



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!

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023



For Your Prayers October 9-15, 2023

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Ezekiel 19:10-14 1 Peter 2:4-10 Psalm 144

Tuesday: Isaiah 27:1-6 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Psalm 144

Wednesday: Song of Solomon 8:5-14 John 11:45-57 Psalm 144

Thursday: Isaiah 22:1-8a 1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14 Psalm 23

Friday: Isaiah 22:8b-14 James 4:4-10 Psalm 23

Saturday: Isaiah 24:17-23 Mark 2:18-22 Psalm 23

Next Sunday: Isaiah 25:1-9 Psalm 23 (5) Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Aaren Battle, Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Marcie Clark, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Julia Mahony, Jim Mayfield, Randy Punchard and Linda Reuben.**

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, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Dawn Allen, Paula Battle, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, Mary Bloom, Ann Bunn Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Doug Crinklaw, Sophia Czajkowski, Judy Drezek, Derald Edwards, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Catherine Harbison, Deanna Harbison, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Char Henry, Zac and Jen Holtzman and family, Brian Johnson, Mason Jones, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Bob Lamoureux, Ron Luchetti, Julia Mahony, Marnah Lund, Doug Mayes, Laura Mcgolin, Detra Michaels, Maddie Murray, Bob Myers, Gina Peterson, Paula Rega, Marci Ries, Betty Roth, Inge Seiter, David Shoberg, Kelsey Slay, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, JoAnn Wilkins and Caleb Winig

19th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

Centering Music *Praise to the Lord*

Arr. Michael Helman

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
✠ 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.**

Gathering Hymn *O God, Who Gives Us Life*

ACS 1086
Bulletin page 12

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

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

¹Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,

and it shall be trampled down.
6I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

7For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

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

Psalm:

Psalm 80:7-15



7Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
8**You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;**
you cast out the nations and | planted it.
9You cleared the | ground for it;
it took root and | filled the land.
10**The mountains were covered | by its shadow**
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs. Refrain
11You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
and its branches | to the river.
12**Why have you broken | down its wall,**
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?
13The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.
14**Turn now, O | God of hosts,**
look | down from heaven;
15behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted. *Refrain*

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Gospel Acclamation

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. The first staff is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time, with the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics "al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." and includes the instruction "Repeat alleluia". The third staff shows a simplified bass line for the same melody.

Jesus says, I chose you and ap- | pointed you* to go and bear fruit | that will last. (*John 15:16*)

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

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

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Sermon

“Kingdom Citizens”

Pastor Jon O. Nelson

Silence for reflection and prayer in response to the sermon.

Hymn of the Day

Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth

ELW 727

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Statement of Faith

Holy Love, Beginning and End, beyond all Names:
giver of food and drink, clothing and warmth, love and hope:
life in all its goodness, we praise and adore you.

Jesus Christ, Wisdom and Word:
lover of outcasts, friend of the poor;
one of us, yet one with God;
crucified and risen; life in the midst of death, we praise and adore you.

Holy Spirit, Storm and Breath:
building bridges, breaking chains,
waking the oppressed, making us one,
unseen and unexpected, untamable energy of life, we praise and adore you.

Holy Trinity, forever One,
whose nature is community,
unbounded dance of love;
in whom we live and grow and know our neighbor;
life in all its fullness, making all things new, we praise and adore you.
From Oremus III, the worship book of the Lutheran Student Movement, USA (campus ministry).

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

8:30	<i>Bought With a Price</i>	Natalie Sleeth
	Matins Choir	
11:00	<i>I Will Be the Vine</i>	Lawton/McCann
	Chancel Choir	
	Jane deSolms Soloist	
	Erika Cave Clarinet	

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Music:

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale Carl Schalk/arr. by Kyle Webber
St. Stephen Ringers

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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

Sending Hymn

There In God's Garden
St. Stephen Ringers

ELW 342
Bulletin page 14

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 *All Creatures of Our God and King*

Arr. Cathy Moglebust

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Text: © 1981, Hinshaw Music, Inc

