



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.



March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent

For Your Prayers –March 16-22, 2026

Lectionary readings for this week:

Mon – Mar 16: Isaiah 59:9-19;Acts 9:1-20;Psalm 146

Tue – Mar 17: Isaiah 42:14-21;Colossians 1:9-14;Psalm 146

Wed – Mar 18: Isaiah 60:17-22;Matthew 9:27-34;Psalm 146

Thu – Mar 19: Ezekiel 1:1-3, 2:8—3:3;Revelation 10:1-11;Psalm 130

Fri – Mar 20: Ezekiel 33:10-16;Revelation 11:15-19;Psalm 130

Sat – Mar 21: Ezekiel 36:8-15;Luke 24:44-53;Psalm 130

Next Sunday: Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 (5) Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

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

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

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Randy Altona, Phyllis Andrews, Lori Bardey and family, Kristin Carter, Carol Baum, Robi Bayard, Jeffrey Berry, Sr., Lila Bradley, June Brantley, Carol Bergh, Mary Bloom, Doug Bolick, Bob Britcher, Raymond Bunn, Ruth Ann Coski, Amaree Cluff, Dru Dowdy, Judy Drezek, Hollis Fulton, Joan Goodhart, Charee Hampton, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Kim, Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Lisa Hill, Doris Hillenbrand, Michelle Holdsworth, Jaxon Ireland, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, Jenn Kramer, Bob Loubach, Layton, Marnah Lund, Keara Mahony, Trish Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Barry and Mabel Martin, Ellen Martin, Mabel Mater, Jackie Mazzone, Tom Mifflin, Jimmy Mitchell, Liz Montalvo, Bob Myers, Jim Ogborn, Jeanette Osborn, Maricel Paulin, 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, Kenneth & Laura Spencer, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, Lara Templin, George and Jewel Thomas, Karli Wallace Thompson, Jenn Tyson, Matt Weilmuenster, Elaine Wrich, and Lynda Wright

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Welcome

Centering Music

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Setting, Robert J. Powell

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 forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

There Is a Balm in Gilead

ELW 614

Bulletin page 13

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**

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, 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

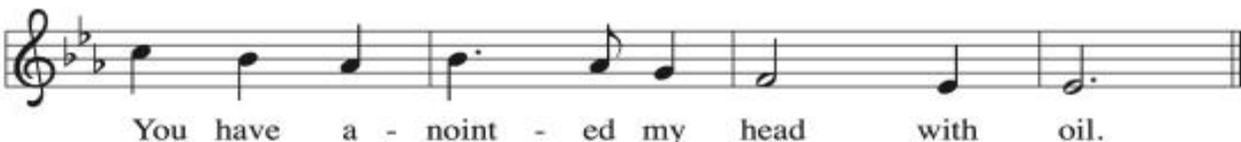
1 Samuel 16:1-13

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



¹ The LORD [|] is my shepherd;
I shall not [|] be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down [|] in green pastures
and leads me be- [|] side still waters.**

³ You restore my | soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. REFRAIN**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. REFRAIN**

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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

Lenten Acclamation



Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

Gospel

John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

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

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a

Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

Sermon:

The Voice of the Shepherd

Pastor Jon Nelson

Hymn of the Day

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW 843

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Prayers

Each petition concludes: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Offering Invitation

Beloveds, the rest we crave is found in turning towards each other. The heavy burdens of life are made light when they are shared. Practicing intentional community is a Sacred form of care and a source of Divine grace. With generosity, let us bring our offerings together.

Offering of Music: (8:30) *Be Thou My Vision*
Matins choir

Marie Pooler

(11:00) *Come, My Light*
Chancel choir

Anne Krentz Organ

Offertory Prayer

God, in your presence, we are nourished in abundance. You make our weary hearts glad. You awaken us to the ordinary gifts that surround us. May fears of scarcity never let us forget all that we have. Keep us from greed. Keep us from selfishness. Let generosity and hospitality always pour forth from this place. **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:

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en 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.

Eucharistic Blessing

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your...

