

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.



September 14, 2025
Holy Cross Day

For Your Prayers –Sep 15-21, 2025

Lectionary readings for this week:

Mon – Sep 15: Amos 7:1-6;1 Timothy 1:18-20; Psalm 73

Tue - Sep 16: Jonah 3:1-10;2 Peter 3:8-13;Psalm 73

Wed - Sep 17: Job 40:6-14; 42:1-6; Luke 22:31-33, 54-62; Psalm 73

Thu - Sep 18: Exodus 23:1-9; Romans 3:1-8; Psalm 113

Fri - Sep 19: Ezekiel 22:17-31; Romans 8:31-39; Psalm 113

Sat - Sep 20: Isaiah 5:8-23; Mark 12:41-44; Psalm 113

Next Sunday: Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113 (7) 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Preston Burton, Kristin Carter, Bob & Ginny Cummings, Edith Haecker, Sharon Jacobs, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Traci Powers; Paul Reier; 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, Raymond Bunn, Cagel Family, Karin Cavanaugh, Joyce Clemens, Amaree Cluff, Ruth Ann Coski, Marie Davito, Pat D'Orazio, Judy Drezek, Becky Drury, Darrin and Rosemary Dunn, Josh Egloff, Eric Farrell, Kay Flatin, Tanya Fritz, Joel Gillespie, Joan Goodhart, Mason Griffin, The family of Scott Hadly, Jonathan Hallman, Charee Hampton, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Bradley, Kim, Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Lisa Hill, Doris Hillenbrand, Michelle Holdsworth, 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, Ellen Martin, Jack Mayfield, Jackie Mazzone, Tom Mifflin, Jimmy Mitchell, Liz Montalvo, Ed Moninger, Kim Morris, Bob Myers, Jeanette Osborn, Coral Pumley, Scott Radley, 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, Brenda Webster, Pat Whelan, Roselee Williams, Caleb Winig, and Elaine Wrich.

Holy Cross Day

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

Welcome

Centering Music Holy God, We Praise Your Name Setting, Donald Busarow

Installation of Church Council

The following people have been elected by St. Stephen to positions of leadership: Sandy Croushore, Russ Dabel, Jonathan Hallman, Julie Meeks, Paul Reier, Terri Larsen, Jane deSolms, JR Lyons, Roberta Souloff, Nancy Egloff, Bill Dichtel, Beth Grant, and Jeffrey Berry. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism...

...People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized? We will, and we ask God to help us.

(8:30AM) Installation of Campus Ministry Leader

After prayerful deliberation, we of St. Stephen Lutheran Church, have appointed Gerry Johnson to serve in the position of Campus Ministry Leader.

Our Lord Jesus, who came among us as a servant, calls us...

... People of God, will you receive Gerry into this ministry as one sent to serve in the church of Jesus Christ? We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for him, help and honor him for his work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ? We will, and we ask God to help us.

Gathering Hymn Holy God, We Praise Your Name ELW 414
Bulletin page 10

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, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

First Reading Numbers 21:4b-9

When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] ^{4b} but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live. *Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."*

Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38



¹ Hear my teaching, [|] O my people;

incline your ears to the words | of my mouth.

- ² I will open my mouth | in a parable;
 - I will declare the mysteries of | ancient times. REFRAIN
- ³⁴ Whenever God slew them, ¹ they would seek God, and repent, and diligently ¹ search for God.
- 35 They would remember that God | was their rock, and the Most High God | their redeemer.
- ³⁶ But they flattered God | with their mouths and lied to God | with their tongues.
- ³⁷ Their heart | was not steadfast, and they were not faithful | to the covenant.
- ³⁸ Yet God, being merciful, forgave their sins and did | not destroy them; holding back anger many times and not giving | way to wrath. **REFRAIN**

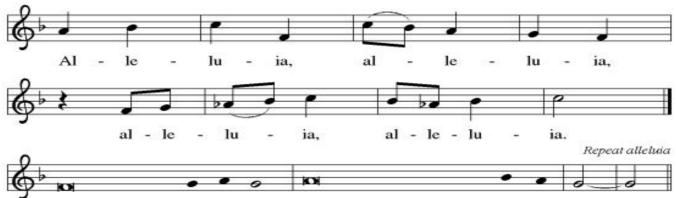
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish

the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. *Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."*

Gospel Acclamation



May I never boast of | anything* except the cross of our Lord | Jesus Christ. (Gal. 6:14)

Gospel John 3:13-17

After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.

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

[Jesus said:] ¹³ "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him." *Response at the conclusion of the Gospel: "Praise to you, O Christ."*

Sermon How do we approach the cross? Pastor Jon Nelson Silence for prayer and reflection

Hymn of the Day When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ELW 803

Bulletin page 11

Affirmation: We Sing of the Spirit (excerpted from "Song of Faith," United Church of Canada, 2006) We sing of God the Spirit, who from the beginning has swept over the face of creation, animating all energy and matter and moving in the human heart.

We sing of God the Spirit, faithful and untameable, who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.

The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy not only in what is familiar, but also in that which seems foreign.

We sing of the Spirit, who speaks our prayers of deepest longing and enfolds our concerns and confessions, transforming us and the world.

We offer worship as an outpouring of gratitude and awe and a practice of opening ourselves to God's still, small voice of comfort, to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.

Through word, music, art, and sacrament, in community and in solitude, God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world. Amen

Prayers

Each petition concludes: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

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

Offering Invitation

We come together, not to hide away from the world, but to build community in it. To make sanctuary for the targeted. To grow futures safe for all children. To nurture beauty and connection. In this shared longing, let us bring all we have together.

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 Cross of Jesus

Robert Benson

Offertory Prayer

Gentle One, we grieve the great violence done in your name, past and ongoing. As Christians, we claim our responsibility to intervene. To engage in the labor of theological and spiritual transformation. To take seriously the ongoing critiques of those negatively affected by our institutions. Emboldened by love, we dedicate these offerings to the work of faithful accountability, reckoning, and repair in this time of growing white Christian nationalism. **Amen.**

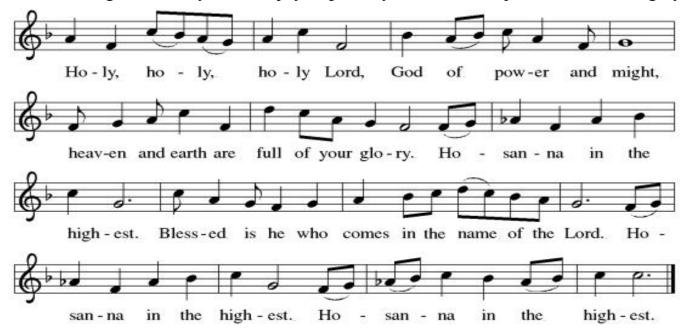
The Great Thanksgiving

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... praise your name and join their unending hymn:

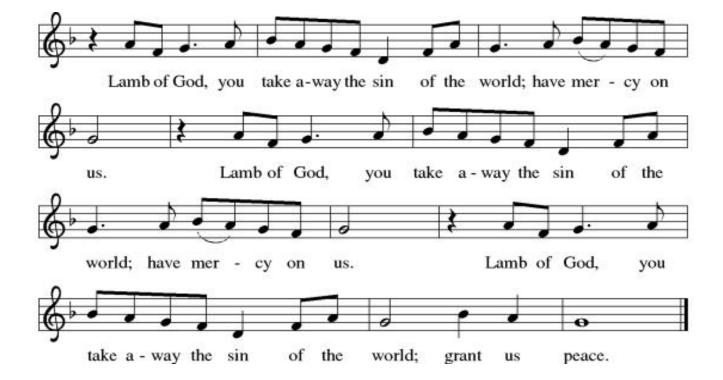


Words of Institution

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 Hymn

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW 324 Bulletin Page 11

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.**

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

Sending Hymn

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

ELW 400

Bulletin Page 12

Veneration of the Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As you depart you are encouraged to come to either the wood cross before the pulpit or the gold cross by the baptismal font to make a sign of reverence. Reverencing the cross may include actions such as pausing before the cross, bowing, kneeling before it for prayer, or touching it.

