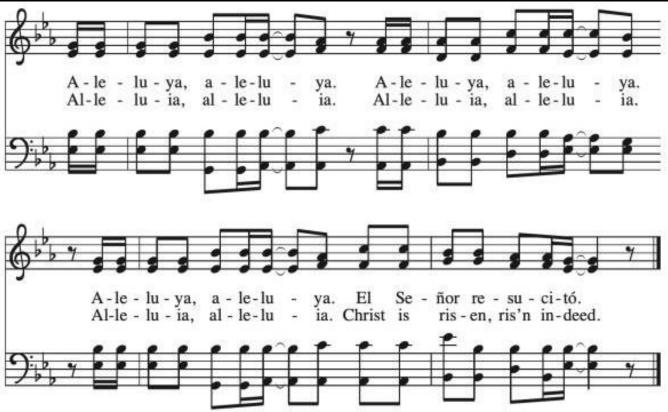
<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

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



**Gospel** Mark 1:21-28

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

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.<sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

Sermon

Stumbling Blocks
Silence for reflection and prayer.

Pastor Alex Sheppard Witt

Hymn of the Day

Cast Out, O Christ

ACS 1016 Bulletin page 13

#### 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 8:30 God of Mercy, God of Grace Arr. Haydn/Liebergen Matins Choir

11:00 The Only Son from Heaven Arr. J.S. Bach/Mark Bighley Chancel Choir & Marie Nelson, Cello

#### 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**

#### The Lord's Prayer

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 Music There Is a Balm in Gilead Setting, Thomas Keesecker

**Communion Hymn** There Is a Balm in Gilead ELW 614
Bulletin page 14

**Table Blessing** 

#### Prayer after Communion

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. **Amen.** 

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

**Sending Hymn** Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good ELW 871 Bulletin Page 15

**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 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good Setting, Walter Pelz

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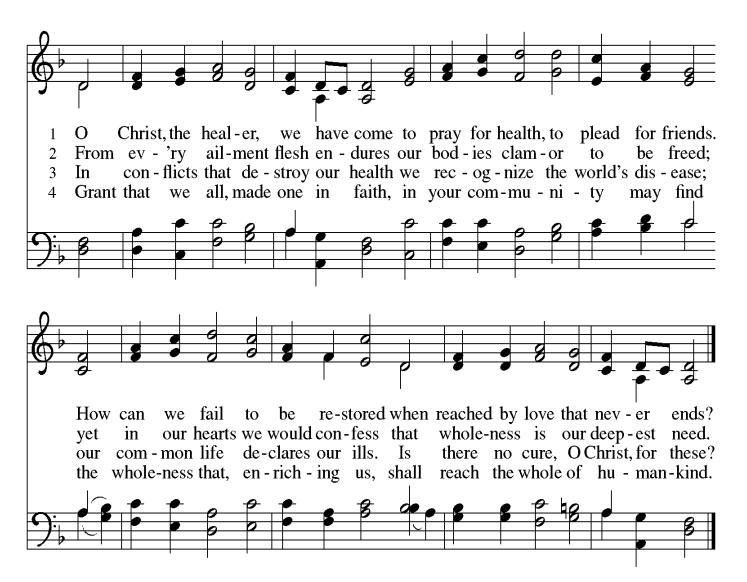
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## O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, Southern Harmonv, 1835

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### Cast Out, O Christ



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929–2003

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Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House, cph.org. All rights reserved.

#### There Is a Balm in Gilead



## Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good



#### **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.

<u>Health Update</u>: 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 Dan and Sarah Shoenfelt in honor of John Joe's birthday!

Our January Congregational Meeting is TODAY, join us in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 AM service.

Don't Forget to pick up your giving statements in the Gathing space!

#### **Upcoming**

<u>Communal Life: Pub & Grub</u>. Join us on Monday, January 29th at 7:00 PM at Billsburg Brewery for some food, drinks and conversation.

<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.

<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. Both gatherings take place at **8:00 AM**.

Thursday, February 1 – Men are invited to join together for breakfast. Tuesday, February 6 – Women are invited to join together for breakfast.

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".

<u>Service & Worship: Orcha-band.</u> We are excited to be utilizing the gifts of our Orchaband again for Transfiguration Sunday (and possibly Easter too). Do you play an instrument? We'd love for you to use your skills for worship! Speak with our Music Director, Karen Ives, if you're interested!

