

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

We believe that community is *beautiful* and *messy* and *fulfilling* and *conflicted* and...the POINT. God calls us together into community for the sake of one another, our neighbors, and creation. We don't always get it right, but we trust that when we center the love and grace that Jesus taught, we will get it right more often than not. *You are welcome here!* We don't expect perfect, put-together people; we don't want you to conform to us and our ways; we want you to show up as who you are and to experience the love and grace of God as we have experienced it. And we hope that once you do, you will join us in sharing it with others too.

24th Sunday after Pentecost November 12, 2023

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Amos 8:7-14 1 Corinthians 14:20-25 Psalm 63 Tuesday: Joel 1:1-14 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Psalm 63 Wednesday: Joel 3:9-21 Matthew 24:29-35 Psalm 63 Thursday: Ezekiel 6:1-14 Revelation 16:1-7 Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11]12 Friday: Ezekiel 7:1-9 Revelation 16:8-21 Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11]12 Saturday: Ezekiel 7:10-27 Matthew 12:43-45 Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11]12 Next Sunday's Readings: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18;Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 (12) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11;Matthew 25:14-30

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Paula Agor, Aaren Battle, Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Marcie Clark, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Julia Mahony, 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, Paula Battle, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, Mary Bloom, Ann Bunn, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Doug Crinklaw, Katie Czajkowski, Sophia Czajkowski, Judy Drezek, Joel Gillespie, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Catherine Harbison, Deanna Harbison, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Char Henry, Zac and Jen Holtzman and family, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick ,The Kennedy family, Bob Lamoureux, Marnah Lund, Laura Margolin, Doug Mayes, Maddie Murray, Bob Myers, Lori Ogborn, Katie Orcutt, Paula Rega, Marci Ries, Sharon Rogers, Betty Roth, Inge Seiter, Kelsey Slay, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig.

November 12, 2023 ~ 24th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

| Centering Music | Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns Die Stimme | J.S. Bach |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through + Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

| Gathering Hymn | Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers | Hymn 244 |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| | | Bulletin page 12 |

Prayer of the Day

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

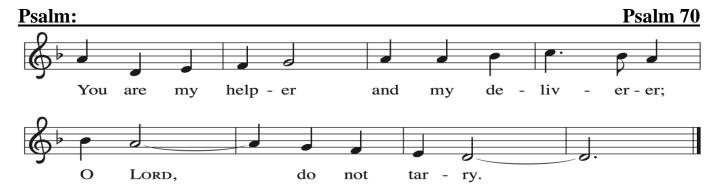
First Reading:

Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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



¹Be pleased, O God, to de-[|] liver me;

O LORD, make [|] haste to help me.

²Let those who seek my life be put to shame ¹ and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and ¹ be disgraced. *Refrain*

³Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat [|] over me turn back because [|] of their shame.

⁴Let all who seek you rejoice and be [|] glad in you;

let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- ¹ly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, ¹do not tarry. *Refrain*

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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



Choir: Keep awake | and be ready,* for you do not know on what day your | Lord is coming. (Matt. 24:42, 44)

Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times. Response after announcement of the Gospel: **"Glory to you, O Lord."**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were

foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

| Sermon | Worship That Pleases Silence for reflection and prayer | Pastor Alex She | eppard-Witt |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Hymn of the Day | Wake, Awake, for Night Is | . 0 | ELW 436 ages 10&11 |

New Member Welcome

ELW pages 235 & 237

Prayers

Each petition concludes, "Lord in your mercy." Response: "Hear our prayer."

III. Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering

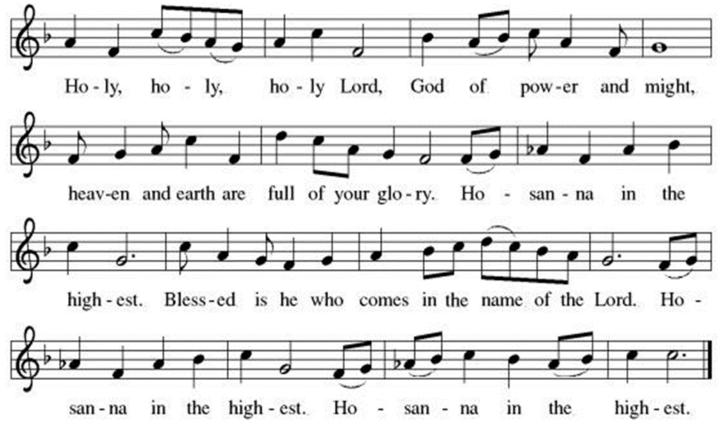
Offerings are gathered for the mission of the church: preaching and teaching the good news of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, and caring for the poor. During the offering, the table is set for the Lord's Supper.

