

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!

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

For Your Prayers –July 24-July 30, 2023

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Nahum 1:1-13; Revelation 14:12-20; Psalm 75 Tuesday: Zephaniah 3:1-13; Galatians 4:21-5:1; Psalm 75

Wednesday: Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33; Mark 4:30-34; Psalm 119:121-128

Thursday: Proverbs 10:1-5; Philippians 4:10-15; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Friday: Isaiah 51:7-23; Romans 9:6-13; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 Saturday: Isaiah 44:1-5; Matthew 7:7-11; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Next Sundays Lessons: 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39;

Matthew 13:31-22, 44-52

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Joe Beene, Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Karen Einarsen, Bob Harman, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, and Linda Reuben.

Pray God's comfort and peace for Corey Knestrick and his family on the death of his wife Lynn.

Pray for those unable to come to worship: 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

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Dawn Allen, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Emily Beck, Sally Blackburn, Nelson Blish, Mary Bloom, The Brantley family, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Doug Crinklaw, Judy Drezek, Eberhart friends and family, Derald Edwards, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Deanna Harbison, William Harbison, Tom Hay, Char Henry, Zac and Jen Holtzman and family, Brian Johnson, Mason Jones, Sean Kelley, The Kennedy family, Bob Lamoureux, Ron Luchetti, Julia Mahony, Marnah Lund, Doug Mayes, Laura Mcgolin, Detra Michaels, Bob Myers, Gina Peterson, Paula Rega, Betty Roth, Naomi Schmidt, Inge Seiter, David Shoberg, Kelsey Slay, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

Centering Music Pastorale for Flute and Organ Charles Callahan

Confession and Forgiveness

Baptism: Jacob Christopher Black page 227

Gathering Hymn We Plow the Fields and Scatter ELW 681

Bulletin page 10&11

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

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**.

II. Word: God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

First Reading Isaiah 44:6-8

(There are no other gods besides God: the word of the LORD does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.)

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,

and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;

besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,

let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?

Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and declared it?

You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?

There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

Psalm: Psalm 86:11-17



Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth.

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk | in your truth;

give me an undivided heart to re- | vere your name.

¹²I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart, and glorify your name for- | evermore. *Refrain*

¹³For great is your | love toward me;

you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people | seeks my life;

they have not set you be- fore their eyes.

¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full | of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.

¹⁶Turn to me and have mer- | cy on me;

give your strength to your servant, and save the child | of your handmaid.

¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be | put to shame;

because you, LORD, have helped me and com- forted me. Refrain

Second Reading Romans 8:12-25

(For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.)

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation

itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

(Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.)

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

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire,

so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

Sermon Paradox Pastor Jon Nelson

The Hymn of the Day will be announced in a few moments. First, please take time during the silence: What are your prayers in response to the sermon?

Hymn of the Day

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 679

Bulletin page 12

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

For the Fruit of All Creation

Setting, Michael Hassell

Offertory Prayer

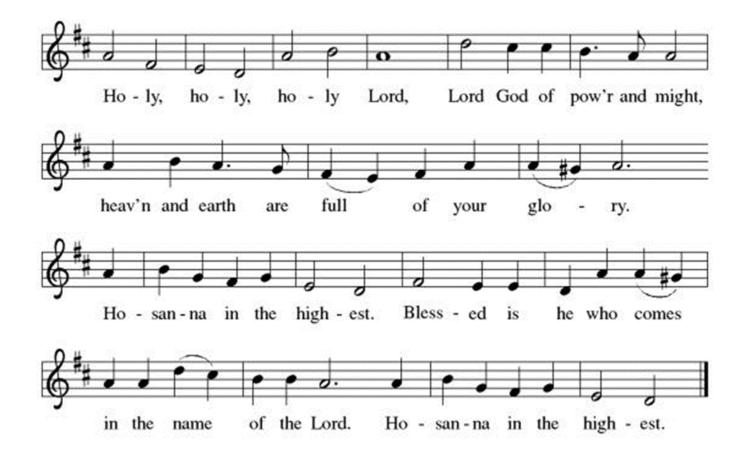
The Great Thanksgiving

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:

