

# **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.



Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Feb 16, 2025 Lectionary readings for this week: Monday: 2 Kings 24:18—25:21;1 Corinthians 15:20-34;Psalm 120 Tuesday: Ezra 1:1-11 2 Corinthians 1:12-19 Psalm 120 Wednesday: Jeremiah 22:11-17 Luke 11:37-52 Psalm 120 Thursday: Genesis 43:16-34 Romans 8:1-11 Psalm 37:1-11,39-40 Friday Genesis 44:1-17 1 John 2:12-17 Psalm 37:1-11,39-40 Saturday: Genesis 44:18-34 Luke 12:57-59 Psalm 37:1-11,39-40 Next Sunday's Lessons Genesis 43:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (11) 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38

*Join your prayers for healing* with God's desires for **Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Bob &** Ginny Cummings, 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>: Ailene Bartlett, Martin Bleck, Birdie Burton, Bob and Angie Groom, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.

We hold the family and friends of Jack Harris in prayer as they grieve his death.

*Pray for these loved ones of our congregation*: Susan, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, Robi Bayard, Eleftheria Beck, Tom Beck, Sally Blackburn, June Brantley, Mary Bloom, Tim Brown, Raymond Bunn, Karin Cavanaugh, Chris Clarke, Amaree Cluff, Ruth Ann Coski, Judy Craun, Ginny Cummings, 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, 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, Judy Leister, Marnah Lund, Trish and Sara and Matthew Macerelli, Keara Mahony, Laura Margolin, Jack Mayfield, Doug MacKenzie, The Keith Meins family, Liz Montalvo, Mia Monteith, Ed Moninger, Kim Morris, Bob Myers, Jeanette Osborn, Coral Pumley, Kurt Recktenwald, Kurtis Schultz, Lou Schuster, Sam Scovill, Inge Seiter, Pamela Sharp, Vasili Soultoukis, Kenneth & Laura Spencer, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, George and Jewel Thomas, Charley Underdahl, Brenda Webster, Caleb Winig, and Elaine Wrich

# Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

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

### Welcome

### **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.

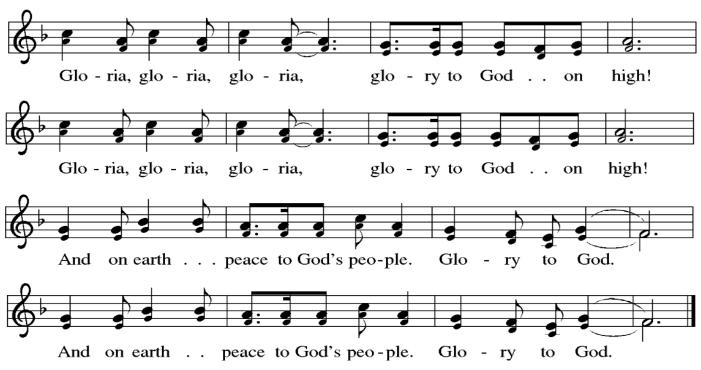
Gathering Song Praise the Almighty!

ELW 877 Bulletin Page 11 **Greeting**: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.** 

**Kyrie** 



Gloria



### Prayer of the Day\_

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

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

### Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. <sup>6</sup> They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. <sup>7</sup> Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. <sup>8</sup> They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. <sup>9</sup> The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? <sup>10</sup> I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

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



They are like trees plant -ed by streams of wa - ter.

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,

nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats <sup>|</sup> of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> Their delight is in the law <sup>|</sup> of the LORD,

# and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night. Refrain

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that <sup>1</sup> do not wither;

everything they | do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> It is not so <sup>|</sup> with the wicked;

# they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when <sup>1</sup> judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council <sup>1</sup> of the righteous.

# <sup>6</sup> For the LORD knows the way <sup>|</sup> of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall <sup>|</sup> be destroyed. *Refrain*

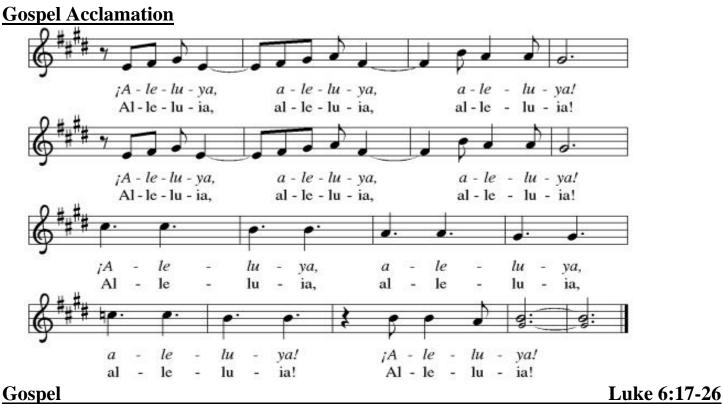
# Second Reading

# **1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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



After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

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

<sup>17</sup> [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.<sup>18</sup> They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup> And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. <sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup> "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup> "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup> "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup> "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets."

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

Sermon	Fishing Instructions Silence for prayer and reflection.	Pastor Jon Nelson
Hymn of the Day	Light Dawns on a Weary World	ELW 726 Bulletin page 12

### **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."

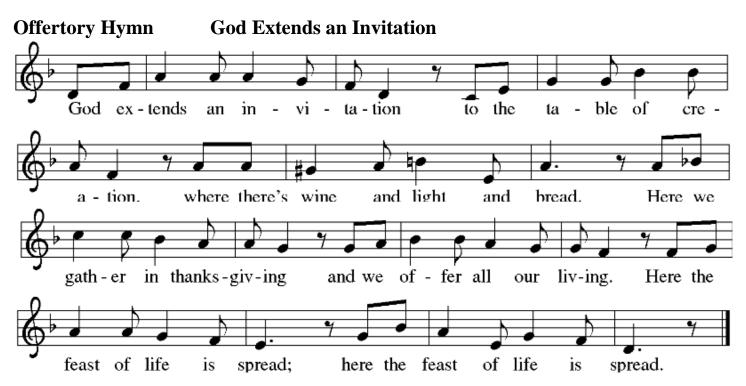
# II. Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

### 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**

8:30Yesu Kwetu ni Rafiki (What a Friend We Have in Jesus)Mark Burrows11:00Blessed is the ManCorelli/Stone



# 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.



### **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	Let Justice Flow like Streams	ELW 717
		Bulletin page15

### **Blessing**

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

### Dismissal

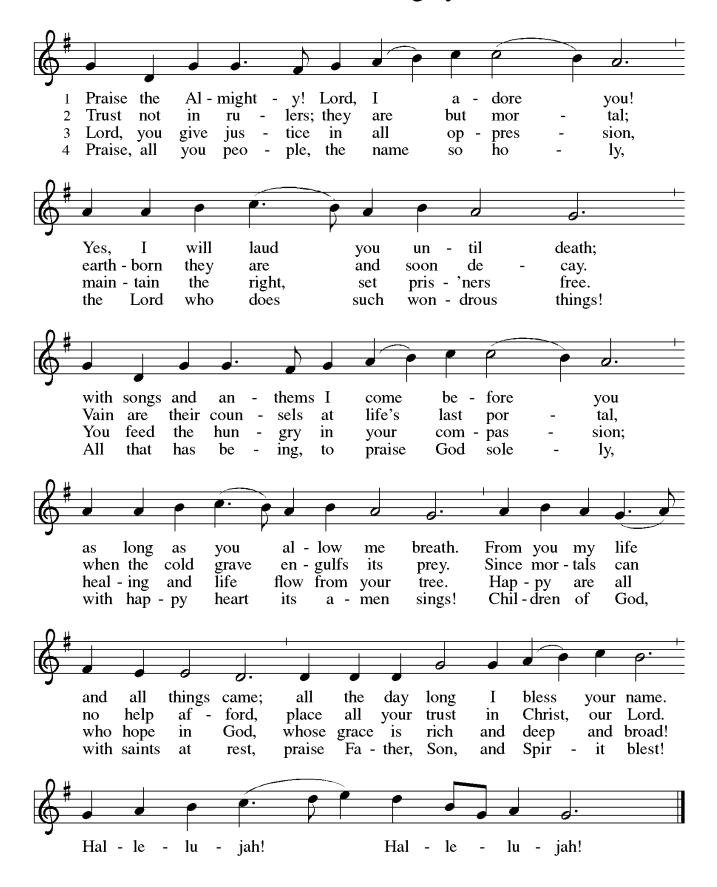
Go in peace. Live in hope. Thanks be to God.

#### Postlude

Light Dawns on a Weary World

Sherri Hansen

# Praise the Almighty!



Text: Johann D. Herrnschmidt, 1675–1723; tr. hymnal version Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, O MEINE SEELE, *Neuvermehrtes Christlich Seelenharpf*, Ansbach, 1665 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

# Light Dawns on a Weary World



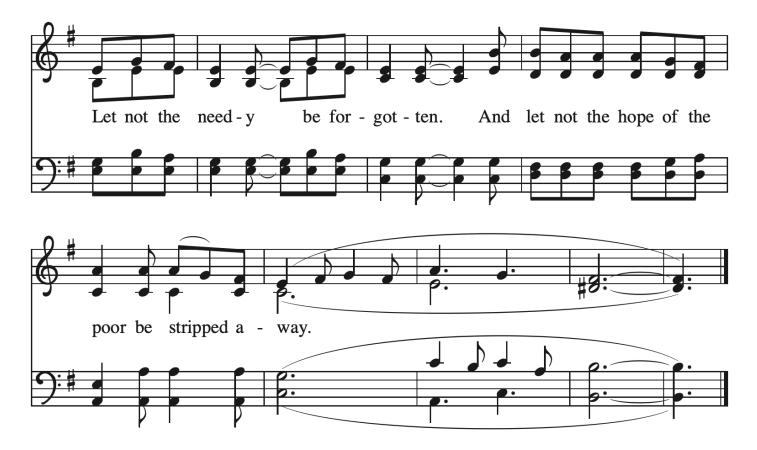
Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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# Jesus, the Very Thought of You



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878 Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876 Let Not the Needy Be Forgotten



Text: Bret Hesla, b. 1957 Music: SANCTUARIES BLOOM, Bret Hesla; arr. Tom Witt, b. 1957 Text and music © 2017 Bret Hesla, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Let Justice Flow like Streams



Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926 Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press.

# 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.

**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 Christopher Turner and Sonya Lim to the glory of God.

# **Upcoming**

**Bingo & Potluck.** It's been a while since we have had FUN together, SO...Sunday February 23 we will meet for food and fun. **We'll start with Bingo at 4:00PM followed by a potluck ~5:00PM**. Bring a dish to share and a white elephant prize for our BINGO game. It should just be something you have left around your house and can be for children, teenagers, or adults. <u>No Pub & Grub</u>. There will be no Pub & Grub this month due to the Book Study. See you in March!

<u>The preschool and church office</u> will be **closed February 17**<sup>th</sup> in observance of Presidents Day.

**National Cathedral Trip.** We are gauging interest in a trip to the National Cathedral in Washington DC for a tour in early May. Sign up on the bulletin insert to express your interest and get details as they are planned. Cost will be ~\$70, including bus, tour, and lunch.

<u>The Flower Chart for 2025</u> is posted in the display area of the Gathering Space. Please mark the date for which you would like to sponsor flowers! Sponsor sheets are in the tray below the chart!

Support our St. Stephen Preschool fund at our Shrove Tuesday PJs & Pancakes Supper Tuesday, March 4th from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$10.00 per person(children 2 and under are free) for fellowship and pancakes. Our Preschoolers invite you to join in their fun as they wear their PJs to have dinner! Can you help in the kitchen or with ticket sales? Please mark the green sheet if you are able to attend and if you are able to help.

**Gardening!** It's time to start thinking about getting into the garden again. The daffodils are starting to bud! We are always looking for more folks to join the team. We divided the number of volunteers into teams and assign weeks. On your team's week you are responsible for weeding, watering and dead heading the flowers beds around the church and the meditation garden. Many hands make for light work and being in the garden is great therapy! Let Chris Punchard know if you're interested in joining a team, or contact the office.

### Winter Carnival,

**THANK YOU** for supporting our Preschool! Our winter carnival was a tremendous success!



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

#### SUNDAY, Feb 16

- 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: Catechism Convo (Library)
- 10:00 AM Adult Ed.: What did we learn last week from VICPP?
- 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)
- 5:00 PM LSA Bible Study & Dinner (College Room)

#### MONDAY, Feb 17

#### **Office and Preschool Closed**

Serving Community of Faith Mission

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

7:00 PM Book Study "Killers of the Flower Moon" (Library/Conference Room)

#### TUESDAY, Feb 18

Serving Community of Faith Mission

1:30PM Book Study "Killers of the Flower Moon" (Library/Conference Room)

#### WEDNESDAY, Feb 19

- 8:55 AM Yoga (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 PM Chancel Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

#### THURSDAY, Feb 20

- 11:00 AMBulletin Review (Library/Conference room)
- 5:30 PM St. Stephen Ringers Rehearsal (worship space)

### FRIDAY, Feb 21

#### SATURDAY, Feb 22

- 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM Al-ANON Family Meeting (Gathering space)

#### SUNDAY, Feb 23

- 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.: SMCC Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:00 AM Faith Formation: Lesson/Music (Undercroft/Preschool Room)
- 10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
- 11:00 AM Worship Holy Communion (livestreamed on Facebook live)
- 4:00 PM Bingo and Potluck (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:00 PM LSA Bible Study & Dinner (College Room)

# Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer	
Altar Guild	
Audio-Visual Team	. (8:30) Beth Grant and Tim Judy (11:00) David Nelson
Bread Baker	Ursula Recktenwald
Cantors	
Communion Assistants	
Flower Delivery	Carol Wiers
Greeters/Hosts	
Lectors	
Pastor	Pastor Jon Nelson
Tellers	Jeanne Garrison and Linda Vonderheide
Ushers(8:30) Bill Dichtel a	and Tom Witt (11:00) Corey Knestrick and Glenn Joppa

# 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 BaptismsDoing Ministry in the WorldPastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)Doing Ministry in the WorldKaren Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.netHollie Jones – Parish Administrator (757-229-6688)MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.netJessica Kimball -Preschool Director (757-229-6688)Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.netPeninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (757-873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg<br/>on Thursdays)Doing Ministry in the World

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Light Dawns on a Weary World; Contributors: Sherri Hansen © 2016 Augsburg Fortress

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

# Feb 16, 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.

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# **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 are interested in the National Cathedral Trip, Name

Email/Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_ I will help with the March 4<sup>th</sup> Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner

I/we will attend the March 4<sup>th</sup> Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner