

## **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.

> Second Sunday of Easter April 7, 2024

Lectionary readings for this week: *Monday:* Daniel 3:1-30 1 John 2:3-11 Psalm 135 *Tuesday:* Daniel 6:1-28 1 John 2:12-17 Psalm 135 *Wednesday:* Isaiah 26:1-15 Mark 12:18-27 Psalm 135 *Thursday:* Daniel 9:1-19 1 John 2:18-25 Psalm 4 *Friday* Daniel 10:2-19 1 John 2:26-28 Psalm 4 *Saturday:* Acts 3:1-10 Luke 22:24-30 Psalm 4 *Next Sunday's* Lessons Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4 (3), 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

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

<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*: Bab Alt , 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 Heintzelman, 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, Denise Ogborn, Lori Ogborn, 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.

# Second Sunday of Easter

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

#### Welcome

Centering Music An Easter Prelude

Setting, Ronald A. Nelson

#### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the minister begins. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.** 

Look, here is water! Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

### Look, here is water! Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.** 

Look, here is water! Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Gathering Hymn Christ Is Living

ACS 934 Bulletin page 12

### 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

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through 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**

Acts 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a

needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.



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

### <sup>2</sup>It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down up- $^{1}$ on the beard,

upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar <sup>|</sup> of his robe. *Refrain* <sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the <sup>1</sup> hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life for-<sup>|</sup> evermore. *Refrain* 

#### Second Reading

1 John 1:1--2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. <sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. <sup>2:1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; <sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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



#### **Gospel Acclamation**

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

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

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Sermon

Practicality Silence for prayer and reflection. Pastor Jon Nelson

Hymn of the Day	Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain
	ELW 363

Bulletin page 13

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayers

Each petition concludes, "God of grace," Response: "hear 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** We Walk By Faith

Anne Krentz Organ

bulletin

page 15

### **Offertory Prayer**

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...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. 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 O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing ELW 386

Bulletin

page 14 **Table Blessing** 

### **Prayer after Communion**

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.** 

Sending Hymn

Thine is the Glory

ELW 376 Bulletin page 15

Blessing Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always. Amen.

**Dismissal** Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!** 

Postlude

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

Wilbur Held

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## **Christ Is Living**



## Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547

## Thine Is the Glory



## O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing



Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: O FILII ET FILIAE, French tune, 15th cent.

## As We Gather

## **Restrooms & First Aid**

- A gender-neutral, family restroom and a Women's restroom can be found in the hallway behind our Worship Space.
- Additional Men's and Women's restrooms can be found on the lower level of the church building.
- A first aid kit and an A.E.D. can be found hanging on the wall in the hallway behind our Worship Space.

## **Live-streaming**

We regularly live-stream our services and cannot guarantee that you will not appear on our YouTube channel. Sitting in the East Wing or the NE section of the Worship Space will minimize your chances of being on screen. We can also bring communion to you if you inform an usher of that desire.

## 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.org)
- When parents and children need to take a break for a few minutes, there's a play area (aka "prayground") with toys and books in the East wing of 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.

**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 the Shoenfelt family in honor of the families affected by the **RMS Titanic** disaster on **15 April 1912**.

<u>The Technical Team</u> is meeting today, April 7<sup>th</sup>, in-between services. If you're interested in learning about livestreaming and/or soundboard operation during worship, please join us as we gather around the soundboard at 9:45 on 7 April.

## **Upcoming**

**LSA Sunday.** We are excited to welcome our LSA members as worship leaders on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>!

Afternoon Spring Social (Come one, come all; drivers are available!) All at St. Stephen and our friends at Our Savior'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.

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 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM. Please let Pastor Jon or Pastor Alex know if you're interested.

**Yoga** We will be offering a gentle yoga class on Wednesdays at 3pm. 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.

Our worship service is available on our website <u>www.saintstephenlutheran.net</u>, click on "Worship with Us" and "Services."

### SUNDAY, April 7 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 AM Matins Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
- 8:30 AM Worship Holy Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)
- 9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
- 9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class (Library/Conference Room)
- 10:00 AM Faith Formation (Worship Space )
- 10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
- 11:00 AM Worship Holy Communion

## MONDAY, April 8

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)
- 1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 3:00 PM Finance Committee (Library/Conference Room)

## TUESDAY, April 9

7:00 PM Council Meeting (Library/Conference room)

### WEDNESDAY, April 10

- 3:00 PM YOGA (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Worship Space)

## THURSDAY, April 11

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

## FRIDAY, April 12

## SATURDAY, April 13

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

## SUNDAY, April 14 ~ 3rd Sunday of Easter & LSA Sunday

- 8:00 AM Matins Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
- 8:30 AM Worship Holy Communion (*livestreamed 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 (Worship Space)
- 10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
- 11:00 AM Worship Holy Communion

# Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer	
Altar Guild	
Audio-Visual Team (8:30) Beth Grant (1	
Bread Baker	Carol Wiers
Cantors	1:00)Jane deSolms
Communion Assistants	g and Rosalie Frey
(11:00) Jennifer Dab	el and Alina Dabel
Flower Delivery	Nelia Lamoureux
Greeters/Hosts	(8:30) (11:00)
Lectors	(11:00) Hans Tiefel
PreacherP	astor Jon O Nelson
TellersJane Gingerich, Ursula Recktenw	vald, & Russ White
Ushers	orge Martin (11:00)

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

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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.

April 7,2024

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/We need a name tag:\_\_\_\_\_

	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
attend	lee(s). Name/number