

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.



Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Exodus 40:1-15 ;Hebrews 10:19-25 ;Psalm 20 *Tuesday*: Judges 9:7-15 ;1 John 2:18-28 ;Psalm 20 *Wednesday:* Habakkuk 3:2-15 ;Luke 18:31-34 ;Psalm 20 *Thursday:* Isaiah 53:10-12 ;Hebrews 2:1-9 ;Psalm 31:9-16 *Friday:* Isaiah 54:9-10 ;Hebrews 2:10-18 ;Psalm 31:9-16 *Saturday*: Leviticus 23:1-8 ;Luke 22:1-13 ;Psalm 31:9-16 *Next Sunday's Lessons:* Isaiah 50:4-9a;Psalm 31:9-16 (5);Philippians 2:5-11;Luke 19:28-40

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for Susan Britcher, Ellen Bushman, Kristin Carter, Bob & Ginny Cummings, Sharon Jacobs, Donna Kittelson, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Helen Nelsen, and George Vonderheide.

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

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Susan, Randy Altona, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, Gary Baumgarten, Robi Bayard, June Brantley, Sue Havola Berhs, 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, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Bradley, Kim, Joan and Laurie Heintzelman, Lisa Hill, Nancy Hodge, Jaxon Ireland, Lynn Isenburg, Claudia Jacobik, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Jenn Kramer, Elaine Lane, 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, Pamela Sharp, Vasili Soultoukis, Kenneth & Laura Spencer, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, George and Jewel Thomas, Charley Underdahl, Brenda Webster, Penny Weld, Pat Whelan, Caleb Winig, and Elaine Wrich.

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

Welcome

Centering MusicBe Thou My VisionIrish Folk Tune, Arr. Dale WoodConfession 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 We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522 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



Prayer of the Day

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, 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

Isaiah 43:16-21

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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



¹When the LORD restored the for-[|] tunes of Zion,

then were we like | those who dream.

² Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great | things for them."

- ³ The LORD has done great [|] things for us, and we are [|] glad indeed.
- ⁴ Restore our for-¹ tunes, O LORD, like the watercourses ¹ of the Negeb. R
- ⁵ Those who | sowed with tears
 - will reap with | songs of joy.
- ⁶ Those who go out weeping, carry-¹ ing the seed, will come again with joy, shoulder-¹ ing their sheaves. R

Second Reading

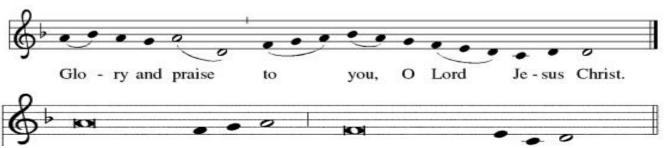
Philippians 3:4b-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

[Paul writes:]^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Lenten Acclamation



Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what | lies ahead,* I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God | in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 3:13-14)

Gospel

John 12:1-8

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial. Response after announcement of the Gospel: "Glory to you, O Lord."

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." *Response at the conclusion of the Gospel: "Praise to you, O Christ."*

Silence for prayer and reflection.

Hymn of the Day

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723 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.

Offering Music	Just a Closer Walk North American trad. arr. Ruth Elaine Schram
	Charlie Tavolato, Baritone

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.**

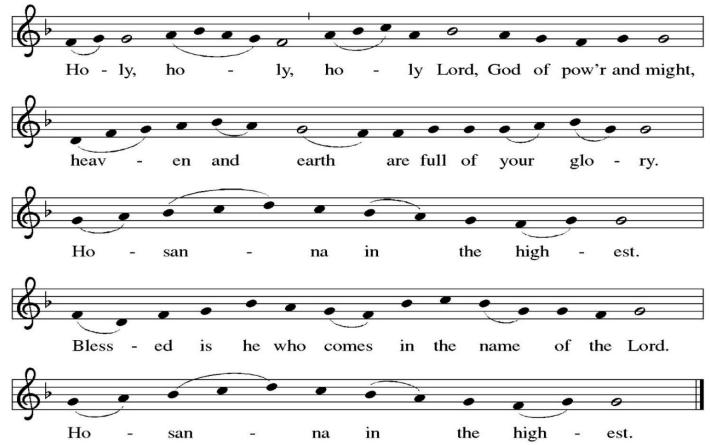
The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

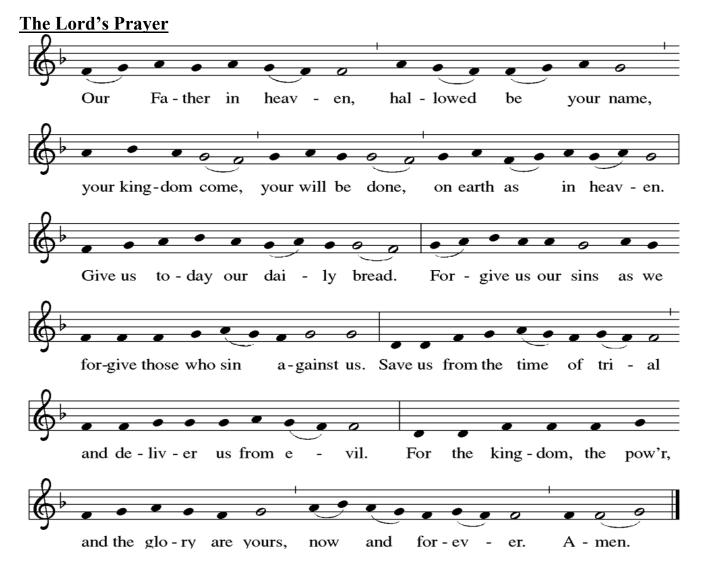
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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:

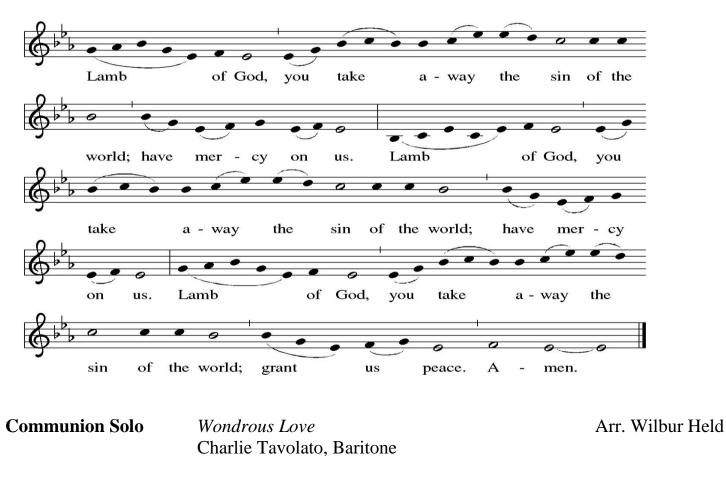


Words of Institution



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 Lift High the Cross

ELW 660 Bulletin page 14

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	A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	ELW 504
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Bulletin pages 15

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.

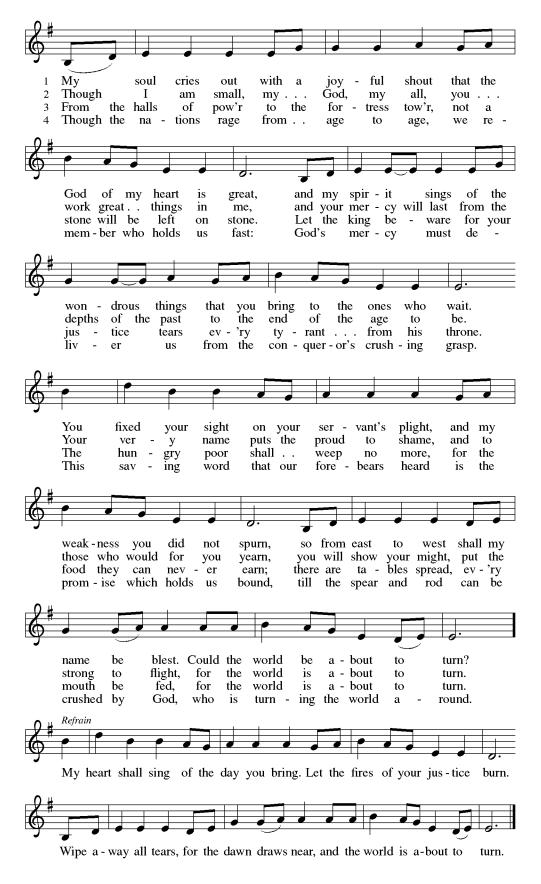
Postlude	Ein feste Burg is unser Gott	Johann Gottfried Walther
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As We Gather at Your Table



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944 Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Canticle of the Turning

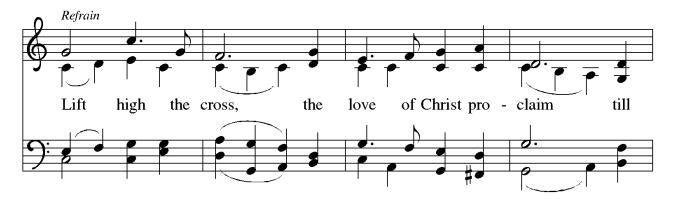


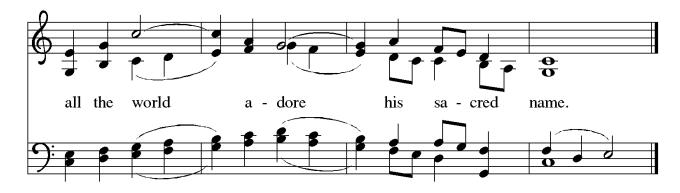
Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

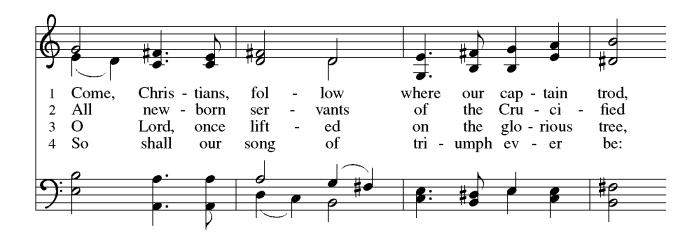
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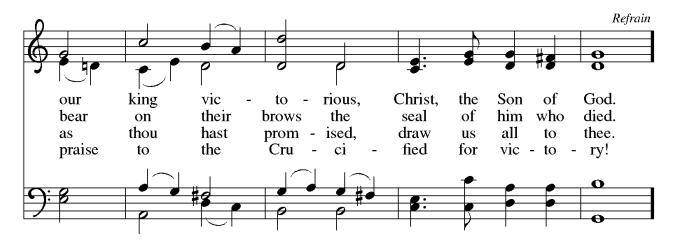
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Lift High the Cross









Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947 Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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 Corey Knestrick in honor of Lynn Knestrick's birthday.

<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. The Heat and Air is off in the main building and preschool.

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

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"
- * April 9- Taste

Maundy Thursday: 6:30 PM at St. Stephen: Pastor Gerry Johnson will preach Good Friday: 6:30 PM at Our Saviour's:

Pastor Jon Nelson will Preach

Easter Vigil: 8:00PM at St. Stephen

Refugee Family Sponsorship. As can often happen in these situations, there was a long stretch of no action, followed by a sudden burst of it! We are excited that one portion of the family we have been trying to help out of Afghanistan has made it to the US. We know the first priority will be housing, quickly followed by furniture, groceries, diapers, and clothing. Please keep an eye out for ways you can help!

