



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.

Aug 2, 2026
10th Sunday after Pentecost

For Your Prayers August 3-9, 2026

Lectionary readings for this week:

Mon – Aug 3: Deuteronomy 8:1-10 Romans 1:8-15 Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29

Tue – Aug 4: Deuteronomy 26:1-15 Acts 2:37-47 Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29

Wed – Aug 5: Exodus 16:2-15, 31-35 Matthew 15:32-39 Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29

Thu – Aug 6: 1 Kings 18:1-16 Acts 17:10-15 Psalm 85:8-13

Fri – Aug 7: 1 Kings 18:17-19, 30-40 Acts 18:24-28 Psalm 85:8-13

Sat – Aug 8: 1 Kings 18:41-46 Matthew 16:1-4 Psalm 85:8-13

Next Sunday: 1 Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 85:8-13 (8) Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Kristin Carter, Ginny Cummings, Craig Eichfeld, Edith Haecker, Dave Hoyer, Jim Ivey, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Donna Kittelson, Terri Larsen, and Carole Meyer.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Ailene Bartlett, Ed Brown, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Jon Lund, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Bob Alt, Thomas Alt, Randy Altona, Phyllis Andrews, Sam Areheart, Kristin Carter, Philip Baker, Bob Bastian, Carol Baum, Robi Bayard, Lila Bradley, Carol Bergh, Mary Bloom, Doug Bolick, Robert Bunn, David Carr, John Coski, Amaree Cluff, Ronnie Dodson, Pat D'Orazio, Dru Dowdy, Judy Drezek, Danny Gass, Keith and Debbie Glenn, Joan Goodhart, Charee Hampton, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Bradley, Kim, Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Char Henry, Lisa Hill, Doris Hillenbrand, Bob Hirsch, Michelle Holdsworth, Jaxon Ireland, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, Jenn Kramer, Bob Loubach, Pat Layton, Marnah Lund, Doug MacKenzie, Keara Mahony, Trish Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Barry and Mabel Martin, Ellen Martin, Mabel Mater, Jackie Mazzone, Jimmy Mitchell, Carolyn Moneymaker, Marian Mongelli, Liz Montalvo, Chuckie Moore, Bob Myers, Jeanette Osborn, Rodger Osborn, Maricel Paulin, Dima Pavlenko, Coral Pumley, Scott Radley, Kurt Recktenwald, Paula Rega, Carol Sue Repass, Brian Ritter, Ruth Sandoval, Lou Schuster, Pamela Sharp, Kelsey Slay, Valerie Smith, Vasili Soutoukis, Laura Spencer, Charlie Stayton, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, Lara Templin, Lenorah Thomas, Karli Wallace Thompson, Betty Lou Tulloh, Elaine Wrich, Lynda Wright, and Bev Utrich.

10th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

Centering Music

Loving Shepherd – Call and Response

A Shepherd Boy – John Horman

David and Goliath – John Horman

Be Still and Know that I Am God – Michael Bedford

VBS Choir

Emerald Crossing Opening Litany

Welcome to Emerald Crossing! This week, we took an Irish Adventure through Psalm 23, David's Story, and John 10; and we learned what it means to follow our Good Shepherd.

The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want!

On Monday, we remembered how David faced Goliath, teaching us that God Leads.

Like David, we can rely on God!

On Tuesday, we rested in green pastures and beside still waters, seeing how much God Blesses us. **God cares for us and restores our souls!**

On Wednesday, we learned that even in the darkest valleys, we do not need to be afraid because God Protects. **God values us and keeps us safe from evil!**

On Thursday, we saw God prepare a table for us, reminding us that God Loves.

We have a loving relationship with God, and our cups overflow!

On Friday, we learned about Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who ensures that God Showers Goodness. **The goodness of God is given to us to share with the world!**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives!

And we shall dwell in the house of the Lord our whole life long. Amen!

Opening Prayer

Good Shepherd, we thank you for the incredible journey we shared this week at Emerald Crossing. Thank you for gathering our flock together! Lord, we ask that you continue to lead us as you led David, giving us the courage to face our own giants. We thank you for how you bless us with your gentle care, providing green pastures and still waters when we need rest. When we face scary or difficult times, remind us that you protect us and that we never walk through the dark valleys alone. Thank you for how deeply you love us, inviting us to your table and making our cups overflow with joy. Finally, Lord, as you continually shower goodness upon us, empower us to step out into the world and share that same goodness and mercy with everyone we meet. We ask all of this in the name of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. **Amen.**

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**

Hymn of Praise

Emerald Crossing
VBS Choir

Arr. Jennifer Huff

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

First Reading**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

Psalm 23 Song (VBS)

Refrain
(1st time, Choir; Assembly on repeat and after verses)

Unison voices



The LORD is my shep - herd;



I shall not be in want.



