

# 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.

Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024

#### For Your Prayers – April 29-May 5, 2024

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

Monday: Isaiah 5:1-7 Galatians 5:16-26 Psalm 80 Tuesday: Isaiah 32:9-20 James 3:17-18 Psalm 80 Wednesday: Isaiah 65:17-25 John 14:18-31 Psalm 80

*Thursday:* Isaiah 49:5-6 Acts 10:1-34 Psalm 98 *Friday* Isaiah 42:5-9 Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 98

Saturday: Deuteronomy 32:44-47 Mark 10:42-45 Psalm 98

Next Sunday's Lessons Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 (4) 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17

<u>Join your prayers for healing</u> 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, 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: Bob Alt, 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, Kathy Reynolds, Mark Punchard, Marci Ries, Sharon Rogers, Betty Roth, Kurtis Schultz, Lou Schuster, Inge Seiter, Kelsey Slay, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig.

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

#### Welcome

**Centering Music** 

O Blessed Spring

Setting, Sherri Hansen

#### 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 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

ELW 377 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 God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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

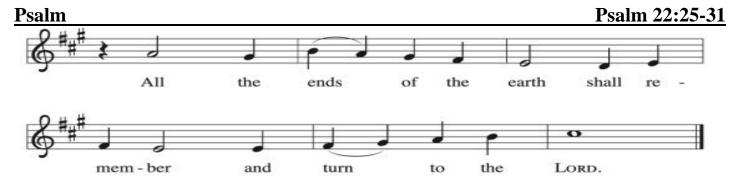
First Reading Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join

it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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



<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

 $^{26}$ The poor shall eat  $^{\dagger}$  and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

- <sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow | before God.
- <sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs | to the LORD, who rules o- | ver the nations. *Refrain*
- <sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.
- <sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall | serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.
- <sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn, saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" *Refrain*

Second Reading 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love

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

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

their brothers and sisters also.



Gospel John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to

make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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

**Sermon** Messy Vines Pastor Jon O Nelson

Silence for prayer and reflection.

**Hymn of the Day** O Blessed Spring ELW 447

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** Christ Is the Vine

James Biery

(8:30) Thom Rechtenwald, Flute (11:00) Erika Cave, Clarinet

#### **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.** 

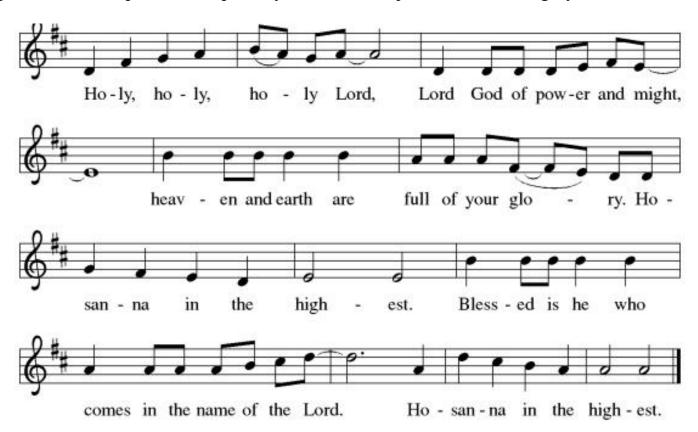
#### The Great Thanksgiving

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 Hymn** 

Where Charity and Love Are Shown

ACS 931 Bulletin page 14

**Table Blessing** 

**Prayer after Communion** 

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

**Sending Hymn** 

Let All Things Now Living

ELW 881 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** 

Let All Things Now Living

Setting, Sherri Hansen

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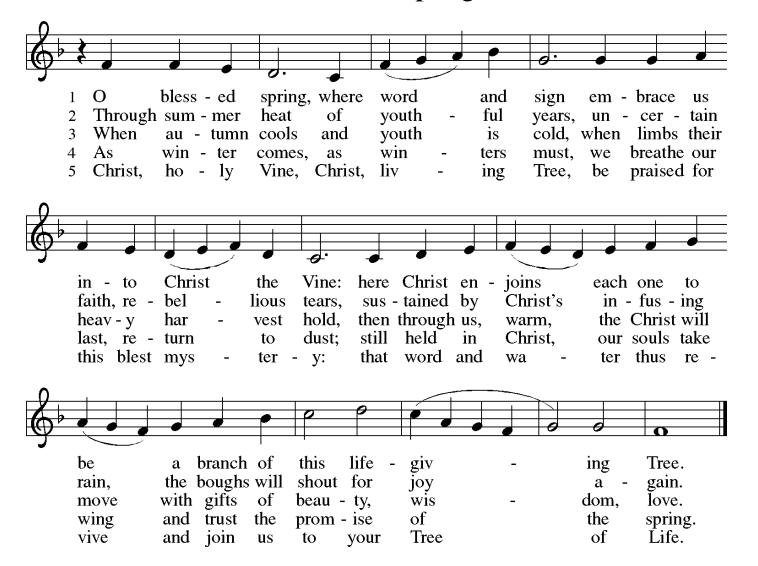
### Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Music © 1969 Contemporary Worship 1, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## O Blessed Spring



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950 Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

#### Where Charity and Love Are Shown Donde hay caridad



## Let All Things Now Living



#### **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 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>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.

<u>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, May 2 – Men are invited to join together for breakfast.

**Tuesday, May 7** – **Women** are invited to join together for breakfast.



<u>Williamsburg House of Mercy</u> is conducting a peanut Butter and Jelly drive from now until May 19<sup>th</sup>. 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.

<u>Come out to celebrate</u> the end of the school year while supporting our preschool at our **Shoofly Diary Bar Spirit Night** on **Thursday, May 9** from **6-8 PM**. Please be sure to mention that you are there for St. Stephen Preschool. A portion of the sales will be donated to our preschool. Shoo Fly will also place a jar out and 100% of those donations will be given to the preschool.

<u>Giving Statements</u> are available in the gathering space. Please pick yours up before you leave. Thank you!

Mulch Party: Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM, can you help spread mulch at the playground. Any help would be appreciated! Bring shovels and rakes.

<u>National Day of Prayer:</u> May 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 PM on the green outside of the Williamsburg Regional Library and Stryker Center. People of all faiths and religious backgrounds are invited to attend.

#### St. Stephen Calendar - April 28- May 5, 2024

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

#### SUNDAY, April 28 ~ 5th Sunday of Easter

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

#### MONDAY, April 29

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)
- 1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 7:00 PM Pub and Grub (Billsburg Brewery)

#### **TUESDAY, April 30**

7:00 PM Choral Guild Board Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

#### WEDNESDAY, May 1

- 1:30 PM Spring Social (Fellowship Hall)
- 3:30 PM YOGA (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Worship Space)

#### THURSDAY, May 2

- 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast (Colonial Pancake House)
- 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)

#### FRIDAY, May 3

#### SATURDAY, May 4

- 9:00 AM Mulch Spreading Party (playground)
- 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

#### SUNDAY, May 5 ~ 6th Sunday of Easter

- 8:30 AM Worship Holy Communion (livestreamed on our YouTube channel)
- 9:45 AM Matins/Chancel 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

1:30 PM Cinco De Mayo Picnic at OSLC

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

Acolyte/Crucifer.	(8:30) John McCurry
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	(11:00) David Nelson
Altar Guild	(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel and Amy Bergh
	(11:00) Heidi Flatin and Jane deSolms
Audio-Visual Tea	m (8:30) Beth Grant (11:00) Doug Moore
Bread Baker	Pat Fretz
Cantors	(8:30) Randy Punchard (11:00) Marj Gottschalk-Trone
Communion Assi	stants (8:30) Paula Agor and Karen Sanderlin
	(11:00) Marj Gottschalk-Trone and Emily Rossiter
Flower Delivery.	
Greeters/Hosts	
Lectors	
Preacher	
Tellers	Tom Peterkin, Sandy Peterkin, Sandy Croushore
Ushers	(8:30) Reed and Karen Nester (11:00) Russ Dabel and Art Nelson

## 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.

## April 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 necessary.

# **Prayer Requests**

Please <b>add</b> to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's <i>Quill</i> :			
Name:			
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?			
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			
I/we will be attending the May 5 <sup>th</sup> picnic at OSLC. I will bring:			
Desserts			
Side dish			