Offering of Music *O Jesus, I have Promised*

Arr. Thomas Keesecker

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 to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



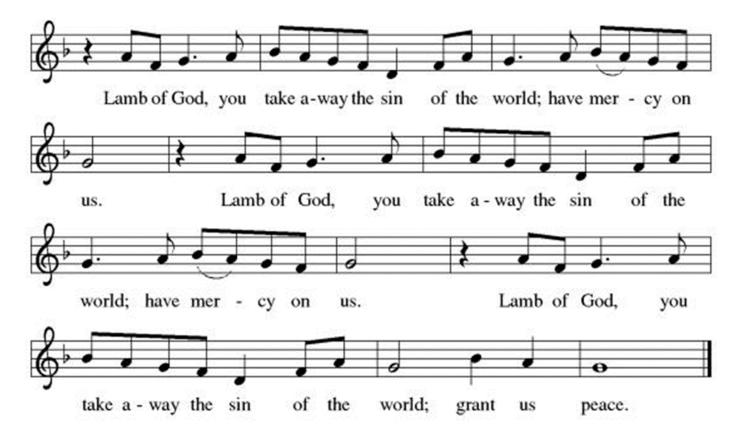
Words of Institution

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, please stand 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 Deep River

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

ACS 951 Bulletin page 13

ELW 494 Bulletin page 14

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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

Sending Hymn

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

ACS 949 Bulletin page 15



Blessing May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. Amen.

Dismissal Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Setting, Mary Howarth

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Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying





Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

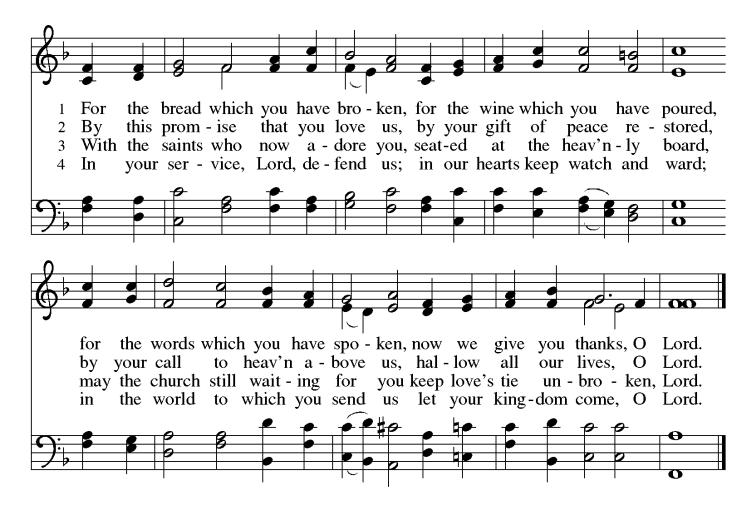


Deep River



Text: African American spiritual Music: DEEP RIVER, African American spiritual

For the Bread Which You Have Broken



Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855-1930, alt.

Music: OMNI DIE, Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1631; arr. William Smith Rockstro, 1823–1895 Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



Text: African American spiritual Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

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 to the Glory of God by Karen Shoberg.

Education: Explore Spiritual Practices. Christina Nelson will lead an exploration of various spiritual practices **for one last session 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.

<u>Communal Life: New Member Welcome.</u> We have welcomed five new members by transfer from other ELCA congregations in the last six months, but we haven't officially welcomed them in worship! Join us **Today Sunday, November 12th** as we welcome our new members in worship and celebrate with a reception between services. Gerry& Sandy Johnson, Carol Brown, Becky Pittman, Kathy Schroder, and Elanor Berg

Upcoming

<u>Preschool Spirit Night</u>! Mark your calendars for this **Tuesday, November 14,** for Preschool Spirit Night! Our event will be at **Sal's by Victor on Richmond Road from 5:00 – 9:00 PM**. You may dine in, carry out, or have curbside delivery! Come out and support our Preschool!



<u>Photo Directory Online Scheduling Available!</u> Wednesday December 13th (both Monday and Tuesday are fully booked). To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to

www.ucdir.com, click on photography appointment online, simply go to side, enter VA234 in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. Everyone who is photographed will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory! Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time. If you have any questions please contact Hollie Jones in the office. You can also scan the QR code below and follow the instructions above.

<u>Communal Life: Afternoon Fall Social.</u> Reconnect with old friends and make new friends at St. Stephen's Afternoon Fall Social! Come and enjoy an hour of fellowship, with seating at tables in the Fellowship Hall, on Wednesday, November 15, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM. Finger foods and light refreshments will be provided. Sign up on the insert or contact the church office to indicate your interest in attending, as well as whether you need a ride or can provide a ride to others.

Education: Bible Study. We have our weekly Bible Study on **Mondays at 1:30 PM in the Library/Conference Room**. You are welcome to join us as we look ahead at the upcoming Sunday's appointed texts.

<u>"Our "Dining Group Meetings"</u> which were organized in the summer have been wonderful. Now it's time to reassess. Please join with the other groups on Sunday, **Nov.19 at 9:45** for Coffee in the Fellowship Hall. We'll discuss whether to continue with our present groups until summer 2024, whether to start signups for new and reformed groups, or whether to make other adjustments. Please join us for fellowship and fun - AND coffee."

Worship: HART Thanksgiving Service. Join Historic Area Religions Together (HART) for our annual multi-faith Thanksgiving service at Walsingham Academy on November 20th, starting at 7:00 PM.

The Flower Chart for 2024 is posted in the display area of the Gathering Space. Please mark the date for which you would like to sponsor flowers! Sponsor sheets are below the chart. If you have a special request please note it on the sheet.

Poinsettias and Jean Kuhn Memorial Fund. Please let the Office know if you want to order poinsettias for Christmas Eve (\$16.00 each) and/or contribute to the Jean Kuhn Memorial Fund for Christmas. This fund helps with those ministries needing assistance during the year for which we have not budgeted. Deadline for poinsettias is Monday, November 27.

<u>Christmas is coming</u>! Children are invited to participate in our Christmas program! Music Director **Karen Ives** will be teaching the children songs and chimes that will tell the Christmas story! Practice will begin on **Sunday, November 26 at 10:00 AM**. Meet in the Fellowship Hall.

TOY DRIVE!

St. Stephen is again blessed to be able to assist the Williamsburg House of Mercy (WHOM) help over 700 children in our community enjoy Christmas morning this year! Gifts are for the children of Greater Williamsburg Area families, age's birth to eighteen years.

What/Where can I buy?

- Age-appropriate gifts including clothes, shoes, toys, small electronics
- Donate money and WHOM will shop for you. Make checks payable to **St. Stephen Lutheran Church**, with note for: **WHOM Toys**.
- Choose something from the Amazon Wish List <u>https://a.co/9HFgLYD</u>
- Scan the QR code
- Shop anywhere

What do I do with the gifts when I buy them?

- Drop them off at church, downstairs in Hollie's office
- Drop them off at church, in the Gathering Space
- Contact Jim Ivey and I will arrange to have them picked up from your porch/home
- Order online and send them to the church at 612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg VA 23185, Attn: WHOM Gifts

When is the deadline?

- Cash/Check donations no later than Sunday, December 3
- Gifts should be at the church or picked up no later than **Sunday**, **December 10**

Who do I contact if I have questions? Jim Ivey 757-608-8990, jvivey@cox.net





<u>VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED</u> FOR ST. STEPHEN'S NIGHTS AT THE 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.

The week after Christmas the Community of Faith Mission will manage the shelter at the Country Inn & Suites East; 7135 Pocahontas Trail (Rte. 60); Williamsburg, VA 23185. <u>St. Stephen has volunteered to man the shelter for two of those evenings</u>.

For evenings, nights, and early mornings of December 26th, 27th, and 28th we need a grand total of <u>eight volunteers each night</u> in multiple shifts for <u>two nights</u> as outlined on the schedule posted in the Gathering Space. Please sign up in the Gathering Space or contact Hollie Jones at the church office if you are able to volunteer for any date(s) and shift(s), 757-229-6688.

