

# 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.

Baptism of Our Lord Jan 12, 2025

### **For Your Prayers – Jan 13-19, 2025**

#### **Lectionary readings for this week:**

**Monday:** Judges 4:1-16 Ephesians 6:10-17 Psalm 106:1-12 **Tuesday:** Judges 5:12-21 1 John 5:13-21 Psalm 106:1-12

Wednesday: Numbers 27:1-11 Luke 11:33-36 Psalm 106:1-12

**Thursday:** Jeremiah 3:1-5 Acts 8:18-24 Psalm 36:5-10 **Friday** Jeremiah 3:19-25 1 Corinthians 7:1-7 Psalm 36:5-10 **Saturday:** Jeremiah 4:1-4 Luke 11:14-23 Psalm 36:5-10

Next Sunday's Lessons Acts 4:8-13 Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19 (2) 1 Corinthians 10:1-5

Matthew 16:13-19

<u>Join your prayers for healing</u> with God's desires for Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Bob & Ginny Cummings, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Donna Kittelson, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Helen Nelsen, Paul Reier and George Vonderheide.

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

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Susan, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, Eleftheria Beck, Tom Beck, Sally Blackburn, June Brantley, Linda Bonfiglio, Mary Bloom, Tim Brown, Karin Cavanaugh, Chris Clarke, Amaree Cluff, Ruth Ann Coski, Judy Craun, Ginny Cummings, Judy Drezek, Becky Drury, Darrin and Rosemary Dunn, Tanya Fritz, David Gade, Joel Gillespie, Greg Gildner, Joan and John Goodhart, Charee Hampton, Mark Harbison, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Bradley, Kim, Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Lisa Hill, Jaxon Ireland, Claudia Jacobik, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Jenn Kramer, Chantal Lacroix, Marnah Lund, Trish and Sara and Matthew Macerelli, Keara Mahony, Laura Margolin, Jack Mayfield, Doug MacKenzie, The Keith Meins family, Liz Montalvo, Ed Moninger, John Moravetz, Kim Morris, Bob Myers, Jeanette Osborn, Coral Pumley, Kurt Recktenwald, Kurtis Schultz, Lou Schuster, Inge Seiter, Pamela Sharp, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, George and Jewel Thomas, Charley Underdahl, Brenda Webster, Caleb Winig, and Elaine Wrich

## Baptism of Our Lord

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

#### Welcome

**Centering Music** 

Shall We Gather at the River

Robert A. Hobby

#### **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,

our creator,

our protector,

our wellspring of life.

#### Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act

with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.

We ignore the needs of our neighbors;

we resist your call to oppose injustice;

we give in to scarcity and fear;

we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults

and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

Restore our hearts and repair your world,

that we may live in Christ's ways.

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine."

In + Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

**Gathering Song** 

Shall We Gather at the River

ELW 423

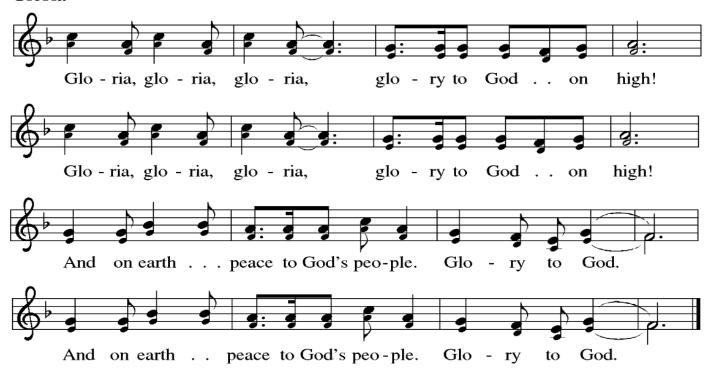
Bulletin Page 12

**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.** 

#### **Kyrie**



#### Gloria



#### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

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

Reading Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. <sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— <sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Psalm Psalm 29



<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glo- ry and strength.

- <sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name; worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.
- <sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders; the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.
- <sup>4</sup>The voice of the LORD is a pow- erful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. *Refrain*
- <sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees; the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;
- <sup>6</sup> the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.
- <sup>7</sup>The voice | of the LORD bursts forth in | lightning flashes.
- <sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. *Refrain*
- <sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"
- <sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.
- <sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength | to your people; give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace. *Refrain*

Second Reading Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

Gospel Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

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

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

Sermon Deacon Liz Fox

Silence for prayer and reflection.

**Hymn of the Day** 

When Jesus Came to Jordan

ELW 305

Bulletin page 13

#### **Nicene Creed**

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 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 and the Son,\* 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.

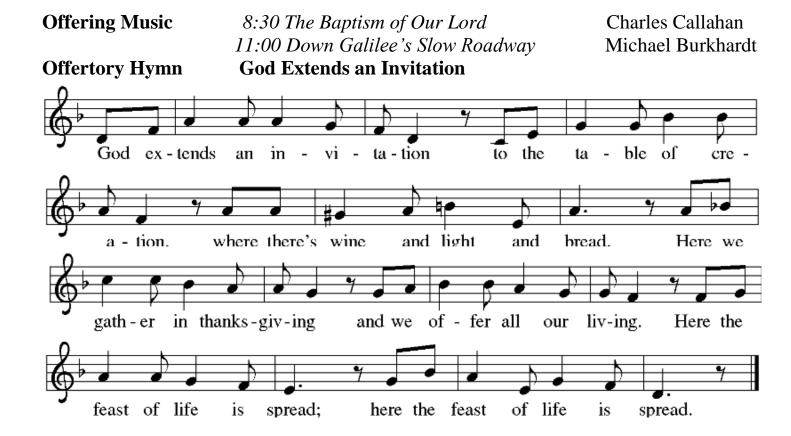
### **Prayers**

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

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

### Offering

Offerings are gathered for the mission of the church: preaching and teaching the good news of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, and caring for the poor. During the offering, the table is set for the Lord's Supper.



#### 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 to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; ... 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 Hymn** 

O Living Breath of God

Wade in the Water

ELW 407
Bulletin page 14
ELW 459
Bulletin page 15

### **Table Blessing**

### **Prayer after Communion**

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.** 

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

**Sending Hymn** 

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543

Bulletin page 16

### **Blessing**

The Spirit of the triune God  $\pm$  bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.** 

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Live in hope. Thanks be to God.

**Postlude** Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Arr. Larry Shackley

Piano Duet: Ina Berkey and Karen Ives

Thank you to **Deacon Liz Fox** for preaching today.

#### **Copyright Information**

Shall We Gather at the River!; Contributors: Robert A. Hobby Tune: Setting © 2008 Augsburg Fortress

The Baptism of Our Lord; Contributors: Charles Callahan Tune: Setting © 1990 Morning Star Publications

Down Galilee's Slow Roadways; Contributors: Michael Burkhardt © 2018 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing!; Contributors: Larry Shackley Tune: Setting © 2023 Hope Publishing

One License Licensing Permission Reprinted/Streamed with permission under One License #A721099,

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SB164403; Permission granted, St. James Press

## Shall We Gather at the River



## When Jesus Came to Jordan



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000 Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune Text © 1980 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

## O Living Breath of God



- liv-ing Breath of God, wind at be-gin - ning the up-on the wa - ters;
- liv-ing Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth a - mong us;
- liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing to life through bap-tis-mal us wa - ters;



- liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing the cre a tion to won-drous birth: O
- liv-ing Breath of God, who to the cre a tion gives life 0
- liv-ing Breath of God, sigh-ing with cre a tion for free-dom's birth: 0



Come now, and fill our spir dant. its; pour out your gifts a - bun

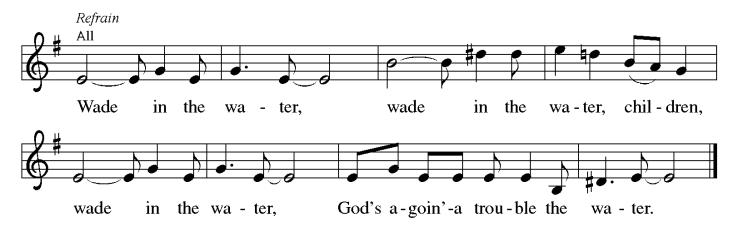


liv-ing Breath of God, Ho-ly Spir-it, breathe in us as we pray. O

Text: Osvaldo Catena, 1920-1986; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923 Music: VÅRVINDAR FRISKA, Swedish folk tune

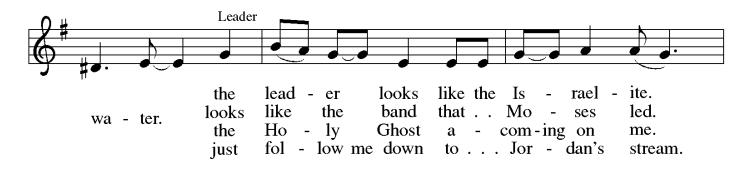
Tr. © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

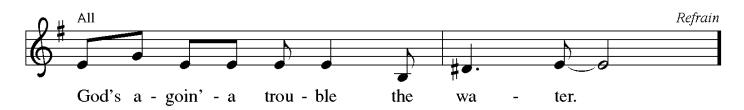
## Wade in the Water





- 1 See that host all dressed in white,
- 2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a-goin'-a trou-ble the
- 3 Look o ver yon der, what do I see?
- 4 If you don't be lieve I've been re deemed,





Text: African American spiritual

Music: WADE IN THE WATER, African American spiritual

## Go, My Children, with My Blessing



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

Outside USA: Arr. from The English Hymnal, © Oxford University Press 1906

### 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 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.

#### **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 "prayground") 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.

<u>Health Update</u>: 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 Randy and Chris Punchard to the Glory of God!

### **Upcoming**

<u>Communal Life: Breakfasts.</u> Come to build and deepen relationships – **at the Colonial Pancake House**, at the corner of Page Street and Penniman Road. Gatherings take place at **8:00 AM**.

Tuesday, January 14 - Women are invited to join together for breakfast

<u>Faith in Action</u> Faith in Action will be speaking at Adult Faith Formation on January 12. This is a community based service organization that relies on volunteers to make it happen. It is non-denominational and open to anyone who meets qualifications to volunteer. They provide training to volunteers prior to beginning to serve. There are many areas where help is needed. There are even ways to volunteer without leaving home! Please plan on joining us to find out how we can carry out stewardship in our community.

<u>Have Fun and Support our St. Stephen Preschool</u> during our annual Winter Carnival today **Sunday, February 2, 2:00 – 4:00 PM**. Tickets will be sold at the door. Bring family and friends.

<u>Pastor Jon</u> will be out **Jan 8**<sup>th</sup> through **Jan 13**<sup>th</sup> Pastor Harvey nelson will be available for any Pastoral emergencies.

VA Synod Assembly Voting Members Needed. The 2025 VA Synod Assembly will be June 13-15th. On top of the typical business of the Synod. At our January meeting St. Stephen will elect two voting members to attend Synod Assembly and two alternates (we will be electing one who identifies as male, and one who identifies as female) on behalf of St. Stephen. If you would like to be on the ballot at the January meeting for this position, please mark the White Sheet.

Our annual congregation meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025 following the 11:00 AM worship service.

#### St. Stephen Calendar Jan 12-19 2025

Our worship service is available on our website <u>www.saintstephenlutheran.net</u>, click on "Worship with Us" and "Services."

