

Jesus  
began to  
send them out  
two *by*  
two

MARK 6:7

# 7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 7, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day.

Please fill out the “Worship Slip” and place it in the offering plate.

( \* ) Asterisk means, “Please stand as you are able.”

Music

“Fanfare” Richard Purvis

## **The Gathering**

\*Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**C: In the name of the Father,  
And of the + Son,  
And of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen**

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**C: Merciful God,  
You free us to love others,  
But we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.  
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,  
But we turn away from the abundant life you offer.  
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,  
But we grow weary in doing what is right.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Do not give up on us.  
Heal us, break our bonds,  
And show us the path of life.  
Amen.**

P: You belong to Christ Jesus  
And you are God's children through faith.  
In the cross of + Christ,  
And through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
Your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.  
**C: Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn                      "Making Their Way" ACS #979

Making their way down through the ages,  
Sinners and saints have heard God's call:  
Wealthy and poor, powerful, lowly,  
Jesus' disciples, one and all.  
Gathered for worship, offering thanks,  
The greatest with the least have come to share this feast.

Making their way all the world over,  
Christians assemble on this day,  
Hearing the Word, sharing the Banquet,  
Learning to walk in Jesus' way.  
Members of Christ, united in love,  
They seek our God to know, and so together grow.

Making our way season by season,  
Pilgrims, we journey till life's end,  
Traveling light, sharing the riches,  
Caring for stranger as for friend,  
Till in the joy of longing fulfilled,  
Together we will come to our eternal home.

\*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**

Kyrie      “Spirit, Open My Heart”      ACS #1043

**REFRAIN**

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.  
Spirit, open my heart.

1. God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender.

REFRAIN

2. Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory.

REFRAIN

3. May I weep with those who weep;  
Share the joy of friend and neighbor.  
As I live from day to day,  
love will be my finest labor.

REFRAIN

\*Prayer of the Day

God Stories

**The Word of God**

First Reading                      Ezekiel 2:1-5                      Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.    **C: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading                      2 Corinthians 12:2-10                      Celebrate pg. 2

R: Word of God, Word of Life.    **C: Thanks be to God.**

\*Gospel Acclamation

ELW #175

**ALLELUIA**



\*Gospel Reading

Mark 6:1-13

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Mark, the 6th Chapter

**C: Glory to you, O God.**

*(The Gospel is read)*

P: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

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

\*Hymn of the Day

“Ask the Complicated Questions” ACS #1005

Ask the complicated questions.  
Do not fear to be found out;  
For our God makes strong our weakness,  
Forging faith in fires of doubt.

Seek the disconcerting answers,  
Follow where the Spirit blows;  
Test competing truths for wisdom,  
For intension new life grows.

Knock on doors of new ideas,  
Test assumptions long grown stale,  
For Christ calls from shores of wonder,  
Daring us to try and fail.

For in struggle we discover  
Truth both simple and profound;  
In the knocking, asking, seeking,  
We are opened, answered, found.

## **The Communion Meal**

\* Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Music “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

Offering Prayer

P: Creator God,

In your wisdom you bring forth all that is good

And the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at you table with these gifts of the earth

And our labor,

That we may work for the good of all;

Through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen**

\*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to God**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our JOY...

\*Words of Institution

\*Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father, in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is 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**

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.  
Come for all is ready!

(You may be seated)

Invitation to Communion

P: The kingdom of God is set before you.  
Eat and rejoice.

Communion Gathering Song     *“As the Wind” ACS #943*

As the wind song through the trees,  
as the stirring of the breeze,  
so it is with the Spirit of God,  
as the heart made strangely warm,  
as the voice within the storm,  
so it is with the Spirit of God.



Never seen, ever known where this wind has blown  
bringing life, bringing pow'r to the world,  
as the dancing tongues of fire,  
as the soul's most deep desire,  
so it is with the Spirit of God.

As the rainbow after rain, as the hope that's born again,  
so it is with the Spirit of God,  
as the green in the . . . spring,  
as a kite on a . . . String, so it is with the Spirit of God,  
making worlds that are new, making peace come true,  
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,  
As the rising of the yeast, as the wine at the . . . feast,  
so it is with the Spirit of God.

### Communion Hymn

*"Now the Silence"* Red #460 (sing three times)

Now the silence Now the peace  
Now the empty hands uplifted  
Now the kneeling Now the plea  
Now the Father's arms in welcome  
Now the hearing Now the pow'r  
Now the vessel brimmed for pouring  
Now the body Now the blood Now the joyful celebration  
Now the wedding Now the songs  
Now the heart forgiven leaping  
Now the Spirit's visitation Now the Son's epiphany  
Now the Father's blessing Now Now Now

## **The Sending**

\*Prayer after Communion

P: Mothering God,  
You gathered us to your table  
And we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit  
To love our neighbors as ourselves  
And proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen**

\*Blessing

P: The love of God abound in you;  
The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
And the life of the Spirit  
+ bless you and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

\*Closing Hymn

*“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”* Red #538 (sing twice)

The Lord now sends us forth  
With hands to serve and give,  
To make of all the earth  
A better place to live. (Repeat)

The angels were not sent  
Into this world of pain  
To do what we were meant  
to do in Jesus' name;

That falls to you and me  
And all who are made free.  
Help us O Lord, we pray,  
To do your will today.

