

# 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.

# 18th Sunday after Pentecost September 22, 2024

#### For Your Prayers -Sept 23-29, 2024

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

Monday: 2 Kings 5:1-14 James 4:8-17 Psalm 139:1-18

**Tuesday**: 2 Kings 11:21—12:16 James 5:1-6 Psalm 139:1-18

**Wednesday**: Jeremiah 1:4-10 John 8:21-38 Psalm 139:1-18 **Thursday**: Exodus 18:13-27 Acts 4:13-31 Psalm 19:7-14 **Friday** Deuteronomy 1:1-18 Acts 12:20-25 Psalm 19:7-14

Saturday: Deuteronomy 27:1-10 Matthew 5:13-20 Psalm 19:7-14

Next Sunday's Lessons Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 Psalm 19:7-14 (8) James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

<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, Eleftheria Beck, 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, Keara Mahony, 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.

## 18th Sunday after Pentecost

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

#### Welcome

Centering Music Be Thou My Vision Hal H. Hopson

St. Stephen Ringers

#### **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.

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.

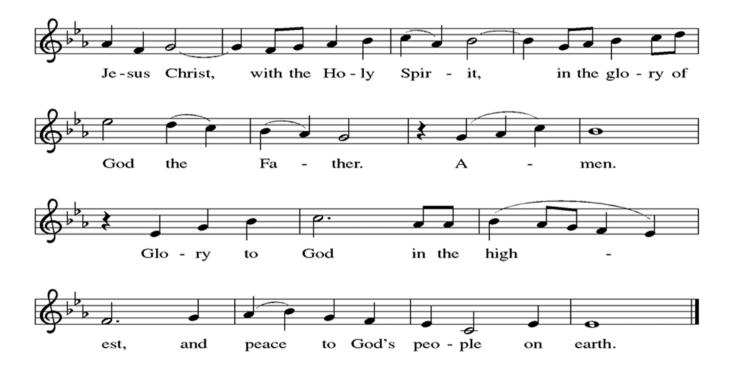
**Gathering Hymn** Loving Spirit

**ELW 397** 

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**

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

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

First Reading Jeremiah 11:18-20

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

<sup>18</sup>It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying,

"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

<sup>20</sup>But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind,

let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

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

Psalm Psalm 54



<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, | by your name;

in your might, de- | fend my cause.

<sup>2</sup>Hear my | prayer, O God;

give ear to the words | of my mouth.

<sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have | sought my life, those who have no re- | gard for God.

<sup>4</sup>Behold, God | is my helper;

it is the Lord who sus- tains my life. Refrain

<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who | spy on me; in your faithful- | ness, destroy them.

<sup>6</sup>I will offer you a | freewill sacrifice and praise your name, O LORD, for | it is good.

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from | every trouble, and my eye looks down | on my enemies. *Refrain* 

Second Reading James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. <sup>4</sup>:

<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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

**Gospel Acclamation** 



God has called us through the proclamation of | the good news,\* that we may obtain the glory of our Lord | Jesus Christ. (2 Thess. 2:14)

Gospel Mark 9:30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

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

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;<sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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

Sermon Pastor Jon Nelson

Silence for prayer and reflection.

