

# A CITY BUILT ON A HILL

# CANNOT BE HID

MATTHEW 5:14

## **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

### **February 8, 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 “How Beautifully the Morning Star Shines”  
J. S. Bach

### **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    *“All Are Welcome”*

Red #641

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

REFRAIN

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God’s children dare to seek  
to dream God’s reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God’s grace;  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

REFRAIN

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
A banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

REFRAIN

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
To heal and strengthen serve and teach,  
and live the Word they’ve known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God’s face;  
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:

REFRAIN

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **REFRAIN**

**\*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**

## Glory to God

WOV #607

8

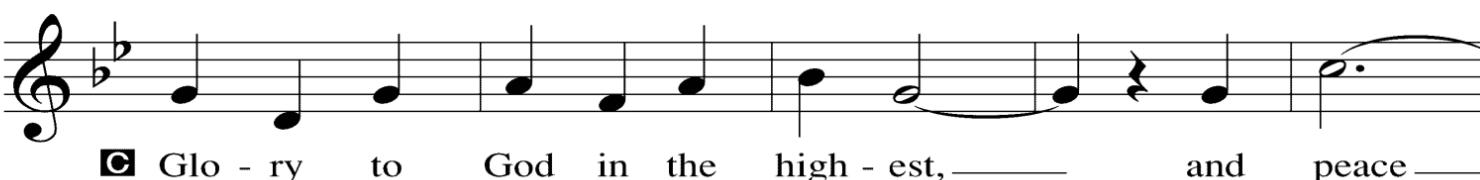
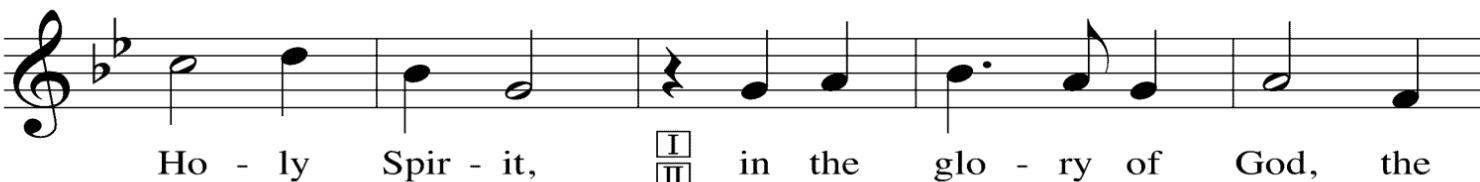
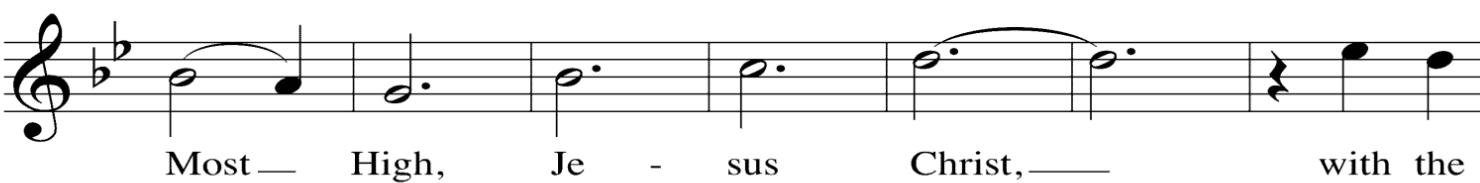
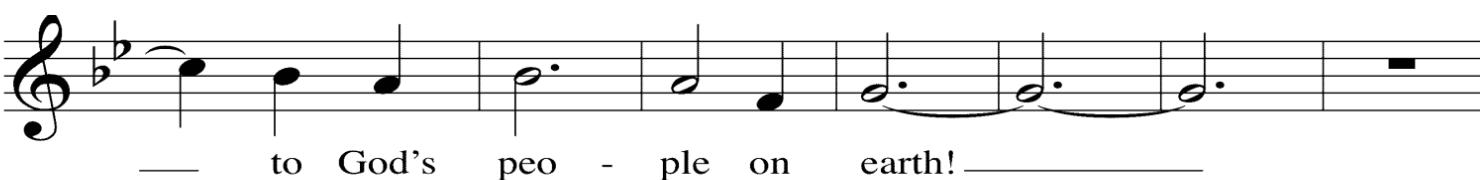
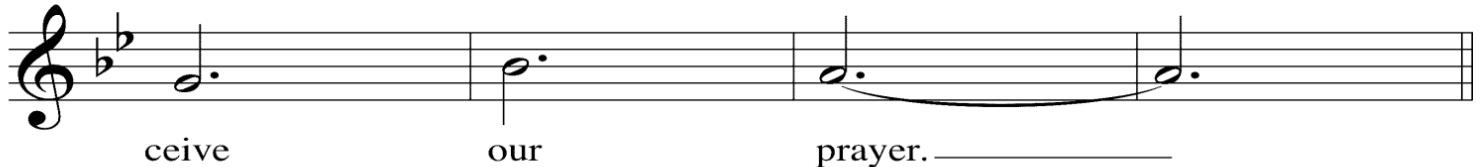
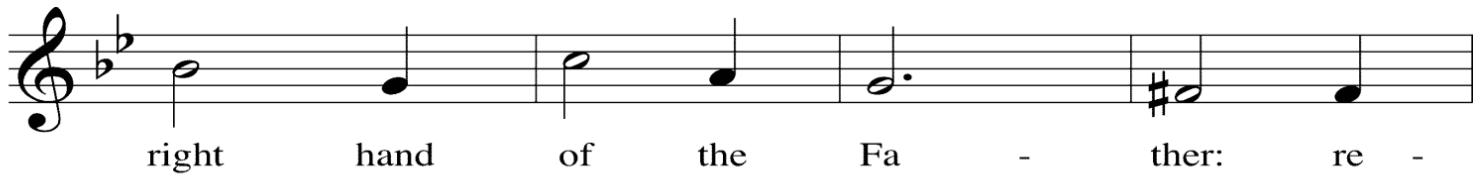
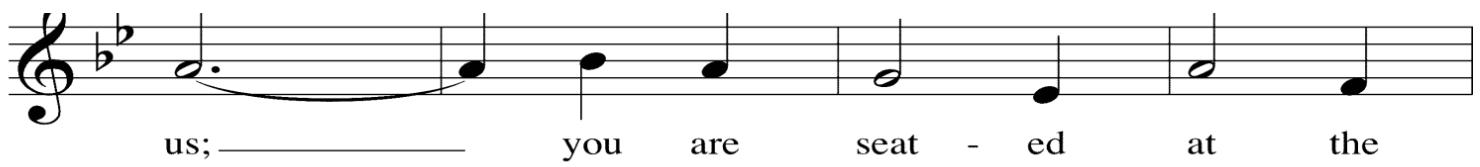
Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth!

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 58:1-12

## Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

## Psalm 112:1-9

## Choir & Cong.

## Celebrate pg. 2

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

## Celebrate pg. 2

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA**

The image shows two lines of musical notation for a hymn. The first line starts with a treble clef, a 'G' key signature, and a '3/4' time signature. It consists of a single measure followed by a repeat sign and another measure. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The second line begins with a repeat sign and continues with the same melody and lyrics, ending with a final repeat sign.

\*Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mathew the 5th Chapter  
C: Glory to you O God.

\*Gospel Reading      Matthew 5:13-20      Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon      Rev. James P. Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day      “*Christ, Be Our Light*”      Red #715

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see.

REFRAIN

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.      REFRAIN

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
Shared until all are fed.      REFRAIN

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
Walls made of living stone.      REFRAIN

Many the gifts, many the people,  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
Signs of your kingdom come.      REFRAIN

\*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.

## \*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**

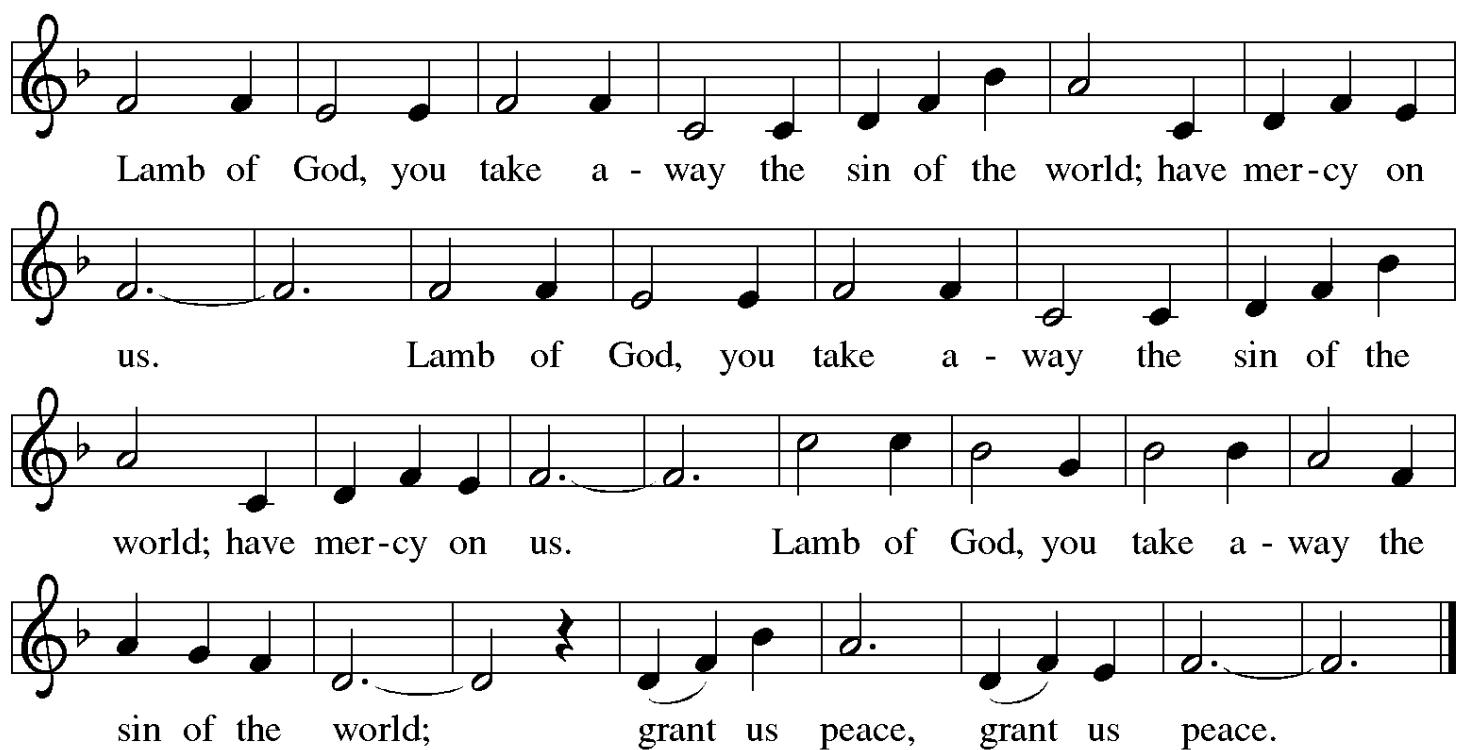
## Invitation to Communion

**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    “*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*”    Red #712

Lord, whose love in humble service  
Bore the weight of human need,  
Who upon the cross, forsaken,  
Worked your mercy’s perfect deed:  
We, your servants, bring the worship  
Not of voice alone, but heart;  
Consecrating to your purpose  
Ev’ry gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless;  
Still the hungry cry for bread;  
Still the captives long for freedom;  
Still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion  
Healed the sick and freed the soul,  
By your Spirit send your power  
To our world to make it whole.

(hymn continued)

As we worship, grant us vision,  
Till your love's revealing light  
In its height and depth and greatness  
Dawns upon our quickened sight,  
Making known the needs and burdens  
Your compassion bids us bear,  
Stirring us to ardent service,  
Your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
To the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
Hope and health, good will and comfort,  
counsel, aid and peace we give,  
That your servants, Lord,  
in freedom may your mercy know and live.

### \*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     “Jesus, the Light of the World” Blue #914

1) Hark! the herald angels sing.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Glory to the newborn King,  
Jesus, the light of the world.

REFRAIN:

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.  
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.  
Jesus, the light of the world.

2) Joyful, all you nations, rise.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Join the triumph of the skies.  
Jesus, the light of the world.     REFRAIN

3) Christ, by highest heav'n adored.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Jesus, the light of the world.     REFRAIN

4) Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!  
Jesus, the light of the world.     REFRAIN

## \*Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Serving Today

## Reader: Scouts

Altar Guild: Connie Cunningham

## Coffee Host : Scouts

Office Help: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

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



**SHORT TERM** Camryn, Corbin, Marilyn,

Nathan, Dorothy Ronning, Bob Holzwarth, Amanda, Mary Robe & Family, Renee, Family of Laura Gates, Sina & Bella, Chad Fields, Laura, Ayla, Beth Stiles, Margaret Schraft, Laura & twin

babies, James, Don & Taiyo, Pr. Gary & Corinne Stevenson, Family of Bobbie Erickson, Kevin, Beth, Liz, Sam, Florence, Tom Williams, Tim Oldfield, Kathy M., Nancy, Corrine & Daniel, Connie Garcia & Family, 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 & family (Ethiopia), Miller, April, Aaron Johnson, Shelby, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Jan Shadle, Vi

**Lenten Wednesdays  
6:00 pm  
(Worship 7:00pm)**



**Feb. 25  
March 4, 11, 18 & 25**

2 Hosts needed each evening.  
Provide soup, bread /crackers & cookies.  
Sign up now.

### **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>





# **PANCAKE BREAKFAST & EASTER CELEBRATION**

**Sunday, April 5**

- Apply for a Thrivent Action Team Grant.  
Contact Leslie or Tina **ASAP**.
- Set up, servers & clean up. See sign up sheet.
- Help with Childrens activities during worship & egg hunt after
- Sign up to order an Easter Lily to help decorate the sanctuary.
- Plan ahead and invite folks.  
Let them see “our light shine”.

# **Upcoming Events:**

February Benevolence Offering = Association of Faith Communities Rotating Shelter & Safe Spaces

- Feb. 10        - Scouts 6:00 pm  
                  - Church Council 6:30 pm
- Feb. 11        - Preschool Chapel 10:15 am  
                  - Bible Study 7:30 pm
- Feb. 12        - Women's Circle of Promise 10:30 am  
                  - Men's A.A. Group 7:00 pm
- Feb. 13—16 Preschool Closed
- Feb. 13        A. A. Group 7:00 pm
- Feb. 14        Embroider's Guild 10—4pm
- Feb. 18        Lent begins: Ash Wednesday  
                  Worship 11 am & 7 pm
- Feb. 20        Newsletter Deadline Noon
- Feb. 25        Soup Suppers begin 6:00 pm  
                  Sign up now
- Feb. 25        Taize Service 7:00 pm (after soupper)
- Feb. 26        Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm
- March 3        Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm Discretion Brewery  
                  come for honest conversation and genuine community

**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](http://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

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539