



*Will not God
grant justice?*

LUKE 18:7

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 19, 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

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: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: You have shown us the ways of your heart,
Yet we stray from your path.
We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression
And do not embrace the freedom
Of your faithful promises.
We ignore our neighbors.
We exploit the earth
We reject your abundance,
Trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.
Repair our relationships,
Restore what we have broken,
Renew our hearts,
And bring us to new life.
Amen.

P: Hear the good news:

God the Faithful One loves you,
+ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,
And by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn "Rise Up, O Saints of God!" Red #669

Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.

Speak out, O saints of God!
Despair engulfs earth's frame;
As heirs of God's baptismal grace,
The word of hope proclaim.

Rise up, O saints of God!
The kingdom's task embrace;
Redress sin's cruel consequence;
Give justice larger place.

(Hymn continued)

Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain;
Stretch forth your hand of healing now,
With love the weak sustain.

Commit your hearts to seek
the paths which Christ has trod;
And, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,
rise up, O saints of God!

*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



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

*Prayer of the Day

The Word of God

First Reading Genesis 32:22-31 Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 121 Choir with congregation response
Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation Blue #33



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*Gospel Reading

Luke 18:1-8

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Luke, the 18th 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)

God Stories

Message

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day "Ask the Complicated Questions" Blue #1005

Ask the complicated questions.
Do not fear to be found out;
For our God makes strong our weakness,
Forging faith in fires of doubt.

Seek the disconcerting answers,
Follow where the Spirit blows;
Test competing truths for wisdom,
For intension new life grows.

Knock on doors of new ideas,
Test assumptions long grown stale,
For Christ calls from shores of wonder,
Daring us to try and fail.

For in struggle we discover
Truth both simple and profound;
In the knocking, asking, seeking,
We are opened, answered, found.

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.

Choir “Earth is Full of Wit & Wisdom” Blue #1064

Offering Prayer

P: Lord of the harvest,

We return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.

Multiply what we have gathered

To bless all who are suffering and in need,

Through Jesus 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

**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: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

(Please be seated)

Communion Gathering Song



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

“There is a Longing in Our Hearts” ACS #1078 blue

REFRAIN

*There is a longing in our hearts, O lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.*

*There is a longing in our hearts for love
we only find in you, our God.*

For justice, for freedom, for mercy:

Hear our prayer.

In sorrow, in grief:

Be near; hear our prayer, O God. REFRAIN

For wisdom, for courage, for comfort:

Hear our prayer.

In weakness, in fear:

Be near; hear our prayer, O God. REFRAIN

For healing, for wholeness, for new life:

Hear our prayer. In sickness, in death;

Be near; hear our prayer, O God. REFRAIN

Lord, save us, take pity, light in our deepest night.

We call you; we wait:

Be near; hear our prayer, O God. REFRAIN

The Sending

*Prayer after Communion

P: O God,

Through this meal you have strengthened us

And appointed us to be your servants.

Send us to do good and to share our possessions

With all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen**

*Blessing

P: The God of righteousness,

Who gives justice to the oppressed,

Who gives food to the hungry,

Who sets the prisoners free,

+ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen**

*Closing Hymn

“Let Justice Flow Like a Stream” Red #717

Let Justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,
Enabling growth, refreshing life,
abundant, cleansing, sure.

Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed,,
An ever flowing stream of faith translated into deed.

So may God's plumb line, straight,
define our measure true,
And justice right, and peace pervade this world our
whole life through.

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Do not lose heart.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music “For the Beauty of the Earth”

Serving Today

Reader: Christa Wynekein Garcia

Coffee Host:

Altar Guild: Margaret Schraft

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jage



SHORT TERM

Beth, Liz, Joan Wilson Family, Sam, Florence, Tom Williams, Charlotte & family, Tim Oldfield, Kathy M., Nancy, Jennifer Linkeon, Corrine & Daniel, Connie Garcia & Family, Laura, Family of Elizabeth Schilling, Tina & family, Family of Patrick McCalmont, Atlas, Ana, Kathybelle Barlow, Family & friends of Rev. Jim Carr, Family of Ed Valencia, Family of Tex Ronning, Grey, Levi, Lisa J., Unemployed, Nick, James, Mary D., Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Francisco, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, 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 & 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 *

The Altar Flowers are given
By Barb & Kent
Celebrating Birthdays:
Asher, Amelia & Anne



MUSIC AT ST. STEPHENS

Greetings to all!

Again many thanks to our Choir (Good News Singers) for blessing us at our worship each Sunday morning. I am grateful to Bill Schraft and Tina Gates for their leadership roles in music informational support.



I am also proud of our Choir and their non-stop praising God through singing!

Tina and I are hard at work on the Taize Worship: meditation songs, readings and prayer. I can't wait for this outreach to begin.

As we fast approach All Saint Sunday, Christ the King, and 4 weeks of Advent, we still have the Reformation Sunday before us. H u r r a y !



Roll out the worship, a little brass,
and some food, bounce house
& BEER

May God's Peace Reign forever!

Yours in Christ & Mission,
Gary



REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCT.26

10:00am GERMAN MUSIC LITURGY

11:00am OKTOBER—FEAST

Brats! Hotdogs! Delicious side dishes!

Pretzels! Yummy desserts!

Apple Cider, Soft Drinks & Beer!

“Roll out the barrel . . . ”

- Jump house & kids activities
- Bring Side Dishes and Desserts. Sign up now!
- Sponsored by Thrivent Action Team

We'll have a barrel of fun!

Wear something RED

(or your Dirndl & Lederhosen)



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



Trinity Tuesday

One Hour ~ One Question ~ One Beverage

Tuesday, November 4th - 6:30pm @ Discretion Brew

Informal faith conversations in a welcoming, relaxed setting. Explore one thoughtful question together - from deep theological mysteries to everyday questions about how faith intersects with life.

Kathy Allen 430-6359



All Saints Day Celebration

Starting Sunday, October 19, you're invited to bring a photo of your departed loved ones, framed or unframed, to display on a remembrance table in the church narthex for All Saints Day and Día de los Muertos.

You can pick up your photo beginning Sunday, November 10 following worship. Don't have a physical photo or can't come in-person to church right now? Email a digital photo by October 31 (or any other questions) to [Christa Garcia](mailto:ChristaGarcia@christawynekengarcia@gmail.com) at christawynekengarcia@gmail.com and she will print and display them for you.

NEW Six Week Matthew Bible Study

Join us as we explore the tenderness and tensions in the teachings of Jesus through *Matthew: "The Gospel of Promised Blessings"* by Dr. Matthew Skinner. The six-week Bible study begins Wednesday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. We'll meet each Wednesday from November 5 to December 17, except for Thanksgiving Eve, November 26. [See a short promo video for this study here](#) on Youtube!

You can [order the book for \\$10 on Kindle, ~\\$12.50 for paperback](#), or \$14 through Christa if you'd like her to order one for you. Scholarships are available!

If you don't have time to read between sessions or need to skip a week, that's perfectly fine. Come for the scripture and conversation whenever you can. Friends are always welcome. Submit any inquiries to [Christa Garcia](mailto:ChristaGarcia@christawynekengarcia@gmail.com) at christawynekengarcia@gmail.com

“American Agitators”

Documentary screening and discussion
with free dinner.

Wednesday,
November 5th
4:30–7:00 pm
Samper Hall @
Cabrillo

- Learn about the history of community organizing in our region
- Meet past and present community organizers
- learn about current opportunities to get involved.



Register here



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.



Upcoming Events:

October Benevolence Offering -
St. Stephen's Child Development Center

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Oct. 21 | Scouts 6:00 pm |
| Oct. 22 | Preschool Chapel 10:15 |
| Oct. 22 | Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm |
| Oct. 23 | Newsletter Deadline |
| Oct. 23 | Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside |
| Oct. 24 | A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall |
| Oct. 26 | * Reformation Polka Mass & Oktoberfeast * |
| Oct. 30 | Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm |
| Nov. 4 | Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm - Discretion Brew 41st |
| Nov. 5 | "American Agitators" documentary screening & discussion with free dinner 4:30 pm Cabrillo |
| Nov. 6 & 20 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays
Dinner and devotions (Bring your "hopes") |
| Nov. 12 | MMRR Circle 10:30 am |
| Nov. 24—Dec. 3 | El Salvador Delegation |

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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email: office@ststephenslutheran.org
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