

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!

15th Sunday after Pentecost September 10, 2023



For Your Prayers September 11-17, 2023

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Leviticus 4:27-31; 5:14-16;1 Peter 2:11-17 Psalm 119:65-72

Tuesday: Deuteronomy 17:2-13 Romans 13:1-7 Psalm 119:65-72

Wednesday: Leviticus 16:1-5, 20-28 Matthew 21:18-22 Psalm 119:65-72

Thursday: Genesis 37:12-36 1 John 3:11-16 Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 **Friday**: Genesis 41:53–42:17 Acts 7:9-16 Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 **Saturday**: Genesis 45:1-20 Matthew 6:7-15 Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

Next Sunday: Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:1-13 (8) Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

<u>Join your prayers for healing</u> with God's desires for Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Keith Egloff, 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, Ann Bunn Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Doug Crinklaw, Judy Drezek, Derald Edwards, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Deanna Harbison, William Harbison, 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

15th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

Centering Music Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven arr. Cathy Moklebust

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, 中 Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God., you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior Amen

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
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

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**.

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

First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GoD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?.

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



³³Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes, and I shall keep it | to the end.

- ³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching; I shall keep it with | all my heart.
- ³⁵Lead me in the path of | your commandments, for that is | my desire.
- ³⁶Incline my heart to | your decrees and not to | unjust gain. *Refrain*
- ³⁷Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood; give me life | in your way.
- ³⁸Fulfill your promise | to your servant, which is for | those who fear you.
- ³⁹Turn away the reproach | that I dread, because your judg- | ments are good.
- ⁴⁰Behold, I long for | your commandments; by your righteousness en- | liven me. *Refrain*

Second Reading Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us."

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Proper Verse: In Christ God was reconciling the world ^I to himself,* entrusting the message of reconcilia- ^I tion to us. (2 Cor. 5:19)

Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

Gospel Anthem The Healing of the Nations Anne Krentz Organ Soloist Erika Cave

Sermon Collective Discernment 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?

ELW 603 Bulletin page 11

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

God's Work, Our Hands

setting, Wayne Wold
Bulletin page 12

the

in

high - est.

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



san - na

high - est. Ho

the

in

san - na

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

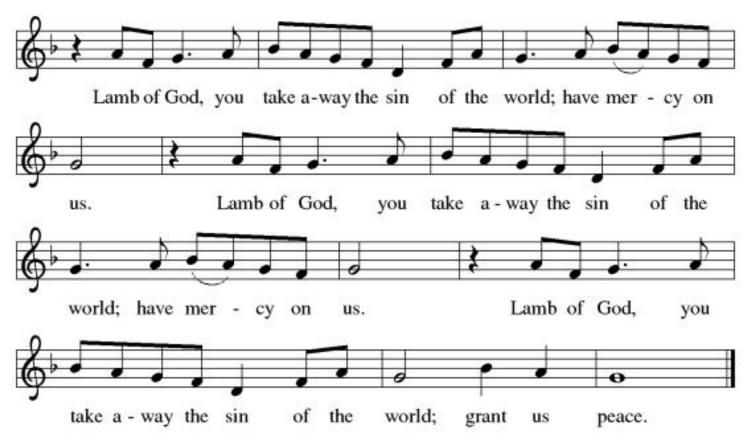
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Holy Communion

When receiving Communion, either stand or kneel at the Rail. Pastor will distribute the bread and a Communion Assistant will come with a tray of pre-filled cups of wine and grape juice. The juice will be in the middle of the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available as an alternative to bread. St. Stephen is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, so all are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.



Communion Hymn Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Beloved, God's Chosen

ELW 247 Bulletin page 13 ELW 648 Bulletin page 14

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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

Sending Hymn *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

ELW 864

Bulletin page 15

Blessing
The God of glory,

+ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you. Thanks be to God.

Postlude Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven setting, Michael Burkhardt

Copyright Information
Praise,My Soul,The King of Heaven(Praise My Soul the God of Heaven)
Contributors: Cathy Moklebust
Copyright (C) 2021 Choristers Guild

The Healing of the Nations
Contributors: Anne Krentz Organ
Tune: © 2020 Augsburg Fortress Text: © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven from Praise and Thanksgiving, Set 5 Contributors: Chris Collins Contributors: Michael Burkhardt

Copyright (c) 1993 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers

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

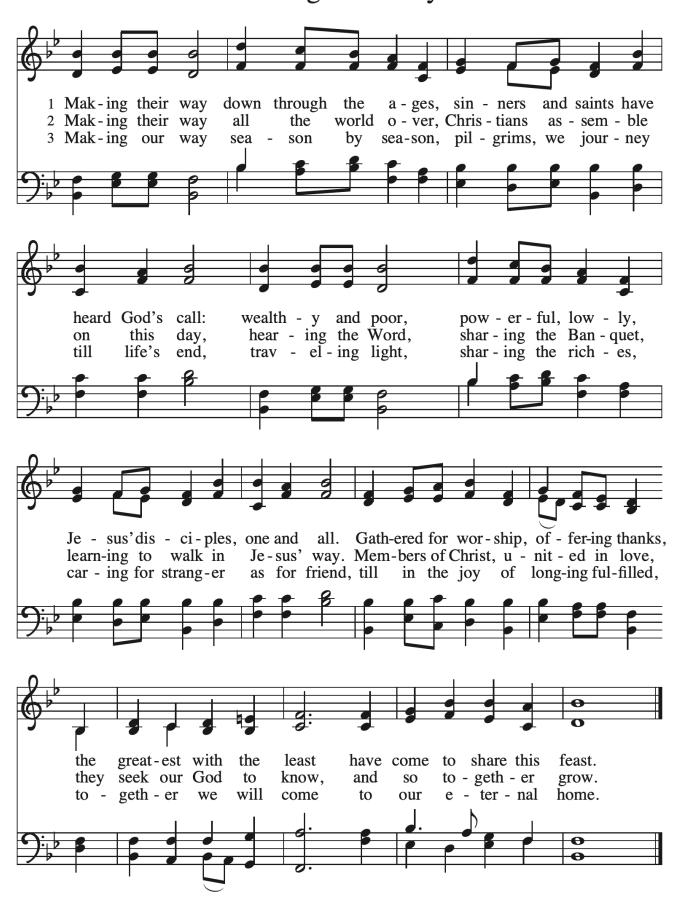
New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SB164403

าตาตาตาตาตา

Making Their Way

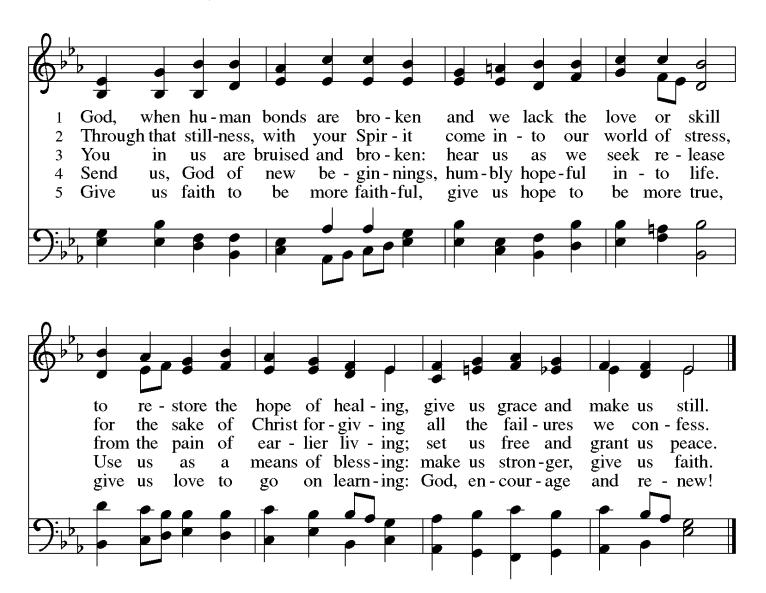


Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandtsch Gedenckclank*, 1626; arr. Adrian Engels, 1906–2003 Text © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Arr. © 1967 Gooi en Sticht, BV, Baarn, The Netherlands, admin. OCP, 5536 N. Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