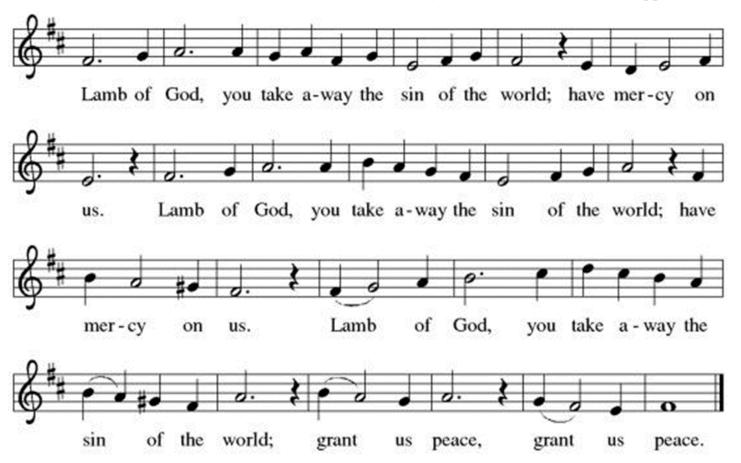


Words of Institution

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.



Communion Music Near to the Heart of God/Children of the Heavenly Father

Thom Recktenwald

arr. Brant Adams

Communion Hymn As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465 Bulletin page 13

Prayer after Communion

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

Blessing

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed

→ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude Blessed Assurance

Arr. Mark Albrecht.

We thank Thom Recktenwald for his musical leadership on flute today.

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Pastorale for flute and organ - instrumental
Type: Music
Contributors: Charles Callahan
Tune: Setting © 1990 Concordia Publishing
Near to the Heart of God with Children of the Heavenly Father #122517 List
Type: Music
Contributors: Brant Adams

ASSURANCE - instrumental
Type: Music
Contributors: Mark Albrecht
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We Plow the Fields and Scatter



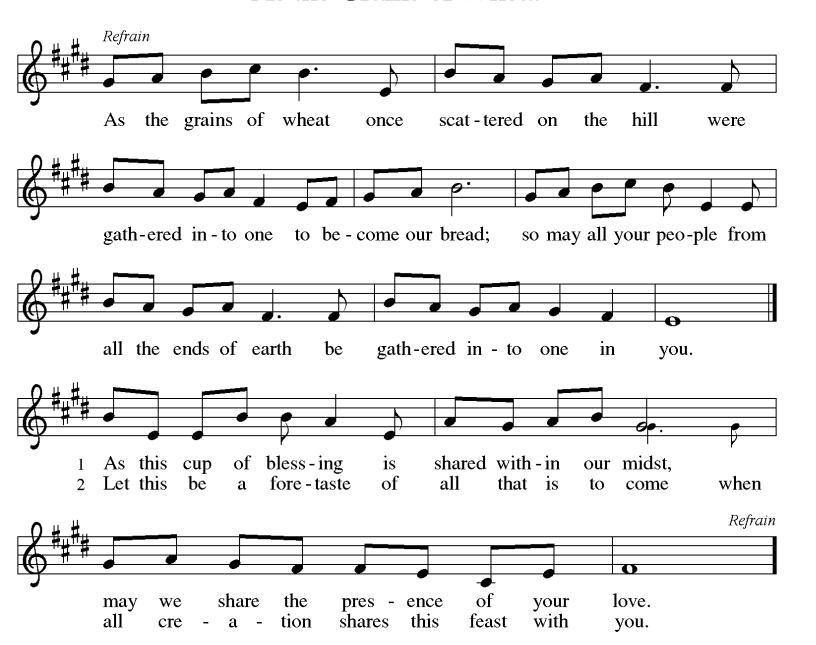


Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740–1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817–1878, alt. Music: WIR PFLÜGEN, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