1 The LORD is my shepherd;
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
3 He re - vives my soul
4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,



1 I shall not be in want.
2 and leads me be - side still waters.
3 and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake. *To refrain*
4 for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they com - fort me.
5 you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is run - ning over.
6 and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for - ever. *To refrain*

VBS Recap: Days 1-3

Gospel

John 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

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

[Jesus said:] ¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

VBS Recap: Days 4 & 5

Hymn of the Day

Jesus Shepherd Us

LS 157
Bulletin page 10

Prayers

Each petition concludes: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

Offering Invitation

As one community, we hope to meet the needs of one another and our neighbors. We aim to practice love that is neither abstract nor superficial, but instead, love that lightens burdens and shares responsibility. With commitment to living out our beliefs, let us bring what we have together.

Offering of Music:

To Live On

Christina Nelson

Dakota Road

Offertory Prayer

God, you concern yourself with the cause of the suffering, the fears and exhaustion of the persecuted, and the safety of the vulnerable. We hope to be so faithful in our priorities, striving to center the most pressing needs around us. For all the ways your love meets us in our own times of struggle, we bring our gifts with thanks. **Amen.**

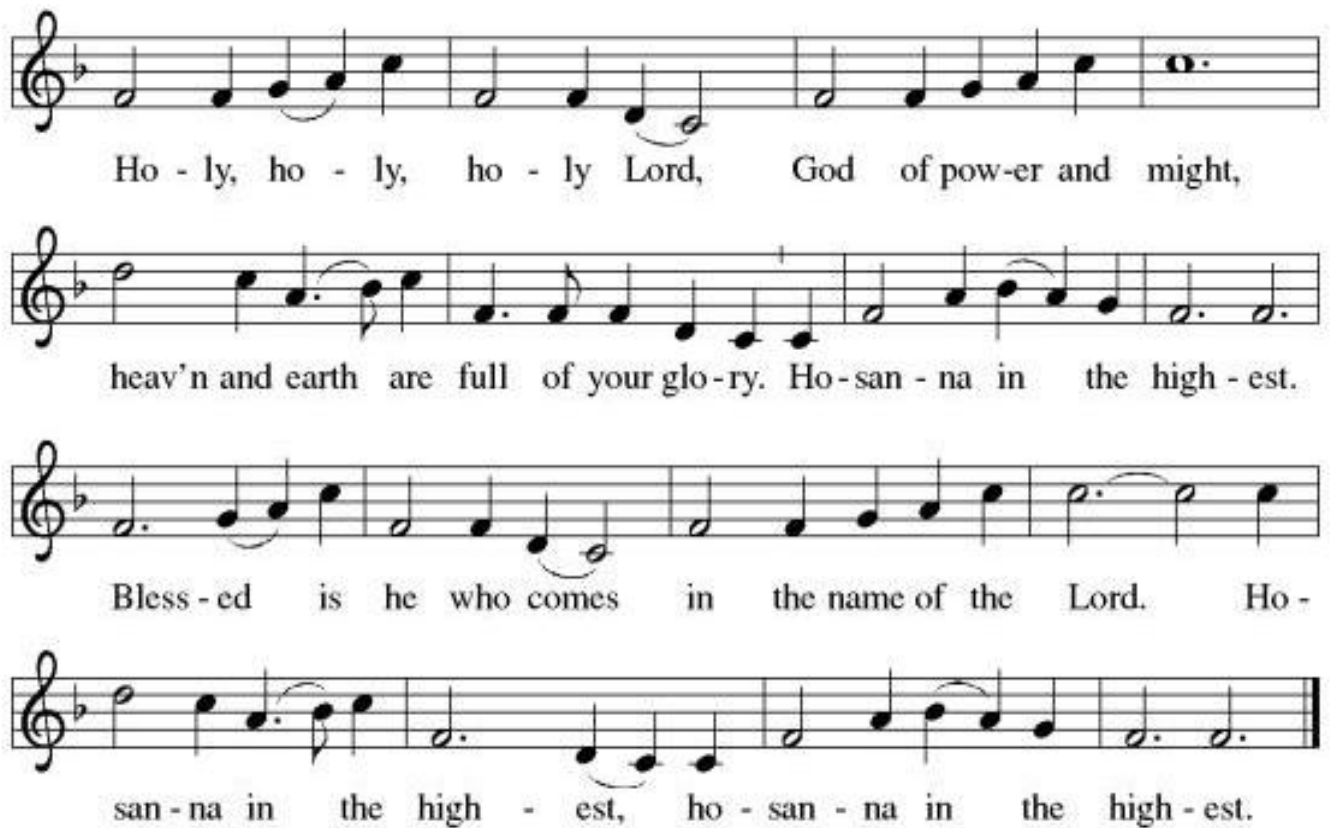
The Great Thanksgiving

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 ... and join their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Music *All Belong Here* The Many
 Christina Nelson

Communion Hymns *Children of the Heavenly Father* ELW 781
 Bulletin page 11

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Sending Hymn *I Come with Joy* ELW 482
 Bulletin page 12

Blessing

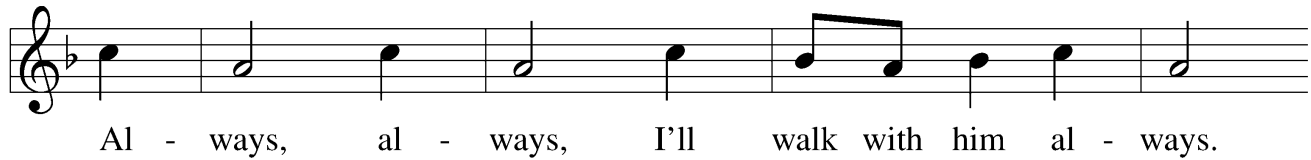
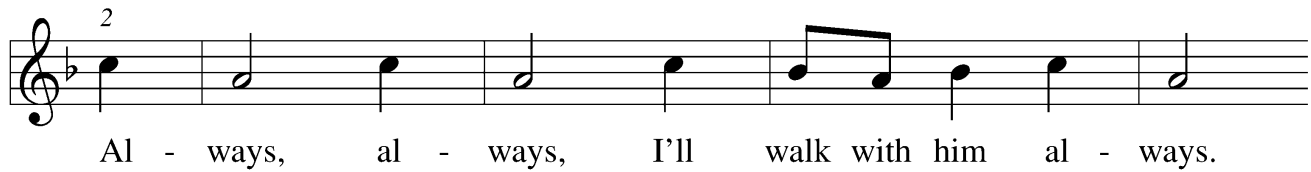
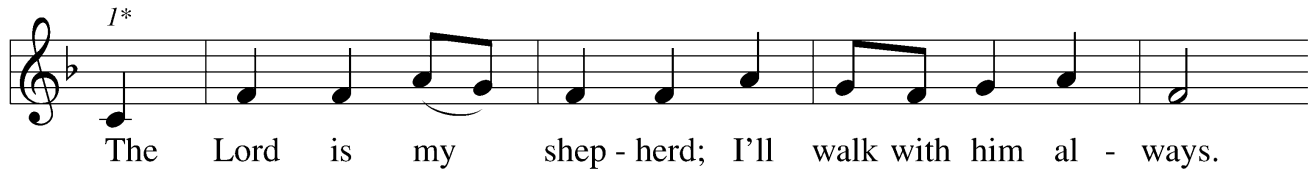
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. Amen.

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude *Provider* Jennifer Huff

The Lord Is My Shepherd



**may be sung as a round*

Text: Psalm 23:1-2
Music: Traditional

Jesus, Shepherd Us



1 Je - sus, shep-herd us, your sheep, when we wake and when we sleep,
2 Je - sus, shep-herd us, your sheep, when the road is rough or steep,
3 Je - sus, shep-herd us, your sheep, when we fall and when we leap,



when we laugh and when we weep. Je-sus, shep-herd us, your sheep.
when the way is wide or deep. Je-sus, shep-herd us, your sheep.
in your pas - ture, safe - ly keep, Je-sus, shep-herd us, your sheep.

