



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.

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 13, 2025

For Your Prayers – April 14-20, 2025

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11 (7); Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tuesday: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14 (6); 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

Wednesday: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70 (1); Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday: Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1—19:42

Holy Saturday: Genesis 1:1—2:4a; Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21; Isaiah 55:1-11; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Jonah 1:1—2:1, Daniel 3:1-29; Romans 6:3-11, John 20:1-18

Easter Sunday: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 24:1-12

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Sue Bosworth, Susan Britcher, Ellen Bushman, Kristin Carter, Bob & Ginny Cummings, Sharon Jacobs, Donna Kittelson, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Helen Nelsen, and George Vonderheide.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Ailene Bartlett, Ed Brown, Ruth & Forrest Fenstermaker, Bob and Angie Groom, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Susan, Randy Altona, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, Gary Baumgarten, Robi Bayard, June Brantley, Sue Havola Berhs, Mary Bloom, Tim Brown, Raymond Bunn, Karin Cavanaugh, Chris Clarke, Amaree Cluff, Ruth Ann Coski, Judy Craun, Judy Drezek, Becky Drury, Darrin and Rosemary Dunn, Tanya Fritz, Hollis Fulton, David Gade, Joel Gillespie, Greg Gildner, Joan and John Goodhart, Jonathan Hallman, Charee Hampton, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Bradley, Kim, Joan and Laurie Heintzeman, Lisa Hill, Nancy Hodge, Jaxon Ireland, Lynn Isenburg, Claudia Jacobik, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Jenn Kramer, Elaine Lane, Marnah Lund, Keara Mahony, Jim Monteith, Trish Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Jack Mayfield, Doug MacKenzie, Jimmy Mitchell, Liz Montalvo, Mia Monteith, Ed Moninger, Kim Morris, Bob Myers, Jeanette Osborn, Coral Pumley, Kurt Recktenwald, Stephen Rier, Sam Scovill, Pamela Sharp, Vasili Soultoukis, Kenneth & Laura Spencer, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, George and Jewel Thomas, Charley Underdahl, Brenda Webster, Penny Weld, Pat Whelan, Caleb Winig, and Elaine Wrich.

Palm/Passion Sunday

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

We gather in the Forecourt with palm branches.

(11:00) Palm Sunday Grove

Brian Hehn and Mark Burrows

Faith Formation Choir

Call to Worship

Greetings to the joyful, the content, the hopeful, and the cheerful. **Bring your laughter, your celebrations, and your delight to worship.**

Welcome to the mournful, the anxious, the overwhelmed, and the afraid.

Bring your thoughts, your worries, your concerns, and your fears to worship.

We all come from different places, with different experiences, and with different expectations. **God alone knows our inner thoughts and looks upon us with compassion.**

Come as you are. Come with all your feelings. **God will help us process and transform our feelings into faithful action.**

Come as you are. Come with all your feelings. **Come, let us worship together in unity.**

Palm Sunday Confession

Let us confess the ways in which we have treated ourselves with judgment and cruelty. Compassionate God, you love us and treat us tenderly, even when we are struggling to do what is right. In spite of your patience with us, we condemn ourselves, judge ourselves, and tell ourselves lies. We declare that we love our neighbors and then we turn our backs on the homeless and hungry in our communities.

We confess we treat ourselves harshly, condemn our own mistakes, and punish ourselves when we fail. We confess we call ourselves names, can be our own worst bullies, and look in the mirror without love for our faces. We confess we give up on ourselves, treat ourselves with unkindness, and withhold good things from our lives. We confess we choose the well-being of others over ourselves when we really need to rest and recover. We confess we believe negative things others say about us and deny words spoken which bless us. We confess we confuse confidence for arrogance and self-love for indulgence.

For you, God, adore us. You are kind to us, forgiving us when we fail. Show each of us how we might love ourselves, not from a place of self-absorption or narcissism, but in the knowledge that you made us, and we belong to you. **Amen.**

Let love and forgiveness banish all shame, for we are made whole in Christ when we confess our shortcomings. Be free to love yourself and all the traits God gave you.

Amen.

