

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

One of 13,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World



First Sunday in Lent February 26, 2023

For Your Prayers – February 26,-March 5, 2023

The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday-Saturday) prepare for Sunday's readings while the days flowing out of Sunday (Monday-Wednesday) reflect back upon the Sunday readings. The complete Daily Lectionary readings can be found on page 1121 in the back of the ELW.
Lectionary readings for this week:
Monday: Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18
Tuesday: Psalm 32; Genesis4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14—5:10
Wednesday: Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9,27-28; Mathew 18:10-14
Thursday: Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:3-7
Friday: Psalm 121; Micah 7:18-20; Romans 3:21-31
Saturday: Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10
Sunday: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121(1,2); Romans 4:1-5,13-17; John 3:1-17

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **George Bass**, **Ed Brown**, Kristin Carter, Marcie Clark, Karen Einarsen, John Harm, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, Marie Nelson, and Linda Reuben.

<u>Pray for those unable to come to worship</u>: Joyce Behlendorf, Martin Bleck, Ed Brown, Birdie Burton, York Doerr, Bob and Angie Groom, Jack Harris, Edith Haecker, Pat Janot, Jeanne Nelson, Joanne Shue, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff

<u>Pray God's comfort</u> and peace for Marilyn Mallue and her family on the death of Henry "Hank" Mallue.

<u>*Pray gods blessing*</u> For James and Stephanie Ogborn who were married on February 19. May love and laughter fill your hearts and your home for all at the days of your lives.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Phil Arnold, Joe Beene, Megan Beese, Sally Blackburn, Rev. Donald Blume, John Butler, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Yvonne Destout, Judy Drezek, Paul Dwiggins, Derald Edwards, Joan Fecondo, Gloria Flamm, Dan Flatin, Kay Flatin, Betty Frazee, Bob and Lois Friend, Andrea Gonzalez, Mark Gulesian, Deanna Harbison, Rex Harder, Andy Havola, Frank Hayes, Char Henry, Nicole Ingle, Crystal Isaac, Nate Jacklin, Rev. Richard Johnson, Sandy Kellogg, The Kennedy family, John Knestrick, Richard Kochanski, Rebecca Krueger, Margaret Lewis, Jackie Locke, Isabelle Lutzle, Keith Margrey, Detra Michaels, Lynn Nestrick, Edith Roberts, Betty Roth, Shann Rufer, Paul Sampson, Inge Seiter, David Shoberg, Patricia Simpson, Kelsey Slay, Mike Slyer, Brant Smith, Vasili Soultoukis, Jerry and Evelyn Spear, Chad Strausbaugh ,Dustin Sullivan, Kelly Theilen, Carolyn Williams, Travis Wilson, Caleb Winig, Brody Wood, Teresa, and Robert Yazujian, Abby Zwerner and the people of Syria, Turkey and Ukraine

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

Welcome

Centering Music A Mighty Fortress

Arr. Cathy Moklebust

Call to worship

Beloved children of God, come to worship our creator and friend! Here we are, from the soles of our feet to the souls within us. We are here to worship.

Come, siblings in Christ, and attend this gathering with your body, mind, and spirit. Be fully present with us today.

From head to toe, inside and out, from our prayers to our thoughts to our dreams, we are present to worship.

And if our minds wander, our bodies fidget, or our spirits grow drowsy, what shall we do?

We shall worship in wandering, fidgeting, and drowsiness, for we can find God in our very breath. Come now, let us worship.

Confessions and Forgiveness

Like child Jesus, the children of the world have needs, yet today they are in crisis. Let us confess our sins and the sins of our times, so we might partner with God to bring heaven to earth.

Holy and righteous God, you have heard the cries of the children growing up without food, water, shelter, and care. We confess we have been complicit in systems that exploit children and perpetuate these grave sins. Lord, have mercy.

We have bought items manufactured by children. Lord, have mercy. We have turned our attention from the physical and mental health care needs of children and youth. **Lord, have mercy.**

We have participated in systems that provide excellent education to some children and very little to others. Lord, have mercy.

We have mocked, belittled, posted, shared, and chastised the behavior of children and youth instead of cherishing their individual development and milestones. **Lord, have mercy.**

We have excluded children, segregating them from the community and privileging the voices and presence of adults. **Lord, have mercy.**

You sent Jesus to us as a child, and you continue to call us to attend to the needs of children. In our exclusion of children, we have missed out on Jesus. Forgive us, God, and call us back to a place where we will always "let the children come." **Amen.**

Our God is faithful to forgive and empower us to begin again. Receive the grace and forgiveness of God, and be at peace. From here, we take up the mantle to protect and care for the children in our community and our world once again. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn A Mighty Fortress is Our God!

ELW 504 Bulletin pages 12&13

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

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through 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

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.





⁸"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that [|] you should go; I will guide you [|] with my eye. *Refrain*

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no [|] understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will [|] not stay near you."

¹⁰Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;

but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice [|] in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are [|] true of heart. *Refrain*

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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



Gospel

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

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

SermonFully HumanPastor Jon NelsonThe Hymn of the Day will be announced in a few moments. First, please take timeduring the silence: What are your prayers in response to the sermon?

Hymn of the Day	I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
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Prayers

Each petition concludes, "Merciful God." Response: "Receive 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 A Lenten Walk

Hal Hopson

ELW 325

Bulletin page 14

Offertory Hymn



Offertory Prayer

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



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.



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

Sending Hymn

Blessing God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. Amen.

Dismissal Go in Peace. Serve in Love. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Guide me Ever Great Redeemer St. Stephen Ringers

Arr. Linda R Lamb

Please exit the worship space quietly so that others may enjoy the postlude

Postlude Notes: Meet the composer Linda R. Lamb. Linda R. Lamb has been involved with handbells since 1992, as director, ringer, and composer. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Carson-Newman College (now University) with a minor in music, and a Master of Church Music. She is the founder and list owner of the Frustrated Friends of Finale (FFF), a mailing list for users of the computer music program who mostly compose and arrange for handbells.



A Mighty Fortress Is Our God





Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



Text: African American spiritual Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

When We Are Tested



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt. Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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.

COVID-19 Guidelines:

Community transmission of COVID-19 in Williamsburg is LOW; James City County is LOW; and York County is LOW. **We strongly encourage the wearing of masks in our building** at this time, especially for those who are more vulnerable to viral illnesses. We also encourage you to monitor yourself for flu (and COVID) symptoms and stay home if you are experiencing any.

What's Happening Today

Flowers this morning are given to 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!

<u>The Flower Chart for 2023</u> 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 envelope below the chart!

Health Ministry

Are you fasting for Lent?

What is "fasting" for lent? Fasting may be more than giving up something we love. Perhaps, we should focus on fasting as an attitude change toward others and turning away from excess. For some, it is a low priority to take care of themselves. A lent practice might be to give up trying to do everything for everyone else and spend some time checking in with ourselves. Our focus should be to give up what is pulling us from God and from loving ourselves and others as God intended.

Fasting could mean giving up such things as coffee, alcohol, chocolate and other such things. It can also mean giving up time on social media to spend time with family. It can mean giving up electronics at night to help improve the chances of getting a good nights sleep. It could mean giving up the convenience of parking in front of a store and parking further away so that you get more exercise.

Maybe you are increasing your prayer time. Some ideas to do that could include scrolling through your contact list and randomly picking someone for which to offer up a small prayer. Dedicate yourself to reading the daily lectionary and praying about what you have read.

It is never too late to start any of these practices and there is no rule you have to stop them. Need some more ideas, call me. We can certainly come up with some others.

Diana Tiller-Dichtel Parish Nurse Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.net

Upcoming

Communal Life & Service: LSA Sunday Dinners Our LSA members are back from winter break! Sign up to host a meal for LSA on the chart in the Gathering Space. If you haven't hosted before, instructions are available by the sign up chart

<u>Mowers and Gardeners needed for the upcoming season!</u> While it may seem a little early with cold weather outside our doors, we are starting to put lists together for mowers and gardeners who can help us through the warmer months. If you would like to volunteer your talents to either mow our church yard or help to garden, we would greatly appreciate hearing from you. For the mowers, please contact Randy Punchard (757-870-8410), randy4golf@aol.com. For the gardening folks, please contact Chris Punchard (757-880-3347), mrschris16@aol.com. Or just note the insert sheet of your interest. Any questions concerning these activities can be addressed to Randy or Chris.

<u>Communal Life: Pub & Grub</u> Join us on Monday, February 27th at 7:00 PM at <u>Billsburg Brewery</u> for some food, drinks and conversation! We will try to get one of the fire-pits to gather around.

<u>Bible study class will be moving to a new date and time</u>. Starting March 6th we will be meeting on Mondays at 1:30PM in the Library/Conference Room. Come and study the upcoming Sunday's text with Rev. Jim Larsen and the Rev. Harvey Nelson.

Wednesday evenings in Lent, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29th at St. Stephen:

- 6:00 PM: Soup and Bread supper in the Fellowship Hall
- **7:00 PM**: Holden Evening Prayer in person and on our YouTube channel.

St. Stephen Lutheran Women's Retreat – 2023; Sewing New Wineskins to Fit a New Generation

We are excited to announce that **The Rev. Dr. Mary Anderson**, an Interim Pastor of the South Carolina Synod of the ELCA, will lead our 2023 retreat. The committee has developed the following schedule –

• **Friday, March 24.** Join us for pizza and an overview of Saturday's events! All are welcome (even if you cannot make it on Saturday!) for this gathering from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Childcare will be provided.

• **Saturday, March 25.** We will enjoy two extended sessions with Rev. Anderson as well as the opportunity to attend a breakout session in the morning and in the afternoon.

• **Sunday, March 26,** Rev Anderson will preach at both services, as well as lead an informal discussion between.

Our social ministry project is in support of NO SHAME. PERIOD. Many young girls begin menstruation at school or have irregular menstrual cycles. This organization helps by sending school nurses "period packs" to dispense as needed. We will be collecting the specific items needed for these packs and putting them together during our retreat. All are welcome to contribute! Details on items needed will be in your registration packet and available in the Gathering Space. For more information on this project, contact **Pam Buckley** (757-869-3373 or guammom16@aol.com).

Deadline to register is March 1, 2023

Upcoming Commemorations

George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633 Wednesday, March 1, 2023

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church Thursday, March 2, 2023

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

St. Stephen Calendar -February 27- March 5

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

SUNDAY, February 26 ~ First Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 AM Matins Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
- 8:30 AM Worship Holy Communion (livestreamed 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 Life Story (Preschool Room)
- 10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)

11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion

MONDAY, February 27

10:00 AM Staff meeting

7:00 PM Pub and Grub @ Billsburg brewery

TUESDAY, February 28

- 10:00 AM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 7:00PM Preschool committee (Library/Conference Room)

WEDNESDAY, March 1

- 6:00 PM Soup and Bread 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, March 2

- 8:00 AM Mens Breakfast (Colonial Pancake House)
- 1:00 PM Staff Bulletin Review

FRIDAY, March 3

9:00 AM- 11:00AM Book Mobile at the preschool(preschool side driveway inaccessible)

SATURDAY, March 4

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/Conference room)

SUNDAY, March 5 ~ Second Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 AM Matins Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
- 8:30 AM Worship Holy Communion (*livestreamed 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 Chime Time (Worship Space)
- 10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
- 11:00 AM Worship Holy Communion

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

•	
	(8:30) Rita Kristiansen and Diana Tiller-Dichtel
	(11:00) Heidi Flatin and Jane DeSolms
	(8:30) JR & Diana Lyons (11:00) Doug Moore
Bread Baker	Carol Wiers
Cantors	
Communion Assistants	
	(11:00) Margaret Steel and Liam Janke
Flower Delivery	
Greeters/Hosts	
	(11:00) Susan & Ned Neidlinger
Lectors	
Tellers	John McCurry, Carol Harman, Sandy Croushore
Ushers	(8:30) Bob Achenbach and Bob Harman (11:00)

Triumph over Temptation



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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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)Pastorjn@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.netKristie Kelley – Preschool Director (229-6688)Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.netPeninsula 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 26, 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 need a nametag! _____

_ Yes! I/We will attend the Holden soup dinners # of people _____