

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.

11th Sunday after Pentecost Aug 4, 2024

For Your Prayers -Aug 5-11, 2024

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Numbers 11:16-23, 31-32; Ephesians 4:17-24; Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43

Tuesday: Deuteronomy 8:1-20 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43

Wednesday: Isaiah 55:1-9 Mark 8:1-10 Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43

Thursday: 1 Samuel 28:20-25 Romans 15:1-6 Psalm 34:1-8 *Friday* 2 Samuel 17:15-29 Galatians 6:1-10 Psalm 34:1-8

Saturday: 1 Kings 2:1-9 Matthew 7:7-11 Psalm 34:1-8

Next Sunday's Lessons 1 Kings 19:4-8 Psalm 34:1-8 (8) Ephesians 4:25—5:2

John 6:35, 41-51

<u>Join your prayers for healing</u> with God's desires for Trudi Arnold, Karen Bailey, Ed Brown, Linda Baumgarten, Steve Bushman, Kristin Carter, 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.

God has blessed: Forrest Fenstermaker with **90** years of life! His birthday is Friday the 4th -send him a card!

God has blessed: Pat Fretz with 93 years of life! His birthday is Friday the 8th -send him a card!

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Bob Alt, 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, Martin Flatin, 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, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig.

11th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

Centering Music O Bread of Life from Heaven

Setting, Johannes Brahms

Call to Worship (based on Ephesians 4:4-6)

We have come together as one.

One people, gathered in the name of the one God.

We will worship together as one.

One community, giving praise and honor to the Righteous One.

We are being empowered as one by One.

One body and one Spirit, called to the hope of one calling,

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

one God and Father of all who is above all and through all and in all.

Now, in the name of the Three-in-One, we act as one.

One people, giving witness to the power of One.

Prayer of Invocation (inspired by John 6:35; by the Rev. Bonnie Tarwater)

God of Healing and Transformation, we hunger and thirst for your abundant life. We bring you our sorrow and ask for the bread of joy; we bring you our despair and ask for the bread of hope; we bring you our weariness and ask for the bread of inspiration.

Meet us here. We need the bread of heaven to sustain us as we journey on Christ's Way, that we may we be one with you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Gathering Hymn

Welcome Table

ACS 969 Bulletin page 12

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

Kyrie



Prayer of the Day

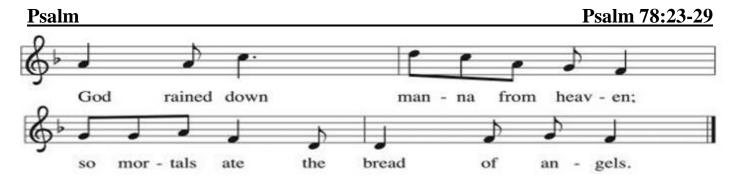
O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.

² The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." ⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not." ⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining." 10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹² "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'" ¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. 15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

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



- ²³ So God commanded the | clouds above and opened the | doors of heaven,
- ²⁴ raining down manna upon | them to eat and giving them | grain from heaven. *Refrain*
- ²⁵ So mortals ate the | bread of angels; God provided for them | food enough.

- ²⁶ The LORD caused the east wind to blow | in the heavens and powerfully led out | the south wind,
- ²⁷ raining down flesh upon | them like dust and flying birds like the sand | of the seas,
- ²⁸ letting them fall in the midst | of the camp and round a- | bout the dwellings.
- ²⁹ So the people ate and | were well filled, for God gave them | what they craved. *Refrain*

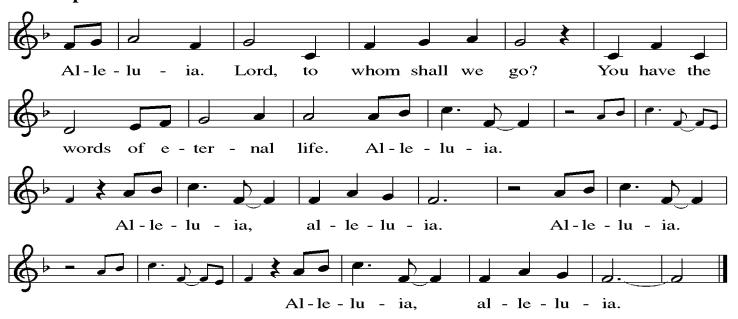
Second Reading Ephesians 4:1-16

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body.

