

The
truth
will make
you
free

JOHN 8:32



Reformation Sunday

Polka Mass

October 26, 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 “All Glory be to God on High”

The Gathering

*Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the † holy Trinity,
The one who fashions us,
The one who heals us,
The one who reforms us again and again.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God’s transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: Source of all life,

**C: We confess that we have not allowed
Your grace to set us free.
We fear that we are not good enough.
We hear your word of love freely given to us,
Yet we expect others to earn it.
We turn the church inward,
Rather than moving it outward.
Forgive us. Stir us.
Reform us to be a church powered by love,
Willing to speak for what is right,
Act for what is just,
And seek the healing of your whole creation.
Amen.**

P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
And to empower our lives in the world.
Our sins are forgiven,
† God's love is unconditional,
And we are raised up as God's people
Who will always be made new,
In the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“A Mighty Fortress is our God” Red #504

A mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
Has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

(hymn continued)

No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
Whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land
All threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
They cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
In battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God himself fights by our side
With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

*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.

Call To Worship

“Come Now and Worship”

Come Now and worship
Come now and worship the Lord
Come now and worship
Join as we sing and adore
Gather together
Give God the praise that is due
Hear us as we come to worship
Sing praise to you.

We bring our gifts
Gifts of our selves and our lives.
With bread and wine
We offer you our whole lives.
This celebration
Draws us all closer to you.
Hear us as we come to worship.
Singing praise to you.

Jesus our Savior.
Died on the cross just for us.
Rose from the dead
He gives salvation to us.
Gather together
Drawing us closer to you.
Hear us as we come to worship.
Singing praise to you.

*Prayer of the Day

P: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us Pray.

God Stories

The Word of God

First Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34 Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 46 Choir with congregation response
celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading Romans 3:19-28 Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Good News Acclamation (before & after Gospel)

Allelujah. Allelujah. Allelujah. Allelujah.

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John the 8th Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O God.

*Gospel Reading John 8:31-36 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Allelujah. Allelujah. Allelujah. Allelujah.

*Hymn of the Day

“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.

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.

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 “God Alone be Praised” Blue #1023

Offering Hymn “At This Sacrifice”
(Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain)

At this sacrifice we gather
Celebrating of your love.
For the sins we have committed,
Grant us pardon Lord of love.
Hearts to grow a little tender,
As the time of life goes by.
Love and kindness for each other,
Much too fast the moments fly.

Jesus we're not worthy ever,
To receive you here today.
Say the word denying never.
Make us pure again we pray.
God is love and God is mighty.
God is ever merciful.
Graces from God's holy bounty,
Sends God's love most wonderful.

Through the ages and forever,
In the heavenly domain.
Show the path for us to enter,

There for always to remain.
Life is like a dying ember,
Only moments do remain.
Increase our feeble faith O Jesus.
Shed thy healing light a gain.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us Pray...

**Blessed are you, O God,
Source of every gift of your creation
By these gifts and with our lives,
Help us to serve one another and all in need,
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord

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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every tongue and nation.

*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 you to this table.
Come, here is your God.

(You may be seated)

Holy Communion

Guests: You are welcome to come forward to receive Communion as part of this church family! Children are welcome to come forward and receive a special blessing if they have never communed before. Communion is by intinction, which means that we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Please follow the guidance of the ushers as to when and how you are to come forward.

Lamb of God (Tune: Edelweiss)

Lamb of God, Lamb of God,
you take away the world's sin.
Lamb of God, Lamb of God,
you take away the world's sin.
Mercy and peace may you grant to us,
Grant to us forever.
Lamb of God, Lamb of God, grant to us your peace.

Communion Hymn

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace” Red #247

1. Come, now, O Prince of peace,
make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus,
reconcile your people.
2. Come now, O God of love,
make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
3. Come now and set us free,
O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.
4. Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

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.**

Post Communion Hymn

“Let Us Sing” (Wooden Heart)

Let us sing, let us sing, let us sing to Christ our King.
Sing to Christ our King as we ask for his help this day.
God is good God is kind,
God will give us peace of mind,
Give us peace of mind if we following God's way.
There's no strings upon this love
God gives, God asks only your love in return
God is good, God is kind,
God will give us peace of mind,
Give us peace of mind if we follow in God's way.

*Blessing

P: God all mighty,
God most merciful
† bless you, keep you,
And give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

“Founded on Faith”

Blue #1048

Founded on faith, the church – alive by grace –
Proclaims the gospel here and ev’ry place.
The word of God resounds through time and space;
Alleluia!

Your cross, O Christ, renews our life each day.
Baptized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
Fed by your love, with thankful hearts, we say; Alleluia!

Equipped by prayer, we live the Spirit’s call.
Empower’d to serve with gifts, both great and small,
We bring the living hope of God to all.
Alleluia!

Growing in grace for God’s created earth,
we yearn for justice, peace, and human worth;
A world restored Faithful, caring church.
Alleluia!

Founded on faith, called forth, empower’d to serve,
we share God’s endless love without reserve.
Then let us shout a loud the living Word!
Alleluia!

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Do not lose heart.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music “Sing Praise to God in the Highest” David P. Dahl

Serving Today

Reader: Gary Roberts

Coffee Host: Connie & potluck

Altar Guild: Tina Gates

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



SHORT TERM

Kevin, Cheryl & David Craig, Beth, Liz, Joan Wilson Family, Sam, Florence, Tom Williams, Charlotte & family, Tim Oldfield, Kathy M., Nancy, Jennifer Linkeon, Corrine & Daniel, Connie Garcia & Family, 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 *

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 to celebrate!
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



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@christawyne.org) 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@christawyne.org) 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

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| Oct. 28 | Scouts 6:00 pm |
| Oct. 30 | Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside |
| Oct. 30 | Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm |
| Oct. 31 | A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall |
| Nov. 4 | Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm - Discretion Brew 41st |
| Nov. 5 | Preschool Chapel 10:15 |
| Nov. 5 | "American Agitators" documentary screening & discussion with free dinner 4:30 pm Cabrillo |
| Nov. 5 | Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm |
| 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 |
| Dec. 7 | Save the Date Christmas Pageant |

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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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

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