

# 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.

# 17th Sunday after Pentecost September 15, 2024

# For Your Prayers -Sept 16-22, 2024

#### **Lectionary readings for this week:**

Monday: 1 Kings 13:1-10 Romans 3:9-20 Psalm 119:169-176

Tuesday: 1 Kings 13:11-25 Colossians 3:1-11 Psalm 119:169-176

Wednesday: Isaiah 10:12-20 John 7:25-36 Psalm 119:169-176

**Thursday:** Judges 6:1-10 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Psalm 54 **Friday** 1 Kings 22:24-40 Romans 11:25-32 Psalm 54 **Saturday**: 2 Kings 17:5-18 Matthew 23:29-39 Psalm 54

Next Sunday's Lessons Jeremiah 11:18-20 Psalm 54 (4) James 3:13 — 4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

<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, Helen Nelsen, Jim Nickols and Paul Reier.

<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, Darrin and Rosemary Dunn, Mark Flatin, Tanya Friz, David Gade, Joel Gillespie, Greg Gildner, Joan and John Goodhart, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, 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 Sara and Matthew Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Jack Mayfield, Doug MacKenzie, The Keith Meins family, Liz Montalvo, Ed Moninger, Mya Moore, Bob Myers, Silvana Oderisi, Denise Ogborn, Lori Ogborn, Coral Pumley, Kurtis Schultz, Lou Schuster, Inge Seiter, Sue Sena, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, Brenda Webster, Caleb Winig and Elaine Wrich.

# 17th Sunday after Pentecost

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

#### Welcome

**Centering Music** 

Christ Is the Life

Robert J. Powell

#### **Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.

The cravings at war within us

cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first

we make distinctions among ourselves.

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

our Savior and Lo

Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

**Gathering Hymn** 

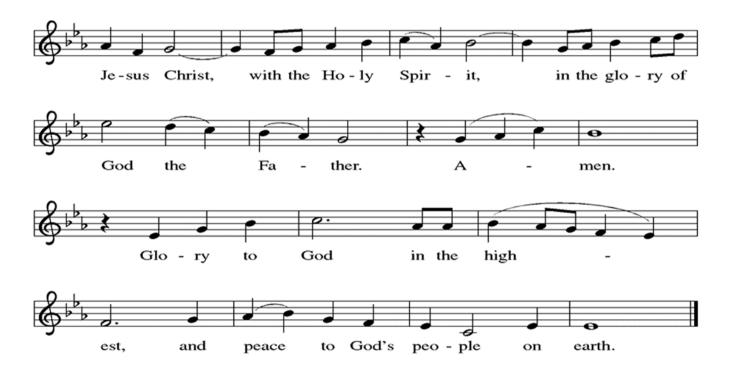
If God My Lord Be for Me

**ELW 788** 

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.** 





#### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

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

First Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.
<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face

from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to
shame;

<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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

Psalm Psalm 116:1-9



<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice, and listened to my | supplication,

<sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given | ear to me whenev- | er I called.

<sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me; I came to | grief and sorrow.

<sup>4</sup>Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:

"O LORD, I pray you, save my life." Refrain

<sup>5</sup>Gracious is the | LORD and righteous; our God is full | of compassion.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD watches o- | ver the innocent; I was brought low, | and God saved me.

<sup>7</sup>Turn again to your rest, <sup>|</sup>O my soul. for the LORD has dealt <sup>|</sup> well with you.