¹ I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." 9 (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel John 6:24-35

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

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

²⁴ When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

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

Sermon

What are you looking for? *Silence for prayer and reflection.*

Pastor Jon Nelson

Hymn of the Day

O, Bread of Life from Heaven

ELW 480 Bulletin page 13

Prayers

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

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

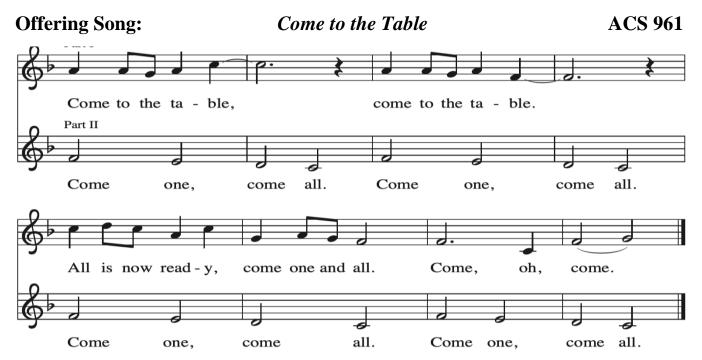
Offering

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

Antiphonal Jubilate Deo!
Summer Choir

Greg Gilpin



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.**

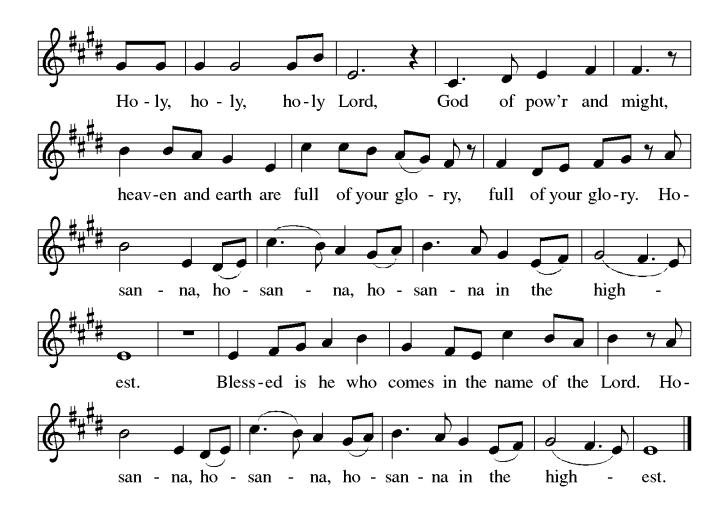
The Great Thanksgiving

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:



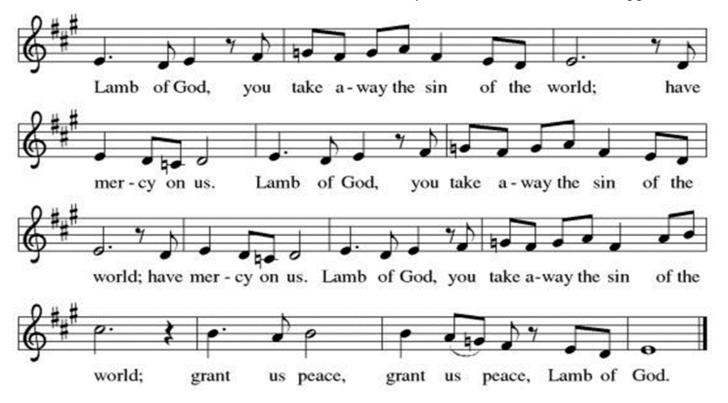
Words of Institution

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

At the Lamb's High Feast we Sing

ELW 362

Bulletin Page 14

Communion Music Partita on Sonne der Gerechtigkeit

Anne Krentz

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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

Sending Hymn

Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer

ELW 618

Bulletin page 15

Blessing The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, 나 be upon you now and forever. Amen.