For the Fruit of All Creation

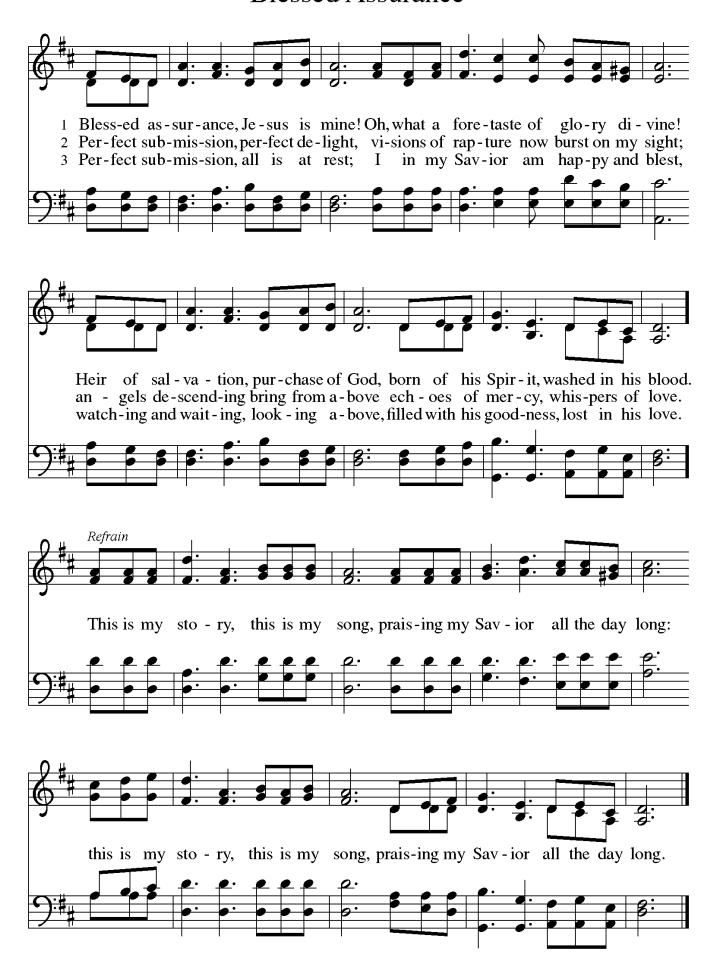


As the Grains of Wheat



Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Blessed Assurance



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.

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 by Reed and Karen Nester in honor of their 51st Wedding Anniversary!

Upcoming

Service: Looking for Job Opportunities. The Williamsburg UMC is trying to find employment for the Rasuli-Sayeed family whom they are hosting from Afghanistan (we were hoping to host some other members of this extended family before talks between the US and Taliban broke down). Know of an opportunity? Please contact Brian Agor with info.

Banner committee news! The Banner committee is looking for volunteers to help make new banners in the fall. No experience needed, we are happy to teach you and share fellowship in the process. If you are interested please check the line on the insert to let them know. If you have any questions please reach out to Janice Mayfield.

Service: Shoes for Grove. This is the 18th year that St. Stephen members have the purpose-filled opportunity to provide sneakers for Grove community students so they can start school this fall in style! If you like to shop, please buy GIRLS sneakers in any size from 6 to 11 or BOYS sneakers any size from 6 to 12, including half sizes for both—these are the most needed sizes but any size will do! Deliver them to the Gathering Space by Sunday, July 30 and we will take them to Grove. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, please make the check out to St. Stephen Lutheran Church with SHOES FOR GROVE on the memo line.

Habitat is coming back to James City County. The need for affordable housing has not decreased since St. Stephen's last involvement with Habitat. They have continued to build 200 homes and rehab 400 others in their history in this area. Since their latest builds were in New Kent County, it made it difficult for us to be involved. They are in the process however of securing land in James City County. The Social Ministry hopes we can again be involved in the fall of 2023. In the meantime, other opportunities to show support are available: On August 19 four sponsors are holding a 1mile fun run/5K run or walk. Registration is at www.RunSignUp.com.

No Shame. Period. provides packs to area ELEMENTARY and MIDDLE schools in Hampton Roads. Each pack contains a pad, new pair of underwear, a bag for soiled underwear, a wipe and a note or item of encouragement Please join us for a packing party before and after our church service on **August 6**. Thanks to leftover supplies from the SSLC women's retreat, the MOST NEEDED are makeup bags or opaque pencil cases and new GIRL's underwear size 10-16 or WOMEN's size small. A bin for donations is in the gathering space. Consider asking friends who may have a stockpile of freebies! A card making station will be available to make short notes of encouragement to include in the packs.

Service: God's Work. Our Hands Sunday. This year "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday is set for September 10th. For our project we will be assembling Care Kits between services in the Fellowship Hall. These Care Kits are intended for people experiencing homelessness and will include: (all items should be travel sized) shampoo and conditioner, body wash, lotion, disposable razor and shaving cream, a comb, deodorant, tissues, hand sanitizer, wet wipes, toothpaste and a tooth brush, and a pair of socks. If you would like to donate money to cover the cost of supplies you can send donations to the church office designated for "Care Kits", or if you would like to donate the supplies themselves, there will be a box in the Gathering Space beginning in August.

