

# 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!

# Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 13, 2023



## For Your Prayers – August 7-August 13, 2023

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

*Monday*: Genesis 7:11—8:5 2 Peter 2:4-10 Psalm 18:1-19 *Tuesday*: Genesis 19:1-29 Romans 9:14-29 Psalm 18:1-19 *Wednesday*: Isaiah 45:20-25 Revelation 15:1-4 Psalm 67 *Thursday*: 1 Kings 18:1-16 Acts 17:10-15 Psalm 85:8-13

*Friday*: Isaiah 63:15-19 Acts 14:19-28 Psalm 67 *Saturday*: Isaiah 56:1-5 Matthew 14:34-36 Psalm 67

Next Sunday: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Psalm 67 (3) Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:[10-20]

21-28

<u>Join your prayers for healing</u> with God's desires for Ed Brown, Ellen Bushman, Kristin Carter, Bob Harman, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, and Linda Reuben.

<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: Dawn Allen, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, Nelson Blish, Mary Bloom, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Doug Crinklaw, Judy Drezek, Derald Edwards, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Deanna Harbison, William Harbison, Tom Hay, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, 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, Inge Seiter, David Shoberg, Kelsey Slay, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig

## Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

#### Welcome

Centering Music Eternal Father, Strong to Save Robert Hobby

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.** 

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God.

we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

we confess that we have sinned.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. **Amen.** 

**Gathering Hymn** Eternal Father, Strong to Save

ELW 756 Bulletin page 10

#### 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 our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

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

First Reading 1 Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

<sup>9</sup>At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>10</sup>He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

<sup>11</sup>He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup> and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. <sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>14</sup>He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." <sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup>Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup>Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. <sup>18</sup>Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

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

Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13



<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,

that your glory may dwell | in our land. Refrain

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together; righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth, and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity, and our land will | yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD and shall prepare for | God a pathway. *Refrain* 

Second Reading Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

5Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." 6But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) 7"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8But what does it say? "The word is near you,on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. 11The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." 12For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. 13For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

<sup>14</sup>But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? <sup>15</sup>And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."

#### **Gospel Acclamation**



Gospel Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

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

<sup>22</sup>[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup>And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup>And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. <sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

<sup>28</sup>Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup>He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup>When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup>And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

Sermon Relentless Faith 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?

#### **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 Want Jesus to Walk with Me Branch Fields. Bass soloist arr. K. Lee Scott

#### **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.

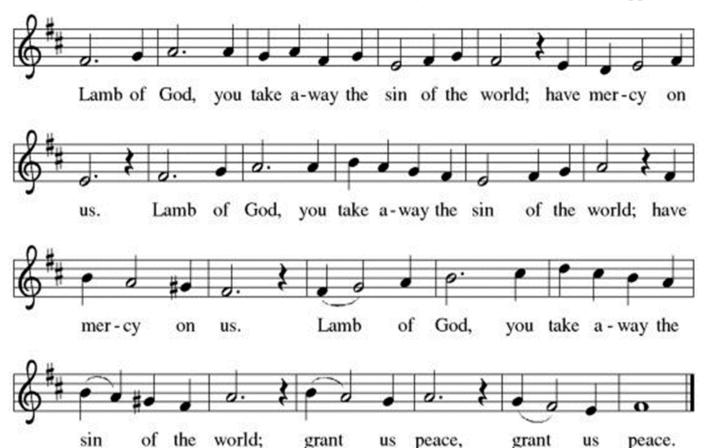
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

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:** Over My Head arr. Clayton White

Branch Fields, Bass Soloist

**Communion Hymn** Precious Lord, Take My Hand ELW 773

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**Table Blessing** 

**Prayer after Communion** 

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

Sending Hymn I Was Sinking Deep in Sin TFF 188

Bulletin page 13

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** My Life Flows On in Endless Song Jerry van der Pol

