

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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.



March 3, 2024 ~ Third Sunday in Lent

Lectionary readings for this week:

 Monday: 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22 1 Corinthians 3:10-23 Psalm 84

 Tuesday: 2 Chronicles 29:1-11,16-19 Hebrews 9:23-28 Psalm 84

 Wednesday: Ezra 6:1-16 Mark 11:15-19 Psalm 84

 Thursday: Genesis 9:8-17 Ephesians 1:3-6 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

 Friday Daniel 12:5-13 Ephesians 1:7-14 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

 Saturday: Numbers 20:22-29 John 3:1-13 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

 Next Sunday's Readings: Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (19) Ephesians 2:1-10

 John 3:14-21

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Aaren Battle, Ed Brown, Ingrid Brown, Kristin Carter, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Evelyn Kernan, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Martha Reier, Linda Reuben and Mallory Spencer.

<u>Pray for those unable to come to worship</u>: Martin Bleck, Ed Brown, Birdie Burton, York Doerr, Bob and Angie Groom, Edith Haecker, Pat Janot, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: John, Marty, Benita, Paula Battle, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, Sally Blackburn, Linda Bonfiglio, Mary Bloom, Ann Bunn, Amy Carl, Jerry & Elijah Connor, Judy Craun, Doug Crinklaw, Sophia Czajkowski, Judy Drezek, Ginny Mauney Fox, Joel Gillespie, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Deanna Harbison, Nick Havola, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Char Henry, Lisa Hill, Jaxon Ireland, The Jacobs Family, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Laura & Fred Kienle, Marnah Lund, David Maris, Laura Margolin, Doug Mayes, Jack Mayfield, Becky Murphy, Ed Moninger, John and Pollie Morison, Bob Myers, Silvana Oderisi, Lori Ogborn, Shary Raske, Paula Rega, Marci Ries, Sharon Rogers, Betty Roth, Lou Schuster, Inge Seiter, Kelsey Slay, Brant Smith, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig.

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

Welcome

Centering Music

Sonata in C Minor (Allegro) Isabella Spear, Flute Georg Philipp Telemann

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. Amen. Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Silence is kept for reflection. Holy God, we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen. Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ. Amen.

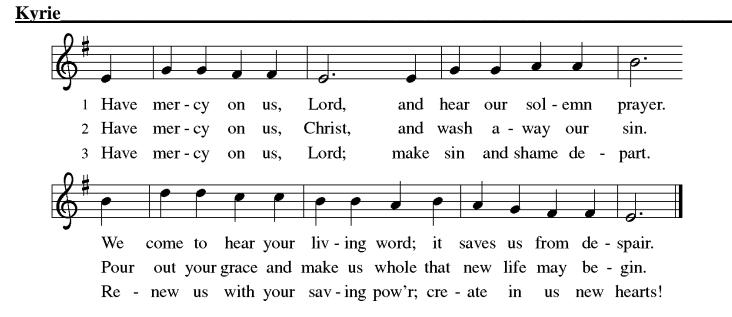
Gathering Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELW 803 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

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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

Exodus 20:1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all

that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

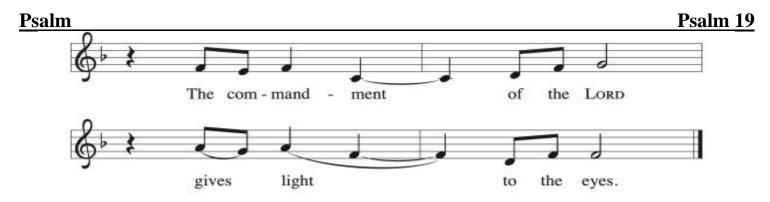
¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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



¹The heavens declare the glo- [|] ry of God,

and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

²One day tells its tale [|] to another,

and one night imparts knowledge | to another.

³Although they have no [|] words or language, and their voices [|] are not heard,

⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends [|] of the world, where God has pitched a tent [|] for the sun.

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out [|] of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to [|] run its course.

⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of [|] it again;

nothing is hidden from its | burning heat. *Refrain*

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-[|] vives the soul;

the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to [|] the simple.

⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and re-¹ joice the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en-[|] dures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than [|] much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey [|] in the comb. *Refrain*

¹¹By them also is your ser-¹ vant enlightened,

and in keeping them there is | great reward.

¹²Who can detect one's | own offenses?

Cleanse me from my | secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion [|] over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable [|] in your sight,

O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer. Refrain

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

Lenten Acclamation



Gospel

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

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

Sermon	Good Trouble Silence for reflection and prayer.	Rev. James Cobb
Hymn of the Day	God the Sculptor of the Mountains	ELW 736 Bulletin page 12

Prayers

Each petition concludes, "Lord in your mercy." Response: "Hear our prayer."

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

Offering

An offering is 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 MusicCanticle of the Turningarr. Anne Krentz Organ(8:30) Isabella Spears, Flute; Jeffery Berry, Clarinet; Linda Baumgarten, Bassoon(11:00) Isabella Spears, Flute; Erika Cave, Clarinet; Marie Nelson, Cello

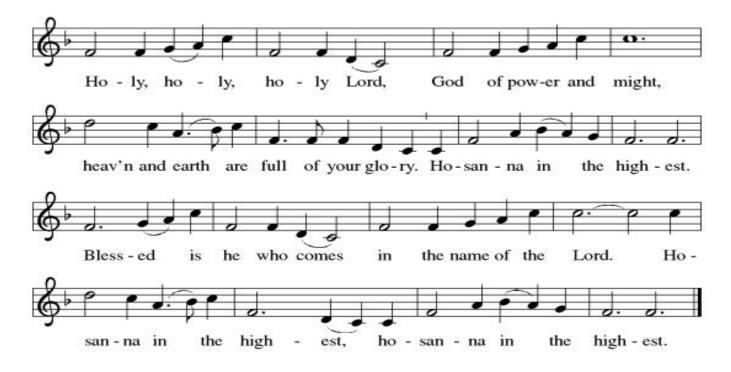
Offertory Prayer

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **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...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



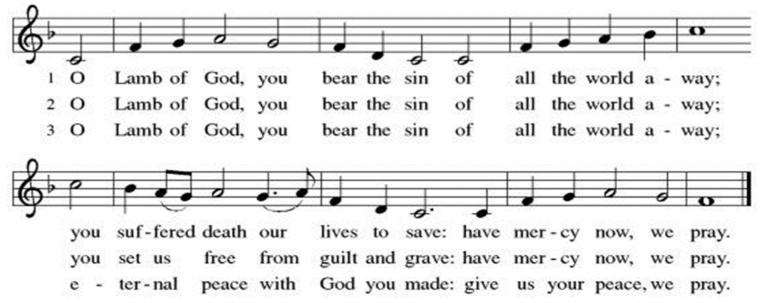
Words of Institution

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.

8

Holy Communion

When receiving Communion, either stand or kneel at the Rail. The 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. St. Stephen is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, so all are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.



Communion Hymns	Holy God, Holy and Glorious	ELW 637
		Bulletin page 13

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

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

Sending Hymn	In the Cross of Christ I Glory	ELW 324
		Bulletin page 14
Blessing		
Beloved, we are God'	s own people,	
holy, washed, renewe	d.	
God bless you and ke	ep you,	
shower you with mer	cv,	

fill you with courage, and + give you peace. Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share your bread. Thanks be to God.

Postlude In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Setting, Robert Lind

We welcome **Isabella Spears** a homeschooled senior who has studied flute with Margaret Carlson for 7 years. Currently, she plays First Flute in The Williamsburg Youth Orchestra's Symphony, She also plays C flute, Bass flute, and Contrabass flute for Flute Frenzy. Isabella studies piano with Paulette Amory.

Thank you to **Rev. James G. Cobb** for coming this weekend as our Theologian in Residence.

A brief Bio of the Reverend James G. Cobb

He has served as a Lutheran Pastor since his ordination in 1973. He was elected to the first ELCA national church council, Ecumenical Advisory Council, visitation team to Geneva, London, Rome, Strasbourg, and Istanbul, and an ELCA delegate to Lutheran World Federation Assembly in Hong Kong. He and his wife, the Rev. Judy Cobb, have two adult sons (a nurse and an attorney) and reside in Norfolk, Virginia in retirement. He is the author of several books and journal articles including: Cross Connections

Reformation's Rib Sermonic City Sidewalks Lutheran DNA: Testing the Augsburg Confession New Parish New Pastor

Bold Women's Day. Bold Women's Day–observed the first Sunday of March– celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ. Reflect on the question, "Who have been the bold women in my life?"

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(In the Cross of Christ I Glory)CROSS OF JESUS; Contributors: Robert Lind Copyright (c) 2014 Augsburg Fortress

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When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

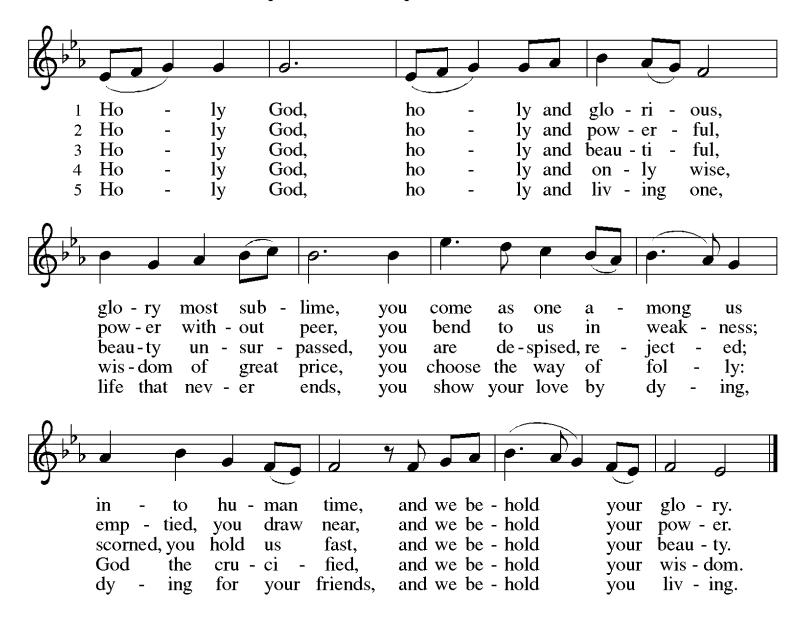


Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

God the Sculptor of the Mountains



Holy God, Holy and Glorious



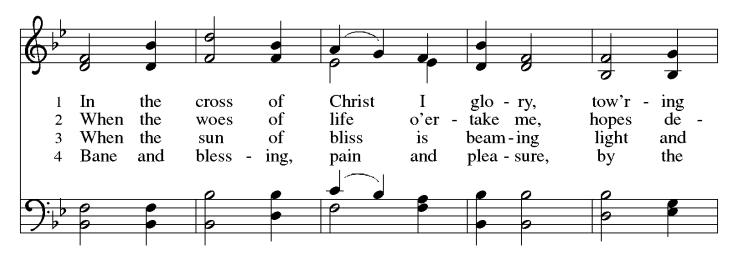
Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

