

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH



Celebrating Diversity  
as God's Children



JANUARY 25, 2026

10 A.M.

## St. Stephen Lutheran Church

(850) 385-2728, Office  
sslc@ststephenlutherantly.com, Email <http://www.ststephenlutherantly.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. Please do not leave children under 12 unattended.

**“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. A nursery is available if parent or guardian desires. See usher for details.

**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.

# Ministry of Reconciling

## INTRODUCTION

*This year's theme allows us to celebrate how far we all have come in difficult times while also reminding us we need to keep moving toward the goal of true inclusion. It focuses our attention on how community bonds and relationships sustain the individual members of the community, building resilience in institutions and individuals. When we work together for justice, communities are stronger; when we work together, people are stronger.*

## WELCOME

### PRELUDE



*The assembly stands.*

## LAND AKNOWLEDGEMENT

P      Created out of nothing,

**C      We come here to be reminded of who we are.**

P      Created for goodness,

**C      We come with open hearts to be filled with everlasting love.**

P      Created as a beloved child of God,

**C      We come in celebration of the diversity of the body of Christ.**

P      Created with a heart for celebrating the rich diversity of creation, we come trusting in the one who creates, redeems, and sustains us as we acknowledge and honor the Apalachee, Miccosukee, Myskoke and Seminole peoples upon whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as all our Indigenous siblings who continue to care for this place - this land - and call it their home.

**C      As we live into the diversity that God has created, may we be bold to tell the whole story, for in knowing the truth of who we have been, we come to know more fully who we are called to be. Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Water is life. Our bodies need water. This community needs water to be resilient and flourish. Plants and animals need water. Water is essential for all of life on this planet to thrive and flourish.

We need water for drinking, for washing, for cooking, for cleaning, for refreshing. Water sustains our lives, and water enhances our lives. Every day of our lives includes multiple uses of water.

Let us give thanks for the gift of water and for baptism.

C **We give you thanks, O God, for this water that comes to us as a gift from our Creator, the source of all that is good and life-giving. You are a generous and loving God who blesses us through water and who claims all people in the fullness of sexual or romantic orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, gender expression, immigration status, beliefs, and abilities.**

P O God, may we live as careful stewards, guardians of this precious gift, protectors of the health of this planet, builders of resilient communities, and cultivators of life-giving relationships that promote peace and unity.

C **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ects speak, and words are strong and  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions

live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as

hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -

*Refrain*

Christ shall end di - vi - sions;  
 claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 end to fear and dan - ger:  
 claim from floor to raf - ter:

all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

## **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.**



## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

God of Beauty, you gather your beloved children into your care, each one a unique image of you. You claim us as your own and call us to follow in the ways of mercy, justice, and joy. Strengthen our changing hearts and minds to continue the work of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**



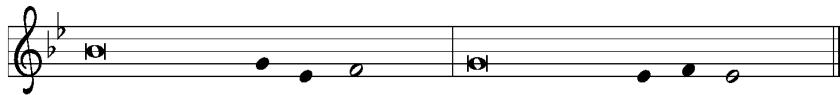
## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4**

Nonetheless, those who were in distress won't be exhausted. At an earlier time, God cursed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but later God glorified the way of the sea, the far side of the Jordan, and the Galilee of the nations. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned. You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy. They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest, as those who divide plunder rejoice. As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them, the staff on their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor.

R Word of God, word of freedom.

C **Praise be to God**

**PSALM:**                   **Psalm 27:1, 4-9**



Leader   <sup>1</sup>The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then <sup>1</sup> shall I fear?  
                 The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I <sup>1</sup> be afraid?

**C**   <sup>4</sup>**One thing I ask of the Lord; one <sup>1</sup> thing I seek;**  
                 **that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to**  
                 **gaze up on the beauty of the Lord and to seek God <sup>1</sup> in the temple.**

L   <sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble God will <sup>1</sup> give me shelter,  
                 hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- <sup>1</sup> on a  
                 rock.

**C**   <sup>6</sup>**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies <sup>1</sup> who surround me.**  
                 **Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;**  
                 **I will sing and make music <sup>1</sup> to the Lord.**

L   <sup>7</sup>Hear my voice, O Lord, <sup>1</sup> when I call;  
                 have mercy on me and <sup>1</sup> answer me.

