



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.

June 21, 2026

4th Sunday after Pentecost

For Your Prayers - June 22-28, 2026

Lectionary readings for this week:

Mon – June 22: Micah 7:1-7; Revelation 2:1-7; Psalm 6

Tue – June 23: Jeremiah 26:1-12; Revelation 2:8-11; Psalm 6

Wed – June 24: Jeremiah 38:1-13; Matthew 10:5-23; Psalm 6

Thu – June 25: Jeremiah 25:1-7; Galatians 5:2-6; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Fri – June 26: Jeremiah 25:8-14; Galatians 5:7-12; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Sat – June 27: Jeremiah 28:1-4; Luke 17:1-4; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Next Sunday: Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42

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, Carole Meyer, and Marie Nelson.**

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

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Bob Alt, Randy Altona, Phyllis Andrews, Sam Areheart, Kristin Carter, Bob Bastian, Carol Baum, Robi Bayard, Jeffrey Berry, Sr., Lila Bradley, Carol Bergh, Mary Bloom, Doug Bolick, Bob Britcher, Robert Bunn, David Carr, Ruth Ann Coski, Amaree Cluff, 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, Marian Mongelli, Liz Montalvo, Bob Myers, Jim Ogborn, Jeanette Osborn, Rodger Osborn, Maricel Paulin, Dima Pavlenko, Janet Popelas, Coral Pumley, Scott Radley, Kurt Recktenwald, Carol Sue Repass , Brian Ritter, Ruth Sandoval, Lou Schuster, Pamela Sharp, Kelsey Slay, Valerie Smith, Helen Soultoukis, Vasili Soultoukis, Laura Spencer, Charlie Stayton, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, Lara Templin, Lenorah Thomas, Karli Wallace Thompson, Betty Lou Tulloh, Jenn Tyson, Matt Weilmuenster, Elaine Wrich, and Lynda Wright.

4th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

Centering Music *O God, My Faithful God* Sigfried Karg-Elert/Ed. David N. Johnson

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, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

Opening Litany (*from enfleshed.com*)

Children of God, the Spirit of Christ calls us into freedom. **Let the reign of evil be cast away.**

Baptized into a new life, God leads us in the work of love that transforms. **Love confronts us.**

Love changes us. **Love enables us to leave behind what is deadly and deadening.**

Through God's grace, we come to perceive the possibilities of a world that is just.

Unsatisfied with all that suppresses life, we seek collective abundance.

Come, Holy Spirit, and build your world anew.

Opening Prayer (*from enfleshed.com*)

Holy Companion, you did not create life in abundance only to have it hoarded and destroyed.

You did not gift us with creativity only for us to fear change, risk, or new ideas. You did not

give us the ability to dream only to have us settle for what is. Come and renew our imaginations

and excite us with your divine possibilities. Make our hopes bold and our efforts brave as we

seek to live into the life of resurrection. Amen

Gathering Hymn

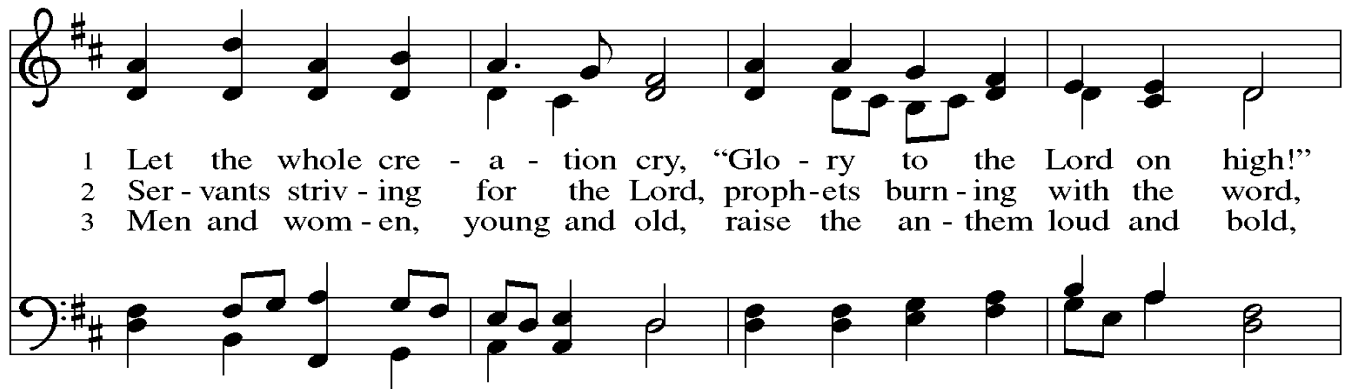
Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

