

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 17, 2025
10th Sunday after Pentecost

For Your Prayers -Aug 18-24, 2025

Lectionary readings for this week:

Mon – Aug. 18: Jeremiah 23:30-40;1 John 4:1-6; Psalm 32

Tue - Aug. 19: Jeremiah 25:15-29; Acts 7:44-53; Psalm 32

Wed - Aug. 20: Jeremiah 25:30-38; Luke 19:45-48; Psalm 32

Thu – Aug. 21: Numbers 15:32-41; Hebrews 12:3-17; Psalm 103:1-8

Fri - Aug. 22:2 Chronicles 8:12-15; Acts 17:1-9; Psalm 103:1-8

Sat – Aug. 23: Nehemiah 13:15-22; Luke 6:1-5; Psalm 103:1-8

Next Sunday: Isaiah 58:9b-14 Psalm 103:1-8 (4) Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17

<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, Sam Areheart, Randy Altona, Mary Anderson, Phyllis Andrews, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, Robi Bayard, June Brantley, Carol Bergh, Mary Bloom, Doug Bolick, Kay Braman, Bob Britcher, Tim Brown, 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.

10th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

Centering Music 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

Let the Whole Creation Cry

ELW 876

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.**

Kyrie



Prayer of the Day

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

First Reading Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

23 Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? 24 Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. 25 I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" 26 How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own

heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? *Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."*

Psalm 82



- ¹ God stands to charge the divine coun- | cil assembled, giving judgment in the midst | of the gods:
- ² "How long will you | judge unjustly, and show favor | to the wicked?
- ³ Save the weak | and the orphan; defend the hum- | ble and needy;
- ⁴ rescue the weak | and the poor; deliver them from the power | of the wicked. REFRAIN
- ⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander a- | bout in darkness; all the foundations of the | earth are shaken.
- ⁶ Now I say to you, | 'You are gods, and all of you children of | the Most High;
- ⁷ nevertheless, you shall | die like mortals, and fall like | any prince.'"
- ⁸ Arise, O God, and | rule the earth, for you shall take all nations | for your own. REFRAIN

Second Reading Hebrews 11:29—

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by

resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. ^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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





Gospel Luke 12:49-56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love. Response after announcement of the Gospel: "Glory to you, O Lord."

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." ⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

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

Sermon

Reverend David Hindman

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 - a tion, Heal of er re tions, We lift la -We our prayer to you. 1ift our prayer 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

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 -

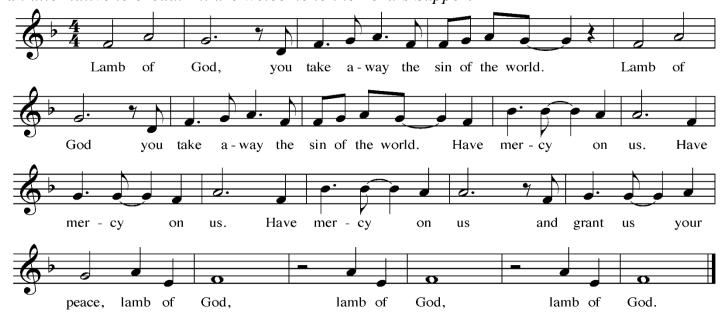
na

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 Hymns Come, Let Us Eat

Bulletin Page 13

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

ELW 580 Bulletin Page 14

ELW 491

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 On, O King Eternal!

ELW 805

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.

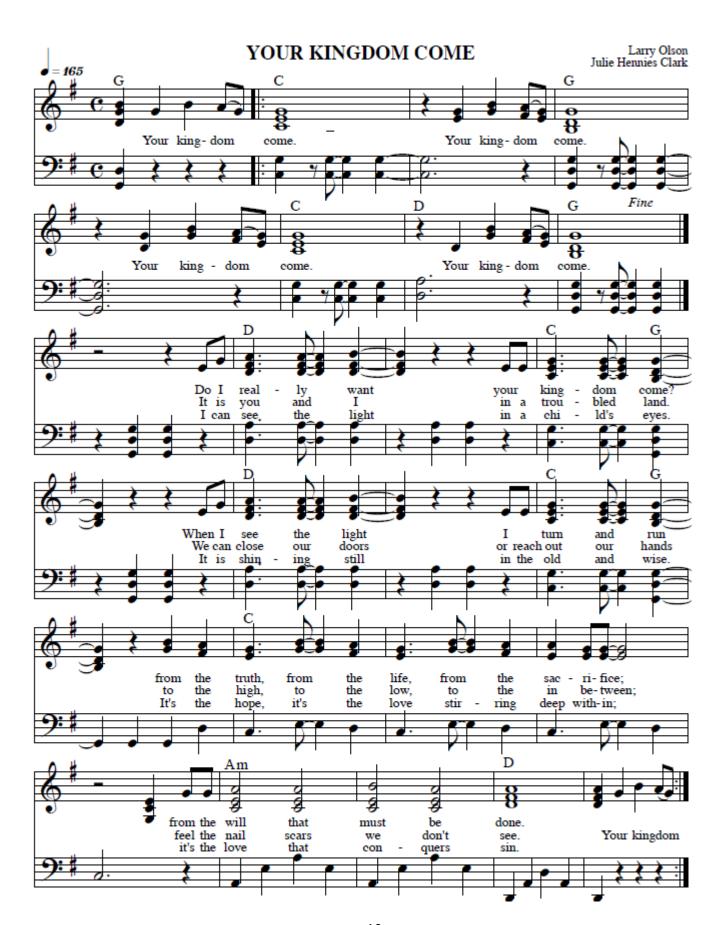
Dismissal

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

Postlude

Let the Whole Creation Cry





Come, Let Us Eat



Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1–3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1–3, alt. Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.

Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord



- 1 How clear is our vo ca tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
- 2 But if, for get ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
- 3 We mar vel how your saints be come in hin-dranc-es more sure;
- 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to geth er or a lone,



to live ac-cord-ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re-freshed, re - stored, if world-ly pres-sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name, in old rou-tines or ven-tures new, may we not cease to look to you,

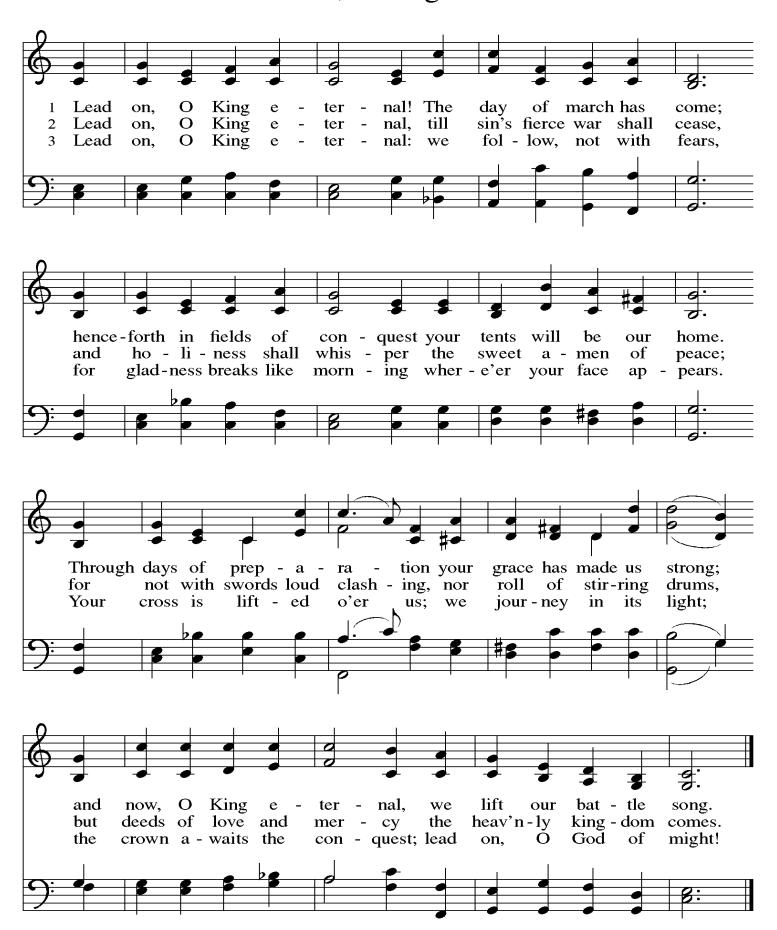


Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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Lead On, O King Eternal!



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 Heidi Flatin in honor of Bruce and Kay Flatin's anniversary.

Upcoming

<u>Register Now</u> for the 2025 St. Stephen Women's Retreat! <u>September 26, 27, and 28, 2025</u>, at St. Stephen, with retreat leadership by <u>Rev. Dr. Mary Anderson</u>. 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.



<u>School Sneakers for Grove.</u> Many, many thanks to everyone for your support of the shoe drive for Grove Christian Outreach Center in our 20th year of collecting! You supplied 36 pairs of shoes, 20 pairs of crew socks, and more than \$3500 in cash to support Grove's mission of sending kids from the Grove community to school in brand new sneakers this fall! Great job! Nancy Egloff

St. Stephen Calendar: August 17-24, 2025

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

SUNDAY, August 17 ~ 10th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)

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

MONDAY, August 18

10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastors office)

TUESDAY, August 19

10:00 AM Women's Retreat Meeting (Library/ Conference room)

WEDNESDAY, August 20

THURSDAY, August 21

FRIDAY, August 22

SATURDAY, August 23

11AM-3PM Preschool Carnival

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 PM AlAnon (Gathering Space)

SUNDAY, August 24~11th Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 AM Worship in the Park(Freedom Park)

11:00 AM Picnic in the park (Freedom Park)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Altar Guild
Bread Baker
Cantor Ellen Bushma
Communion Assistants Amy and Brian Berg
Flower Delivery
Greeters/Hosts
Lectors George Martin and Sandy Croushor
PastorReverend David Hindma
Presiding
Tellers Jeanne Garrison and Carol Brow
Ushers Bill Dichtel and George Marti
Keyboard Ina Berke

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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St. James Press

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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 17,2025

Name:		
For guests and members with	changes:	
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 & Mar	ry	
Looking for a church hom		
Desire to speak with pasto	or	
Would like more informat	tion about Stephen Ministr	у
A 0 D1 1		1

Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if necessary.

^

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 17, 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

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