

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.

> Fourth Sunday of Easter April 21, 2024

Lectionary readings for this week: Monday: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 1 Peter 5:1-5 Psalm 95 Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 11:1-9 Revelation 7:13-17 Psalm 95 Wednesday: Micah 7:8-20 Mark 14:26-31 Psalm 95 Thursday: Amos 8:1-7 Acts 8:1b-8 Psalm 22:25-31 Friday Amos 8:11-13 Acts 8:9-25 Psalm 22:25-31 Saturday: Amos 9:7-15 Mark 4:30-32 Psalm 22:25-31 Next Sunday's Lessons Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31 (27) 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Aaren Battle, Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Steve Grant, Carol Harman, Jack Harris, Jim Ivey, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, 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.

God has blessed Bob Groom with 100 years of life today! Happy Birthday!

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Bob 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, Laura Margolin, Doug Mayes, Jack Mayfield, Becky Murphy, Ed Moninger, John and Pollie Morison, Bob Myers, Silvana Oderisi, Denise Ogborn, Lori Ogborn, 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.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Welcome

Centering Music

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need St. Stephen Ringers Douglas Wagner

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 the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia

ELW 369 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

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father 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 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today

because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

Psalm Anthem	No More a Stranger or a Guest	Setting, David Ashley White
	8:30- Thom Recktenwald, Flute	
	11:00- Erika Cave, Clarinet	

Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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



Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

John 10:11-18

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In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

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

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

Sermon	Known	Pastor Jon O Nelson		
	Silence for prayer and reflection.			
Hymn of the Day	The Lord's My Shepherd	ELW 778		

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 Nada Me Falta – Psalm 23

Mark Sedio

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:



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.

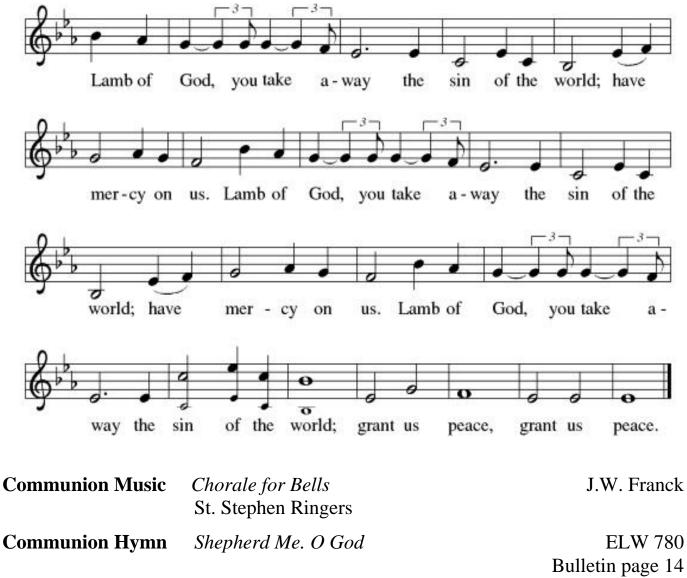


Table Blessing

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 HymnGood Christian Friends, Rejoice and SingELW 385Bulletin 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

Spring Carol St. Stephen Ringers Arr. Michael Burkhardt

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> Nada me falta: Psalm 23; Contributors: Mark Sedio © 2023 Augsburg Fortress

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Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!



Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt. Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781–1821

The Lord's My Shepherd



Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650 Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob, 1895–1984 Arr. © Oxford University Press.

Shepherd Me, O God



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23 Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen Text and music © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!



Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt. Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615 Text © 1952, ren. 1980 *Hymns Ancient & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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 in celebration of Bob Groom's 100th Birthday !

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 5th 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>Yoga</u> We will be offering a gentle yoga class on **Wednesdays at 3:00 PM**. 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.

<u>Habitat for Humanity</u> The Social Ministry committee would like us 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.

<u>Bible Study.</u> Join us for Bible study on Mondays at 1:30 PM in the Library/ Conference Room.



Williamsburg House of Mercy is doing a peanut Butter and Jelly drive from now until May 19th. You can drop off your donations in the Bins marked for House of Mercy in the Gathering space. You can also bring them to the office. Any type of peanut butter or jelly is fine!

<u>Game night</u> We will be having another board game night Saturday May 11 at 5:30pm in the Fellowship hall. Please bring your favorite board/card game and a dish to share. Water, Lemonade, and paper products will be provided.

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

SUNDAY, April 21 ~ 4th 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

MONDAY, April 22

10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)

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

TUESDAY, April 23

7:00 PM Preschool Committee Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

WEDNESDAY, April 24

3:00 PM YOGA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Worship Space)

THURSDAY, April 25

10:30 AM Women's Retreat Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

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

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

7:00 PM SMCC Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

FRIDAY, April 26

SATURDAY, April 27

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, April 28 ~ 5th 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

-	
	(11:00) Gerri Bass
Bread Baker	Karen Schlicht
Communion Assistants	
Flower Delivery	
Greeters/Hosts	(8:30) Paul & Rita Kristiansen (11:00) Diana Tiller-Dichtel
Lectors	
Preacher	Pastor Jon O Nelson
Tellers	Jeanne Garrison, Russ White
Ushers(8:30) Bil	l Dichtel and JR Lyons (11:00) Art Nelson and Glenn Joppa

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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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 21,2024

Name:
For guests and members with changes:
Address (Home)
City/StateZip
Telephone #
E-Mail Address
Guests Only: I belong to
Church Address
Please check as many as pertain:
Member
<pre> First time guest Regular guest</pre>
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? Discos he avec your name is shown as we may not a second

Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if necessary.

Prayer Requests

Please a	t bb e	o the	nraver	list in	n this	month	's h	ulletin	and	next	month's	Ouill
I ICase c	auu i	0 unc	prayor	IISt II	i uns	monui	30	uncum	anu	ΠΟΛΙ	monul s	Quui.

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.
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_____ 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

_____ I would like to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity