

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.



March 17, 2024 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Isaiah 43:8-13 2 Corinthians 3:4-11 Psalm 119:9-16 Tuesday: Isaiah 44:1-8 Acts 2:14-24 Psalm 119:9-16 Wednesday: Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23 John 12:34-50 Psalm 119:9-16 Thursday: Deuteronomy 16:1-8 Philippians 2:1-11 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Friday Jeremiah 33:1-9 Philippians 2:12-18 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Saturday: Jeremiah 33:10-16 Mark 10:32-34, 46-52 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 (5) Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1 — 15:47

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Aaren Battle, Ed Brown, Ingrid Brown, Kristin Carter, Steve Grant, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Ursula Recktenwald, Martha Reier, Linda Reuben, Mallory Spencer and Linda Vonderheide.

<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 God's comfort*</u> and peace for the Crinklaw's family and friends on the death of **Doug Crinklaw.**

Pray God's comfort and peace for the Byerly's family and friends on the death of **Evelyn** Byerly.

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, Amy Carl, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, 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, 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, Kurtis Schultz, Lou Schuster, Inge Seiter, Kelsey Slay, Brant Smith, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig.

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

Welcome

Centering Music

Now the Green Blade Rises Setting, Anna Laura Page St. Stephen Ringers

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

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379 Bulletin page 10

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**



Prayer of the Day

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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



¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your [|] steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out [|] my offenses. ²Wash me through and through | from my wickedness, and cleanse me | from my sin. ³For I know | my offenses, and my sin is ev- | er before me. ⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ¹ in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment. Refrain ⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my | mother's womb. ⁶Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me, and would have me know wisdom | deep within. ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be pur-[|] er than snow. ⁸Let me hear ¹ joy and gladness; that the body you have broken | may rejoice. Refrain ⁹Hide your face [|] from my sins, and blot out | all my wickedness. ¹⁰Create in me a clean | heart, O God, and renew a right spir-¹ it within me. ¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence, and take not your Holy Spir-¹ it from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of [|] your salvation and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit. Refrain

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶as he says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek. ⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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



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

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. ²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the

judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

Suffering Silence for reflection and prayer. Pastor Jon Nelson

Hymn of the Day

Seed That in Earth is Dying

ELW 330 Bulletin page 11

Prayers

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

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

Offering

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.

Anthem

8:30	Brighter Than Snow	Ruth Schram
	Matins Choir	
11:00	My Song is Love Unknown	Edwin Childs
	Chancel Choir	

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:



Words of Institution

<u>The Lord's Prayer</u> 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.



Communion Music

Break Thou the Bread of Life Mitchell and Sandra Eithun St. Stephen Ringers

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

ELW 545 Bulletin Page 12

BlessingBeloved, 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

Lord, Dismiss Us with your Blessing Arr. Mitchell and Sandra Eithun St. Stephen Ringers

We thank the St. Stephen Ringers and accompanying musician this morning who include: 8:30 Corey Knestrick, George Martin, Jim Larsen, Sandy Johnson, Patty Ballentine, and Karen Ives And on Piano, Ina Berkey

11:00 Lori Harms, Jeanne Garrison, Jim Larsen, Jane deSolms, Marj Gottschalk-Trone, and Terri Larsen

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Now the Green Blade Rises



Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol Text from Oxford Book of Carols, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.



Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



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 by Jane deSolms in memory of her parents, Bettie and Irv deSolms.

Wednesday evenings in Lent, March 20th at St. Stephen:

- 6:00 PM Soup and Bread supper in the Fellowship Hall
 - **7:00 PM**: Holden Evening Prayer.

Upcoming

Support: RIP Medical Debt. Once again our SMCC would like to invite the congregation to support <u>RIP Medical Debt</u> 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?

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.

SAVE THE DATE! WOMEN'S RETREAT AT ST. STEPHEN Mark your calendars for the Women's Retreat events and worship.

- Evening social Friday, September 27, 2024
- Day retreat Saturday, September 28, 2024

<u>Easter Potluck Breakfast</u> We will again be having a potluck Easter breakfast between services on Easter Sunday. Bring a dish or baked good to share. Coffee, tea and juices will be provided.

St. Stephen Calendar: March 17-24, 2024

SUNDAY, March 17 ~ Fifth 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

MONDAY, March 18

- 10:00 AM Staff meeting (Pastor Office)
- 1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 2:30 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting (Pastor Office)
- 7:00 PM Book Study (Library/Conference Room)

TUESDAY, March 19

11:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)

- 1:30 PM Book Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 7:00 PM Preschool Committee (Library/Conference Room)

WEDNESDAY, March 20

- **11:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)**
- 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, March 21

- 12:30 PM Staff Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM St. Stephen Ringers (Worship Space)
- 7:00PM SMCC (Library/Conference Room)

FRIDAY, March 22

SATURDAY, March 23

- 4-8PM LYO (Pastor Office)
- 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/ Conference Room)

SUNDAY, March 24 ~ Palm Sunday/ Sunday of the Passion

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 (Worship Space)

11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion- We start on the Forecourt!

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Alter Cuild	(11:00) Jeffrey Berry
Audio-Visual Team	(8:30) Beth Grant (11:00) Doug Moore
	Amy Bergh
Cantor	Jim Larsen
Communion Assistants	
	(11:00) Steve Jacobs and Cyndy Touhsaent
Flower Delivery	
Greeters/Hosts	(8:30) J.R. & Diana Lyons (11:00) Susan Kauffman
Lectors	
	Pastor Jon O Nelson
Tellers	Jeanne Garrison, Sandy Croushore
	ire and JR Lyons (11:00) George Bass and Art Nelsen

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.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)Doing Ministry in the World

Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church!

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

March 17, 2024

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, if necessary.

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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