

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

NIINETEENTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

10 A.M.

## INTRODUCTION

*Someone who isn't part of Jesus' own circle is casting out demons in Jesus' name, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.*

## 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 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor  
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,  
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in  
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:  
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -  
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:  
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
 waiting to hush our final breath:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
 fair is the night that leads us home.  
 Alleluia.

- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
 and worship God with humble heart:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
 Alleluia.

## 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.

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you.  
Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

*Noisy offering*



+ WORD +

## FIRST READING: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

*What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?*

<sup>4</sup>The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; <sup>6</sup>but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

<sup>10</sup>Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. <sup>11</sup>So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? <sup>12</sup>Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? <sup>13</sup>Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' <sup>14</sup>I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. <sup>15</sup>If this is

C <sup>87</sup>The statutes of the Lord are just and re- | joice the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light | to the eyes.

L       <sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is clean and en-<sup>1</sup>dures forever;  
          the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous<sup>1</sup> altogether.

C       <sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than<sup>1</sup> much fine gold,  
          sweeter far than honey, than honey<sup>1</sup> in the comb.**

L       <sup>11</sup>By them also is your ser-<sup>1</sup>vant enlightened,  
          and in keeping them there is<sup>1</sup> great reward.

C       <sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's<sup>1</sup> own offenses?  
          Cleanse me from my<sup>1</sup> secret faults.**

L       <sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get  
          dominion<sup>1</sup> over me;  
          then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a<sup>1</sup> great offense.

C       <sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be  
          acceptable<sup>1</sup> in your sight,  
          O Lord, my strength and<sup>1</sup> my redeemer.**

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**Amen.**

## **SECOND READING: James 5:13-20**

*Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.*

<sup>13</sup>Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.



<sup>19</sup>My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup>you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL: Mark 9:38-50

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.*

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

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

<sup>38</sup>John said to [Jesus], “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup>“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And

if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup>“For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON** *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      **This Is My Church** (*Sung to the tune of ELW 887*)

This is my church, my favorite place to worship;  
a place of peace and welcome unsurpassed.  
This is my home, the church where God has called me.  
Here are my hopes, my thoughts of members past.  
But other churches have such sacred memories,  
a worship home they know will always last.

The stained glass in my church's long lean window  
colors the light that bathes our liturgy.  
But other churches have their own sweet beauty,  
and God must love each window equally.  
So hear my song, O God of all the churches,  
a song of peace for each community.

## **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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The feast is read - y to be - gin;

the feast is read - y to be - gin.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

Text and music © 1989 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

THE FEAST IS READY  
 LM and refrain

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.'

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*The presiding minister continues to give thanks.*

P In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat;  
this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

C **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

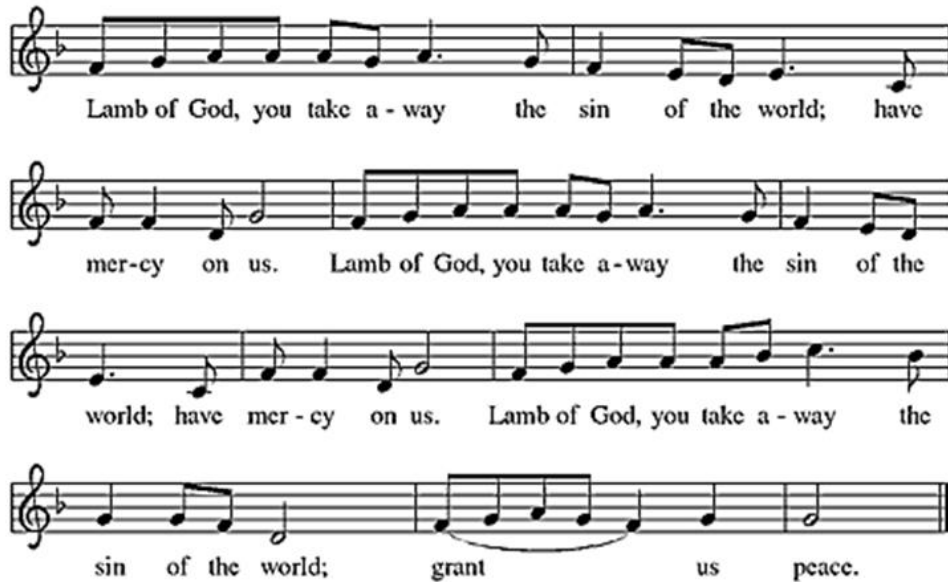
C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are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

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

*The assembly is seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD



## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*As the ushers direct you, come to the altar using the side aisles and return to your seat via the central aisle. The assisting ministers offer both the common cup (wine) and a pouring cup (wine or grape juice). If you prefer to receive the wine or juice in an individual glass, take one from the tray as you approach the rail. Leave the empty glass on the rail. Wheat-free wafers are available--simply tell the pastor.*

<b>COMMUNION HYMNS</b>	<b>484</b>	<i>You Satisfy the Hungry Heart</i>
	<b>580</b>	<i>How Clear Is our Vocation, Lord</i>
	<b>501</b>	<i>Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus</i>

*The assembly stands.*



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

## + SENDING +

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

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

C Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

**SENDING HYMN**      864      *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib - ute bring.  
 2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore - bears in dis - tress.  
 3 Frail as sum - mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;  
 4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres - ence, face to face.

Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais - es sing.  
 God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless,  
 but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.  
 Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005  
 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

## 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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**Nathan Basford dedicates today's altar flowers  
in honor of Don Dowd's birthday on Sep. 30.**

### Calendar for September 29 - October 6

Sept.	29	Sun.	9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
	02	Wed.	7:00 pm	Choir practice
06	Sun.		9:00 am	Book study
			9:30 am	Choir practice
			10:00 am	Worship, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

### **Next Sunday's Readings, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost:**

[Genesis 2:18-24](#)

[Psalms 8](#)

[Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12](#)

[Mark 10:2-16](#)



### SERVING EVERY SUNDAY

Pastor Tom, presiding and preaching

Katharine Gossman, piano

Karl Barton, flute

Denise Bookwalter, announcements

Choir: Karl Barton, Melissa Barton, Mark Canning, Judi Duffy, Kirsten Ebbesen, Rita Ford, Ron Hartung, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Olivia James, Sandy Ness, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White

### SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY

Serving	Sep. 29	Oct. 6
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Rob Schiffer	Jennifer Dritt
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Kirsten Ebbesen	Colleen Holdcraft
<b>Cantor</b>	Kirsten Ebbesen	
<b>Lector</b>	Mark Greeley	Erik Robinson
<b>Acolyte</b>	Ceilia Greeley or Graham Reece or Bastian Stover	
<b>Tech Team</b>	Caroline Collins Audrey Post	Colleen Holdcraft Jonas Holdcraft
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob Eshleman Jan Harrison	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Linda Eshleman Barbara Sullivan	
<b>Counters</b>	Margaret Bowers Kirsten Ebbesen	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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

***For the sick:*** 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).