

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.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 16, 2024

For Your Prayers -June 17-23, 2024

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Ezekiel 31:1-12 Galatians 6:11-18 Psalm 52

Tuesday: Jeremiah 21:11-14 Revelation 21:22—22:5 Psalm 52

Wednesday: Jeremiah 22:1-9 Luke 6:43-45 Psalm 52

Thursday: Job 29:1-20 Acts 20:1-16 Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 *Friday* Job 29:21—30:15 Acts 21:1-16 Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 *Saturday*: Job 37:1-13 Luke 21:25-28 Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

Next Sunday's Lessons Job 38:1-11 Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 (29) 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

<u>Join your prayers for healing</u> with God's desires for Trudi Arnold, Karen Bailey, Ed Brown, Steve Bushman, Kristin Carter, Steve Grant, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Marilyn Johnson, Jim Mayfield, and Helen Nelsen

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

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Bob Alt, Donald and Carol Baum, Rose Baumgarten, John Black, Sally Blackburn, Linda Bonfiglio, Mary Bloom, Amy Carl, Karin Cavanaugh, Judy Craun, Sophia Czajkowski, Judy Drezek, Ginny Mauney Fox, Joanne Gaskins and family, Joel Gillespie, Joan and Frank Goodhart, Deanna Harbison, Nick Havola, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Char Henry, Lisa Hill, Jaxon Ireland, Linda Jackson, The Jacobs Family, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Marnah Lund, Trish and Matthew Macerelli, Laura Margolin, Doug Mayes, Jack Mayfield, The Keith Meins family, Liz Montalvo, Brian Moore, Becky Murphy, Ed Moninger, Bob Myers, Silvana Oderisi, Denise Ogborn, Lori Ogborn, Paula Rega, Kathy Reynolds, Clarice Rohling, Marci Ries, Sharon Rogers, Betty Roth, Kurtis Schultz, Lou Schuster, Inge Seiter, Kelsey Slay, Vasili Soultoukis, Chad Strausbaugh, Charley Underdahl, and Caleb Winig.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

Centering Music

God of Grace

Paul Manz

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

the God of manna,

the God of miracles.

the God of mercy. Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin. Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ from the ways

of the world in which we live.

We turn to our own understanding

rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life

and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,

you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,

there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, + the bread of life,

you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

God of Grace

ELW 705 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



Prayer of the Day

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

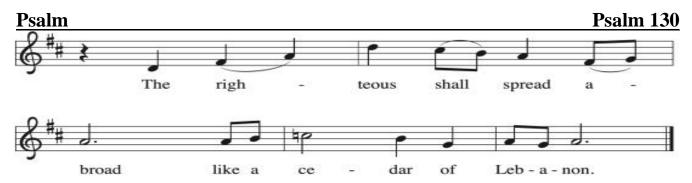
First Reading Ezekiel 17:22-24

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

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



¹It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;

2to herald your love in the morning and your faithful-ness at night;

³on the psaltery, and | on the lyre, and to the melody | of the harp.

⁴For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD; and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands. *Refrain*

¹²The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.

13Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD shall flourish in the courts | of our God;

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit [|] in old age; they shall be [|] green and succulent;

15that they may show how up- | right the LORD is, my rock, in whom there is | no injustice. *Refrain*

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

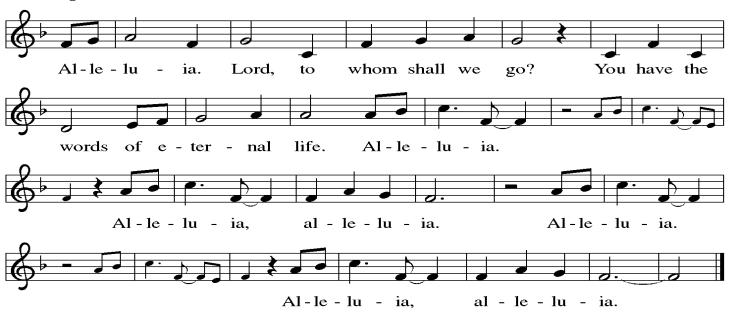
Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[11Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. ¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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





Gospel Mark 4:26-34

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

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

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground," and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

Sermon Kin-dom not Kingdom Pastor Jon O Nelson *Silence for prayer and reflection.*

Hymn of the Day God of the Fertile Fields

ACS 1063
Bulletin page 13

Prayers

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

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace (hug, handshake, fist bump, peace sign), and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

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

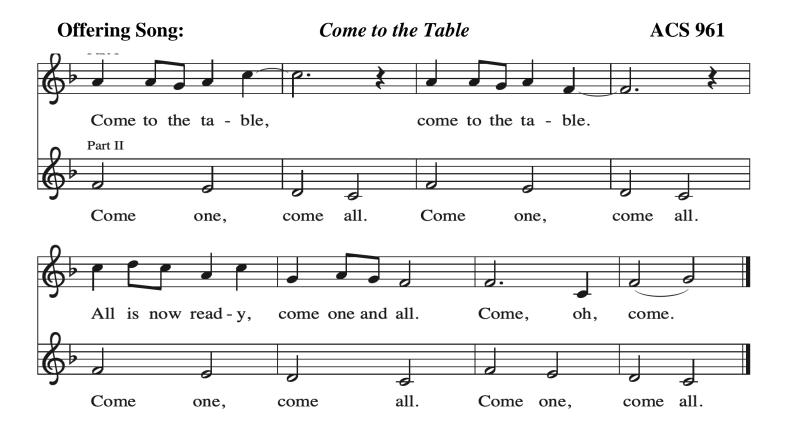
Offering

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 of Music

Thy Holy Wings

John Ferguson



Offertory Prayer

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

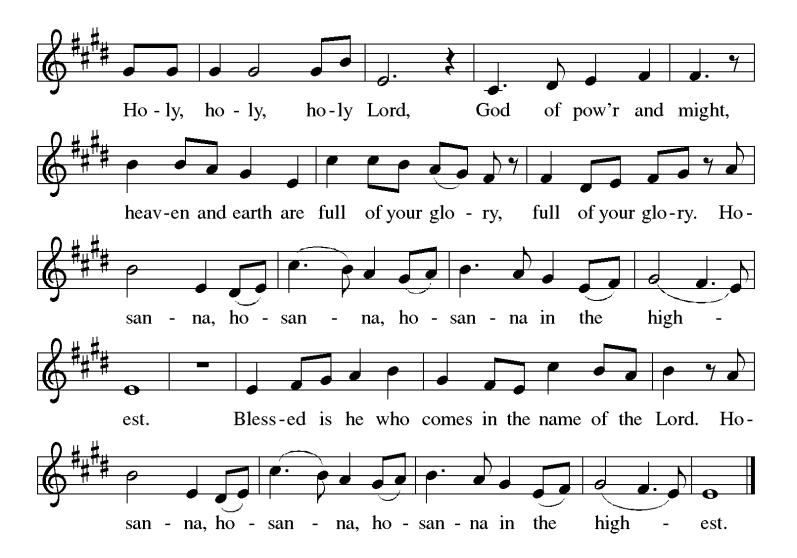
The Great Thanksgiving

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...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



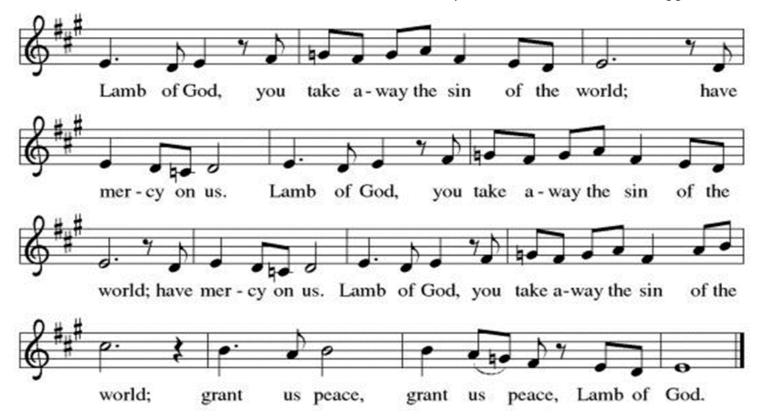
Words of Institution

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

As Rain from the Clouds

ELW 508 Bulletin Page 14 &15

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

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

Sending Hymn

Sent Forth by Gods Blessing

ELW 547 Bulletin page16

Blessing

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

→ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Postlude Trumpet Tune I Harald Rohlig

Thank you to Ina Berkey for sharing her talents with us while Karen is away.