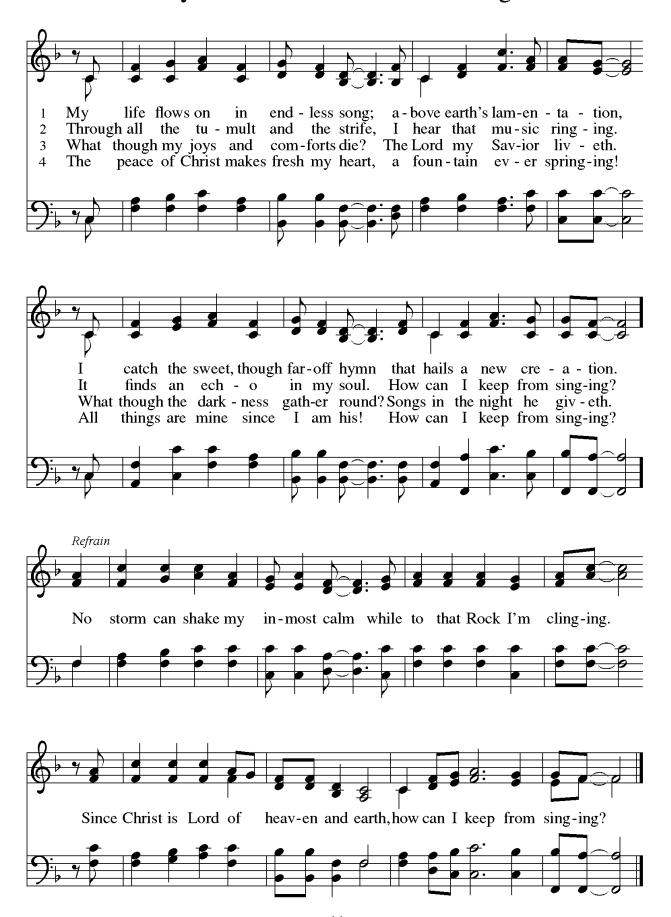
We would like to thank Branch Fields for sharing his talents with us.

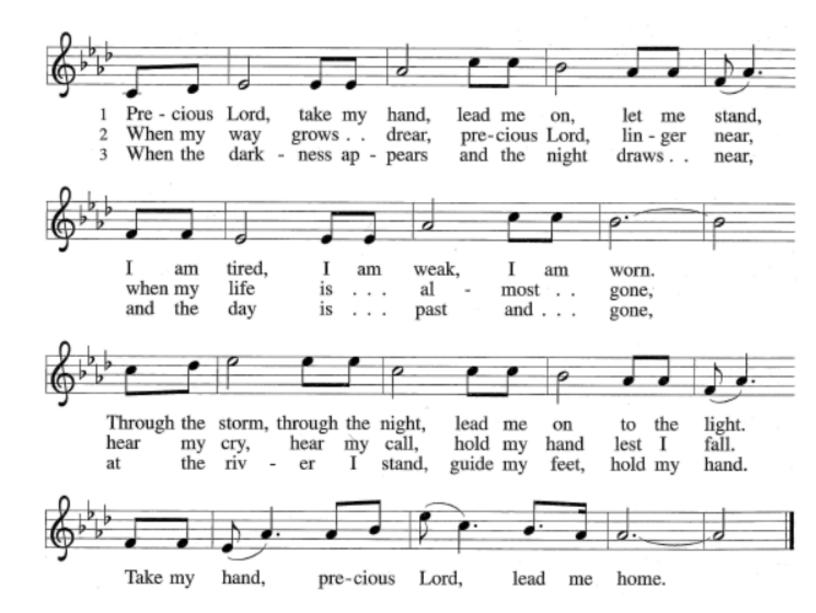
**Branch Fields** is a professional singer who has performed with opera companies, orchestras, and musical theater companies throughout North America. He was at New York City Opera for several years as a house bass, and got a Broadway debut in South Pacific, understudying Emile de Becque. He recently was Capt. Von Trapp in The Sound of Music. When he's not engaged out of town, Branch tries to perform as much as he can for the hometown crowd. He grew up in Williamsburg, in Queens Lake, graduating from Bruton High. He came back 10 years ago to be near his parents and raise his three children with his wife, Mya.

## Eternal Father, Strong to Save



## My Life Flows On in Endless Song





## I Was Sinking Deep in Sin



#### 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**

<u>Flowers this morning</u> are given by Forrest and Ruth Fenstermaker in celebration of Forrest's 89th birthday!

Hand Bell and Choir Chimes Retreat! Today Aug 13<sup>th</sup> 3pm- 5pm in the worship space come join us for a Ringing good time. Try out our Handbells and Choir Chimes. Ideal for rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders up to Octogenarian's.

## **Upcoming**

Meet-and-greets with Pastor Alex! Stop by Aroma's Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM for a chance to get to know Pastor Alex a bit better!

Office Closed for Floor Cleaning. The lower level of the church will be closed August 14 & 15 while the floors are stripped, cleaned, and waxed. Staff will be available via email or cell phone while they work from home those days. The upper level will be cleaned August 16-18.

Habitat is coming back to James City County. The need for affordable housing has not decreased since St. Stephen's last involvement with Habitat. The Social Ministry committee 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 <a href="https://www.RunSignUp.com">www.RunSignUp.com</a>.

