

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Polka Mass November 9, 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 Psalmody "Come let us Sing to the Lord"

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

"Death Be Never Last" Blue #10030

We walk in light of countless faces Bright as beams of rising sun, certain as the morning chases Night in endless ages' run.

REFRAIN

Turning eyes now to their shining mem'ry, To their faithful past, Saints be now the truth divining; Death be now but never last.

(hymn continued)

When sorrow's heavy hand has weighted loss against the greater gain, Pinning down that grief sore fatted Laden on the deed of pain,

REFRAIN

When joy returns with laughter singing
Thanks to God for life's sweet song,
Let us follow after bringing
thanks to God for those now gone. REFRAIN

*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.

<u>Call To Worship</u> "Come Now and Worship" (Tune: *Roll Out the Barrel*)

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.

4

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

<u>First Reading</u> Job. 19:23-27 Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 17 Choir with cong. response celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Cel. 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.

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Luke the 20th Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O God.

*Gospel Reading

Luke 20:27-38 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Allelujah. Allelujah. Allelujah.

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"Let My Spirit Always Sing" Blue #1020

Let my spirit always sing, though my heart be wintering, though the season of despair give no sign that you are there, God to whom my days belong let there always be a song.

Though my body be confined, let your word engage my mind, let the inner eye discern how much more there is to learn, see the world becoming whole through the window of the soul.

Let your wisdom grace my years, choose my words and chase my fears,

give me wit to welcome change, to accept, and not estrange; let my joy be full and deep in the knowledge that I keep.

Let my spirit always sing, to your Spirit answering, Through the silence, through the pain know my hope is not in vain, like a feather on your breath trust our love, through life and death.

The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

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 "Great is Thy Faithfulness"
Music William Runyan 1870~1957

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.

<u>Lamb of God</u> (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

"This is Christ's Body" Blue #967

This is Christ's body, broken and blest. Feed us with mercy and love. We are Christ's body, broken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

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

"God, Bless the Hands" Blue #1022

God, bless the hands stretched out in love through floods below and storms above; they search and rescue, comfort, calm, give shelter, offer healing balm. Oh, guard them by your steadfast hand; Reach out in love to help us stand. Bring comfort to the hearts that mourn, Left broken, emptied by the storm. Give hope to those in deepest grief; Empower us to bring relief. To you, O God, we raise our hands. Save us, we pray, from sinking sands.

O God, our strength and refuge sure, our hope while storms of life endure; Teach us to live in harmony with earth and river, sky and sea, preserving waters, air, and lands as holy work for human hands.

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

Music A postlude from Grace Cathedral Richard Purvis

The Altar Flowers are given
By Sheila Buswell
Thanksgiving for family & friends



Serving Today

Reader: Janet Slay

Coffee Host: Connie Cunningham Altar Guild: Connie Cunningham

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



SHORT TERM Family of Bobbie Erickson, Kevin, Marc Northcott, 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, Ana, Kathybelle Barlow, Family & friends of Rev. Jim Carr, Grey, Levi, Lisa J., Unemployed, Nick, James, Mary D., Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, 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 ston, 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, 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 *

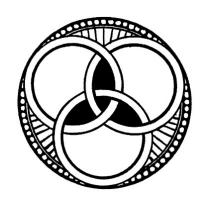
Ways of Giving

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 <a href="https://





Trinity Tuesday

One Hour ~ One Question ~ One Beverage Tuesday, December 2 at 6:30pm

Join us for informal faith conversations in a welcoming, relaxed setting. On the first Tuesday of each month, we gather to explore one thoughtful question together - from deep theological mysteries to everyday questions about how faith intersects with life.

What to expect:

- One focused discussion topic per month
- All perspectives welcome -

doubters, seekers, and believers alike

- Variety of beverages available (no need to drink beer!)
- Comfortable, judgment-free environment

Whether you're wrestling with big theological questions or simply curious about how others see the church's role in to-day's world, Trinity Tuesday is a place for honest conversation and genuine community.

When: First Tuesday of each month, 6:30 PM
Where: Discretion Brewery, 2703 41st Ave. Ste A
Questions? Contact Kathy Allen, 831-430-6359

Snippets from Strategic Recommendations for the ELCA

"Welcome brings peace. If you are welcome and you belong in a space, you tend to feel at peace there. And if you feel marginalized in a space, you're not going to feel peace there. Really, at it's core, hospitality is about peace".

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"We are not being warm just so people will come and join us. We are working to establish in our ministry the culture that we want to be curious about people because God is curious about people."

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"We need to accompany folks. We need to receive, as well as give. It's reciprocal—and all about relationships. That's what God does with us."

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





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 **November 5—December 17.** We'll meet each Wednesday, except for Thanksgiving Eve, November 26. See a short promo video for this study here on Youtube!

You can <u>order the book for \$10 on Kindle, ~\$12.50 for paperback</u>, 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 at christawynekengarcia@gmail.com

On ZOOM with our Seminarian Christa

Check email on Tues. for link

WEDNESDAYS

7:30 - 8:30 pm

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



Bíll, Conníe, Doug, Janet, Jeanette, John, Judí, Karína, Patríck, Robert, Shelly, Sheíla & Tína

Our St. Stephen's Community is so good at lending a hand when needed. From property care to our Oktoberfest:

- Shed clean out & dump runs
- ~ Plant care
- Repair and paint our trellis
- Brighten up our fellowship area with fresh bench paint
- Thrivent Action Team lead
- ~ Grocery Shopper
- Decorations & Crafts
- Jump house provider
- Set up & Clean up crew
- ~ Cooks

All of YOU who brought food beer AND

Participated in our German Hootenanny

Upcoming Events:

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

Nov. 11	Scouts 6:00 pm
Nov. 11	Church Council 6:30 pm
Nov. 12	Preschool Chapel 10:15
Nov. 12	Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm
Nov. 13	Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside
Nov. 13	MMRR Circle 10:30 am
Nov. 14	A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall
Nov. 17	Embroiders 7:00 pm Fireside room
Nov. 20	Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays Dinner and devotions (Bring your "hopes")
Nov. 23	Stewardship Sunday, Children's Turkey Trot & Thanksgiving Potluck
Nov. 24—Dec	c. 3 El Salvador Delegation
Dec. 2	Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm - Discretion Brew 41st
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."

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.

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email: office@ststephenslutheran.org
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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