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Thy Holy Wings; Contributors: John Ferguson
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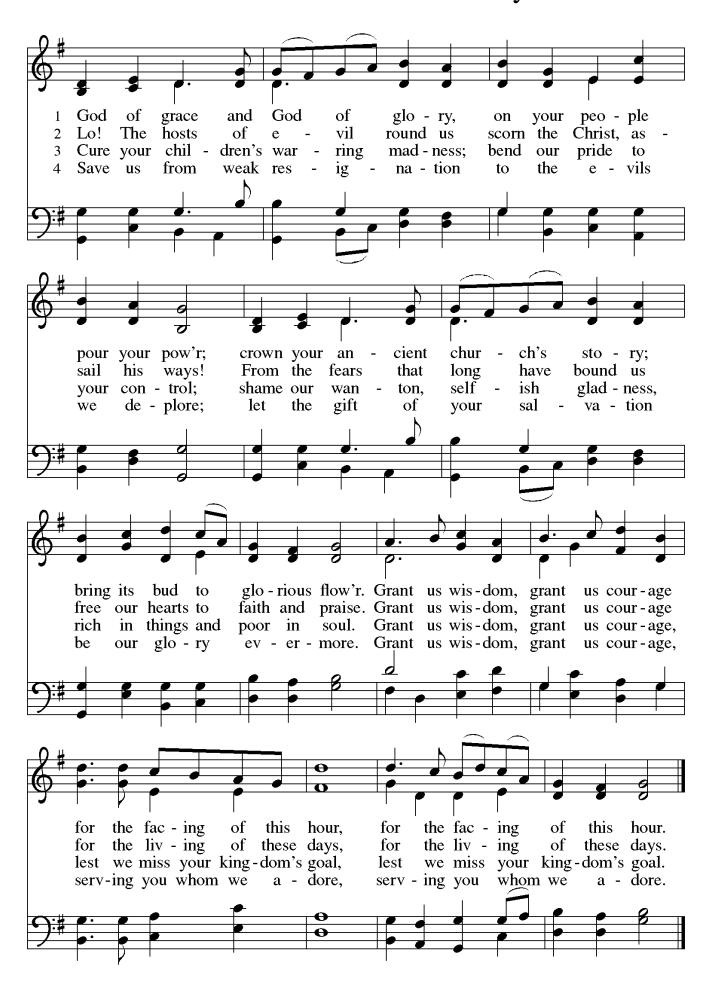
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God of Grace and God of Glory



God of the Fertile Fields



Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society, admin Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

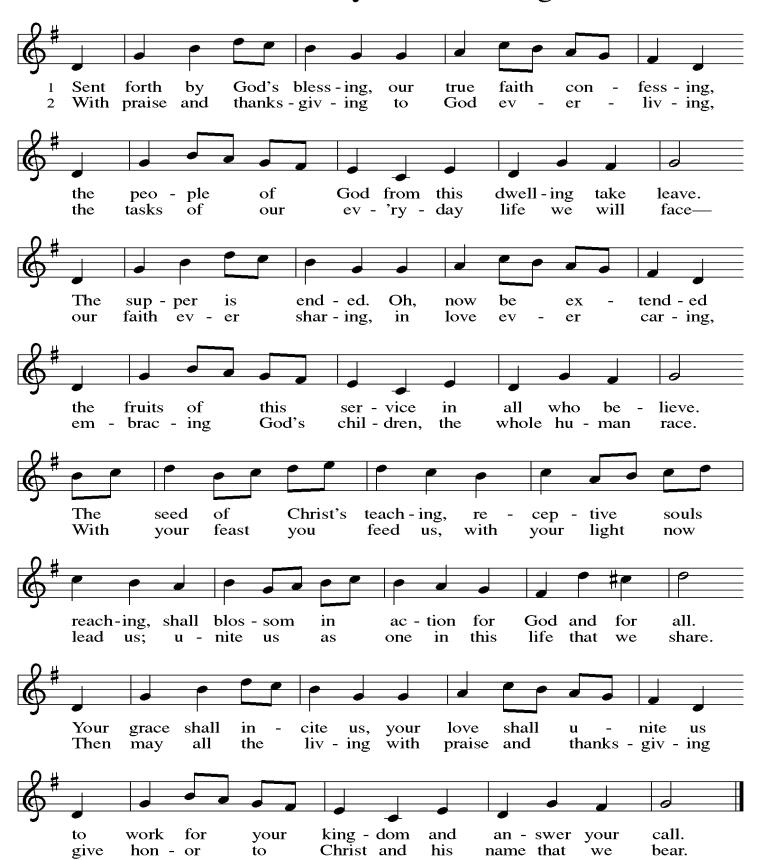
As Rain from the Clouds





Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939
Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812–1896; arr. hymnal version
Text © 1983, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
Text © 1964 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All rights reserved.

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 Amy and Brian Bergh in memory of Howard and Cora's Bergh's Anniversary

<u>June Congregational Meeting:</u>. We will hold our June business meeting today Sunday, **June 16**th in the fellowship hall following service.

Upcoming

<u>Pastor Jon will be ot of town June 18-July 4</u>, pastoral coverage will be provided by Rev. Harvey Nelson and Rev. Jim Larsen. Please contact the church office if you have need of pastoral care.

VSWO 2024 Call to Convention. The 2024 Annual VSWO (Virginia Synodical Women's Organization) Convention/Gathering will be at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church-Norge, July 26-27, 2024. There will be three Awareness Sessions, an activity for non-Voting Members, fun, fellowship and a little business. The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton, bishop of the Virginia Synod will deliver the opening worship sermon and bring greetings from the Synod Office. The cost for both days is \$100, and the cost for one day participation is \$70. Grants are available. Please contact Pam Buckley (GuamMom16@aol.com/757.869.3373) for more information or contact info@vswo.org.

2024 SUPER SCHOOL SNEAKERS for GROVE! This is the 19th year that St. Stephen members have the purpose-filled opportunity to provide sneakers for Grove community students so they can start school this fall in style! If you like to shop, please buy GIRLS sneakers in any size 6-11 or BOYS sneakers any size 6-12, including half sizes for both! Deliver them to the Gathering Space by Sunday, July 28th, and we will take them to Grove. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, please make the check out to St. Stephen Lutheran Church with SHOES FOR GROVE on the memo line. Cash is also accepted in an envelope marked SHOES FOR GROVE. Put envelopes with checks or cash in the offering plate or in the black lockable mailbox outside the church by July 28 the as well, and Grove will use our monetary donations to purchase sizes that are still needed. If you have any questions, please call Jim Ivey at 757-608-8990 or Nancy Egloff at 757-293-8547. The Social Ministry Coordinating Committee.

From His Hands and Meals on Wheels "Summer Meals for Kids 2024" needs our help each Tuesday this Summer from June 18th through August 20th to help prepare lunches for local children. It is estimated that 300 lunches per day will be prepared between 8:30AM and 10:30 am at the WISC (Williamsburg Indoor Sports Complex), 5700 Warhill Trail. Please review the available slots on the SignUpGenuis link to

Make Sandwiches, Pack Lunches, or Bake Cookies (deliver cookies between 8AM and 11AM), and if you can, just add the link to your web browser to sign into the SignUpGenuis. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Ivey, 757-608-8990, or Randy Punchard, 757-870-8410.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4AAAA82DAAF85-49384288-summer#/

St. Stephen Calendar – June 16th – 23rd, 2024

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

SUNDAY, June 16 ~ Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)

9:45 AM Worship – Holy Communion (livestreamed on our YouTube channel)

11:15 AM Congregational Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

MONDAY, June 17

4:00PM Stephen Ministry Meeting (Library/Conference room)

TUESDAY, June 18

10:00 AM Kitchen Cleaning

7:00 PM Preschool Committee Meeting (Library/Conference room)

WEDNESDAY, June 19

Office will be closed in observance of Juneteenth

9:00 AM Kitchen Cleaning

9:00 AM YOGA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, June 20

FRIDAY, June 21

SATURDAY, June 22

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

SUNDAY, June 23~ Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00AM Coffee and Fellowship (Gathering Space)

9:45 AM Worship – Holy Communion (livestreamed on our YouTube channel)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer	David Nelson
Altar Guild	Karen Arledge
Audio-Visual Team	Beth Grant and Doug Moore
Bread Baker	Pat Fretz
Cantor	Karen Shoberg
Communion Assistants	Sandy Johnson and David Nelson
Flower Delivery	Karen Nester
Greeters/Hosts	Susan Kauffman
Lectors	
	Pastor Jon O Nelson
Tellers	Jeanne Garrison, Sandy Croushore
Ushers	······································

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 (229-6688)	Office@saintstephenlutheran.net
Jessica Kimball -Preschool Director (229-6688)	Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net
Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (873-22)	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.

June 16, 2024

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 Parish Nurse to contact me
Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, i necessary.

Prayer Requests

Name:	
Please remove from prayer concerns:	
Name:	