**Hymn of the Day** Children of the Heavenly Father

ELW 781 Bulletin page 12

**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** 

8:30 Be Thou My Vision
Matins Choir
11:00 Humble Service
Chancel Choir

Marie Pooler

L.L. Fleming

#### **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.** 

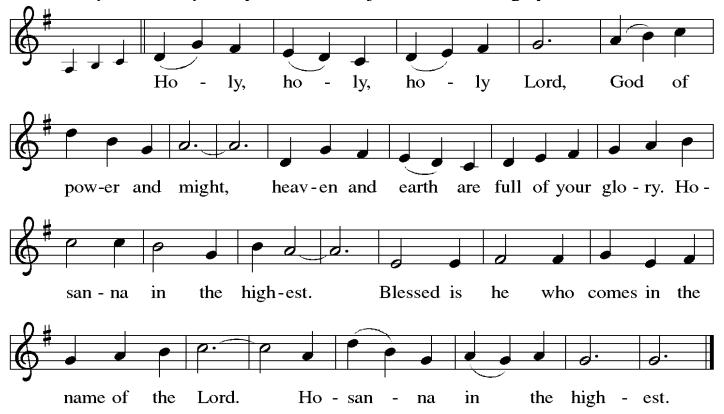
#### The Great Thanksgiving

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** 

Thy Holy Wings

ELW 613 Bulletin Page 13

Adoro te Devote – Benedictine Plainsong St. Stephen Ringers Mary Lynn Thompson

God Welcomes All

ACS 978 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** 

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

ELW 712 Bulletin page 15

**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** 

Gavotte

F. J. Gossec/Arr. Sandra Eithun

St. Stephen Ringers

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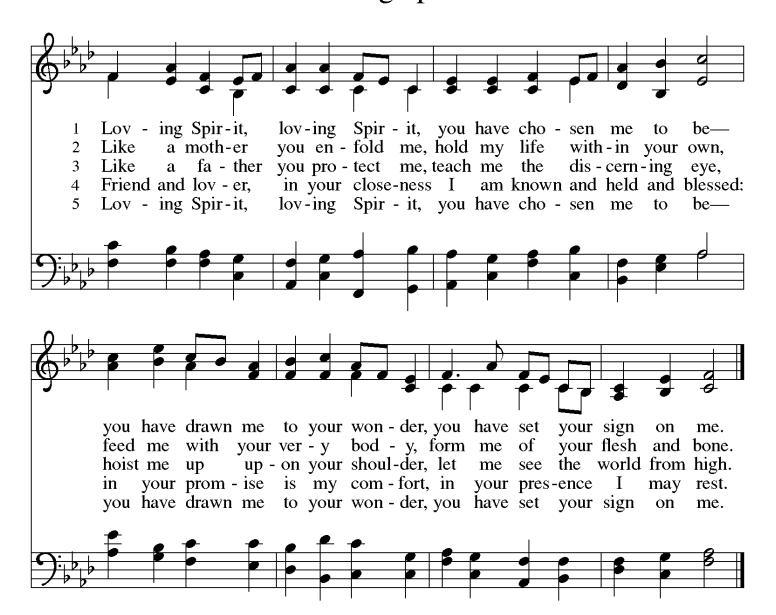
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## **Loving Spirit**



Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. hymnal version

Text @ 1987 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## Children of the Heavenly Father

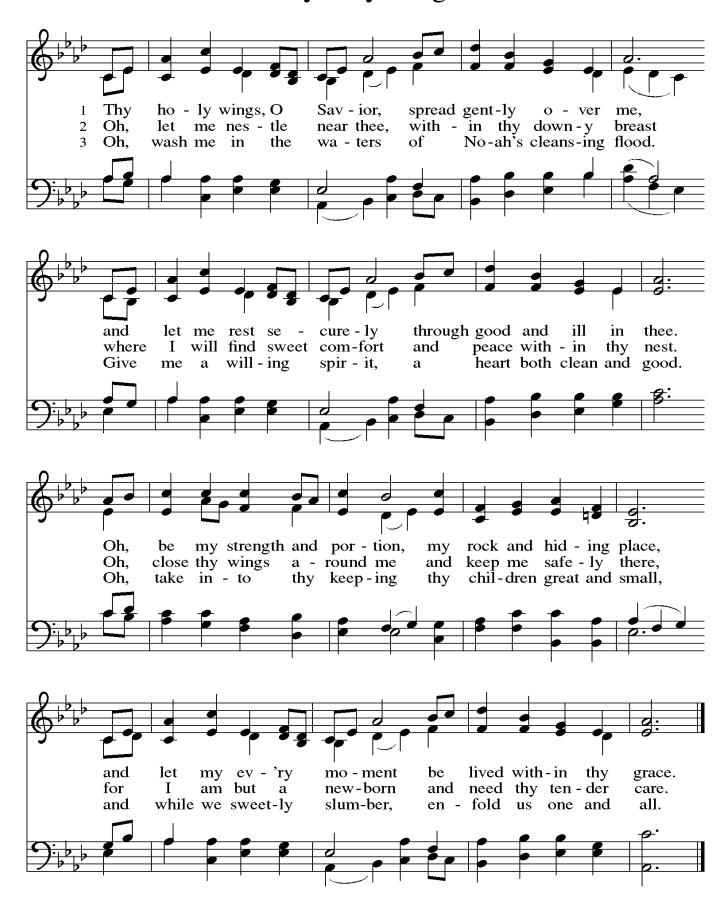
## Tryggare kan ingen vara



Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958 Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

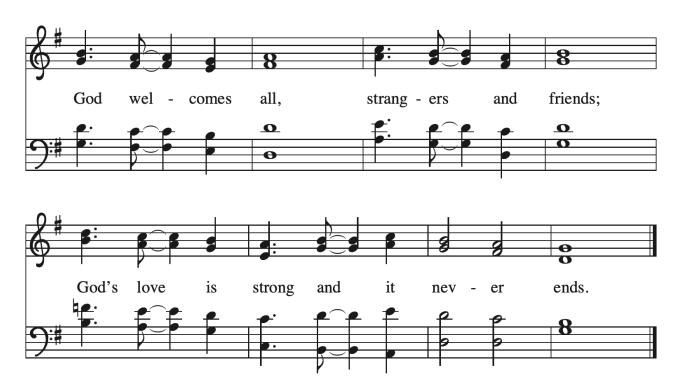
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## Thy Holy Wings



Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune; arr. hymnal version Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent. www.selahpub.com. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

