



*Love  
your enemies*

LUKE 6:27

# Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

## February 23, 2025

### WELCOME AND A NOTE TO VISITORS

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.

Prelude—Piano

Choral Introit      “Glory to God, We Give You Thanks”  
Daniel Schandt

## The Gathering

Call to Worship      “Come to the Water of Life”      [ACS #955](#)

- 1. All who are thirsty for mercy, all who are thirsty for love;  
All who are thirsty for love, for mercy, come:  
Come to the Water of life.**
- 2. All who are thirsty for healing, all who are thirsty for touch;  
All who are thirsty for touch, for healing, come:  
Come to the Water of life.**
- 3. All who are thirsty for beauty, all who are thirsty for truth;  
All who are thirsty for truth, for beauty, come:  
Come to the Water of life.**
- 4. All who are thirsty for justice, all who are thirsty for peace;  
All who are thirsty for peace, for justice, come:  
Come to the Water of life.**

\*Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
our creator,  
our protector,  
our wellspring of life.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations  
of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

*P: Merciful God,*

**C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**

***Forgive us for the ways we act***

***With judgment, cruelty, or indifference.***

***We ignore the needs of our neighbors;***

***We resist your call to oppose injustice;***

***We give in to scarcity and fear;***

***We assume the worst about one another.***

***Cleanse us from our faults***

***And release us from their grasp.***

***Show us your loving kindness.***

***Restore our hearts and repair your world,***

***That we may live in Christ's ways.***

**Amen.**

P: God proclaims these words of assurance;  
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name. You are mine.”  
In † Christ, you are forgiven.  
In the Spirit, you are made free.  
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,  
Live anew as beloved children of God.

**C: Amen.**



\*Opening Hymn

*“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”* #858

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul praise him, for  
he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord,  
who o’er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
Sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord,  
who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
If with his love he befriend you.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath,  
come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!

\*Greeting

\*P: Grace and peace from God our Creator,  
from God who became one of us, Jesus Christ,  
and may the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

\*Kyrie

1. **Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**
2. **Christe eleison. Christe eleison.**
3. **Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

Kyrie 18

The musical score for 'Kyrie 18' is presented in two systems. The first system contains two staves: a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The vocal line has lyrics 'Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e -' and the piano accompaniment consists of chords. The second system also has two staves: a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line has lyrics 'le - i - son.' and features a long note with a fermata. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a long note with a fermata. The key signature has two flats and the time signature is 4/4.

Glory to God

WOV #607

8  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est,

and peace to God's peo -

ple on earth!

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y

God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

8  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's

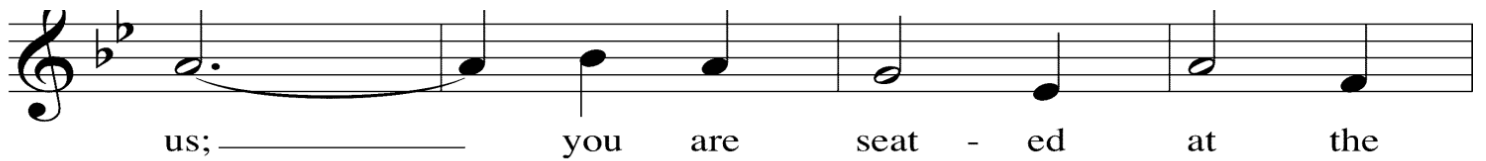
peo - ple on earth!

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

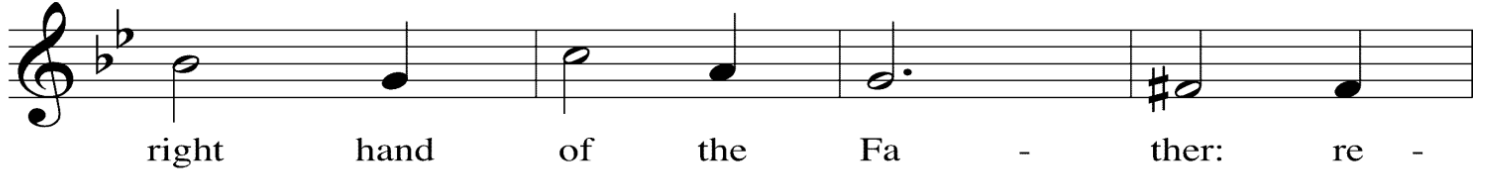
Fa - ther, Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