ELW 667

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**

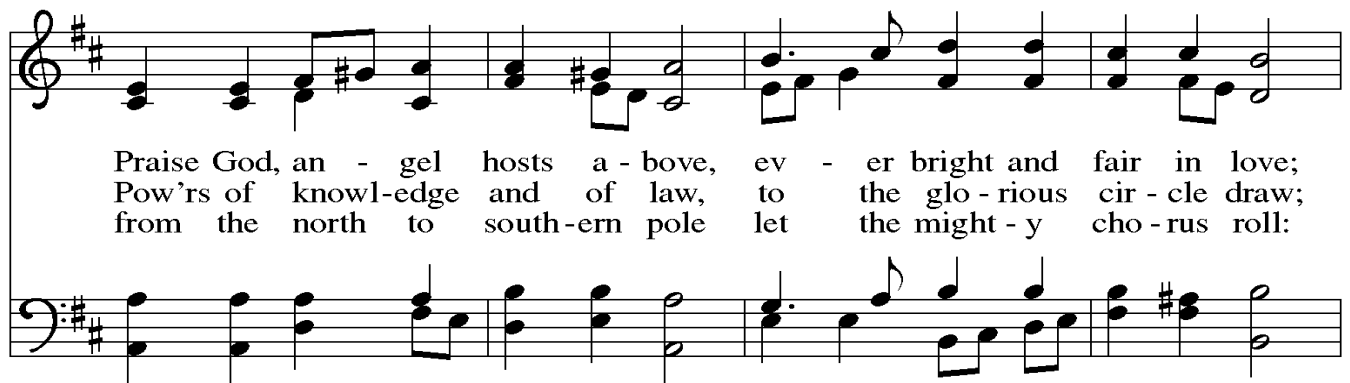
Hymn of Praise



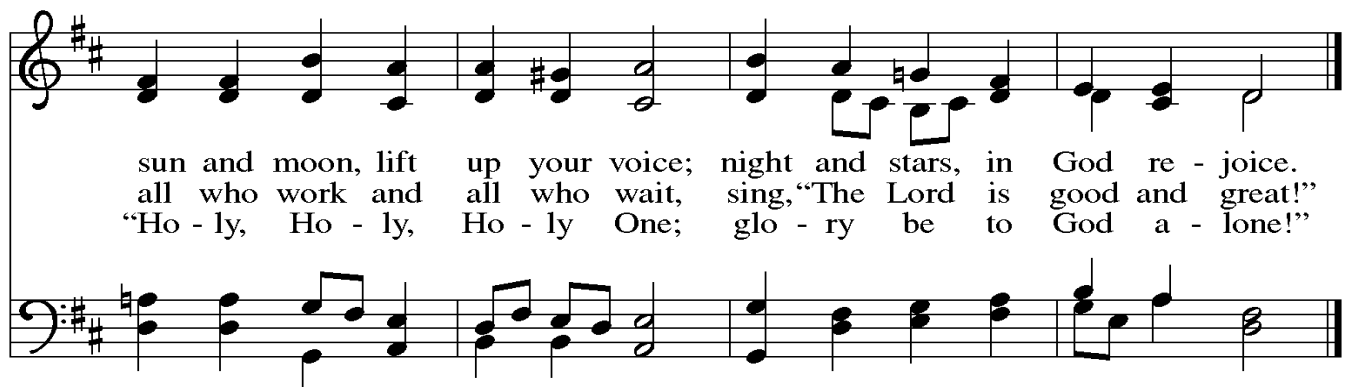
1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,
3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.
and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.
all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
"Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

Prayer of the Day

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

First Reading

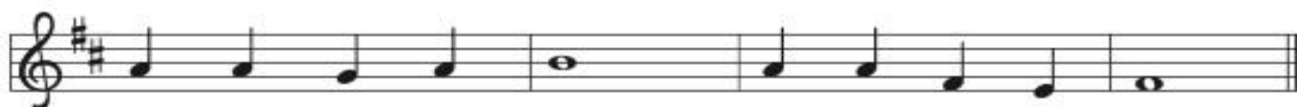
Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.

