

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THE HOLY TRINITY



SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024

10 A.M.

## INTRODUCTION

*When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.*

## 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, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C **Amen.**

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence for reflection.*

P God, our provider,

C **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

P Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C **Amen.**

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,  
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee,  
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

## GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

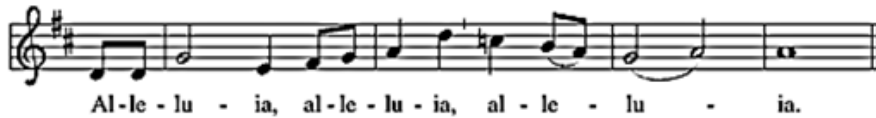
C And also with you.

## 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,



## PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Let us pray.

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

*Noisy Offering*



+ WORD +

**First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8**

*This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.*

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

Reader     The Word of the Lord.

**C            Thanks be to God.**

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



Leader <sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the <sup>1</sup> LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glo- <sup>1</sup> ry and strength.

**C**     <sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God’s name;  
          worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

L     <sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;  
          the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

**C**     <sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;  
          the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**

L     <sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;  
          the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

**C**     <sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,  
          and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

L     <sup>7</sup>The voice | of the LORD  
          bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

**C**     <sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;  
          the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**

L     <sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.  
          And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, “Glory!”

**C**     <sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;  
          the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

L     <sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength | to your people;  
          give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**Amen.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17**

*In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.*

<sup>12</sup>Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

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: John 3:1-17

*Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can



one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

<sup>11</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

**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 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.  
 Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.  
 To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!



Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.  
 God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,  
 We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.  
 one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.  
 By your grace, our lives we offer. Re-create us; God, transform!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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## 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

P 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**    *"God is One, Unique and Holy"*    -Wren

God is One, unique and holy, endless dance of love and light;  
Only source of mind and body, starcloud, atom, day or night;  
Everything that is or could be tells God's anguish and delight.

God is Oneness-by-Communion, never single or alone;  
All togetherness including- friendship, family and home,  
Common mind and shared agreement, common loaf and sung Shalom.

God is One through desolation- blindness, treason, blood and gall;  
One, though torn by separation in the Son's forsaken call;  
One through death and resurrection; One in Spirit, One for All.

God is One, unique and holy, endless dance of love and light;  
Only source of mind and body, starcloud, atom, day or night;  
Everything that is or could be tells God's anguish and delight.

**OFFERING HYMN**      ELW 870 (*versus 1*)

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

**We Praise You, O God**

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'I 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.'

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882–1963  
Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

**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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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

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.

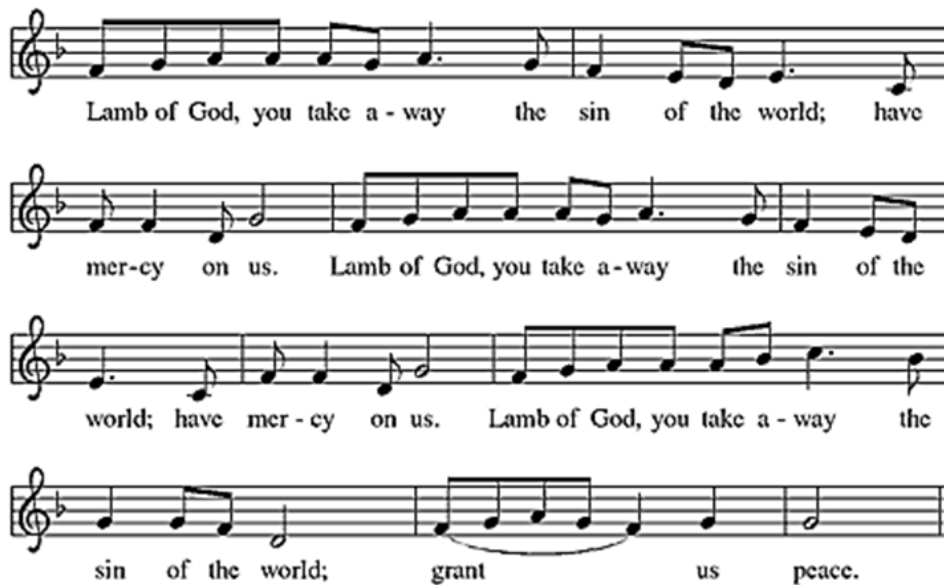
C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are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

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

*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 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>735</b>	<i>Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth</i>
	<b>408</b>	<i>Come, Thou Almighty King</i>
	<b>477</b>	<i>I Received the Living God</i>

*The assembly stands.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**A** Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.  
As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with  
your own life. In your name we pray.

**C** **Amen.**

## + SENDING +

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

**P** The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be up  
on you now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*



SENDING HYMN 412 *Come, Join the Dance of Trinity*



1 Come, join the dance of Trin-i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun—  
2 Come, see the face of Trin-i - ty, new - born in Beth - le - hem;  
3 Come, speak a - loud of Trin-i - ty, as wind and tongues of flame  
4 With - in the dance of Trin-i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun,



the in - ter - weav - ing of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.  
then blood - ied by a crown of thorns out - side Je - ru - sa - lem.  
set peo - ple free at Pen - te - cost to tell the Sav - ior's name.  
we sing the prais - es of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.



The u - ni - verse of space and time did not a - rise by chance,  
The dance of Trin - i - ty is meant for hu - man flesh and bone;  
We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;  
Let voic - es rise and in - ter - weave, by love and hope set free,



but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with - in their dance.  
when fear con - fines the dance in death, God rolls a - way the stone.  
go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!  
to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin - i - ty.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953  
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune  
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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. You are the body of Christ.
- C Thanks be to God!

+ + +



With today's altar flowers,  
Sandy Lamb-Daniels celebrates the birthday  
of both her father, William, and her wife, Lawana!

**Calendar for May 26 - June 2**

May	26	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, The Holy Trinity
June	2	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			10:00 am	Worship, The Holy Trinity

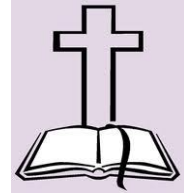
**Next Sunday's Readings, Second Sunday after Pentecost:**

[Deuteronomy 5:12-15](#)

[Psalm 81:1-10](#)

[2 Corinthians 4:5-12](#)

[Mark 2:23—3:6](#)



**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, Martin Guttenplan, Vicki Guttenplan, Ron Hartung, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Sandy Ness, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White

SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY		
Serving	May 26	June 2
Assisting Minister	Jennifer Dritt	Audrey Post
Cup Minister	Kirsten Ebbesen	Beth Alexander
Cantor	Pastor Tom	
Lector	Audrey Post	Ceilia Greeley
Acolyte	Cup Minister - or Colton Allen or Graham Reece	
Tech Team	Colleen Holdcraft Jonas Holdcraft	Mark Greeley Audrey Post
Ushers	Bob Eshleman Jan Harrison	
Altar Guild	Beth Alexander	Linda Eshleman Barbara Sullivan
Counters	Audrey Post Billie Reardon	Janet Barber Susan Warren

### PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Katy Perdue (sister of Susan Warren) for COPD exacerbation; Becky Graves (friend of Ridy Hofer), diagnosed with cancer and undergoing chemotherapy; Doris Michel (sister of Dave Suhrweir), recovering from gall bladder surgery; Sue Berent (sister of Sharon Simmons) for comfort and peace at end of life; 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); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Laura McDuffie (sister of Rob Schiffer), diagnosed with primary immunodeficiency and Sjogren's syndrome.

***In treatment for cancer:*** Ruth Hartung; Phil Williams; 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.); Judy Renwick (friend of Judi Duffy); Gil Johnson (friend of Judi Duffy); Amanda George (daughter-in-law of Rob Schiffer).

**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

**CALLING ALL GRADS:** Each year we try to list all the St. Stephen people who are graduating from high school, college or any other program. We want to celebrate with you, so please send us your name, where you’re graduating from and what your next steps are.

**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>.