

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY



NOVEMBER 24, 2024

10 A.M.

**St. Stephen Lutheran Church**  
(850) 385-2728, Office  
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  
Lori Zengel, Office Manager  
All Members, Ministers

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**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.

**For safety** we no longer pass the offering plate. Financial gifts can be placed in the plate by the baptismal font.

**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

*Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.*

## PRELUDE

*The assembly stands.*



+ 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, our refuge, our delight, our beginning and our end.

C **Amen.**

P Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

*Silence for reflection.*

P Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,

C **we confess that sin has taken hold of us and we are complicit in its power. We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest. Unbind us and set us free. Lead us again to the waters of rebirth, that we may live just and generous lives for the good of your world and the care of our neighbors, following in the servant way of Jesus. Amen.**

P These words are trustworthy and true: Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross, swallowing up death forever. For his sake, you are ✙ forgiven and God remembers your sin no more. Let your heart be glad again, and rejoice in your salvation.

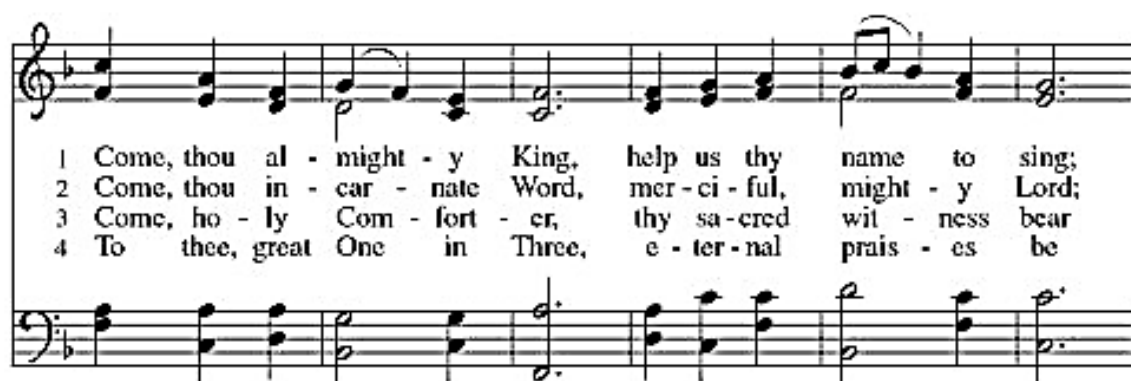
C **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

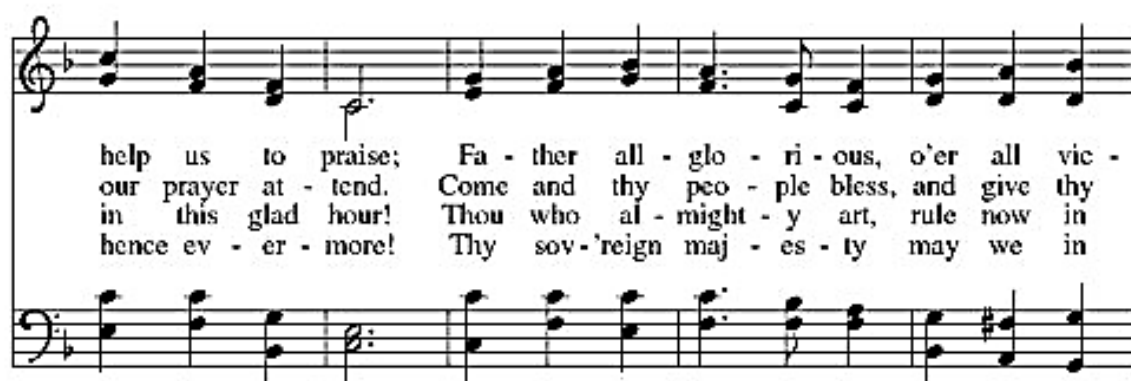
GATHERING HYMN

408


*Come, Thou Almighty King*



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;  
2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful, might - y Lord;  
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wil - ness bear  
4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -  
our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy  
in this glad hour! Thou who al - might - y art, rule now in  
hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.  
ev - 'ry heart, nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.  
glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

## 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

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 3 Sing with all the peo-ple of  
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,  
 glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of 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

*Noisy offering*



+ WORD +

## FIRST READING: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

*To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One, who is judge, will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.*

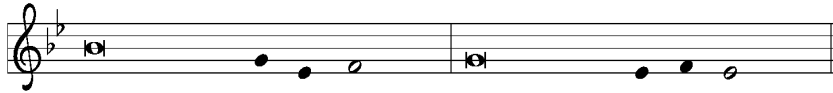
<sup>9</sup> As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. <sup>10</sup> A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

<sup>13</sup> As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. <sup>14</sup> To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 93** *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>1</sup>The Lord is king, robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and <sup>1</sup>armed with strength.

The Lord has made the world so sure that it can- <sup>1</sup>not be moved.

**C** <sup>2</sup>Ever since the world began, your throne has <sup>1</sup>been established;  
you are from <sup>1</sup>everlasting.

L <sup>3</sup>The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have lifted <sup>1</sup>up their voice;  
the waters have lifted up their <sup>1</sup>pounding waves.

**C** <sup>4</sup>Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers <sup>1</sup>of the sea,  
mightier is the Lord who <sup>1</sup>dwells on high.

L <sup>5</sup>Your testimonies are <sup>1</sup>very sure,  
and holiness befits your house, O Lord, forever and for- <sup>1</sup>evermore.

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**Amen.**



## SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4b-8

*The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.*

<sup>4b</sup> Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*The assembly stands.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: John 18:33-37

*In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.*

P The holy gospel according to John, the eighteenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>33</sup> Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” <sup>35</sup> Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”

<sup>37</sup> Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

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.*



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.  
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,  
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,  
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave,  
 stripped of might up - on the cross,  
 sit in pow - er at God's side,  
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er  
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,  
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,  
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.  
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's loss,  
 have a love that reach - es wide.  
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.  
 you, who are both gift and cost.  
 you, who are our pil - and grim guide.  
 you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., [giapublishing.com](http://giapublishing.com). All rights reserved.

## NICENE CREED

A Let us confess our faith.

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.*



## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

## ANTHEM "One Day In All Time" -Dunstan/Powell

One day in all time you entered our earth  
with humility, in poverty's birth.  
The angels were chanting; the star, it shone bright;  
the world which was waiting rejoiced in delight.

(Refrain)

We praise you, O Christ of future and past,  
of each of our days, of first and of last.  
We offer our blessing; we offer our praise;  
we offer our waiting through all of these days.

This day in all time, O Lord Jesus, come!  
Now enter our hearts, enliven each one.  
Your people are singing for love to shine strong;  
creation is groaning- it hopes and waits long. (Refrain)

One day, to end time, you will come again  
with glory and might and honor to reign.  
The saints will be praising; the sky, it will shine;  
the earth be exalting salvation's design. (Refrain)

# OFFERING HYMN

692 *We Are an Offering*

*The assembly stands to sing the offering hymn as the collection and the gifts are brought forward.*

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957  
Music: Dwight Liles  
Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

OFFERING  
PM

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord 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 our 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.'

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*The presiding minister continues to give thanks.*

P In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat;  
this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

C **Amen.**

### **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 Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation.

*The assembly is seated.*



## LAMB OF GOD



## 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 and grape juice from the pouring cup, take one from the tray as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the rail. Wheat-free wafers are available--simply tell the pastor.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

- |         |                                  |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| WOV 778 | <i>O Christ the Same (below)</i> |
| 838     | <i>Beautiful Savior</i>          |
| 434     | <i>Jesus Shall Reign</i>         |

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto-ry's pag-es;  
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin-ners, shar-ing;  
 3 O Christ the same, se-cure with-in whose keep-ing;

our loves and hopes, our fail-ures and our fears;  
 our in-most thoughts, the se-crets none can hide;  
 our lives and loves, our days and years re-main;

e-ter-nal Lord, the king of all the a-ges,  
 still as of old up-on your bnd-y bear-ing;  
 our work and rest, our wak-ing and our sleep-ing,

un-chang-ing still a-mid the pass-ing years:  
 the marks of love in tri-umph glo-ri-fied;  
 our calm and storm, our plea-sure and our pain:

O liv-ing Word, the source of all cre-a-tion,  
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav-en—  
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor-rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a-blaze;  
 O Prince of life, in all your sav-ing power;  
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal-va-tion,  
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv-en;  
 O Christ the same, be-yond our brief to-mor-rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes-ter-days,  
 we bring our thanks for this the pres-ent hour,  
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926  
 Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

*The assembly stands.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A** Let us pray.

Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## **+ SENDING +**

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

**P** The Ancient One, enthroned, the Crucified One, now risen, the Indwelling One, poured out, ✠ bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The assembly stands.*

**SENDING HYMN**

**439** *Soon and Very Soon*



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
3 No more dy - in' there,  
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: André Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, André Crouch

Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

## 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. Follow Jesus.

**C Thanks be to God!**

+ + +

*Sundays and Seasons v.20220805.1416*

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**Ann Hingst dedicates today's altar flowers in thankfulness  
for Emory, and in celebration of what would have been his  
90th birthday on November 26.**

### Calendar for November 24 – December 1

Nov.	24	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, Christ the King Sunday
	27	Wed.	7:00 pm	<b>NO</b> Choir practice
Dec.	1	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, First Sunday of Advent

Next Sunday's Readings, First Sunday of Advent:

[Jeremiah 33:14-16](#)

[Psalm 25:1-10](#)

[1 Thessalonians 3:9-13](#)

[Luke 21:25-36](#)



### SERVING EVERY SUNDAY

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Judi Duffy, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Olivia James, Sandy Ness, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White

### SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY

Serving	Nov. 24	Dec. 1
Assisting Minister	Beth Alexander	Kirsten Ebbesen
Cup Minister	Rita Ford	Beth Alexander
Cantor	Susan Hehn	
Lector	Jennifer Buchanan	Greta Scavone
Acolyte	Ceilia Greeley or Graham Reece or Bastian Stover	
Tech Team	Colin Hackley Sandy Lamb-Daniels	Caroline Collins Cindy Suhrweir
Ushers	Patrick Kennell	Jan Harrison Patrick Kennell
Altar Guild	Lawana Lamb-Daniels Sandy Lamb-Daniels	Beth Alexander
Counters	Janet Barber Susan Warren	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Donna Dickson Miller (friend of Audrey Post), facing health challenges; Wayne McCully (friend of Audrey Post), undergoing dialysis for kidney failure; Gladys Kane for continued healing.

***For the sick:*** Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); 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; Stephanie Barber; Jim Saxman (uncle of Rob Schiffer); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Laura Ketchum-Jahn, (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Aubrey Thonvold (Reconciling Works Exec. Dir.); Gil Johnson (friend of Judi Duffy); Amanda George (daughter-in-law of Rob Schiffer); David McManus (friend of Audrey Post); Shannon Miller (friend of Barb O'Donnell); Becky Graves (friend of Ridy Hofer); Timothy Stewart (son of Pepper Stewart).

***Health and protection:*** For all affected by the coronavirus – especially those experiencing mental-health difficulties due to isolation, those struggling to recover from the disease, those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel, EMTs), the millions of unemployed people, etc.; for the unaccompanied children entering the U.S., including those “unaccounted for.”

***For prisoners:*** All those on Death Row.

***Other concerns:*** For Karen Olson; Kevin Robinson (son of Erik Robinson), in need of encouragement; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt), for physical and emotional healing; Steve Michael (cousin of Rob Schiffer), in rehab after a serious accident.

***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; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

***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 Afghanistan and the Middle East.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:** We'll be decorating the chancel area with poinsettias for Christmas. Would you like to dedicate one (or more)? The cost is \$10, and the dedication list will be in the Dec. 15th and 22nd bulletins. Just fill out the form in the narthex and place it with your payment in the offering plate, or email Lori with the information. The deadline is Sunday, Dec. 8.

**PLEDGE DRIVE:** We are collecting pledge cards for 2025. Please prayerfully consider your planned contributions for the ministry of St. Stephen. The estimate of giving is vital information for our Church Council to begin preparing our budget. Our planned gifts are also vital to our own spiritual development and maturity. Thank you in advance for your generous stewardship and trust in God's mercy. *(Cards are in the narthex and can be dropped in the collection plate. You also have the option of pledging directly to Lori via email or phone.)*

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2024:** 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 2024 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>.