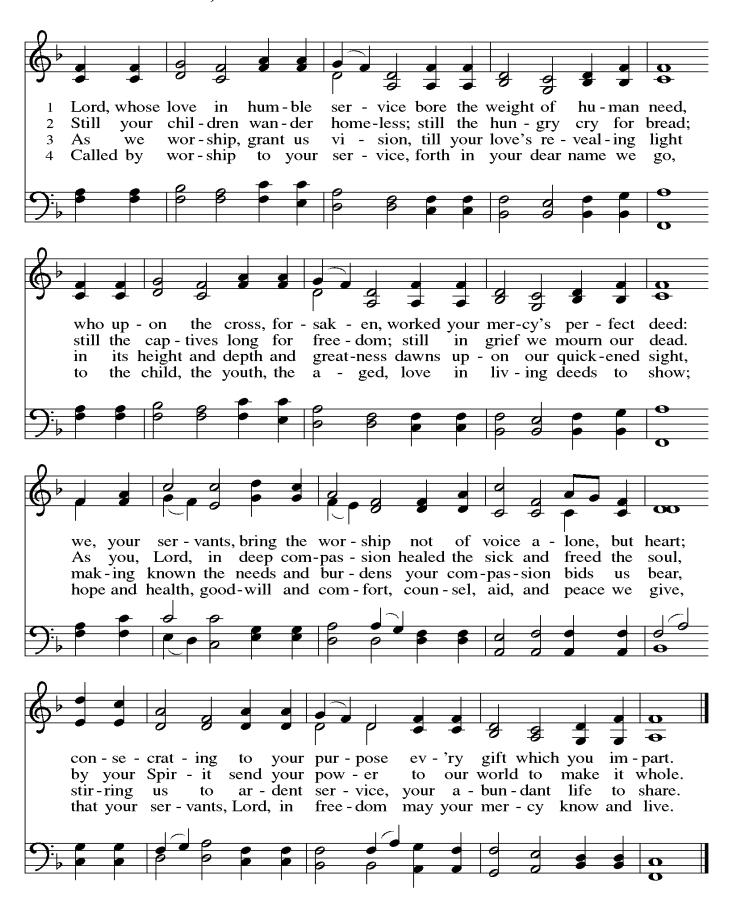
## God Welcomes All



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: AMEN THEMBA, South African traditional; transc. and arr. John L. Bell. Text and transcription © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

#### Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985 Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.

Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

#### **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**

<u>Flowers this morning</u> are given by Ward Bourn in memory of Jane L. Bourn, in honor of our 63rd wedding anniversary.

Walk and Talk we will meet at 6pm in the court yard here at the church.

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

#### **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 come to the Gathering Space to learn more and join in the fun.

Our building provides the WELCOME to all. It is the physical home for our Community of Faith. Just like your home this one requires constant care from many hands to keep the inside and outside looking nice.

Do you like Gardening, Organizing kitchens and cabinets, painting or general handi-person work? Well we definitely have a place for you!

<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).

<u>LSA Sunday Dinners</u>. 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.

<u>Support: Come out to celebrate</u> the beginning of the school year while supporting our preschool at **Shoofly Diary Bar Spirit Night** on **Thursday September 26**<sup>th</sup> from **5-7 PM**. Please be sure to mention that you are there for St. Stephen Preschool. A portion of the sales will be donated to our preschool. Shoo Fly will also place a jar out and 100% of those donations will be given to the preschool.

#### St. Stephen Calendar –Sept 22-29, 2024

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

#### **SUNDAY**, September 22 ~ 18th 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)

6:00 PM Walk and Talk (Court Yard)

#### MONDAY, September 23

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

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

#### **TUESDAY, September 24**

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 25

9:00 AM Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

#### THURSDAY, September 26

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

5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal (Worship Space)

5:00PM-7:00PM Spirit Night at ShooFly Dairy Bar

7:00 PM SMCC (Library/Conference Room)

#### FRIDAY, September 27

6:30PM-8:30PM Women's Retreat Pizza Social (Fellowship Hall)

#### **SATURDAY, September 28**

8:30AM-3:30PM Women's Retreat (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

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

#### **SUNDAY, September 29** ~ 19<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	
	(11:00) Sonja Cave
	(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel and Rita Kristiansen
	(11:00) Susan Neidlinger
Bread Baker	Janice Svendsen
	(8:30)Jane deSolms (11:00) Jane deSolms
Communion Assista	nts(8:30) Susan Bosworth and Ellen Bushman
	(11:0) Keith Egloff and Sonja Cave
Flower Delivery	
Greeters/Hosts	
Lectors	(8:30) Susan Williamson (11:00)George Bass
Preacher	Jon O Nelson
Tellers	John McCurry, Jane deSolms, Sandy Croushore
Ushers	(8:30) Tom & Sandi Peterkin (11:00)George Bass & 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

Office@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 22, 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**

Name:	
Please <b>remove</b> from prayer concerns:	
Name:	
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	