

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

If you are seeking God you are welcome here.

If you have been hurt in a judgmental church, here you will not be judged. Here you will be nurtured in the grace and Good News that our salvation has been accomplished in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. *Here you may discover that, in fact, it is God who has been seeking you!*

Fifth Sunday of Easter



May 7, 2023

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Exodus 13:17-22 Acts 7:17-40 Psalm 102:1-17 *Tuesday*: Proverbs 3:5-12 Acts 7:44-56 Psalm 102:1-17 *Wednesday*: Proverbs 3:13-18 John 8:31-38 Psalm 102:1-17 *Thursday:* Genesis 6:5-22 Acts 27:1-12 Psalm 66:8-20 *Friday* Genesis 7:1-24 Acts 27:13-38 Psalm 66:8-20 *Saturday*: Genesis 8:13-19 John 14:27-29 Psalm 66:8-20 *Next Sunday's Lessons:* Acts 17:22-31;Psalm 66:8-20 (8);1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Joe Beene, Ed Brown, Ingrid** Brown, Kristin Carter, Karen Einarsen, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, Susanna Owens, and Linda Reuben.

<u>Pray for those unable to come to worship</u>: Joyce Behlendorf, Martin Bleck, Ed Brown, Birdie Burton, York Doerr, Bob and Angie Groom, Edith Haecker, Pat Janot, Jeanne Nelson, Joanne Shue, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff

<u>Pray for these loved ones of our congregation</u>: Dawn Allen, Roberta Barbour, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, Nelson Blish, Mary Bloom, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Doug Crinklaw, Judy Drezek, Derald Edwards, Barbara Flatin, Dan Flatin, Char Henry, Sue Ivey, The Kennedy family, Bob Lamoureux, Ron Luchetti, Marnah Lund, Doug Mayes, Detra Michaels, Gina Peterson, Paula Rega, Betty Roth, David Shoberg, Kelsey Slay, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, Caleb Winig, Linda Wright, The Graduating Class of 2023 and The Children of the Ukraine

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Welcome

Centering Music *Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather*

Lynette Maynard

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring. In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew. Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation. Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all. Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

Amen.

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, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he 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 7:55-60

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died. *Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."*



²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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



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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know

me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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

Sermon	Greater Works	Pastor Jon Nelson
e o	e Day will be announced in a few moments e silence: What are your prayers in respon	
Hymn of the Day	Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing	ELW 389 Bulletin page 13
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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, "Lord in your mercy." 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	<i>Come, My Way</i> Matins Choir	Vaughan Williams
	<i>The Call</i> Chancel Choir	Vaughan Williams

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 PrayerOur 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 Be All Your Saints (Stephen, Deacon and Martyr) ELW 420 Bulletin page 14

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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

Sending Hymn

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!

ELW 380 Bulletin page 15

Blessing The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

Jonathan Reuss

କର୍କର୍କର୍କର୍କର୍କର୍କର୍କ Copyright Information TOKYO - piano: Type: Music; First Line: Here O Lord your servants gather; I'm Forever Grateful: Hymn Settings Contributors: Isai Koizuma, Lynette Maynard ; Tune: © Isao Koizumi Setting © 2016 Augsburg Fortress Come My Way; Type: Music; First Line: Come my way my truth my life; Wade in the Water: Easy Choral Music for All Ages; Contributors: Ralph Vaughan Williams, Erik Whitehill; Tune: Setting © 2007 Augsburg Fortress Text: Public Domain The Call; Type: Words and Music; First Line: Come My Way My Truth My Life Contributors: Douglas E Wagner, George Herbert, Ralph Vaughan Williams Tune and text : © 1988 The Sacred Music Press, a division of The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services) Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing; setting Jonathan Reuss; © 2021 Augsburg Fortress Inc One License #A721099; CCLI Permission Reprinted/Streamed with permission under CCLI License #11256031; Permission granted, St. James Press New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

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Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

Sekai no tomo to te o tsunagi



Text: Tokuo Yamaguchi, 1900-1995; tr. Everett M. Stowe

Music: Japanese Gagaku mode; Isao Koizumi, 1907-1992

Text © 1958 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company

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Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing 0 E 6 0 Chris - tians The Christ is a - live! Let sing. 1 cross stands Christ is a - live! No 2 long - er bound dis to tant 3 In ev 'ry in sult, rift, and war, where col - or, Wom - en and men, in and youth, feel the 4 age can 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to the sky. Let homes with emp ty to streets and Pal but sav - ing, ing, in tine, heal years es _ wealth di vide, Christ suf fers still. scorn, or yet hear the call, and find the the Spir _ it, way, this till earth and and ev -'ry and sky age, 00 prais - es ring. Love, drowned in shall die. death, nev - er here and touch - ing place and time. and now, ev -'ry the lives, where hope has died. loves more, and ven e life, the truth, re - vealed in Je freed for all. sus, with ring with joy, jus tice, love, and praise. cean 0 8

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789 Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

By All Your Saints Stephen, Deacon and Martyr



Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823–1913, alt.; hymnal version, st. 2 Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune Text st. 2 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!



Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt. Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

As We Gather

Parents! Thanks for bringing your children to worship.

- Did you know that intergenerational worship is the single most important activity encouraging children's faith formation? (See vibrantfaith.com)
- When parents and children need to take a break for a few minutes, there's a play area with toys and books in the room right beneath the Worship Space.
- Age-appropriate activity bags are available in the Gathering Space ask an usher for assistance.

Assistance is Available for You:

- An induction loop is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T."
- Large print worship materials are available ask an usher.
- **Rest rooms** are accessible through the door in the wing to the left of the altar.
- If someone should need emergency medical assistance, CPR supplies, and a first aid kit are located in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall.

COVID-19 Guidelines:

Community transmission of COVID-19 in Williamsburg is LOW; James City County is LOW; and York County is LOW. We also encourage you to monitor yourself for flu (and COVID) symptoms and stay home if you are experiencing any.

What's Happening Today

Flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God.

Let us Celebrate Diana Tiller-Dichtel's 5 year Anniversary! Diana has shared her compassion, knowledge, love and time as our volunteer Parish Nurse! Let us come together today Sunday, May 7 between our worship service in the Gathering space to mark this occasion and express our gratitude with coffee and cake!

<u>Communal Life & Worship: Name Tag Sunday.</u> We are encouraging everyone to wear their name tags during worship on the first Sunday of each month. That's Today!! We would also encourage you to take an intentional look at the announcements in the bulletin/Quill and see if there are any upcoming events or ministries you might be interested in.

Upcoming

<u>Come out to celebrate</u> the end of the school year while supporting our preschool at our Shoofly Diary Bar Spirit Night on Monday, May 22 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.

Health Ministry

New Covid Variant

I know everyone is tired of hearing about Covid and possibly thought it was becoming less of a worry. Those things may be true, but it is not gone. One of the newer strains Is XBB.1.16 and has been referred to as "Arcturus". Like many of the others it is highly transmissible possibly more than others in the past. It does not appear to be more dangerous than others according to the Mayo Clinic. It has been being monitored since March 22.

The symptoms to watch for are fever and conjunctivitis, or red and itchy eyes. The conjunctivitis seems to affect primarily young patients. As we are seeing fewer respiratory infections such as cold and flu, it is a cautionary heads up for families with children. Best prevention remains washing hands frequently, avoid contact with people who are sick and staying home if you are experiencing symptoms of a respiratory nature. As always, let me know if you have questions.

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

SUNDAY, May 7 ~

- 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 Diana 5-year Anniversary Celebration (Gathering Space)
- 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, May 8

- 1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 7:00 PM Finance Committee ((Library/Conference Room)

TUESDAY, May 9

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)
- 7:00 PM Council Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

WEDNESDAY, May 10

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

THURSDAY, May 11

- 12:00 PM Staff Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM St. Stephen Ringers (Worship Space)
- 7:00 PM Worship and Music (Library/Conference room)

FRIDAY, May 12

SATURDAY, May 13

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, May 14 ~

- 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

Audio-Visual Team	
Bread Baker	Amy Bergh
Communion Assistants	
	(11:00) Cyndy Touhsaent and David Nelson
	Jane Gingerich, Ursula Recktenwald, & Russ White
	(8:30) Tom & Sandy Peterkin (11:00) Art Nelson

St. Stephen Lutheran Church 612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 <u>www.saintstephenlutheran.net</u> (757) 229-6688

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)Pastorjn@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.netKristie Kelley – Preschool Director (229-6688)Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.netPeninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)Doing Ministry in the World

Stoning of St. Stephen



ST. STEPHEN, the first Christian martyr, was the first among the seven deacons chosen by the early Christian community to perform the ministry of service. Stephen's ministry brought him into conflict with Hebrew officials and led to his execution. He is shown being stoned outside the gates of Jerusalem. The window also depicts Saul, later known as Paul, watching and holding the cloaks of the persecutors. Paul was there, according to Acts, written by the same author as the gospel of Luke. However, Galatians, written by Paul himself, contradicts that! (See Acts 6 - 7; Acts 22:20; Galatians 1:22)

(if you would like to know more a pamphlet on our stained glass is available in the gathering space)

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

May 7, 2023

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
A man a man and a 2. Dia a a ha anno a sanno na man a sha an an an an an a

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:_____