

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.



August 10, 2025
9th Sunday after Pentecost

For Your Prayers -Aug 11-17, 2025

Lectionary readings for this week:

Mon - Aug. 11:2 Chronicles 33:1-17; Hebrews 11:1-7; Psalm 89:1-18

Tue – Aug. 12:2 Chronicles 34:22-33; Hebrews 11:17-28; Psalm 89:1-18

Wed - Aug 13: Jeremiah 33:14-26; Luke 12:41-48; Psalm 89:1-18

Thu – Aug. 14: Joshua 7:1, 10-26; Hebrews 10:26-31; Psalm 82

Fri – Aug. 15:1 Samuel 5:1-12; Hebrews 10:32-39; Psalm 82

Sat – **Aug. 16**:1 Samuel 6:1-16; Matthew 24:15-27; Psalm 82

Next Sunday: Jeremiah 23:23-29 Psalm 82 (8) Hebrews 11:29—12:2 Luke 12:49-56

<u>Join your prayers for healing</u> with God's desires for Ina Berkey, Preston Burton, Kristin Carter, Bob & Ginny Cummings, Edith Haecker, Sharon Jacobs, Glen Joppa, Donna Kittelson, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Traci Powers Carl and Mitchell Stauffer, and George Vonderheide.

<u>Pray for those unable to come to worship</u>: Ailene Bartlett, Ed Brown, Bob and Angie Groom, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Jerry, Kay C., Susan, Rosa, Celeste, and Isaac, Mason Alt, Sam Areheart, Randy Altona, Mary Anderson, Phyllis Andrews, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, Robi Bayard, June Brantley, Carol Bergh, Mary Bloom, Ann Boger, Doug Bolick, Kay Braman, Bob Britcher, Raymond Bunn, Cagel Family, Karin Cavanaugh, Amaree Cluff, Ruth Ann Coski, Marie Davito, Pat D'Orazio, Judy Drezek, Becky Drury, Darrin and Rosemary Dunn, Josh Egloff, Kay Flatin, Tanya Fritz, Joel Gillespie, Joan Goodhart, Mason Griffin, Jonathan Hallman, Charee Hampton, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Bradley, Kim, Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Lisa Hill, Doris Hillenbrand, Nancy Hodge, Jaxon Ireland, Lynn Isenburg, Claudia Jacobik, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Jenn Kramer, Elaine Lane, Jeff Laub, Pat Layton, Marnah Lund, Keara Mahony, Trish Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Jack Mayfield, Jackie Mazzone, Tom Mifflin, Jimmy Mitchell, Liz Montalvo, Mia Monteith, Ed Moninger, Kim Morris, Bob Myers, Jeanette Osborn, Coral Pumley, Kurt Recktenwald, Brian Ritter, Lou Schuster, Pamela Sharp, Vasili Soultoukis, Kenneth & Laura Spencer, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, Janis Stevenson, George and Jewel Thomas, Karli Wallace Thompson, Charley Underdahl, Dave Watts, Brenda Webster, Pat Whelan, Roselee Williams, Caleb Winig, Elaine Wrich and Lynda Wright.

9th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

Centering Music

Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns Die Stimme (Sleepers Wake! A Voice Is Calling)

J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

God of abundance, the land we walk on is holy ground.

Send forth your grace to help us heal the wounds of this world.

Open up the soil of our hearts to your word of life.

May we be strengthened by this time together and grow into who you are creating us to be.

Confession

Siblings in Christ, we come to the God of mercy mindful that the world upon which we all depend is suffering. The sacred creation given to us, the immense beauty surrounding us, the complex web of life supporting us has been broken, not only by others, but by our own hand. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. (silence)

Loving God, you have placed us as stewards within your creation. Instead, we have abused your gifts. The beauty and abundance of the earth is falling apart under us. God of all life.... We confess our part in a broken world.

You have multiplied your people beyond counting and have provided enough for all. But we have poisoned the waters, exhausted the soils and polluted the air. By our own hand we have spoiled the life-giving resources upon which we all depend. God of all life... **We confess our part in a broken world.**

As Jesus' disciples, we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and tend to the sick. Instead, we have taken the wealth of the world into our own houses and left your children in hunger and need. God of all life... We confess our part in a broken world.

Words of Assurance

As surely as the rain comes forth to water the earth, God's mercy comes to us as a gift, abundant and freely given. The same God who created the cosmos and raised Jesus from death to life brings healing and forgiveness to the world today. You are loved, you are restored. In Christ, you are made new. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

ELW 436

Bulletin page 12&13

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

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

First Reading Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house

is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

Psalm Anthem: Rain Down Choir/Solo Part sung by our Cantor, Branch Fields.



All of God's works are so worthy of trust.

CHOIR: God's mercy falls on the just and the right;

full of God's love is the earth.

CHOIR & CONG.: REFRAIN

CHOIR: We who revere and find hope in our God

live in the kindness and joy of God's wing. God will protect us from darkness and death;

God will not leave us to starve.

CHOIR & CONG.: REFRAIN

CHOIR: God of creation, we long for your truth;

you are the water of life for our thirst.

Grant that your love and your peace touch our hearts,

all of our hope lies in you.

CHOIR & CONG.: REFRAIN

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." ¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

Gospel Acclamation (Sing twice)



Gospel Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

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

[Jesus said:] ³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ³⁵ "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. ³⁹ "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what

hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." *Response at the conclusion of the Gospel: "Praise to you, O Christ."*

Sermon Unexpected and Unwelcome

Pastor Jon Nelson

Silence for prayer and reflection

Hymn of the Day

Have No Fear, Little Flock

ELW 764
Bulletin page 11

Statement of Faith

God, the source of our being and the goal of all our longing, we believe and trust in you. The whole earth is alive with your glory, and all that has life is sustained by you. Help us to commit ourselves to cherish your world, and to seek your face.

God, embodied in a human life, we believe and trust in you. Jesus our brother, born of the woman Mary, you confronted the proud and the powerful, and welcomed as your friends those of no account. Holy Wisdom of God, firstborn of creation, you emptied yourself of power, and became foolishness for our sake. You labored with us upon the cross, and have brought us forth to the hope of the resurrection. Help us to commit ourselves to struggle against evil and to choose life.

God, life-giving Spirit, Spirit of healing and comfort, of integrity and truth, we believe and trust in you. Warm-winged Spirit, brooding over creation, rushing wind and Pentecostal fire, help us to commit ourselves to work with you and renew our world. Amen.

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Prayers

Each petition concludes: Hope of all Heal of - a tion, er re lift tions, We We la our prayer to you. 1ift prayer our to you.

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

Offering Invitation

As followers of Christ, we put our hope in things we cannot yet perceive. We profess that the evil which steals life and lives away for the sake of power and profit will not last forever. We can participate in this transformation. With this faith, let us gather our offerings together to be in service of justice, redistribution, and compassion.

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 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning arr. K. Lee Scott Branch Fields, Bass

Offertory Prayer

Blessed Redeemer, it is your grace that transforms our understanding. Whether we struggle with greed or entitlement, shame or ignorance, internalized oppression or a spirit of domination, you come to set us free. To rebalance us and the world. To authentically and justly heal the wounds of generations. We thank you for equipping us. May our offerings be a harvest of love, blessed to the flourishing of all people. **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 to you... with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(1st Time: Sing as printed. 2nd Time: Sing as printed or sing part 2 followed by part 1) hel. Du är tid myck-et Du är he - lig, du är all mer whole. You are You are ho - ly, you are al - ways ev - er more nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä än - då. än virathan we ev - er un-der - stand. You are al ways at hand. sig - nad va - re mer hit just Väl dusom kom nи, you com-ing Bless-ed are near. Bless - ed are you com-ing here jord. på vår sig - na-de vår jord, blir till bröd your church in wine and raised from soil, raised from dead. bread, Du är he lig, duär hel het, You are ho ly, are whole ness, you het he - la duär kos - mos dig! när lo - var Let the you are cos - mos praise you, Lord! pres ent. Ho - si - Si anna, hoanna, Sing ho the high san na in est! ho - si - an vår Gud. na, ho - si anna

Words of Institution

Sing ho - san - na!

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.

Sing ho -

san -

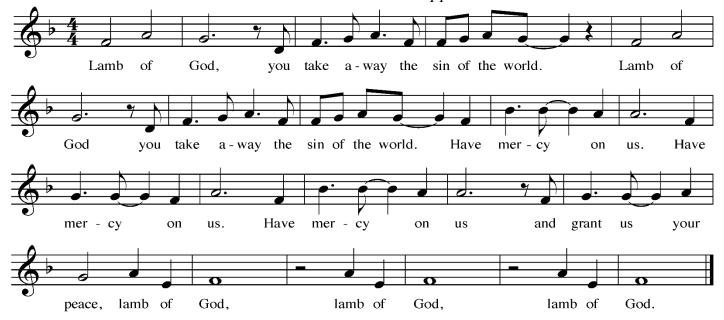
na

to

our

God!

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. All are welcome to the Lord's Supper.



Communion Music Take Heart, Contented Be, and Restful Johann Sebastian Bach Branch Fields, Bass

Communion Hymn Shepherd Us

Dakota Road Bulletin Page 14

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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

Sending Hymn

Lead me, Guide Me

ELW 768

Bulletin Page 15

Blessing

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace. Amen.

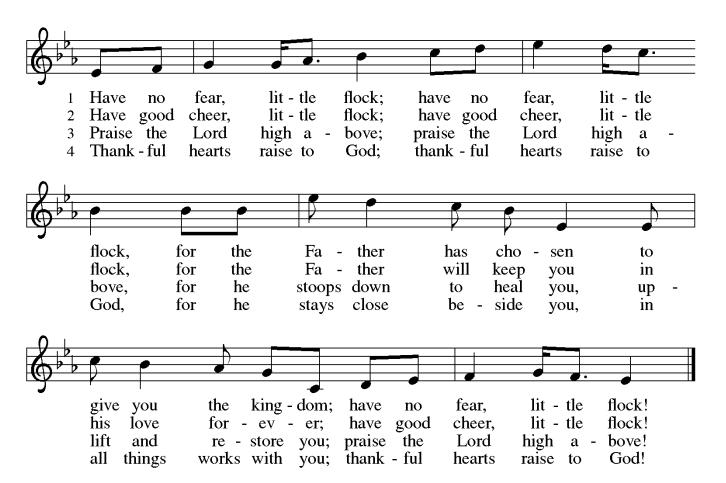
Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. Thanks be to God.

Postlude Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Mary Howarth

Have No Fear, Little Flock



Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2–4 Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930 Text and music @ 1973 Concordia Publishing House.

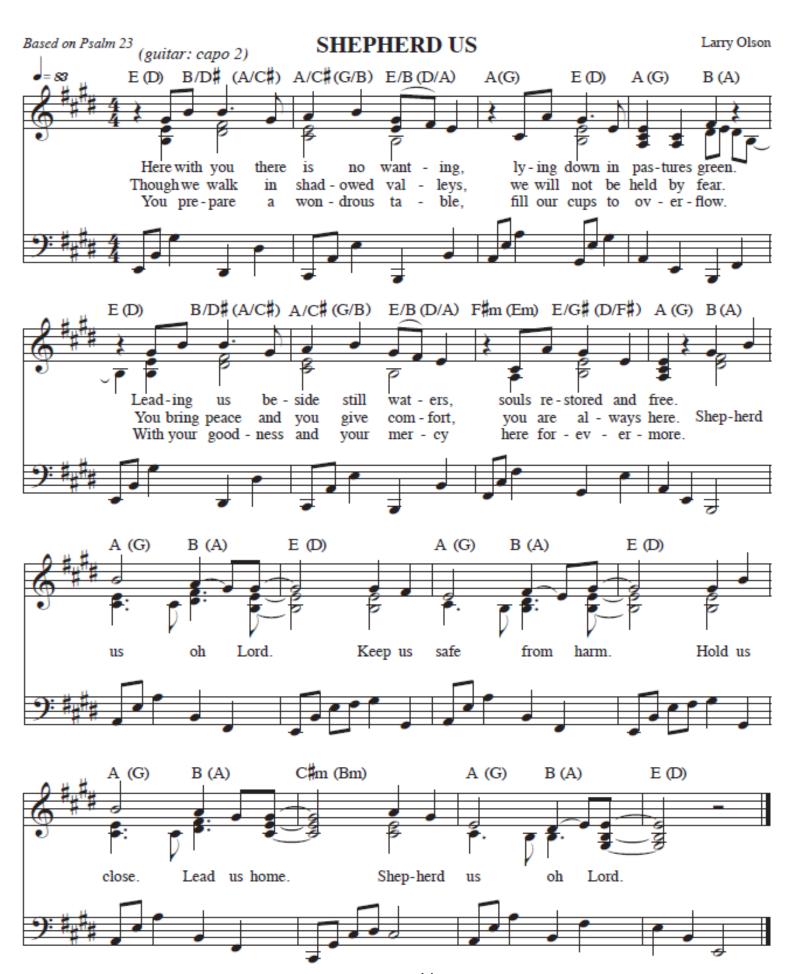
Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying





Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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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 to the Glory of God!

