

**FOLLOW ME
AND I WILL
MAKE YOU
FISHERS
OF PEOPLE**

MATTHEW 4:19

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 25, 2026 at 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.

Music “Salvation Unto Us Has come” Eilich Lieder, 1524

The Gathering

Call to Worship

“Come to the Water of Life” Blue #955

1. All who are thirsty for mercy,
all who are thirsty for love;
All who are thirsty for love, for mercy, come:
Come to the Water of life.
2. All who are thirsty for healing,
all who are thirsty for touch;
All who are thirsty for touch, for healing, come:
Come to the Water of life.
3. All who are thirsty for beauty,
all who are thirsty for truth;
All who are thirsty for truth, for beauty, come:
Come to the Water of life.
4. All who are thirsty for justice,
all who are thirsty for peace;
All who are thirsty for peace, for justice, come:
Come to the Water of life.

*Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
Our creator,
Our protector
Our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of
our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Merciful God,

**C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act
With judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
We resist your call to oppose injustice;
We give in to scarcity and fear;
We assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults
And release us from their grasp.
Show us your loving kindness.
Restore our heart and repair your world,
That we may live in Christ's ways.
Amen.**

P: God proclaims these words of assurance;
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine.”
In † Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
Live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen

*Opening Hymn

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” Red #841

Lift ev’ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list’ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith
that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope
that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast’ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way
that with tears has been watered;
We have come,
treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet
stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
Lest, our hearts
drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

***Greeting**

*P: The grace of our Light and Friend Jesus Christ, the love of God our Creator, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Kyrie (Here we offer up all our cries for God's help)**

1. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.
2. Christe eleison. Christe eleison.
3. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie 18

The musical score consists of two staves of music in common time, with a key signature of one flat. The top staff is for a soprano or alto voice, and the bottom staff is for a bass or tenor voice. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music features eighth-note patterns and some rests.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e -
le - i - son.

Music: Jacques Berthier
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Glory to God

WOV #607

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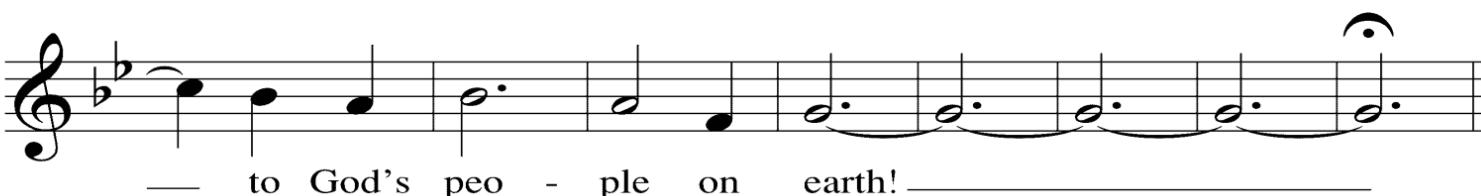
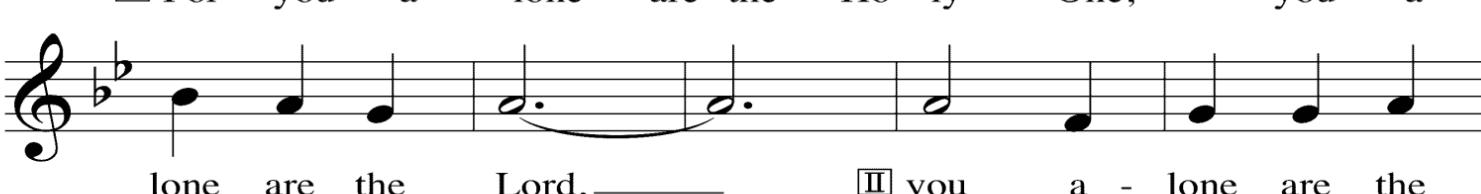
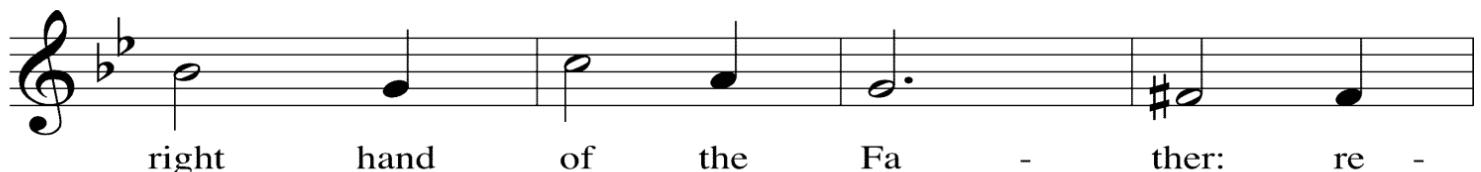
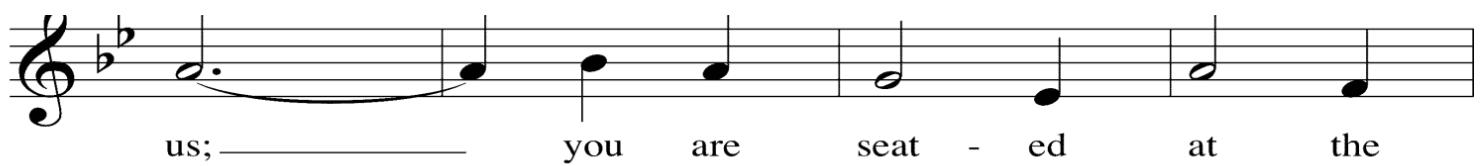
Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth!

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty
God and Father, we worship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's
people on earth!

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the
Father, Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world: have mercy on



*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us Pray...

C: (following the prayer) Amen.

The Word of God

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 27:1-9 Choir & Cong. Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Celebrate pg. 2

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mathew the 4th Chapter

C: Glory to you O God.

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:12-23

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

(The Summons)

Red #798

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray’r in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris’ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found
to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?”

(hymn continued)

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

*Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.
C: **And also with you.**

The Communion Meal

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Offering Hymn "This Little Light of Mine" Red #677

This little light of mine, I'm goin'~a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm goin'~a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm goin'~a let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'~a let it shine;
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'~a let it shine;
Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'~a let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'~a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'~a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'~a let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Music “Christ Be Our Light” Red #715

***Offering Prayer**

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
And your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service;
Our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
Now and always.

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 our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

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**

Invitation to Communion

**P: The joy of the Lord is our strength.
 Come eat this meal of gladness.**

Holy Communion

Visitors: You are welcome to come forward to receive Communion as part of this church family! Children are welcome to come and receive a special blessing if they have never communed. Communion is by intinction, we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white).

Lamb of God

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

Hymn "Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult" Red #696

Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me":

As of old Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

(hymn continued)

Jesus calls us! By your mercy,
Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

***Communion Blessing**

P: May this Holy Communion of our Light, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace now and
forever.

C: Amen.

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Nourishing God,
At this table you have refreshed us
With holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,

And send us out to embody your good news
Of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen

The Sending

***Blessing**

P: The Spirit of the triune God † Bless you with joy,
Anoint you with compassion, And send you in love.

C: Amen

*Closing Hymn

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

Red # 674

1. Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

REFRAIN (two times)

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2. Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love and word and in deed express.

REFRAIN 2x

3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'ry~where!

REFRAIN 2x

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music “Come and Follow” Richard Anderson



*The Altar Flowers are given
By Judi & Robert Alvarado
To Celebrate Isabelle's birthday*

Serving Today

Reader: Steven Hendrickson

Altar Guild: Tina Gates

Coffee Host : Connie Cunningham & others

Office Help: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

* Sign up to Read, Host Coffee & Dedicate Altar Flowers *



SHORT TERM

Dorothy Ronning, Bob Holzwarth, Amanda, Mary Robe & Family, Renee, Family of Laura Gates, Sina & Bella, Katie's family, Chad Fields, Laura, Ayla, Tate & Terry, Beth Stiles, Margaret Schraft, Laura & twin babies, James, Don & Taiyo, Gary & Connie Stevenson, Family of Bobbie Erickson, Kevin, Marc Northcott, Cheryl & David Craig, Beth, Liz, Joan Wilson Family, Sam, Florence, Tom Williams, Tim Oldfield, Kathy M., Nancy, Jennifer Linkeon, Corrine & Daniel, Connie Garcia & Family, Tina & family, Ana, Kathybelle Barlow, Family & friends of Rev. Jim Carr, Grey, Levi, James, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Isaac & Marissa, Mateo & Lina, Atlas, Sal, Katarina.

LONG TERM Those suffering with Mental Illness, James Sheehan, Biergiel—Colclough family, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Beth UG, Brian Utto, Kathy Brooks, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), Miller, April, Aaron Johnson, Shelby, Ashley, Frank, Joe, 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,

Annual Congregational Meeting

TODAY at 11 am

STAY as we gather to elect leadership to council, elect voting members for Synod Assembly, and approve a budget that reflects our mission. Support your church as we continue to seek God's will for our ministry together.

Our Bishop reminds us that as Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. *"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."* - Colossians 2:6-7



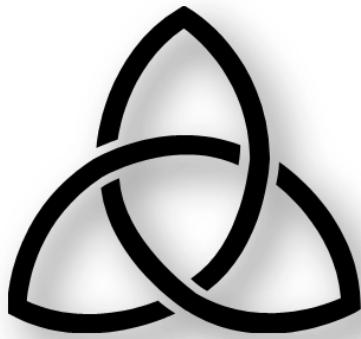
Other Giving Options

We are now able to receive donations made by:
credit card, debit card, PayPal, Venmo & 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>





Trinity Tuesday

(Pub Theology / Discussion)

February 3 at 6:30pm

(First Tuesday of the month)

Place: Discretion Brewing 2703 41st Ave.

1 HOUR

1 QUESTION
(3-in-1)

1 DRINK

Join us for an evening of honest conversation and genuine community. Bring your questions about faith, life, and everything in between. No question is off limits, and no judgment—just real talk in a relaxed atmosphere.

Whether you're a longtime member or exploring faith for the first time, pull up a chair and let's talk. All are welcome.

Previous discussions include: How do we see God? How are we called? Why do bad things happen to good people? Recognizing our God-given talents. How do we forgive?

**NOTE: We are gathering on the patio.
Please dress for the weather!**

Kathy Allen 430-6359 for more info.

Upcoming Events:

January Benevolence Offering = Community Bridges

Jan. 27 Scouts 6:00 pm

Jan. 28 - Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
- Bible Study 7:30 pm

Jan. 29 - Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm
- Men's A.A. 7:00 pm

Jan. 30 A. A. Group 7:00 pm

Jan. 31 Provide AFC Shelter Dinner 5:45—7:15 pm
St. John's 125 Canterbury Drive Aptos
Offer your resources to our neighbors without housing.
We are all worthy of dignity and connection. You can assist those without homes to a better life. (see sign up)

Feb. 1 Scout Sunday—meet the troop & enjoy their treats

Feb. 3 Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm Discretion Brewery
come for honest conversation and genuine community

Feb. 5 & 19 Women's Café 6:00 pm

Feb. 10 Church Council 6:30 pm

Feb. 12 Women's Circle of Promise 10:30 am

Feb. 18 Lent begins: Ash Wednesday Worship

TBA Taize Service 6:00 pm

Pastor's Office Hours Wednesdays 10 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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Web Address: www.ststephenslutheran.org
Office Hours: Mon.—Friday. 12:00 —5:00 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
Church Musician: Gary Roberts
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens
Custodian: John Hopping
Videographers: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barb Rice

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