Outdoor Worship at Chickahominy Park. Given the fun we had at our start of summer picnic at Freedom Park we decided to do it again, this time with worship! We will have an outdoor worship service on Sunday, September 3rd at 10:30 AM in the shelter between the playground and pool at Chickahominy Park. We have invited OSLC to join us. Hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, buns, water, lemonade, plates, cups, and silverware will be provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to share, and your own lawn chairs. Please RSVP so we can plan an appropriate amount of food, you can let us know you're coming (and your numbers) by either marking the bulletin sign-up sheet or contacting the SSLC office.

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.

A new choir "season" is approaching. The Matins Choir rehearsals begin next Sunday, August 20 between services. We are returning to our two-service worship schedule with church choir leadership. This means we need your vocal gifts more than ever in our choirs. Our Matins Choir provides musical leadership at the 8:30am worship service. Rehearsals are Sunday mornings 9:45-10:30. Are you hiding your light under a bushel? No? Then, let it shine!



#### **Health Ministries**

#### **School schedules**

I have posted the school schedules for James City County/Williamsburg, York county, Walsingham and William & Mary college on the bulletin board across from the Health Ministry office. That also means it is time for my yearly reminder to be careful when driving. Be aware of school zones and school buses when driving. ALWAYS obey speed limits. Be on the lookout for school crossing guards and children crossing the street. Texting when driving is against the law.

You should be alert for children on bicycles riding to and from school. If your child rides their bicycle, they should wear a helmet and exhibit an understanding of bicycle safety rules.

When driving through town, be aware of crosswalks and flashing lights indicating students will be crossing. While students may not look up from their phones or may have earbuds in while walking, we should be hyper-vigilant of their presence. Safety is the highest priority when driving in or around schools.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel Parish Nurse

#### **Crockpot Ministries**

... Feed my sheep. .. (John21:16)

In 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 16 for next week. If you cannot help this week there will be three more opportunities.

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

2 small sour cream

2 28 oz. jars of red enchiladas 20 corn tortilla

4 cups shredded cheddar cheese 2 3.8 oz. black olives

2 pkgs. cookies

2 envelopes of dry onion soup mix 2 pkgs. rolls

2 cans fruit 2 8oz. cans of tomato

sauce

2 cup of sliced carrots 2 packages of already cooked

rice

1/2 cup Parmesan cheese

#### St. Stephen Calendar – August 13 - August 20, 2023

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

#### SUNDAY, August 13

9:00 AM Coffee & Conversation (Gathering Space)9:00 AM Blood Pressure Clinic (Nurse's Office)

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

3-5 PM Handbell and Chime Retreat (Worship Space)

7:00 PM Campus Ministry Committee (ZOOM)

#### MONDAY, August 14

Church offices (first floor) closed

#### **TUESDAY, August 15**

Church offices (first floor) closed

7:00 PM Preschool Committee (Fellowship Hall) enter through main church doors

#### WEDNESDAY, August 16

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Worship space)

#### THURSDAY, August 17

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

#### FRIDAY, August 18

### **SATURDAY, August 19**

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

#### SUNDAY, August 20

8:30 AM Worship – Holy Communion (livestreamed on our YouTube channel)

9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal - Come join us! (Worship Space)

11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion

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

Acolyte/Crucifer	Sonja Cave
Altar Guild	Rita Kristiansen
Audio-Visual Team	Nancy Carter
Bread Baker	Jennifer Dabel
Cantor	Branch Fields
Communion Assistants	George Bass and Paula Agor
Flower Delivery	
	Alison Carney
Lectors	Randy Punchard and Sandy Croushore
Tellers	Jane deSolms, Susan Britcher, Jim Larsen
Ushers	Brian Agor and Bob Harman

## 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)

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Over My Head Contributors: Clayton White Tune: © 2021 Augsburg Fortress

Come to the Waters

Contributors: Text adapted from the Bible by Carl Fredrickson, GF Handel Tune: © 1960carl fischer music

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

Contributors: Jerry van der Pol
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# Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church! Please fill this out and drop it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.

## August 13, 2023

Name:		
For guests and members with	ı changes:	
Address (Home)		
City/State	Zip	_
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 & Ma	ary	
Looking for a church hor	me	
Desire to speak with past		
Would like more informa	ation about Step	ohen Ministry
Would like a Parish Nurs	se to contact me	
Any comments? Please be sure necessary.	e your name is	above, so we may respond, if

# **Prayer Requests**

Name:	
Please <b>rem</b>	ove from prayer concerns:
Name:	
T /TT 7	
I/We 1	eed a name tag: