



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

One of 13,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World

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.



February 25 , 2024 ~ Second Sunday in Lent

For Your Prayers – February 26-March 3 , 2024

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Genesis 21:1-7 Hebrews 1:8-12 Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45

Tuesday: Genesis 22:1-19 Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19 Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45

Wednesday: Jeremiah 30:12-22 John 12:36-43 Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45

Thursday: Exodus 19:1-9a 1 Peter 2:4-10 Psalm 19

Friday: Exodus 19:9b-15 Acts 7:30-40 Psalm 19

Saturday: Exodus 19:16-25 Mark 9:2-8 Psalm 19

Next Sunday's Readings: Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 (8) I Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Aaren Battle, Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Martha Reier, 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: John, Marty, Benita, Paula Battle, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, Linda Bonfiglio, Mary Bloom, Ann Bunn, Amy Carl, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Doug Crinklaw, Sophia Czajkowski, Judy Drezek, Ginny Mauney Fox, Joel Gillespie, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Deanna Harbison, Nick Havola, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Char Henry, Lisa Hill, Jaxon Ireland, The Jacobs Family, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Laura & Fred Kienle, Marnah Lund, David Maris, Laura Margolin, Doug Mayes, Jack Mayfield, Becky Murphy, Ed Moninger, John and Pollie Morison, Bob Myers, Silvana Oderisi, Lori Ogborn, Shary Raske, Paula Rega, Mark Punchard, Marci Ries, Sharon Rogers, Betty Roth, Lou Schuster, Inge Seiter, Kelsey Slay, Brant Smith, Vasili Soutoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig.

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

Welcome

Centering Music

How Firm a Foundation
St. Stephen Ringers

Setting, Linda R. Lamb

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.**

Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

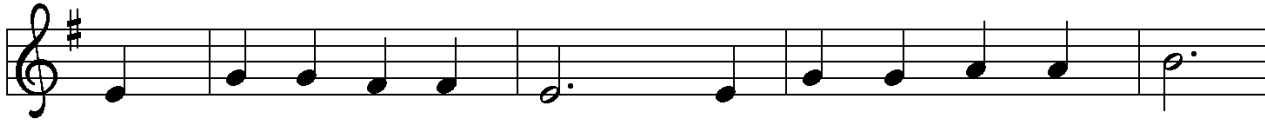
How Firm a Foundation

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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.**

Kyrie



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

First Reading

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

Lenten Acclamation



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -
slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Gospel

Mark 8:31-38

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

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter’s response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

Sermon

*Way of Truth, Way of Suffering
Silence for reflection and prayer.*

Pastor Jon O Nelson

Prayers

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

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

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church: preaching and teaching the good news of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, and caring for the poor.

During the offering, the table is set for the Lord's Supper.

Offering of Music *I Love you, Lord*

Wayne Wold

Offertory Prayer

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **Amen.**

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...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n 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. The 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.



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Hymns

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
 St. Stephen Ringers

arr. Cathy Moklebust

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

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

Sending Hymn *We've Come This Far By Faith*
Cantor sings versus/ Congregation sings Refrain

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Blessing

**Beloved, we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage, and ✝ give you peace. Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share your bread. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*
St. Stephen Ringers

Setting, John A. Behnke

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How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
 3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
 4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,

"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;
 per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;
 nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;
 nor think till death to lay it down;

for - sake the past, and come this day,
 his strength shall bear your spir - it up,
 for you the Lord en - dured the cross
 for those who hum - bly bear the cross

and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.
 to save your soul from death and hell.
 one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814-1877, alt.
 Music: BOURBON, W. Hauser, *Hesperian Harp*, 1848; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

We've Come This Far By Faith

Refrain - All

We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord;
trust-ing in his ho-ly word, he's nev-er failed us yet.
Oh, can't turn a-round, we've come this
far by faith. We've come this far by faith.

1 Just remember
the good things God has done,
things that seemed impossible;
oh, praise him for the vict'ries he has won.

2 Don't be discouraged
with trouble in your life;
he'll bear your burdens,
and move all the discord and strife.

Text: Albert A. Goodson, 1883-1947

Music: THIS FAR BY FAITH, Albert A. Goodson

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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 are given to the honor and the glory of God.

Do you enjoy coffee and fellowship on Sunday mornings? Please consider donating to the



coffee fund, simply place a dollar or so in the cup on top of the Keurig this will help us stay within budget! Don't have a dollar scan the QR code by the coffee pot or here in the bulletin.

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 in the tray below the chart!