Our Saviors will be hosting Vacation Bible School (8/5, 8/12) and have invited St. Stephen to participate.VBS will center around the theme: Jesus cares for you. They will have it from 9am-12pm and on August 5 & 12 (Saturdays). There is no cost to sign up for VBS but you will need to register. They are still looking for Volunteers as well. Please refer to Pastor Jon's email for the links to register. If you did not receive the email please contact Hollie in the office and she can email that to you

Crock Pot Ministry

... You shall love your neighbor as yourself,... (James 2:13)

In July and August please support the Crockpot Ministry as we feed two homeless families every Thursday. Hopefully they will receive from us two recipes suitable for preparing in a crockpot each Thursday along with the ingredients to make dinner on Thursday and Friday. Since their refrigerator space is limited, perishables will be purchased with any monetary donations received for the project or please advise that they are in the refrigerator at St. Stephen. Below are the ingredients needed at the church by **August 1** for the next week. If you cannot help this week there will be five more opportunities.

Questions can be addressed to Jane Gingerich or Susan Neidlinger and thanks for helping.

(We have the ham already for both recipes)

Ham and Chicken Pot

2 cans of cream of mushroom soup
1 celery heart
2 cans peas
2 small onions
2 small cans of mushrooms
2 packages rolls
2 packages cookies
4 pieces of fresh fruit

Ham-Stuffed French Rolls

2 large cans of fruit
1 bunch green onions
1 small jar ripe olives
2 small mayonnaise
1 small jar pickle relish
1 small mustard
2 bags of potato chips

Health Ministries

Climate anxiety

While not a true diagnosis, climate anxiety is a term used to describe an array of symptoms related to long-term shifts in temperature and weather patterns. Other terms for this are eco-anxiety, eco-guilt, and eco-grief. It is described as a chronic fear of environmental doom that is paralyzing and debilitating. Climate anxiety and PTSD are not the same. If you have been through a natural disaster, you may experience some PTSD.

Symptoms may include emotional and mental symptoms such as anger, a sense of being overwhelmed or chronic worry. Physical symptoms may be palpitations, shortness of breath, muscle tension or insomnia. You may feel helpless or edgy. You may find yourself scrolling through or searching for news articles related to climate change and it effects.

You can deal with climate anxiety by finding ways to stay informed without letting it take over your life. Get involved with others who share your concerns about climate. Be careful not to feed each other's fears. Investigate ways to recycle and reduce your carbon footprint. Be realistic about what you can and cannot do to help. Find other interests that are inline with your beliefs. Plant a garden whether vegetables or flowers. Practice mindfulness using techniques such as meditation, yoga, or grounding techniques to name a few. Connect with nature by going hiking, going to the beach or simply walking around your neighborhood.

If you are concerned that you may need to talk to someone such as a therapist, studies show that maybe you should find someone. It never hurts to get a little guidance. Do you have questions, let me know.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel Parish Nurse

St. Stephen Calendar –July 23- July 30, 2023

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

SUNDAY, July 23

9:00 AM Coffee & Conversation (Gathering Space)

9:45 AM Worship – Holy Communion (livestreamed on our YouTube channel)

MONDAY, July 24

10:00 AM Staff meeting (Pastor office)

TUESDAY, July 25

WEDNESDAY, July 26

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, July 27

12:00 PM Bulletin review (Library/Conference room)

FRIDAY, July 28

SATURDAY, July 29

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, July 30

9:00 AM Coffee & Conversation (Gathering Space)

9:45 AM Worship – Holy Communion (livestreamed on our YouTube channel)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer	Diana Tiller-Dichtel
Altar Guild	Rita Kristiansen and Rosalie Frey
Audio-Visual Team	Doug Moore
Bread Baker	Pat Fretz
Cantors	
Communion Assistants	Diana Tiller-Dichtel and Donna VanDuyse
Flower Delivery	
Greeters/Hosts	Susan Kauffman
Lectors	
Tellers	John McCurry, Carol Harman, Sandy Croushore
Ushers	Robert Achenbach and Bill Dichtel

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 Baptisms

Pastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)

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 Pastorjn@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.

July 23, 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
Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if necessary.

Prayer Requests

Name:	
Please remove from prayer concerns:	
Name:	
I/We need a name tag:	
C	
I/ we would like to join the Banner committee	