

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

10 A.M.

## INTRODUCTION

*Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.*

## 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.



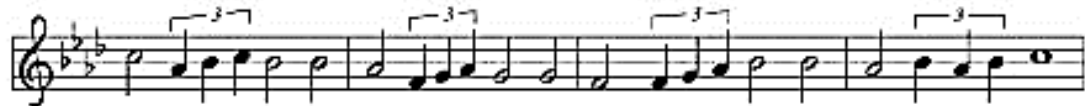
1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy  
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as  
 3 Thy strong Word he - speaks us righ - teous; bright with  
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speak - ing it was done, For cre - at - ed light we  
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -  
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward  
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run,  
 va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.  
 glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.  
 beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

5 Give us lips to sing thy glory,  
 tongues thy mercy to proclaim,  
 throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
 mouths to speak thy holy name.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 May the light which thou dost send  
 fill our songs with alleluias,  
 alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,  
 to thee laud and honor be.  
 To thee, Light of Light begotten,  
 praise be sung eternally.  
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
 glory, glory be to thee.  
 Mortals, angels, now and ever  
 praise the holy Trinity!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976

Music: ERENEZOR, THOMAS J. Williams, 1869-1944

Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

## 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, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME



**+ WORD +**

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

*The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.*

<sup>4</sup>The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Reader The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 116:1-9**      *We sing the psalm responsively.*

**PSALM: Psalm 116:1-9**      *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>1</sup>I love the Lord, who has <sup>1</sup> heard my voice,  
and listened to my <sup>1</sup> supplication,

C      <sup>2</sup>for the Lord has given <sup>1</sup> ear to me  
               whenev- <sup>1</sup> er I called.

L     <sup>3</sup>The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave <sup>1</sup> came upon me;  
I came to <sup>1</sup> grief and sorrow.

C <sup>47</sup>Then I called upon the name <sup>1</sup> of the Lord:  
“O Lord, I pray you, <sup>1</sup> save my life.”

L        <sup>5</sup>Gracious is the <sup>1</sup> Lord and righteous;  
             our God is full <sup>1</sup> of compassion.

C <sup>6</sup>The Lord watches o- | ver the innocent;  
I was brought low, | and God saved me.

L        <sup>7</sup>Turn again to your rest, <sup>1</sup> O my soul.  
              for the Lord has dealt <sup>1</sup> well with you.

**C** <sup>8</sup>For you have rescued my <sup>|</sup> life from death,  
my eyes from tears, and my <sup>|</sup> feet from stumbling;

L        <sup>9</sup>I will walk in the presence <sup>1</sup> of the Lord  
             in the land <sup>1</sup> of the living.

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

Amen.

## SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

*This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! <sup>6</sup>And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*The assembly stands.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





**GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38**

*This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.*

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

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

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup>He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

your name? Will you go where you don't  
 your name? Will you care for cruel and  
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same?  
 kind and nev - er be the same?  
 free and nev - er be the same?  
 side and nev - er be the same?  
 you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?"  
 pray'r in you and you in me?"  
 mean in you and you in me?"  
 sound in you and you in me?"  
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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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**

*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.*

## ANTHEM

*"Sing Out Earth and Skies" -Haugen*

Come, O God of all the earth: Come to us, O Righteous One;  
Come, and bring our love to birth; In the glory of your Son.

(refrain)

Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you!  
Raise your joyful cries! Dance to the life around you!

Come, O God of wind and flame: Fill the earth with righteousness;  
Teach us all to sing your name: May our lives your love confess.(refrain)

Come, O God of flashing light: Twinkling star and burning sun;  
God of day and God of night: In your light we all are one. (refrain)

Come, O God of snow and rain: Shower down upon the earth;  
Come, O God of joy and pain: God of sorrow, God of mirth. (refrain)

Come, O Justice, Come, O Peace: Come and shape our hearts anew;  
Come and make oppression cease: Bring us all to life in you. (refrain)

*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.



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>ACS 966</b>	<i>Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken (below)</i>
	<b>808</b>	<i>Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song</i>
	<b>806</b>	<i>O God, My Faithful God</i>





1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the  
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a  
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in  
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



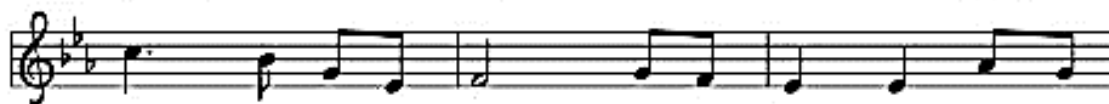
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from  
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you  
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the  
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.  
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.  
a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"  
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Struempfle Jr., 1923-2007  
Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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Music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com). All rights reserved.

*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.*

**SENDING HYMN**      660      *Lift High the Cross*

*Refrain*



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbold, 1874-1956  
Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947  
Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60085. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## 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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Marilyn Larson dedicates today's altar flowers  
to the glory of God and in celebration  
of her brother's and nephew's birthday.

### Calendar for September 15 - 22

Sep.	15	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			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

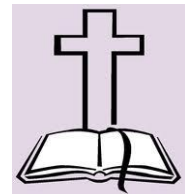
### Next Sunday's Readings, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

[Jeremiah 11:18-20](#)

[Psalm 54](#)

[James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a](#)

[Mark 9:30-37](#)



### 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, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Sandy Ness, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White

### SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY

Serving	Sep. 15	Sep. 22
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Audrey Post	Jennifer Dritt
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Rob Schiffer	Rita Ford
<b>Cantor</b>	Susan Hehn	Rudy Hehn
<b>Lector</b>	Celia Greeley	Elliot Reece
<b>Acolyte</b>	Celia Greeley or Graham Reece or Bastian Stover	
<b>Tech Team</b>	Mark Greeley Colin Hackley	Sandy Lamb-Daniels Sylvia Smith
<b>Ushers</b>		
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Lawana Lamb-Daniels Sandy Lamb-Daniels	Rita Ford Susan Warren
<b>Counters</b>	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy	Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer

## 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).