...With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

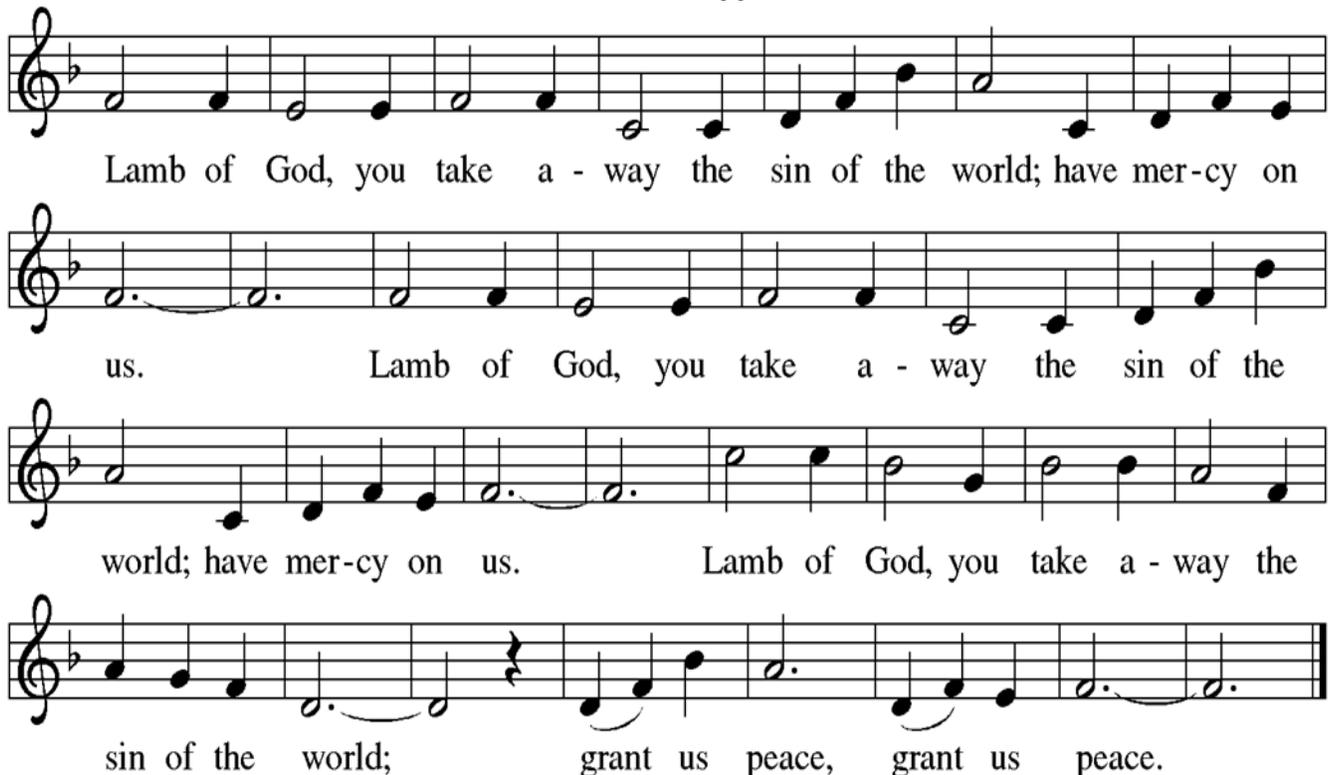
Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

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, grant us peace.

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Leader

Free to go in peace as you have prom - ised.

All

Free to go in peace as you have prom - ised.

Leader or All

Now, Lord, you have set your ser - vant free, free to go in peace as you have

All

prom - ised. Free to go in peace as you have prom - ised.

Leader or All

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior

whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

All

Free to go in peace as you have prom - ised.

Leader or All

a light to en - lighten the nations, and the glory of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

All

Free to go in peace as you have prom - ised.

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

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always. Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Amazing Grace

Setting, Jack Schrader

Preparing for our Lenten Mid-Week Series: Walking Wet

Reflection Questions on [Mark 10:35-45](#)

- James and John seek to be elevated to positions of importance among the disciples. What do you think is motivating this request?
- Jesus draws a distinction between what leadership looks like in the world and what leadership looks like for followers of Jesus. How would you describe the difference?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said, “whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant”?
- Why is Jesus’ statement that he “came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many” such a radical statement in today’s world?

Spiritual Practice: Learning about Our Neighbors. A ministry called the Listening Church has developed a number of resources to help individuals listen to God, listen to each other, and listen to their community. Use this link to access resources on interviewing and learning about your neighbors:

<https://www.thelisteningchurch.com/neighborinterview>

Readings from Acts: Read passages of scripture from the Book of Acts to see examples of service in the early church and look for inspiration for today.

- [Acts 2:43-47](#)
- [Acts 6:1-7](#)
- [Acts 11:19-30](#)
- [Acts 13:1-5](#)
- [Acts 14:8-20](#)
- [Acts 20:17-24](#)

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There Is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;

praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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 in to help each other heal, with open hearts, listening ears and open minds.

Grace Inside will be here between services to share about the prison ministry and how our community can provide support and care to this ministry.

