

*I am the  
good shepherd*

JOHN 10:11



# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

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."

Music "Evening and Morning"  
Johnnan Elseling 1637~ 1676

## The Gathering

### \*Call to Worship

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C:** **Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
The Wellspring of Grace,  
Our Easter and our joy.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Let us come into the light,  
the revealing and healing light of God.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

**P:** God of grace and glory,

**C: We confess to you all the ways in which  
we dismiss the resurrection news.  
We are slow of heart to believe.  
Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin.**

**C: Renew us in grace, reawaken our trust,  
strengthen our hope,  
and restore us to living in your ways,  
Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

P: The Risen Christ's first words to his disciples were:  
Peace be with you.  
Sisters and brothers, rejoice with all creation!  
The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil,  
Casts out hate and brings peace.  
Jesus + Christ loves you and has freed us all from sin.  
Rejoice and welcome this freedom as a cherished gift!  
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

\*Opening Hymn

“The King of Love My Shepherd is” #502

1. The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness fails me never;  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
And he is mine forever.

2. Where streams of living water flow  
With gentle care he leads me,  
And where the verdant pastures grow,  
With heav'nly food he feeds me.

3. Perverse and foolish I have strayed,  
But yet in love he sought me,  
And on his shoulder gently laid,  
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

(Hymn Continued)

4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With you, dear Lord, beside me;  
Your rod and staff my comfort still,  
Your cross before to guide me.

5. You spread a table in my sight,  
Your saving grace bestowing;  
And O what joy and true delight  
From your pure chalice flowing!

6. And so through all the length of days  
Your goodness fails me never:  
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise  
Within your house forever.

\*Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: The beauty of the Creator inspire us,  
The grace of the Good Shepherd be with us,  
and the unity of the Breath of Life enfold us all.

C: **May it be so!**

\*Prayer of the Day

Preschool Singers & God Stories

**The Word of God**

First Reading

Acts 4:5-12

Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

Celebrate pg. 2

\*Alleluia "Alleliua, Alleluia, Give Thanks" WOV # 671 vs.4

Refrain: **Alleluia, Alleluia, gi-ve thanks to the Risen Lord.  
Alleluia, Alleluia,gi-ve praise to Christ's name.**

Verse: **God has proclaimed the just re-ward:  
Life for all people, A-a-lelu-ia. (Refrain)**

\*Gospel Reading John 10:11-18 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John, the 10th Chapter

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

*(The Gospel is read)*

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Message

Rev. James Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day

*"Shepherd Me, O God"* Red #780

*Refrain:*

*Shepherd me, O God,  
Beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears,  
from death into life.*

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. *(Refrain)*

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
You lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,  
My spirit shall sing the music of your name. *(Refrain)*

Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,  
Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.

*(Refrain)*

You have set me a banquet of love  
in the face of hatred,  
Crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. *Refrain*

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me  
all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. *Refrain*

\*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.

Music “Draw the Circle Wide” by Gorxan Light

Offertory Prayer

P: Giver of life,

C: **Whatever we ask, in accordant with your will,**

**We receive and our cup overflows.**

**Confident in divine abundance**

**And humbly eager to turn from covetous greed,**

**We return what we have received for the Shepherd's work,**

**That green pastures and safe folds,  
Will welcome any who live in fear;  
That peaceful waters will sustain hurting hearts;  
That a voice of welcome will be heard at each door;  
That a feast will be prepared for all who hunger and thirst;  
And all may safely find enough.  
In the name of the One who is our comfort. 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.**

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

\*Words of Institution

\*Lord's Prayer (Sung)

**C: Our Father, in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is 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.**

\*Invitation to Communion

P: The risen Christ is made known to us  
In the breaking of the bread.  
Come and be nourished at God's table.

(You may be seated)

Holy Communion

Guests: *EVERYONE* is welcome to come forward to receive  
Communion as part of this church family!

Communion Hymn      *"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 Sending**



\*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**C: Amen**

\*Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray:  
Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us  
And nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness  
And share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
Our Redeemer and Friend.

**C: Amen**

\*Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power,  
The Christ of unending joy,  
And the Spirit of Easter hope  
+ Bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn      *"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"* #365

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!

(hymn continued)

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!  
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!

But the pains which he endured, Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!  
Our salvation have procured; Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!  
Now above the sky he's king, Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!  
Where the angels ever sing. Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!

Sing we to our God above, Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!  
Praise eternal as his love; Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!  
Praise him all you heav'nly host, Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Al ~ le ~ lu ~ ia!

