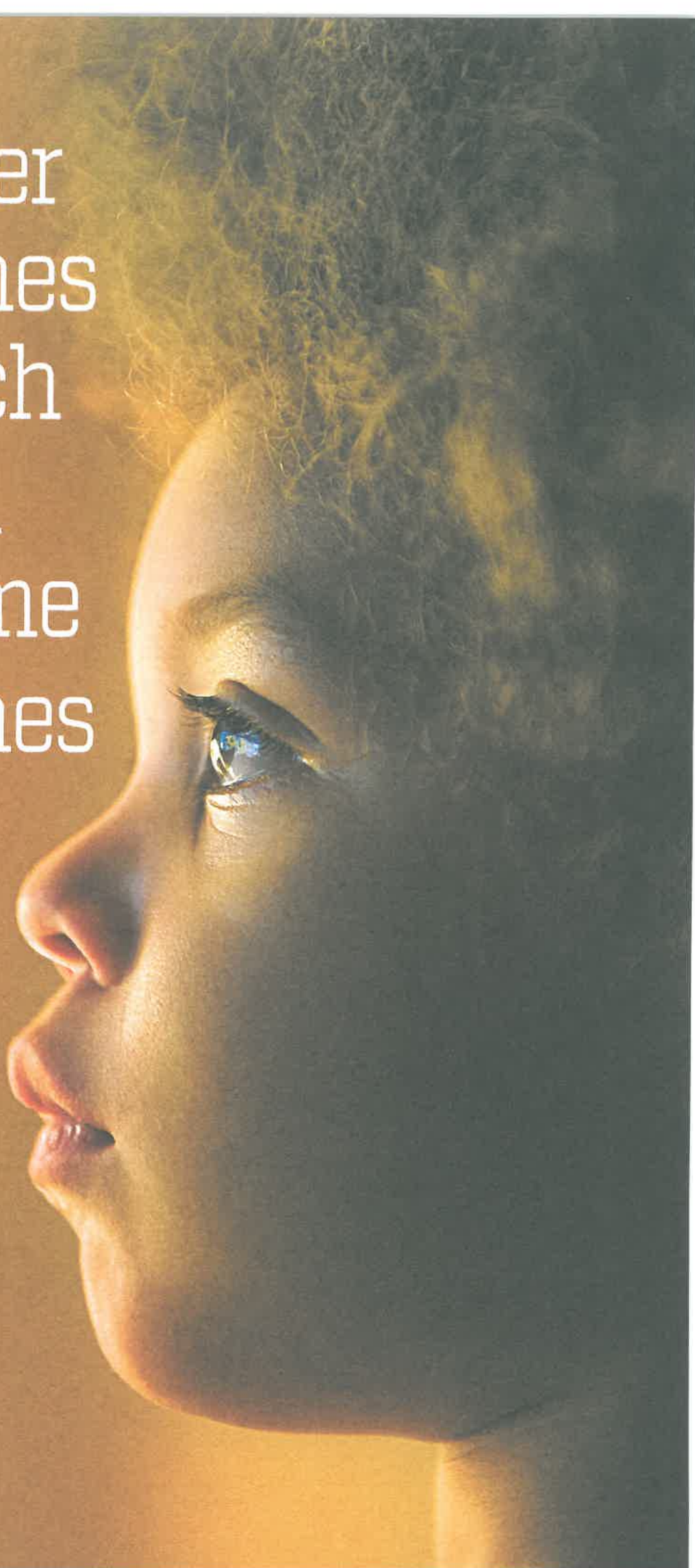


Whoever
welcomes
one such
child in
my name
welcomes
me

MARK 9:37



18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 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 “Air” from the tenth Grand Concerto for strings
George F. Handel (1685-1759)

The Gathering

*Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
Who forgives all our sin,
Whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

Gracious God,

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.
Amen.

*Opening Hymn *“All Are Welcome”* Red #641

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

REFRAIN

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God’s children dare to seek
to dream God’s reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God’s grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:**

REFRAIN

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us: REFRAIN

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger: REFRAIN

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: REFRAIN

*Greeting

From the one who is and who was and who is to come,
And from Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
Grace and peace be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie Refrain

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN
2. That we may live out your impassioned response
to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN
3. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,
For friends and family;
For life and for love, for our work and our play,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN
4. For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives
in the water and the Word;
That you nourish our souls with you body and blood,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. REFRAIN

This Is the Feast

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. 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. 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 - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 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.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Prayer of the Day

P: May God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us Pray.

God Stories

The Word of God

First Reading

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 54

read responsively

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

James 3:13-4:8

Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

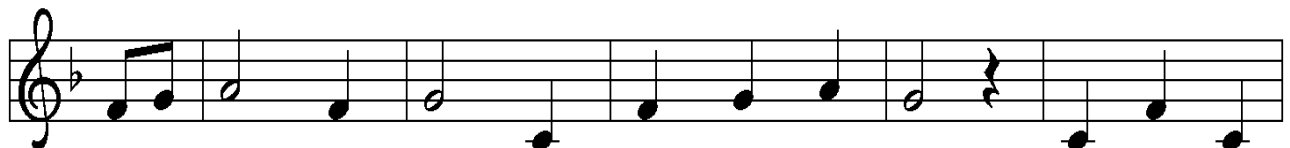
C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

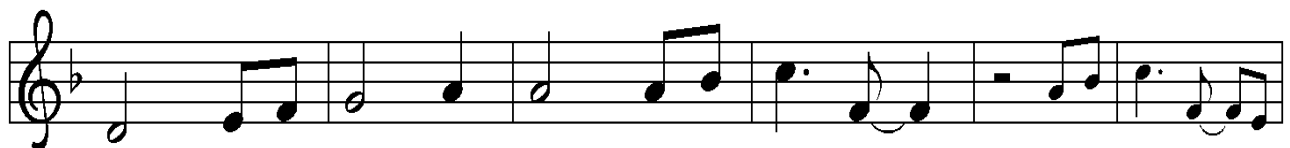
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

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

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel Reading

Mark 8:30-37

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day "Loving Spirit"

Red #397

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
You have chosen me to be
You have drawn me to your wonder,
You have set your sign on me.

Like a mother you enfold me,
Hold my life within your own,
Feed me with your very body,
Form me of your flesh and bone.

Like a father you protect me,
Teach me the discerning eye,
Hoist me up upon your shoulder,
Let me see the world from high.

Friend and lover, in our closeness
I am known and held and blessed:
In your promise is my comfort,
In your presence I am rest.

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,
You have chosen me to be
You have drawn me to your wonder,
You have set your sign on me.

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

“Adagio” from the Golden Sonata
Henry Purcell (1658-1695)

Offering Prayer

P: Let us Pray...

**C: Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills
Were gathered together to become one bread,
So let your church be gathered together
From the ends of the earth into your kingdom,
For yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.
Amen**

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God 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 God 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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every tongue and nation.

*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 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**

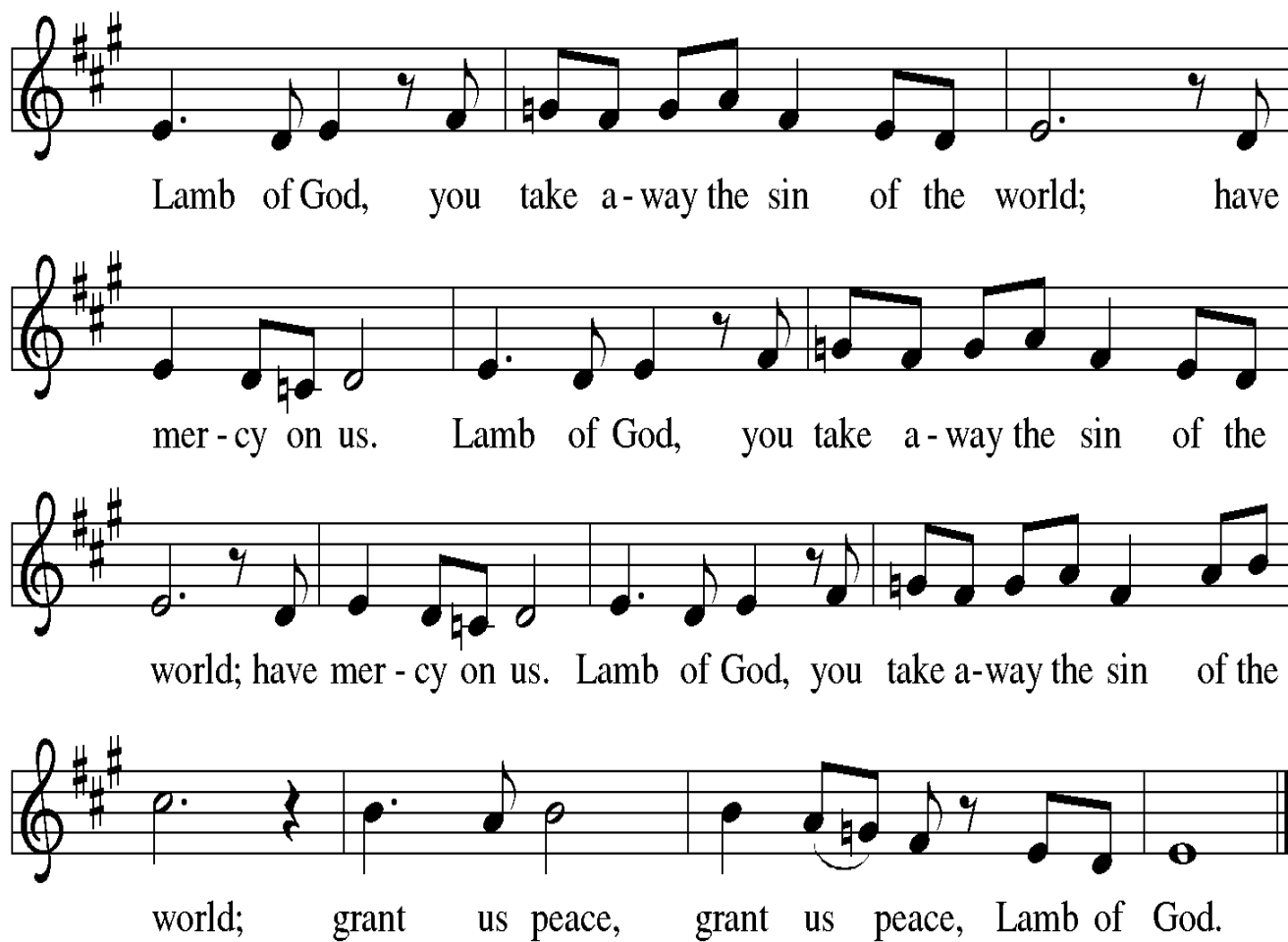
P: Goodness is stronger than evil.
Life is stronger than death.
Taste the goodness and life of God.

(You may be seated)

Holy Communion

Guests: You are welcome to come forward to receive Communion as part of this church family! Children are welcome to come forward and receive a special blessing if they have never communed before. Communion is by intinction, which means that we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Please follow the guidance of the ushers as to when and how you are to come forward.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Hymn “Children of the Heavenly Father”
Red #781

Children of the heavenly Father
Safely in his bosom gather
Nestling bird or star in heaven
Such a refuge ne'er was given

God his own doth tend and nourish
In his holy courts they flourish
From all evil things he spares them
In his mighty arms he bears them

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord his children sever
Unto them his grace he showeth
And their sorrows all he knoweth

Though he giveth or he taketh
God his children ne'er forsaketh
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy

The Sending

*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

*Prayer after Communion

P: O God,
C: **You have called your servants
To ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
By paths as yet untrodden,
Through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage,
Not knowing where we go,
But only that your hand is leading us
And your love supporting us;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Blessing

P: The love of God who created you,
The mercy of † Jesus Christ who died for you,
And the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you,
Keep you at one with all the faithful, living and departed,
And remain with you now and forever.
C: **Amen.**

*Closing Hymn *“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”*
Red #888

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain:
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life:
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, and ev’ry gain divine.

(hymn continued)

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears:
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self control,
Thy liberty in law.

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music "Grand Choeur" G.F. Handle
(1685~1759) German Composer

Serving Today

Reader: Barbara Johnston

Communion Assistant:

Coffee Host: Bill & Margaret Schraft

Altar Guild: Tina Gates

Office Helpers: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

Sign up for Altar Flowers
Dedicate to loved ones



Upcoming Events:

September Benevolence Offering
Lutheran Campus Ministry

- Sept. 24 Habitat Lunches continue 10:30 am
- Sept. 24 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
- Sept. 25 Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
- Sept. 25 Bible Study Wed. 11 am & 7:30 pm
- Sept. 26 Newsletter Team 2:00 — new helpers needed
- Sept. 26 Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm
- Sept. 27 A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm
- Sept. 30 Women's Café Group Mondays at 6:00 pm
Devotions & dinner fellowship
- Oct 1 NEW Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm — pub off site
(1 hour, 1 faith question, 1 drink)
More info call Kathy Allen 430-6359
- Oct. 10 MMRR womens circle 10:30 am
- Oct. 21 Embroiders Guild 7:00 pm
- Oct. 22 No Sunday School
- Oct. 27 Reformation Polka Mass / October feast
& tree planting fun

Pastor's Office Hours Wed & Thurs. 10:00 to 1:00

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."

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.
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831/476-4700 FAX 831/476-3918
email: office@ststephenslutheran.org
Web Address: 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