Acclamation

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessing of Palms

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Procession

Let us go forth in peace, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Processional Hymn (*we'll begin singing once all are inside*)

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW 344

Bulletin page 9

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Anthem (*11:00*)

Savior, King!
Faith Formation Choir

Katie Houts

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

Reading

Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

Gospel Acclamation *Blessed Is the One (Sung Twice)*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord. Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords and some melodic movement in the right hand.

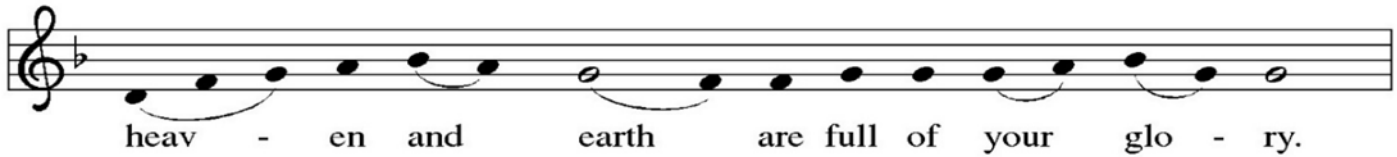
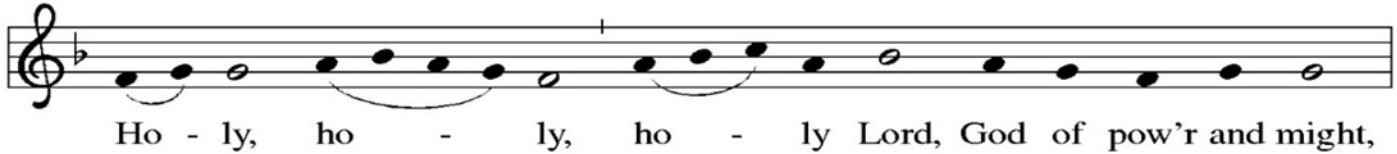
The Great Thanksgiving

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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

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. St. Stephen is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, so all are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.

Communion Anthem

Love's Endeavor, Love's Expense Russell Schulz-Widmar
Erika Cave, Clarinet

Communion Music *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Sandra Eithun
St. Stephen Ringers

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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

The Passion of Our Lord According to Luke

Sending Anthem *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* Wayne L Wold



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All Glory, Laud, and Honor

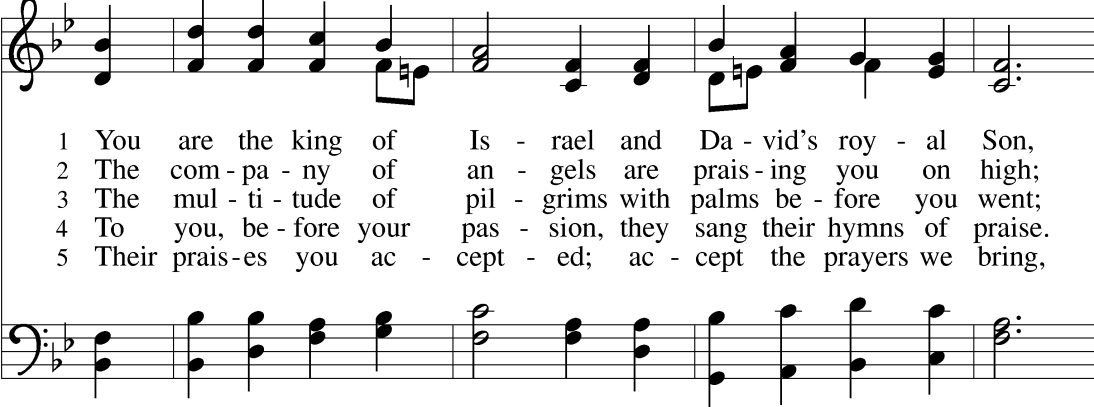
Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,




to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Eco-Palms – Social and Environmental Justice

Why Eco-Palms?

- Eco-Palms preserve the vitality of the communities and forests for years to come.
- Community groups receive five to six times the normal payment per frond.
- Eco-Palms are purchased directly from the communities, which lessens the impact of the fluctuating market and allows value-added processing to take place within the community.
- A typical Eco-Palm is harvested in the forest by men and processed by the women of the community. This increases employment opportunities for women in the community and helps them contribute to their family's financial stability.
- Continue to buy palms for Easter – without a market for the palms, the forests are at risk of being converted to agricultural fields.



As We Gather

Parents! Thanks for bringing your children to worship.

- ❖ Did you know that intergenerational worship is the single most important activity encouraging children's faith formation? (See vibrantfaith.com)
- ❖ When parents and children need to take a break for a few minutes, there's a play area with toys and books in the room right beneath the Worship Space.
- ❖ Age-appropriate activity bags are available in the Gathering Space – ask an usher for assistance.

Assistance is Available for You:

- ❖ **An induction loop** is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T."
- ❖ **Large print** worship materials are available - ask an usher.
- ❖ **Rest rooms** are accessible through the door in the wing to the left of the altar.
- ❖ **If someone should need emergency medical assistance**, CPR supplies, and a first aid kit are located in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall.

Health Update: We always encourage you to monitor yourself for symptoms of illness and to worship from home if you are experiencing any. We have masks and hand sanitizer available for use in our building should you require.

What's Happening Today

Flowers this morning are given by Karen and Gary Chenault in memory of Lea Ellen.

Do you enjoy coffee and fellowship on Sunday mornings? Please consider



donating to the coffee fund, simply place a dollar or so in the cup on top of the Keurig this will help us stay within budget! Don't have a dollar scan the QR code by the coffee pot or here in the bulletin.

HVAC: Please keep in mind that the HVAC is off in the majority of the building. Cox Powell is actively working in the **Fellowship Hall, Mon-Fri From 7AM-3:30 PM**. They are constantly in and out of that space to have access to the attic space above.

Upcoming

Easter Potluck Breakfast We will again be having a potluck Easter breakfast between services on Easter Sunday. Bring a dish or baked good to share. Coffee, tea and juices will be provided

Refugee Family Sponsorship. As can often happen in these situations, there was a long stretch of no action, followed by a sudden burst of it! We are excited that one portion of the family we have been trying to help out of Afghanistan has made it to the US. We know the first priority will be housing, quickly followed by furniture, groceries, diapers, and clothing. Please keep an eye out for ways you can help!

The April Women's Monthly Bible Study has been rescheduled to Thursday, April 24th. The afternoon group will meet at 1:00 pm in the Library, and the evening group will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are looking forward to our time together.

Service Ministry Needs Help: We are in need of people who would be interested in helping with the Greeter ministry. The biggest ask in this ministry is to arrive about 30 minutes prior to the start of the service. You would then stand at the door with your name tag on and greet people as they enter the church. If you are not a handshaker, you can bump fists or simple raise your hand to say “Hi, Good Morning, or Welcome”. Our greatest need is at the 11:00 am service. I ask that your prayerfully consider donating a small amount of time to this very important ministry. If interested, contact Diana Tiller-Dichtel at 757-232-5924 or email dptiller221@gmail.com.



Holy Week Worship

April 17, Maundy Thursday at St. Stephen

6:30 PM – During this Holy Communion service, those who are interested will be invited to give and receive foot washing. We will recall the story in John’s gospel - of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, remembering that we are also to serve each other as the Body of Christ. The service concludes with the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

- Pastor Gerry Johnson will preach at St. Stephen.

April 18, Good Friday at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church

- **6:30 PM** – Our worship is rooted in the cross: a full reading of the passion and its preached interpretation; intercessions that extend to all the needy creation; worship of the Crucified One at the throne of grace, the cross upon which he is lifted.
- Pastor Jon Nelson will preach at Our Saviour’s.

April 19, the Easter Vigil at St. Stephen

- **8:00 PM** – “The light of Christ! Thanks be to God!” This most dramatic worship service begins in darkness. With hand-held candles, we enter hearing an ancient chant. In half-light we hear Scripture readings of God’s salvation history, and we return to our baptisms. We end in full light, with the first Holy Communion of Easter – followed by chocolate, strawberries, sparkling cider, and champagne!

April 20 , Easter Sunday

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



St. Stephen Calendar – April 13-20, 2025

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

SUNDAY, April 13 ~ Palm Sunday/ Sunday of the Passion

- 8:30 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)**
9:45 AM Matins/Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
9:45 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class (Library/Conference Room)
10:00 AM Faith Formation: (Preschool)
11:00 AM **Worship – Holy Communion- *We start on the Forecourt!***
5:00 PM LSA Bible Study (College Room)
6:00 PM Dinner (College Room)

MONDAY, April 14

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor’s Office)
1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
3:00 PM Finance Meeting (Library/ Conference room)

TUESDAY, April 15

- 5:30 PM Easter Vigil Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
7:00 PM Council Meeting (Library Fellowship hall)

WEDNESDAY, April 16

- 7:00 PM Joint Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, April 17~ Maundy Thursday

- 11:00 PM Staff Bulletin Review (Library/Conference Room)
5:45 PM St. Stephen Ringers (Worship Space)
6:15PM St. Stephen Choirs’ Rehearsal (Worship Space)
6:30 PM **Maundy Thursday Worship – Holy Communion**

FRIDAY, April 18~ Good Friday

- 5:45 PM Choir Rehearsal (Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church)
6:30 PM **Good Friday Worship (Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church)**

SATURDAY, April 19

- 11:00 AM Orcha-band Rehearsal (Worship Space)
7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 PM Easter Vigil Choir (Worship Space)
8:00 PM **Worship – Holy Communion ~ *We start on the Forecourt!***

SUNDAY, April 20~ Easter Sunday

- 8:00 AM St. Stephen Choirs’ Rehearsal (Worship Space)
8:30 AM **Worship – Holy Communion (*livestreamed on our YouTube channel*)**
9:45AM Easter Potluck Brunch (Fellowship Hall)
11:00 AM **Worship – Holy Communion**
5:00 PM LSA Bible Study (College Room)
6:00 PM Dinner (College Room)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer.....(8:30) Amy Bergh
..... (11:00) Sonja Cave
Altar Guild(8:30) Amy Bergh
.....(11:00) Pam Buckley and Heidi Flatin
Audio-Visual Team.. (8:30) JR & Diana Lyons (11:00) Tobias Janke and Liam Janke
Bread Baker.....Amy Bergh
Communion Assistants(8:30) Amy & Brian Bergh
..... (11:00) Sonja Cave and Heidi Flatin
Flower Delivery
Greeters/Hosts(8:30) Chris Punchard (11:00) Ned Neidlinger
Lectors..... (8:30) Paula Agor (11:00) Marj Gottschalk-Trone
Passion Readers:
Narrator: Jon Hallman
Jesus: George Martin
Peter: Sandy Croushore
Centurion: Jeanne Garrison
Servant: Marie Nelson
Witness: Cyndi Touhsaent
Pilate: (8:30) Terri Larsen, (11:00) Elara Strand
First Criminal: Lou Rossiter
Second Criminal: Randy Punchard
Preacher..... Pastor Jon O Nelson
Tellers.....Jane deSolms, Susan Britcher and Jim Larsen
Ushers.....(8:30) Jeff and Lisa Bushmire (11:00) Jim Weilmuenster and Glenn Joppa

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

www.saintstephenlutheran.net

(757) 229-6688

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

(St. Stephen Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

All of Us, Called Through Our Baptisms

Pastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)

Karen Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)

Hollie Jones – Parish Administrator (229-6688)

Jessica Kimball – Preschool Director (229-6688)

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

Doing Ministry in the World

Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net

MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net

Office@saintstephenlutheran.net

Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net

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

April 13, 2025

Name: _____

For guests and members with changes:

Address (Home) _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____

E-Mail Address _____

Guests Only:

I belong to _____

Church Address _____

Please check as many as pertain:

____ Member

____ First time guest

____ Regular guest

____ Guest (out of town)

____ Student at William & Mary

____ Looking for a church home

____ Desire to speak with pastor

____ Would like more information about Stephen Ministry

____ Would like a Parish Nurse to contact me

Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if necessary.

Prayer Requests

Please **add** to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's *Quill*:

Name: _____

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: _____

_____ I need a **nametag!** _____

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