<u>Church Closure:</u> The church offices, preschool, and the entire 1st floor of the Church will be closed from **August 11-15th**. The floors will be refinished and should not be walked on.

Upcoming

<u>Register Now</u> for the 2025 St. Stephen Women's Retreat! **September 26, 27, and 28**, 2025, at St. Stephen, with retreat leadership by **Rev. Dr. Mary Anderson**. Friday evening pizza social, Saturday program including lunch, and Sunday morning sermon by Pastor Anderson. Registration \$40, with scholarships available. Plan to come and bring a friend! Contact Ina Berkey or Alison Carney with questions. **Registration Forms are located in the Gathering space**.

SAVE THE DATE: Preschool's Summer Carnival! Saturday, August 23rd, 11:00AM-3:00PM we will be kicking off our 60th Anniversary year with a summer carnival. Plan to stop by for fun, food, and fellowship! We will also be unveiling the new playground!

<u>SAVE THE DATE: 2025</u> Theologian in Residence! **September 19-21, 2025**, at St. Stephen. We will be welcoming the **Rev. Dr. Leah Schade** as our Theologian this year. Look for more details soon!

<u>Opportunities to serve</u> — Time and Talent- Here is a place where you can shine. There are so many opportunities in the Music Ministry. We have an early choir (Matins) and a late choir (Chancel). We have cantors and bell ringers. We also have an orchestra band (Orchaband) for those who can play a musical instrument. There are opportunities to play a musical instrument as accompaniment for anthems and postlude. We ask that you prayerfully consider joining the music ministry. You can reach out to our Music Director-Karen Ives to find a place you can make a joyful melody for the Lord.

St. Stephen Calendar: August 10-17, 2025

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

SUNDAY, August 10 ~ 9th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)

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

MONDAY, August 11

Church/Preschool CLOSED Floors will be getting done

TUESDAY, August 12

Church/Preschool CLOSED Floors will be getting done

WEDNESDAY, August 13

Church/Preschool CLOSED Floors will be getting done

THURSDAY, August 14

Church/Preschool CLOSED Floors will be getting done

FRIDAY, August 15

Church/Preschool CLOSED Floors will be getting done

SATURDAY, August 16

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 PM AlAnon (Gathering Space)

SUNDAY, August 17 ~ 10th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)

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

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

| Sandy Peterkin |
|---|
| Diana Tiller-Dichtel and Nancy Egloff |
| Charles Osborn and David Nelson |
| Jennifer Dabel |
| Branch Fields |
| Tom and Sandy Peterkin |
| Nelia Lamoureux |
| J.R. & Diana Lyons |
| Jeane Moore |
| Jon Nelson |
| . Jane deSolms, Susan Britcher and Jim Larsen |
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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 (229-6688)
Jessica Kimball – Preschool Director (229-6688)

Doing Ministry in the World Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net Office@saintstephenlutheran.net Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net

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

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

August 10,2025

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| oout Stephen Ministry |
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Prayer Requests

| Please add to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's <i>Quill</i> : |
|---|
| Name: |
| Please remove from prayer concerns: |
| Name: |
| |
| |
| I/ We need a name tag |
| |
| I/We are interested in being involved in the Music Ministry. |

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

August 10, 2025

| Name: | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| For guests and members with | | | |
| Address (Home) | | | |
| City/State | Zip | | |
| Telephone # | | | |
| E-Mail Address | | | |
| Guests Only: I belong to | | | |
| Church Address | | | - |
| Please check as many as pertai | | | - |
| Member | | | |
| First time guest | | | |
| Regular guest | | | |
| Guest (out of town) | | | |
| Student at William & Ma | | | |
| Looking for a church hor | | | |
| Desire to speak with past Would like more information | | ephen Ministry | |
| Any comments? Please be sur | e your name i | s above, so we may re | spond, if necessary. |

Prayer Requests

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| lease rem | nove from prayer concerns: | |
| lame: | | |
| | | |
| / We need | l a name tag | · |