⁷ O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. ⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out; I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. ⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. ¹⁰ For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him and take our revenge on him." ¹¹ But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. ¹² O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous; you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. ¹³ Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

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

Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18



An - swer me, O LORD, for your love is kind.

⁷ Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach, and shame has covered my face.

⁸ **I have become a stranger to my own kindred, an alien to my mother's children.**

⁹ Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

¹⁰ **I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to my reproach. REFRAIN**

¹¹ I put on sackcloth also, and became a byword among them.

¹² **Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, and the drunkards make songs about me.**

¹³ But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O LORD: "In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

¹⁴ **Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters. REFRAIN**

¹⁵ Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up; do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.

- ¹⁶ **Answer me, O LORD, for your | love is kind;
in your great compassion, | turn to me.**
- ¹⁷ Hide not your face | from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am | in distress.
- ¹⁸ **Draw near to me | and redeem me;
because of my enemies de- | liver me. REFRAIN**

Reading

Romans 6:1b-11

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

^{1b} Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel

Matthew 10:24-39

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

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

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they

have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! ²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. ³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, ³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. ³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

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

Sermon

Fire in the Bones

Pastor Jon Nelson

Hymn of the Day

O God, My Faithful God

ELW 806

Bulletin page 12

Ancient and Ecumenical Nicene Creed *(see note at end of bulletin)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers

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

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

Offering Invitation

How are we to make the Kin-dom come on earth as it is in heaven? By practicing it. By envisioning it. By praying for it and turning from all that threatens its embodiment among us. One way we do this is by practicing a different kind of economy. One where our resources are not individualized, but are shared for the common good. Come, and let us bring together what we have, that no need may go unmet.

Offering of Music: Walk Together Children – Traditional Spiritual Arr. Moses Hogan
Jon Hallman, Soloist

Offertory Prayer

God, for all that you feel in solidarity with us, we give you thanks. You weep with the heartbroken. You share in anger over cruelty and disregard for life. You delight in our simple joys and extraordinary awakenings. May your care and concern draw us more deeply into love for one another. May we be faithful companions to all who long to know they do not weep, rage, or celebrate alone. **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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.*



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

Children of the Heavenly Father
Jon Hallman, Soloist

John Ferguson

Communion Hymn

Borning Cry

ELW 732

Bulletin page 13

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.**

A Prayer for Juneteenth

Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like those of generations before us

who resisted the evil of slavery and human bondage in any form and any manner of oppression. Help us to use our freedoms to bring justice among people and nations everywhere, to the glory of your Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Sending Hymn

Guide My Feet
(Jon Hallman – Leader Part)

ACS 987
Bulletin page 14

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

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Anne Krentz Organ

Note on the Ancient and Ecumenical Nicene Creed: During the summer months, you will notice a slight variation in the Nicene Creed as we omit the phrase "and the Son" (*Filioque*) regarding the procession of the Holy Spirit. This temporary shift is inspired by a historic common statement from the Lutheran-Orthodox international theological dialogue, which suggests using the original Greek text to help heal age-old divisions between Eastern and Western church traditions and promote global ecumenical unity. By returning to this foundational wording, we look forward to a renewed focus on Trinitarian theology and a deeper sense of reconciliation across the wider body of Christ. Learn more about the ecumenical work between LWF and the Orthodox traditions here: <https://lutheranworld.org/>

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
 3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
 4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,