\*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: **Thanks be to God.**


Music “Thanksgiving” Richard Purvis

Serving Today

Reader: Elke Spires

Coffee Host: Rebecca Wickham

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



**On Zoom or at Church w Pastor Jim**  
check email on Tues. for link

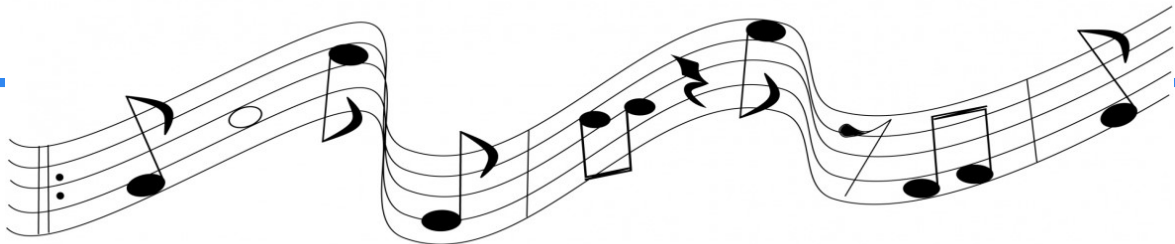
**WEDNESDAYS from 11a -12noon**  
**&**  
**7:30 pm – 8:30 pm**



**Saturday, July 13  
9am — 11:30am**

For those of you who remember, we used to have a committee who faithfully & proudly took care of our property. Now, we have you. Yes, YOU. Please sign up for an hour or two.

Standard: Weeding, Windows and Cleaning.  
Sometimes: Mopping the church floor, Tree-trimming, Painting and Re-organizing.



### Music at St. Stephen's

The singers will be on their summer break and will return in the Fall. Think about joining, we need you!

Please come and share your talents ~ anything musical. We will rejoice!

Yours in Christ, and Mission ~ Gary



## Prayer Concerns

**SHORT TERM:** Beth Mills, Mary D., Candace Anderson & family, Family of Gary Meeker, Tom, Galahad, Susan O., Family of Mike Homer, Debbie, Sam, Michael Lee, Nate Barker, Grandpa Dennis, Bob & Shirley Salter, Monica & Family, Lurline Moore, Barry Hansen, Beth Butler, Family & friends of Sgt. William Nelson, Jen, Robbin, Maria Mendoza, Ila & Reina, Family of Richard Barker, Francisco, Margot Wilson, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Tim Oldfield, Sierra, Beth's mom, Julie R., Anne Rice, Rosie, The Webber Family, Janet, Sue, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, James, Keith, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, Atlas, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Joel Hurttgam, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Paul Cunningham, Paul Paustian, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Rose, Will, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.

**LONG TERM:** Biergiel—Colclough family, Carla Brown, April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Joyce, Mike, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

*The Altar Flowers are given  
in honor of  
Judi Alvarado's birthday*





## Sister Parish News

**Prayer Child Sponsorships** - *Thank you* to those who have committed to support your prayer children for another year and have made the associated donations. We would also like you to write a short letter to your prayer child and include a photo. Please send them to:

Marian Langdon  
220 Horizon Way  
Aptos, CA 95003

There are 6 children that still need a sponsor. If you want to sponsor a child, please let me know. Thank you!

### **2024 Delegation?**

Planning has begun for a delegation this year. It will probably be in November. Please let me know if you are interested in going to El Salvador.



Provide Lunches for volunteers

10:30 am

July 23

Sandwiches, fruit, chips & cookies

# Upcoming Events:

July Benevolence Offering  
ELCA World Hunger

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| July 2      | No Boy Scouts 7:00 pm                                |
| July 3-5    | Preschool Closed                                     |
| July 4      | Mens beginner A.A. Thursday 7:00 pm                  |
| July 5      | A.A. Friday 7:00 pm                                  |
| July 8 & 22 | Women's Café Group Mondays at 6:00 pm                |
| July 9      | Knitter's Guild 6:15 pm                              |
| July 9      | Church Council 6:30 pm                               |
| July 10     | Preschool Chapel resumes 10:15 am                    |
| July 10     | Bible Study Resumes Wed. 11 am & 7:30 pm             |
| July 13     | Property Work Day 9:00 am                            |
| July 15     | Embroiders 7:00 pm                                   |
| July 18     | Knitter's Guild 10 am                                |
| July 20     | A.A. Memorial 3:00 pm fellowship hall                |
| July 22     | CDC Board 11:15 am                                   |
| July 27     | Knitters Workshop 9:00—4:00 fireside room            |
| August 4    | SAVE THE DATE<br>Potluck and back to school blessing |

## Our Mission Statement

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community who worship God in Christ, nurture people growing in faith, serve others with acceptance and love, invite people to share the joy of the Spirit.

### Reconciling in Christ

*"We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ."*

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Web Address: [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)  
Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. Noon—5:00 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's  
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp  
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp  
Music Director: Gary Roberts  
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens  
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp  
Custodian: John Hopping  
Powerpoint: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539