

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!*

13th Sunday after Pentecost August 27, 2023



For Your Prayers August 28-September 3, 2023

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: 1 Samuel 7:3-13 Romans 2:1-11 Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32 *Tuesday*: Deuteronomy 32:18-20, 28-39 Romans 11:33-36 Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32 *Wednesday*: Isaiah 28:14-22 Matthew 26:6-13 Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32 *Thursday*: Jeremiah 14:13-18 Ephesians 5:1-6 Psalm 26:1-8 *Friday*: Jeremiah 15:1-9 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12 Psalm 26:1-8 *Saturday*: Jeremiah 15:10-14 Matthew 8:14-17 Psalm 26:1-8 *Next Sunday*: Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26:1-8 (3) Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Ed Brown, Kristin Carter**, 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

<u>Pray for these loved ones of our congregation</u>: Dawn Allen, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, Nelson Blish, Mary Bloom, Ann Bunn 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, Connie Kendrick ,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

13th Sunday after Pentecost I. Gathering: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Welcome

Centering Music My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Setting, Zach Unke

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.

Suence is kepi jor reflectio

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.**

Isaiah 51:1-6

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, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

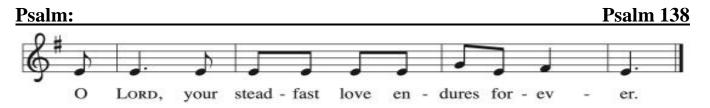
II. Word: God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

First Reading

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end. ¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden. her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath: for the heavens will vanish like smoke.

the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

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



¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with [|] my whole heart;

before the gods I will | sing your praise.

²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast [|] love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word a-¹ bove all things.

³When I called, you [|] answered me;

you increased my | strength within me.

⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise [|] you, O LORD,

when they have heard the words | of your mouth. *Refrain*

⁵They will sing of the ways [|] of the LORD,

that great is the glory | of the LORD.

⁶The LORD is high, yet cares [|] for the lowly,

perceiving the haughty | from afar.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you [|] keep me safe;

you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right | hand shall save me.

⁸You will make good your pur-¹ pose for me;

O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works [|] of your hands. *Refrain*

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

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

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

Sermon Who do YOU say that I am? Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt

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?

Blessing of Backpacks and the Vocations of Teachers and Students

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	Grace Like Rain	arr.	Bryce Inman
	Christina Nelson		

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:

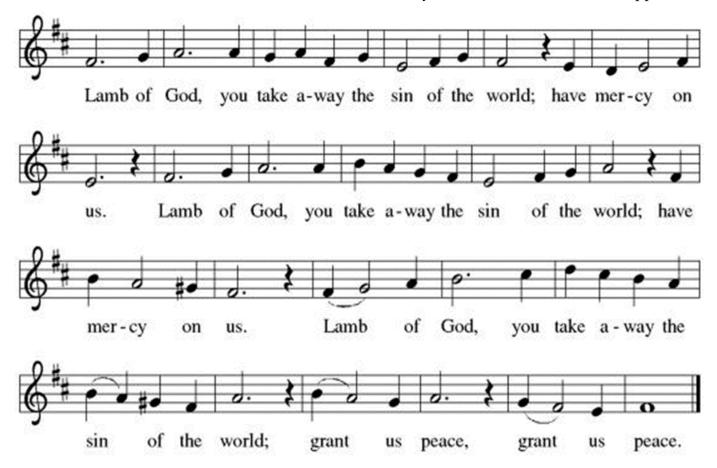


Words of Institution

<u>The Lord's Prayer</u> 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:

Messiah Christina Nelson setting, Larry Olson

Communion Hymn O Savior, Precious Savior

ELW 820 Bulletin page 12

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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

Sending Hymn Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand

ACS 1024 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.

My Feet Are on the Rock

setting, Bronleewe, Hein, Parker,

and Sweat

Postlude

Copyright Information

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less Contributors: Zach Unke Copyright (C) 2018 Augsburg Fortress

Grace like Rain Contributors: Chris Collins and Todd Agnew, arr. Bryce Inman © 2003 Ardent/Koala Music

> Messiah #62598 List Contributors: Larry Olson Text: © 1989, Dakota Road Music

Feet are on the Rock Contributors: Josh Bronleewe, Matthew Hein, Abbie Parker, and Lindsey Sweat © 2018 All Essential Music, Be Essential Songs, I Am "They" Publishing, IAMTHEYSONGS, So Essential Tunes, Capitol CMG Amplifier, Sony/ATV Harmony, and Sony/ATV Songs LLC

One License Licensing Permission Reprinted/Streamed with permission under

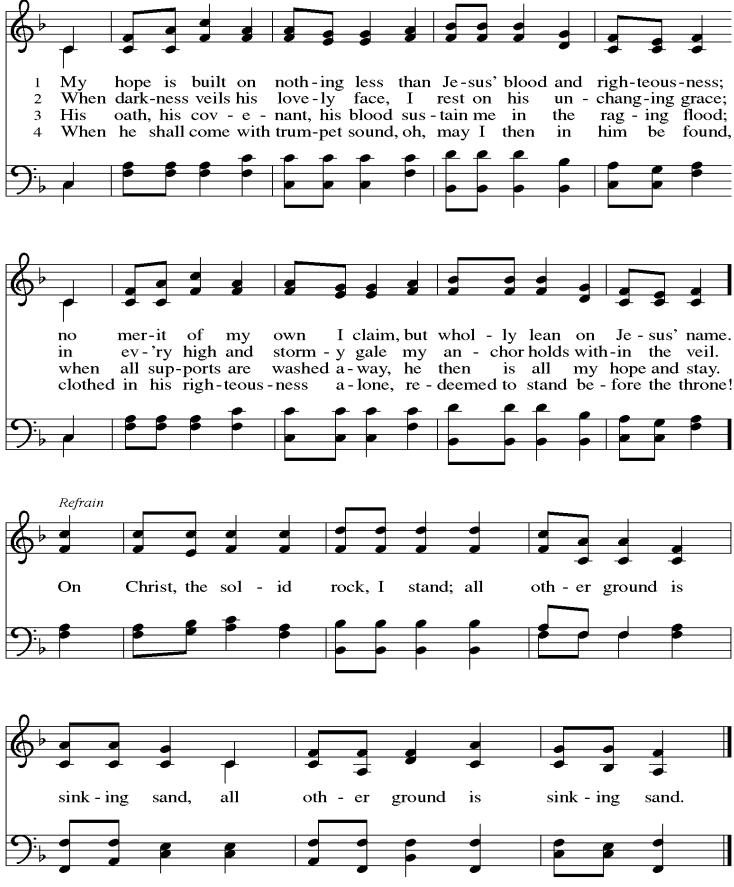
One License #A721099; CCLI Permission Reprinted/Streamed with permission under CCLI License #11256031; Permission granted, St. James Press

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. Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SB164403

> > ~~~~~

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



Built on a Rock



5 Through all the passing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are ringing, many may come to hear your Word, who here this promise is bringing:
"I know my own, my own know me; you, not the world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. Amen."

O Savior, Precious Savior



Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand



Text: Kenyan hymn; adapt. Greg Scheer, b. 1966

Music: KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA, Kenyan melody; adapt. Greg Scheer Text © 2007 East African Annual Conference, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik English adapt. and arr. © 2007 Greg Scheer, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

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 Karen Shoberg, in thankfulness for family and God's many blessings!

Worship: Backpack Blessing. During our worship this **Sunday, August 27th,** we will be having a Blessing of Backpacks. Students (of any age!) and teachers – bring your school backpacks and book bags to worship – either service. We will bless school bags and pray God's blessings on the new academic year.

Upcoming

<u>Communal Life: Pub & Grub.</u> Join us on Monday, August 28th at 7:00 PM at <u>Billsburg Brewery</u> for some food, drinks and conversation!