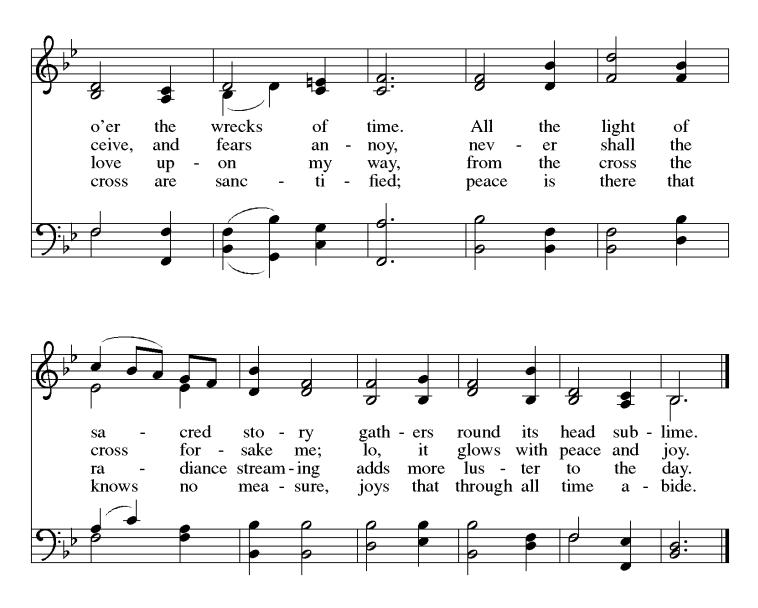
Music: NELSON, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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In the Cross of Christ I Glory





Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872 Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

As We Gather

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.com)
- When parents and children need to take a break for a few minutes, there's a play area with toys and books in the room right beneath 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.
- **Rest rooms** are accessible through the door in the wing to the left of the altar.
- If someone should need emergency medical assistance, CPR supplies, and a first aid kit are located in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall.

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

Flowers are given to by Janice & Jim Mayfield in honor of their 4 sons.

Do you enjoy coffee and fellowship on Sunday mornings? Please consider donating to the coffee fund, simply place a dollar or so in the cup on top of the Keurig this will help us stay within budget! Don't have a dollar scan the QR code by the coffee pot or here in the bulletin.

Wednesday evenings in Lent, March 6, 13, and 20th at St. Stephen:

- **6:00 PM** Soup and Bread supper in the Fellowship Hall
 - **Sign up** to bring soup and/or bread on the poster in the Gathering Space!
- **7:00 PM**: Holden Evening Prayer.

Upcoming

Support: RIP Medical Debt. Once again our SMCC would like to invite the congregation to support <u>RIP Medical Debt</u> during this season of Lent. If you would like to help relieve medical debt you can send a donation to the church marked "RIP Medical Debt." Last Lent we raised a little over \$5,000 which led to the forgiveness of ~\$500,000 in medical debt. Can we beat our previous fundraising total?

<u>Communal Life: Lenten Midweek Soup Suppers.</u> Look for a sign up sheet in the Gathering Space soon for Lenten Soup Suppers. We look for 2-3 crocks of soup and bread/rolls prior to our Lenten Wednesday services (starting February 21). Look for more info to come!

Education: Bible Study. We have our weekly Bible Study on **Mondays** at **1:30 PM** in the Library/Conference Room. You are welcome to join us as we look ahead at the upcoming Sunday's appointed texts.

SAVE THE DATE! WOMEN'S RETREAT AT ST. STEPHEN Mark your calendars for the Women's Retreat events and worship.

- Evening social Friday, September 27, 2024
- Day retreat Saturday, September 28, 2024

<u>Communal Life & Education:</u> Iftar Dinner. RUMI Friendship Association & Historic Area Religions Together invite you to join us for an Iftar dinner on **March 14, 2024, 6:00 PM** @ St. Stephen Lutheran Church. You must **RSVP** as we have limited seating: <u>http://tinyurl.com/2vm4vp5y</u>

Yoga Class

We are interested in offering a yoga class. We are looking at Wednesdays at 3pm in the fellowship hall. The cost will be **\$10** per class with some bundles to be offered once we see if there is interest. If you think you would be interested, please sign up on the insert in the bulletin.

St. Stephen Calendar: March 3-10, 2024

SUNDAY, March 3 ~ Third Sunday in Lent

- 8:30 AM Worship Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)
- 9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class (Library/Conference Room)
- 10:00 AM Q & A with the Rev James Cobb (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:00 AM Faith Formation: Lesson (Preschool Room)
- 11:00 AM Worship Holy Communion

MONDAY, March 4

- 10:00 AM Staff meeting (Pastor Jon's Office)
- 1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 7:00 PM Shared Ministry Team (OSLC?)

