

## 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

*"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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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 Director: Gary Roberts

Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens

Sunday School: Leslie Lapp

Custodian: John Hopping

Powerpoint: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

# 16th Sunday after Pentecost

## September 25, 2022

### 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians 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 and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day.

Please fill out the "Worship Slip" and place it in the offering plate.

( \* ) Asterisk means, "Please stand as you are able."

## 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, † one God,  
Who is eager to forgive  
And who loves us beyond our days.

**C: Amen.**

P: Dear friends, together let us acknowledge  
Our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: God of mercy and forgiveness,

**C: we confess that sin still has a hold on us.**

**We have harmed your good creation.**

**We have failed to do justice,**

**Love kindness,**

**And walk humbly with you.**

**Turn us in a new direction.**

**Show us the path that leads to life.**

**Be our refuge and strength on the journey,**

**Through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

*Sign up for Altar Flowers In the narthex*

## Upcoming Events:

### September Benevolence - Lutheran Campus Ministry

Sept. tba	Confirmation Class 6:30 pm
Sept. 26	Newsletter Collate 2:00 pm
Sept. 27	Habitat Lunches 10:30 am
Sept. 27	Boy Scouts 7:00 pm (Fellow. Hall)
Sept. 29 — Oct. 5	Church office Closed
Sept. 29	Knitters 7:00 pm
Sept. 29	Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm (Fellowship)
Sept. 30	A.A. 7:00 pm
Oct. 6	Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
Oct. 6	Holy Land Presentation 11:00 am & 7:30 pm (Both on Zoom but 11:00 is also in person)
Oct. 11	Knitting Guild 6:30 pm
Oct. 19	Women's Café 6:00 pm
Oct. 20	Knitting Guild 10 am

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

2. **Sharing lavish gifts and blessings,  
love that not one mite withholds,  
Stretch out arms to friends and strangers:  
God has sheep of many folds.      REFRAIN**

3. **Genders, races, tribes, and nations,  
hear the Holy One who calls,  
Biding all to work together, bridging lives  
and breaching walls.      REFRAIN**

\*Dismissal

**P:** Go in peace, with Christ beside you..

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Prayer Concerns**

**SHORT TERM:** Shiela P., Mary Smith, Family of Tom Dunham, Barbara Allen, Family of Audrey Patterson, Beth Stiles, Tara McMilin & family, Anita & Howard, The People of Ukraine, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, Kurt Bell, Will, Deborah Henry, Kathi Chavez, Carla, Ellie, Adrian Cameron, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Kirsten Skiles, Nancy, Marisa & Isaac, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Sam, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers. **LONG TERM:** Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Jan Wagner, Sandie & Dale, Sanders Family, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Michelle, Josh, CJ, Bobbie Erickson, Lupe, Joyce, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Miller, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

**Serving Today**

Reader: Steven Hendrickson

Coffee Host: Connie Cunningham

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

Altar Guild: Connie Cunningham

Counters: Janet Slay

**P:** Beloved God:

Your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole.

God points the way to new life in Christ,

Who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love

Through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

\*Opening Hymn

"Making Their Way" ACS #979

**Making their way down through the ages,  
Sinners and saints have heard God's call:  
Wealthy and poor, powerful, lowly,  
Jesus' disciples, one and all.  
Gathered for worship, offering thanks,  
The greatest with the least have come to share this feast.**

**Making their way all the world over,  
Christians assemble on this day,  
Hearing the Word, sharing the Banquet,  
Learning to walk in Jesus' way.  
Members of Christ, united in love,  
They seek our God to know, and so together grow.**

**Making our way season by season,  
Pilgrims, we journey till life's end,  
Traveling light, sharing the riches,  
Caring for stranger as for friend,  
Till in the joy of longing fulfilled,  
Together we will come to our eternal home.**

\*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.**

Kyrie - Greek for: "God have mercy" ACS setting 12  
(We bring our burdens and pleas for God's help)



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria ACS setting 12



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## The Sending

\*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: God of the abundant table,  
You have refreshed our hearts in this meal  
With bread for the journey.  
Give us your grace on the road  
That we might serve our neighbors with joy;  
For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen**

\*Blessing

P: God, who gives life to all things  
And frees us from despair,  
Bless you with truth and peace.  
And may the holy Trinity, † one God,  
Guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

C: **Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn

*"Commonwealth Is God's Commandment"*  
ACS #1036

1. **Commonwealth is God's commandment;  
common goods are meant to share.  
Tables set and doors wide open  
welcome angels unaware.**

**REFRAIN**

**Plead for the peace of all creation.  
Pray for a place where grace is found.  
Shanti, pax, shalom, maslaha;  
common good is holy ground.**

(hymn continued)

## Eucharistic Prayer

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

## \*Words of Institution

\*Lord's Prayer - Sung version

**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.  
For—give 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: Christ invites you to this table.  
Come taste and see.

(You may be seated)

## Holy Communion

*Our practice is to come forward and receive the bread from Pastor Jim, and then pick up a cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white) from the tray. If you choose the pre-sealed bread and cup, 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 "God Welcomes All" ACS #978

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

## \*Prayer of the Day

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

**C: Amen**

Celebrate p. 1

## God Stories

## The Word of God

### First Reading

Amos 6:1-7

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

### Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Celebrate pg. 2

R: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

## \*Alleluia

ACS setting 12

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing one of these verses.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

\*Gospel Reading                      Luke 16:19-31                      Celebrate pg. 3

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 19th chapter.  
**C: Glory to you, O God.** (The Gospel is read.)

P: The gospel of our Lord.  
**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message    Rev. James P. Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day

*"Build a Longer Table" ACS #1062*

*Build a longer table, not a higher wall,  
Feeding those who hunger, making room for all.  
Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,  
Christ breaks walls to pieces;  
False divisions end.*

*Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;  
Where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.  
For any place where justice is denied,  
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.*

*Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.  
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.  
When we embrace compassion more than fear,  
Christ tears down our fences; all are welcome here.*

*When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,  
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.  
So must our tables welcome those who roam.  
None can be excluded; all must find a home.*

\*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.

Offering Song                      "Welcome Table" ACS #969

**I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table,  
I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table, some of these days.  
I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table,  
I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table, some of these days.**

**I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey,  
I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey, some of these days.  
I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey,  
I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey, some of these days.**

**I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river,  
I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river, some of these days.  
I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river,  
I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river, some of these days.**

\*Offertory Prayer

P: Gracious God,  
In your great love you richly provide for our needs.  
Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,  
And make us ready to share with all in need;  
Through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.

**C: Amen**

\*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.  
**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.  
**C: We lift them to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**