

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



JANUARY 11, 2026

10 A.M.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

(850) 385-2728, Office
sslc@ststephenlutherantly.com, Email <http://www.ststephenlutherantly.com>
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Rev. Tom Holdcraft, Pastor

Katharine Gossman, Music Director

Rita Ford, Office Manager

All Members, Ministers

Welcome, Everyone!

We are glad to have you with us this morning. If you need assistance in finding anything, one of our ushers will be glad to help you.

Restrooms are found in the fellowship hall and office building to the right as you exit the sanctuary. Proceed up the stairs and through the glass door. Unisex bathrooms are available through the kitchen in the office area. Please do not leave children under 12 unattended.

“Let the Little Children Come” Matthew 19:14 - In accordance with St. Stephen’s mission “to be a welcoming community . . .” we encourage all ages to worship on Sundays. We also believe that children learn to welcome others by how they have been welcomed. If you are a parent of a young child, know that this community supports your efforts to engage your child in worship and understands that it can be a stressful process. Having children in worship is a joy that we treasure, so please know that we welcome you and your children as they learn to become active members in Christ’s body. A nursery is available if parent or guardian desires. See usher for details.

Please remember to turn off your cell phone during the liturgy.

All the hymns for the worship service are in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship book and numbered by hymn, not page.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church (ELCA) is a Reconciling in Christ congregation that explicitly welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. St. Stephen is equally committed to anti-racism. We welcome people without regard to race, ethnicity, age, family status, economic status, or differing abilities.

All are invited to receive the sacrament. Lutherans believe that Jesus Christ is present in, with and under the consecrated bread and wine of Holy Communion. Those not wishing to commune are welcome to the altar to receive a blessing. To indicate this, please cross your arms over your chest. If you are not able to come forward, please inform the ushers and the meal will be brought to you.

INTRODUCTION

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Karl Barton and Jordi Banitt - Trio Sonata in G major - J.S.Bach

-Allegro ma non presto

The assembly stands.

Leader:
May the peace of the Lord em-brace us. May the

5 Leader:
love of the Lord light our way. We come to you

10 Leader:
lost and brok-en. Your bril-liance il-lu-mi-nates our flaws.

16 Leader:
You know how our prayers ev-cr fade. Yet al-ways you

22 Leader:
op-en your arms to us.



CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \dagger one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C **Amen.**

P Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence for reflection.

P Mighty God, lover of justice,

C **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

P The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in \dagger Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C **Amen.**

We are for-giv-en.
We're clean a-gain.

Gone is the dark night of sin; in comes the light.

We are re-born through no power of our own.
We are for-giv-en.

and we are given a new start.

We are for-give-en.
We're clean a-gain.
We are for-give-en.

and we are given a new start.
A-men.
A-men.
A-men.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
 Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

3

If God were an eagle, he'd
If God were the wind, she'd run
If God were a mountain, a
God's more than a mountain, an

7

swoop through the trees. He'd flex all his feathers to
rings 'round the clouds. She'd swirl 'round the world just ca -
tow - er of stone, it would reach to the hea -vens, al -
ea - gle, the wind. God stretch - es be - yond where our

11

catch the least breeze. And peo - ple would shout,
ress - ing the crowds. And peo - ple would sigh,
might - ty, a - lone. And peo - ple would cry,
hymns of praise end. Al - might - y and yet

15

"Oh, what beau - ty in flight!" If God were an eagle, so
"Oh, what gen - tle - ness there!" If God were the wind, whis - pering
"Oh, what strength we can feel!" If God were a mountain, a
del - i - cate and light, God came in the form of a

19

re - gal, so right. If God were an eagle, so
in eve - ry - where. If God were the wind, whis - pering
pow - er so real. If God were a mountain, a
ba - by one night, and that is the rea - son our

re - gal, so right.
in eve - ry - where.
pow - er so real.
hearts burn so bright.

PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME



+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

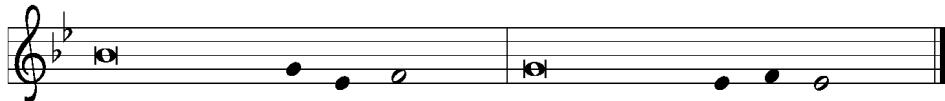
God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵ Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: **Psalm 29** *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader ¹ Ascribe to the ¹ Lord, you gods,
 ascribe to the Lord glo- ¹ ry and strength.

C ²**Ascribe to the Lord the glory ¹ due God's name;**
 worship the Lord in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness.

L ³The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of ¹ glory thunders;
 the Lord is upon the ¹ mighty waters.

C ⁴**The voice of the Lord is a pow- ¹ erful voice;**
 the voice of the Lord is a ¹ voice of splendor.

L ⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the ¹ cedar trees;
 the Lord breaks the ce- ¹ dars of Lebanon;

C ⁶**the Lord makes Lebanon skip ¹ like a calf,**
 and Mount Hermon like a ¹ young wild ox.

L ⁷The voice ¹ of the Lord
 bursts forth in ¹ lightning flashes.

C ⁸**The voice of the Lord ¹ shakes the wilderness;**
 the Lord shakes the wilder- ¹ ness of Kadesh.

L ⁹The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the ¹ forests bare.
 And in the temple of the Lord all are ¹ crying, "Glory!"

C ¹⁰**The Lord sits enthroned a- ¹ bove the flood;**
 the Lord sits enthroned as king for- ¹ evermore.

L ¹¹O Lord, give strength ¹ to your people;
 give them, O Lord, the bless- ¹ ings of peace.

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

Amen.

SECOND READING**Acts 10:34-43**

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality,³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him.³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**ELW 169**

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew, the third chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY 459 *Wade in the Water*

Refrain
All

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,
wade in the wa - ter, God's a-goin'-a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader
All

1 See that host all dressed in white,
2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a-goin'-a trou-ble the
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader

wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.
looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led.
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com-ing on me.
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All

Refrain

God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - - ter.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WADE IN THE WATER, African American spiritual

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS BY AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

P Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are today joining the congregation of St. Stephen Lutheran Church by making public affirmation of their baptism.

A representative of the congregation presents those making affirmation.

P I present the following siblings, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Andrea Albertin, Margarete Deckert, Mia Fuller, Cam Metcalfe, Monty Mortensen, Jacob Nallapu, Donna Schiffer and Jennifer Slusar.

P Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these siblings in Christ, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may join in the responses.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response:

I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response:

I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

P People of God, do you promise to support these siblings and pray for them in their life in Christ?

C **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence,
both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ.

C **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Merciful God,

Congregational response: receive our prayer.

PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.



+ MEAL +

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including caring for those in need. We welcome you to place your gift in the offering plate near the baptismal font, mail it to the church, or by using the VENMO QR Code to the right.

Stephen Saint

@Stephen-Saint



Tvenmo

Venmo for a
donation to St.
Stephen. Code
5469

ANTHEM

"Song Over the Waters" -Haugen

(Refrain)

God, you have moved upon the waters,
you have sung in the rush of wind and flame;
and in your love, you have called us sons and daughters,
make us people of the water and your name.

Come fill our waiting hearts with the spirit of Jesus,
let us shine with your light and peace. (refrain)

Give us a thirst for love, give us a hunger for justice,
make us one with the mind of Christ. (refrain)

You are the breath of life, you are the hope of the hopeless,
come and fill us with light and peace. (refrain)

Come, open ev'ry heart, come now and wake us to wonder,
make us vessels of light and peace. (refrain)

We stand and sing as the collection and the gifts are brought forward

OFFERING HYMN

1
I reach in my pocket to

6
pull out an offering as if this gift were really mine. It's not, Lord, I

10
know, but I cling to it so un - til my soul's voice can re -

15
mind me that what - ever I have, what - ever I have,

20
what - ever I have, Lord, is yours.

25
I vis - it with you for an hour on Sun - days as if it's a fav - or I

29
do. Lord, help me to see that to live faith - ful - ly is to

34

turn my— days o - ver— to you be cause what - ev - er I have,

39

what - ev - er I have, what - ev - er I have, Lord, is

43

yours. And now down the aisle comes a

48

gift like no oth - er. The bread and the wine make me free. The best gift of

52

yours is the son we— a - dore. The on - ly— gift I have— is

57

me. Take me. What - ev - er I have, what - ev - er I have,

62

what - ev - er I have, Lord, is yours.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: All:
May the peace of the Lord em - brace us. May the

9 Leader:
love of the Lord light our way. We lift our song

14 All: Leader:
high! We praise the God who gave us life. Hear, Lord,

18 All: *faster*
as we sing! Sing our praise to God on high.

27 Sing out! Sing out for joy! Sing so loud we'll drown out war.

31 Sing of peace for ev - er - more. Sing our praise to God. A-men.

35 Sing our praise to God. Sing our praise to God. A-men.

39 Sing our praise to God. A - men. A - men. A - men. A -

44 men. A - men. A - men. A - men!

The musical score consists of eight staves of music in common time with a key signature of two sharps. The vocal parts are labeled 'Leader:' and 'All:'. The lyrics are integrated into the musical lines. Measure numbers 14, 18, 27, 31, 35, 39, and 44 are marked above the staves. The first staff begins with a rest, followed by a leader line and an all line. The second staff starts with a leader line, followed by an all line. The third staff starts with an all line, followed by a leader line. The fourth staff starts with a leader line, followed by an all line. The fifth staff starts with an all line, followed by a leader line. The sixth staff starts with a leader line, followed by an all line. The seventh staff starts with an all line, followed by a leader line. The eighth staff starts with a leader line, followed by an all line. The lyrics include: 'May the peace of the Lord em - brace us. May the', 'love of the Lord light our way. We lift our song', 'high! We praise the God who gave us life. Hear, Lord,', 'as we sing! Sing our praise to God on high.', 'Sing out! Sing out for joy! Sing so loud we'll drown out war.', 'Sing of peace for ev - er - more. Sing our praise to God. A-men.', 'Sing our praise to God. Sing our praise to God. A-men.', 'Sing our praise to God. A - men. A - men. A - men. A -', 'men. A - men. A - men. A - men!', and 'men!'. The tempo is marked 'faster' for the third staff. The key signature changes to one sharp for the eighth staff.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P Bless this bread, Holy God--baked by our hand but sanctified by your Word. On a night 2,000 years ago, shortly before he died to give us everlasting life, your loving Son took such bread and gave thanks to you. He broke it, gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Bless this wine, Holy God--poured by our hand but made precious by your Son's sacrifice. After supper that night, Jesus took a cup of wine, like this one, and gave you thanks. He gave it to his disciples, telling them, "Take this, all of you, and drink from it. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all people so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

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 Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

As the ushers direct you, come to the altar using the side aisles and return to your seat via the central aisle. The assisting ministers offer both wine (first) and grape juice (second) from pouring cups. Take a communion glass from one of the trays at the corners as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the lower rail. Wheat free wafers are available, simply tell the pastor.

COMMUNION HYMN

Kneel me down now at your feet. Kneel me down, now at your feet.

Kneel me down now at your feet. Kneel me down, now at your feet.

Kneel me down now at your feet. Kneel me down, now at your feet.

Kneel me down now at your feet. Kneel me down, now at your feet.

10: at the altar kneel me down, for bread and wine, the
 11: with the Prom-ise feed my soul, with bread and wine, the
 12: of your true love hear me sing, of bread and wine, the
 13: shine right through me, keep this light, through bread and wine, the
 14: loving sign from you, God, and your Son. 1, 2, 3. Feed my
 15:
 21: 4.
 25:
 — A - - - men.

COMMUNION HYMNS

445 *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

396 *Spirit of Gentleness*

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

Leader:
May the peace of the Lord em -

All:
brace us. May the love of the Lord light our way.

Leader:
Show oth-ers that light! God's grace shines for ev-ry - one. May we

All:
care for each oth-er. May we share with our world.

SENDING HYMN

Arise!

1

6

9

12

17

21

24

10

DISMISSAL

A We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:

C to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.

A Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C Thanks be to God.

+++

Arise! The St. Stephen Service
Music by Tom Buchanan Lyrics by Ron Hartung

Sundays and Seasons v.20220805.1416
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Today's altar flowers are dedicated
to the Glory of God

Calendar for January 11 – January 18

Jan 11 Sun.	9:00 am	Bible study
	9:30 am	Choir rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship, Second Sunday of Christmas
Jan 14 Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
Jan 15 Thurs	10:00 am	Bible study
Jan 18 Sun.	9:00 am	Bible study
	9:30 am	Choir practice
	10:00 am	Worship, Second Sunday after Epiphany

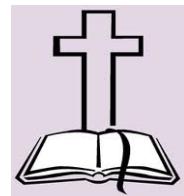
Next Sunday's Readings, Second Sunday after Epiphany

[Isaiah 49:1-7](#)

[Psalm 40:1-11](#)

[1 Corinthians 1:1-9](#)

[John 1:29-42](#)



SERVING EVERY SUNDAY

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: Jordi Banitt, Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Olivia James, Lawana Lamb-Daniels, Sandy Ness, Simone Schuster, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White

SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY

Serving	January 11	January 18
Assisting Minister	Kirsten Ebbesen	Rob Schiffer
Cup Minister	Beth Alexander	Colleen Holdcraft
Cantor	Simone Schuster	Susan Hehn
Lector	Ceilia Greeley	Erik Robinson
Acolyte	Ceilia Greeley or Graham Reece or Bastian Stover	
Tech Team	Ben Bush Caroline Collins	Colin Hackley and Sandy Lamb-Daniels
Ushers	Audrey Post Ann DelRossi	Bob Eshleman Patrick Kennell
Altar Guild	Linda Eshleman Barbara Sullivan	Susan Warren Rita Ford
Counters	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy	Janet Barber Susan Warren

PRAYER REQUESTS

For the sick: Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Laura McDuffie (sister of Rob Schiffer).

In treatment for cancer: Ruth Hartung; Scott Simmons (son of Sharon Simmons); Gordon Fleischer; Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Linda Bobbitt, (friend of Cheryl Stuart) diagnosed with metastasized breast cancer.; David McManus (friend of Audrey Post); Shannon Miller (friend of Barb O'Donnell); Wayne Harrison (Jan Harrison's son); Pat Yeager (sister of Sue Canning).

Health and protection: For Frank "Ramy" Meyers following broken leg. For Loraine and Bertil Sundberg following car accident. For those encountering fear & uncertainty around government cuts and the future of Medicaid. For immigrants and refugees who are working and raising families in the United States to be safe and secure without unnecessary deportations.

For prisoners: All those on Death Row.

Other concerns: For Audrey Post and family following the death of Wanda; For Hingst/Mongomery family and friends following the death of Ann; Kevin Robinson (son of Erik Robinson), in need of encouragement; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Allana Lochan-Tekaram (sister of Anita Sawh and Rita Ford), for hormone imbalance; Walt Steinvorth (friend of Rob Schiffer), suffering from pericarditis and vestibular neuritis and learning to cope with dizziness and severe equilibrium problems; For Karen Olson.

Church concerns: St. Stephen's Church Council; the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council; all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Bishops Pedro Suarez and Yehiel Curry; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry.

World concerns: For all people suffering and/or recovering from hurricanes; migrants and asylum seekers; civil rights for people around the world; a ceasefire in Ethiopia and in Ukraine; peace in Gaza and the Middle East.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWER CHART FOR 2026: Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service by signing up for the 2026 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$40, and you can place it in the offering plate.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: Want to read a sermon you missed? Visit <https://ststephenlutherantly.com/sermons>. Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to <https://ststephenlutherantly.com/newsletters>. Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at <https://ststephenlutherantly.com/songs-of-st-stephen>.

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