TUESDAY, March 5

- 8:00 AM Women's Breakfast (Colonial Pancake House)
- 11:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)
- 1:30 PM Book Study (Library/Conference Room)

WEDNESDAY, March 6

- 11:30 AM Preschool Chapel (Worship Space)
- 6:00 PM Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer (Worship Space)
- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

THURSDAY, March 7

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Colonial Pancake House)
- 12:30 PM Staff Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)
- 2:00PM Endowment Committee Meeting (Library/Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM St. Stephen Ringers (Worship Space)

FRIDAY, March 8

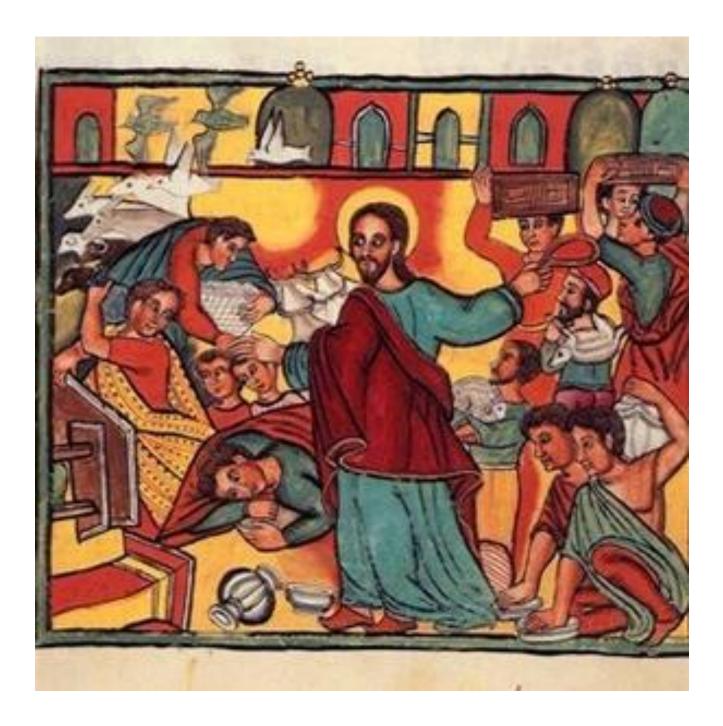
SATURDAY, March 9

5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/ Conference Room)

SUNDAY, March 10 ~ Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:30 AM Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)

- 9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class (Library/Conference Room)
- 10:00 AM Faith Formation: Life Story (Preschool Room)
- 11:00 AM Worship Holy Communion



Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

-	
Altar Guild	
Bread Baker	Janice Svendsen
Cantors	(8:30) Paula Agor (11:00) Jane deSolms
Communion Assistants	
	(11:00) Jennifer Dabel and Alina Dabel
	Karen Nester
Greeters/Hosts	(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel (11:00) Susan Kauffman
Lectors	(8:30) Randy Punchard (11:00) George Bass
Preacher	Rev James Cobb
Presider	Pastor Jon O Nelson
Tellers	Jane Gingerich, Ursula Recktenwald, & Russ White
Ushers	(8:30) Tom and Sandy Peterkin (11:00)

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 BaptismsDoing Ministry in the WorldPastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)Pastorin@saintstephenlutheran.netPastor Alex Sheppard-Witt (717-434-5037)Pastorasw@saintstephenlutheran.netKaren Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.netHollie Jones – Parish Administrator (229-6688)Office@saintstephenlutheran.netDiana Tiller-Dichtel – Parish Nurse (232-5924)Parishnurse@saintstephenlutheran.netHolly Ready – Preschool Director (229-6688)Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.netPeninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)Doing Ministry in the World

Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church!

Please fill this out and drop it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.

March 3, 2024

Name:
For guests and members with changes:
Address (Home)
City/StateZip
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
Would like a Parish Nurse to contact me

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*:

(please note all names will be removed at the end of the following month, if you wish for someone to be added back on to the prayer list please resubmit their names here)

Name: _____

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: ______

I need a name tag

I/We are interested in participating in a yoga class on Wednesdays for 10 per class.