Postlude

Lift High the Cross

Setting, John Leavitt

Thank you to our **Orchaband:**

Trumpet: Liam Janke Violin: Ingrid Brown

Clarinet: Jeffery Berry, Bill Dichtel, Josiah Hallman

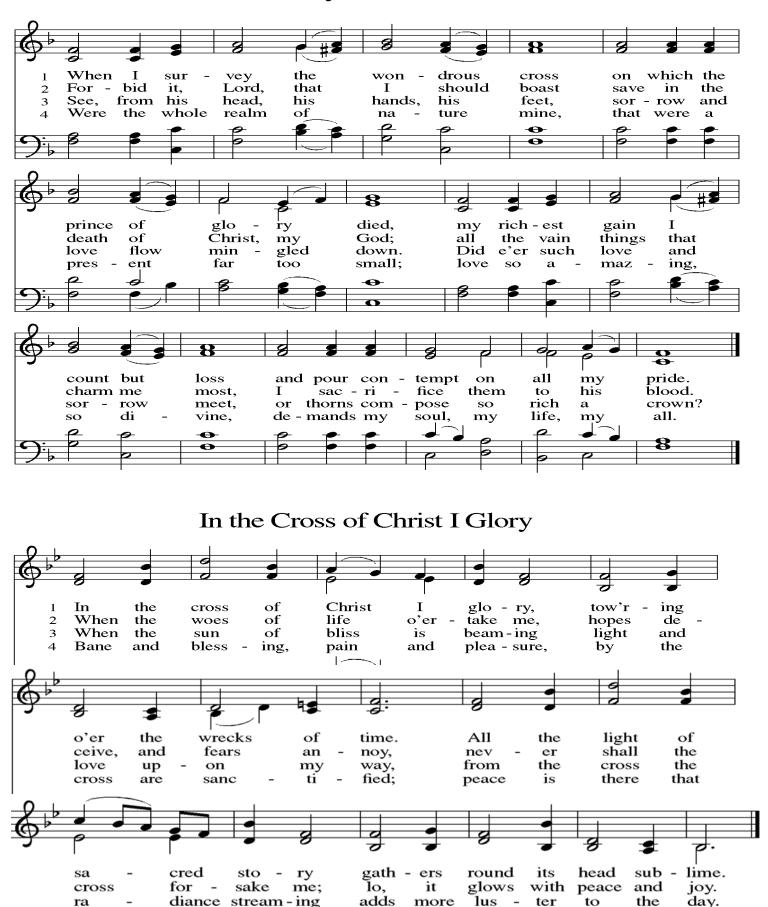
Trombone: Jennifer Dabel

Cello: Marie Nelson

Holy God, We Praise Your Name



When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



that

through all

time

bide.

joys

knows

no

mea - sure,

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932 Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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 Jeff and Lisa Bushmire in celebration of Lisa and Jeff Bushmire's 42nd anniversary.

<u>All Committee Meeting</u>: The Church Council is requesting all committees to gather for a potluck lunch and meeting following the 11:00AM service on Rally Sunday, Sept. 14th. We look forward to good conversation and brainstorming together as we look ahead to the 2025-26 program year.

Upcoming

<u>The Call Committee</u> will be sending out a survey (via email and in the Gathering Space) beginning September 14th and due back by September 30th. This survey will help shape our call process, so we hope you will prayerfully complete it when you have the opportunity.

<u>Preschool: Support by shopping!</u> Is your Harris Teeter card linked to St. Stephen Preschool for its "Together in Education" program? Our number is **1216**. See Hollie Jones if you have any questions!

HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS FUNDRAISER Since 1985 members of St Stephen have donated their time and energy to build and repair homes, as well as building wheelchair ramps for people living in our area. Housing Partnerships is a local nonprofit organization and all profits from this fundraiser support people in our community. Grab your comfy lawn chair and come to the Community Building Lawn area (Across from the Williamsburg Library) beginning at 5:30 pm on Friday, September 19. Relax and listen to your favorite Jimmy Buffet tunes played by the Parrots of the Caribbean band. Tickets at the gate are \$10.

<u>Care Givers Coffee</u>: To share the mutual joys and frustrations of caregiving OR just to drink coffee with friends. Thursday, **September 18, 10:30 a.m**. at Panera Bread, 5218 Monticello Avenue.

Peninsulas Conference Reformation Sunday Service: October 26 at St Mark

We talked about this very briefly last spring, but it should be a very reachable goal to gather for worship this fall.

What we need: a commitment for folks to gather

combined choir: please let me know if your community has a choir or singers who would join a choir; we will get music out to folks to rehearse on their own and it would be amazing to gather a pan-Peninsulas choir for this service;

handbells: please let me know if your community has a handbell choir who might like to share in worship; we have several octaves of handbells at St Mark that we can work to make available.

worship leaders: St Mark can easily cover ushers familiar with the space, but readers/lectors/acolytes/banners/torches/etc — we can involve many hands preacher/presider/asst minister(s): many hands make light work, and our folks may appreciate seeing a mosaic of our regional ministers/ministries

RSVPs — they really help! :)

Adopt-a-Student! The Campus Ministry committee would like to invite all congregation members who are interested in sponsoring a college student and building relationships to a meet-and-greet and light lunch after the 11 am service on Sept. 21, at 12:15 pm in the College Room downstairs. The college community is a blessing to us at St. Stephen and Campus Ministry wants to provide you with an opportunity to meet the students who worship with us and who have an interest in our programs, particularly in the adopt-a-student program. Please RSVP on the insert.

St. Stephen Calendar: September 14-21, 2025

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

SUNDAY.	September 14~ Holy Cross Day
8:00 AM	Matins Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
8:30 AM	Worship – Holy Communion (livestreamed on our YouTube channel
9:45 AM	Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
10:30 AM	Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
11:00 AM	Worship – Holy Communion
12:00 PM	All Committee Meeting (potluck in Fellowship Hall)
12:00 PM	LSA Lunch (College room)
MONDAY,	September 15
10:00 AM	Staff Meeting (Pastors office)
1:30 PM	Bible Study (Library/Conference room)
3:00 PM	Stephen Ministry meeting (Library/ Conference room)
TUESDAY	, September 16
8:00 AM	Preschool staff meeting (Library/Conference room)
10:00AM	Women's retreat meeting (library/Conference room)
11:00AM	Quilting group (Fellowship hall)
7:00 PM	Council Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
WEDNESD	OAY, September 17
8:55 AM	Yoga (Gathering space)
5:00 PM	Girl Scouts (Preschool room)
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
7:00 PM	AA meeting (Fellowship hall)
	Y, September 18
11:30 AM	Bulletin Review (Office)
	September 19
1:00PM	Endowment Committee meeting (Library/conference room)
SATURDA	Y, September 20
9:00 AM	Theologian in Residence (Fellowship Hall)
5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
5:30 PM	AlAnon (Gathering Space)
SUNDAY,	September 21~ 15 th Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 AM	Matins Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
8:30 AM	Worship – Holy Communion (livestreamed on our YouTube channel)
9:45 AM	Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
10:00 AM	Faith formation (preschool room)
10:30 AM	Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
11:00 AM	Worship – Holy Communion
12:15 PM	"Adopt a student" meet and greet lunch(College room)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

	(8:30) Stan York (11:00) David Nelson
Altar Guild	(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel and Diane McCurry
Audio-Visual Team	(8:30) JR & Diana Lyons (11:00) David Nelson
Bread Baker	Paul Kristiansen
Cantors	(8:30) Randy Punchard (11:00) Marj Gottschalk-Trone
Communion Assistants	(8:30) Paula Agor and Rosalie Frey
	(11:00) Keith & Nancy Egloff
Flower Delivery	
Greeters/Hosts	(8:30) Rosalie Frey (11:00) Alison Carney
	(8:30) Karen Nester (11:00) Gretchen Osborne
Pastor	
Tellers	Jane deSolms, Susan Britcher and Jim Larsen
	or and John McCurry (11:00) George Bass, Sonya Lim &
Christopher Turner	

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 www.saintstephenlutheran.net (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)

かかかかかかかかか

Holy God, We Praise Your Name; Contributors: Donald Busarow; © 1994, Concordia, Publications Cross of Jesus; Contributors: Robert Benson.; © 2005 Augsburg Fortress Lift High the Cross; Contributors: John Leavitt; © 1994, Concordia, Publications

One License #A721099; CCLI Permission Reprinted/Streamed with permission under CCLI License #11256031; Permission granted, St. James Press New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SB164403

One License Licensing Permission Reprinted/Streamed with permission under

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

September 14,2025

Name:			-
For guests and member	rs 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	a & Mary		
Looking for a chui	ch home		
Desire to speak wi			
Would like more in	nformation about Stepl	nen Ministry	
Any comments? Please	be sure your name is a	bove, so we may respond	l, if necessary.

Prayer Requests

Name:	
Please remov	ve from prayer concerns:
Name:	
I/ We no	eed a name tag
<u>I/We</u> 12:15PM.	will be attending the "Adopt a Student" meet and greet on September 21 a
	We will be attending the Peninsulas Conference Reformation Sunday Service 26 th # of people

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

September 14, 2025

Name:			
For guests and members wi			
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)	T.		
Student at William & N			
Looking for a church he			
Desire to speak with pa Would like more inform		ephen Ministry	
Any comments? Please be su	are your name is	s above, so we may res	spond, 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 will be attending the "Adopt a Student" meet and greet on September 21 at 12:15PM.	
I/We will be attending the Peninsulas Conference Reformation Sunday Service on October 26 th . # of people	