Upcoming

Wednesday evenings in Lent, February 28, March 6, 13, and 20th at St. Stephen:

- **6:00 PM** – Soup and Bread supper in the Fellowship Hall
 - **Sign up** to bring soup and/or bread on the poster in the Gathering Space!
 - **Sign up** on the insert sheet if you plan to attend
- **7:00 PM:** Holden Evening Prayer.

Education: The St. Stephen Lutheran 2024 Theologian in Residence is the Rev. James G. Cobb, who will be joining us on **March 2 and 3, 2024**. Pastor Cobb, a former member of SSLC, is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination and has held many prominent appointments at the ELCA and LWF. He is also the author of 5 books. His topic will be "Christian Nationalism & A Lutheran Perspective." The **Saturday, March 2** session starts at **9:30am** in the Fellowship Hall and will end at 1:30pm (potluck lunch at noon). The Theologian in Residence will be the preacher at both services on Sunday, March 3.

Support: RIP Medical Debt. Once again our SMCC would like to invite the congregation to support **RIP Medical Debt** during this season of Lent. If you would like to help relieve medical debt you can send a donation to the church marked "RIP Medical Debt." Last Lent we raised a little over \$5,000 which led to the forgiveness of ~\$500,000 in medical debt. Can we beat our previous fundraising total?

Communal Life: Lenten Midweek Soup Suppers. Look for a sign up sheet in the Gathering Space soon for Lenten Soup Suppers. We look for 2-3 crocks of soup and bread/rolls prior to our Lenten Wednesday services (starting February 21). Look for more info to come!

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.

Last weekend to Order your Lilies for Easter: Please fill out the insert sheet if your wish to place your order. All orders will be placed Monday February 26. These will be used to decorate the church and may be picked up after Easter Service.

Communal Life: Pub & Grub. Join us on **Monday, February 26th at 7:00 PM** at **Billsburg Brewery** for some food, drinks and conversation.

St. Stephen Calendar: February 25- March 3, 2024

SUNDAY, February 25 ~ *Second Sunday in Lent*

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

MONDAY, February 26

- 10:00 AM Staff meeting (Pastor Office)
- 1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 7:00 PM Pub and Grub (Billsburg Brewery)
- 7:00 PM Book Study (Library/Conference Room)

TUESDAY, February 27

- 11:30 AM** **Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)**
- 1:30 PM Book Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 7:00 PM Chorial Guild Committee Meeting(Fellowship Hall)

WEDNESDAY, February 28

- 11:30 AM** **Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)**
- 12:30 PM Staff Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)
- 6:00 PM Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 PM** **Holden Evening Prayer (Worship Space)**
- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

THURSDAY, February 29

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

FRIDAY, March 1

SATURDAY, March 2

- 9:30 AM -1:30 PM TIR: the Rev. James Cobb
- 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/ Conference Room)

SUNDAY, March 3 ~ *Third Sunday in Lent*

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

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer (8:30) Stan York
..... (11:00) David Nelson
Altar Guild (8:30) Diane McCurry and Rita Kristiansen
..... (11:00) Gerri Bass
Audio-Visual Team..... (8:30) Nancy Carter (11:00) Doug Moore
Bread BakerJanice Mayfield
Cantors..... (8:30) Ellen Bushman (11:00) Terri Larsen
Communion Assistants(8:30) Susan Bosworth and Karen Sanderlin
..... (11:00) Pam Buckley and George Bass
Flower Delivery Nelia Lamoureux
Greeters/Hosts.....(8:30) J.R. & Diana Lyons (11:00) Ned Neidlinger
Lectors (8:30) Tom Peterkin (11:00) Rosemary Stimson
Preacher Pastor Jon O Nelson
Tellers Tom Peterkin, Sandy Peterkin, Sandy Croushore
Ushers(8:30) JR Lyons and Lisa Bushmire (11:00) Jim Weilmuenster and Russ Dabel

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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(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

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Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church!

*Please fill this out and drop it in the offering plate
or give it to an usher.*

February 25, 2024

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*:

(please note all names will be removed at the end of the following month, if you wish for someone to be added back on to the prayer list please resubmit their names here)

Name: _____

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: _____

_____ I need a name tag

_____ I/ We plan to attend the Theologian in Residence presentation on March 2

_____ I/We wish to order # _____ Easter Lilies to decorate St. Stephen (\$21.00 each).

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Thanks for: _____

No Dedication _____

_____ I/We wish to support the Jean Kuhn Memorial Fund - to help fund unbudgeted social ministries.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In thanks for: _____

No Dedication _____

Please make checks payable to St. Stephen and designate *Easter Lilies* or *Jean Kuhn Memorial Fund* in the memo line

