



Life

does not consist in the
abundance of possessions

LUKE 12:15

8th Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 2025

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 “Fantasia” Pachelbel 1653—1700

The Gathering

*Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor,
let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of mercy

**C: We confess that we have sinned against you,
Against one another,
And against the earth entrusted to our care.
We are worried and distracted by many things,
And we fail to love you above all else.
We store up treasures for ourselves
And turn away from our neighbors in need.
Forgive us,
that we may live in the freedom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: When we were laid low by sin and the world's evil,
God made us alive together with Christ,
Forgiving us + all our trespasses
By taking the sin of the world to the cross.
For freedom Christ has set us free:
Rejoice in this good news!

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Making Their Way" Blue #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.

(hymn continued)

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.

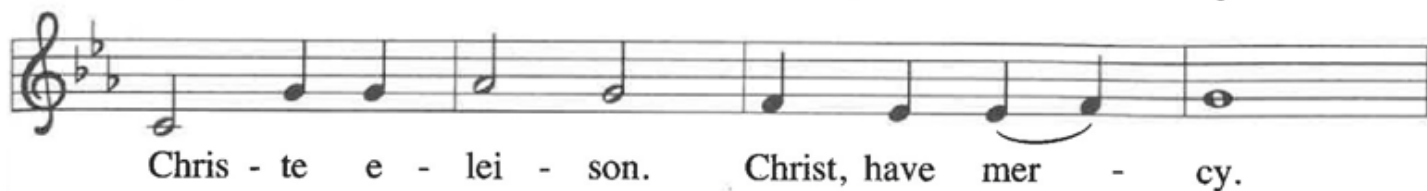
*Greeting

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

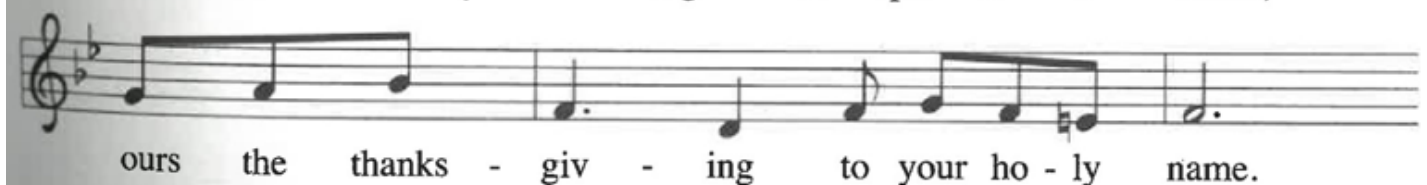
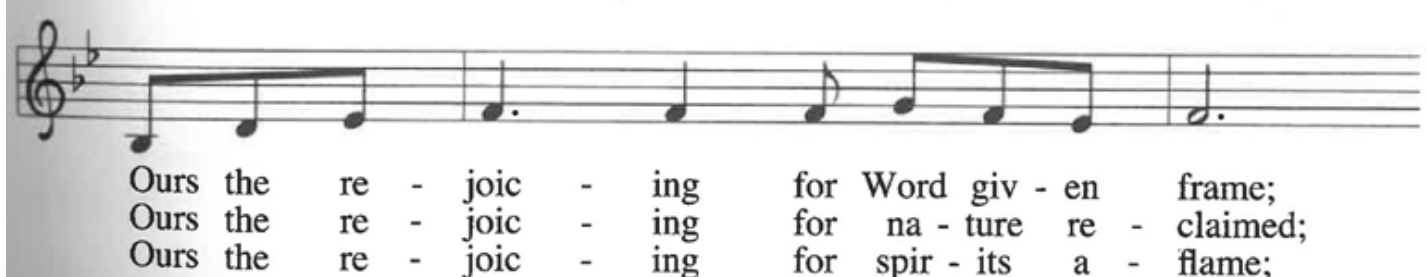
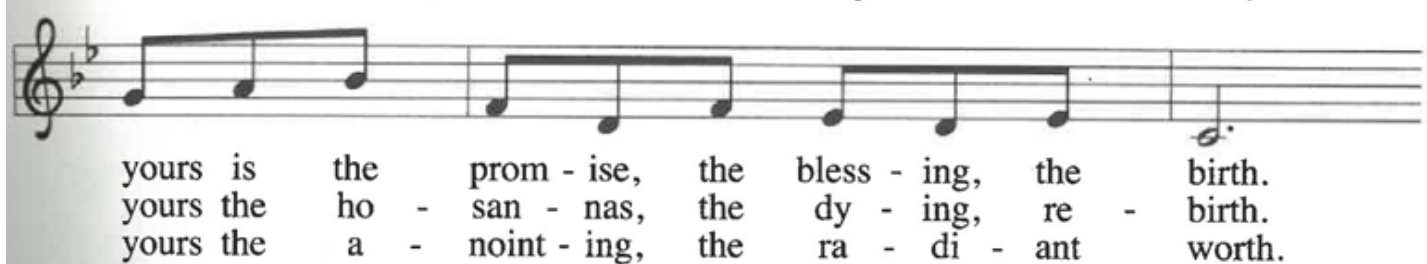
C: And also with you

*Kyrie & Hymn of Praise

ACS #31



One of the following or another song of praise may be sung.



*Prayer of the Day

The Word of God

First Reading Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 Cel. pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 49:1-12 (read responsively) Cel. pg. 2

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-11 Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

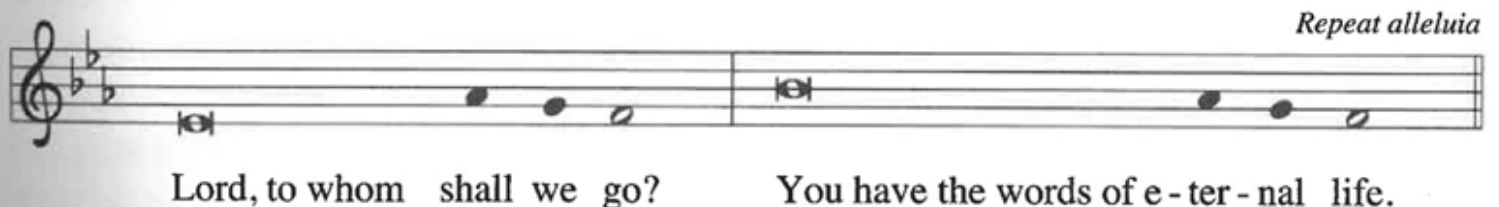
C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

ACS #33



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



*Gospel Reading

Luke 12:13-21

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Luke, the 12th Chapter

C: Glory to you. O God.

(The Gospel is read)

P: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Message

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“Faith Begins by Letting Go”

Blue #1004

Faith begins by letting go,
giving up what had seemed sure,
taking risks and pressing on,
though the way feels less secure:
pilgrimage both right and odd,
trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on,
keeping mem’ry’s roots alive
so that hope may bear its fruit;
promise-fed, our souls will thrive,
not through merit we possess
but by God’s great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out,
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
sharing struggles, living prayer,
binding up the broken parts;
till we find the commonplace
ripe with witness to God’s grace.

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 “Adagio” (from the Golden Sonata) Purcell

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God,
For the greening earth given for all,
For the talents we are given to share,
And for this bread and fruit of the vine.
Transform us to be the body of Christ,
That, feasting on this food and drink,
Our lives may reflect your generosity;
Through Christ our Lord,

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.**

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: God invites you to this table of bounty.
Come, the banquet is ready.

(Please be seated)

Communion Gathering Song



Communion Hymn

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

Red #515

Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
My spirit waits for you, O living Word.

Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me,
As when you blessed the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
And I shall find my peace, my All in All!

You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
Your holy word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live with you above;
Teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

The Sending

*Prayer after Communion

P: O God, in this Holy Communion
You have welcomed us into your presence,
Nourished us with words of mercy,
And fed us at your table.
Amid the cares of this life,
Strengthen us to love you with all our heart,
Serve our neighbors with a willing spirit,
And honor the earth you have made;
Through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

*Blessing

P: Live your lives in Christ,
rooted and built up in God's Spirit.
May you abound in thanksgiving;
And may the blessing of the holy Trinity, + one God,
Be upon you and remain with you forever.

C: Amen

*Closing Hymn *"Lead Me, Guide Me"* Red #768

REFRAIN

Lead me, guide me, along the way;
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord let me walk each day with thee
Lead me, O Lord, lead me

(Hymn continued)

I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
To help me over my weakest hour
Help me through the darkness thy face to see
Lead me, O Lord, lead me

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress
I am putting all my trust in thee
Lead me, O Lord, lead me

I am lost If you take your hand from me
I am blind without thy light to see
Lord just always let me thy servant be
Lead me, O Lord, lead me

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Christ is sending you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music Psalm XX B. Marcello 1686~1739

Serving Today

Reader: Elke Spires

Coffee Host:

Altar Guild: Tina Gates

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



The Altar Flowers are given
by Mark Linder
To Celebrate their wedding anniversary



Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: Connie Garcia & Family, Laura, Ayla, Tate, The World & Texas, Family of Elizabeth Schilling, Tina & family, Family of Patrick McCalmont, Atlas, Ana, Kathybelle Barlow, Family & friends of Rev. Jim Carr, Aundree & family, Mt. Cross Summer Staff, Family of Ed Valencia, Family of Tex Ronning, Carla Brown, Tim Oldfield, James S. Chad Fields, Grey, Levi, Lisa J., John B., Linda, Unemployed, Gloria, Marta's parents, Gary & Louse Matz, Nick, James, Mary D., Tom, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Francisco, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, 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, Isaac & Marissa, 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), Miller, April, Aaron Johnson, Shelby, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Mike, Susan Anderson, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris and John B. 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.

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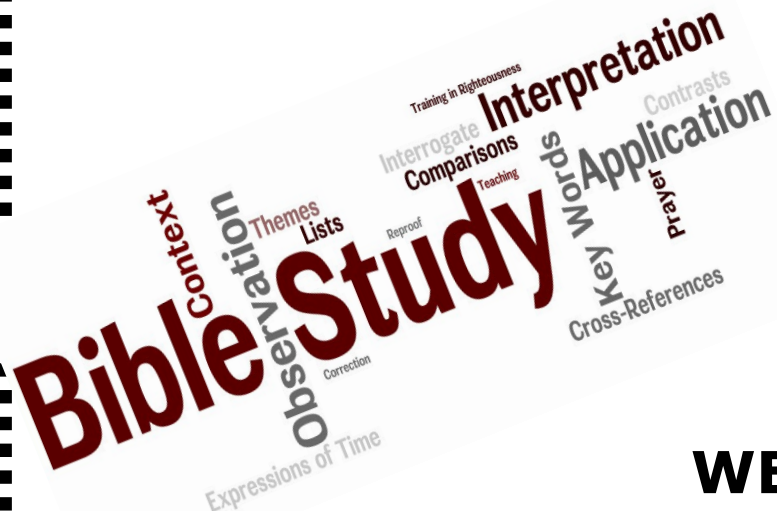
Our Preschool is enrolling NOW.
Ages 2-4

Full & Part Time openings.

Tell your friends!

Contact Kathy 462-4453





On ZOOM
with Pr. Jim

Check email on
Tues. for link

WEDNESDAYS
7:30 – 8:30 pm

As we grow in our faith, we grow in community.

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 and Zelle.

There are three choices:

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

All are available at
<https://ststephenslutheran.org>
 Or by scanning this QR code.



Upcoming Events:

August Benevolence Offering -
Cal. Lutheran University & Pacific Lutheran Theo. Seminary

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|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 5 | Scouts 6:00 pm |
| August 5 | Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm
Pub Theology Discretion Brew 41st Ave. |
| August 6 | Preschool Chapel 10:15 |
| August 6 | Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm |
| August 7 | Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside |
| Aug. 7 & 21 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays
Dinner and devotions |
| August 8 | A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall |
| August 12 | Knitters Guild 6:15 pm |
| August 12 | Church Council 6:30 pm |
| August 17 | Back to School Blessing & Potluck
Supplies for gift bags needed, contact Leslie |
| August 21 | Newsletter Deadline |
| Sept. 14 | MMRR Bake Sale |

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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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