<sup>8</sup>For you have rescued my | life from death, my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling;

<sup>9</sup>I will walk in the presence | of the LORD in the land | of the living. *Refrain* 

Second Reading James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and

brackish water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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

**Gospel Acclamation** 



Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for | the unrighteous,\* in order to bring | you to God. (1 Peter 3:18)

Gospel Mark 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

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

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup>He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. <sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." <sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

Sermon

# Deny YourSELF Silence for prayer and reflection.

Pastor Jon Nelson

Hymn of the Day

Christ is the Life

OBS 52

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#### **Installation of Church Council**

JR Lyons (Pres.), Julie Meeks (Vice Pres.), Alison Carney (Sec.), Karen Nester (Fin. Sec.), Brian Agor (Treas.), Jeffery Berry, Brandon Cave, Sandy Croushore, Bill Dichtel, Nancy Egloff, Beth Grant, Terri Larsen, Paul Reier, Lou Rossiter, Roberta Sulouff

#### **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**

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** 

What a Fellowship

**David Cherwien** 

## **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.** 

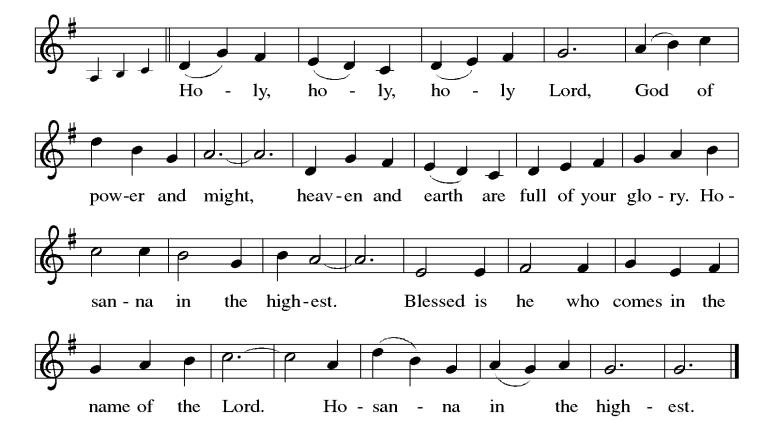
#### The Great Thanksgiving

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:



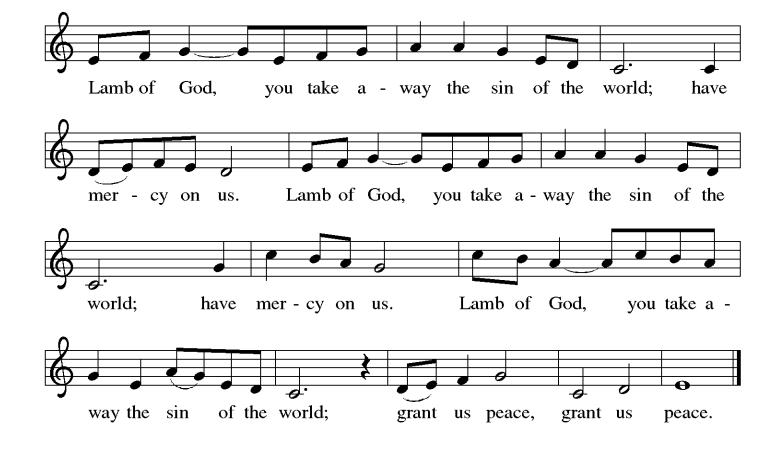
#### **Words of Institution**

#### 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** 

We Eat the Bread of Teaching

ELW 518 Bulletin Page 14

# **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** 

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798 Bulletin page 15

# **Blessing of Faith Formation Teachers**

## **Blessing**

God all mighty,
God most merciful

→ bless you, keep you,
and give you peace. Amen.

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Follow Jesus. Thanks be to God.

**Postlude** Will You Come and Follow Me

Michael Burkhardt



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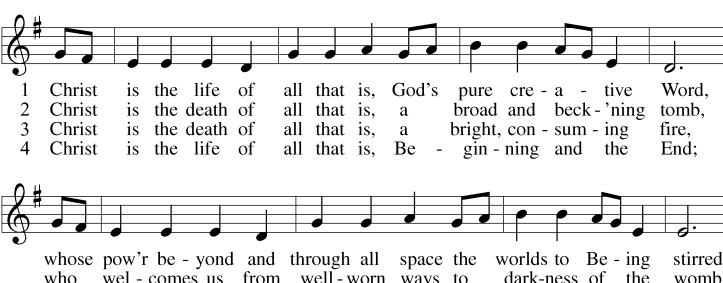
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# If God My Lord Be for Me



