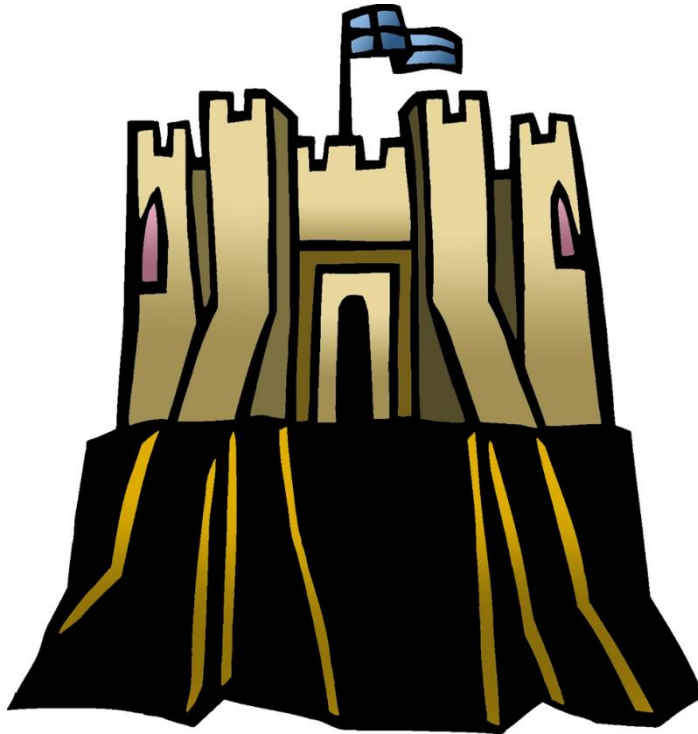


ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Reformation Sunday



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023

10 A.M.

*We welcome Bishop Suárez,
preaching and presiding.*

INTRODUCTION

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

PRELUDE

The assembly stands.



+ GATHERING +

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

B Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✚ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Congregation (C) Amen.

B Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

B Steadfast and faithful God,

C you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

B Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✚ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C Amen.

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hardes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand, they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in but - le we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way.

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Ten: Martin Luther, 1483-1546, ff. *Luthers Book of Worship*
 Music: 1375 FIFTE BURG, Martin Luther
 Ten © 1978 *Luthers Book of Worship*, arr. Augustyn Horvath.

GREETING

B 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.

KYRIE

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation:

Lord, have mer - cy.

3rd time to Coda ⊕

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer -

cy.

Assistant:

For the Reign of God, and for peace through - out the
For your peo - ple here, who have come to give you

cy.

world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the

⊕ Coda

Help, save, and de - fend us, O
cy.
God.
A - men.

* Ending for Kyrie

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God. *to Refrain*

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *to Refrain*



PRAYER OF THE DAY

B Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46 *We sing the psalm in response to the first reading.*



Leader God is our ref-uge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

C ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

L ³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

C ⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

L ⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

C ⁶The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.

L ⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

C ⁸Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up on the earth;

L ⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields
with fire.

C ¹⁰“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

L ¹¹The LORD of ¹ hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob ¹ is our stronghold.

Spoken after the Psalm is sung:

C Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Spoken after the Psalm is sung:

C Amen.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

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

Optional Repeat

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

B The holy gospel according to John, the eighth chapter.

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

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

B 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 ACS 1023 *God Alone be Praised*



1 O - ceans rise, the coast-land trem-bles; moun-tains melt and dry earth
2 Na - tions rage, the em - pire fal - ters; seek-ing ref - uge, ex - iles
3 Come and see; God's mer - cy gath - ers all that sin and grief have



crum-bles. All the world with long - ing groans. Love a -
wan - der. Walls and weap - ons rise from fear. Through this
shat - tered. Life from fields of death is raised. Peace, be



bides, this gra - cious prom - ise is our help, our hope and
wil - der - ness a riv - er flows to heal and bless us
still; let pride - ful thun - der yield to songs of joy and



so - lace. God's strong word is sol - id ground.
ev - er. God the cru - ci - fied dwells here.
won - der. God and God a - lone be praised.

Text: Susan R. Briebl, b. 1952, based on Psalm 46
Music: AD LUCEM, Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979
Text © 2016 Susan R. Briebl, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Music © 2016 Zebulon M. Highben, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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: God of grace,

Congregational response: hear our prayer.

PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

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

The assembly is seated.



+ MEAL +

OFFERING

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

ANTHEM

"Show By Your Life" -True

Hold fast to my word, let the Gospel truth enfold you.
Hold fast to my love, let your heart be steeped in faith.
Hold fast to my law, let the Spirit sway your footsteps.
Hold fast to me. Be who you were meant to be!

(Refrain)

Show by your life a tender care for this planet.
Show by your life a gentle hand that heals.
Show by your life that it's worth taking risks for the poor.
Show by your life a fearless cry for the voiceless.
Show by your life extended arms that serve.
Show by your life that it's worth taking risks for my gospel.

Be kindly to the earth, let creation's care consume you.
Be gracious to a friend, let your conscience guide each word.
Be just in all your work, learn to speak against corruption.
Be true to yourself. Be who you were meant to be! (refrain)

Build a better world, where each life is dear and precious.
Build a church for all, overflowing with my love.
Build a land that's free, blurring border, rank, and power.
Build up my house. Be who you were meant to be! (refrain)

OFFERING HYMN

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

Refrain

Congregation:

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath - ered in - to one in you.

Verses

1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with-in our midst
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
to Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

B The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

B Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

B Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

B 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

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
 Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come, come again.

B You are indeed holy, gracious and merciful God; everything is filled with your glory.

We give you thanks for your promise and presence which have sustained the faithful in this and every generation. Above all, we give you thanks for Jesus, born of Mary, who in word and deed announced your gentle rule of justice, reconciliation and peace.

On the night of his betrayal 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 to you. Do this remembrance of me.

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 remembrance of me.

Remembering his command to love one another, his life and death, his resurrection and his ascension, we pray for his coming again, even as we cry:

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

B Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation.

C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

B This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

B 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

B Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

The assembly is seated.

LAMB OF GOD

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza
Congregation or Assistant:

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

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 minister offers 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.

COMMUNION HYMNS	654	<i>The Church's One Foundation</i>
	779	<i>Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound</i>
	729	<i>The Church of Christ, in Every Age</i>

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

+ SENDING +

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

B The God of glory, ✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN **665** *Rise, Shine, You People!*



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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. Go in peace. Share the harvest.
- C Thanks be to God!**

+ + +

Calendar for October 29 - Nov. 5

Oct.	29	Sun.	9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, Reformation Sunday (wear red)
Nov.	1	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
	5	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, All Saints Sunday



**PATRICIA HANDSCHY DEDICATES TODAY'S
ALTAR FLOWERS IN LOVING MEMORY OF
HER HUSBAND, JIM FLUHARTY, WHO
PASSED AWAY 20 YEARS AGO.**

Next Sunday, All Saints Sunday:

[Micah 3:5-12](#)

[Psalm 43](#)

[1 Thessalonians 2:9-13](#)

[Matthew 23:1-12](#)

SERVING EVERY SUNDAY

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Tom Buchanan, trumpeter

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Judi Duffy, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Martin Guttenplan, Vicki Guttenplan, Jake Hartung, Ron Hartung, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Sandy Ness, Dave Suhrweir

SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY		
Serving	October 29	November 5
Assisting Minister	Beth Alexander	Audrey Post
Cup Minister	Susan Warren	Beth Alexander
Cantor	Pastor Tom	
Lector	Jennifer Buchanan	Jennifer Reece
Acolyte	Cup Minister - or Colton Allen or Graham Reece	
Tech Team	Mark Greeley Audrey Post	Colin Hackley Jonas Holdcraft
Ushers	Bob Eshleman Colin Hackley	Bob Eshleman Colin Hackley
Altar Guild	Rita Ford Susan Warren	Linda Eshleman Lawan Lamb-Daniels Sandy Lamb-Daniels
Counters	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy	Audrey Post Billie Reardon

PRAYER REQUESTS

New concerns: Family and friends of Debee Meyer, mourning her passing; Kyle Magee and family (friend of Cheryl), our shared sympathy on the sudden death of his father, Robert; Steve Michael (cousin of Rob Schiffer), in rehab after a serious accident.

For the sick: Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Sallie Robinson (wife of Erik Robinson); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor), being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White).

In treatment for cancer: Gordon Fleischer; Stephanie Barber; Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member); Craig Timm (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Laura Ketchum-Jahn, (friend of Cheryl & Steve); Aubrey Thonvold (Reconciling Works Exec. Dir.).

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.

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; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; 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

ALL SAINTS: We are now accepting names of loved ones for remembrance during the All Saints service on Nov. 5. Please email or call Lori with names by Wednesday, Nov. 1.

FLOWER CHART FOR 2023: 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 2023 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>.