

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

10 A.M.

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church

sslc@ststephenlutherantally.com, Email

<http://www.ststephenlutherantally.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.

**“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.

**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

*Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.*

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

*The assembly stands.*

Leader: All:

May the peace of the Lord embrace us. May the

5 Leader:

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

10 All:

lost and broken. Your brilliance illuminates our flaws.

16 All:

You know how our prayers ever fade. Yet always you

22

open your arms to us.



+ GATHERING +

## CONFESSION 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, ✠ 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 ✠ 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.\_\_\_\_\_

5

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

9

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

12

and we are giv - en a new start.

17

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

20

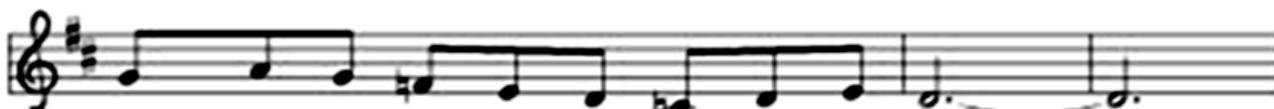
and we are giv - en a new start. A - men.\_\_\_\_ A - men. A - men.\_\_\_\_



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the  
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

## 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



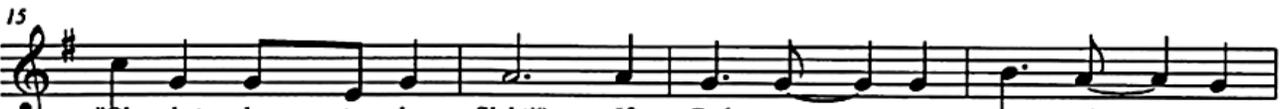
If God were an ea - gle, he'd  
If God were the wind, she'd run  
If God were a moun - tain, a  
God's more than a moun - tain, an



swoop through the trees. He'd flex all his fea - thers 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



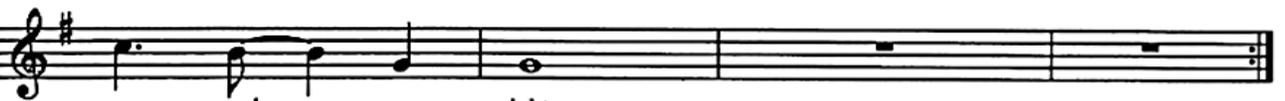
catch the least breeze. And peo - ple would shout,  
ress - ing the crowds. And peo - ple would sigh,  
might - ty, a lone. And peo - ple would cry,  
hymns of praise end. Al - might - y and yet



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



re - gal, so right. If God were an ea - gle, so  
in eve - ry - where. If God were the wind, whis - pering  
pow - er so real. If God were a moun - tain, 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.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON



+ WORD +

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

<sup>1</sup> Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. <sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. <sup>3</sup> “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup> You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. <sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? <sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? <sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. <sup>9a</sup> Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” <sup>9b</sup> If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing



L     <sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast forever;  
          they will hold up their | head with honor.

C     <sup>10</sup>**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine  
away;**  
          **the desires of the wick- | ed will perish.**

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**Amen.**

## **SECOND READING   1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]**

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.*

<sup>1</sup>When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. <sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup>and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— <sup>10</sup>God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. <sup>13</sup>And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. <sup>14</sup>Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. <sup>16</sup>"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Reader     The word of the Lord.

**C           Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW 169**



**GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

**P** The holy gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. <sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. <sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

**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 ELW 677 *This Little Light of Mine*

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh. oh.

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh.

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual, arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935  
 Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**A** Let us confess our faith.

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

**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.**

**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.**

## **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.*

*The assembly is seated.*



+ MEAL +

Stephen Saint  
@Stephen-Saint



**venmo**

Use this QR Code to  
connect to Venmo for  
a donation to St.  
Stephen. Code 5469.

## 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.*

## ANTHEM *"Brighter Than the Sun"* Helgen

(Refrain)

Brighter, brighter than the sun is the candle of the Holy One  
Bigger, bigger than the sea are the waves of God washing over me.  
Gonna light my candle from the holy flame of the one that's brighter than my own name.  
Gonna wash my body in the holy sea, in the water of life that's bigger than me. (refrain)

Gonna meet God's children at the fountain of life,  
where the word and the water and the Lord Jesus Christ  
make a new creation out of everyone:  
Holy Spirit of love, let the waters run. (refrain)

Gonna gather round and gonna welcome in  
every child to be and ev'ry one who's ever been.  
Gonna breathe together with this spark of life:  
Holy Spirit of God make our flame burn bright. (refrain)



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 embrace 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 *faster* All:  
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!

## 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  
soul with your ho - li -  
sing of the peace I've  
light shin - ing in my



6  
feet. Kneel me down now at your feet. Kneel me down, kneel me down,  
ness. Feed my soul with your ho - li - ness. Feed my soul, feed my soul,  
found. Hear me sing of the peace I've found. Hear me sing, hear me sing,  
heart. Keep this light shin - ing in my heart. Keep this light, keep this light,



10  
— at the al - tar kneel me down, for bread and wine, the  
— with the Prom - ise feed my soul, with  
— of your true love hear me sing, of  
— shine right through me, keep this light, through



14  
loving sign from you, God, and your Son. Feed my  
Hear me  
Keep this



21  
— Through bread and wine, the lov - ing sign from you, God, and your Son.



25  
— A - - - men.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW 712 *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

ELW 307 *Light Shone in Darkness*

*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 -

7 All:



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

12 Leader: All: Leader:



Show others that light! God's grace shines for every - one. May we

18 All:



care for each other. May we share with our world.

The assembly stands.

# SENDING HYMN

*Arise!*

A - rise, a - rise, — em -  
brace the day! — The — world a - waits, what will you say — to  
let the peo - ple know you're read - y to live — by the power of this — feast and to  
prac - tice the peace of our Lord? A - rise! - - - A -  
rise, a - rise, — you're not a - lone. — The song you — sing will fol - low you home — and  
hum in your heart. — So if you be - gin — to for - get whose you are, — fix your  
eye on a star and sing: Lord! — A - rise! — A - rise! —  
— A - rise!

## 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*  
*Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress.*  
*All rights reserved*



**Today's altar flowers are  
dedicated to the glory of God**

### Calendar for February 8 - February 15

Feb 8 Sun.	9:00 am	Bible study
	9:30 am	Choir rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
	11:15 am	Outreach meeting
Feb 11 Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir rehearsal
Feb 12 Thurs	10:00 am	Bible study
Feb 15 Sun.	9:00 am	Bible study
	9:30 am	Choir rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship, Transfiguration of Our Lord

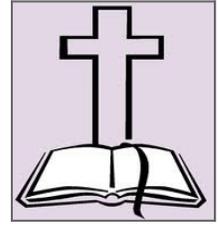
**Next Sunday's Readings, Transfiguration of Our Lord**

[Exodus 24:12-18](#)

[Psalm 2](#)

[2 Peter 1:16-21](#)

[Matthew 17:1-9](#)



**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**

<b>Serving</b>	<b>February 8</b>	<b>February 15</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Rob Schiffer	Kirsten Ebbesen
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Jen Dritt	Rita Ford
<b>Cantor</b>	Pastor Tom	Susan Hehn
<b>Lector</b>	Judi Duffy	Chris/Graham Reece
<b>Acolyte</b>		
<b>Tech Team</b>	Caroline Collins Sandy Lamb-Daniels	Lorraine Sunberg Colin Hackley
<b>Ushers</b>	Jan Harrison Patrick Kennell	Bob Eshleman Patrick Kennell
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Anita Sawh Rita Ford	Barbara Sullivan Linda Eshleman
<b>Counters</b>	Billie Reardon Rob Schiffer	Kirsten Ebbesen Marilyn Larson

## 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 Jeanette Sickel and family following the death of her cousin, Elaine Harris; Rick Bobbitt (friend of Cheryl Stuart), our shared sympathy on his death; For Audrey Post and family following the death of Wanda; 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://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>. Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at <https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters>.

CHURCH COUNCIL	
<b>President,</b> Denise Bookwalter	
<b>Treasurer,</b> Jennifer Dritt	<b>Buildings Coordinator,</b> Sandy Lamb-Daniels
<b>Worship &amp; Music,</b> Susan Hehn	<b>Grounds Coordinator,</b> Rob Schiffer
<b>Care &amp; Hospitality,</b> Lawana Lamb-Daniels	<b>Outreach,</b> Sharon Simmons
<b>Mutual Ministry,</b> Sylvia Smith	<b>Education &amp; Discipleship,</b> Emily Stover
<b>Communications,</b> Audrey Post	<b>Youth,</b> Graham Reece



## **Our Guiding Principles**

1. Jesus is Lord of our lives.
2. We welcome absolutely everyone.
3. We enjoy a celebratory relationship with God through worship.
4. We support and encourage community both in and beyond our congregation.
5. We are called to use our God-given gifts of time, talent, and treasure to serve all of God's people and seek justice for them.
6. Creativity and new ideas are a vital part of our life together as a congregation.