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, adapt. Music: IST GOTT FÜR MICH, English melody, 16th cent.; arr. hymnal version Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

# Christ Is the Life



stirred. wel - comes us from well-worn ways to dark-ness of womb. who the whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as kin-dling for the pyre. cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans-form-ing burn-ing brand.



is the life Christ be - yond all time, cre - a-tion's birth and breath, is the death, the sink - ing down past Christ all de - sire and fear. dust - y days of strife, Christ is the death of un - cre - a - tive whose wise love cre - a - tion lives and Christ is the life, in dies



whose la - bor brings all things to brings all things to be and death. whose prom-ise the in gen - tle dark bids new-ness to ap - pear. tread up - on the out from fire for we thresh-old of new life. thus for - ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ. and

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

Music: KINGSFOLD, English melody

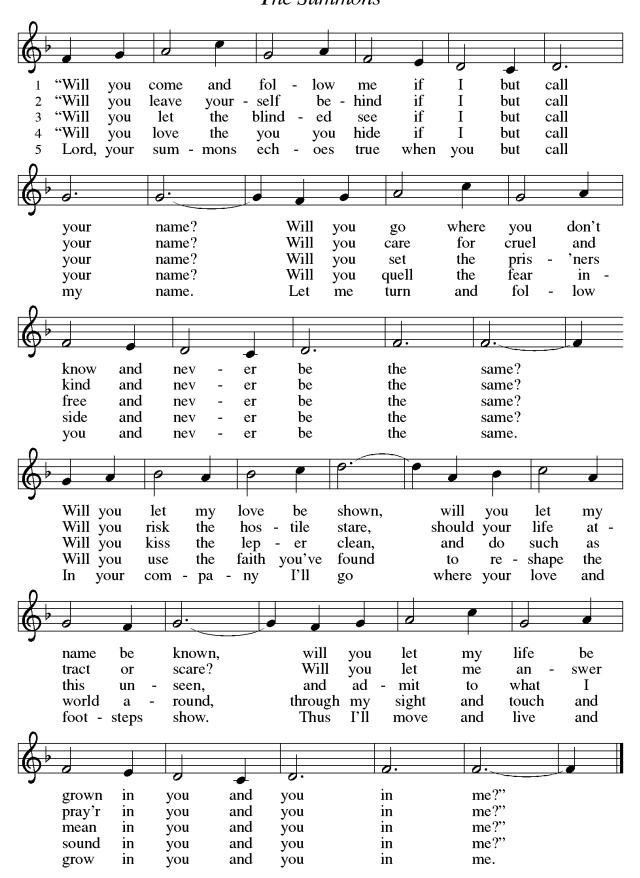
Text © 1989 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

# We Eat the Bread of Teaching



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997 Music: WISDOM'S FEAST, Jerry Ray Brubaker, b. 1946 Text and music © 1998 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All rights reserved.

# Will You Come and Follow Me The Summons



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## **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 Bill Dichtel and Diana Tiller-Dichtel to honor Ralph and Bess Tiller.

<u>Giving statements</u> are ready to be picked up in the Gathering Space. Please take your home with you.

<u>Faith Formation</u> will resume today Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup> in between services. We have some exciting new changes for the upcoming year.

# **Upcoming**

<u>Bible Study Resumes.</u> Join us in the Library every Monday at 1:30 PM as we look at and discuss the upcoming Sunday's texts.

#### YOU'VE GOT TALENT!

Serving with other members of the congregation is a great way to meet new people and deepen our sense of community. Today in the Gathering Space, between services you will have an opportunity to learn more and join in the fun of four more activities within our church community.

**Campus Ministries**- Look for the various ways you can assist our college students by providing a meal or being a support to them while they are away from home.

**Preschool-** Do you have some time during the day to occasionally volunteer as a substitute for the preschool? Also throughout the school year there are other needs with special events. Check out the table for ways you can be involved with the youngest children.

**Home Community**- This is an opportunity to not only bring communion to our home bound members but to help keep them connected and strengthen our bond beyond just our Sunday morning community.

**Stephen Ministers**- this well-trained group of volunteers walks with those in our community who are struggling.

<u>Pub & Grub.</u> Join us on Monday, September 23rd at 7:00 PM at Billsburg Brewery for some food, drinks and conversation!

Adopt-A-Student Program: Building Connections and Community with LSA Our college students are returning! Welcome! One program St. Stephen provides for students is the adopted student/church family program. The Campus Ministry Committee pairs interested students with members from St. Stephen who would like to form relationships with college students. These new church families meet for meals, ice cream, coffee, visit local museums, take walks, etc. We encourage St. Stephen members to become family away from home for our new students! If interested, please sign up on the bulletin sign-up sheet with your name and contact information. Interested students may sign up on the bulletin sign-up sheet as well, with your name and campus email address. Questions, contact Nancy Egloff (knegloff@verizon.net).

**LSA Sunday Dinners**. Want to get to know our LSA members? Host a meal for them! Sign up to host a Sunday evening meal for LSA on the chart in the Gathering Space. If you haven't hosted before, instructions are available.

<u>New Member Welcome.</u> We have welcomed several new members over the last months, but have not yet had an official welcome for them! We are looking to have a new member class and an official welcome lunch sometime in October or November. If you have been considering joining St. Stephn and would like more information about that process, please contact Pastor Jon.

#### St. Stephen Calendar –Sept 15-22, 2024

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

# **SUNDAY, September 15** ~ 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

# 8:30 AM Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)

9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

9:50 AM Faith Formation: Lesson (Preschool Room)

## 11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion

6:00 PM LSA Dinner (College Room)

#### MONDAY, September 16

10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)

1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)

#### **TUESDAY, September 17**

10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)

7:00 PM Preschool Committee (Library Hall)

7:00 PM Choral Guild Council Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

#### WEDNESDAY, September 18

9:00 AM Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

#### THURSDAY, September 19

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

5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal (Worship Space)

## FRIDAY, September 20

#### **SATURDAY, September 21**

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

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

#### **SUNDAY, September 22** ~ 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

# 8:30 AM Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)

9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

10:00 AM Faith Formation: Lesson (Preschool Room)

#### 11:00 AM Worship - Holy Communion

6:00 PM LSA Dinner (College Room)

# **Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today**

Acolyte/Crucifer	(8:30) Theo Berg
	(11:00) Jeffrey Berry
	(11:00) Gerri Bass and Karen Arledge
Audio-Visual Team	(8:30) Nancy Carter and Tim Judy (11:00) Charles Osborn
Bread Baker	Heidi Flatin
Cantors	(8:30) Paula Agor (11:00) Terri Larsen
Communion Assistants	(8:30) Amy & Brian Berg
	(11:00) Terri & Jim Larsen
	Diane McCurry
Greeters/Hosts	(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel (11:00) Linda Vonderheide
Lectors	(8:30) Paula Agor (11:00) Gretchen Osborn
Preacher	Pastor Jon O Nelson
Tellers	Jeanne Garrison, Linda Vonderheide
Ushers (8:30) Reed &	Karen Nester (11:00) Jim Weilmuenster and Glenn Joppa

# 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)

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

Hollie Jones – Parish Administrator (757-229-6688)

Jessica Kimball -Preschool Director (757-229-6688)

Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (757-873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)

Doing Ministry in the World Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net

MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net

Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net

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

September 15, 2024

Name:		
For guests and members with cha	anges:	
Address (Home)		
City/State	_Zip	
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 Ministe	er to contact me	
Any comments? Please be sure you	ur name is above, so we may res	spond, if necessary.

# **Prayer Requests**

Name:	
Please <b>remove</b> from prayer concerns:	
Name:	
T/XX/ 1	
I/We need a name tag:	
I/We need a name tag:	
I/We need a name tag: I/We would like to Adopt a student	