

The truth  
will make

you free

JOHN 8:32

Reformation Sunday  
Polka Mass  
October 25, 2026 10:00 a.m.

Music     “Fanfare” ~ En Feste Burg, Lechenbauer

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.”

## 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 — How has God's Word come alive in your life?

## 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.**

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

\*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 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 “Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice”  
Etlich Lie der, Witenburg 1524

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 “Ridaudon” from Idomende Andre Campra



**ALTAR flowers**

Given by Janet Slay

In memory of Sylvia

### Serving Today

Reader: Beth Stiles

Coffee Host: Connie Cunningham

Altar Guild: Tina Gates

Office Support: Candace Anderson, Sheila Buswell  
& Sherilyn Jager

## OKTOBER FEAST



TODAY Stay for the fun  
Plenty of food!

*“Roll out the barrel . . .*

with Thirsty Nine, OOMPA Band  
A Free will offering will be collected to  
go to their music scholarships

*. . . We’ll have a barrel of fun!”*

Sponsored by Thrivent Action Team

Clean up helpers needed!

## Holy Conversations

**Nov. 1**

Sign up now

A time for exploring where God might be calling us to next! These small group gatherings have been planned by our Long Range Task Force (Pr. Jim, Mark Linder, Tina Gates, Jeannette Dawson & Steven Hendrickson). As we have studied the book “When Church Stops Working” as a faithful response to the reality of our church’s decline, it is time to re-gather our spirits and begin to ask “What are our hopes for the future of our congregations ministry.” Let’s begin to dream and imagine together about some creative ways that our ministry together can now engage in.



**&**

**Día de los Muertos**

**November 1**

Bring a photo of your departed loved ones, framed or unframed, to display on a remembrance table in the church narthex. You can pick up your photo beginning Sunday, November 8 following worship.

Don't have a physical photo or can't come in-person to church right now? Email a digital photo by October 28 (or any other questions you may have) to Christa Garcia at [christawynekengarcia@gmail.com](mailto:christawynekengarcia@gmail.com) and she will print and display them for you.

## **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.

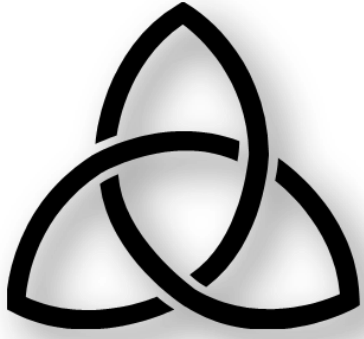
All are available at  
<https://ststephenslutheran.org>  
Or by scanning this QR code.



## **Prayer Concerns**

**SHORT TERM** Kathybelle, family & friends of Barbara Allen, Cheryl Curry & Family, Ron Waltrip, Missy, Nancy, Lis Wyatt, Lisa Alfred, Kathy Gray, James & Family, Family of Mark Linder, Brian Garcia & Family, Dorothy Ronning, Kavon & family, Janet, Shelton, Judy, Mary, Brandon, Josie, Andre, Lurline, Tyeleiga, Diane Johnnie, Phill, Tina Brown, Alma Black, Andrea Black Tamsen, Leila, Doug Yaryan, Rob, Debbie Greso, James White, Jeffery, Zaun family, Doug Lentz, Rev. Will & Dorothy Sieburg, Pam Huypner, Bob Zigler, Taiyo, Kevin, Liz, Sam, Kathy M., Nancy, Grey, Levi, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Isaac & Marissa, Mateo & Lina, Atlas, Katarina.

**LONG TERM** Pr. Gary & Corinne Stevenson, 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 Olly, Mike, Ruth, Susan Anderson, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris & John B., Those suffering with Mental Illness, Immigrant families, The Unhoused, People of Ukraine, People of Palestine/Israel, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of



# Trinity Tuesday

(Pub Theology / Discussion)

**One Beverage ~ One Hour ~ One Question**

**Tuesday November 10 at 6:30pm**

First Tuesday of the month at Discretion Brewery

*BRING YOUR DEEPEST QUESTIONS,  
AN OPEN HEART,  
& A CURIOUS MIND*

Gather with us for an evening of meaningful conversation and real community. Bring your questions about faith, life, and everything in between. No judgment, no limits—just authentic dialogue over a cold one.

Whether you've been with us from the start or you're stepping through the door for the first time, there's a seat waiting for you.

Past conversations: 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?

Kathy Allen 430-6359 for more info.



On ZOOM  
with Pr. Jim

Check email on  
Tues. for link

## WEDNESDAYS

7:30 – 8:30 pm

*We will be looking at the upcoming scripture readings for Sunday, to enrich our worship experience & uncover some of the deeper truths of our faith. As we grow in our faith, we grow in community.*



Good morning, ALL ARE WELCOME!

We have had good support so far in October, for donations from the heart, to the Musicians Fund. Thank you so much. You will have the opportunity to share until October 25th.

Many thanks and welcome to Mr. Greg Ferrer, for his talents and for singing for us & God this morning. Nancy Adams will return on Nov. 18, singing “Bring Him Home”, from Les Miserable. On Dec. 5 she sings, “When You Wish Upon A Star.”

The Good News Singers will begin rehearsal for Advent, and the Christmas season. Anyone who loves to sing is welcome to join & make music. Thank you Barbara, Ross, and Jay for your many faithful years, leadership, friendship & all that Jazz. We will meet again, in a better place. Thank God for our Church!

Yours in Christ and Mission, Gary

# Upcoming Events:

October Benevolence Offering =  
Music Outreach

- |             |                                                                                                  |             |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Oct. 27     | Scouts 6:00 pm                                                                                   |             |
| Oct. 28     | Bible Study Zoom 7:30 pm                                                                         |             |
| Oct. 29     | Men's A.A. Group 7:00 pm                                                                         |             |
| Oct. 30     | "Next Stage Productions" 11 to 1                                                                 |             |
| Oct. 30     | A. A. Group 7:00 pm                                                                              |             |
| Oct. 31     | Host AFC Shelter Dinner St. John's, Aptos 6 p                                                    |             |
| Nov. 1      | All Saints / Dia de los Muertos celebration                                                      |             |
| Nov. 1      | Holy Conversations 11:30 am                                                                      | Sign up now |
| Nov. 3      | Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm<br>Discretion Brewry 41st Ave.<br>Faith Questions with genuine community |             |
| Nov. 5 & 19 | Women's Bold Café 6:00pm<br>devotions and potluck                                                |             |
| Nov. 8-29   | readers needed                                                                                   |             |
| Nov. 10     | Church Council 6:30 pm                                                                           |             |
| Nov. 12     | Circle of Promise 10:30 am                                                                       |             |
| Nov. 14     | Embroider's Guild 10—12:30                                                                       |             |
| Nov. 16-24  | El Salvador Sister Parish 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."*

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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  
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp  
Custodian: John Hopping  
Powerpoint: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539