

I am
the vine,
you are the
branches

JOHN 15:5

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 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

"Praise the Almighty"

Robert Powell Tune (Ansback) 1665

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

“Alleluia, Jesus is Risen”

Red #377

**Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious lights!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven for ever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

REFRAIN

**Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!**

**Walking the way, Christ in the center
Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread, giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. REFRAIN**

Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
Gift of the future now flowing to me. REFRAIN

Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent;
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing; O grave, be open!
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. REFRAIN

City of God, Easter for ever,
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, saints and arch angels,
Sing with creation to God the I AM! REFRAIN

*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

God Stories

The Word of God

First Reading Acts 8:26-40 Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading 1 John 4:7-21 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 15:1-8 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John, the 15th 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 "Be Thou My Vision" Red #793

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
Thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord,
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Light of my soul, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*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 “O That Easter Day” William Pryce

Offertory Prayer

P: Giver of life,

C: **Whatever we ask, in accordance 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

“Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal” Red #464

Bread of life, our host and meal, Jesus, feed us.
Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.

Bread now break and wine now pour, Jesus, feed us.
Make us one, our hope restore; feed us with your love.

Grant forgiveness in the feast—Jesus, feed us ~
For the greatest and the least; feed us with your love.

Thank you for this gift we share. Jesus, feed us.
Save God’s children ev’rywhere; feed us with your love.

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

“Let All Things Now Living” Red #881

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God’s banners are o’er us, God’s light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.

God rules all the forces: the stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a song let us raise
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
“To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!”

*Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in Peace. Rejoice and be glad..

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Music

“Thine is the Glory”
Tune (Hgendel) English
Written by Pastor Edmond Budry 1854 ~ 1932

Serving Today

Reader: Beth Stiles

Coffee Host: Connie Cunningham

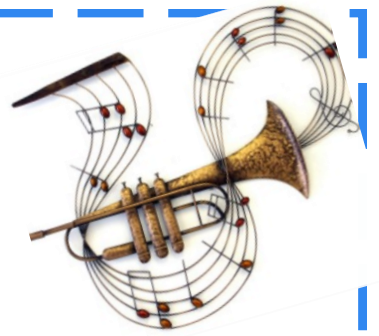
Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



*The Altar Flowers are offered
by Gina Mendoza
In honor of Reina*

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



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 Afcscantacruz.org

Upcoming Events:

April Benevolence Offering - Habitat for Humanity

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| April 29 | Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm |
| April 30 | Boy Scouts 7:00 pm |
| May 1 | Preschool Chapel 10:15 am |
| May 1 | Bible Study now Wednesdays 11 am & 7:30 pm |
| May 2 | Mens beginner A.A. Thursday 7:00 pm |
| May 3 | A.A. Friday 7:00 pm |
| May 5 | Johnson family dedication 10 am
& POTLUCK |
| May 6 | Women's Café Group Monday at 6:00 pm |
| May 18 | Property Work Day 9:00 —11:00 |
| May 18 | AFC Gala Fundraiser 6-8:30 pm |
| May 22 | Women's Café Group Wednesday at 6:00 pm |
| May 24-27 | Mt. Cross Volunteer work weekend.
Many projects. Elizabeth Schilling is organizing
the craft area again. RSVP 831-239-6012.
Camp registration now open. Www.mtcross.org |
| May 28 | Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am |

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

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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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