

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

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.



Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: 1 Chronicles 12:16-22 Revelation 21:5-14 Psalm 93 **Tuesday** : 2 Chronicles 15:1-15 Revelation 21:15-22 Psalm 93 *Wednesday:* 2 Chronicles 34:20-33 Luke 2:25-38 Psalm 93 *Thursday:* Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:15-23 Psalm 47 (5) *Friday:* Exodus 33:12-17 Revelation 22:6-9 Psalm 97 *Saturday:* Exodus 33:18-23 John 1:14-18 Psalm 97 *Next Sunday:* 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Psalm 113 Romans 12:9-16b Luke 1:39-57

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Ed Brown, Preston Burton, Kristin Carter, Bob & Ginny Cummings, Forrest Fenstermaker, Sharon Jacobs, Donna Kittelson, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, and George Vonderheide.

<u>Pray for those unable to come to worship</u>: Ailene Bartlett, Ed Brown, Ruth & Forrest Fenstermaker, Bob and Angie Groom, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Jerry, Susan, Randy Altona, Mary Anderson, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, Robi Bayard, June Brantley, Carol Bergh, Mary Bloom, Tim Brown, Raymond Bunn, Karin Cavanaugh, Amaree Cluff, Ruth Ann Coski, Judy Craun, Judy Drezek, Becky Drury, Darrin and Rosemary Dunn, Tanya Fritz, Hollis Fulton, Joel Gillespie, Joan Goodhart, Mason Griffin, Jonathan Hallman, Charee Hampton, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Bradley, Kim, Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Lisa Hill, Doris Hillenbrand, Nancy Hodge, Jaxon Ireland, Lynn Isenburg, Claudia Jacobik, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Jenn Kramer, Elaine Lane, Marnah Lund, Keara Mahony, Jim Monteith, Trish Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Jack Mayfield, Jimmy Mitchell, Liz Montalvo, Mia Monteith, Ed Moninger, Kim Morris, Bob Myers, Jeanette Osborn, Coral Pumley, Kurt Recktenwald, Stephen Rier, Brian Ritter, Pamela Sharp, Vasili Soultoukis, Kenneth & Laura Spencer, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, George and Jewel Thomas, Charley Underdahl, Dave Watts, Brenda Webster, Penny Weld, Pat Whelan, Caleb Winig, and Elaine Wrich.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

Welcome

Centering MusicLiebster Jesu, Wir Sind HierJ.S. Bach(Translation: Dearest Jesus, We Are Here)J.S. Bach

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of + the One who was, who is, and who is to come. Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

ELW 520 Bulletin page 11

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

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through 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

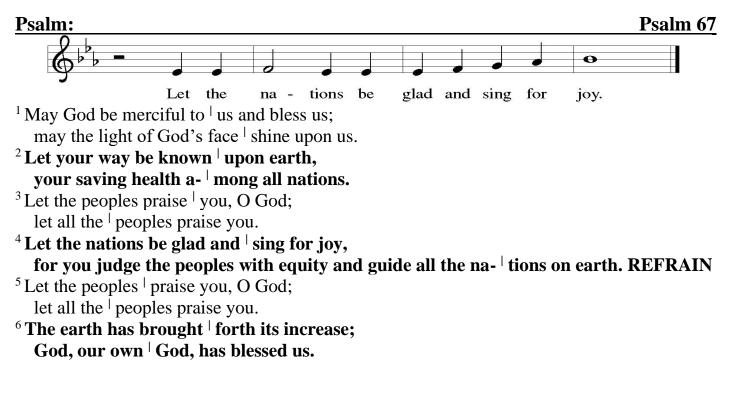
First Reading

Acts 16:9-15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

⁹ During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. ¹¹ We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³ On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

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



⁷ May God [|] give us blessing,

and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe. REFRAIN

Second Reading

Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.

¹⁰ And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. ²² I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. ^{22:1} Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴ they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel

John 13:31-35

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

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

²³ Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear

is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵ "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

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

Sermon	Still Showing Up <i>Silence for prayer and reflection.</i>	Pastor Jon Nelson
Hymn of the Day	O Spirit of Life	ELW 405

Bulletin page 12

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers

Each petition concludes, "Hear us, O God." Response: "Your mercy is great."

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

Offering Invitation

If we profess to love Christ, we know what we must do: Pursue Love at all costs. Love for the rejected, love that overturns oppression, love that is confident in the face of evil's

threats. As a community committed to the work of this love, let us bring our gifts and offerings to the One who guides and upholds us.

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 *Peace, I Give to You*

Michael Larkin

Offertory Prayer

God, for your peace that companions us through all of life's challenges, we give you thanks. Through you, we are enabled to live courageously. We do not need to know how things will unfold, only that you are faithful to us. Receive our gifts of thanks and make us confident in the possibilities of justice and love. **Amen.**

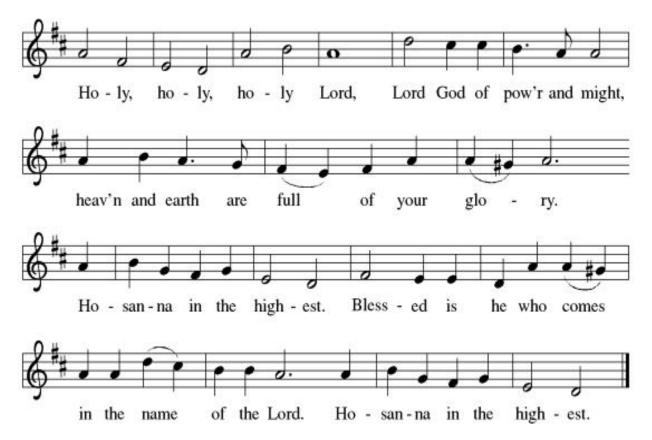
The Great Thanksgiving

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 to you... with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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, 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. All are welcome to the Lord's Supper.*



The Peace of the Lord

ELW 646 Bulletin page 14

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

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

Sending Hymn

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded

ACS 933 Bulletin page 15

Blessing

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. Amen.

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!** Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!** Alleluia!

Postlude	In Dir Ist Freude	
	(Translation: In Thee Is Gladness)	

J.S. Bach

Copyright Information Peace, I Give to You; Contributors: Michael Larkin; © 2000 Concordia Publishing House

One License Licensing Permission Reprinted/Streamed with permission under One License #A721099; CCLI Permission Reprinted/Streamed with permission under CCLI License #11256031; Permission granted, St. James Press

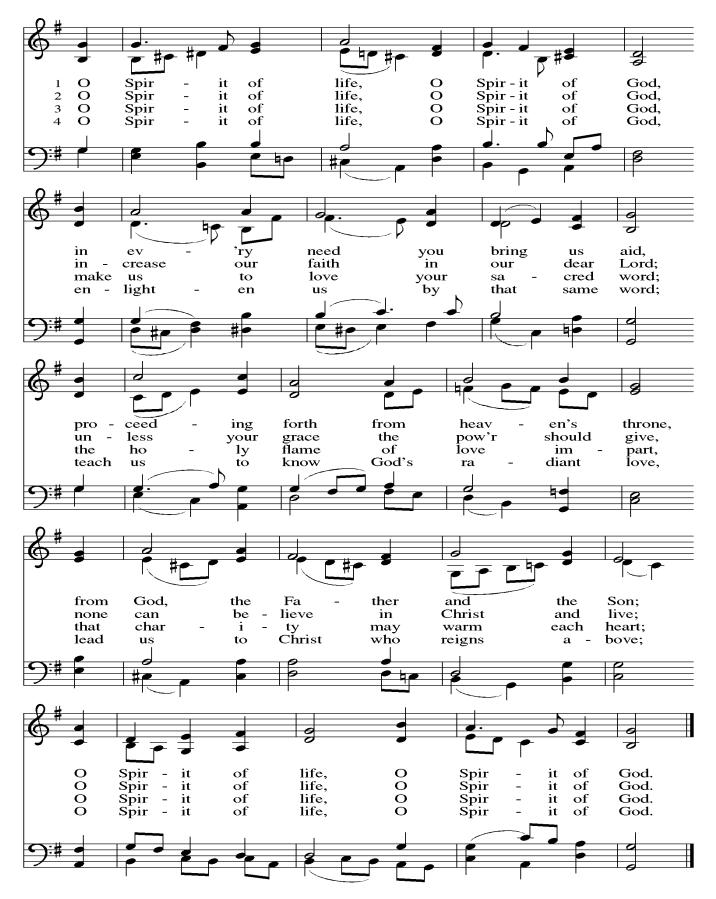
New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SB164403

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word



O Spirit of Life



Text: Johann Niedling, 1602–1668; tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt. Music: O HEILIGER GEIST, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750



I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.



- 2 La paz del Señor, la paz del Señor, la paz del Resucitado: se hace presente_ahora_y_aquí apréstate_a recibirla; se hace presente ahora_y_aquí apréstate_a recibirla.
- 3 La paz del Señor, la paz del Señor, la paz del Resucitado: no puede vivir encerrada_en sí, apréstate_a compartirla; no puede vivir encerrada_en sí, apréstate_a compartirla.

Text: Anders Ruuth; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923

Music: LAP AZ DEL SENOR, Anders Ruuth Spanish text and tune © Anders Ruuth, admin. Augsburg Fortress. English text © Lutheran World Federation.

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622 Text © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

As We Gather

Restrooms & First Aid

- A gender-neutral, family restroom and a Women's restroom can be found in the hallway behind our Worship Space.
- Additional Men's and Women's restrooms can be found on the lower level of the church building.
- A first aid kit and an A.E.D. can be found hanging on the wall in the hallway behind our Worship Space.

Live-streaming

We regularly live-stream our services and cannot guarantee that you will not appear on our YouTube channel. Sitting in the East Wing or the NE section of the Worship Space will minimize your chances of being on screen. We can also bring communion to you if you inform an usher of that desire.

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.org)
- When parents and children need to take a break for a few minutes, there's a play area (aka "prayground") with toys and books in the East wing of 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."
- **Charge print** worship materials are available ask an usher.

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 by Heidi Flatin to the glory of God.

<u>Summer Worship Schedule.</u> Starting today Sunday, May 25th we are moving to <u>one</u> <u>worship service</u> through the summer. Coffee at 9:00AM and Worship at 9:45 AM. We will resume two worship times on Sunday, September 7th.

Upcoming

Call Committee. While the exact details of the call are still to be determined, the church council heard from you all that we should proceed with forming a call committee. One of the first tasks of the committee will be to gather information, conduct a congregational survey, and then complete a Ministry Site Profile. We hope that this process will help clarify the position we need to fill. We have two volunteers already, one council member and one member of the most recent call committee. We are looking for four more members, from a variety of different contexts. Are you interested in serving or know someone who is? Please contact Pastor Jon or indicate your interest in the bulletin sign up insert.

<u>Preschool & Church Office Closed.</u> Both the Church Office and Preschool will be closed on Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day. There will be no Pub & Grub either.

From His hands Summer Meals for Kids volunteer slots are open and ready to be filled! Like last year, From His Hands, Delta Kappa Gamma, Daybreak Church and Wellspring UMC are working together to fill all the <u>TUESDAY</u> slots. Please sign up on the sign up genius link : <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040449ADA82EA20-summer#/</u>

Ascension Day Service. We will once again have a joint Ascension Day service with our neighbors at St. Martin's Episcopal. Join us at St. Martin's on Thursday, May 29th, at 7:00PM for this festival worship service.

<u>Congregational Meeting.</u> We will hold our June congregational meeting **following** worship on Sunday, June 22nd.

Vacation Bible School. Learn and explore the place and time of Joseph in the exciting land of Egypt. With all the costumes, crafts, stories, music, activities, and snacks that VBS can put together for a fun adventure! Children from 4-10 y/o can participate and older children can be junior and senior crew leaders. **June 23-27, 9:00AM-Noon at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**. Go to oslcnorge.org in order to register. Want to help out? Contact Pastor Jon or Pastor Gerry!

Playground HELP! We are seeking volunteers to help install the new playground on **June 30th**. An installer from the company will assist us with the installation, which should only take a day with enough help. Please sign up on the insert if you can contribute. We are also looking for assistance on June 20th to unload the equipment.

<u>Caregivers Support Group.</u> We have identified a potential need for a caregiver support group. The aim of this group will be to provide a safe space for conversation, resource sharing, and mutual support. Interested? Sign up on the bulletin to receive more information and help shape this group.

St. Stephen Calendar: May 25--June 1, 2025

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

SUNDAY, May 25 ~ 6th Sunday of Easter

9:00AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)

9:00 AM Matins Choir and Chancel Choir joint Rehearsal (Worship Space)

9:45 AM Worship – Holy Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)

MONDAY, May 26

Office and Preschool CLOSED

TUESDAY, May 27

10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)5:30 PM St. Stephen Ringers rehearsal (Worship Space)

WEDNESDAY, May 28

8:45 PM YOGA (College Room)

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, May 29

10:00 AM Preschool 3-year-old class moving up ceremony (Preschool Room)

7:00 PM Ascension Day Service (St. Martin's Episcopal Church)

FRIDAY, May 30

10:00 AM Preschool 4- and 5-year-old Graduation Ceremony (Worship Space)

SATURDAY, May 31

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 PM AlAnon (Gathering Space)

SUNDAY, June 1 ~ 7th Sunday of Easter

- 9:00AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)
- 9:00 AM Matins Choir and Chancel Choir joint Rehearsal (Worship Space)

9:45 AM Worship – Holy Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer	
Audio-Visual Team	(9:45) Tim Judy & Nancy Carter
Bread Baker	Janice Mayfield
Cantor	
Communion Assistants	(9:45) Terri Larsen and Cyndy Touhsaent
Flower Delivery	Karen Nester
Greeters/Hosts	(9:45) JR & Diana Lyons and Diana Tiller-Dichtel
Lectors	(9:45) Tom Peterkin and Cyndy Touhsaent
Pastor	Pastor Jon Nelson
Tellers	
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)Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.netKaren Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.netHollie Jones – Parish Administrator (229-6688)Office@saintstephenlutheran.netJessica Kimball – Preschool Director (229-6688)Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.netPeninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)Preschool

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

May 25,2025

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

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 Quil	<i>l</i> :
Name:	

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: _____

I/ We need a name tag_____

I/ We are interested in joining the Call Committee

__I/We can help with the install on June 30th of the playground

_____I/We can help unload the truck on June 20th

I/We are interested in the Caregivers Support Group.

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

May 25, 2025

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

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 are interested in joining the Call Committee

I/We can help with the install on June 30th of the playground

_I/We can help unload the truck on June 20th

I/We are interested in the Caregivers Support Group.