<u>Communal Life: LSA Sunday Dinners.</u> Want to get to know our LSA members? Host a meal for them! Sign up to host a Sunday evening meal for LSA on the chart in the Gathering Space. If you haven't hosted before, instructions are available.

<u>Communal Life: Lenten Midweek Soup Suppers.</u> Look for a signup sheet in the Gathering Space for Lenten Soup Suppers. We look for 2-3 crocks of soup and bread/rolls prior to our Lenten Wednesday services (starting February 21). Look for more info to come!

#### Health

#### **PSA for Covid guidelines**

We seem to have a lot of Covid still around. It is a good time to review protocols from the CDC. If you feel like you have symptoms, you should isolate until you can test. If you test positive, you should isolate even from people in your home for 5 days. You may end isolation after 5 days if you have no symptoms and you have been fever-free for 24 hours. If your symptoms are not improving, you should continue to isolate. It is important to remember to particularly stay away from people who are more likely to get sick until after day 11 even if you are symptom free. It is recommended that you wear a mask while you have symptoms and during the first 5 days. It is recommended that you always report symptoms to your physician.

If you are uncomfortable in public, you should always feel free to wear a mask to protect yourself. The use of hand sanitizer or soap and water are still good measures to protect yourself from covid, cold, flu and other communicable diseases. Call me if you have questions.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel Parish Nurse

#### St. Stephen Calendar: January 28 – February 4, 2024

#### 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 Faith Formation: Music (Worship space/Preschool Room)

#### 11:00 AM Worship - Holy Communion

~12:00 PM Annual Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

#### MONDAY, January 29

10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor Office)

1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)

7:00 PM Pub and Grub (Billsburg Brewery)

#### **TUESDAY, January 30**

11:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)

#### WEDNESDAY, January 31

#### 11:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### THURSDAY, February 1

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Colonial Pancake)

12:30 PM Staff Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)

5:30 PM St. Stephen Ringers (Worship Space)

#### FRIDAY, February 2

#### **SATURDAY, February 3**

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

#### SUNDAY, February 4 ~ Fifth 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: Lesson (Preschool Room)

#### 11:00 AM Worship - Holy Communion

#### **Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today**

| Acolyte/Crucifer | (8:30) Bill Dichtel   |
|------------------|---|
|                  |   |
| Altar Guild      | (8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel and Rosalie Frey                      |
|                  | (11:00) Sandy Johnson   |
|                  |   |
|                  |   |
|                  | (8:30) Ursula Recktenwald (11:00) Erika Cave                      |
|                  | nts (8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel and Susan Bosworth                |
| •••••            | (11:00) Sandy Johnson and George Bass                             |
| Flower Delivery  | Diane McCurry   |
|                  | (8:30) J.R. & Diana Lyons (11:00) Diana Tiller-Dichtel            |
| Lectors          | (8:30) Diane McCurry (11:00) Jeanne Garrison                      |
| Preacher         | Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt   |
| Presider         | Pastor Jon O Nelson   |
|                  | Tom Peterkin, Sandy Peterkin, Sandy Croushore                     |
| Ushers           | . (8:30) Denny & Diana Krieger (11:00) Russ Dabel and Glenn Joppa |

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 www.saintstephenlutheran.net (757) 229-6688

#### Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

(St. Stephen Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

All of Us, Called Through Our Baptisms

**Pastor Jon Nelson** (320-295-8861)

Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt (717-434-5037)

**Karen Ives** – Director of Music (757-229-6688)

**Hollie Jones** – Parish Administrator (229-6688)

**Diana Tiller-Dichtel** – Parish Nurse (232-5924)

**Holly Ready** – Preschool Director (229-6688)

Doing Ministry in the World Pastorin@saintstephenlutheran.net Pastorasw@saintstephenlutheran.net MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net Office@saintstephenlutheran.net Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.net 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 28, 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 neces | ssary. |

## **Prayer Requests**

|   | Please <b>add</b> to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's <i>Quill</i> : |  |
|---|---|--|
| (please note all names will be removed at the end of the following month, if you wis someone to be added back on to the prayer list please resubmit their names here) |   |  |
|   | Name:   |  |
|   | Please <b>remove</b> 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!

