

# 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.

# 16th Sunday after Pentecost September 8, 2024

# For Your Prayers -Sept 9-15, 2024

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

Monday: Joshua 6:1-21 Hebrews 11:29—12:2 Isaiah 38:10-20

Tuesday: Joshua 8:1-23 Hebrews 12:3-13 Isaiah 38:10-20

*Wednesday*: Judges 15:9-20 Matthew 17:14-21 Isaiah 38:10-20 *Thursday:* Joshua 2:1-14 Hebrews 11:17-22 Psalm 116:1-9

Friday Joshua 2:15-24 James 2:17-26 Psalm 116:1-9

Saturday: Joshua 6:22-27 Matthew 21:23-32 Psalm 116:1-9

Next Sunday's Lessons Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 116:1-9 (9) James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38

<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 and Jim Nickols.

<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, Tanya Friz, David Gade, Greg Gildner, Joan 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 Matthew Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Jack Mayfield, The Keith Meins family, Liz Montalvo, Ed Moninger, Bob Myers, Silvana Oderisi, Denise Ogborn, Lori Ogborn, Kurtis Schultz, Lou Schuster, Sue Sena, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, Brenda Webster, Caleb Winig and Elaine Wrich.

# 16th Sunday after Pentecost

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

#### Welcome

Centering Music How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds Emma Lou Diemer

#### **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.

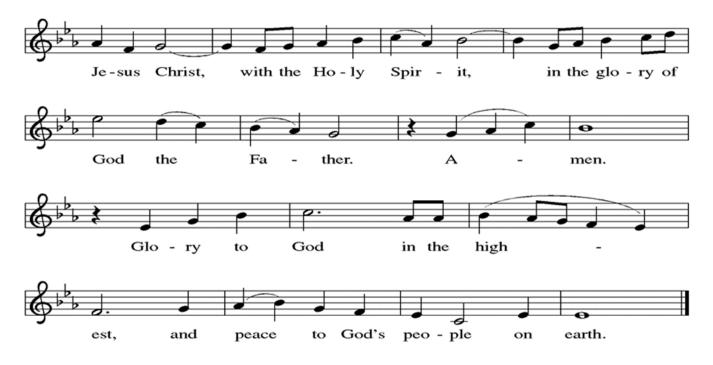
God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

**Gathering Hymn** How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds ELW 620 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

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.** 

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

First Reading Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

<sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

Psalm Psalm 146



<sup>1</sup>Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

 $^2$ I will praise the LORD as long  $^{\dagger}$  as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

<sup>3</sup>Put not your | trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there | is no help.

<sup>4</sup>When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth, and in that day | their thoughts perish. *Refrain* 

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help, whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that <sup>1</sup> is in them; who keeps promis- <sup>1</sup> es forever;

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger. The LORD sets the | captive free.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

the LORD | loves the righteous. Refrain

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares | for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD shall | reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! Refrain

## Second Reading

James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ¹Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [<sup>11</sup>For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

**Gospel Acclamation** 



Rejoice in the | Lord always;\* again I will | say, Rejoice

Gospel Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.?

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

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's

crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

Sermon Ethnicity, Gender, or Class? Pastor Jon Nelson

Silence for prayer and reflection.

**Hymn of the Day** Open Your Ears, O Faithful People ELW 519

Bulletin page 13

#### **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 Gods work our hands Wayne Wold St. Stephen Choir / Congregation Insert

## **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.** 

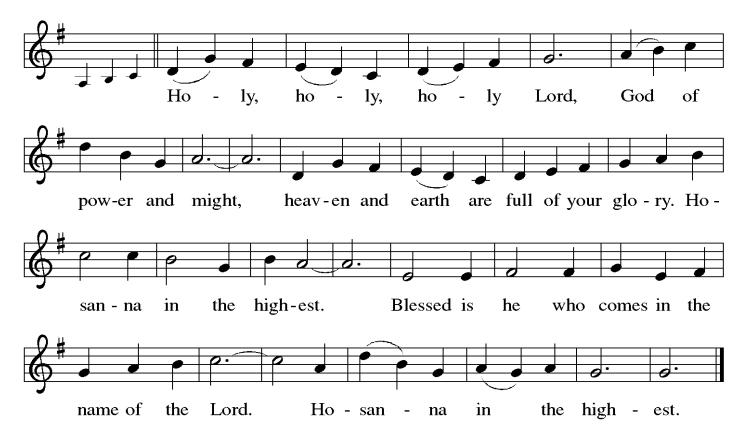
## The Great Thanksgiving

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:



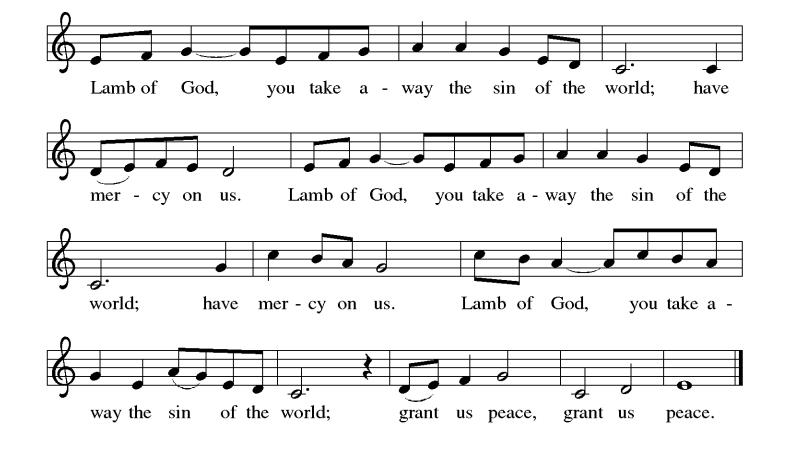
#### **Words of Institution**

#### 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** 

O Christ, Our Light, Our Radiance True

ELW 675 Bulletin Page 14 ACS 1043 Bulletin Page 15

Spirit, Open My Heart

### **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** 

Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886 Bulletin page 16

## **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** 

Enviado/The Lord Now Sends Us Forth St. Stephen Choirs Wayne L Wold

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# How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds



- 5 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, my prophet, priest, and king, my Lord, my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring.
- 6 How weak the effort of my heart, how cold my warmest thought; but when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.
- 7 Till then I would thy love proclaim with every fleeting breath; and may the music of thy name refresh my soul in death!

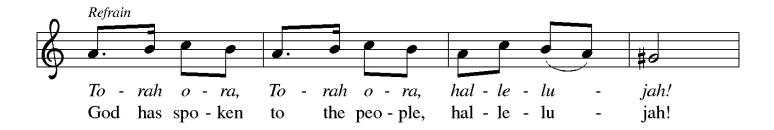
# Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

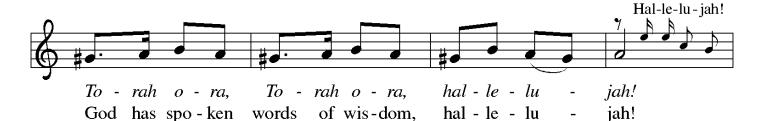


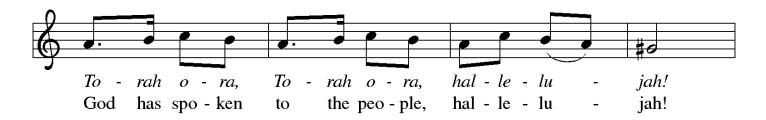
- O pen your ears, O faith-ful peo-ple, o pen your ears and hear God's word.
- 2 They who have ears to hear the mes-sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;

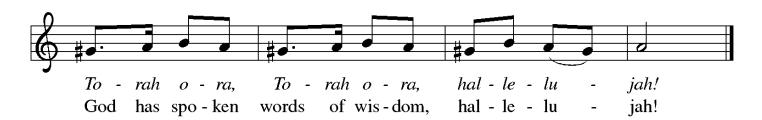


O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you. they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.







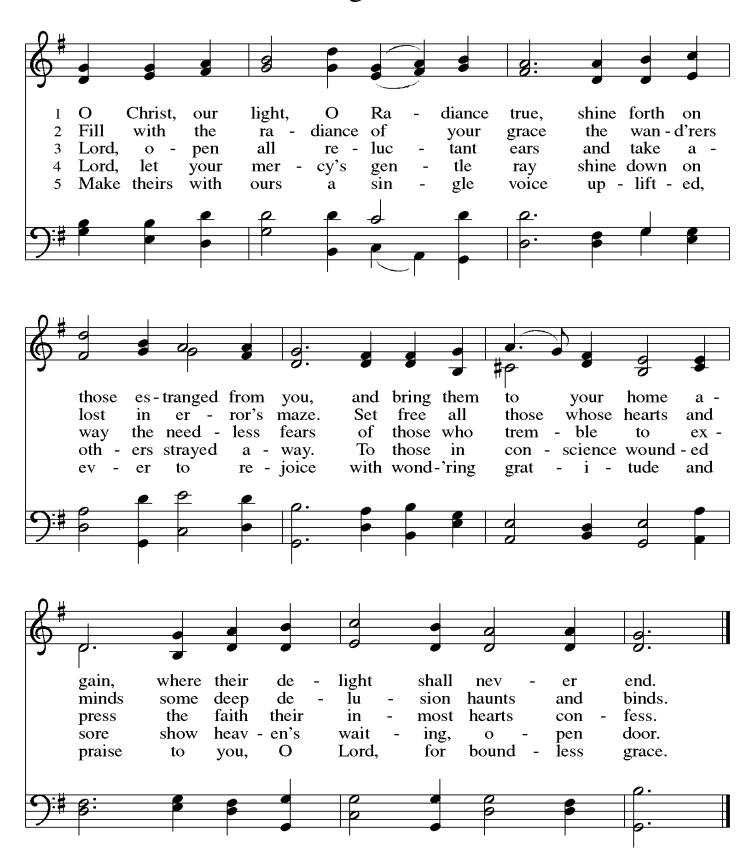


Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version

Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune

Text @ 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

# O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True



Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite Music: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT, Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1676 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

# Spirit, Open My Heart



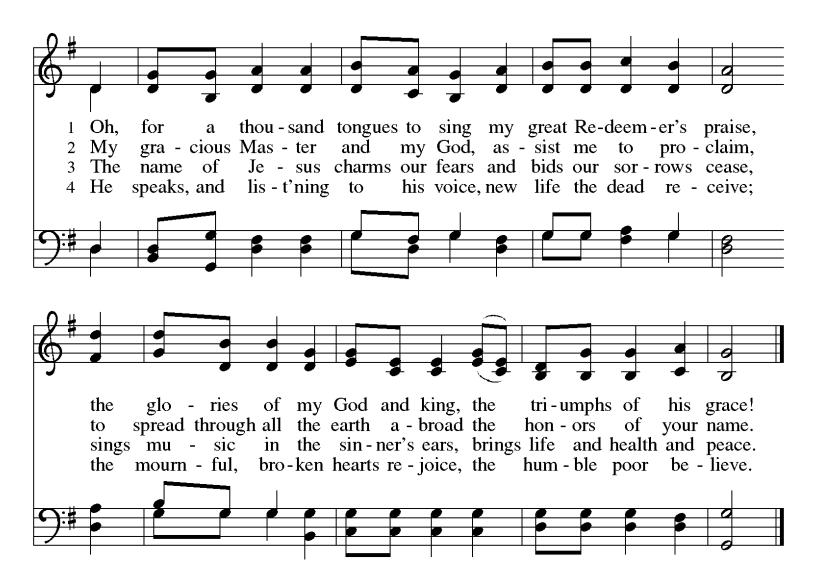
Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

Text © 1996 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved.

Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

# Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,O fallen human race!Look and be saved through faith alone,be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

## 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 Randy and Chris Punchard to the Glory of God!

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

<u>Gods Work, Our Hands</u> – There are several projects you are welcome to help with this morning. If you'd like to help with some cleaning and painting around the church, please meet in the Fellowship Hall. If you're willing to visit one of our members who could use some help with light cleaning/yardwork, please meet in the Gathering Space. You will also find supplies in the Gathering Space for card making and letter writing if that is more your speed!

# **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.

St. Stephen Fall 2024 Women's Retreat: "Walking the Spiritual Journey"
Registration forms are available in the Gathering Space! Please RSVP by Sept 9
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!

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

<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 8-15, 2024

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

### **SUNDAY, September 8** ~ 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Coffee (Gathering Space)

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

11:00 AM God's Work, Our Hands Service Projects (Various Locations)

#### MONDAY, September 9

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

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

3:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

#### **TUESDAY**, September 10

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

7:00 PM Church Council (Fellowship Hall)

#### WEDNESDAY, September 11

9:00 AM Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

#### **THURSDAY**, September 12

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

3:00 PM Peninsula Conference Of Pastors Meeting (St. Mark's, Yorktown)

5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal (Worship Space)

#### FRIDAY, September 13

#### **SATURDAY, September 14**

8:30 AM-12 PM Choral Guild (Fellowship Hall)

3:30-7:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

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

# **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)

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	Corey Knestrick
Altar Guild	Diane McCurry
Audio-Visual Team	Beth Grant and Doug Moore
Bread Baker	Jennifer Dabel
Cantor	Marj Gottschalk-Trone
Communion Assistants	John & Diane McCurry
Flower Delivery	Rosemary Stimson
Greeters/Hosts	Paul & Rita Kristiansen
Lectors	Harlan Schone and Keith Egloff
Preacher	
Tellers	Jane deSolms, Susan Britcher, Jim Larsen
Ushers	Glen 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)

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

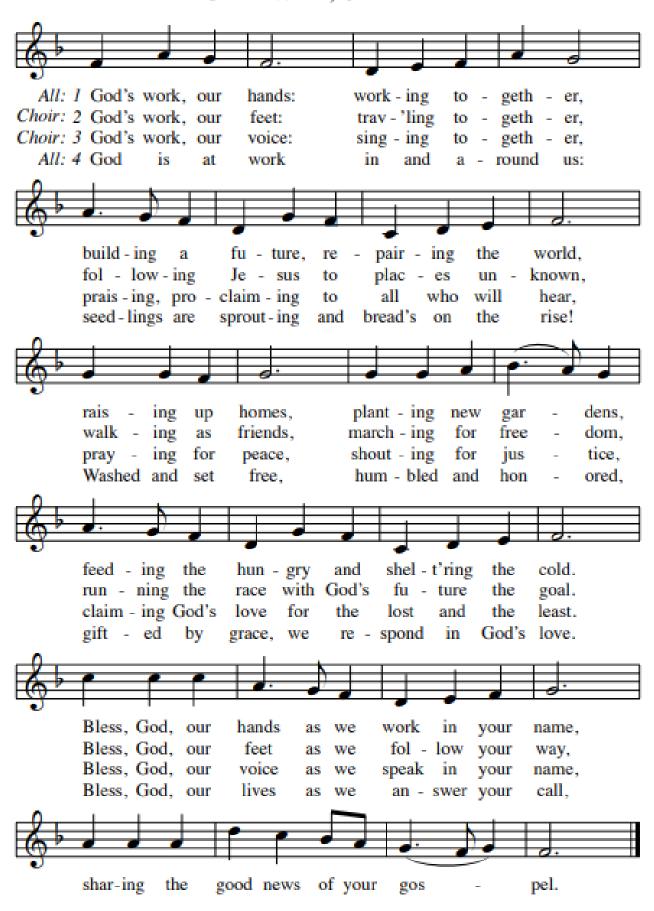
September 8, 2024

Name:		
For guests and members with cha	inges:	
Address (Home)		
City/State	Zip	
Telephone #		
E-Mail Address		
Guests Only: I belong to		
Church Address		
Please check as many as pertain:	<del></del>	
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	ır name is above, so we may res	pond, 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	

## God's Work, Our Hands



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