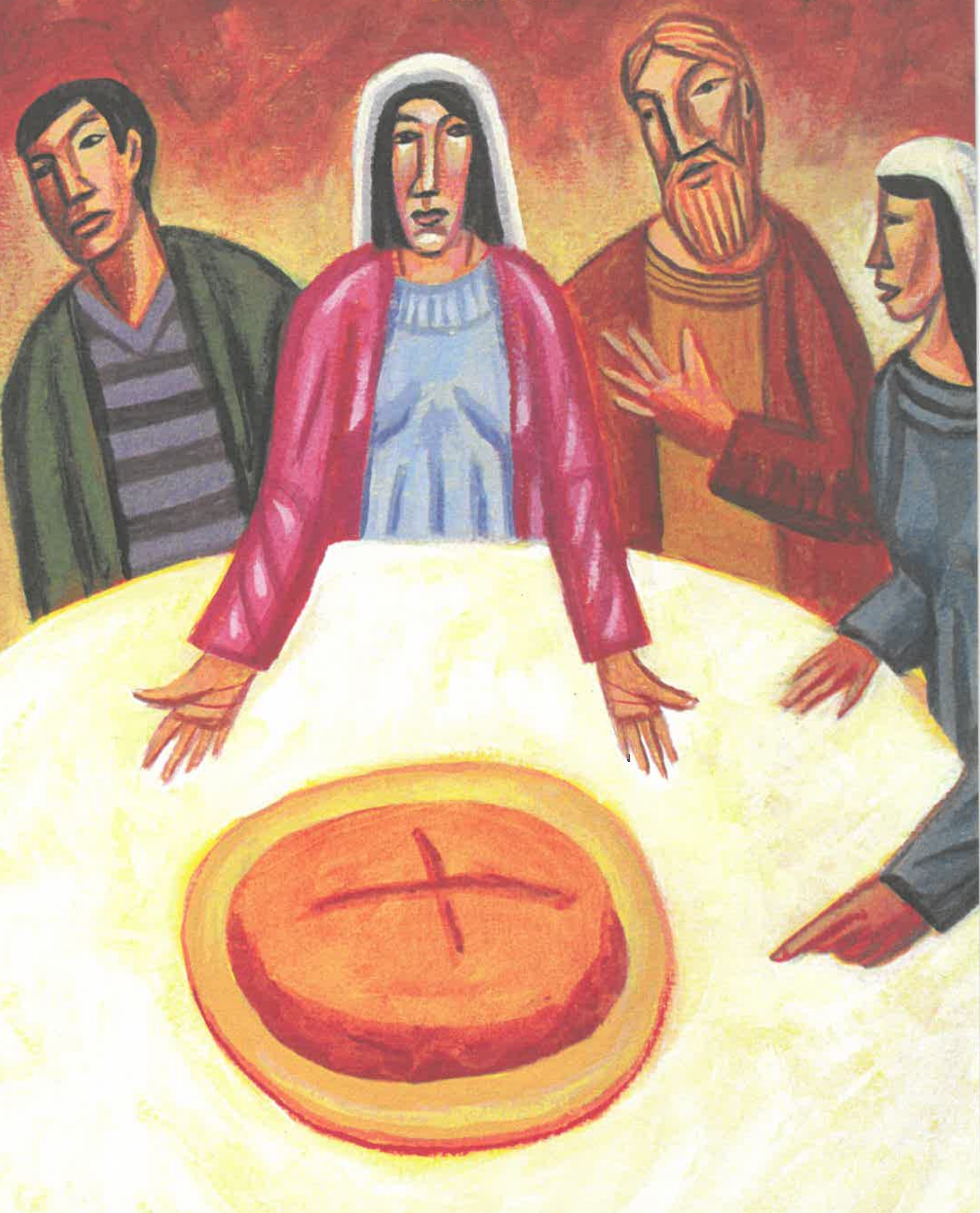


MAY THEY BE ONE,
AS WE ARE ONE

JOHN 17:22





7th Sunday of EASTER

everything between grief & hope

June 1, 2025 at 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 during the offering.**

(*) Asterisk means, “Please stand as you are able.”

Prelude *“Christ is Arisen” German Hymn
music, J. Klug Lieder*

Gathering

*Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

*Call to Confession

Faithful friends, Easter is a joyful season!

This time of year, all creation sings

of new life and resurrection and hope.

But the prayer of confession
that we often begin our worship service with
has a reputation for being somber and serious.
Instead, let's make this prayer of confession
feel like a fresh and new start!
Let's allow the prayer of confession
to help us see things in a new and hopeful way.
When we move closer to God,
we are always met with grace, mercy, and abundant love.
And my friends, *that* is joyful.
That feels like Easter, doesn't it?
So join me in the prayer of confession. It's a joyful day!

***Prayer of Confession**

The Gospel of Luke says: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women who told the disciples of the resurrection.

But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb."¹

**Forgive us, God,
when good news lands in our lap
and we refuse to believe it.**

**Forgive us, God,
when grief and fear crowd out
any room in our hearts for hope.**

**Forgive us, God,
when we dismiss the stories of others
and minimize the voices of our neighbors.**

When our world teeters between grief and hope,
show us how to be like Peter.

Show us how to hold onto hope.

Show us how to run toward you. Amen.

*Words of Forgiveness

Family of Faith,

At first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen.

They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid.

Peter was the only exception.

But Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days.

God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful

and when we're grieving,

when we're shouting and when we're silent,

when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear.

God's grace exists for us on the best days,

the worst days, and every day in between.

Thanks be to God for this good news!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table"

ACS #977 blue

Look who gathers at Christ's table!

Hear the stories that they bring.

Some are weeping; Some are laughing;

Some have songs they want to sing.

Others ask why they're invited,

Burdened by the wrong they've done.

Christ insists they all are welcome.

There is room for ev'ry one.

Clouds of light surround the table;

Ancient followers appear,

saints confessing how they wrestled

with their guilt, their doubt and fear.

Peter tells of his denying

Christ was ever in his sight;
Paul relates his fruitless efforts
to obliterate the light.

Their sad stories are repeated
in a thousand different ways,
But they share one thing in common;
They all end in thanks and praise
for the host who has invited
north and south and east and west
to converge around this table,
Where all life is fed and blest.

Bring your joy and bring your sadness,
and prepare to be surprised
by the host whose hands are wounded,
who will open wide your eyes
when he blesses bread and breaks it—
truth and manna from above! ~
and then passes wine that wakens
in your heart the taste of love.

*Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate pg. 1

God's Word

God Stories

Congregation

First Reading

Acts 16:16-34

Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm 97

Choir lead / Cong. Response

Celebrate pg. 3

Second Reading

Rev. 22:12-14, 20 –21

Celebrate pg. 2

*Gospel Reading

John 17:20-26

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John 17th 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. Susan Birkelo

*Hymn of the Day

"One Bread, One Body"

Red #496

REFRAIN

One bread, one body,
one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many
throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew,
Servant or free,
Woman or man,
No more. REFRAIN

Many the gifts,
Many the works,
One in the Lord
Of all. REFRAIN

Grain for the fields,
Scattered and grown,
Gathered to one
For all. REFRAIN

***Affirmation of Faith**

In the dark before dawn,
we believe that God is alive.
In the midst of our grief,
we believe the Spirit is at work.
In the chaos of our broken world,
we believe that love is on the loose.
For no stone could keep God at bay,
and no violence could keep God's love from us.
So today we sing,
Alleluia!
For somewhere in between our belief and doubt,
hope lives.
Christ has died,
and Christ has also risen. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing of the Peace

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

C: And also with you.

The Communion Meal

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

Music ~ Good News Singers “Day of Arising” #374

*Offertory Prayer

P: Risen One,

You have gathered us around your table of grace

Along with these gifts we bring.

Come among us again,

Breathe your life into us,

And enliven us with this meal,

That we may live as your risen body in the world.

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 our 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.

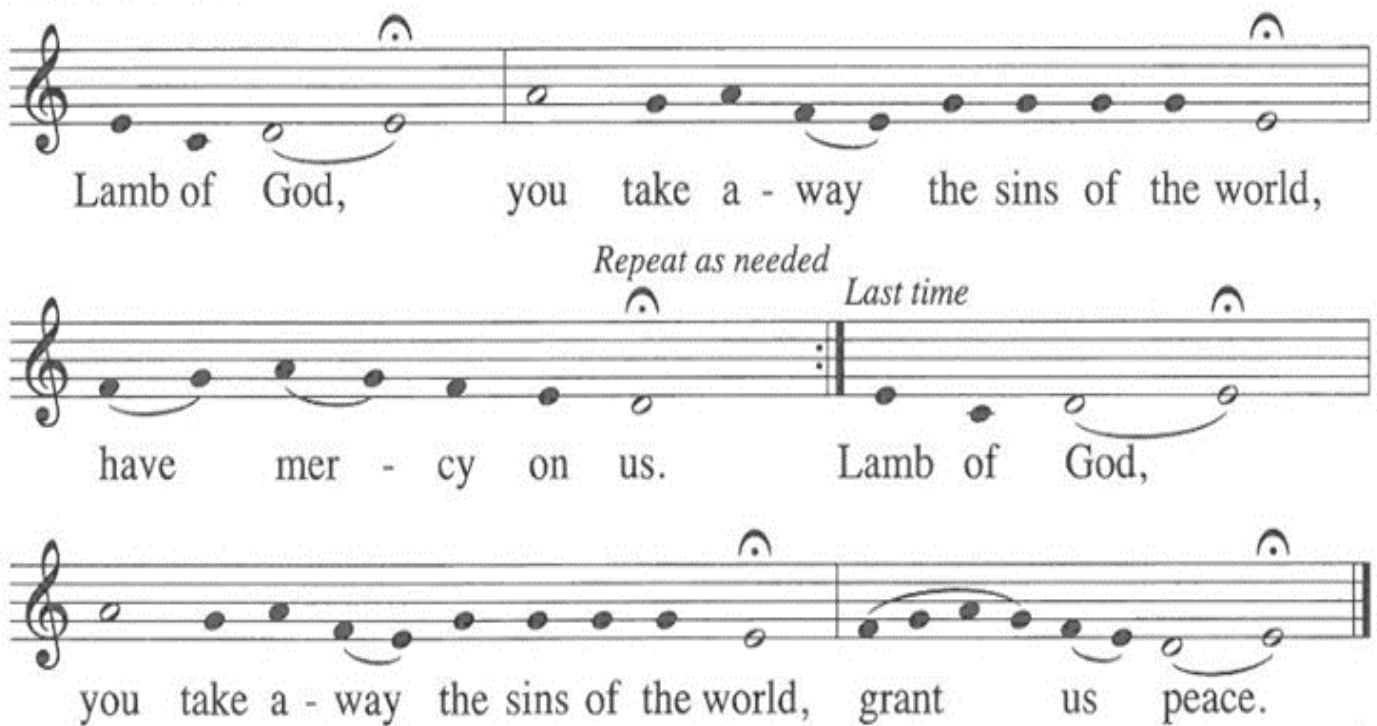
Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Holy Communion — ALL, Yes — EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Communion is by intinction, we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white).

AGNUS DEI



Communion Hymn "Now the Silence" Red #460
(sing three times)

Now the silence Now the peace
Now the empty hands uplifted
Now the kneeling Now the plea
Now the Father's arms in welcome
Now the hearing Now the pow'r
Now the vessel brimmed for pouring
Now the body Now the blood Now the joyful celebration
Now the wedding Now the songs
Now the heart forgiven leaping
Now the Spirit's visitation Now the Son's epiphany
Now the Father's blessing Now Now Now

*Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen.

*Prayer After Communion

P: Living One,
In this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
Sing of your glory,
And proclaim your risen life
To a wounded and weary world.

C: Amen.

The Sending

*A Blessing

The triune God,
Who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit,
Light your way with resurrection dawn,
Now and always.

Amen.

*Closing Hymn “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” Red #547

Sent forth by God’s blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ’s teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us
To work for your kingdom and answer your call.

With praise and thanksgiving
To God ever living,
The tasks of our ev’ry day life we will face –
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
Embracing God’s children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
With your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

*Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
C: **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**
P: Go in peace.
In Christ you are made new.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia Alleluia!**

Postlude

“Alleluia! Christ is Arisen”

Serving Today

Reader: Elke Spires

Coffee Host: Margaret Schraft

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



The Altar Flowers are given
By Shelly Barker
To the Glory of God

Full & Part Time openings

Ages 2-4

Contact Kathy 462-4453



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, Venmo & Zelle. All are available at <https://ststephenslutheran.org>



PRAYERS SHORT TERM: Family of Ed Valencia, Tex & family, Carla Brown, Kevin & Cindy, Dawn, Gerry Daves, Tim Oldfield, Laura, Joana, James S. Chad Fields, Chelsea & Logan Preston, Cassidy, family of George Webber, Sam, Isabelle Hackman, Eric, Ellie, Paula & family, Julia, Jim Aller's family, Bill Giles family, Dr. Bruce Dunn's family, Grey, Ruth Stiles, Susan Birkelo Family, Riley, Mary Saccullo, Ana Cardenas, Rose, Levi, Lisa J., John B., Linda, Unemployed, Isaac & Marissa, Gloria, Marta's parents, Gary & Louse Matz, Nick, James, Mary D., Tom, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Francisco, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Sierra, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Sam, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Nancy, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager.

LONG TERM: Those suffering with Mental Illness, James Sheehan, Biergiel—Colclough family, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), April McCalmont, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Will, Aaron Johnson, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Mike, 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, People of Palestine/Israel, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

Please notify when to remove

Upcoming Events:

June Benevolence Offering - Society for Prevention of Suicide

June 2-6	Preschool Closed
June 3	Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm Pub Theology Discretion Brew 41st Ave.
June 3	Scouts 6:30 pm
June 4	Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm
June 5 & 19	Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays Dinner and devotions
June 5	Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside rm
June 6	A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall
June 8	Welcome Mt. Cross Staff to worship & Bless them for their summer ministry Bring a snack to share for coffee hour
June 12	MMRR Circle 10:30 am
June 13	Tex Ronning Memorial TBA
June 29	Summer Kick off BBQ — 11:30 am Come for some fun in the sun Bring a favorite side or dessert

SAVE THE DATE July 26 at noon Paul Cunningham Memorial
Scotts Valley Community Center

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."

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Web Address: 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 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

prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.