Dismissal

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

Postlude Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer Valerie A. Floeter

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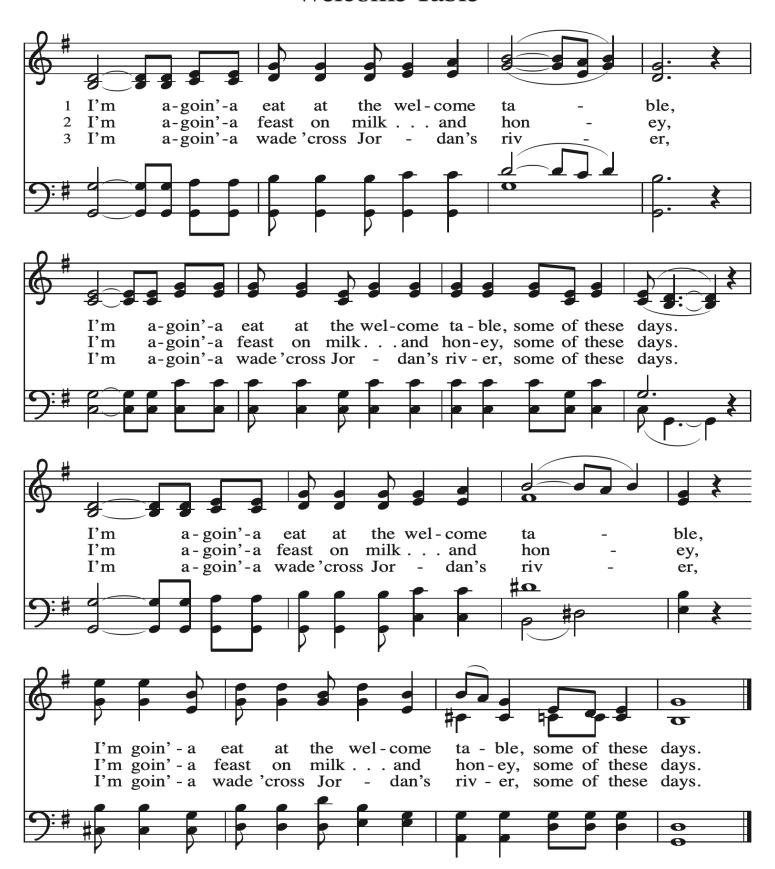
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Welcome Table



Text: African American spiritual

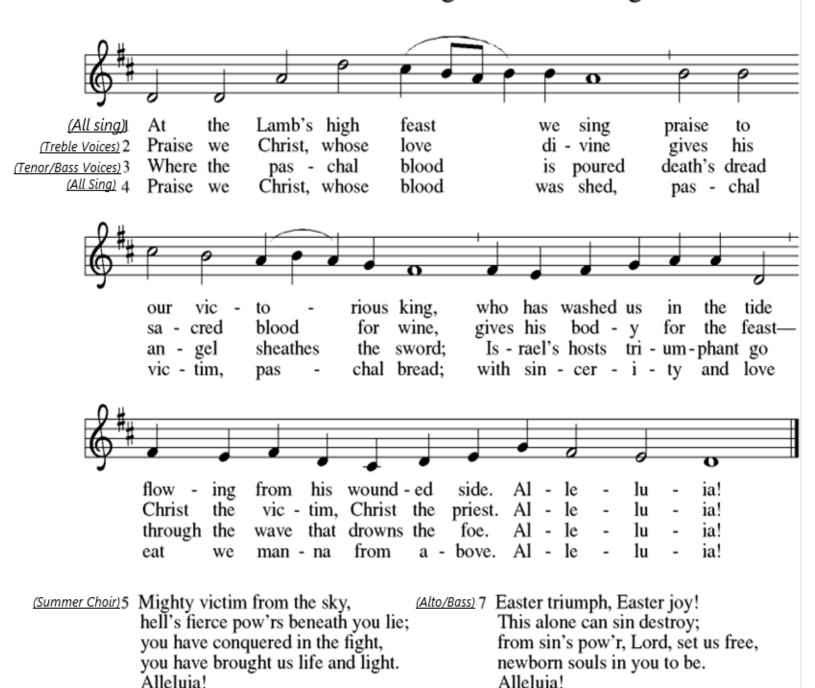
Music: WELCOME TABLE, African American spiritual; arr. Mark Hayes, b. 1953

Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

O Bread of Life from Heaven



At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



(Soprano/Tenor) 6 Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall; you have opened paradise, and your saints in you shall rise.

Alleluia!

(All Sing) 8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live, Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



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 Forrest & Ruth Fenstermaker in honor of Forrest's 90th birthday!

Upcoming

<u>From His Hands and Meals on Wheels "Summer Meals for Kids 2024"</u> needs our help each Tuesday this Summer from June 18th through August 20th to help prepare lunches for local children.



St. Stephen Fall 2024 Women's Retreat: "Walking the Spiritual Journey" Registration forms are on the way!

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

Each kit will contain the following items:

- **70-sheet Spiral Notebooks** of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8"x 10½"; no loose leaf-paper. Note: Four notebooks will be included in each kit.
- **Crayons** − 1 box of 16 or 24.
- Ruler 1 with centimeters, or centimeters on one side and inches on the other.
- Pencil Sharpener -1.
- Blunt/Saftey Scissors 1 pair.
- Unsharpened No. 2 Pencils with Erasers 5.
- Black or Blue Ballpoint Pens (no gel ink) -5.
- 2 ½" Eraser 1.

We are asking for donations of these 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 at 757.869.3373 or GuamMom16@aol.com. Thank you for any help you can give!

Service: Floor Cleaning and Waxing. We are having the floors of the building cleaned and waxed the week of August 12-16. The floors will not be able to be walked on. We are looking for help on Sunday, August 11th, following worship as we seek to empty the Fellowship Hall and the Preschool of a few remaining pieces of furniture. We will also need help the following Saturday, August 17 starting at 10:00AM as we seek to reset the furniture to where it belongs.

<u>Afghan Refugee Assistance-</u> The family that St. Stephen has helped knows a young lady who is currently in need of a room for rent in the Williamsburg area and is having trouble finding assistance. If you know of a room or someone in need of a roommate please contact Lida Kharooti at 757-817-9090.

St. Stephen Calendar – August 4th -11th , 2024

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

SUNDAY, August 4~ 11th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)

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

MONDAY, August 5

TUESDAY, August 6

8:00 AM Womens Breakfast (Colonial Pancake House)

WEDNESDAY, August 7

9:00 AM YOGA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, August 8

12:30 PM Staff Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)

FRIDAY, August 9

SATURDAY, August 10

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

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

SUNDAY, August 11~ 12th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)

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

11:30 AM Help Move Furniture (Fellowship hall and Preschool Area)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer	David Nelson
Altar Guild	Susan Neidlinger and Diane McCurry
Audio-Visual Team	Beth Grant and Doug Moore
Bread Baker	Janice Svendsen
Cantor	Summer Choir
Communion Assistants	Lori Harms and David Nelson
Flower Delivery	Diane McCurry
Greeters/Hosts	Alison Carney
Lectors	Ursula Recktenwald and Sandy Croushore
Preacher	Pastor Jon O Nelson
Tellers	Jane Gingerich, Ursula Recktenwald, & Russ White
Ushers	Bill Dichtel and Tom Witt

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 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 4, 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

lame:	
lease remove from prayer concerns:	
Jame:	