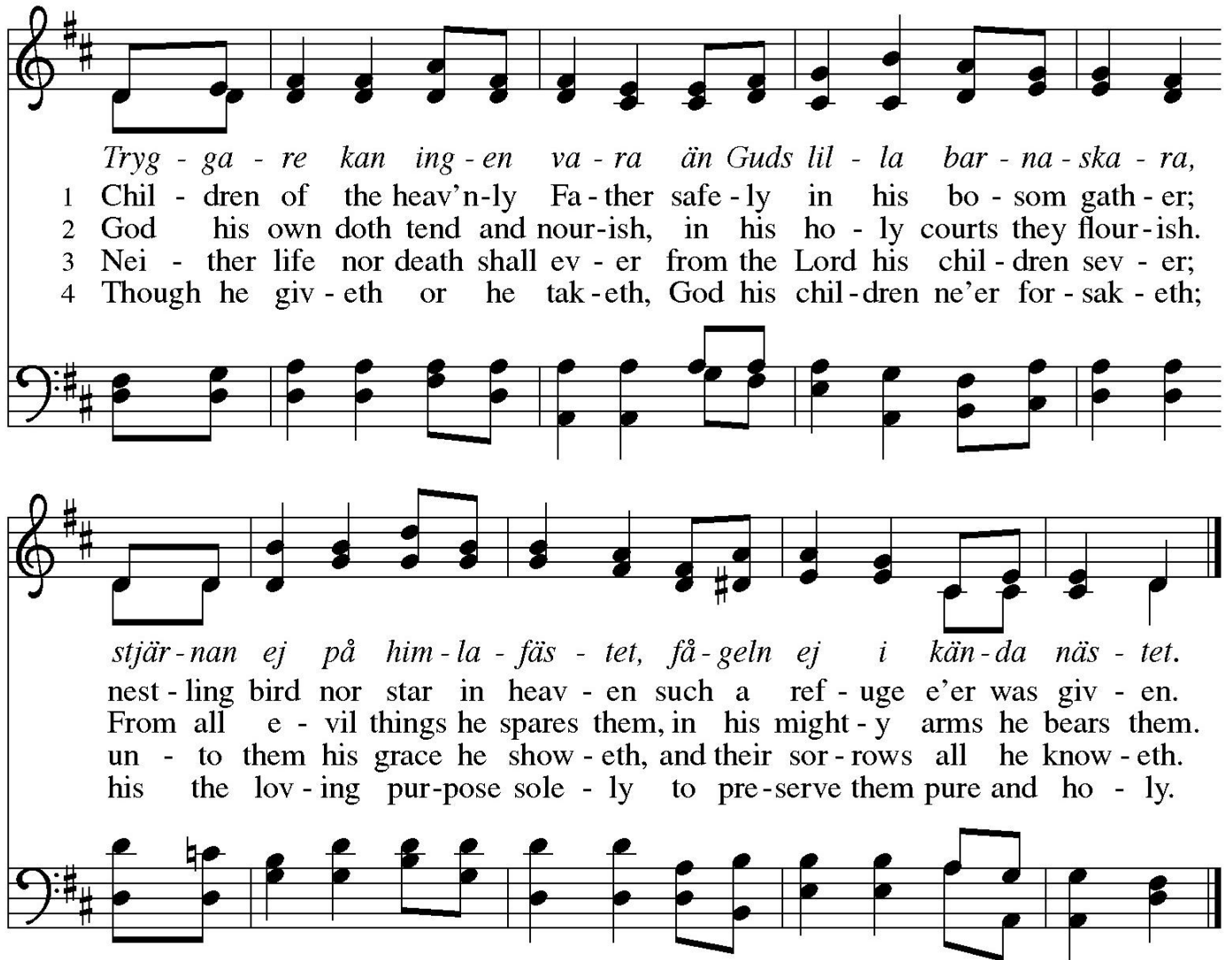
Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: Wayne L. Wold

Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

Children of the Heavenly Father

Tryggare kan ingen vara



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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 David and Goliath; Contributor John Horman©2010 Augsburg fortress
 Be Still and Know that I Am God ; Contributor Michael Bedford©2008 Choristers Guild
 To Live On; Contributor: Larry Olson © 1995, Dakota Road Music
 All Belong Here; Contributor: The Many© 2017 Plural Guild Music

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As We Gather

Restrooms & First Aid

- ❖ A gender-neutral, family restroom and a Women's restroom can be found in the hallway behind our Worship Space.
- ❖ Additional Men's and Women's restrooms can be found on the lower level of the church building.
- ❖ A first aid kit and an A.E.D. can be found hanging on the wall in the hallway behind our Worship Space.

