

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

10 A.M.

*WE WELCOME OLIVIA AHYOUNG, GUEST MUSICIAN.*

## INTRODUCTION

*Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.*

## 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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence for reflection.*

**P** Gracious God,

**C** have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**P** God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✙ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

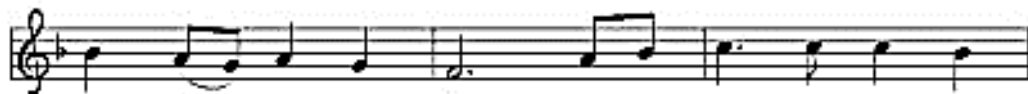
**C** Amen.



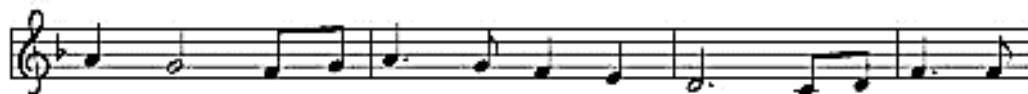
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
 strung - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions;  
 claim the faith of Je - sus;  
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 end to fear and dan - ger;  
 claim from floor to raf - ter;



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OXES, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3338.

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## 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.

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME



**+ WORD +**

### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20

*Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.*

<sup>18</sup>It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. <sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

<sup>20</sup>But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 54**    *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, <sup>1</sup> by your name;  
in your might, de- <sup>1</sup> fend my cause.

**C**     <sup>2</sup>Hear my <sup>1</sup> prayer, O God;  
give ear to the words <sup>1</sup> of my mouth.

L     <sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have <sup>1</sup> sought my life,  
those who have no re- <sup>1</sup> gard for God.

**C**     <sup>4</sup>Behold, God <sup>1</sup> is my helper;  
it is the Lord who sus- <sup>1</sup> tains my life.

L     <sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who <sup>1</sup> spy on me;  
in your faithful- <sup>1</sup> ness, destroy them.

**C**     <sup>6</sup>I will offer you a <sup>1</sup> freewill sacrifice  
and praise your name, O Lord, for <sup>1</sup> it is good.

L     <sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from <sup>1</sup> every trouble,  
and my eye looks down <sup>1</sup> on my enemies.

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**Amen.**

**SECOND READING: James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a**

*The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.*

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down

from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

R       The Word of the Lord.

C       **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL:     Mark 9:30-37

*Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.*



P The holy gospel according to Mark, the ninth chapter.

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

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;<sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.”<sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?”<sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.<sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”<sup>36</sup> Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,<sup>37</sup> “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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**      **526**      *God Is Here!*



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
 help us work your par - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each,  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

## **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: Hear us, O God.*

***Congregational response: Your mercy is great.***

## **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 +

## OFFERING

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

## OFFERING HYMN 531 *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing (vs. 1)*

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

1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is  
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the  
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the

read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,  
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;  
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud

and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.  
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.  
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.

*Refrain*  
Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.

Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.

Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.

The feast is read - y to be - gin;

the feast is read - y to be - gin.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950  
Music: Graham Kendrick  
Text and music © 1989 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

THE FEAST IS READY  
LM and refrain

## 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 each staff. 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.

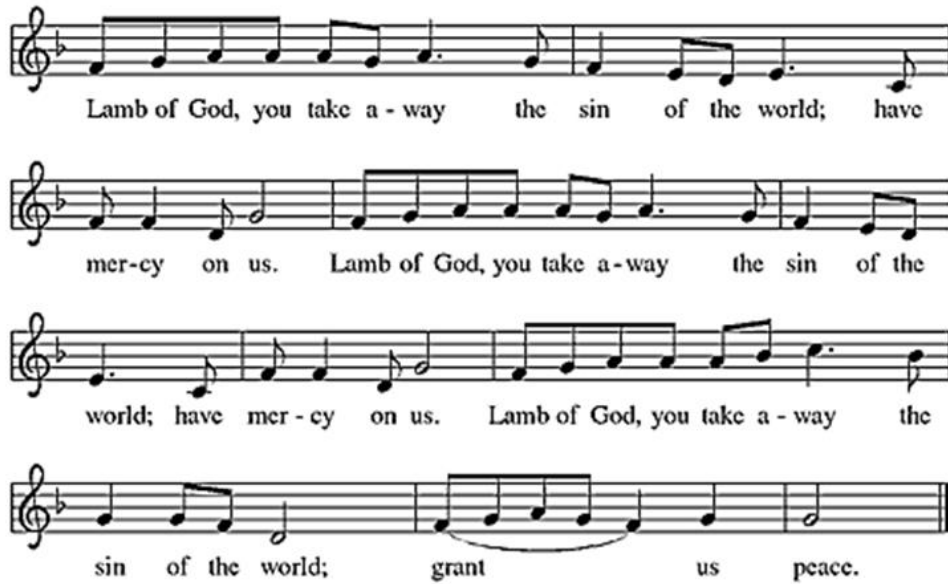
C        **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will  
            be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our  
            sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and  
            deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now  
            and forever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P        Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

*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 the common cup (wine) and a pouring cup (wine or grape juice). If you prefer to receive the wine or juice in an individual glass, 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.*

<b>COMMUNION HYMNS</b>	<b>613</b>	<i>Thy Holy Wings</i>
	<b>595</b>	<i>Jesus Loves Me!</i>
	<b>781</b>	<i>Children of the Heavenly Father</i>

*The assembly stands.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

## + SENDING +

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

P God all mighty, God most merciful ☩ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

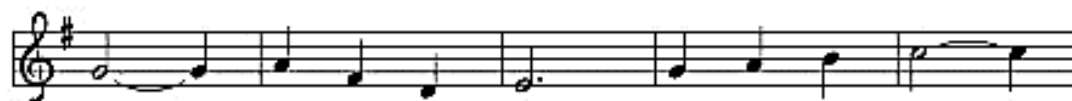
*The assembly stands. I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

**SENDING HYMN**      **815**      *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*





1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



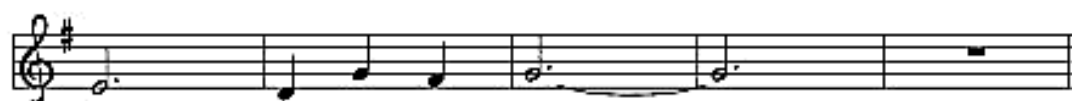
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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## 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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Lawana and Sandy dedicate today's altar flowers to  
Goddaughter Alexandria Lawana Warren  
in celebration of her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday!

### Calendar for September 22 - 29

Sep.	15	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			10:00 am	Worship, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
			11:30 am	Council meeting
	18	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
22	Sun.		9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Next Sunday's Readings, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

[Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29](#)

[Psalm 19:7-14](#)

[James 5:13-20](#)

[Mark 9:38-50](#)



## 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, Ron Hartung, 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	Sep. 22	Sep. 29
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Jennifer Dritt	Rob Schiffer
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Rita Ford	Kirsten Ebbesen
<b>Cantor</b>	Rudy Hehn	Kirsten Ebbesen
<b>Lector</b>	Elliot Reece	Mark Greeley
<b>Acolyte</b>	Ceilia Greeley or Graham Reece or Bastian Stover	
<b>Tech Team</b>	Sandy Lamb-Daniels Sylvia Smith	Caroline Collins Audrey Post
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob Eshleman Jan Harrison	Bob Eshleman Jan Harrison
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Rita Ford Susan Warren	
<b>Counters</b>	Margaret Bowers Kirsten Ebbesen	Margaret Bowers Kirsten Ebbesen

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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

***For the sick:*** Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); 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).

***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

**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\*](https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters). Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to [\*https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters\*](https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters). Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at [\*https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters\*](https://ststephenlutherantally.com/newsletters).