



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

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.

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 24, 2024

For Your Prayers – March 25-31,2024

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11 (7); Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tuesday: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14 (6); 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

Wednesday: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70 (1); Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday: Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1—19:42

Holy Saturday: Genesis 1:1—2:4a; Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21; Isaiah 55:1-11; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Jonah 1:1—2:1, Daniel 3:1-29; Romans 6:3-11, John 20:1-18

Easter Sunday: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Aaren Battle, Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Steve Grant, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Martha Reier, Mallory Spencer and Linda Vonderheide.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **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: John, Marty, Benita, Paula Battle, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, Linda Bonfiglio, Mary Bloom, Amy Carl, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Sophia Czajkowski, Judy Drezek, Ginny Mauney Fox, Joel Gillespie, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Deanna Harbison, Nick Havola, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzeman, Char Henry, Lisa Hill, Jaxon Ireland, 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, Janet Overdorf, Shary Raske, Paula Rega, Mark Punchard, Marci Ries, Sharon Rogers, Betty Roth, Kurtis Schultz, Lou Schuster, Inge Seiter, Kelsey Slay, Brant Smith, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig.

Palm/Passion Sunday

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

We gather in the Forecourt with palm branches.

*(11:00) Hosanna to the Son of David Daniel Greig and Jon Paige
Faith Formation Choir*

Call to Worship

Greetings to the joyful, the content, the hopeful, and the cheerful. **Bring your laughter, your celebrations, and your delight to worship.**

Welcome to the mournful, the anxious, the overwhelmed, and the afraid.

Bring your thoughts, your worries, your concerns, and your fears to worship.

We all come from different places, with different experiences, and with different expectations. **God alone knows our inner thoughts and looks upon us with compassion.**

Come as you are. Come with all your feelings. **God will help us process and transform our feelings into faithful action.**

Come as you are. Come with all your feelings. **Come, let us worship together in unity.**

Palm Sunday Confession

Let us confess the ways in which we have treated ourselves with judgment and cruelty. Compassionate God, you love us and treat us tenderly, even when we are struggling to do what is right. In spite of your patience with us, we condemn ourselves, judge ourselves, and tell ourselves lies. We declare that we love our neighbors and then we turn our backs on the homeless and hungry in our communities.

We confess we treat ourselves harshly, condemn our own mistakes, and punish ourselves when we fail. We confess we call ourselves names, can be our own worst bullies, and look in the mirror without love for our faces. We confess we give up on ourselves, treat ourselves with unkindness, and withhold good things from our lives. We confess we choose the well-being of others over ourselves when we really need to rest and recover. We confess we believe negative things others say about us and deny words spoken which bless us. We confess we confuse confidence for arrogance and self-love for indulgence.

For you, God, adore us. You are kind to us, forgiving us when we fail. Show each of us how we might love ourselves, not from a place of self-absorption or narcissism, but in the knowledge that you made us, and we belong to you. **Amen.**

Let love and forgiveness banish all shame, for we are made whole in Christ when we confess our shortcomings. Be free to love yourself and all the traits God gave you. **Amen.**

Acclamation

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessing of Palms

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Procession

Let us go forth in peace, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Processional Hymn (*we'll begin singing once all are inside*)

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW 344

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Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, 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*

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

Gospel Acclamation *Blessed Is the One (Sung Twice)*

Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name, who comes
in the name of the Lord. Bless-ed is the one who comes
in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Text: Psalm 118:26
Music: BLESSED IS THE ONE, Nathan Houge, b. 1977
Music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

Jesus enters Jerusalem.

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

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” ¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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

Sermon

“Ready or Not”

Pastor Jon Nelson

Silence for reflection and prayer.

Hymn of the Day

Pave the Way with Branches

ACS 928

Bulletin page 10

Prayers

Each petition concludes, “Merciful God.” Response: “Receive our prayer.”

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

Offerings are 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

Song of Zechariah

Hal Hopson

Offertory Prayer

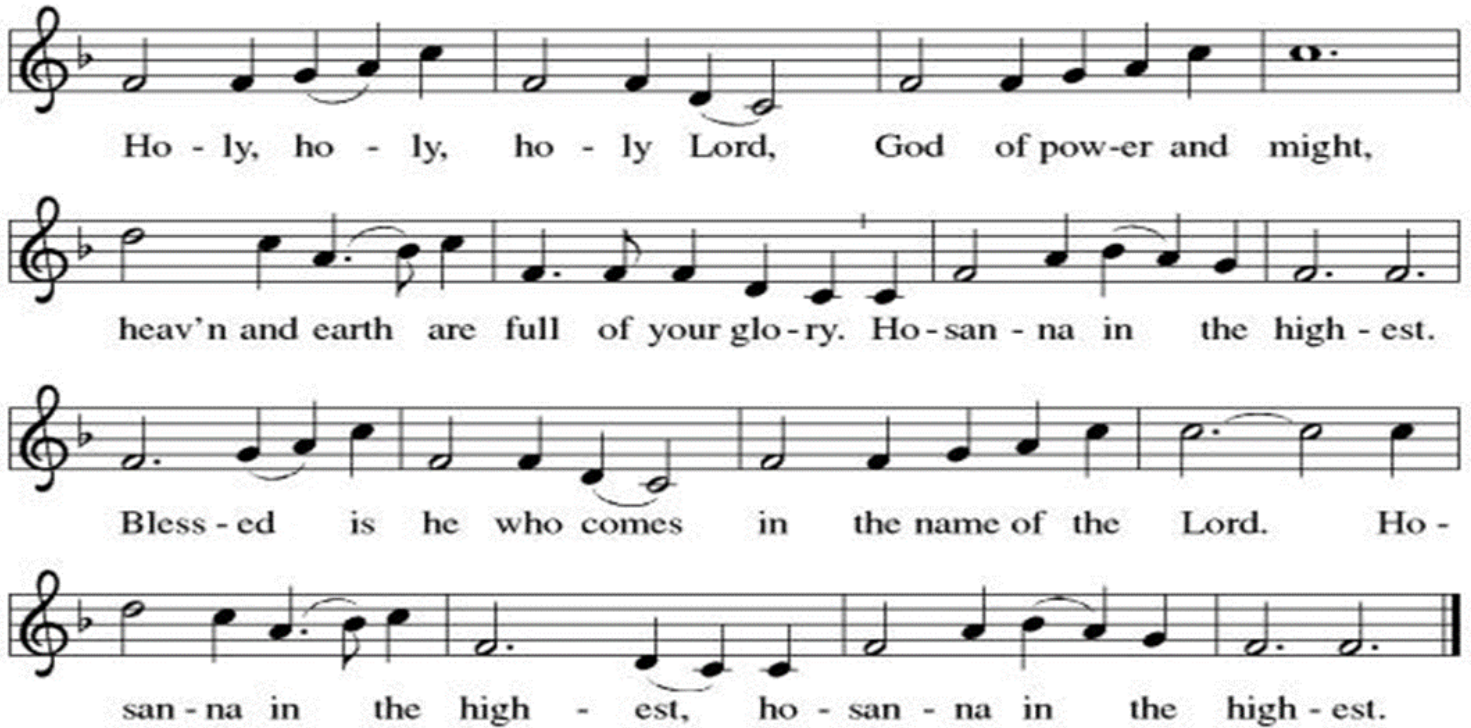
The Great Thanksgiving

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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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. 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

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Pave the Way with Branches

*Je - sus is com - ing. Pave the way with branch - es.

Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san - na. san - na.

Ho - san - na, Je - sus is com - ing. Ho -

san - na to the Prince of peace. Prince of peace.

**Additional verses ad lib.:*
 Release for the captives . . .
 Hope for the downtrod . . .
 Land for the landless . . .
 Debts are forgiven . . .

Text: Bret Hesla, b. 1957
 Music: PAVE THE WAY, Bret Hesla
 Text and music © 1999 Bret Hesla, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Go to Dark Gethsemane

1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - raigned;
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;

your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
 oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?

turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
 "It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
 Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854
 Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

Eco-Palms – Social and Environmental Justice

Why Eco-Palms?

- Eco-Palms preserve the vitality of the communities and forests for years to come.
- Community groups receive five to six times the normal payment per frond.
- Eco-Palms are purchased directly from the communities, which lessens the impact of the fluctuating market and allows value-added processing to take place within the community.
- A typical Eco-Palm is harvested in the forest by men and processed by the women of the community. This increases employment opportunities for women in the community and helps them contribute to their family's financial stability.
- Continue to buy palms for Easter – without a market for the palms, the forests are at risk of being converted to agricultural fields.



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 this morning are given to the Glory of God by Sandy Reed-Bryant in honor of her granddaughter, Ivy Seward's, birthday.

Do you enjoy coffee and fellowship on Sunday mornings? Please consider



donating to the coffee fund, simply place a dollar or so in the cup on top of the Keurig this will help us stay within budget! Don't have a dollar scan the QR code by the coffee pot or here in the bulletin.

The Flower Chart for 2024 is posted in the display area of the Gathering Space. Please mark the date for which you would like to sponsor flowers! Sponsor sheets are in the tray below the chart!

Upcoming

RIP Medical Debt. Once again our SMCC would like to invite the congregation to support **RIP Medical Debt** during this season of Lent. If you would like to help relieve medical debt you can send a donation to the church marked “RIP Medical Debt.” Last Lent we raised a little over \$5,000 which led to the forgiveness of ~\$500,000 in medical debt. Can we beat our previous fundraising total?

SAVE THE DATE! WOMEN'S RETREAT AT ST. STEPHEN Mark your calendars for the Women's Retreat events and worship.

- Evening social **Friday, September 27, 2024**
- Day retreat **Saturday, September 28, 2024**

Easter Potluck Breakfast We will again be having a potluck Easter breakfast between services on Easter Sunday. Bring a dish or baked good to share. Coffee, tea and juices will be provided

Afternoon Spring Social (Come one, come all; drivers are available!) All at St. Stephen and our friends at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church are invited to a spring social! Come and enjoy an hour of fellowship, mingling time with friends old and new, and a hymn sign led by our own Ina Berkey. St. Stephen Fellowship Hall, **Wednesday, May 1, 1:30-2:30** p.m. Finger foods and light refreshments are being provided. Sign up on the bulletin insert or contact the church office to indicate your interest in attending, as well as whether you need a ride or can provide a ride to others.

Yoga We will be offering a gentle yoga class on Wednesdays at 3pm beginning on April 3. This class will be led by Lee Saxton. We will meet in the fellowship hall. If you have a yoga mat, please bring it with you. We will be asking for donations of \$5-\$10 rather than a set fee. We hope to see you then.

Joint VBS Planning Meeting. Want to help plan our joint VBS with OSLC for this summer? Our initial planning meeting will be **via Zoom on April 10th, 7:00 PM.** Please let Pastor Jon or Pastor Alex know if you're interested.



Holy Week Worship

March 28 Maundy Thursday 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.

- Pastor Alex Sheppard Witt will preach at St. Stephen.

March 29, Good Friday worship at Our Saviour’s Lutheran 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.
- Pastor Jon Nelson will preach at Our Saviour’s

March 30, 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!

March 31, Easter Sunday

- **8:30 AM, 11:00 AM** – Festival Easter worship



St. Stephen Calendar – March 24-31, 2024

Our worship service is available on our website www.saintstephenlutheran.net, click on “Worship with Us” and “Services.”

SUNDAY, March 24 ~ *Palm Sunday/ Sunday of the Passion*

- 8:30 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)**
- 9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class (Library/Conference Room)
- 10:00 AM Faith Formation: Music (Worship Space)
- 11:00 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion- *We start on the Forecourt!***

MONDAY, March 25

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor’s Office)
- 1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 7:00 PM Book Study (Library/Conference Room)

TUESDAY, March 26

- 5:30 PM Easter Vigil Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

WEDNESDAY, March 27

- 7:00 PM Joint Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, March 28~ *Maundy Thursday*

- 12:30 PM Staff Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)
- 5:45 PM St. Stephen Ringers (Worship Space)
- 6:15PM St. Stephen Choirs’ Joint Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 7:00 PM** **Maundy Thursday Worship – Holy Communion**

FRIDAY, March 29~ *Good Friday*

- 6:15 PM Joint Choir Rehearsal (Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church)
- 7:00 PM** **Good Friday Worship (Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church)**

SATURDAY, March 30

- 11:00 AM Orcha-band Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 PM Easter Vigil Choir (Worship Space)
- 8:00 PM** **Worship – Holy Communion ~ *We start on the Forecourt!***

SUNDAY, March 31~ *Easter Sunday*

- 8:00 AM St. Stephen Choirs’ Joint Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 8:30 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion (livestreamed on our YouTube channel)**
- 9:45AM Easter Potluck Brunch (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:00 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion**

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer..... (8:30) Theo Bergh
..... (11:00) David Nelson
Altar Guild(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel and Rita Kristiansen
.....(11:00) Gerri Bass and Nancy Egloff
Audio-Visual Team..... (8:30) JR & Diana Lyons (11:00) Tobias Janke
Bread Baker.....Janice Svendsen
Communion Assistants(8:30) Amy Bergh and Theo Bergh
..... (11:00) Margaret Krull Steel and Harvey Nelson
Flower Delivery Nelia Lamoureux
Greeters/Hosts(8:30) Chris Punchard (11:00) Ned Neidlinger
Lectors.....8:30 Diane McCurry 11:00 Nancy Egloff
Passion Readers.....(8:30) Sandy Peterkin, George Martin, Randy
Punchard, Tom Peterkin, Paula Agor, Diane McCurry, Harlan Schone, Diana Tiller-
Dichtel.....(11:00) Gretchen Osborn, Russ Dabel, Sandy
Croushore, Pastor Jon, Christina Nelson, Marj Gottschalk-Trone, Jane deSolms,
Nancy Egloff
Preacher..... Pastor Jon O Nelson
Tellers..... Tom Peterkin, Sandy Peterkin, Sandy Croushore
Ushers..... (8:30) Brian Agor and Bill Dichtel (11:00) Glenn Joppa and George Bass

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)

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

Doing Ministry in the World

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Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net



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

March 24,2024

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 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*:

Name: _____

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: _____

_____ I need a **nametag!** _____

_____ Would like to attend the afternoon Spring Social, Wed., May 1, 1:30-2:30 pm. _____ How many?

_____ Would appreciate a ride to the social and back home.

_____ Ride needed for how many?

_____ Will be happy to be a driver for social attendee(s). Name/number _____