

# **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.



First Sunday in Lent March 9, 2025

Lectionary readings for this week:
<i>Monday:</i> 1 Chronicles 21:1-17; 1 John 2:1-6; Psalm 17
<i>Tuesday</i> : Zechariah 3:1-10 ;2 Peter 2:4-21; Psalm 17
Wednesday: Leviticus 5:1-13; Luke 17:1-4 ;Psalm 38
<i>Thursday:</i> Job 1:1-22; Luke 21:34—22:6; Psalm 17
<i>Friday</i> Genesis 14:17-24 ;Philippians 3:17-20; Psalm 27
Saturday: Psalm 118:26-29 ;Matthew 23:37-39; Psalm 27
Next Sunday's Lessons: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27 (5); Philippians 3:17-4:1;
Luke 13:31-35

*Join your prayers for healing* with God's desires for Kristin Carter, Bob & Ginny Cummings, Sharon Jacobs, Donna Kittelson, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Helen Nelsen, Paul Reier and George & Linda Vonderheide.

<u>Pray for those unable to come to worship</u>: Ailene Bartlett, Ed Brown, Bob and Angie Groom, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.

## **Pray for those grieving:** The friends and family of Martin & Margaret Bleck.

*Pray for these loved ones of our congregation*: Susan, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, Gary Baumgarten, Robi Bayard, June Brantley, 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, 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, Elaine Lane, Judy Leister, 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, 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.

## *First Sunday in Lent* I. Gathering: *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

#### Welcome

Centering MusicAs Your Spirit in the DesertHarold Stover

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.**Amen.** 

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection. Compassionate One, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide

to welcome the wandering ones home.

In + Christ your sins are forgiven.

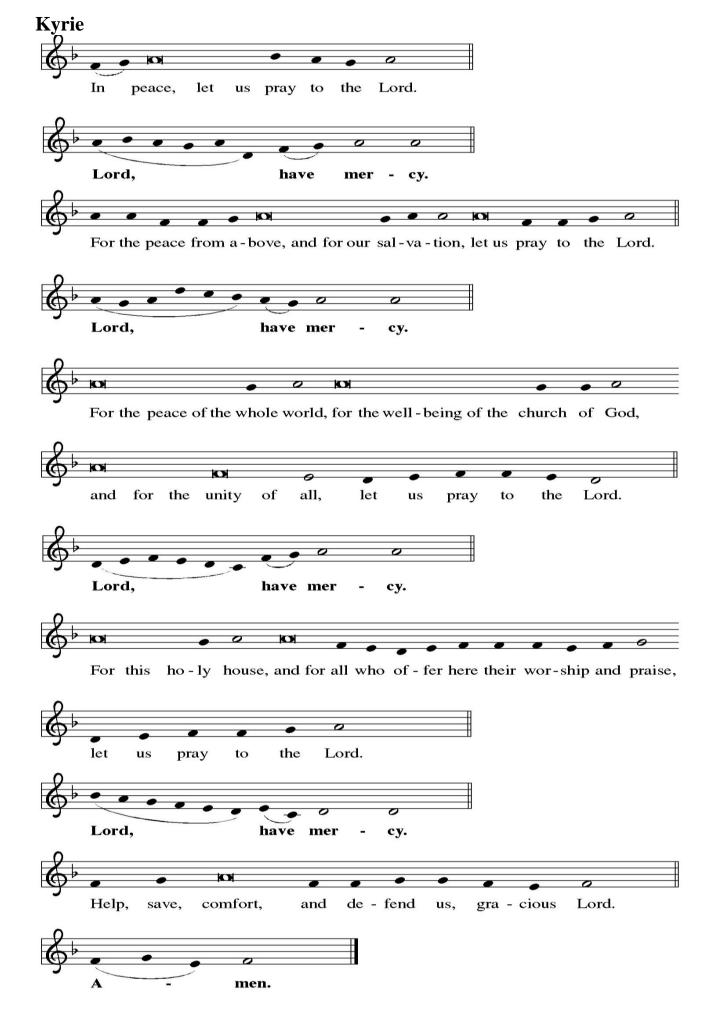
You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

Gathering Song As Your Spirit in the Desert

ACS 923 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.** 



## **Prayer of the Day**

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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

#### First Reading

#### **Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

<sup>1</sup>When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup> you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.<sup>3</sup> You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." <sup>4</sup> When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup> you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup> When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup> we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God.<sup>11</sup> Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

