

## **Our Mission Statement**

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community who worship  
God in Christ, nurture people growing in faith,  
serve others with acceptance and love,  
invite people to share the joy of the Spirit.

## **Reconciling in Christ Statement**

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.  
We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race  
or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity,  
gender expression, or relationship status.  
We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or  
mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances,  
or anything that too often divides us.  
Our unity is in Christ.

### **St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.**

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Web Address: [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)  
Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. Noon—5:00 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's  
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp  
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp  
Music Directors: Gary Roberts  
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp  
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens  
Custodian: John Hopping

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

# Reformation Sunday

October 31, 2021

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians and faiths from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners & questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate & sorrow, rejoice & recover. This is a place where lives are made new.

*Welcome on this GLORIOUS day!*

Instructions: Please fill out the enclosed orange "Worship Slip" and place it in the offering plate with your offering, as a sign of thanksgiving for all of God's blessings.

## Prelude

## The Gathering

### \*Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity †,  
the one who fashions us,  
The one who heals us,  
The one who reforms us again and again.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

P: Source of all life,

**C: We confess that we have not allowed**

**Your grace to set us free.**

**We fear that we are not good enough.**

**We hear your word of love freely given to us,**

**Yet we expect others to earn it.**

The Altar Flowers are given  
by Paul & Connie Cunningham  
To the Glory of God

## Upcoming Events:

October Benevolence Offering = Child Development Center

Nov. 2	Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
Nov. 3	Women's Café Group 6:30 pm
Nov. 4	Bible Study 11:00 & 7:30 pm (Zoom)
Nov. 6	All Saints Saturday Memorial Service 11:00 am
Nov. 9	Church Council 6:30 pm
Nov. 15	`Embroider's Guild 7:00 pm
Nov. 17	Women's Café Group 6:30 pm
Nov. 22	Child Development Board 11:15 am
Nov. 23	Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 (sign up narthex)

**Pastor's Office Hours Wed & Thurs. 10:00 to 1:00**

## **October Special Offering**

### **St. Stephen's Child Development Center**

#### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

**SHORT TERM:** Tyler Slay, Family of Rick Oldfield, Family of Ron Buswell, Family of Edna Lindquist, Chris & Patty, Gaye Cornell, Harriet Edsall, Joe & Ali, Dorothy, Laura, Gerardo's Family, Zachary Alvarado, Family of Jennifer Deconde Borgardt, Family of Jean Petersen, Family of Betty Kievlan, Jo Ann, Bobbie Erickson, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Jane Davis, Kirsten Skiles, Eugene Gross, Healthcare workers, teachers, Jane, Nancy, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Kent, Donna, Betsy, Frank Giammona, Heather, Kevin, Vanessa, Rose, Sam, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Aaron Johnson, Lorraine Chavez, Lora Schraft Poulson, Kayla, Don, Lina, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Miller, Kyle, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family.

**LONG TERM:** Jan Wagner, The Sanders Family, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, John B., Michelle, Josh, CJ, Jeff Tarantino, Susan Anderson, Richard C., Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Karin, Will, Chris, Pat Hubbard, Cathy, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Rev. Jack Zoellner, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.



We continue indoor, in-person, worship

**EVERY SUNDAY at 10 a.m.**

(Subject to County Health Dept. Rules)

Protocols: Masked at all times, fans at doors, pre-sealed communion, 6ft. distanced, and peace gestures only

We turn the church inward,  
Rather than moving it outward.  
Forgive us. Stir us.  
Reform us to be a church powered by love,  
Willing to speak for what is right,  
Act for what is just,  
And seek the healing of your whole creation.  
Amen.

P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us  
And to empower our lives in the world.  
Our sins are forgiven,  
† God's love is unconditional,  
And we are raised up as God's people  
Who will always be made new,  
In the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

#### **\*Opening Hymn**

**"What is This Place"**

Red #524

**What is this place where we are meeting?  
Only a house, the earth it's floor.  
Walls and a roof sheltering people,  
windows for light, an open door.  
Yet it becomes a body that lives  
when we are gathered here,  
and know our God is near.**

**Words from afar, stars that are falling,  
Sparks that are sown in us like seed:  
Names for our God, dreams, signs and wonders  
sent from the past are all we need.  
We in this place remember and speak  
again what we have heard:  
God's free redeeming word.**

**And we accept bread at this table,  
Broken and shared, a living sign.  
Here in this world, dying and living,  
We are each other's bread and wine.  
This is the place where we can receive  
What we need to increase:  
Our justice and God's peace.** 3

### Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you**

### \*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray: .... now and forever.

Celebrate p.1

**C: Amen.**

## **The Word of God**

First Reading                  Jeremiah 31:31-34                  Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm (chant responsively)      Psalm 46:7                  Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading                  Romans 3:19-28                  Celebrate pg. 3

\*Gospel Acclamation                  "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks"  
WOV #671 vs. 2

### **REFRAIN**

**Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth:**

**Jesus has died and has risen.          REFRAIN**

\*Gospel Reading                  John 8:31-36                  Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John the 8th chapter.

**C: Glory to you. O God**

*(The Gospel is read)*

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**No strength of ours can match his might!  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
Whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.**

**Though hordes of devils fill the land  
All threat'ning to devour us,  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
They cannot overpower us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
In battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.**

**God's Word forever shall abide,  
No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God himself fights by our side  
With weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away,  
They cannot win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever!**

### \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Sound the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

Gary Roberts

### Serving today

Ushers: Steven Hendrickson

Reader:

\*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion from Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in God's grace now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

\*Post Communion Prayer

P: Holy and compassionate God,  
In bread and wine you give us gifts  
That form us to be humble and courageous.  
May your words come to life  
In our serving and in our witness,  
That we might speak a living voice  
Of healing and justice to all the world,  
Through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

**C: Amen**

\*Blessing

P: God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;  
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;  
Holy Spirit, living voice,  
calling and enlightening the church;  
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn

*"A Mighty Fortress is our God"*

*Red #504*

**A mighty fortress is our God,  
A sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
And wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
Has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might  
He arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.**

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day

*"The Church of Christ, in Every Age" Red #729*

**The church of Christ, in ev'ry age beset by change,  
But Spirit led, must claim and test its heritage  
And keep on rising from the dead.**

**Across the world, across the street,  
The victims of injustice cry for shelter  
And for bread to eat, and never live before they die.**

**Then let the servant church arise,  
A caring church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
And clothed n Christ's humanity**

**For he alone, whose blood was shed,  
can cure the fever in our blood,  
And teach us how to share our bread  
And feed the starving multitude.**

**We have no mission but to serve  
in full obedience to our Lord;  
To care for all, without reserve,  
And spread his liberating word.**

\*The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

**The Communion Meal**

\* Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Offertory Prayer

P: God of life,  
You give us these gifts of the earth,  
These resources of our life and our labor.  
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,  
And use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;  
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

**C: Amen.**

\*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to God**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Eucharistic Prayer

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

\*Words of Institution

\*Lord's Prayer

**C: 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**

P: Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,  
And make us one with you.

Holy Communion

We have changed our practice in order to reflect our concern for the most vulnerable among us. Jesus often lifted up those who were most at risk in life as ones that we all need to care for lovingly. May this way of receiving draw us nearer to God's ways.

Please have your prepared elements ready to receive Holy Communion. Please commune yourself or a loved one with you with the words: "The Body of Christ given." and "The Blood of Christ shed."

Communion Hymn

"What Feast of Love" #487 vs. 1 & 2

**1- What feast of love is offered here,  
what banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?  
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!**

**2- What light of truth is offered here,  
what covenant from heaven?  
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!**

**The Sending**