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Contributors: Kyle Webber  
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*All Creatures of Our God and King*  
Contributors: Cathy Moglebust  
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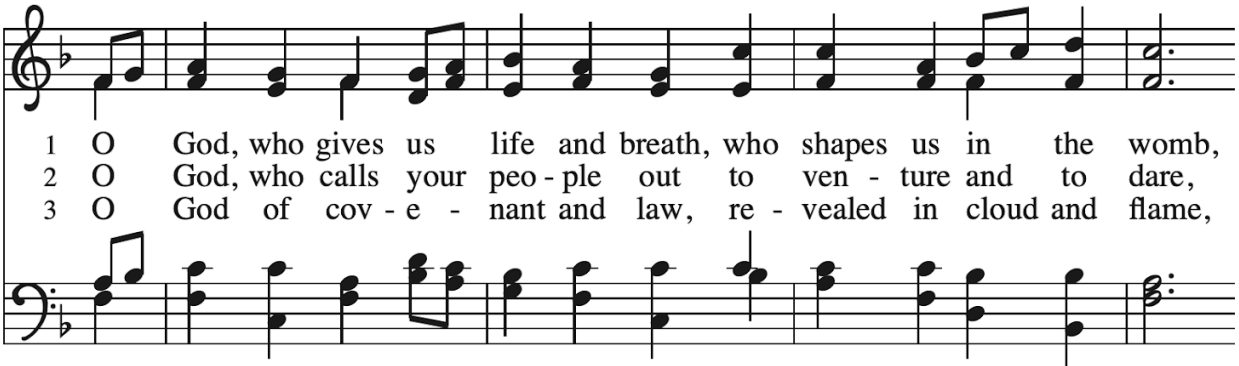
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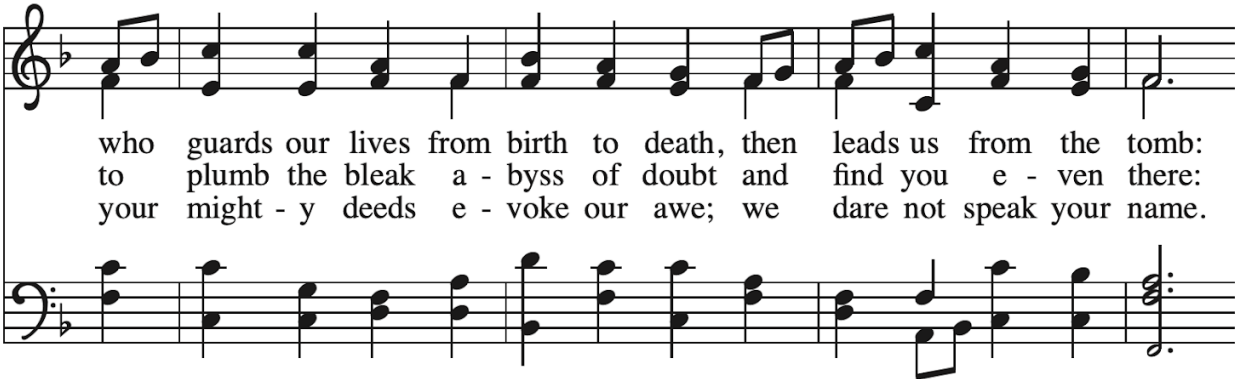
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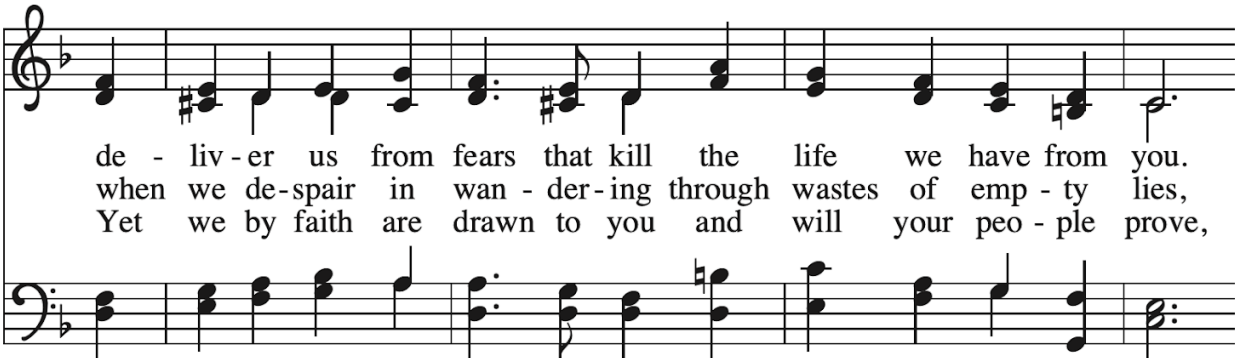
# O God, Who Gives Us Life



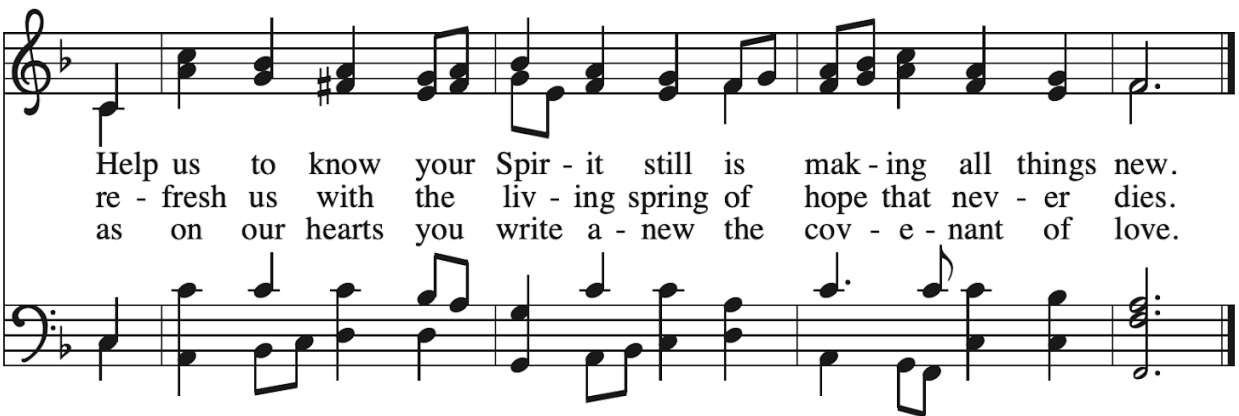
1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,  
3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:  
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,  
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.  
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.  
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944  
Music: NOEL, English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900  
Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

# Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth



1 Lord Christ, when first you came to earth, up -  
 2 O awe - some Love, which finds no room in  
 3 New ad - vent of the love of Christ, will  
 4 O wound - ed hands of Je - sus, build in



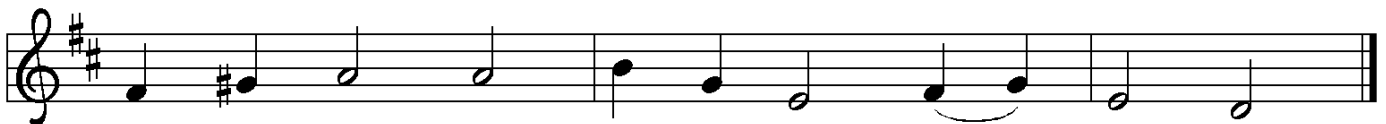
on a cross they bound you, and mocked your sav - ing  
 life where sin de - nies you, and, doomed to death, shall  
 we a - gain re - fuse you, till in the night of  
 us your new cre - a - tion; our pride is dust, our



king - ship's worth by thorns with which they crowned you. And  
 bring to doom the pow'r that cru - ci - fies you, till  
 hate and war we per - ish as we lose you? From  
 vaunt is stilled; we wait your rev - e - la - tion. O



still our wrongs may fash - ion now new thorns to pierce that  
 not a stone is left on stone, and then the na - tions'  
 an - cient doubts our minds re - lease to seek the king - dom  
 Love that tri - umphs o - ver loss, we bring our hearts be -



stead - y brow, and robe of sor - row round you.  
 pride, o'er - thrown, will nev - er - more de - fy you!  
 of your peace, by which a - lone we choose you.  
 fore your cross; come, fin - ish your sal - va - tion.

Text: W. Russell Bowie, 1882-1969, alt.  
 Music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, medieval European tune

# There in God's Garden

1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!

Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
 see there the ten - drills of our hu - man  
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your

pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending,  
 this my resurrection;  
 into your hands, Lord,  
 I commit my spirit.  
 This have I searched for;  
 now I can possess it.  
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion  
 offers in mercy  
 healing, strength, and pardon.  
 Peoples and nations,  
 take it, take it freely!"  
 Amen! My Master!

## 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.

## Items of Note

**Flower Sponsors!** We certainly enjoy flowers in our Worship Space that are dedicated to the Glory of God. There are five weeks remaining that need sponsors: October 29<sup>th</sup>, November 12<sup>th</sup>, November 19<sup>th</sup>, December 3, or December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please sign the Flower Sheet in the Gathering Space if you wish to sponsor any of these dates.

## What's Happening Today

Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God.

### Upcoming

**Service: Rise Against Hunger.** **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](http://mywpc.org/rah) or by sending a note to [volunteer@mywpc.org](mailto: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.

**Service: Mulch Party!** We will be receiving six yards of mulch on Friday evening October 13<sup>th</sup> for our preschool playground and will need your help to spread it. If you are available **Saturday October 14**, please come to St. Stephen at **10:00 AM**- bring your wheelbarrows, shovels, and rakes if you have them.

**Education: Thomas Keesecker Concert.** Join us between services on **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** for a concert by Thomas Keesecker. Thomas retired in 2019 after serving as a church musician for over 40 years in Lutheran and Roman Catholic parishes in Virginia, Montana, and Maryland. In his retirement he travels the country sharing his piano collections in informal recitals which incorporate hymn singing, readings, and poetry.

**Communal Life: Kidsburg & Kickball.** We have reserved **the shelter closest to the playground at Veterans Park (on Ironbound) for 3:00 PM on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Snacks and drinks will be provided. The playground will be nearby and we will play some all-ages kickball too!

**Education: Explore Spiritual Practices.** **Starting October 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Christina Nelson will lead an exploration of various spiritual practices **for four weeks between services**. Come to learn more about how to develop and/or deepen your faith practices. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall with a Zoom option as well.



**Communal Life: LSA Sunday Dinners.** Want to get to know our LSA members? Host a meal for them! Sign up to host a Sunday evening meal for LSA on the chart in the Gathering Space. If you haven't hosted before, instructions are available.

**FISH Volunteer Opportunity** November is the month we volunteer at FISH. Once again, they have asked us to size clothing. The dates are Tuesdays, Nov. 7, 14, & 28, from 10AM to 12PM. We need four persons each day. Please sign up on the poster in the Gathering Space or phone, text, or email **Virginia Ivey at 757-608-8989 or vbi104@hotmail.com.**

**For all the Saints...** All Saints' Sunday is **November 5.** During worship we will name loved ones who have died during the past year. Please write the names of those you wish to remember on the sheet in the Gathering Space, mark the Insert Sheet, or send names to **Hollie Jones** ([office@saintstephenlutheran.net](mailto:office@saintstephenlutheran.net)).

### **Thank You**

I want to thank everyone who came to support the Ministry Fair on Sunday. Whether you sat at a table or signed up to help a new ministry, YOU make a difference. We are not able to function without people who are willing to donate their time and talents. There are still handouts available if you were unable to come. If you have questions about any ministry, please feel free to contact the coordinator or myself. We are happy to answer your questions.

Thank you so much for your support.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel  
Parish Nurse

## St. Stephen Calendar –October 8-15 , 2023

*Our worship service is available on our website [www.saintstephenlutheran.net](http://www.saintstephenlutheran.net), click on “Worship with Us” and “Services.”*

### SUNDAY, October 8

- 8:30 AM**    **Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)**
- 9:45 AM    Affirmation Of Baptism (Library/Conference Room)
- 9:45 AM    Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 10:00 AM   Faith Formation (Preschool Room)
- 11:00 AM**   **Worship – Holy Communion**

### MONDAY, October 9

- 10:00 AM   Staff Meeting (Pastor Jon’s Office)
- 1:30 PM    Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 3:00 PM    Directory Committee meeting( Library/Conference room)
- 7:00 PM    Finance Committee Meeting( Library/Conference room)

### TUESDAY, October 10

- 11:30 AM**   **Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)**
- 7:00PM    Council Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

### WEDNESDAY, October 11

- 11:30 AM**   **Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)**
- 7:00 PM    AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 PM    Chancel Choir (Worship Space)

### THURSDAY, October 12

- 12:00 PM   Bulletin review (Library/Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM    St. Stephen Ringers Rehearsal (Worship Space)

### FRIDAY, October 13

- 4:30 PM    Homeless Ministries (Fellowship Hall)

### SATURDAY, October 14

- 10:00 AM   Mulch spreading party at the preschool playground
- 5:30 PM    AA Meeting (Library/Conference room)

### SUNDAY, October 15

- 8:30 AM**    **Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)**
- 9:45 AM    Affirmation Of Baptism (Library/Conference Room)
- 9:45 AM    **Thomas Keesecker Concert** (Worship Space)
- 10:00 AM   Faith Formation (Preschool Room)
- 11:00 AM**   **Worship – Holy Communion**

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

### **COMMUNITY OF FAITH MISSION HOMELESS EMERGENCY SHELTER**

It is season 12 of this ministry and St. Stephen has been able to serve from the very beginning due to everyone's generous support.

This year Host Partners have covered food and volunteers for all but three weeks. With the help of local hotels, COFM is providing shelter for those three weeks. They need meals and volunteer support staff for those three weeks. One of those is the week after Christmas. Temple Beth El is covering Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Because of your generous donations to our Homeless Ministry Fund, the Social Ministry Coordinating Committee has agreed to provide Dinner and bag lunches to the Homeless Guests at the Shelter on **December 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**. The hotel will provide breakfast.

For each of those evenings, nights, and early mornings, we need a grand total of eight volunteers in multiple shifts an outlined schedule is available in the gathering space to sign up or you can contact Hollie Jones at the church office if you are able to volunteer for any date(s) and shift(s), Office@saintstephenlutheran.net.

We need to have a good estimate of those able to volunteer no later than Sunday, October 29, 2023, since the COFM In-Person Volunteer Training is Wednesday, November 1, 2023 as noted from COFM as follows:

*“...Volunteer Training: **Wednesday, November 1, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00**, Williamsburg Community Chapel, Teen Room/Traditional shelter area (NORTH entrance). Anyone who volunteers at the shelter is required to attend training”*

Please note that if you cannot attend training or if you sign up late, you can watch recorded training on the COFM website (not YouTube). Also, if you decide to volunteer very late you can volunteer on “Sign-Up Genius” on that COFM website ([www.cofm.info](http://www.cofm.info)).

In 2022 there were 419 homeless persons on any given night per Newport News, /Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce. To quote COFM, “...our commitment to serving the homeless community remains unwavering...” Sign up if you can and please say a prayer for this special, giving homeless ministry.

Love and peace,  
Jim Ivey, Social Ministry Coordinating Committee

## Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer.....(8:30) Stan York  
.....(11:00) Sonja Cave  
Altar Guild ..... (8:30) Rita Kristiansen and Amy Bergh  
..... (11:00) Susan Neidlinger  
Audio-Visual Team..... (8:30) Nancy Carter (11:00) Tobias Janke  
Bread Baker..... Janice Svendsen  
Cantors .....(8:30 Paula Agor (11:00) Sandy Croushore  
Communion Assistants .....(8:30) Karen Shoberg and Karen Sanderlin  
..... (11:00) Keith & Nancy Egloff  
Flower Delivery .....  
Greeters/Hosts ..... (8:30) Chris Punchard(11:00)Sue and Ned Neidlinger  
Lectors.....(8:30) Karen Nester (11:00) Nancy Egloff  
Preacher..... Jon Nelson  
Presider .....Alex Shepard Witt  
Tellers..... Jane deSolms, Susan Britcher, Jim Larsen  
Ushers.....(8:30) Bob Achenbach & Bob Harman (11:00)Art Nelson

## ***St. Stephen Lutheran Church***

*612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185*

*[www.saintstephenlutheran.net](http://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)

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

Doing Ministry in the World

Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net

Pastorasw@saintstephenlutheran.net

MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net

Office@saintstephenlutheran.net

Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.net

Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net

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

***October 8, 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.

# Prayer Requests

Please **add** to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's *Quill*:

Name:

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Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name:

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\_\_\_ I/We need a name tag:\_\_\_\_\_

Please add the following name/names to “*For All the Saints...*”

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