Live-streaming

- ❖ We regularly live-stream our services and cannot guarantee that you will not appear on our YouTube or Facebook 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. Both services are live streamed.

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 "pryground") 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

Flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God!

Thank you to our VBS students and Families for a wonderful week and help with our service today!

Information & Upcoming

SAVE THE DATE! November 6-7, 2026 Fall Women's Workshop

The St. Stephen Fall Women's Workshop is being planned as a one-day event at St. Stephen on Saturday, November 7, with a Friday evening social the evening before, November 6. The Saturday workshop sessions will have spiritual themes and highlight relevancies to women's daily lives, and the schedule is designed to allow for longer breaks (thanks to feedback from last fall!). Plan to come and bring a friend for the day Saturday, or Friday evening, or better yet – both! Details will be shared as planning progresses. Thanks to Sandy Johnson and the planning team for their preparations. (Note: This annual St. Stephen women's event was formerly known as the Fall Women's Retreat; the planning team has renamed it the Fall Women's Workshop to better reflect its format.)

New Member Welcome: We will have a new member welcome at the end-of-summer church picnic on Sunday, September 6th, at Freedom Park. On Sunday August 30th we invite all new members/transfers for a class and lunch after service. If you are attending either event, please fill out the insert so that we can plan food for both activities.

The church will be closed the week of August 10th-15th so that the floors can get stripped and waxed. The floors and Stairwell will not be able to be walked on during this week.

Pastor Jon will be on vacation from August 3rd - 17th . If you are in need of Pastoral care please contact Pastor Harvey Nelson or Pastor Gerry Johnson.

Dining Small Groups Are Back After a Break: Sign Up Now For The Next Round

Consisting of about 7-9 people, each dining group will set its own "approach" for meals, such as: dinner out, brunch or lunch at a group member's house, potluck after Sunday worship, take-out, picnic, etc. Do whatever works best for the group! Each group to meet three times between late September and the end of January. Of course you are free to meet more often if that works for your group. Sign up on the bulletin insert or call the church office; deadline to sign up is Sept. 20. Contact Alison Carney or Diane McCurry with questions.

St. Stephen Calendar: Aug 2-9, 2026

SUNDAY, Aug 2 ~ 10th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)

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

MONDAY, Aug 3

TUESDAY, Aug 4

8:00 AM Women's Breakfast(Colonial Pancake house)

WEDNESDAY, Aug 5

8:45AM Yoga (Gathering Space)

7:00 PM AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, Aug 6

8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Colonial Pancake House)

1:00 PM Property Committee (Move furniture in church)

FRIDAY, Aug 7

SATURDAY, Aug 8

11:00 AM Orchaband (Worship Space)

2:00 PM Reception (Gathering Space)

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

5:30 PM Al-Anon (Gathering Space)

SUNDAY, Aug 9 ~ 11th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)

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

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer.....	Alina Dabel
Altar Guild	Carol Wiers
Audio-Visual Team.....	JR & Diana Lyons
Bread Baker.....	Ursula Recktenwald
Cantor	Christina Nelson
Communion Assistants	Jennifer Dabel and Alina Dabel
Flower Delivery	Carol Wiers
Greeters/Hosts	Sandy Peterkin
Lectors.....	Sandy Peterkin and Jane deSolms
Pastor.....	Pastor Jon Nelson
Tellers.....	Jane Gingerich, Ursula Recktenwald and Russ White
Ushers.....	George Martin and Tom Peterkin



Did you enjoy our service this morning? If so, please consider donating to our general fund by scanning the QR code. This helps us with various ministries in our community and abroad. Thank You!

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)

LSA Pastor Gerry Johnson(703)209-3599

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

Doing Ministry in the World

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MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net

Office@saintstephenlutheran.net

Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net

pastorgfj@gmail.com

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

August 2 ,2026

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
- _____ LSA member
- _____ 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 am a **new member** and will be attending:

_____ Sunday **August 30th** Class/meal

_____ I / We will be attending Sunday **September 6th** picnic in the park:

of Attending _____

Dining Small Groups Sign Up:

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

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

I would like to be in a group that does **not** meet for meals out in restaurants: (check here) (☐)

I am willing to be the point of contact for my new dining small group: (circle one) Yes No

Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church!
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August 2 ,2026

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