



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 7, 2025

13th Sunday after Pentecost

For Your Prayers –Sep 8-14, 2025

Lectionary readings for this week:

Mon – Sep 8: 2 Kings 17:24-41; 1 Timothy 3:14 — 4:5; Psalm 101

Tue – Sep 9: 2 Kings 18:9-18; 1 Timothy 4:6-16; Psalm 101

Wed – Sep 10: 2 Kings 18:19-25; 19:1-7; Luke 18:18-30; Psalm 101

Thu – Sep 11: Genesis 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 1:1-11; Psalm 51:1-10

Fri – Sep 12: Genesis 7:6-10; 8:1-5; 2 Peter 2:1-10a; Psalm 51:1-10

Sat – Sep 13: Genesis 8:20—9:7; John 10:11-21; Psalm 51:1-10

Next Sunday: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10 (1); 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

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.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **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, Joyce Clemens, 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, 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 .

13th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

Centering Music

Take My Life, That I May Be

Setting, Mark Sedio

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685

Bulletin page 12

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

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

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

Psalm Hymn

ACS 1042

Bulletin pages 10 & 11

Second Reading

Philemon 1-21

Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. ⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something

forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Let your face shine up- | on your servant,* and teach | me your statutes.(Ps. 119:135)

Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

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

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

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

Sermon

Redemptive Suffering Isn't

Pastor Jon Nelson

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

Through baptism, we allow the waters to redefine who is family. We recognize each other as kin. We disavow loyalties that turn us on our neighbor. Assured that we belong to God and each other, let us bring together what we have.

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

Jesus Loves Me

Jennaya Robison

Offertory Prayer

Holy One, we are all entangled in the grips of capitalism, the cruelty of exploitation, the exhaustion of production. We dedicate these offerings to the work of deliverance for all people, out from under suffering. Out from under oppression. Out from under scarcity

and struggle. May we play our part in making it so, that all your people may be at ease.
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.*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymn *Lord Jesus, you Shall Be My Song*

ELW 808
Bulletin Page 14

Table Blessing

Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

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.**

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

Sending Hymn

God's Work, Our Hands

ACS 1000

Bulletin Page 15

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

God's Work, Our Hands

Setting, Robert A. Hobby

May This Church Be like a Tree

Que esta iglesia sea un árbol



1 *Que* *es*-*ta* *i* - *gle* - *sia* *se* - *a* *un* *ár* - *bol* *en* *el*
 1 May this church be like a tree, be - hind your
 2 May this church be like a tree there in the
 3 May this church be like a tree, O God, that



fon - *do* *de* *tu* *ca* - *sa*, *que* *ha* - *ya* *fies* - *ta*, *y* *a* - *le* -
 house, there in your gar - den, meet - ing - place for joy, and
 street or in the pla - za, for the birds a nest - ing -
 thrives where you have plant - ed; may it stand to show the



grí - *a* *y* *o* - *ra* - *ción* *ba* - *jo* *sus* *ra* - *mas*.
 feast, and sim - ple prayer be - neath its branch - es.
 branch, for pass - ers - by a wel - come shel - ter.
 way, your way of lov - ing and self - giv - ing,



Con *ra* - *í* - *ces* *bien* *pro* - *fun* - *das* *y* *sus* *bra* - *zos*
 With its roots in earth so fer - tile, and its arms raised
 May it stand as if it's watch - ing, near my house, just
 of - f'ring shade, and fruit for shar - ing, giv - ing up its

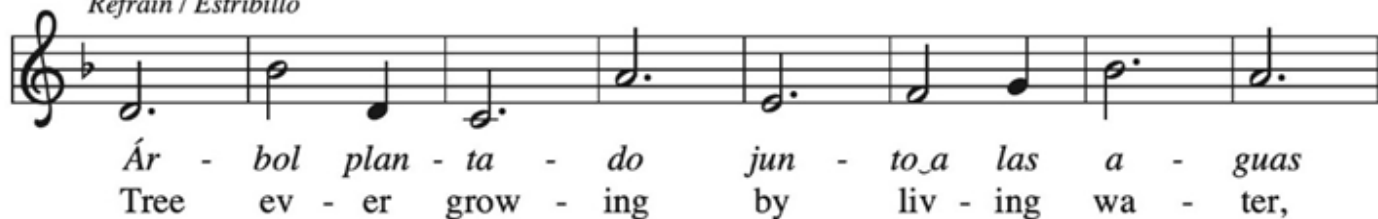


ha - *cia* *el* *cie* - *lo*, *que* *es* - *ta* *i* - *gle* - *sia* *sea* *fe* -
 high to heav - en, may this church bear fruits of
 round the cor - ner, wait - ing for this wea - ry
 wood for burn - ing. May this liv - ing church that



cun - da dan - do fru - tos de con - sue - lo.
 jus - tice, acts of lov - ing and com - pas - sion.
 pil - grim with its arms wide to em - brace me.
 names you be a tree of life e - ter - nal.

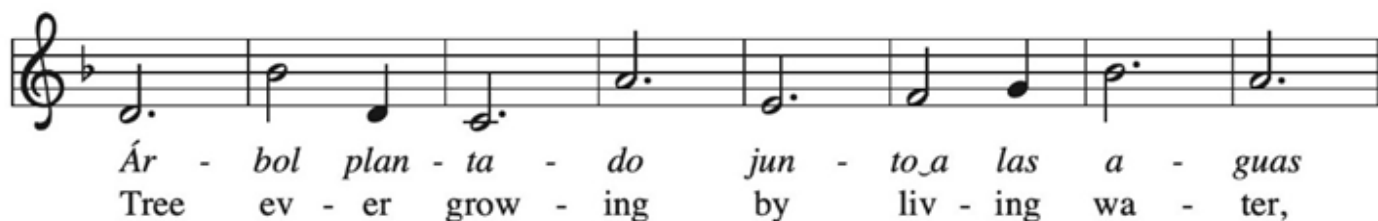
Refrain / Estribillo



Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to a las a - guas
 Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



de vi - da e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.
 run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.



Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to a las a - guas
 Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



de vi - da e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.
 run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.

- 2 *Que esta iglesia también sea como un árbol de la plaza,
nido de pájaros libres y refugio del que pasa;
y que sea como el árbol de la esquina de mi casa,
que me ve llegar de lejos e imagino que me abraza. Estribillo*
- 3 *Que esta iglesia sea un árbol, oh buen Dios, en donde quieras,
pero siempre apuntalado por tu amor y a tu manera.
Para dar frutos y sombra o entregar nuestra madera,
que esta iglesia que te nombra árbol de la vida sea. Estribillo*

Text: Pablo D. Sosa, 1933–2020; tr. Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951

Music: QUE ESTA IGLESIA SEA UN ÁRBOL, Pablo D. Sosa

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Take My Life, That I May Be

The musical score is written for a single voice and piano accompaniment. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, while the piano accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, with the first line of lyrics corresponding to the first line of music, and so on. The lyrics are: 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee; 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love; 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King; 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold; take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise. take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee. take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee. take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

757

All My Hope on God Is Founded



1 All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my
 2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
 3 Great thy good-ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,
 4 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,
 tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,
 pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,
 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing



on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known, God a -
 tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r, hour by
 beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more from thy
 for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and



lone, call my heart to be thine own.
 hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.
 store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.
 all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.

Music: Herbert Howells, 1892–1983

Music © 1968 Novello & Co, Ltd., London

MICHAEL
87 87 33 7

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Jésus, je voudrais te chanter

1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

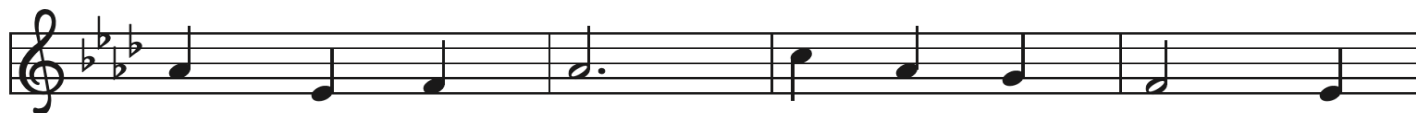
Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,

Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931
 Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community
 Text and music ©1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

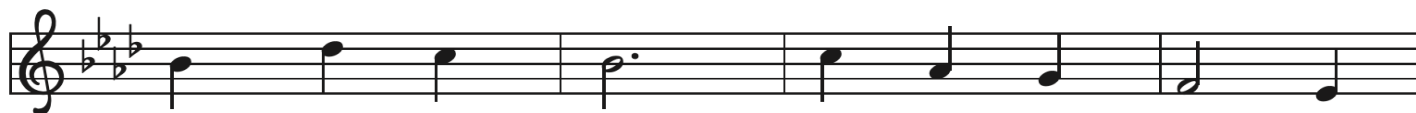
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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.