Worship: Preschool Teachers Installation. In order to allow our teachers to attend their own worship services on Sunday morning, we will be installing them on **Wednesday, August 30th at Noon in the Worship Space**. The congregation is invited to attend this short service as we pray God's blessings on our teachers for the upcoming year. Light refreshments will be served in the Gathering Space afterwards.

Worship: 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 followed by a potluck picnic. 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.

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 is a box in the Gathering Space.

<u>Communal Life: Breakfasts.</u> Come to build and deepen relationships – at the <u>Colonial Pancake House</u>, at the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road. Gatherings take place at 8:00 AM. Please note that we are meeting the 2nd week of September as Colonial Pancake House is closed the week of Labor Day to give their staff some time off.

Tuesday, September 12 - Women are invited to join together for breakfast **Thursday, September 14 - Men** are invited to join together for breakfast

Communal Life: Youth Group. Middle and High school youth are welcome to our first youth group gathering on **Saturday, September 16th at SSLC from 4:00 -7:00 PM**. We will gather for conversation, games, and a meal. You are welcome to bring friends along!

Worship & Communal Life. Rally Sunday. We will celebrate Rally Sunday on September 17th. This marks the start of our program year, meaning both Faith Formation and Affirmation of Baptism (AOB) will begin on this date. Keep your eyes peeled for information about Adult Ed. opportunities beginning in October.

Communal Life: Board Game Night. Mark your calendars for our next Board Game Night at SSLC on **September 30th, 5:30 - 9:00 PM**. Please bring a dish to share along with your favorite board/card game.

Adopt-A-Student Program: Building Connections and Community with LSA Our college students are returning! Welcome! One program St. Stephen provides for students is the adopted student/church family program. The Campus Ministry Committee pairs interested students with members from St. Stephen who would like to form relationships with college students. These new church families meet for meals, ice cream, coffee, visit local museums, take walks, etc. We encourage St. Stephen members to become family away from home for our new students! If interested, please sign up on the green sheet with your name and contact information. Interested students may sign on the green sheet as well, with your name and campus email address.

Please donate to our coffee And tea fund use the QR code Below





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

SUNDAY, August 27

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

MONDAY August 28

10:00 AM Staff meeting (Pastor office)

TUESDAY, August 29

WEDNESDAY, August 30

12:00 PM Preschool Teacher Installation (worship space)
7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Worship Space)

THURSDAY, August 31

9:00 AM-12:00PM Preschool Open House

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

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

FRIDAY, September 1

SATURDAY, September 2

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, September 3

10:30 AM Worship at Chickahominy Park-Holy Communion

(located in the shelter between the playground and the pool)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

	(11:00)
Bread Baker	Pat Fretz
Cantor	
Communion Assistants	
	(11:00) Sandy Croushore and Alina Dabel
Flower Delivery for August .	Diane McCurry, Rosemary Stimson, Karen Nester,
Nelia Lamoureux	
Greeters/Hosts	(8:30) Chris Punchard (11:00) Ned & Sue Neidlinger
Lectors	
Tellers	John McCurry, Carol Harman, Sandy Croushore
Ushers	(8:30) Robert Achenbach and John McCurry (11:00)

t what 3,3> about you?" Jesus askęd. "Who do you say A I am?" Peter answ You are the S Chinist N Mark 8:29

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)Pastorin@saintstephenlutheran.netPastor Alex Sheppard-Witt (717-434-5037)Pastorasw@saintstephenlutheran.netKaren Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.netHollie Jones – Parish Administrator (229-6688)Office@saintstephenlutheran.netDiana Tiller-Dichtel – Parish Nurse (232-5924)Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.netHolly Ready – Preschool Director (229-6688)Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.netPeninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)Doing Ministry in the World

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

August 27, 2023

Name:			
For guests and members	with 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 & 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.

Praye. 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:______

____ I/we will be attending the outdoor service on Sept 3 #_____