

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 21, 2025

For Your Prayers –Sep 22-28, 2025

Lectionary readings for this week:

Mon – Sep 22 Proverbs 14:12-31; Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 12

Tue – Sep 23 Proverbs 17:1-5; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Psalm 12

Wed - Sep 24 Proverbs 21:10-16; Luke 20:45—21:4; Psalm 12

Thu - Sep 25 Proverbs 22:2-16; 2 Corinthians 8:8-15; Psalm 146

Fri - Sep. 26 Proverbs 28:3-10; Ephesians 2:1-10; Psalm 146

Sat – Sep. 27 Proverbs 28:11-28; Luke 9:43b-48; Psalm 146

Next Sunday: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146 (7); 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

<u>Join your prayers for healing</u> with God's desires for Preston Burton, Kristin Carter, Bob & Ginny Cummings, Edith Haecker, Sharon Jacobs, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, 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.

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

Centering Music

Be Thou My Vision

Setting, Joshua Evanovich

Call to Worship

Come and be in awe at the altar of life Come and find your place in the whole of things Come and join your kin at the table of god

We seek paths of flourishing, for us and for all

For the planet and for the people

For the children of the future

For the saints of the past

God turns us from what deadens and destroys

The Spirit of Life is here! Let us open our hearts.

Opening Prayer

Transformative One, come and help us. Our planet is held captive by the greed of the powerful. Plans of production and consumption rule over your people. But we know it doesn't have to be this way. Plant in us the seeds of change, that we may together, blossom in altogether different directions. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

As Saints of Old

ELW 695

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

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

First Reading Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and

practice deceit with false balances, ⁶ buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat." ⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

Psalm 113



- ¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD; praise the name | of the LORD.
- ² Let the name of the | LORD be blessed, from this time forth for- | evermore.
- ³ From the rising of the sun to its | going down let the name of the | LORD be praised.
- ⁴ The LORD is high a- | bove all nations; God's glory a- | bove the heavens. REFRAIN
- ⁵ Who is like the LORD our God, who sits en- throned on high,
- ⁶ but stoops | to behold

the heavens | and the earth?

- ⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out | of the dust and lifts up the poor | from the ashes,
- 8 enthroning them | with the rulers, with the rulers | of the people.
- ⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a | childless house to be a joyful mother of children. | Hallelujah! **REFRAIN**

Second Reading 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time.⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Live your life in a manner worthy of the gos- | pel of Christ;* strive side by side for the faith | of the gospel. (Phil. 1:27)

Gospel Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

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

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' 5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' 8 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. 9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. ¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. 11 If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." Response at the conclusion of the Gospel: "Praise to you, O Christ."

Sermon: Flipping the Script on the Parable of the "Dishonest Manager" - Rev. Dr. Leah Schade

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: God of grace, receive our prayer.

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

Offering Invitation

Beloveds, day after day the empire sells us its lies about what satisfies. But we know - in our heart of hearts - what brings joy, what brings life, what brings connection with others. In defiance of greed, let us share what we have with each other.

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 8:30 Be Thou My Vision 11:00 Be Thou My Vision

Marie Pooler Carlton Young

Offertory Prayer

God of Redemption, may your Spirit bring a revolution of relationship, a revolution of priorities, a revolution of heart. Turn our world upside down with generative transformation! Free us all from the snares of evil that justify a world of wealth and poverty. Through your grace, help us make it so. **Amen.**

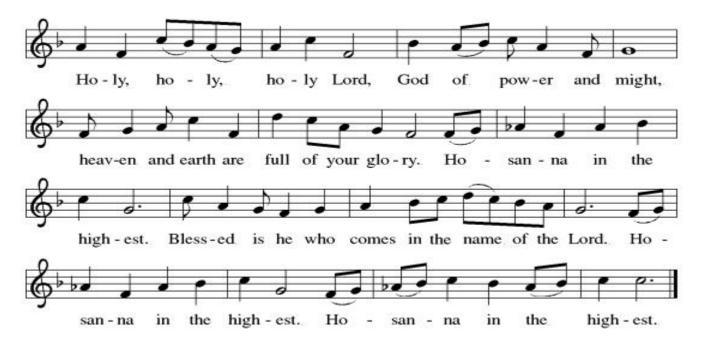
The Great Thanksgiving

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, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

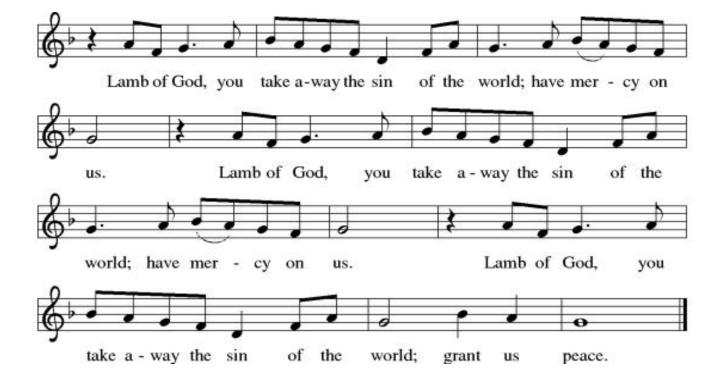


Words of Institution

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 Hymn

We Give Thee but Thine Own

ELW 686 Bulletin Page 12

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.**

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

Sending Hymn

All Depends on Our Possessing

ELW 589 Bulletin Page 13

Blessing

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,

→ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude All Depends on Our Possessing

Setting, Wayne Wold

As Saints of Old



Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt. Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

