

# 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.

Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2024

## For Your Prayers – April 15-21, 2023

#### Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Jeremiah 30:1-11a 1 John 3:10-16 Psalm 150

**Tuesday**: Hosea 5:15—6:6 2 John 1-6 Psalm 150

*Wednesday*: Proverbs 9:1-6 Mark 16:9-18 Psalm 150 *Thursday*: Genesis 30:25-43 Acts 3:17-26 Psalm 23 *Friday* Genesis 46:28—47:6 Acts 4:1-4 Psalm 23

Saturday: Genesis 48:8-19 Mark 6:30-34 Psalm 23

Next Sunday's Lessons Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23 (1); 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

<u>Join your prayers for healing</u> with God's desires for Aaren Battle, Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Steve Grant, Carol Harman, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, Christina Nelson, Martha Reier, Linda Vonderheide, and Stan York.

<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.

<u>God has blessed</u> Bob Groom with 100 years of life! His birthday is Sunday the 21st - send him a card!

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, Julie Ann Francis, 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, 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.

## Third Sunday of Easter

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

#### Welcome

**Centering Music** *Praise and Thanksgiving* 

Setting, John Turner

#### **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** Shine Jesus Shine

ELW 671 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**

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of 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 Acts 3:12-19

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by

faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup>"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

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

Psalm: Psalm 4



<sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God, defender | of my cause;

you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and | hear my prayer.

<sup>2</sup>"You mortals, how long will you dishon- or my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD does wonders | for the faithful; the LORD will hear me | when I call.

 $^4$ Tremble, then, and  $^{\dagger}$  do not sin;

speak to your heart in silence up- on your bed. Refrain

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed | sacrifices, and put your trust | in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>Many are saying, "Who will show us | any good?"

Let the light of your face shine upon | us, O LORD.

<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness | in my heart, more than when grain and | wine abound.

<sup>8</sup>In peace, I will lie down and sleep;

for you alone, O LORD, make me | rest secure. Refrain

Second Reading 1 John 3:1-7

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

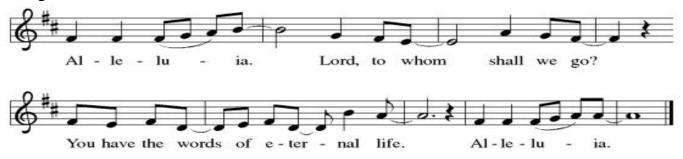
<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You

know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**



Gospel Luke 24:36b-48

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

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

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things."

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

Sermon Ellie O

Silence for prayer and reflection.

Hymn of the Day

Lord of the Dance

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** 

Touch That Soothes and Heals

Gregg DeMey, arr. Thomas Keesecker

## **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

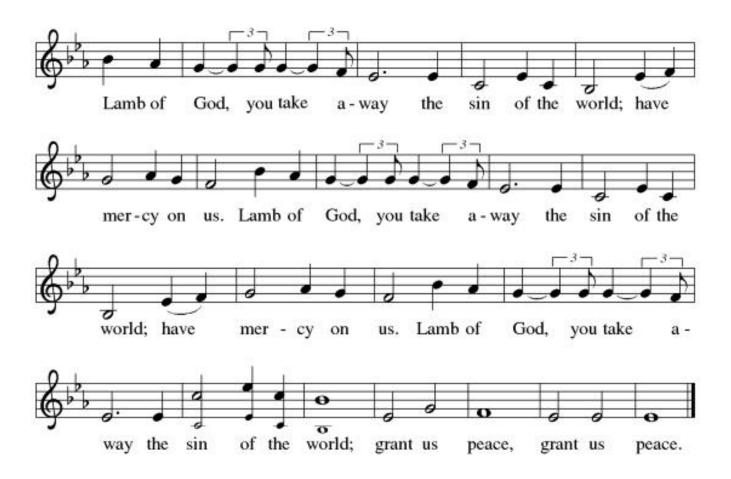
#### The Lord's Prayer

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 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, so all are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.



**Communion Hymns** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW 504 Bulletin page 14

Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW 689 Bulletin page 15

## **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.** 

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

**Sending Hymn** 

Go, My Children, with my Blessing

ELW 543 Bulletin page 16 **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** Lord of the Dance Shaker Melody adapted by Sydney Carter, Arranged by Mark Hayes

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## "Shine Jesus Shine"



## Lord of the Dance



19th Century Shaker tune, adapted by Sydney Carter, 1963 © 1963, Stainer & Bell Ltd. (administered by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream IL 6018)

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



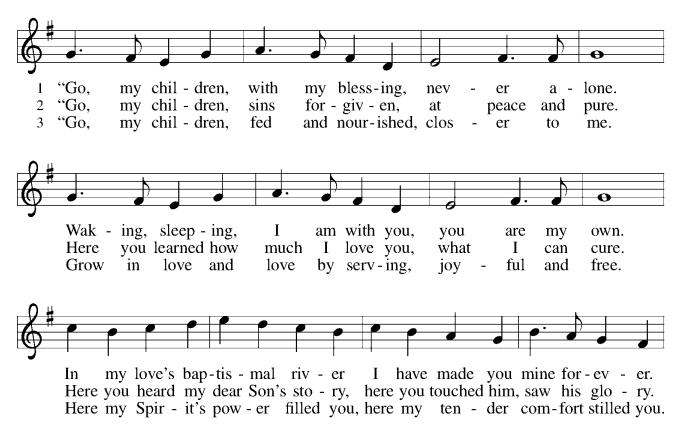
## Praise and Thanksgiving



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt. Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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## Go, My Children, with My Blessing





Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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## 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."
- **Large print** worship materials are available ask an usher.

<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 this morning are given to the Glory of God .

## **Upcoming**

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 Picnic w/OSLC. We will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo with a joint picnic on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at Our Saviour's beginning at 1:30 PM. Tacos will be provided. Please sign up on the insert to bring either a side dish or dessert to share. Lemonade and water will be provided, you are welcome to bring other drinks.

<u>Habitat for Humanity</u> The Social Ministry has decided that we would like to partner with Habitat through their thrift store, Restore, and are in need of one or more teams to sort, price, or help customer one or more times a month. Please fill in the insert if you are interested and a registration form will be sent to you. Thanks in advance.

#### St. Stephen Calendar – April 14-21, 2023

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

## 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

#### MONDAY, April 15

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)
- 1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 4:00 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

## **TUESDAY, April 16**

#### WEDNESDAY, April 17

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

#### THURSDAY, April 18

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

## FRIDAY, April 19

## **SATURDAY, April 20**

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

## **SUNDAY, April 21** ~ 4<sup>th</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 (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	(8:30) Rachel B
	(11:00) Rachel B
	(8:30)Rosie Frye and Diana Tiller-Dichtel
	(8:30) JR & Diana Lyons (11:00) Tobias Janke
Bread Baker	Jennifer Dabel
Cantors	(8:30) Mia R (11:00) Mia R
Communion Assistants	(8:30) Ellie O and Mia R
	(11:00) Ellie O and Mia R
Flower Delivery	
Greeters/Hosts	(8:30) LSA (11:00) LSA
	(8:30) Jared D (11:00) Rachel B
Preacher	Ellie O
Presider	Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt
Tellers	Jane deSolms, Susan Britcher, Jim Larsen
Ushers	(8:30) Denny and Dianne Krieger (11:00)

## 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)

Pastorin@saintstephenlutheran.net Pastorasw@saintstephenlutheran.net MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net Office@saintstephenlutheran.net

Doing Ministry in the World

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.

## April 14,2024

Name:		
For guests and members with	n changes:	
Address (Home)		
City/State	Zip	
Telephone #		
E-Mail Address		
Guests Only: I belong to		
Church Address		
Please check as many as pertain	n:	
Member		
First time guest		
Regular guest		
Guest (out of town)		
Student at William & Ma	nry	
Looking for a church hom	ne	
Desire to speak with pasto	cor	
Would like more informa	ation about Stephen Ministry	
Would like a Parish Nurse	se to contact me	
Any comments? Please be sure necessary.	e your name is above, so we may res	pond, if

# **Prayer Requests**

Name	e:	
Pleas	Please <b>remove</b> 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?	
	<ul><li>Would appreciate a ride to the social and back home.</li><li>Ride needed for how many?</li></ul>	
	Will be happy to be a driver for social	
atter	ndee(s). Name/number	
	_ I would like to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity	
	I will Be attending the May 5 <sup>th</sup> Picnic	
	I will be bringing a Side dish	
	I will be bringing a dessert	