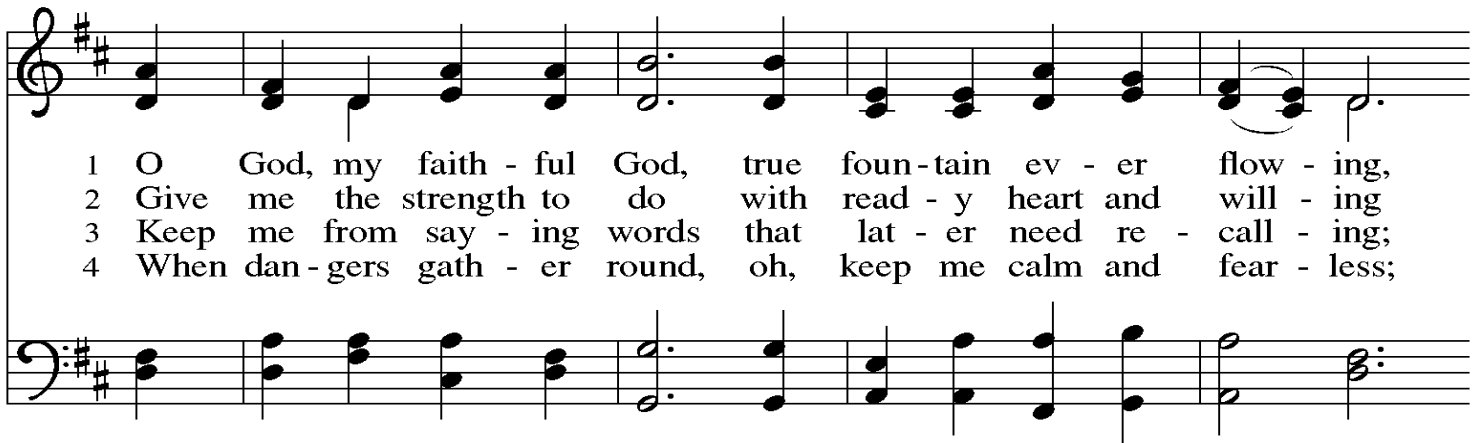
"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;
 per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;
 nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;
 nor think till death to lay it down;

for - sake the past, and come this day,
 his strength shall bear your spir - it up,
 for you the Lord en - dured the cross
 for those who hum - bly bear the cross

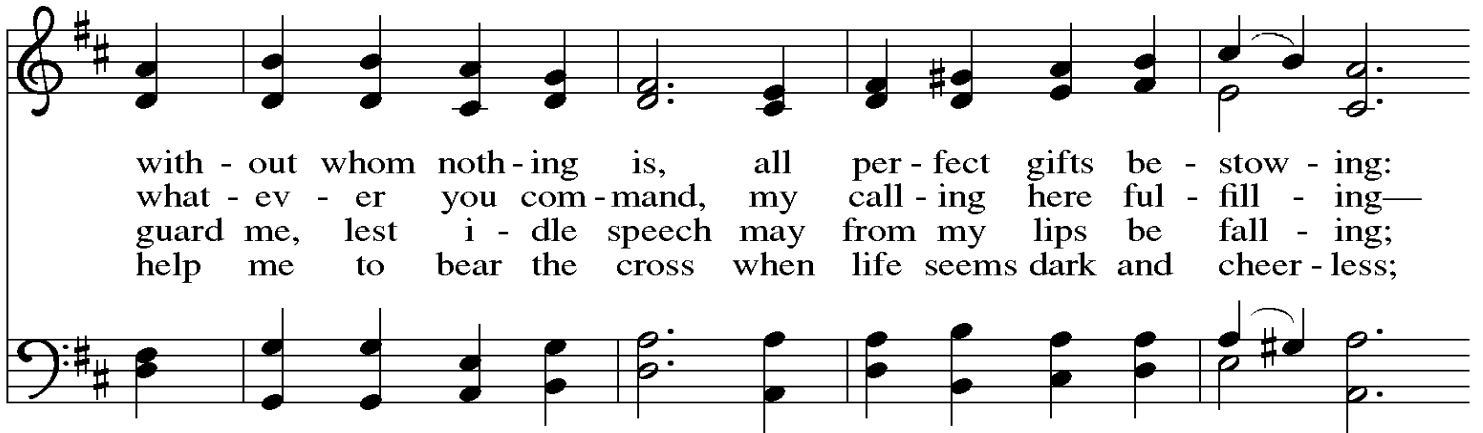
and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.
 to save your soul from death and hell.
 one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814–1877, alt.
 Music: BOURBON, W. Hauser, *Hesperian Harp*, 1848; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

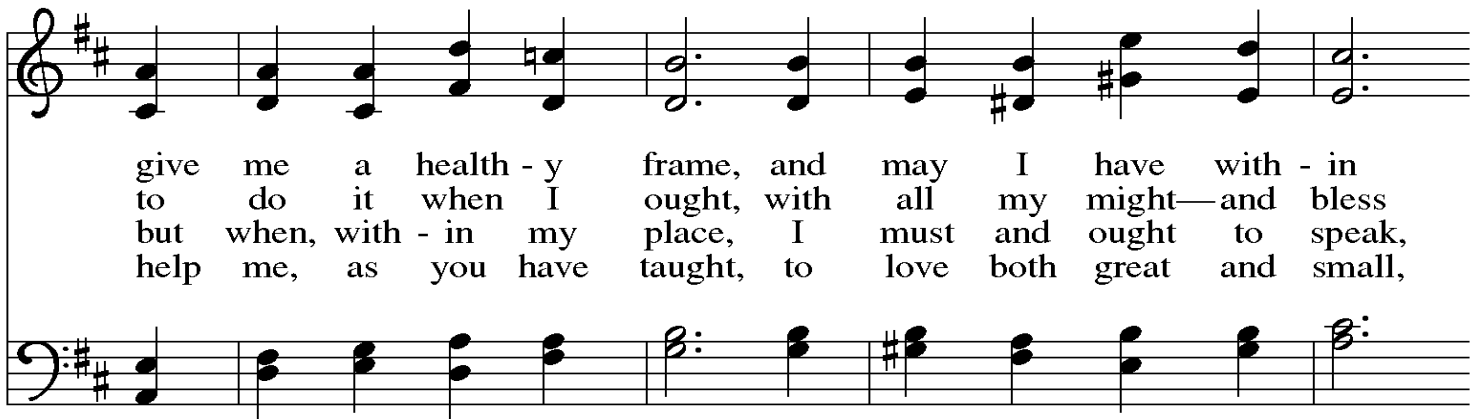
O God, My Faithful God



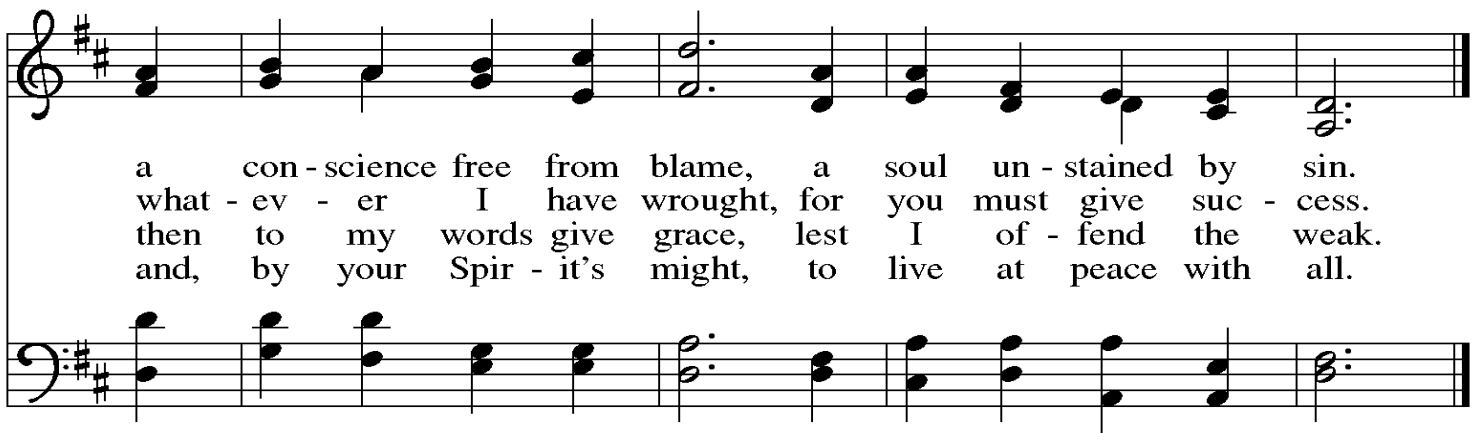
1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun - tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;

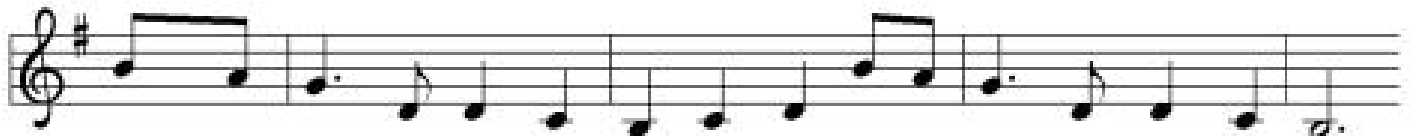


give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,

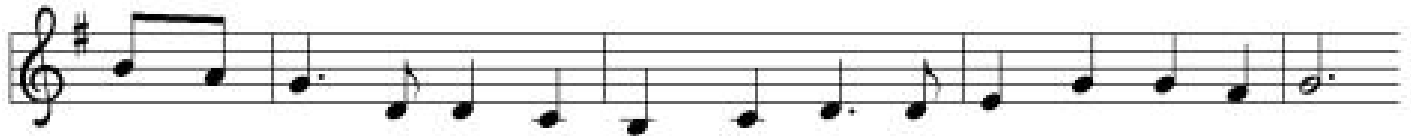


a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

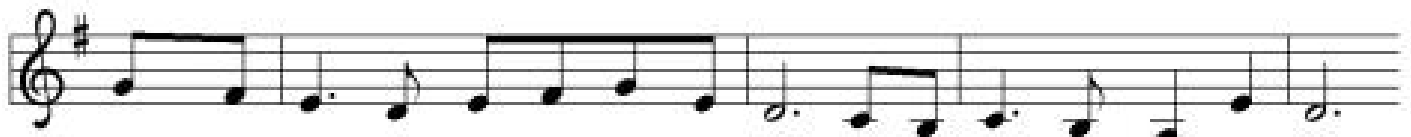
Borning Cry



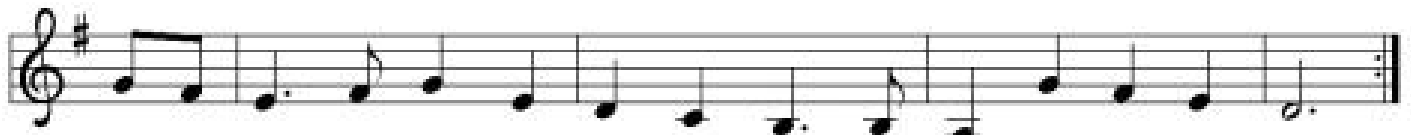
1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



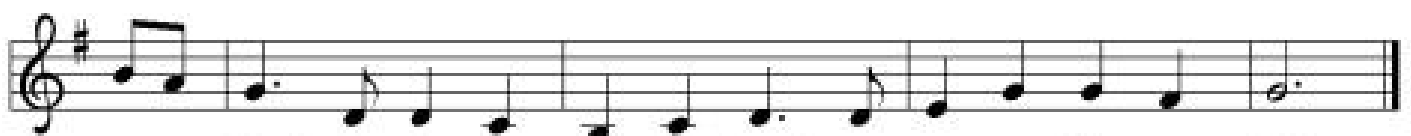
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker.

Guide My Feet

Leader

1 Guide my feet
2 Hold my hand
3 Stand by me while I run this race.
4 I'm your child
5 Search my heart

All

Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet
Hold my hand
Stand by me while I run this race.
I'm your child
Search my heart

Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet
Hold my hand
Stand by me while I run this race,
I'm your child
Search my heart

for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual; arr. *This Far by Faith*
 Arr. © 1999 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 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 by Chris and Randy Punchard in honor of all fathers and in memory of our fathers Walter Laub and Ernest Punchard.

Information & Upcoming

Vacation Bible School: VBS Can Be Fun for You Too! VBS is a gift from St. Stephen to the young families and children of Williamsburg. There are many ways to help: you can volunteer for a couple of hours, a full day, or the entire week. We are looking for group leaders to guide children to activities, as well as help with registration, kitchen support, crafts, and more. If you would like to be part of this exciting ministry, please contact Gerry Johnson at 703-209-3599 or pastorgfj@gmail.com, or sign up on the insert. We will have a VBS volunteer meeting on Monday night, June 22, at 7:00 PM in the church conference room. Come learn more about VBS, what to expect, how you can be part of this fun-filled VBS experience!

The **June Congregational Meeting** will be held on **June 28th** following the service that day.



St. Stephen From His Hands ministry is joining our faith partners to help provide Tuesday lunches for local children. We estimate 250/plus lunches plus breakfast items daily being prepared at WISC, 5700 Warhill Trail. Please follow the link to sign up to Assemble lunches, Pack lunch bags, or Bring homemade or purchased cookies to the Meals on Wheels kitchen.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040449ADA82EA20-summer#/>

Save the Date: TIR will take place on **Saturday, September 26** and **Sunday September 27** the Congregation will welcome The Rev. Kimberly Knowle-Zeller. Rev. Kimberly Knowle-Zeller is a writer, pastor, wife, mother of two, and the co-author of *The Beauty of Motherhood: Grace-Filled Devotions for the Early Years* (Morehouse Publishing, March 2023) and *Small Steps* (Morehouse Publishing 2026). All are invited including friends and neighbors.

Shoes For Grove: Our St. Stephen community is beginning our THIRD decade of providing new sneakers for students in the Grove community to start school in style! We began supporting the program under Marilyn Johnson's guidance in 2005 and we can't stop now! As in past years, if you like to shop, please buy GIRLS sneakers in any size from 6 to 11, or BOYS sneakers any size from 6 to 12, including half sizes for both – these are the most needed sizes. Shoes will be collected in the Gathering Space until **Sunday, August 2**. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please write the check to St. Stephen Lutheran Church with **SHOES FOR GROVE** on the memo line. Cash is also accepted but please indicate that it is for Grove in/on the envelope. Please put envelopes with checks or cash in the offering plate, or in the mailbox outside the church (along the paved loop near the side door) by **Sunday, July 26**. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Egloff.

Pop Up Choir-This summer while the choirs are on hiatus, we will be having “pop-up” choirs on each 4th Sunday of the summer months – that’s June 28, July 26, and August 23. Next Sunday is the 4th Sunday of June! Come at 9:15 AM next Sunday, surround yourself with fellow “shower” singers, learn a peppy tune, and improve your health while singing an anthem during the offering. Yes, singing is good for you! Did you read Karen's June Quill Article? Singing reduces stress, strengthens your lungs, lowers your heart rate and blood pressure, and improves your immune system, not to mention the social benefits of singing in a choir. See you next Sunday!

St. Stephen Calendar: June 21-28, 2026

SUNDAY, June 21 ~ 4th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)

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

MONDAY, June 22

9AM-12PM **Week 4 Summer camp preschool**

7:00 PM VBS Volunteer meeting (Library/Conference)

TUESDAY, June 23

12:30PM Preschool Committee meeting (Library/Conference room)

1:30PM Stewardship committee meeting (Library/Conference room)

WEDNESDAY, June 24

8:45AM Yoga (Gathering Space)

5:00 PM Girl Scouts (Preschool room)

7:00 PM AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, June 25

FRIDAY, June 26

SATURDAY, June 27

12:00 PM- 5:00 PM Pride family friendly event (Jamestown Beach)

1:00 PM-5:00 PM Sewing Club (Fellowship hall)

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

5:30 PM Al-Anon (Gathering Space)

SUNDAY, June 28 ~ 5th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)

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

11:00AM **Congregational Meeting** (Fellowship Hall)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer.....	(9:45)	John McCurry
Altar Guild	(9:45)	Rita Kristiansen
Audio-Visual Team.....	(9:45)	Nancy Carter & Charles Osborn
Bread Baker.....		Amy Bergh
Cantor	(9:45)	Jon Hallman
Communion Assistants	(9:45)	Marj Gottschalk-Trone and Cyndy Touhsaent
Flower Delivery		Diane McCurry
Greeters/Hosts	(9:45)	Chris Punchard
Lectors.....	(9:45)	George Martin and Jeanne Garrison
Pastor		Pastor Jon Nelson
Tellers.....		Jeanne Garrison, Carol Brown and Russ White
Ushers.....	(9:45)	Tom and Sandy Peterkin

Upcoming Commemorations

Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, died 1931

Sunday, June 21, 2026

Onesimos was born in Ethiopia. Captured, enslaved, and taken to Eritrea, he was there freed by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into his native Oromo and returned to preach there.

John the Baptist

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

John said, "[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease." And so his birth is celebrated half a year before Jesus', just as the daylight in the northern hemisphere begins to wane. Jesus honored John as being the greatest prophet.

Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530

Thursday, June 25, 2026

On this day in 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Emperor Charles of the Holy Roman Empire. The Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melanchthon and endorsed by Martin Luther, and consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.

Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church, died 1560

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Though he died on April 19, Philipp Melanchthon is commemorated today because of his connection with the Augsburg Confession. Colleague and co-reformer with Martin Luther, Melanchthon was a brilliant scholar, known as "the teacher of Germany."

Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, died 444

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Cyril defended the orthodox teachings about the person of Christ. After a conflict involving all of the major Christian leaders of the time, it was decided that Cyril's interpretation, that Christ's person included both divine and human natures, was correct.



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

June 21, 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/ We need a name tag _____

___ I / We would like to volunteer for helping during the week of July 27th-31st for VBS 1-4pm

Name(s)

email address(s)

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