<u>**Pastor Jon**</u> is out of town and will be back **April 12th**. If you are in need of pastor care please contact Jim Larsen.

The April Women's Monthly Bible Study has been rescheduled to Thursday, April 24 (as the HVAC crane will be at the church on 4/10). The afternoon group will meet at 1:00 pm in the Library, and the evening group will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are looking forward to our time together.

Service Ministry Needs Help: We are in need of people who would be interested in helping with the Greeter ministry. The biggest ask in this ministry is to arrive about 30 minutes prior to the start of the service. You would then stand at the door with your name tag on and greet people as they enter the church. If you are not a handshaker, you can bump fists or simple raise your hand to say "Hi, Good Morning, or Welcome". Our greatest need is at the 11:00 am service. I ask that your prayerfully consider donating a small amount of time to this very important ministry. If interested, contact Diana Tiller-Dichtel at 757-232-5924 or email dptiller221@gmail.com.

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

SUNDAY, April 6 (LSA Sunday)

- 8:00 AM Matins choir warm up (Worship Space)
- 8:30 AM Worship Holy Communion (livestreamed on our YouTube channel)
- 9:30 AM Matins/Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 10:00 AM Faith Formation (Preschool Room)
- 10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
- 11:00 AM Worship Holy Communion (livestreamed on Facebook live)
- 6:00 PM Dinner (College Room)

MONDAY, April 7

TUESDAY, April 8

WEDNESDAY, April 9

- 6:30 PM "Taste" Lenten Service (Worship Space)
- 7:00 PM Chancel Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, April 10

Church building closed

FRIDAY, April 11

3:30 PM St. Stephen Ringers Handbell Rehearsal

SATURDAY, April 12

- 1:00 PM Faith Formation Music Practice
- 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/Conference Room)
- 5:30 PM Al-ANON F Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, April 13 Palm Sunday

- 7:45 AM St. Stephen Ringers Warm up
- 8:00 AM Matins choir Warm up (Worship Space)
- 8:30 AM Worship Holy Communion (livestreamed on our YouTube channel)
- 9:30 AM Matins/Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
- 10:00 AM Faith Formation (Preschool room)
- 10:30 AM Chancel Choir Warm-up (Worship Space)
- 11:00 AM Worship Holy Communion (livestreamed on Facebook live)
- 6:00 PM Dinner (College Room)

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer	
-	
Altar Guild	
	(11:00) Nancy Egloff and Heidi Flatin
	(8:30) Steve & Beth Grant (11:00) Mike Morgan
Bread Baker	Jennifer Dabel
Cantors	
Communion Assistants	(8:30) Ellie O'Neill & Mia Ryan
	(11:00) Ellie O'Neill & Mia Ryan
-	
Lectors	Nathaniel Ingle, Ellie O'Neill
	Jared Dewey
Presider	
	ane Gingerich, Ursula Recktenwald and Russ White
Ushers(8:30) Brian Agor and	JR Lyons (11:00) Corey Knestrick and 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 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
on ThursdayDoing Ministry in the World

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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.

April 6, 2025

or guests and members with changes: ddress (Home)
ity/State Zip elephone # -Mail Address uests Only: belong to
elephone # -Mail Address uests Only: belong to
-Mail Address uests Only: belong to
belong to
belong to
hurch Address
lease check as many as pertain:
Member
First time guest
<pre> Regular guest Guest (out of town)</pre>
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 **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: _____

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

April 6, 2025

Name:			 	
For guests and membe	s with change	es:		
Address (Home)				
City/State	Zip			
Telephone #				
E-Mail Address				
Guests Only: I belong to				
Church Address				
Church Address				
Church Address Please check as many as				
Please check as many as				
Please check as many as Member				
Please check as many as Member First time guest				
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Please check as many as Member First time guest Regular guest Guest (out of towr	pertain:			
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	pertain:) & Mary ch home th pastor			

Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if necessary.

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Name:
Please remove from prayer concerns:
Name:

I/We need a name tag: