

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



April 19, 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

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.



+ GATHERING +

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

C Amen.

P Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured before or during the thanksgiving.

P Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters of Lakes Jackson, Talquin and Bradford that nourish us. Blessed are you.

C You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

C You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

C **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN 384 *That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright* ➡

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. I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

(Continued on page 6)



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
 2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
 4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
 con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
 this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
 you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

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.

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]:
³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader ¹ I love the Lord, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,

C ² **for the Lord has given | ear to me
whenev- | er I called.**

L ³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;
I came to | grief and sorrow.

C ⁴ **Then I called upon the name | of the Lord:
“O Lord, I pray you, | save my life.”**

L ¹² How shall I re- | pay the Lord
for all the good things God has | done for me?

C ¹³ **I will lift the cup | of salvation
and call on the name | of the Lord.**

L ¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows | to the Lord
in the presence of | all God’s people.

C ¹⁵ **Precious in your | sight, O Lord,
is the death | of your servants.**

L ¹⁶ O Lord, truly I | am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed
me | from my bonds.

C ¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving
and call upon the name | of the Lord.**

L ¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows | to the Lord
in the presence of | all God’s people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of | the Lord’s house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah!**

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

Amen.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

P The holy gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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.*

Quiet reflection.

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 1069 *God Bestows on Every Sense*



1 God be - stows on ev - 'ry sense beau - ty as hope's
2 Catch a fleet - ing glimpse of grace in an un - ex -
3 Vi - brant pic - tures in our dreams, brushed with crys - tal
4 In a burnt and black - ened field bro - ken ground be -
5 God makes all cre - a - tion new, turn - ing back what



ev - i - dence: signs of what the earth will
pect - ed place: just a taste, the small - est
col - or schemes, van - ish from a wak - ing
gins to yield ti - ny, frag - ile sprouts of
peo - ple do, build - ing up what we de -



be just be - yond what we can see.
crumb of the ban - quet yet to come.
mind, leav - ing just a trace be - hind.
green: hints of for - ests yet un - seen.
stroy, sing - ing sor - row in - to joy.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: ALL CREATION NEW, Anthony Giamanco, b. 1958

Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Music © 2018 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

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

(A brief silence)

Living Savior, just as you walked alongside the disciples on the road to Emmaus, walk with us on the journey of resurrection faith. May our eyes be opened to see you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Lead us to action in the preservation of natural resources. Bless fields being prepared for planting and send favorable weather to create an abundant harvest. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Unite us to work toward the common good and sow peace where there's violence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world, but it does not take away the suffering we experience. Send healing to those who are sick. Send strength to those who are weary and give courage to those who despair. St. Stephen who else requires prayer today?
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Gracious God, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold St. Stephen in your name. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

A few at a time, each week, we pray for people within the St. Stephen worship community. We pray today for Melissa, Karl, Isabel, Sarah and Stephen Barton, Nathan Basford and for all their families. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Eternal light, we give you thanks for all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

AMEN!

PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Let us share peace with others, respecting boundaries and safety.

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



+ 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 *"Now in This Banquet" -Haugen*

(Refrain)

Now in this banquet, Christ is our bread;
Here shall all hungers be fed.
Bread that is broken, wine that is poured,
Love is the sign of our Lord.

You who have touched us and graced us with love,
make us your people of goodness and light.
(refrain)

Let our hearts burn with the fire of your love;
open our eyes to the glory of God.
(refrain)

Call us to be your light, call us to be your love,
make us your people again.
(refrain)

OFFERING HYMN ELW 870 (verse 1)

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

We Praise You, O God



1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The final note of the fourth staff is a whole note, indicating the end of the phrase.

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 Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

The assembly is seated.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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 HYMNS	491	<i>Come, Let Us Eat</i>
	501	<i>Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus</i>

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

C Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

+ SENDING +

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

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

The assembly stands.

SENDING HYMN 377 *Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!*



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 Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

+ + +



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Refrain
 Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Calendar for April 19 - April 26

April 19	Sun.	9:30 am	Choir rehearsal
		10 am	Worship, Third Sunday of Easter
22	Wed.	7 pm	Choir rehearsal
23	Thurs.	10 am	Bible study
April 26	Sun.	9 am	Bible study
		9:30 am	Choir rehearsal
		10 am	Worship, Fourth Sunday of Easter

SERVING EVERY SUNDAY

Pastor Tom Holdcraft, 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, Simone Schuster, Sylvia Smith, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White.

SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY

Serving	April 19	April 26
Assisting Minister	Audrey Post	Rob Schiffer
Cup Minister	Rob Schiffer	Rita Ford
Cantor	Karl Barton	Susan Hehn
Lector	Astrid van der Mark	Ceilia/ Mark Greeley
Acolyte		
Tech Team	Audrey Post Loraine Sundberg	Caroline Collins Sandy Lamb-Daniels
Ushers	Jacob Nallapu Bob Eshleman	Colin Hackley Bob Eshleman
Altar Guild	Linda Eshleman Barbara Sullivan	
Counters	Susan Warren Margaret Bowers	Marilyn Larson Janet Barber

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: 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); Pat Yeager (sister of Sue Canning); Roger Stombert (friend of Margaret Bowers).

Health and protection: For Frank “Ramy” Meyers in the hospital, following broken leg. 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.

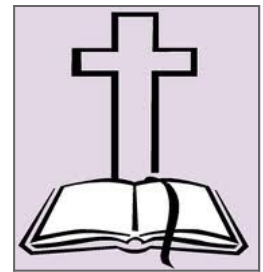
Other concerns: For Jan Harrison and family following the death of her son, Wayne Harrison; Jeanette Sickel and family following the death of her cousin, Elaine Harris; Rick Bobbitt (friend of Cheryl Stuart), our shared sympathy on his death; Sharon Simmons and family following the death of her sister, Sue Berent; 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; 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.

Next Sunday's Readings, Fourth Sunday of Easter:

[Acts 2:42-47](#)
[Psalm 23](#)
[1 Peter 2:19-25](#)
[John 10:1-10](#)



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 on the sidewalk near 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/sermons>. 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/songs-of-st-stephen>.



The St. Stephen choir donates today's altar flowers as a tribute to gifted musician Sandy Ness, in gratitude for her decades of faithful service.

CHURCH COUNCIL

President, Denise Bookwalter

Treasurer, Jennifer Dritt	Buildings Coordinator, Sandy Lamb-Daniels
Worship & Music, Susan Hehn	Grounds Coordinator, Rob Schiffer
Care & Hospitality, Lawana Lamb-Daniels	Outreach, Sharon Simmons
Mutual Ministry, Sylvia Smith	Education & Discipleship, Emily Stover
Communications, Colleen Holdcraft	Youth, Graham Reece