Health Update: 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

Register Now for the 2025 St. Stephen Women's Retreat! **September 26, 27, and 28, 2025**, at St. Stephen, with retreat leadership by **Rev. Dr. Mary Anderson**. Friday evening pizza social, Saturday program including lunch, and Sunday morning sermon by Pastor Anderson. Registration \$40, with scholarships available. Plan to come and bring a friend! Contact Ina Berkey or Alison Carney with questions. **Registration Forms are located in the Gathering space.**
Deadline to submit is Sept 9th.

Flowers this morning are given by Paul and Rita Kristiansen in celebration of our anniversary.

Upcoming

The Call Committee 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.

Dining Small Groups Bring More Joy: Sign Up Now for the Next Round, to Run Mid-September 2025 Through End of January 2026. Sign up on the bulletin insert or call the church office. Each group to meet three times between September and the end of January. Of course you are free to meet more often if that works for your group.

All Committee Meeting: 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.

Preschool: Support by shopping! 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!

Monthly Women's Study Group Our September monthly women's study group will be on Thursday, September 11. We hold afternoon (1:00 pm) and evening sessions (7:00 pm) on the second Thursday of each month in the library. Sessions run 60-90 minutes (depending on our discussion!). Please mark your calendar for our future 2025 meetings: 10/9, 11/13, 12/11. Reach out to Sandy Johnson (beach4sandy@gmail.com or 703-203-4315)

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**.

Care Givers Coffee: 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.

Quilting group: The quilting group will resume on **Tuesday September 16th** from 11am-1pm. The group will meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Welcome W&M Students! The Lutheran Student Association (LSA), our student organization at William & Mary, will host a luncheon to welcome all new and returning students to LSA next Sunday, September 14, following the 11:00 am service (12:15 pm) in the College Room. The LSA student leaders will share information about LSA and potential LSA activities for this year. Please join us! If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Gerry at 703-209-3599 or pastorgfj@gmail.com.

Our worship service is available on our website www.saintstephenlutheran.net, click on “Worship with Us” and “Services.”

SUNDAY, September 7 ~ 13th 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 God’s Work. Our Hands. Project (Gathering Space)
10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion
3:00 PM Hymn Sing (Williamsburg Landing)

MONDAY, September 8

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastors office)
3:00 PM Finance Meeting (Library/ Conference room)

TUESDAY, September 9

- 7:00 PM Exec. Committee Meeting (Zoom)

WEDNESDAY, September 10

- 8:55 AM Yoga (Gathering space)
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

THURSDAY, September 11

- 11:30 AM Bulletin Review (Office)
1:00PM Women’s Study Group (Fellowship Hall)
5:30 PM St. Stephen Ringers rehearsal (Worshipspace)
7:00PM Women’s Study Group (Fellowship Hall)

FRIDAY, September 12

SATURDAY, September 13

- 2:30 PM Jack Harris Memorial Service (Worship Space)
5:30 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
5:30 PM AlAnon (Gathering Space)

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)
12:15 PM LSA Luncheon (College room)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer.....(8:30) Sandy Peterkin
..... (11:00) Pam Buckley
Altar Guild (8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel
..... (11:00) Gerri Bass and Nancy Egloff
Audio-Visual Team..... (8:30) Tim Judy and Nancy Carter (11:00) Charles Osborn
Bread Baker..... Karen Schlicht
CantorsChoir
Communion Assistants(8:30) Tom & Sandy Peterkin
.....(11:00) George Bass and Sandy Croushore
Flower Delivery
Greeters/Hosts(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel (11:00) Diana Tiller-Dichtel
Lectors..... (8:30) Thom Recktenwald (11:00) George Bass
Pastor Pastor Jon Nelson
Tellers..... Jane Gingerich, Ursula Recktenwald and Russ White
Ushers.....(8:30) Reed and Karen Nester (11:00)

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)

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

Doing Ministry in the World

Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net

MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net

Office@saintstephenlutheran.net

Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net

Pipe Pipe Pipe Pipe Pipe Pipe Pipe Pipe

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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 7, 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 & Mary

_____ Looking for a church home

_____ Desire to speak with pastor

_____ Would like more information about Stephen Ministry

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 *Quill*:

Name: _____

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: _____

____ I/ We need a name tag _____ .

I/We _____ would like more information about sponsoring a student.

Dining Small Groups Sign Up:

Your Name (if signing up for more than one person, include names of all participants):

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

I am willing to be the point of contact for my new dining small group:

(circle one) Yes No

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