Information & Upcoming

Wednesday evenings in Lent, March 18 and 25th at St. Stephen:

- **5:30 PM** – Soup and Bread supper in the Fellowship Hall
 - **Sign up** to bring soup and/or bread on the poster in the Gathering Space!
 - **Sign up** on the insert sheet if you plan to attend

6:30 PM: Evening Prayer

Easter week Schedule

April 2 7:00 PM, Maundy Thursday at St. Martin's Episcopal Church

April 3 7:00 PM, Good Friday worship at St. Stephen

April 4 7:00 PM, the Easter Vigil at St. Martin's Episcopal Church

April 5 Easter Sunday St. Stephen

- **8:30 AM, 11:00 AM – Festival Easter worship**

Faith Formation Help Needed! Our Faith Formation now meets three times a month on Thursdays for a meal and a lesson. Pastor Jon would welcome some help providing the meals! Are you available and willing to cook an evening meal for our families with young children?

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

Seeking Volunteer(s) to Help St. Stephen Dining Small Groups

We are looking for a volunteer (or co-volunteers) to take over putting the St. Stephen dining small groups together, which involves a few steps three times a year: 1) asking Parish Administrator Hollie Jones to put sign-up notices in the Sunday bulletin every four months, 2) dividing up the names of those who sign up, and 3) emailing each group point person at the beginning of each four-month time period with instructions for getting the group together. Virtually all these steps are doable via email. If you appreciate the dining group experience and want to help keep it going, or just have an interest in a volunteer role you can do from home, please reach out to Alison Carney or Ina Berkey. Sample emails and instructions will be provided as needed!

Calling gardeners or anyone who enjoys getting in the dirt! This church has always relied on volunteers to keep our gardens looking beautiful. We are again looking for volunteers to take a week or more to weed, water and dead head the flowers. The heavy, pruning and mulching are done by a company we hire a couple times a year. Please indicate your willingness to help on the insert or contact Chris Punchard

Parish Life: We will have our annual Easter Breakfast Potluck between services on Easter. Please bring a hot dish, fruit, deviled eggs or sweet treat to share. Coffee and juice will be provided.

All are welcome to the Parish Life meeting between services on **March 29**. We will be looking at upcoming events through the summer. We love new ideas and input. Questions? See Chris Punchard

Kitchen Keepers will be **Monday March 23**. Our big focus for the day will be cleaning the chairs in Fellowship Hall.

We could use some extra help that day between **12-3**. So if you're available for just this one day it would be appreciated!

Questions should be directed to Chris Punchard.

St. Stephen Calendar: March 15-March 22, 2026

SUNDAY, March 15 ~ Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 AM Matins Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
8:30 AM Worship – Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)
9:45 AM **Grace Inside (Fellowship Hall)**
9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
9:45 AM AOB (Library/Conference room)
10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
11:00 AM Worship – Communion (*livestreamed on Facebook*)
6:00 PM LSA Dinner (College room)

MONDAY, March 16

- 12:15 PM Staff meeting (Pastor Jon office)
1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference room)

TUESDAY, March 17

- 11:00 AM Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)
12:30 PM Preschool Meeting (Library/Conference Room)
6:00 PM-8:00 PM Stephen Minister Training (Fellowship Hall)

WEDNESDAY, March 18

- 5:00 PM Girl Scouts (Preschool Room)
5:30 PM Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)
6:30 PM Lenten Midweek Service (Worship Space)
7:00 PM Chancel choir rehearsal (Worship space)
7:00 PM AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, March 19

- 4:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal (Worship space)
5:15 PM Faith5 Meal (Fellowship Hall)

FRIDAY, March 20

SATURDAY, March 21

- 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/Conference room)
5:30 PM Al-Anon (Gathering Space)

SUNDAY, March 22 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 AM Matins Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
8:30 AM Worship – Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)
9:45 AM Choir Men's Rehearsal (Worship Space)
9:45 AM 6th Grade Class (Pastor's Office) & AOB (Library/Conference room)
10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
11:00 AM Worship – Communion (*livestreamed on Facebook*)
6:00 PM LSA Dinner (College room)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer.....(8:30) Stan York
.....(11:00) David Nelson
Altar Guild (8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel
..... (11:00) Pam Buckley
Audio-Visual Team..... (8:30) Tim Judy (11:00) Tobias & Liam Janke
Bread Baker.....Heidi Flatin
Cantors (8:30) Ellen Bushman (11:00) Jim Larsen
Communion Assistants (8:30) Chris Punchard and Karen Shoberg
.....(11:00) Christina Nelson and David Nelson
Flower Delivery Carol Wiers
Greeters/Hosts (8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel (11:00) Alison Carney
Lectors.....(8:30) Karen Nester (11:00) Jeanne Garrison
Pastor.....Pastor Jon Nelson
Tellers..... Jeanne Garrison, Carol Brown and Russ White
Ushers..... (8:30) Bill Dichtel and John McCurry (11:00) Glenn Joppa and George Bass

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

Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net

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.

March 15, 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 will be attending soup suppers # _____

____ I/We would like to help with the Gardening around the church.

____ I/ We are interested in gathering together at the Church to watch movies

_____ prefer weekdays _____ Prefer weekends

_____ is the Movie Genre that I am interested in

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