

11th Sunday after Pentecost August 24, 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

"Processional in G Major" John Stanley (1713~1786)

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

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Red #859

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation! My heart is longing to offer up sweet adoration. Melody make; dulcimer, harp, now awake. Sound forth your praise, ev'ry nation.

Praise the Almighty, o'er all life so wondrously reigning, And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining. Have you not seen? All that is needful has been Sent by God's gracious ordaining.

(hymn continued)

Praise the Almighty, who prospers your work and defends you; See from the heavens the showers of mercy God sends you. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do; Infinite Love here befriends you.

Praise the Almighty! In wonder my spirit is soaring! All that has life and breath, come now with praises outpouring. Let the amen sound from God's people again, Gladly forever adoring!

*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 Blue #31



*Prayer of the Day

The Word of God

First Reading

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 103:1-8 (read responsively) Cel. pg. 2

Second Reading Hebrews 12:18-29 Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

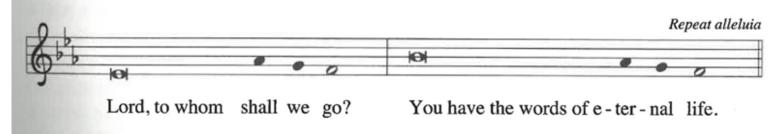
C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Blue #33



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



*Gospel Reading

Luke 13:10-17

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Luke, the 13th 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

"Beautiful Things" Blue #925

All this pain; I wonder if I'll ever find my way. I wonder if my life could really change at all.

REFRAIN

You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of the dust. You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of us.

All this earth; ... could all that is lost ever be found? ...Could a garden come up from this ground at all? REFRAIN

All around, ... hope is springing up from this old ground.
...Out of chaos, life is being found in you.
REFRAIN

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 "Choral Song" Samuel S. Wesley (1810~1876)

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.

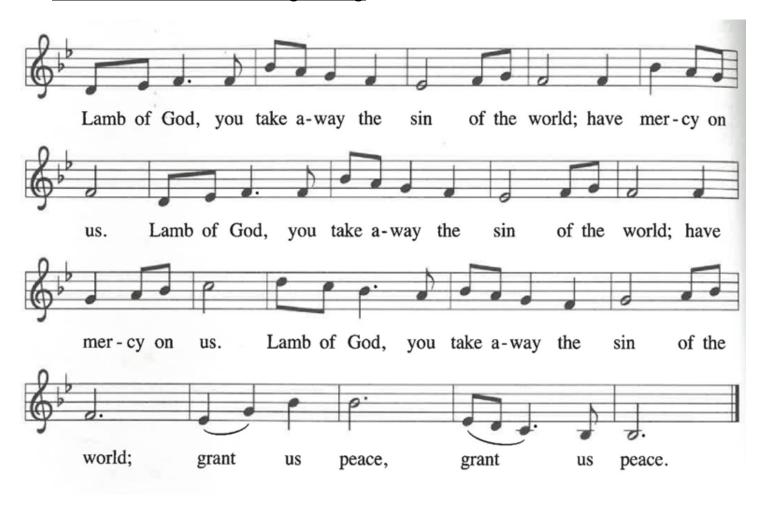
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever.

Amen

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

(Please be seated)

Communion Gathering Song



Communion Hymn

"Our Father, We Have Wandered" Red #606

Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face, in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace. But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame, as distant but compelling, we hear you call our name. And now at length discerning the evil that we do, behold us Lord, returning with hope and trust to you. In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring. In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored, compassionate, forgiving and ever caring Lord, grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease. Stretch out your hand in blessing in pardon and in peace.

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

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Red #886

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, The glories of my God and king, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

The name of Jesus calms our fears and bids our sorrows cease, Sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.

He speaks, and list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive; The mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe. Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race! Look and be saved through faith alone, Be justified by grace!

To God all glory, praise, and love Be now and ever giv'n By saints below and saints above, The church in earth and heav'n.

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Christ is sending you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Music "Variation III" from Grand Choure Richard Purvis

Serving Today

Reader:

Coffee Host: Margaret Schraft

Altar Guild: Tina Gates

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



The Altar Flowers are given by Judi & Robert to Celebrate brother Paul Juenemen's birthday



Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: Nancy, Jennifer Linkeon, Corrine & Daniel, Tom D., 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, 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., 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, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Isaac & 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.

* Please notify when to remove *

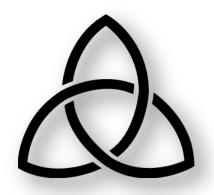
New Ways of Giving

Our *Virtual Offering Plate* has been enhanced. Donations can be made by: credit card, debit card, PayPal, Venmo and Zelle.

- 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.





Trinity Tuesday (Pub Theology / Discussion)

One Beverage ~ One Hour ~ One Question

Tuesday Sept. 2 at 6:30pm

First Tuesday of the month at Discretion Brewery

GOT A QUESTION?

The Why's are always a challenge! WHAT'S ON YOUR HEART?

We continue to explore how we encounter God in ordinary moments from ordinary questions provided by you! Recent conversations included: Miracles, Trust vs.Fear, Resilience & Stability during difficult times.

We invite you to join the conversation in a relaxed, thoughtful atmosphere. No theological degree required-just bring your honest perspective. Share ideas. Listen deeply. Connect with others.

Trinity Tuesday-where meaningful conversations happen over a cold one. ~ Kathy Allen



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.



Our Preschool is enrolling NOW. Ages 2-4
Full & Part Time openings.
Tell your friends!
Contact Kathy 462-4453

Upcoming Events:

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

Aug. 25	CDC Board 11:15 am
Aug. 26	Scouts 6:00 pm
Aug. 27	Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm
Aug. 28	Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm helpers needed
Aug. 28	Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside
Aug. 29	A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall
Sept. 2	Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm Pub Theology Discretion Brew 41st Ave.
Sept. 3	Preschool Chapel 10:15
Sept. 4 & 18	Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays Dinner and devotions
Sept. 7	Choir Lunch
Sept. 11	MMRR Circle 10:30 am
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