COFM has a lot of experience, and they found that this hour+ of training/refresher training is important. So, it is mandatory for all volunteers. Watch it at your convenience. You can go to the COFM website, <u>https://cofm.info</u>, the heading Host Sites & Partners, and Login. The training to watch is "Volunteer Training Video." There is a confidential password. Contact Jim Ivey at 757-608-8990 or jvivey@cox.net for the PW and a copy of the "General Guidelines and Important Information."

Love and peace, Jim Ivey, Social Ministry Coordinating Committee Allow the Spirit to nourish you with some moments of contemplation, as we gather at **7:00 PM** on these **Wednesdays in Advent**:

- December 6, 7:00PM (Praise)
- December 13, 7:00PM (Trust)
- December 20, 7:00PM (Lament)

Children's Christmas Program

• Sunday, December 17 at our 11:00 AM Worship Service

Christmas Caroling outside to some of our ill and homebound folks

Sunday, December 17

- **4:00 PM** We meet in the Fellowship Hall to organize.
- 6:00 PM We'll return to the Fellowship Hall to share a meal together. Bring chili and/or cornbread to share! (If you're not able to make the caroling, feel free to join the meal gathering – and vice versa!)

Christmas Eve (all evening services with candle light):

- 9:45 AM Worship and Holy Communion (Advent 4)
- 7:30 PM Worship featuring sermon, choirs and Holy Communion
- **10:00 PM** Contemplative Worship Service with Holy Communion

New Years Eve , December 31:

• 9:45 AM – Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

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

SUNDAY, November 12

- 8:30 AM Worship Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)
- 9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism (Library/Conference Room)
- 9:45 AM New Member Reception (Gathering Space)
- 9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 9:45 AM Explore Spiritual Practices (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:00 AM Faith Formation: Life Story (Preschool Room)
- 11:00 AM Worship Holy Communion

MONDAY, November 13

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor Jon's Office)
- 1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 2:30 PM Stephen Minister meeting (Pastor Jon Office)
- 7:00 PM Finance Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

TUESDAY, November 14

11:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)

7:00 PM Church Council (Fellowship Hall)

WEDNESDAY, November 15

11:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)

1-2:00 PM Fall Social (Fellowship Hall)

- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Worship Space)

THURSDAY, November 16

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

FRIDAY, November 17

SATURDAY, November 18

- 4:00 PM LYO (Library/Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, November 19

8:30 AM Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)

- 9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism (Library/Conference Room)
- 9:45 AM Small Groups Dining Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 10:00 AM Faith Formation (Preschool Room)

11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion

1-5:00 PM Williamsburg Association of Music Teachers (Fellowship Hall)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

| Audio-Visual Team | |
|----------------------|--|
| | Jennifer Dabel |
| Cantors | |
| Communion Assistants | |
| | (11:00) Margaret Steel and Sandy Johnson |
| Flower Delivery | Nelia Lamoureux |
| Greeters/Hosts | (8:30) Bob & Carol Harman (11:00) Susan Kauffman |
| Lectors | (8:30) Linda Baumgarten (11:00) Cyndy Touhsaent |
| Preacher | Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt |
| Presider | |
| Tellers | Jane deSolms, Susan Britcher, Jim Larsen |
| Ushers | |

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)

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

November 12, 2023

| Name: |
|--|
| For guests and members with changes: |
| Address (Home) |
| City/StateZip |
| Telephone # |
| E-Mail Address |
| Guests Only: I belong to |
| Church Address |
| Please check as many as pertain: |
| Member |
| First time guest |
| Regular guest |
| Guest (out of town) |
| Student at William & Mary |
| Looking for a church home |
| Desire to speak with pastor |
| Would like more information about Stephen Ministry |
| Would like a Parish Nurse to contact me |
| Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond |

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: _____

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: _____

____ I/We need a name tag: _____

I/WE Would like to attend the Afternoon Fall Social, Wed., Nov. 15, 1:00-2:00pm. How many?_____

_____Would appreciate a ride to the social and back home.

Ride needed for how many? _____

_____ Will be happy to be a driver for social attendee(s).