

# 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.



July 20, 2025 6th Sunday after Pentecost

#### For Your Prayers – July 21-27, 2025

#### Lectionary readings for this week:

Mon – Jul 21: Exodus 18:1-12; Colossians 1:27—2:7; Psalm 119:97-104

Tue - Jul 22: Proverbs 9:1-18;1 John 2:1-6; Psalm 119:97-104

Wed - Jul 23: Deuteronomy 12:1-12; John 6:41-51; Psalm 119:97-104

*Thu – Jul 24*: Esther 2:19—3:6; Acts 1:15-20; Psalm 138

Fri – Jul 25: Esther 3:7-15; Acts 2:22-36; Psalm 138

**Sat – Jul 26:** Esther 4:1-17 ;Luke 8:22-25 ;Psalm 138

Next Sunday: Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138 (8) Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

Luke 11:1-13

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

<u>Pray for those unable to come to worship</u>: Ailene Bartlett, Ed Brown, Ruth Fenstermaker, 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, Randy Altona, Mary Anderson, Phyllis Andrews, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, Robi Bayard, June Brantley, Carol Bergh, Mary Bloom, Doug Bolick, 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, Marnah Lund, Keara Mahony, Trish Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Jack Mayfield, Jimmy Mitchell, Liz Montalvo, Mia Monteith, Ed Moninger, Kim Morris, Bob Myers, Jeanette Osborn, Coral Pumley, Kurt Recktenwald, Stephen Rier, Brian Ritter, Lou Schuster, Pamela Sharp, Vasili Soultoukis, Laura Spencer, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, George and Jewel Thomas, Charley Underdahl, Dave Watts, Brenda Webster, Pat Whelan, Roselee Williams, Caleb Winig, Elaine Wrich and Lynda Wright.

### 6th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

Centering Music Be Thou My Vision

Mark Sedio

Rich Brown, French Horn

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** 

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

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**

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

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

First Reading Genesis 18:1-10a

The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

<sup>1</sup> The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup> He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me

bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup> And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup> Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. <sup>9</sup> They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10a</sup> Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

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

#### **Psalm 15**



<sup>1</sup> Lord, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

Those who lead a blameless life and do

- <sup>2</sup> Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right, who speak the truth | from their heart; R
- <sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends; they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.
- <sup>4</sup> In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the Lord. They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.
- <sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. R

#### **Second Reading**

Colossians 1:15-28

This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is "Christ in you." Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.

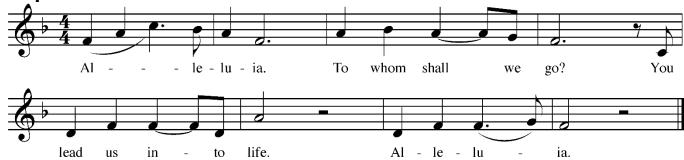
<sup>15</sup> [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup> And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—<sup>23</sup> provided that you continue securely established and

steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

<sup>24</sup> I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. <sup>25</sup> I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup> the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup> To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. *Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."* 

**Gospel Acclamation** 



**Gospel** Luke 10:38-42

During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God. Response after announcement of the Gospel: "Glory to you, O Lord."

<sup>38</sup> Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup> there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

**Sermon** Agency is Complicated Silence for prayer and reflection

Pastor Jon Nelson

Hymn of the Day

For All the Faithful Women

ELW 419 Bulletin page 12

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

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

#### **Offering Invitation**

It need not be complicated, friends. There need not be hoops to jump through nor boxes to check. Aid for one another can flow like water. Care for one another can be freely given. We collect our offerings in the spirit of joy and the mindset of abundance.

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

Minuet and Trio
Rich Brown, French Horn

G. F. Handel/ Charles Forsberg

#### **Offertory Prayer**

We dedicate our offerings to our works and our contemplation, oh Steadfast Hope. May our care for one another and our spiritual practices expand out in the world—weaving wiley and expansive ways of life. **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:

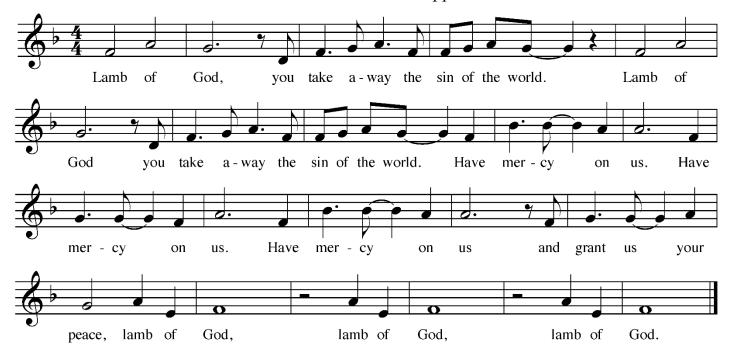


#### **Words of Institution**

#### 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. All are welcome to the Lord's Supper.



**Communion Music** 

Day by Day

Oscar Ahnfelt/Arr. Michael Shiragawa

Rich Brown, French Horn

**Communion Hymn** 

Day by Day

ELW 790 Bulletin page 13

**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** 

O Beauty Ever Ancient

ACS 1100

Bulletin Page 14

#### **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** Now Thank We All our God

Anne Krentz Organ

Rich Brown - French Horn, Bill Dichtel - Clarinet

## Be Thou My Vision



Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

## For All the Faithful Women Martha and Mary



- 1 For all the faith-ful wom en who served in days of old,
- 2 We sing of bus-y Mar tha who toiled with pot and pan
- 3 All praise to God the Fa ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



giv - en; to you shall thanks be all, their stor - y told. to while Mar - y si - lence to hear the word a - gain. sat in praise to God the Spir - it, who binds the church as one!



They served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis-dom gave. Christ, keep our hearts at - ten - tive to truth that you de - clare, With saints who went be - fore us, with saints who wit-ness still,



To you their lives bore wit - ness, pro-claimed your pow'r to save. and strength-en us for ser - vice when work be - comes our prayer. we sing glad al - le - lu - ias and strive to do your will.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

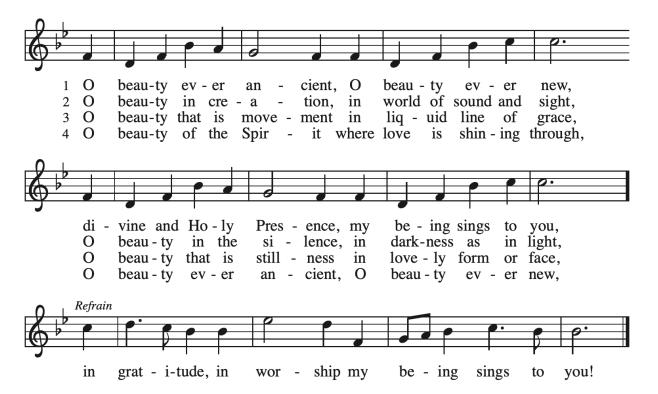
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#### Day by Day



Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005 Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882 Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress.

## O Beauty Ever Ancient



Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931-2020

Music: ANCIENT BEAUTY, Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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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 by Reed & Karen Nester in honor of their 53rd wedding anniversary.

#### **Upcoming**



<u>SAVE THE DATE</u> for the 2025 St. Stephen Women's Retreat! <u>September 26, 27, and 28, 2025</u>, 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.

Please scan the QR code to fill out the Interest form.

**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> — An important ministry is Stephen Ministry. Recently we commissioned a new Stephen Minister. They provide support to members who are going through hardship. Contact Bill Dichtel if you have questions. Home communion is a ministry to provide communion to those who cannot attend church. Diana Tiller-Dichtel is the person to contact. Prayer shawls are given to those who need comfort. Amy Bergh is the contact. The banner team is led by Janice Mayfield. The quilting team is led by Carol Brown and Donna Kittleson.

#### St. Stephen Calendar: July 20-27, 2025

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

#### **SUNDAY, June 20** ~ 6th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)

9:15AM Joint Matins and Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

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

#### MONDAY, July 21

9AM-12PM Preschool summer camp (Mon-Fri)

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

3:00 PM Stephen Ministry meeting (Library/Conference room)

#### **TUESDAY, July 22**

#### **WEDNESDAY**, July 23

8:45 PM YOGA (preschool room)

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

#### **THURSDAY**, July 24

#### FRIDAY, July 25

#### **SATURDAY, July 26**

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 PM AlAnon (Gathering Space)

#### SUNDAY, July 27 ~7th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)

9:00 AM Pick-up Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

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

## **Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today**

John McCurry
Diane McCurry and Nancy Egloff
Nancy Carter and David Nelson
Janice Mayfield
Karen Shoberg
John & Diane McCurry
Diane McCurry
Sandy Peterkin
Diana Tiller-Dichtel and Christina Nelson
Pastor Jon Nelson
Jeanne Garrison and Carol Brown
Tom& Sandy Peterkin

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

#### Mary Magdalene, Apostle Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial.

# Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373 Wednesday, July 23, 2025

Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.

#### James, Apostle Friday, July 25, 2025

James and his brother John were the sons of Zebedee, fishermen by trade before their call from Jesus. He was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred, and his death is the only one recorded in scripture (Acts 12:1-2).



## 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.

July 20,2025

Name:			
For guests and member			
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			
Looking for a chui			
Desire to speak wi	-		
Would like more is	nformation about Ste	phen Ministry	
		above, so we may respon	nd, if necessary

# **Prayer Requests**

Please <b>add</b> to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's <i>Quill</i> :  Name:
Please <b>remove</b> from prayer concerns:
Name:
I/ We need a name tag
I/We are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister
I/We are interested in becoming a home communion minister
I/We are interested in joining the shawl ministry
I/We are interested in joining the banner ministry
I/We are interested in joining the quilting team.

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

July 20, 2025

Name:			
For guests and members wit			
Address (Home)			
City/State	Zip		
Telephone #			
E-Mail Address		_	
Guests Only: I belong to			
Church Address			_
Please check as many as perta			-
Member			
First time guest			
Regular guest			
Guest (out of town)			
Student at William & M			
Looking for a church ho			
Desire to speak with pas			
Would like more inform	iation about Ste	ephen Ministry	
Any comments? Please be sur	re your name is	s above, so we may re	espond, if necessary.

# **Prayer Requests**

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Name:	
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I	We are interested in joining the banner ministry
I	/We are interested in joining the quilting team.