\*Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in Peace. Rejoice and be glad..  
C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Music

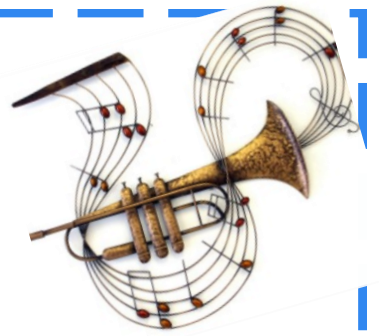
“ All Glory Be to God on High”  
Nokolaus Decius 1485 ~ 1550

*Please join us  
outside by the gate for the  
“Buswell Playground” dedication  
& cake reception*



## Music at St. Stephen's

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!



From the Good News Singers:

Thank you so much to everyone who joined us for Easter Sunday. We really had an abundance of Joy & Spirit of singing together.

The Singers will be introducing new songs before the summer break.

1. "Draw the Circle Wide" choir and congregation.
2. "For the Beauty of the Earth"
3. "To God Be the Glory"
4. "A New Alleluia"
5. Another to be selected

I am looking for soloists & instrumentalists to share their talents with us. Please feel free to share. We will have guitar, piano, brass, and strings for the summer.

Please give to the musicians fund. Thank you, and Grateful Thanks to all who have.

*"Where words leave off, music begins".*

Yours in Christ, and Mission ~ Gary

## Serving Today

Reader: Bill Anderson

Coffee Host: Bill & Margaret Schraft & Miss Kathy

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



## Prayer Concerns

**SHORT TERM:** Family of Gary Meeker, Nate Barker, Maria Mendoza, Grandpa Dennis, Bob & Shirley Salter, Monica & Family, Lurline Moore, Barry Hansen, Beth Butler, Travis, Sandy P., Family & friends of Sgt. William Nelson, Jen, Robbin, Maria Mendoza, Ila & Reina, Family of Richard Barker, Francisco, Margot Wilson, Michael, Steven Kamlin, Keith, Noelle, Ensley,

Tom Peyser, Bob Zeigle, Jan, Jessie V., Margaret, Bill Gile, Mike Homer, Randy M., Tim Oldfield, Sierra, Beth's mom, Julie R., Anne Rice, Cheryl Davis, Rosie, The Webber Family, Janet, Sue, Lindsay Rosenberg, Middle East Peace, Maria, Cody Turner, Jan, Jacque N. Diane Strong, Tom Dawson, James, Tina, Keith, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, James Boudreau, Alvarado family, Dustin, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, Sam, Atlas, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, Jesse, Joyce, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Kathy, Joel Hurttgam, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Genell Csik, Paul Cunningham, Paul Paustian, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Rose, Will, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.

**LONG TERM:** Biergiel—Colclough family, April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Joyce, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

## New Ways of Giving

Our *Virtual Offering Plate* has been enhanced. We are now able to receive donations made by: credit card, debit card, PayPal, Zelle and Venmo.

There are four choices:

- 1) **Vanco**, our regular electronic giving provider;
- 2) **PayPal/Venmo** for single one-time gifts;
- 3) **PayPal** with the possibility of recurring donations and an option to cover the fees.
- 4) **Zelle**

All are available at <https://ststephenslutheran.org>  
(click on the **Donate Now** button)  
or by scanning this QR code.





**On Zoom or at Church w Pastor Jim**  
check email on Tues. for link

**WEDNESDAYS from 11a -12noon  
and  
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm**



*12th Anniversary  
Gala Fundraiser*

**Saturday, May 18  
6 pm—8:30pm**

**Dinner & Silent Auction  
Holy Cross Catholic Church**

**Tickets at [Afcsantacruz.org](http://Afcsantacruz.org)**

# Upcoming Events:

April Benevolence Offering - Habitat for Humanity

- April 22 CDC Board 11:15 am
- April 22 Newsletter Deadline 12:00
- April 22 Women's Café Group now Mondays at 6:00 pm
- April 23 Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am
- April 24 Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
- April 24 Bible Study now Wednesdays 11 am & 7:30 pm
- April 26 Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm
- April 27 A.A. 7:00 pm
- April 29 Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm
- April 30 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
- May 5 Johnson family dedication 10 am & POTLUCK
- May 18 Property Work Day 9:00 —11:00
- May 18 AFC Gala Fundraiser 6-8 pm
- May 24-27 Mt. Cross Volunteer work weekend  
Camp registration now open. [Www.mtcross.org](http://Www.mtcross.org)

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



*The Altar Flowers are offered  
by Judi Alvarado  
to Celebrate Robert's Birthday*  
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## 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."*

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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