

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.

14th Sunday after Pentecost Aug 25, 2024

For Your Prayers -Aug 26-Sept 1, 2024

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Nehemiah 9:1-15 Ephesians 5:21—6:9 Psalm 119:97-104 *Tuesday*: Nehemiah 9:16-31 Ephesians 6:21-24 Psalm 119:97-104 *Wednesday*: Isaiah 33:10-16 John 15:16-25 Psalm 119:97-104

Thursday: Exodus 32:1-14 James 1:1-8 Psalm 15 *Friday* Exodus 32:15-35 James 1:9-16 Psalm 15 *Saturday*: Exodus 34:8-28 John 18:28-32 Psalm 15

Next Sunday's Lessons Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Psalm 15 (1) James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

<u>Join your prayers for healing</u> with God's desires for Trudi Arnold, Karen Bailey, Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Bob Cummings, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Jim Mayfield, Carol Meyer and Helen Nelsen.

<u>Pray for those unable to come to worship</u>: Martin Bleck, Ed Brown, Birdie Burton, York Doerr, Bob and Angie Groom, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Bob Alt, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, June Brantley, Sharon Brown, Linda Bonfiglio, Mary Bloom, Amy Carl, Karin Cavanaugh, Ruth Ann Coski, Judy Craun, Sophia Czajkowski, Judy Drezek, Mark Flatin, David Gade, Greg Gildner, Joan Goodhart, Sue Hassan and family, 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, Trish and Matthew Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Jack Mayfield, The Keith Meins family, Liz Montalvo, Becky Murphy, Ed Moninger, Bob Myers, Silvana Oderisi, Denise Ogborn, Lori Ogborn, Kurtis Schultz, Lou Schuster, Sue Sena, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, Brenda Webster and Caleb Winig.

14th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

Centering Music *Martin Luther's Morning Prayer* Carl Schalk Quartet: Jeffery Berry, bass; Lou Rossiter, tenor; Erika Cave, alto; Karen Ives, soprano

Confession & Forgiveness (inspired by Psalm 84, John 6:56-69, Ephesians 6:10-20, written by Thom Shuman) If it was easy to follow Jesus, we would not need to ask for forgiveness. But it is tough—tough to say 'yes,' tough to be graceful, tough to be loving. Yet whatever we do, God loves us enough to forgive us and to feed us with the Bread of Life.

Let us pray,

God, our sun and shield: we may long to be in your house, but our deeds show how tough it is for us to live there. Called to follow, we search for paths to take us back to our old ways; given the words of eternal life, we weakly proclaim the gospel to others; offered the path of salvation to walk upon, we stumble down the rocky roads of our world.

Forgive us, Guardian of our lives. Strengthen us with your Spirit, so we may follow Jesus Christ, the One we have come to believe and know is our Lord and Savior.

Silent prayers may be offered

Today, receive the Bread of Life; today, hear the words of eternal hope; today, trust in the One who hears your prayers, and showers grace and forgiveness upon you. Today, we are set free to serve God's people, and to sing God's praises. Thanks be to God. Amen.

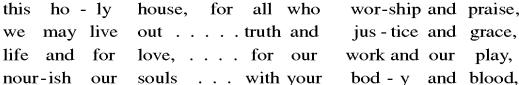
Gathering Hymn

Christ Is the King!

ELW 662 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

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

In the Near East, covenant means "agreement" or "alliance." It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." ¹⁶Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

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

Psalm 34:15-22

The eyes of the LORD are up - on the righ - teous.

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous, and God's ears are open | to their cry.

¹⁶The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil, to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.

¹⁷The righteous cry, and ¹ the LORD hears them and delivers them from ¹ all their troubles.

¹⁸The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed. *Refrain*

¹⁹Many are the troubles | of the righteous, but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

²⁰God will keep safe | all their bones; not one of them | shall be broken.

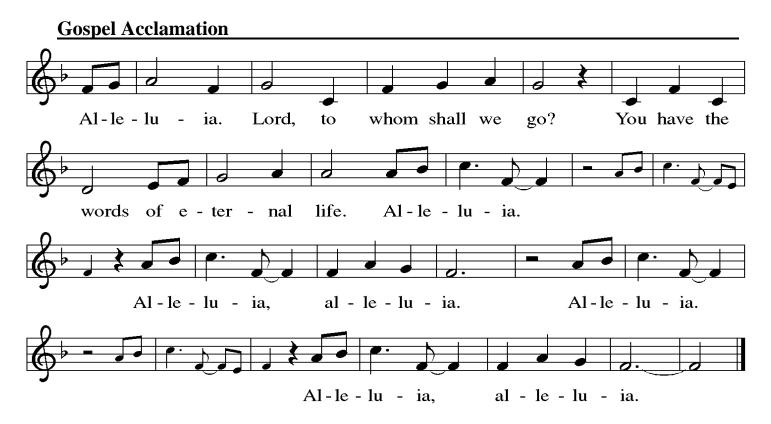
²¹Evil will bring death | to the wicked and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

²²O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished. *Refrain*

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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



Gospel John 6:56-69

The "hard saying" that offends Jesus' disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: "To whom shall we go?"

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

[Jesus said,] 56"Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. 60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? 62Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." ⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" 68Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

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

Sermon Offensive & Salvific Words Pastor Jon Nelson

Silence for prayer and reflection.

Hymn of the Day Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup ELW 492

Bulletin page 12

Bulletin page 12

Blessing of Backpacks and the Vocations of Teachers and Students

Prayers

Each petition concludes, "In your mercy," Response: "hear our prayer."

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

Offering

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

Offering of Music For the Beauty of the Earth
Jeffery Berry, Clarinet

Charles Callahan



Offertory Prayer

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

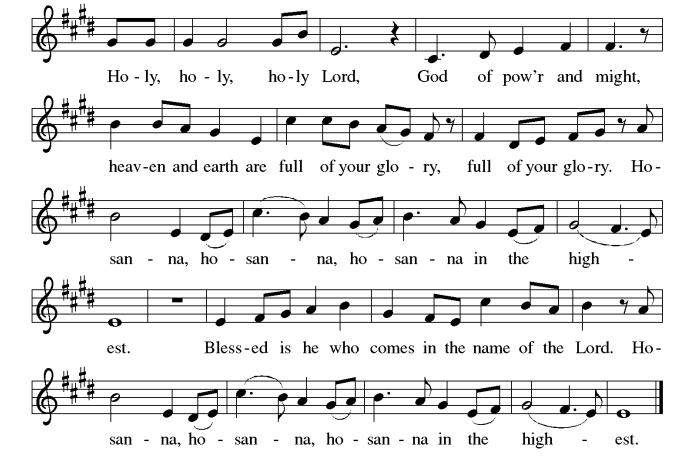
The Great Thanksgiving

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:



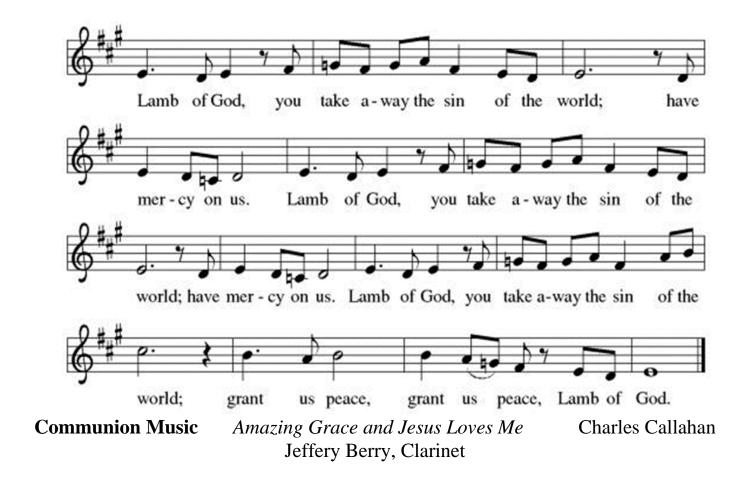
Words of Institution

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.



Communion Hymn	Listen to the Word	ACS 974
		Bulletin Page 14
	Father, We Thank You	ELW 872
		Bulletin Page14
	Praise Ye the Lord	ELW 872
		Bulletin Page 15

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

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

Sending Hymn *May the God of Hope Go with Us*ACS 984
Bulletin page 16

Blessing

Children, families, and all who love them, go out into the beautiful world that God has made!

Go and play!

Go and learn!

Go and love others!

May you be filled with lovingkindness for yourself and everyone around you. May the prayers of your faith community keep you safe, healthy, and full of joy. The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, + be upon you now and forever. Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

In Christ There Is No East or West/Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Jeffery Berry, Clarinet Arr. Mark Albrecht

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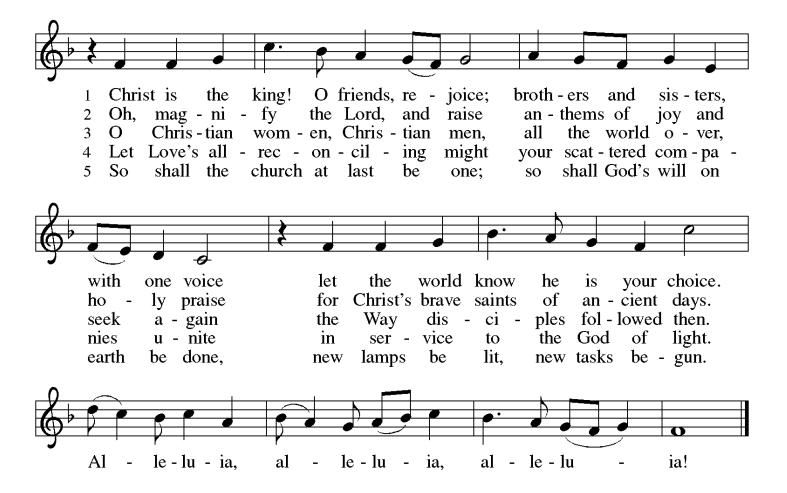
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Christ Is the King!

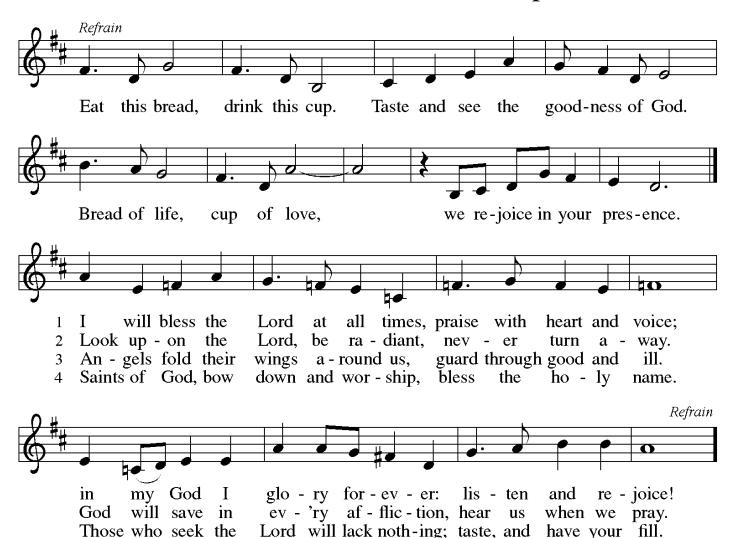


Text: George K.A. Bell, 1883-1958, alt. Music: BEVERLY, Charles R. Anders, b. 1929

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Music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup



tell God's great-ness for - ev - er, won-drous deeds pro - claim!

Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; With One Voice, stanzas, based on Ps. 34 Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young

Text and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

to

Rise

Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken



bread e - ter - nal; yours is the pow'r, yours be the praise. church be gath - ered in - to your king - dom by your Son.

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Christ the

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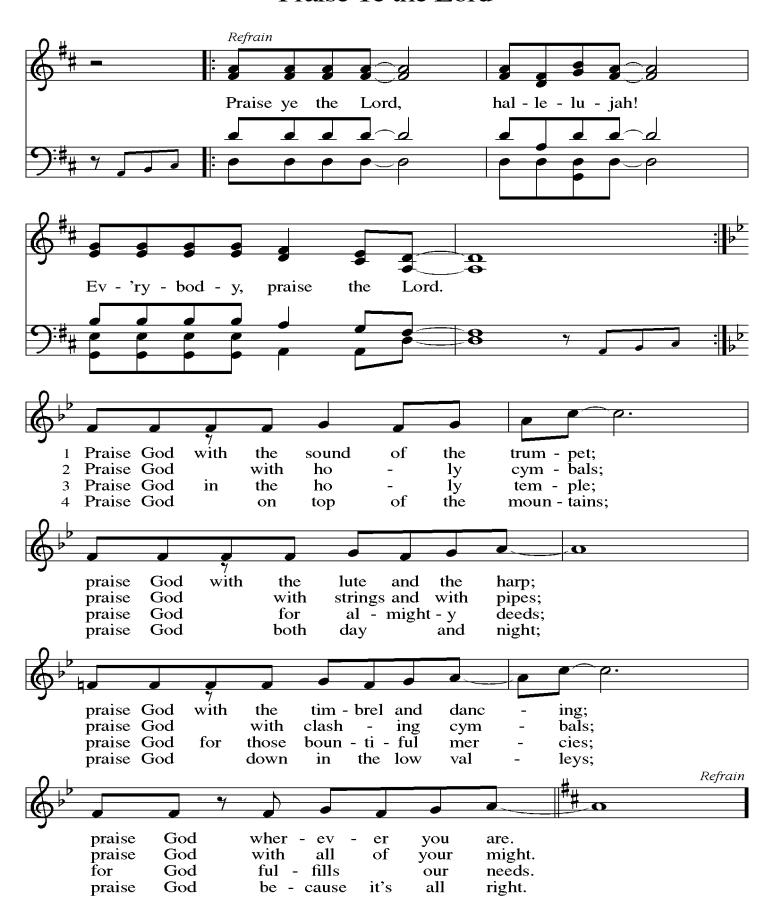
Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; para. F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt. Music: RENDEZ À DIEU, attr. Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561 Text © Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

giv'n us food for

and

was

Praise Ye the Lord



Text: J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1937–1986, based on Psalm 150 Music: CLEVELAND, J. Jefferson Cleveland Text and music © J. Jefferson Cleveland. Used by permission.

May the God of Hope Go with Us Dios de la esperanza



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."
- **❖ Large print** worship materials are available ask an usher.

<u>Health Update</u>: 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 Karen Shoberg to the Glory of God!

Our Annual Handbell and Choir chimes Retreat is today Sunday, August 25, 3pm-5pm. Come join the fun and try out our Handbells and our Choir Chimes. No previous experience required. This is purely for fun, laughter, and a ringing-good-time! You are not expected to become a member of the St. Stephen Ringers (unless you become convinced you want to - hmmm?). Please sign the bulletin insert to let me know you're coming. This is ideal for rising 6th graders up to Octogenarians, for families, and for you!

Upcoming

St. Stephen Fall 2024 Women's Retreat: "Walking the Spiritual Journey" Registration forms are available in the Gathering Space!

Friday evening social, Sept. 27 * Saturday retreat program, led by our own Christina Nelson, Sept. 28 * Sunday sermon, by Kristen Berkey-Abbott, Sept. 29 Plan to come (and bring a friend!) for part or all of the retreat weekend! A light continental breakfast and box lunch are provided on Saturday. Venue: St. Stephen Lutheran Church Outreach project: School kits for Lutheran World Relief We are asking for donations of items. Please look for a basket and poster in the gathering space. Monetary donations can be made by writing a check to St. Stephen and putting "Special Campaign – School Kits" on the memo line. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Buckley .Thank you for any help you can give!

You've GOT TALENT!

Many hands make for light work, and your hands would be a blessing to welcome everyone to worship. Come to the tables in the Gathering Space to learn about helping as Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants or Acolytes. All ages and stages are welcome.

Outdoor Worship at Chickahominy Park. Given the fun we had at our start of summer picnic at Freedom Park we decided to do it again, this time with worship! We will have an outdoor worship service on Sunday, September 1st at 10:00 AM in the shelter between the playground and pool at Chickahominy Park. We have invited OSLC to join us. Hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, buns, water, lemonade, plates, cups, and silverware will be provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to share, and your own lawn chairs. Please RSVP so we can plan an appropriate amount of food, you can let us know you're coming (and your numbers) by either marking the bulletin sign-up sheet or contacting the SSLC office.

<u>Communal Life: Pub & Grub.</u> Join us on Monday, August 26th at 7:00 PM at <u>Billsburg Brewery</u> for some food, drinks and conversation!

Worship: Preschool Teachers Installation. In order to allow our teachers to attend their own worship services on Sunday morning, we will be installing them on **Tuesday, August 27th at Noon in the Worship Space**. The congregation is invited to attend this short service as we pray God's blessings on our teachers for the upcoming year. Light refreshments will be served in the Gathering Space afterwards.

The Church Offices/Preschool will be closed Labor Day Monday September 2nd.

St. Stephen Calendar – August 25th-Sept 1, 2024

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

SUNDAY, August 25~ 14th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)

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

11-11:45AM ALL Choir rehearsal (Worship Space)

3PM-5PM Handbell Retreat (Fellowship Hall)

MONDAY, August 26

7:00 PM Pub and Grub (Billsburg brewery)

TUESDAY, August 27

9:30AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)

12:00 PM Preschool Teacher Installation (Worship Space)

WEDNESDAY, August 28

9:00 AM Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 AM Preschool Orientation (Preschool)

7:00 PM Faith Formation Committee (Library/Conference Room)

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, August 29

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM Preschool Orientation (Preschool)

12:00 PM Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)

FRIDAY, August 30

SATURDAY, August 31

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

5:30 PM Al-ANON Family Meeting (Gathering space)

SUNDAY, September 1 ~ 15th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM Outdoor Worship at Chickahominy Park

11:30 AM Picnic (Chickahominy Park)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer	Sonja Cave
	Diana Tiller-Dichtel and Nancy Egloff
Audio-Visual Team	JR & Diana Lyons
Bread Baker	Pat Fretz
Cantor	
Communion Assistants	Cyndy Touhsaent and Pam Buckley
Flower Delivery	
Greeters/Hosts	
Lectors	Sandy Peterkin and Rosemary Stimson
Preacher	
Tellers	Tom Peterkin, Sandy Peterkin, Sandy Croushore
Ushers	George Bass and Russ Dabel

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 Baptisms

Pastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)

Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net

Karen Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)

MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net

Hollie Jones – Parish Administrator (757-229-6688) Office@saintstephenlutheran.net

Jessica Kimball -Preschool Director (757-229-6688)Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net

Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (757-873-2273; counselors are in

Williamsburg on Thursdays)

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

August 25, 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 Stephen Minister 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 mame:	
Please remove from prayer concerns:	
Name:	
I/We need a name tag:	