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





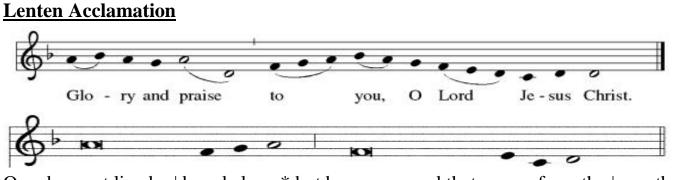
## Second Reading

**Romans 10:8b-13** 

*Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.* 

<sup>8b</sup> "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup> because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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



One does not live by | bread alone,\* but by every word that comes from the | mouth of God. (Matt. 4:4)

## Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God." Response after announcement of the Gospel: "Glory to you, O Lord."

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" <sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>9</sup> Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'<sup>11</sup> and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

Sermon	What do we worship? <i>Silence for prayer and reflection.</i>	Pastor Jon Nelson
Hymn of the Day	O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days	ELW 319 Bulletin page 12

Affirming Our Faith (20th century South African creed)

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom.

We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good. We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever. One day all tears will be wiped away; the lamb will lie down with the lion, and justice will roll down like a mighty stream.

True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired, they are assured and guaranteed in Christ. **This is our faith. This is our hope. Amen.** 

#### **Prayers**

Each petition concludes, "God, in your mercy," Response: "receive 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.

<b>Offering Music</b>	8:30 I Want Jesus To Walk with Me	David Cherwien
	11:00 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me	Tom Shelton
	Soloist: Terri Larsen, Clarinet: Erika Cave	

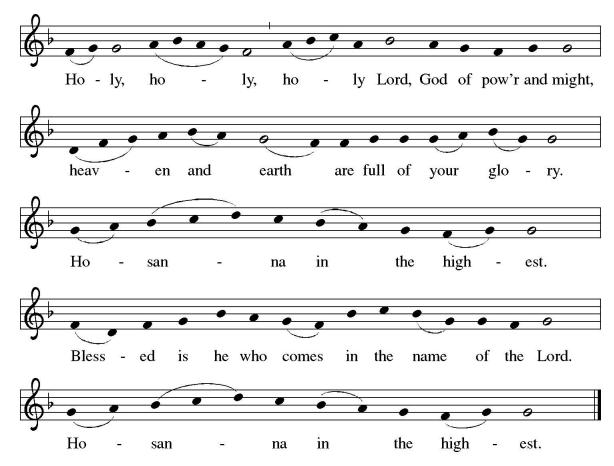
## **Offertory Prayer**

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.** 

## The Great Thanksgiving

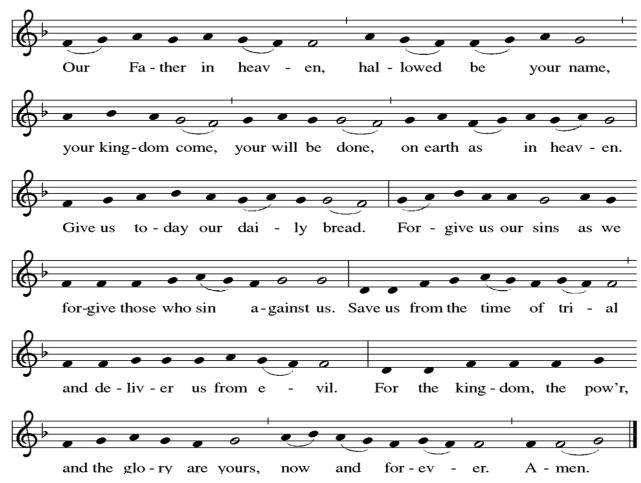
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** 

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



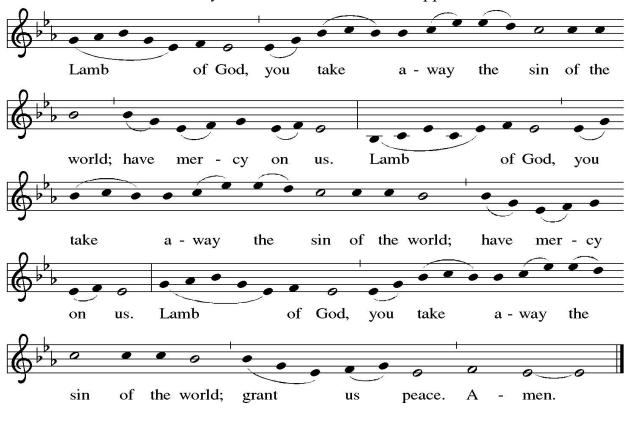
#### **Words of Institution**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**



#### **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** When It Seems the Day Will End

ACS 1034 Bulletin page 13

## **Table Blessing**

## **Prayer after Communion**

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

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

Sending Hymn	Bless Now, O God, the Journey	ELW 326
		Bulletin pages 14

#### **Blessing**

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever. Amen.

#### Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. Thanks be to God.

Postlude	Bless Now, O God, the Journey	Walter L. Pelz
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# As Your Spirit in the Desert



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Music: ROSEVILLE, Michael D. Costello, b. 1979 Text © 2012 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress Music © 2015 Augsburg Fortress

# O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

When it Seems the Day Will End



Text: Justin Rimbo, b. 1980 Music: HUMBLE WALK, Justin Rimbo Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

## Bless Now, O God, the Journey



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent. Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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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.

**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

<u>Flowers this morning</u> are given by Susan Bosworth in thankfulness for friends, family, and our St. Stephen Lutheran Church community.

<u>Faith in Action</u> will be here today with information in the gathering space and presenting between services

**<u>HVAC</u>**: Please keep in mind that 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**

## Wednesday evenings in Lent

at St. Stephen: 5:30 PM – Soup supper in the Fellowship Hall

- **Sign up** to bring soup and/or bread on the poster in the Gathering Space!
- 6:30 PM: Lenten Midweek Service. "The 5 Senses"
- \* March 12- Sight
- March 19- Sound
- \* March 26- Scent
- \* April 2- Touch
- April 9- Taste

<u>Maundy Thursday</u> : 6:30 PM at St. Stephen: Pastor Gerry Johnson will preach

<u>Good Friday: 6:30 PM</u> at Our Saviors: Pastor Jon Nelson will Preach

Easter Vigil: 8:00PM at St. Stephen

<u>Liberation Theology reading Group.</u> Starting in March we will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:00PM to discuss a reading from Liberation Theology. We will begin by gathering on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> ready to discuss Part One of "A Theology of Liberation" by Gustavo Gutierrez (available to check out from openlibrary.org). For an email reminder, sign up on the insert.

<u>Guest Preacher:</u> We welcome **Bishop Milton** to the pulpit on March 16<sup>th</sup>. We are very excited to have her as a guest Preacher.

<u>Avalon</u> will be here between services on April  $6^{th}$  to talk about what they do and how you can help.

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

#### SUNDAY, March 9

- 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 Convo (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)
- 5:00 PM LSA Bible Study & Dinner (College Room)

#### MONDAY, March 10

- **10:00 PM** Staff meeting (Pastor Office)
- 1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)
- 3:30PM Finance Committee (Library/Conference room)

#### **TUESDAY, March 11**

- 3:30PM EFC meeting (Library/Conference Room)
- 7:00 PM Council Meeting( Library/Conference Room)

#### WEDNESDAY, March 12

- 8:55 AM Yoga (LSA Room)
- 5:30 PM Soup and Bread Supper (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 PM "Sight" Lenten Service (Worship Space)
- 7:00 PM Chancel Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

#### THURSDAY, March 13

- 11:00 AMBulletin Review (Library/Conference room)
- 1:30PM Women's Study Group (Library/Conference room)
- 5:30PM Handbell Practice (Worship Space)
- 6:00 PM Liberation Theology reading group (Library/Conference Room)
- 7:00PM Women's Study Group (Library/Conference room)

#### FRIDAY, March 14

#### SATURDAY, March 15

- 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/Conference Room)
- 9-12 PM Al-ANON Family Meeting (Fellowship Hall )

#### SUNDAY, March 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/Adult Ed.: Catechism Convo (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)
- 5:00 PM LSA Bible Study & Dinner (College Room)

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Acolyte/Crucifer	
Altar Guild	
Audio-Visual Team	
	(11:00) Tobias Janke and Liam Janke
Cantors	
Communion Assistants	
Flower Delivery	Diane McCurry
Greeters/Hosts	(8:30) Paul & Rita Kristiansen (11:00) Susan Kauffman
Lectors	
Pastor	
Tellers	Jane deSolms, Susan Britcher and Jim Larsen
Ushers (8:30) Bill Dich	tel and Tom Witt (11:00) Glenn Joppa and Corey Knestrick

## Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today



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# St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

www.saintstephenlutheran.net

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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)Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.netKaren 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 ThursdayDoing Ministry in the World

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

March 9, 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.

# **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 am interested in joining a twice-monthly Liberation Theology reading group

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email: