

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



May 10, 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

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### Welcome, Everyone!

**We are glad to have you with us this morning.** If you need assistance in finding anything, one of our ushers will be glad to help you.

**Restrooms are found** in the fellowship hall and office building to the right as you exit the sanctuary. Proceed up the stairs and through the glass door. Unisex bathrooms are available through the kitchen in the office area.

**“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

*Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.*

## 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.**

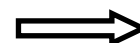
P Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

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 ELW 631** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*



## 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)*

GATHERING HYMN ELW 631 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

*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.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and 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

+ WORD +

### FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup> “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20**

*We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>8</sup> Bless our | God, you peoples;  
let the sound of | praise be heard.

C <sup>9</sup> **Our God has kept us a- | mong the living  
and has not allowed our | feet to slip.**

L <sup>10</sup> For you, O God, have | tested us;  
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

C <sup>11</sup> **You brought us in- | to the net;  
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

L <sup>12</sup> You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

C <sup>13</sup> **I will enter your house | with burnt offerings  
and will pay | you my vows—**

L <sup>14</sup> those that I promised | with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

C <sup>15</sup> **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;  
I will give you ox- | en and goats.**

L <sup>16</sup> Come and listen, all you | who believe,  
and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

**C <sup>17</sup> I called out to God | with my mouth,  
and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

L <sup>18</sup> If I had cherished evil | in my heart,  
the Lord would | not have heard me;

**C <sup>19</sup> but in truth | God has heard me  
and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

L <sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,  
nor withheld unfailing | love from me.

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**Amen.**

## **SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:13-22**

*The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.*

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to 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 14:15-21

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

**P** The holy gospel according to John, the fourteenth chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

**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 ELW 397 *Loving Spirit*



1 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—  
 2 Like a moth - er you en - fold me, hold my life with - in your own,  
 3 Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me the dis - cern - ing eye,  
 4 Friend and lov - er, in your close - ness I am known and held and blessed:  
 5 Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have cho - sen me to be—

you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.  
 feed me with your ver - y bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.  
 hoist me up up - on your shoul - der, let me see the world from high.  
 in your prom - ise is my com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.  
 you have drawn me to your won - der, you have set your sign on me.



Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. hymnal version

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## 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)*

God of new life, you bring new life through the waters of baptism. Lead us to deeper relationship with you and one another. We pray for equality within the church and for the church to proclaim justice throughout the world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You continue to create and bestow upon humankind the ability to do new things. Shelter plants and animals and provide habitats with clean water. We pray for increased solar and wind projects and for desalination work to bring clean water to all who thirst. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You set civil servants in place, and we pray for truth and equity among judges. Give courage to first responders, and mercy to police and military. Let your peace come to our towns and nations. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal the sick, shelter the unhoused, feed the undernourished. Walk with those who are lonely, anxious, ill, or in grief. We pray especially for... Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You are love and you desire that we love one another. Bless all who provide motherly care in our lives and inspire us to care for one another. 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 Denise Bookwalter and Mark Greeley, Violet and Ceilia. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promise of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. 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 the peace with warmth and authenticity.

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



Stephen Saint  
@Stephen-Saint



**venmo**

Use this QR Code to connect to Venmo for a donation to St. Stephen. Code 5469.

+ MEAL +

## 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** *"Not For Tongues of Heaven's Angels" -Dudley-Smith/Joncas*

Not for tongues of heaven's angels,  
not for wisdom to discern,  
not for faith that masters mountains,  
for this better gift we yearn:

Love is humble, love is gentle,  
love is tender, true and kind;  
love is gracious, ever patient,  
generous of heart and mind-  
May love be ours, O Lord.

Never jealous, never selfish,  
love will not rejoice in wrong;  
never boastful nor resentful,  
love believes and suffers long-

Soon will fade the word of wisdom,  
faith and hope be one day past;  
when we see our Savior clearly,  
love it is alone will last-  
May love be ours, O Lord.

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

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 printed below each staff. 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.'

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.

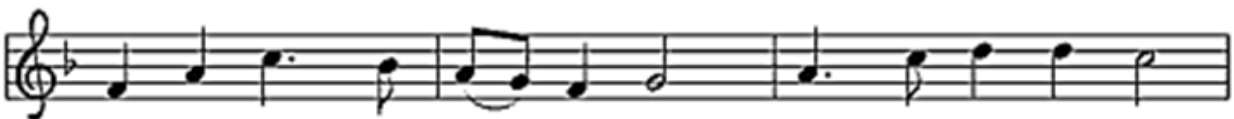
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

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, 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



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**      **ELW 735**      *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*

**ELW 613**      *Thy Holy Wings*

*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**      **ELW 543**      *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*      

## 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 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.  
 Music: AR HYDY NOS, Welsh traditional  
 Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

**Calendar for May 10 - May 17**

May 10	Sun.	8:30 am	A Parfait Breakfast
		9:30 am	Choir rehearsal
		10 am	Worship, Sixth Sunday of Easter
11	Wed.	7 pm	Choir rehearsal
12	Thurs.	10 am	Bible study
May 17	Sun.	9 am	Bible study
		9:30 am	Choir rehearsal
		10 am	Worship, Seventh 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, Alison Haney, 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**

<b>Serving</b>	<b>May 10</b>	<b>May 17</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Audrey Post	Audrey Post
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Rita Ford	Susan Warren
<b>Cantor</b>	Cassandra White	Karl Barton
<b>Lector</b>	Andrew/Bastian Stover	Jennifer Buchanan
<b>Acolyte</b>		
<b>Tech Team</b>	Mark Greeley Ben Bush	Ben Bush Sandy Lamb-Daniels
<b>Ushers</b>	Erik Robinson Colin Hackley	Bob Eshleman Patrick Kennell
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Susan Warren Rita Ford	Linda Eshleman Barbara Sullivan
<b>Counters</b>	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy	Janet Barber Susan Warren

## 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:*** Kevin Vislocky (friend of Bob and Linda Eshleman); 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.

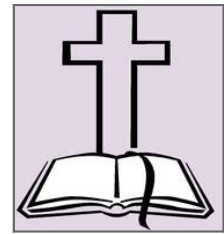
***Other concerns:*** For Jan Harrison and family following the death of her son, Wayne Harrison; Jeanette Sickel and family following the death of her cousin, Elaine Harris; Rick Bobbitt (friend of Cheryl Stuart), our shared sympathy on his death; Sharon Simmons and family following the death of her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

[Acts 1:6-14](#)  
[Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35](#)  
[1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11](#)  
[John 17:1-11](#)



**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>.



**With today's altar flowers,  
 Rudy and Susan Hehn honor the sponsor  
 of our church retreat and the organizing team.**

<b>CHURCH COUNCIL</b>	
<b>President, Denise Bookwalter</b>	
<b>Treasurer, Jennifer Dritt</b>	<b>Buildings Coordinator, Sandy Lamb-Daniels</b>
<b>Worship &amp; Music, Susan Hehn</b>	<b>Grounds Coordinator, Rob Schiffer</b>
<b>Care &amp; Hospitality, Lawana Lamb-Daniels</b>	<b>Outreach, Sharon Simmons</b>
<b>Mutual Ministry, Sylvia Smith</b>	<b>Education &amp; Discipleship, Emily Stover</b>
<b>Communications, Colleen Holdcraft</b>	<b>Youth, Graham Reece</b>



## Our Guiding Principles

1. Jesus is Lord of our lives.
2. We welcome absolutely everyone.
3. We enjoy a celebratory relationship with God through worship.
4. We support and encourage community both in and beyond our congregation.
5. We are called to use our God-given gifts of time, talent, and treasure to serve all of God's people and seek justice for them.
6. Creativity and new ideas are a vital part of our life together as a congregation.