

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.



Third Sunday after Epiphany Jan 26, 2025

For Your Prayers – Jan 27-Feb 2, 2025

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Jeremiah 36:1-101 Corinthians 14:1-12 Psalm 119:89-96 *Tuesday*: Jeremiah 36:11-26 2 Corinthians 7:2-12 Psalm 119:89-96

Wednesday: Jeremiah 36:27-32 Luke 4:38-44 Psalm 119:89-96

Thursday: 2 Chronicles 34:1-7 Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 71:1-6
 Friday 2 Chronicles 35:20-27 Acts 19:1-10 Psalm 71:1-6
 Saturday: 2 Chronicles 36:11-21 John 1:43-51 Psalm 71:1-6

Next Sunday's Lessons Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 (6) 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

<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 the family and friends of **John Moravetz** as they mourn his death.

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, Judy Leister, Marnah Lund, Trish and Sara and Matthew Macerelli, Keara Mahony, Laura Margolin, Jack Mayfield, Doug MacKenzie, The Keith Meins family, Liz Montalvo, Ed Moninger, 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

Third Sunday after Epiphany

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

Welcome

Centering Music

Christ, Be Our Light

Sally Drennan Mossing

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 the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God. Amen.

Gathering Song

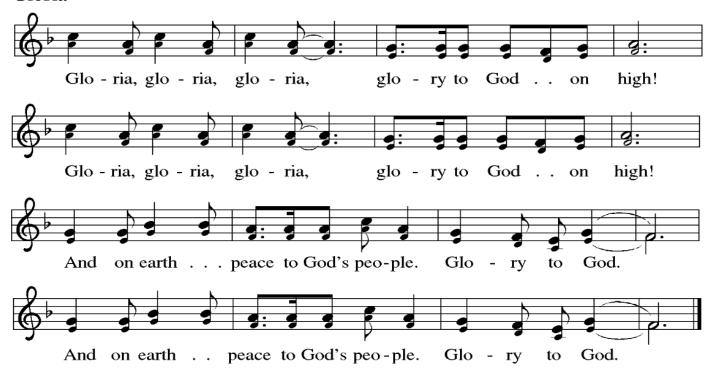
O Zion, Haste

ELW 668 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.**

Kyrie



Gloria



Prayer of the Day

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

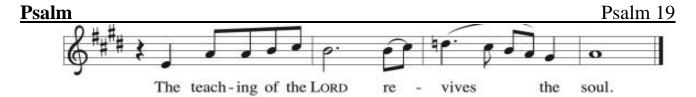
Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that "the joy of the Lord is your strength."

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy

to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."



¹ The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,

and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

²One day tells its tale | to another, and one night imparts knowledge | to another.

³ Although they have no | words or language, and their voices | are not heard,

⁴ their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends | of the world,

where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.

- ⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.
- ⁶ It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of | it again;

nothing is hidden from its | burning heat. Refrain

⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom | to the simple.

⁸ The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and en- dures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

- ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb. *Refrain*
- ¹¹ By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened, and in keeping them there is | great reward.
- 12 Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.
- ¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion | over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

 $^{14}\,\mathrm{Let}$ the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable $^{|}$ in your sight,

O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer. Refrain

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

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

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

Sermon Lousy Preaching

Pastor Jon Nelson

Hymn of the Day Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW 710 Bulletin page 14

Silence for prayer and reflection.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers

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

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

Offering

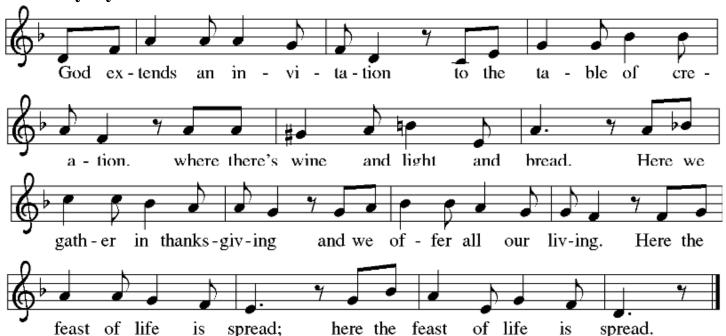
Offerings are gathered for the mission of the church: preaching and teaching the good news of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, and caring for the poor. During the offering, the table is set for the Lord's Supper.

Offering Music

8:30 In your Light We See Light 11:00 Send Out Thy Light

W. Wold D. Cherwien

Offertory Hymn God Extends an Invitation



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 ... 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

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715 Bulletin page 15

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

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

Sending Hymn

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

ACS 988

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

Let Streams of Living Justice

Michael Bedford

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Let Streams of Living Justice



Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

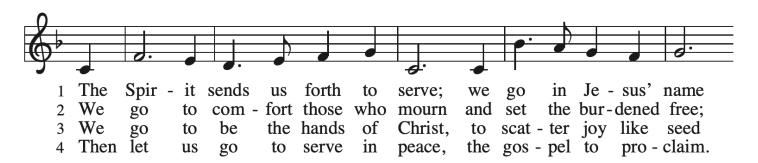
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

Christ, Be Our Light



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve





tid - ings to bring glad the poor, God's fa pro-claim. to to where hope dim, to share a dream and help the blind is to see. and, all days, to cher-ish life, do the lov ing deed. our to em-pow-ered us; sus' name. God's Spir - it has Je in we go

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: SANTA MONICA, Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962

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As We Gather

Restrooms & First Aid

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

Live-streaming

❖ We regularly live-stream our services and cannot guarantee that you will not appear on our YouTube 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

<u>Flowers this morning</u> are given by Jim & Donna Kittelson in celebration of our 58th wedding anniversary!

The Annual meeting will be held promptly following the 11:00 am service.

<u>Giving statements</u> are available in the gathering space. Please pick your up before leaving.

Upcoming

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

<u>Guest Preacher.</u> We are excited to welcome **the Rev. Jennifer Osheim-Owen** to St. Stephen's pulpit next Sunday. Rev. Jennifer currently serves as a Chaplain at the Landing.

<u>Pub & Grub.</u> Join us on Monday, January 27th at 7:00 PM at Billsburg Brewery for some food, drinks and conversation!

<u>Dining Small Groups Build Connections</u>: Sign Up Now For The Next Round, February - end of May 2025. Consisting of about 7-9 people, each dining group will set its own "approach" for meals, such as: dinner out, brunch or lunch at a group member's house, potluck after Sunday worship, take-out, etc. Do whatever works best for the group! Sign up on the bulletin insert or call the church office. Each group to meet three times between February and the end of May. Of course you are free to meet more often if that works for your group.

St. Stephen Volunteers needed as we partner with the Williamsburg United Methodist Church (WUMC) in this years Community Of Faith Mission(COFM) Homeless Emergency Shelter the week of February 16 – 23. As a Partner, St. Stephen has committed to staff and furnish meals for up to 25 Guests of the shelter for February 17 and 18. For each day, ten shelter staffing volunteers are required to fill varying shifts from 5:30PM until 8AM shifts (see sign-up schedule in the Gathering Space). Additionally, a minimum of two volunteers are needed to serve the dinner meal (5:30PM-8:30PM) and two volunteers are needed to serve the breakfast meal and distribute bag lunches (5:30AM-8AM). Again, the sign- up schedule is posted in the Gathering Space. Please sign up there or contact Hollie Jones at the church office if you are able to volunteer for any date(s) and shift(s), 757-229-6688.

<u>Cooks Needed</u> Since we shall be preparing a hot meal for supper and breakfast and a bagged lunch for the Guests, we need volunteers to cook and prep. Our Jeanne Garrison has graciously volunteered to coordinate food preparation and serving. Contact Jeanne, (423) 505-5397, or Hollie in the church office(757-229-6688) if you can help. More information is available in the Gathering space. All volunteers are required to have current Community of Faith Mission Training.(website, https://cofm.info, under the heading Host Sites & Darthers, Login, Password: Faith!)

St. Stephen Calendar Jan 26-Feb 2, 2025

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

SUNDAY, Jan 26

8:00 AM	Matins choir warm u	p (Worship	Space)
0.001111	THE CHIEF CHIEF THE CHIEF C	P ('' 010111P	~pace,

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

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: Music (Undercroft/Preschool Room)

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

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

12:00 PM Annual Congregational Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

MONDAY, Jan 27

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

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

3:00 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting (Library/ Conference room)

7:00 PM Pub & Grub (Billsburg Brewery)

TUESDAY, Jan 28

7:00 PM Preschool Committee Meeting (Library)

WEDNESDAY, Jan 29

8:55 AM Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM Chancel Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, Jan 30

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

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

FRIDAY, Jan 31

SATURDAY, Feb 1

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

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

SUNDAY, Feb 2

8:00 AM Matins choir warm up (Worship Space)

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

9:30 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)

9:50 AM AoB/HS/Adult Ed.: Catechism (Fellowship Hall)

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)

2:00 PM Preschool Winter Carnival (Fellowship Hall)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer	(8:30) Corey Knestrick
	(11:00) Alina Dabel
	(8:30) Carol Wiers and Rita Kristiansen
	(11:00)
	(8:30) Nancy Carter and Tim Judy (11:00) Charles Osborn
Bread Baker	Heidi Flatin
Cantors	(8:30) Karen Shoberg (11:00) Jim Larsen
Communion Assistants	(8:30) Ellen Bushman & Corey Knestrick
	(11:00) Jennifer Dabel & Alina Dabel
Flower Delivery	
Greeters/Hosts	(8:30) JR & Diana Lyons (11:00) Alison Carney
Lectors	(8:30) Thom Recktenwald (11:00) Russ Dabel
Pastor	Pastor Jon Nelson
Tellers	Tom & Sandy Peterkin and Sandy Croushore
Ushers(8:30)	Tom & Sandy Peterkin (11:00) George Bass & Russ Dabel

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	Doing Ministry in the World
Pastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)	Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net
Karen Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)	MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net
Hollie Jones – Parish Administrator (757-229-6688)	Office@saintstephenlutheran.net
Jessica Kimball -Preschool Director (757-229-6688)	Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net
Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (757-873-227	73; counselors are in Williamsburg
on Thursdays)	

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

Jan 26, 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 add to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's <i>Quill</i> :
Name:
Please remove from prayer concerns:
Name:
I/We need a name tag:
Dining Small Groups Sign Up: Your Name (if signing up for more than one person, include names of all participants):
Phone #:
Email:
I am willing to be the point of contact for my new dining small group: (circle one) Yes / No

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

Jan 26, 2025

Name:
For guests and members with changes:
Address (Home)
City/StateZip
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Your Name (if signing up for more than one person, include names of all participants):	
Phone #:	
Email:	
I am willing to be the point of contact for my new dining small group: (cir	rcle
one)	
Yes / No	