**C**   <sup>8</sup>**My heart speaks your message— <sup>1</sup> “Seek my face.”**  
                 **Your face, O Lord, <sup>1</sup> I will seek.**

L   <sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- <sup>1</sup> vant in anger.  
                 Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God  
                 of <sup>1</sup> my salvation.

**SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-2**

See what kind of love the Creator has given to us in that we should be called God's children, and that is what we are! Because the world did not recognize God, it does not recognize us. Dear friends, now we are God's children, and it hasn't yet appeared what we will be. We know that when God appears we will be like God because we'll see God as God is.

R   Word of God, word of freedom.

**C   Praise be to God**

*The assembly stands.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW 169**



**GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23**

**P** The Word made flesh dwells among us.

**C** **Full of grace and truth.**

Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what Isaiah the prophet said: Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, alongside the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who lived in the dark have seen a great light, and a light has come upon those who lived in the region and in the shadow of death. From that time Jesus began to announce, “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!” As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” he said, “and I’ll show you how to fish for people.” Right away, they left their nets and followed him. Continuing on, he saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee, their father, repairing their nets. Jesus called them and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues. He announced the good news of the kingdom and healed every disease and sickness among the people.

**P** This is the Good News of Jesus Christ

**C** **Praise to you, Word of life!**

*The assembly is seated.*

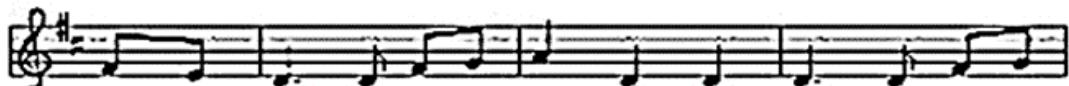
**SERMON** We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.

The assembly stands.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

ACS 1038

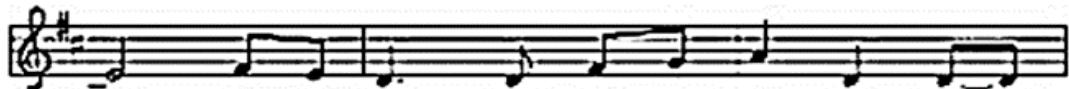
*God, We Gather as Your People*



1 God, we gall - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -  
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be  
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and  
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.  
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be.  
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.  
wide can... live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



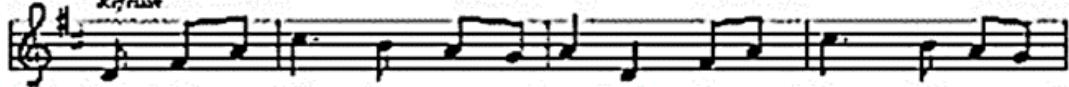
Though the day may not yet be here, we  
that they nev - er have a rea - son to  
May the mex - sage now be han - ished that your  
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they

S



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.  
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.  
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.  
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

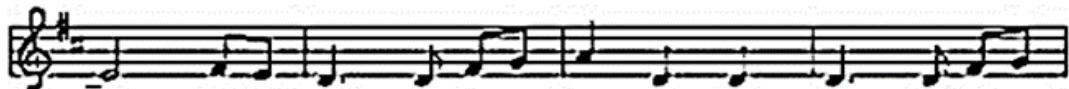
*Refrain*



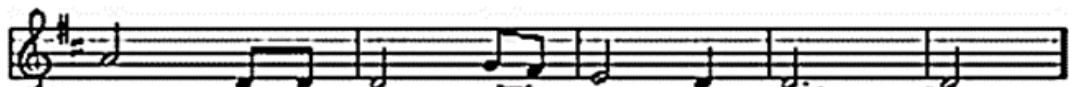
Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry-one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lehman, b. 1961

Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lehman

Text and music © 2007 We Believe Sing Now, LLC, a Arista/EMI Music

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

## CREED

A Let us join together in proclaiming our faith:

**C We believe in you, O God, who spoke all life into being, author of heaven and earth, architect of time, quilter of the cosmos. You shape our bodies from the dust of the ground, and by your breath we are given life.**

**We believe in you, O God, who became incarnate in Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh, truly divine and truly human. You lived among us to reveal your justice, died among us to break the bonds of sin and death, and were raised among us to bring abundant life.**

**We believe in you, O God, who transforms us by the Holy Spirit, draws us into community, moves us to action, and inspires us to hope against hope. You breathe new life into a fallen world and equip us to proclaim the good news of resurrecting love. All thanks and praise to you, O God, our beginning and our end. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Creator in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

A We pray for our pastors, deacons, bishops, and church leaders, that they may guide us well as we become a loving, welcoming, and resilient community in Jesus Christ. We give thanks for Reconciling Works and all of our Reconciling in Christ ministry partners. We pray that the whole church may someday become a blessed community where all our LGBTQIA + siblings are celebrated. Spirit, intercede for us,

**C Send wholeness to our church.**

A We pray for the sustainability of our planet. Guide us to care for creation, be mindful of how much we throw away, reduce how much carbon dioxide our lifestyles add to the air we breathe, and remember how much our choices impact the lives of people in poor and marginalized communities. Spirit, intercede for us,

**C Send wholeness to our Earth.**

A We pray for our siblings all around the world. We pray that leaders everywhere recognize and respond to the suffering of the poor, marginalized, and persecuted. We pray that governments enact laws that protect and defend the poor, marginalized, and persecuted. We pray that your hand of justice intercede for us. Spirit, intercede for us,

**C Send wholeness to the nations.**

A We pray for people who have chaos swirling around and within them. We pray for those that have been told they are less than, wrong, or an outcast for who they are. We pray that all of us find true peace, joy, and wholeness in you. We pray for people who are victims of violence because of queerphobia, racism, sexism, and ableism. We pray for your mercy, love, and healing to care for them. Spirit, intercede for us,

**C Send wholeness to your children.**

A We pray that our congregation and its ministries uplift and care for all living things in our world. We pray that we work towards justice and peace in our own family and community. Spirit, intercede for us,

**C Send wholeness to us.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A We pray for LGBTQIA+ saints, all our siblings who have gone before us in the fight for justice, freedom, and peace, even when church and society ignored them. Help us remember and honor the memory of the people who have boldly stood as themselves, showing the substance you created even when the world told them to hide. Spirit, intercede for us,

**C Send wholeness to this community of LGBTQIA+ people and allies.**

A Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy wisdom.

**C Amen.**

**Peace**

A The spirit-filled peace of Christ be with you always!

**C And also with you!**

A Let us greet one another with a sign of this spirit-filled peace, respecting the boundaries and honoring the consent of our neighbors.

*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 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**    "A Place at the Table" -Murray/True

For ev'ryone born, a place at the table,  
for ev'ryone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for ev'ryone born, a star overhead.

(Refrain)

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,  
justice and joy!

For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the right to belong. (Refrain)

For ev'ryone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for ev'ryone born, the right to be free. (Refrain)

For all those who love, a place at the table,  
To wed whom they choose while dear ones applaud,  
The freedom to be the gender within them,  
For all those who love are children of God.\* (Refrain)

**(Refrain - Congregation please join in the last Refrain)**

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,  
justice and joy!

*\*Special thanks to Dave Subrweir for writing the lyrics to the last verse.*



**venmo**

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

*We stand and sing as the collection and the gifts are brought forward*

## OFFERING HYMN

1  
I reach in my pock - et to

6  
pull out an of - fer-ing as if this gift were real - ly mine. It's not, Lord, I

10  
know, but I cling to it so un - til my soul's voice can re -

15  
mind me that what - ev - er I have, what - ev - er I have,

20  
what - ev - er I have, Lord, is yours.

25  
I vis - it with you for an hour on Sun - days as if it's a fav - or I

29  
do. Lord, help me to see that to live faith - ful - ly is to

34

turn my— days o - ver— to you be cause what - ev - er I have,

39

what - ev - er I have, what - ev - er I have, Lord, is

43

yours. And now down the aisle comes a

48

gift like no oth - er. The bread and the wine make me free. The best gift of

52

yours is the son we— a - dore. The on - ly— gift I have— is

57

me. Take me. What - ev - er I have, what - ev - er I have,

62

what - ev - er I have, Lord, is yours.

## LITURGY FOR THE TABLE

P God is here!

**C The Spirit is with us!**

P Lift up your hearts!

**C We lift them to our God!**

P Let us give thanks to the Holy One and Holy Three!

**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. Birthed into your beautiful creation, he taught us to live in harmony and wholeness. By the work of your son, you call us to pursue justice and abundant life for all people. 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:

**C Holy, holy, holy, God of power, God of might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

P Blessed are you, O God, Creator of this wild and wonderful world. In the beginning, you called forth light from the shadows; You filled land and sea with life; You filled us with your own Spirit. You so loved your own creation that you set your bow in the sky; You promised life in a world that brings death; You sent Jesus, your Son to gather us close to you. Who, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this, and remember me. Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to those gathered at the table, saying: This cup is the new promise in my blood, shed for your and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, and remember me.

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P O God of many names, pour out your Spirit upon us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this meal of shared life for the sake of the world, and fill us with your own thirst for beauty and hunger for justice, that we might continue in the ways of your Son, Jesus Christ. All things bright and beautiful are entrusted to us by you, And with all creation we praise you, O God, Blessed and holy Trinity, Now and always. **Amen.**

P      Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us . . .

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

C      **Heavenly God, giver of life, holy is your name, your realm 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 you reign in power and glory now and forever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P      This table belongs to Jesus and the meal is offered by Jesus, and so all of God's children are welcome to celebrate. Jesus is made known to us in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the wine. Come and eat.

*The assembly is seated.*

### **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 HYMN

1 Kneel me down now at your  
soul with your ho - li -  
sing of the peace I've  
light shin - ing in my

6 feet. Kneel me down now at your feet. Kneel me down, kneel me down,  
ness. Feed my soul with your ho - li - ness. Feed my soul, feed my soul,  
found. Hear me sing of the peace I've found. Hear me sing, hear me sing,  
heart. Keep this light shin - ing in my heart. Keep this light, keep this light,

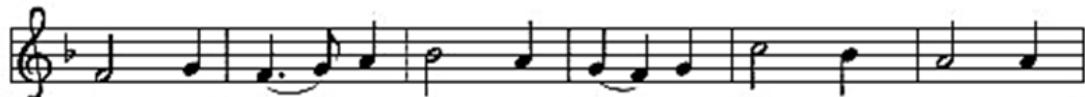
10 at the al - tar kneel me down, for bread and wine, the  
with the Prom - ise feed my soul, with  
of your true love hear me sing, of  
shine right through me, keep this light, through

14 1, 2, 3.  
loving sign from you, God, and your Son. Feed my  
Hear me  
Keep this

21 4.  
Through bread and wine, the lov-ing sign from you, God, and your Son.

25 A - - - men.

COMMUNION HYMN ACS 1040 *Love Has Brought Us Here Together*



1 Love has brought us here to - geth - er; love of fam - 'ly,  
2 Love is gen - tle, love is pa - tient, soft in words and  
3 Love does not re - joice at e - vil; love re - joic - es



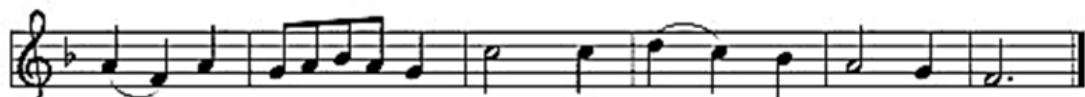
love of friends; love, our vow till death should part us; love, God's kind in deeds. Love is strong and nev - er pom - pous; love puts in the right. Keen in giv - ing and for - giv - ing, spread - ing



gift, that nev - er ends. From our birth, through - out our life - time, first the oth - er's needs. Not quick - tem - pered or re - sent - ful, love is love's de - light. When two peo - ple pledge their u - nion,



love's in - sis - tence calls our name. Floods of wa - ters prone to take of - fense or brood, love ex - cels in all who wit - ness are re - newed, feast - ing at love's



can - not drown it or put out its danc - ing flame. grace and mer - cy, nev - er jeal - ous, nev - er rude. earth - ly ban - - quet, tast - ing heav'n's be - at - i - tude.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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**COMMUNION HYMN** *Impartial, Compassionate God of All Lives*

1. Impartial, compassionate God of all lives,  
 2. Unholy, unjustified fear we in - cite,  
 3. Creator, of beauty, we stand not in pride,  
 4. Our hope is your freedom for both great and small,  
 5. All honor we give you, O help us to see,  
 in Christ you have shown us your love actual - ized,  
 when we shun our neigh - bors yet cling to our rights.  
 we do not as - sume you will stay on our side.  
 to strive for per - fec - tion and know all means all.  
 your chil - dren are wor - thy to claim vic - to - ry.  
 in - carnate and weak in the arms of the poor,  
 Your chil - dren still wan - der the streets left in pain,  
 For yours is the sa - cred, un - tar - nished by sin,  
 We chal - lenge and quest - ion each law with - out grace,  
 And so let our ac - tions flow out of our praise,  
 dc - stroy - ing all sys - tems that keep closed the door.  
 we pass laws a - gainst them to prove our dis - dain.  
 a re - fuge for out - casts that all may come in.  
 af - firm - ing the im - age of Christ on each face.  
 to seek trans - for - ma - tion, your Kin - dom to raise.

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*The assembly stands.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

Jesus our friend and savior, your life, death, and resurrection changed our world. May this meal of bread and wine bless us and sustain us in the building of a blessed community which welcomes all people, that sees all people, and that works for justice for all people.

C **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

**+ SENDING +**

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

P As we leave this space God's face shine upon us, God's love sustain us, and God's peace inspire us and grant us peace. God – Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer - fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may live in hope of a blessed community where humanity's diversity is celebrated.

C **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**                    715        *Christ, Be Our Light (Please see next page)*

## 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 to seek justice for all people.

C **Thanks be to God!**

**+++**

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
 3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for  
 4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for  
 5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone  
 wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants

your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.  
 bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.  
 shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone,  
 to one an-oth-er, signs of your king-dom come.

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
 dark-ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
 church gath-ered to-day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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Sources & Acknowledgements -  
Expansive Language Liturgy: Sighs too  
Deep for Words, Evangelical Lutheran  
Worship, All Creation Sings, This Far by  
Faith, NW Synod of Wisconsin, Rev. A.J.  
Houseman,

*Sundays and Seasons v.20220805.1416*  
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**Gladys Kane's family dedicates  
today's altar flowers to the Glory of God  
in celebration of her 92nd birthday!**

**Calendar for January 25 – February 1**

Jan.	25	Sun.	9 am	Bible study
			9:30 am	Choir rehearsal
			10 am	Worship, Ministry of Reconciling Sunday
			11:30 am	RIC Speaker/Potluck
	28	Wed.	7 pm	Choir rehearsal
	29	Thurs.	10am	Bible study
	31	Sat.	11am	Celebration of Life - Rev. Warren Schave
Feb.	1	Sun.	9 am	Bible study
			9:30 am	Choir rehearsal
			10 am	Worship, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
			11:30 am	Worship and Music meeting in HH

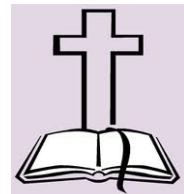
Next Sunday's Fourth Sunday after Epiphany:

[Micah 6:1-8](#)

[Psalm 15](#)

[1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#)

[Matthew 5:1-12](#)



### SERVING EVERY SUNDAY

Pastor Tom, 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, Rudy Hehn, Susan Hehn, Colleen Holdcraft, Pastor Tom Holdcraft, Olivia James, Lawana Lamb-Daniels, Sandy Ness, Simone Schuster, Dave Suhrweir, Cassandra White.

### SERVING TODAY AND ONE WEEK FROM TODAY

Serving	January 25	February 1
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Jen Dritt	Beth Alexander
<b>Cup Minister</b>	Rita Ford	Lorraine Sundberg
<b>Cantor</b>	Karl Barton	Rudy Hehn
<b>Lector</b>	Jennifer Buchanan	Violet/Mark Greeley
<b>Acolyte</b>		
<b>Tech Team</b>	Audrey Post Lorraine Sunberg	
<b>Ushers</b>	Bob Eshleman Patrick Kennell	Ann DelRossi Rob Schiffer
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Linda Eshleman Barbara Sullivan	Beth Alexander
<b>Counters</b>	Lorraine Sundberg Marilyn Larson	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy

## 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:** Ruth Hartung; 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); Wayne Harrison (Jan Harrison's son); Pat Yeager (sister of Sue Canning).

**Health and protection:** For Frank "Ramy" Meyers following broken leg. For Loraine and Bertil Sundberg following car accident. 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 Marc Rozman (friend of Cheryl Stuart), our shared sympathy on his death.; For Audrey Post and family following the death of Wanda; For Hingst/Mongomery family and friends following the death of Ann; 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 Steinworth (friend of Rob Schiffer), suffering from pericarditis and vestibular neuritis and learning to cope with dizziness and severe equilibrium problems; For 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.

## 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 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://ststephenlutherantly.com/sermons>. Want to read the latest newsletters? Go to <https://ststephenlutherantly.com/newsletters>. Want to browse a collection of St. Stephen songs? They're at <https://ststephenlutherantly.com/songs-of-st-stephen>.

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