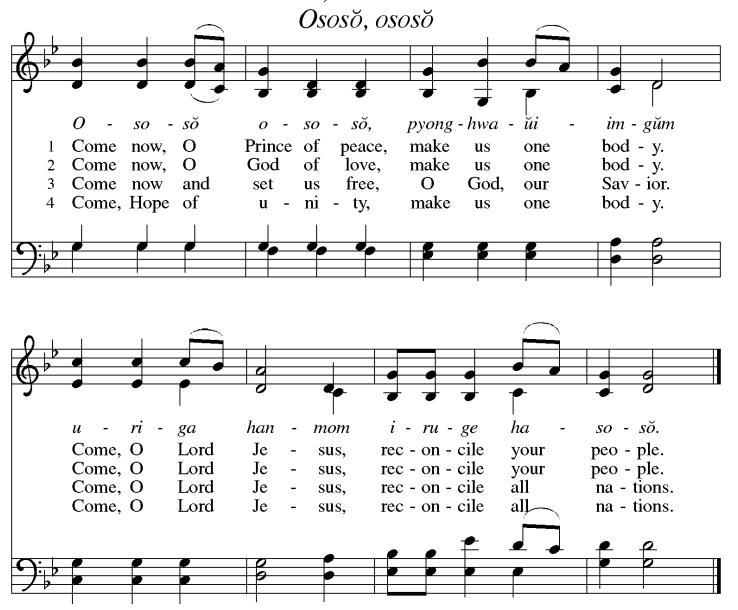
God's Work, Our Hands



Text and tune: God's Work, Our Hands, Wayne L. Wold © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Arrangement: Wayne L. Wold © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

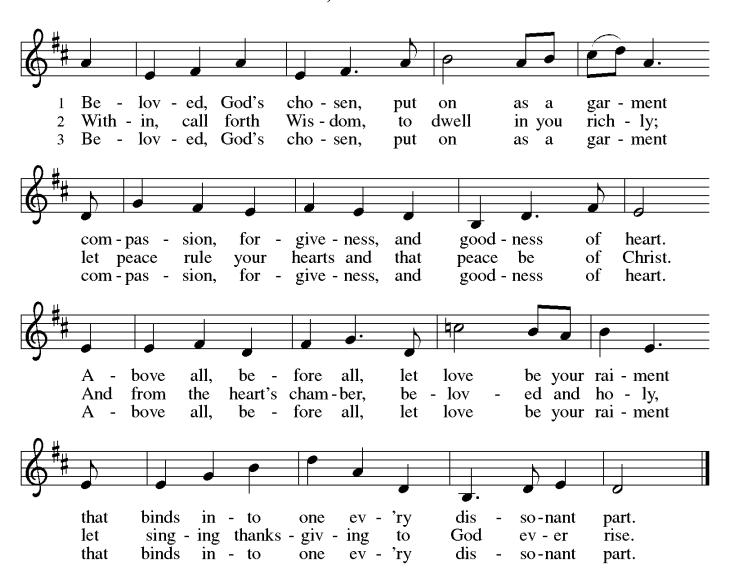
Come Now, O Prince of Peace



Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope Music: OSOSO, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947

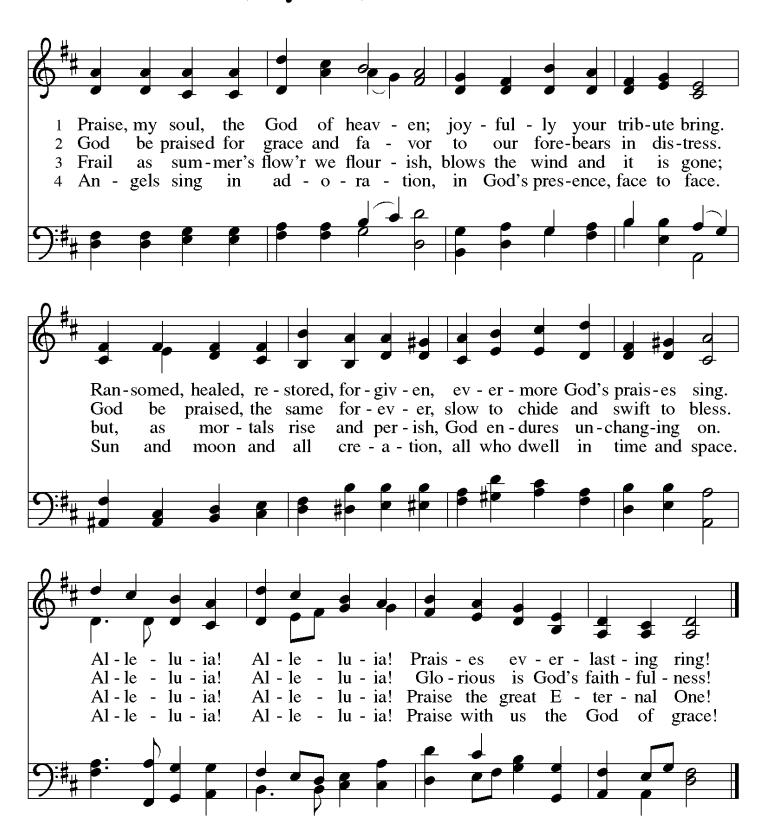
Text and music @ Geonyong Lee.

Beloved, God's Chosen



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Music: ANDREW'S SONG, Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962 Text © 1994 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven



Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

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 Paul and Rita Kristiansen for God's many blessings!

Service: God's Work. Our Hands Sunday. This year "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday is set for today 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

Upcoming

<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 thru the 13th to give their staff some time off.

Tuesday, September 19 - Women are invited to join together for breakfast **Thursday, September 14 - Men** are invited to join together for breakfast

<u>Communal Life: Youth Group.</u> 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.

<u>Communal Life: Board Game Night.</u> 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 bulletin sign-up sheet with your name and contact information. Interested students may sign up on the bulletin sign-up sheet as well, with your name and campus email address. Questions, contact Nancy Egloff (knegloff@verizon.net).

<u>Come out to celebrate</u> the beginning of the school year while supporting our preschool at **Shoofly Diary Bar Spirit Night** on **Thursday September 28th** 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.

Save the date: Saturday, October 14, 2023, is the date for the

RISE AGAINST HUNGER event held at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church. Mark your calendars as everyone from 4 years old to 104 years old can participate in this fun event to help eradicate World Hunger. This year we plan to package 55,296 meals, meaning we need about 130 volunteers per shift. You can sign up by visiting mywpc.org/rah or by sending a note to volunteer@mywpc.org and give us your name(s), the shift you want to work, and your best contact information. Shifts are 11:00am-1:00pm and/or 1:30-3:30pm. If you would like to learn more about the Rise Against Hunger organization and food - packaging events, please contact Gary Davis at (724) 208-1081.

Health Ministries

Ways to find relief for back pain

Approximately 80% of people will experience back pain at some point in their lives. For most people, it is not a chronic issue. For some, it is a lifetime of taking care of your back. Either way, there are things you can do at home to help.

When you wake up with an aching back, it is best to get up and start moving. Avoiding exercise can make back pain worse. That being said, don't rush out to do a big workout. Think baby steps for beginning to move.

If you have a sudden onset of pain, ice is the best thing to use at first. It helps by numbing the painful nerves. If the pain continues, you might consider using heat such as a heating pad.

Yoga is a great way to stretch and loosen muscles in your back. There are many yoga routines online, but look for a simple one with which to start. Other things that may help are the Superman pose, neck rolls and shoulder blade circles. Stress builds up and can surface in the form of back pain. Deep breathing exercises and meditation can help to relieve stress.

You should see a doctor if:

- Pain comes on without an obvious cause
- It is severe or unbearable
- It lasts more than a couple of days despite home therapy
- Has associated symptoms such as fatigue and weight loss.

Let me know if you have questions.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel Parish Nurse

We will be having the blood pressure clinic between services this Sunday Sept 10th

St. Stephen Calendar – September 10-17, 2023

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

SUNDAY, September 10

9:45 AM God's Work Our Hands (Gathering Space)

9:45 AM Blood Pressure clinic (Parish nurse office)

9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion

MONDAY September 11

10:00 AM Staff meeting (Pastor office)

7:00 PM Finance Meeting (Library/Conference room)

TUESDAY, September 12

7:00 PM Council Meeting (Fellowship hall)

WEDNESDAY, September 13

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Worship Space)

THURSDAY, September 14

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Colonial Pancake house)

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

5:30 PM St. Stephen Ringers Rehearsal (Worship Space)

FRIDAY, September 15

SATURDAY, September 16

12-4 PM AA Workshop (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, September 17

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	(8:30) Bill Dichtel
•	(11:00) Sonja Cave
	(8:30) Rita Kristiansen & Diane McCurry
	(11:00) Ingrid Brown
Audio-Visual Team	
Bread Baker	Pat Fretz
Cantor	
Communion Assistants	(8:30) Bill Dichtel and Diana Tiller-Dichtel
	(11:00) Steve Jacobs and Emily Rossiter
Flower Delivery	
Greeters/Hosts	(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel (11:00) Diana Tiller-Dichtel
Lectors	(8:30) Harlan Schone (11:00) Russ Dabel
Preacher	
Presider	

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)

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 Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net Pastorasw@saintstephenlutheran.net MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net Office@saintstephenlutheran.net Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.net Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net

Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)

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

September 10, 2023

Name:	
For guests and members with c	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	7
Looking for a church home	
Desire to speak with pastor	
Would like more information	on about Stephen Ministry
Would like a Parish Nurse	to contact me
Any comments? Please be sure y necessary.	your name is above, so we may respond,

Prayer Requests

Name:		
	remove from prayer concerns:	
I/V	We need a name tag:	
	I'm interested in adopting a college student: I'm a college student who is interested in being adopted	
	de name and campus email address)	
Name:		