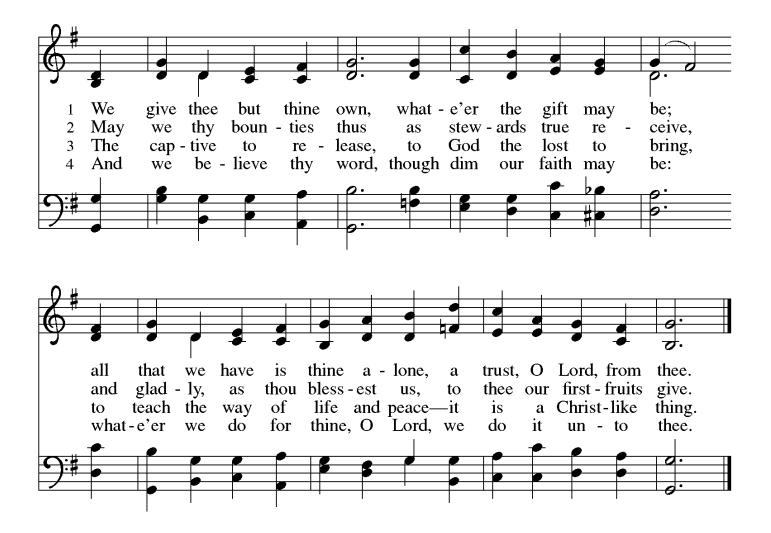
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God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006 Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918 Text @ 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

We Give Thee but Thine Own



Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantica Lauda, 1850

All Depends on Our Possessing



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 Bill Dichtel and Diana Tiller-Dichtel in in honor of Will Dichtel's birthday and in memory of Ralph and Bess Tiller's anniversary.

<u>Adopt-a-Student!</u> 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 today 12:15 pm in the College Room downstairs.

<u>Theologian in Residence Q&A.</u> Join us this morning between services in the Fellowship Hall for more conversation with our TiR Presenter, Rev. Dr. Leah Schade.

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

Upcoming

<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!

Peninsulas Conference Reformation Sunday Service: October 26 at St Mark

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 **RSVP**s — they really help!:)

<u>LSA Sunday Dinners</u>. Want to get to know our LSA members? Host a meal for them! Sign up to host a Sunday evening meal for LSA on the chart in the Gathering Space. If you haven't hosted before, instructions are available.

St. Stephen Calendar: September 21-28, 2025

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

SUNDAY, September 21 ~ 15th 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 TiR Q&A (Fellowship Hall)

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)

MONDAY, September 22

10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastors office)

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

TUESDAY, September 23

7:00 PM Preschool Committee (Fellowship Hall)

WEDNESDAY, September 24

8:55 AM Yoga (Gathering space)

5:00 PM Girl Scouts (Preschool room)

5:15 PM Faith Formation Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

7:00 PM AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, September 25

11:30 AM Bulletin Review (Office)

FRIDAY, September 26

6:30PM Women's Retreat Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

SATURDAY, September 27

8:30 AM Women's Retreat (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 PM AlAnon (Gathering Space)

SUNDAY, September 28 ~ 16th 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)

10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)

11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion

6:00 PM LSA Dinner (College room)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer	(8:30) John McCurry
	(11:00) Ben Berry
	(8:30) Rosie Frey
	(11:00)
Audio-Visual Team	(8:30) Nancy Carter and David Nelson (11:00) Mike Morgan
Bread Baker	Janice Mayfield
Cantors	(8:30) Ellen Bushman (11:00) Jon Hallman
Communion Assistants	(8:30) John & Diane McCurry
	(11:00) Julie Meeks and Jeffery Berry
Lectors	(8:30) John McCurry (11:00) Nancy Egloff
Presider	Rev. Jon Nelson
	Jeanne Garrison and Carol Brown
Ushers	(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel (11:00) Russ Dabel and Glenn Joppa



Thank you to Rev. Dr Leah D. Shade for guest preaching and leading our work shop "The church and he Public Square"

About Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade:

- Ordained ELCA minister for 25 years
- Author of Preaching and Social Issues (2025), Preaching in the Purple Zone (2019), Creation-Crisis Preaching (2015), and more
- Director of a \$1.25 million Lilly Foundation grant for "Compelling Preaching for a Climate-Changed World"
- Leader in research on ministry, preaching, and social issues

The Jack and Dianne Harris family would like to thank the members and staff of St. Stephen Lutheran Church for your friendship, support and love of our parents during their many years of membership. We are especially grateful most recently for dad's lovely funeral service. To Pastor Jon, Karen and Hollie- thank you for your gifts of words, music and organization. Thank you to the people who helped serve as ushers, communion servers, audio visual team and for the lovely reception you all provided. We are grateful for you all. Mom and dad found their home at St. Stephen. It will always remain a special place for our family.

With much love and appreciation,

Ron, Jude, Nancy and Emily

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.

September 21,2025

Name:			
For guests and members			
Address (Home)			
City/State	Zip		
Telephone #			
E-Mail Address			
Guests Only: I belong to			
Church Address			
Please check as many as pe			
Member			
First time guest			
Regular guest			
Guest (out of town)			
Student at William &			
Looking for a church			
Desire to speak with	=		
Would like more info	ormation about St	ephen Ministry	
Any comments? Please be	sure your name i	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 Peninsulas Conference Reformation Sunday Second October 26 th . # of people	rvio

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

September 21, 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

Vame:	
Please remove from prayer concerns:	
Name:	
I/ We need a name tag	
I/We will be attending the Peninsulas Conference	e Reformation Sunday
vice on October 26 th . # of people	