### SUNDAY, Jan 12- Baptism of our Lord

8:30 AM Worship – Holy Communion (livestreamed on our YouTube
---

9:30 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

9:50 AM AoB/HS/Adult Ed.: Catechism convo Course (Library/Conference room)

10:00 AM Faith Formation: Lesson (Undercroft/Preschool Room)

10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)

11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion(livestreamed on Facebook live)

#### MONDAY, Jan 13

10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Office)

1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)

#### TUESDAY, Jan 14

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

7:00 PM Council Meeting (Library/Conference Room)

#### WEDNESDAY, Jan 15

7:00 PM Chancel Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

#### THURSDAY, Jan 16

11:00 AM Bulletin Review (Library/Conference room)

12:30 PM Women's Group (Library/Conference room)

5:30 PM St. Stephen Ringers Rehearsal (worship space)

7:00 PM Women's Group (Library/Conference room)

### FRIDAY, Jan 17

### SATURDAY, Jan 18

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

5:30 PM Al-ANON Family Meeting (Gathering space)

### SUNDAY, Jan 19-

9:30 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

9:50 AM AoB/HS/Adult Ed.: Catechism convo Course (Library/Conference room)

10:00 AM Faith Formation: Lesson (Undercroft/Preschool Room)

10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)

11:00 AM Worship – Holy Communion(livestreamed on Facebook live)

## **Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today**

	(11:00) Sonja Cave
Altar Guild	(8:30) Diana Tiller-Dichtel and Rita Kristiansen
•••••	
Audio-Visual Team	(8:30) Steve & Beth Grant (11:00) Tobias Janke and Liam Janke
Bread Baker	
Cantors	(8:30) Randy Punchard (11:00) Marj Gottschalk-Trone
Communion Assistant	ts(8:30) Randy & Chris
Punchard	(11:00) Heidi Flatin and Sonja Cave
Flower Delivery	
-	
	(8:30) Paula Agor (11:00) George Bass
Preacher	
Presider	
	30) Jeff & Lisa Bushmire (11:00) Jim Weilmuenster & George Bass

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 <u>www.saintstephenlutheran.net</u> (757) 229-6688

### Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

(St. Stephen Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

All of Us, Called Through Our Baptisms

Pastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)

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

Hollie Jones – Parish Administrator (757-229-6688)

Jessica Kimball -Preschool Director (757-229-6688)

Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (757-873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)

Doing Ministry in the World Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net

MusicDir@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.

## Jan 12, 2025

Name:	
For guests and members with changes:	
Address (Home)	
City/StateZip	
Telephone #	
E-Mail Address	
Guests Only: I belong to	
Church Address	
Please check as many as pertain:	
Member	
First time guest	
Regular guest	
Guest (out of town)	
Student at William & Mary	
Looking for a church home	
Desire to speak with pastor	
Would like more information about Stephen Ministry	
Would like a Stephen Minister to contact me	
Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if n	ecessary.

1

# **Prayer Requests**

Please <b>add</b> to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's <i>Quill</i> :	
Name:	
Please <b>remove</b> from prayer concerns:	
Name:	
I/We need a name tag:	
I would like to be the Female voting member for the VA Synod Assembly  I would like to be the alternate Female for the VA Synod Assembly	ıbly
I would like to be the Male voting member for the VA Synod Assemble I would like to be the alternate for the Male for the VA Synod Assemble.	•

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

## Jan 12, 2025

Name:
For guests and members with changes:
Address (Home)
City/StateZip
Telephone #
E-Mail Address
Guests Only: I belong to
Church Address
Please check as many as pertain:
Member
First time guest
Regular guest
Guest (out of town)
Student at William & Mary
Looking for a church home
Desire to speak with pastor
Would like more information about Stephen Ministry
Would like a Stephen Minister to contact me
Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if necessary.

1

# **Prayer Requests**

Please <b>add</b> to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's <i>Quill</i> :
Name:
Please <b>remove</b> from prayer concerns:
Name:
I/We need a name tag:I would like to be the Female voting member for the VA Synod AssemblyI would like to be the alternate Female for the VA Synod Assembly
I would like to be the Male voting member for the VA Synod  Assembly  I would like to be the Male voting member for the VA Synod  Assembly  I would like to be the alternate for the Male for the VA Synod  Assembly

\_