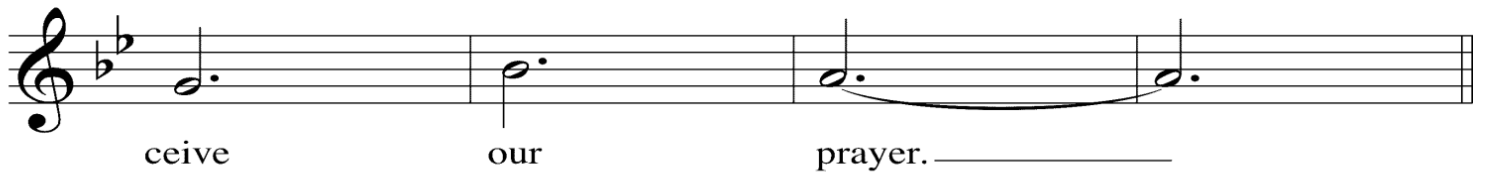
sin of the world: have mer - cy on



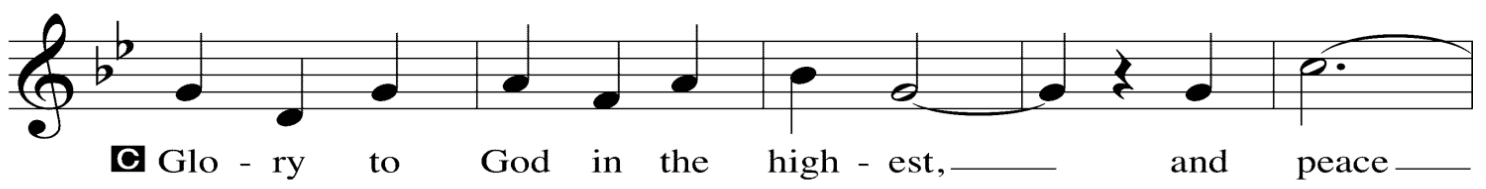
us; ————— you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



ceive our prayer. —————




**C** Glo - ry to God in the high - est, ————— and peace ———



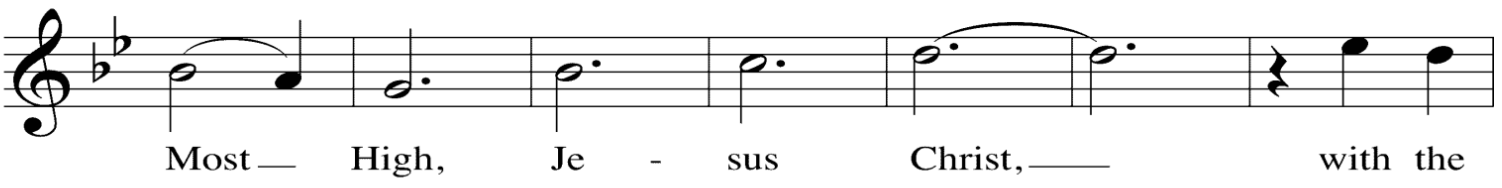
— to God's peo - ple on earth! —————



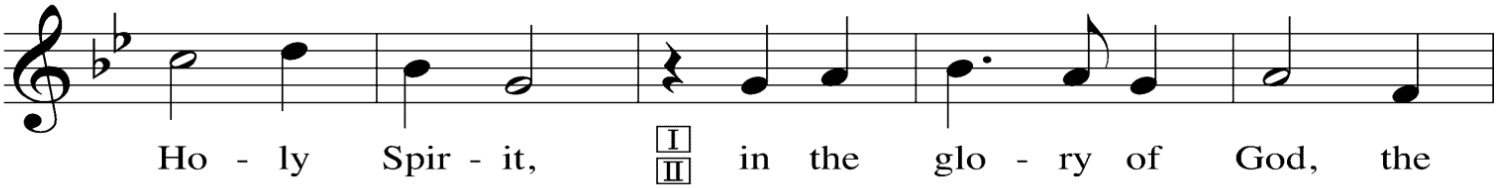
**I** For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



lone are the Lord, ————— **II** you a - lone are the



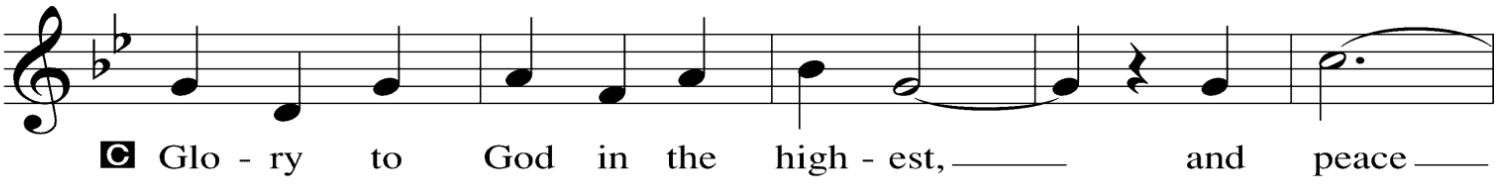
Most — High, Je - sus Christ, ————— with the



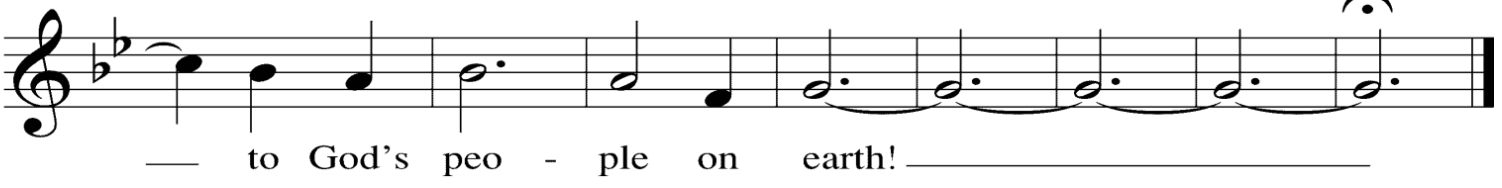
Ho - ly Spir - it, **I** in the glo - ry of God, the



Fa - ther. ————— A - men! ————— A - men! —————



**C** Glo - ry to God in the high - est, ————— and peace ———



— to God's peo - ple on earth! —————

\*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: May God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray...

**C: (following the prayer) Amen.**

## The Word of God

First Reading

Genesis 45:3-15

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 37

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-50

Celebrate pg. 3

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*Gospel Acclamation

### ALLELUIA



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 6th Chapter

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



\*Gospel Reading

Luke 6:27-38

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Rev. James Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day

“When a Star is Shining” **ACS #915**

When a star is shining	over eastern hills,
When the air is silent,	and the clamor stills,
When the night is waiting,	and the old hopes rise,
Then the time has ripened	and the heart grows wise.

**REFRAIN**

Lead us on, lead us on,  
to a morning where the promise shines.  
Lead us on, lead us on,  
to a morning where the promise shines.

Where the world is waiting	for an unknown day,
Where a voice forgotten cries,	“Prepare the way!”
Where an earthly power makes	the heart turn cold,
There their gifts are offered ~	incense, myrrh, and gold.

Lead us on, O Daystar,	in the quiet night;
Guide us through the shadow	with your gentle light;
Show us in a manger	our redemption’s sign;
Bring us to a morning	where the promise shines.

\*The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

\*Passing of the Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

## The Communion Meal

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

Offering Hymn

*“This Little Light of Mine”*

#677

This little light of mine, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
This little light of mine, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
This little light of mine, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’~a let it shine;  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Music            Good News Singers  
                    “All My Hope on God is Founded”

\*Offering Prayer

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
And your abundance to the depths of the seas.  
Bless what we offer to your service;  
Our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
Now and always.

**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 our thanks and praise.**

Eucharistic Prayer

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 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

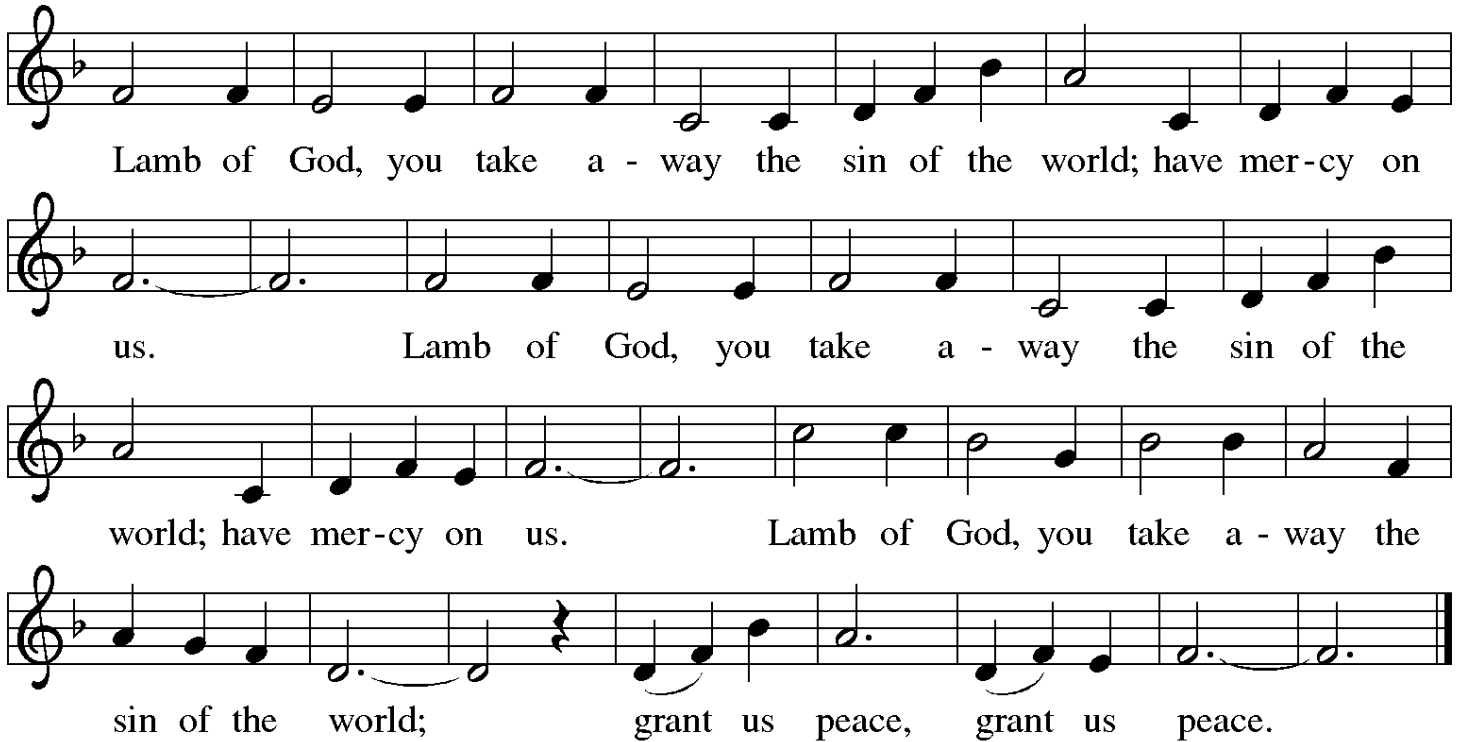
**P: The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.**

Holy Communion

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

#195

## 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.

Communion Hymn    *“Here is Bread”*    #483

Here is bread, here is wine  
Christ is with us, he is with us  
Break the bread, taste the wine  
Christ is with us here

**REFRAIN**    In this bread there is healing!  
In this cup is life forever!  
In this moment, by the Spirit  
Christ is with us here

Here is grace, here is peace  
Christ is with us, He is with us  
Know his grace, find his peace  
Feast on Jesus here    **REFRAIN**

Here we are, joined in one  
Christ is with us, He is with us  
We'll proclaim till he comes  
Jesus crucified!    **REFRAIN**



## Prayer after Communion

P: Nourishing God,  
At this table you have refreshed us  
With holy gifts of food and drink.  
Strengthen us for service,  
And send us out to embody your good news  
Of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
In the name of Christ we pray,

**C: Amen.**

Post Communion Hymn “Light Shone in Darkness” #307

Light shone in darkness at the world’s creation,  
Bathing in beauty nature’s revelation.  
All that has being cry in adoration,  
“Praise for the light. Amen!”

Light shone in darkness at the new creation;  
Christ rose in glory, won for us salvation.  
Sing, earth and heaven, hymns of jubilation,  
praise for the light. Amen!

Light shines in darkness till the full creation;  
Christ’s body, groaning, suffers tribulation,  
longs for God’s justice,  
Global transformation, prays for the light. Amen!

## **The Sending**

### \*Blessing

P: The Spirit of the triune God  
† Bless you with joy,  
Anoint you with compassion,  
And send you in love.

**C: Amen**

\*Closing Hymn

“On Eagle’s Wings”

#787

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
who abide in this shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord; “My refuge,  
my rock in whom I trust!”

REFRAIN

And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
And famine will bring you no fear;  
Under God’s wings your refuge,  
with faithfulness your shield.

REFRAIN

You need not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day;  
Though thousands fall about you,  
Near you it shall not come.

REFRAIN

For to the angels God’s given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways;  
Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

FINAL REFRAIN

And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of his hand.  
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

\*Dismissal

**P:** Go in peace. Live in hope.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Music “Glory to God in the Highest”

Reader: Beth Stiles

Coffee Host: Connie Cunningham

Altar Guild:



SHORT TERM: Laura, Margaret, Bill Giles family, Dr. Bruce Dunn’s family, Grey, Ruth Stiles, Susan Birkelo Family, James, Riley, Mary Saccullo, Chad Fields, Ana Cardenas, Rose, Levi, Lisa J., John B., Linda, Scoutmaster Scott, Glosier family, Unemployed, George Webber, Isaac & Marissa, Chris Powers, Gloria, Beth & Family of Barbara Stiles, Marta’s parents, Gary & Louse Matz, Friends in Tel Aviv, Nick, James, Mary D., Tom, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Francisco, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Sierra, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Sam, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager.

LONG TERM: Those suffering with Mental Illness, James Sheehan, Biergiel—Colclough family, Carla Brown, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Will, Aaron Johnson, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, 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, People of Palestine/Israel, 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.



*Altar Flowers are given  
by Beth Stiles  
To the Glory of God*

## Music at St. Stephen's



Draw the Circle Wider Still. The Good News Singers always give a heartfelt performance when they sing for God, and our congregation. Their gifts with the sanctuary choir, combine everyones gifts of music , and have the power tell our stories and bring us all closer to God. The many songs of our past, and future, continue to shape our faith we all live daily.

Other news : I have contacted two schools, and past Brass, and I think things are looking good for the Easter Choir. Many thanks for your support.

“Music has the power  
to bring people together  
like no other art form”

Yours In Christ & Mission ~ Gary



**“Reaching into the Woods”**

**Women’s Retreat**

**March 7-9**

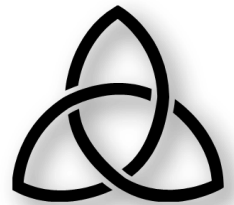
also Saturday only option

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and connect with other women in a beautiful, peaceful setting. We’ll gather for reflection, community, growth & renewal.

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**Trinity Tuesday**

**March 4 at 6:30pm**



**Place: Discretion Brewing 41st Ave.**

**1 HOUR**

**1 QUESTION**

**1 DRINK**

**(3-in-1)**

Bring your deepest questions about:

- God, Faith, and the Biblical narrative
- The big questions that keep you up at night

Previous Discussions Have Explored:

- Historical decline of church membership & its implications
- Whether love truly is all we need - a theo. perspective

Come with:

- An open mind
- A willingness to engage in respectful dialogue

*Join the conversation. Challenge your assumptions.  
Deepen your understanding.*

*\*All viewpoints welcome. Come as you are.\**

Questions: Call Kathy Allen at 831-430-6359  
or email [allen.kj@comcast.net](mailto:allen.kj@comcast.net)



## **Upcoming Events:**

February Benevolence Offering— Association of Faith communities—Rotating Shelter & Safe Spaces

- TODAY            MMRR Kitchen fundraiser — Help determine what WE need & what YOUR home needs.
- Feb. 24            CDC Board 11:15 am
- Feb. 25            Boy Scouts 6:00 pm
- Feb. 26            Preschool Chapel 10:15
- Feb. 26            Bible Study 11 am & 7:30 pm
- Feb. 27            NL Collating 2:00 pm
- Feb. 27            Mens beginner A.A. Thurs. 7:00 pm Fireside
- Feb. 28            A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall
- March 4            Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm Discretion Brew.
- March 5            Ash Wednesday worship 7:00 pm
- March 7-9        Women's Retreat Mt. Cross  
Most are going just the day Saturday.
- March 12        Lent Soupers 6:00 pm (sign up to host)  
Worship 7:00 pm
- April 13         Palm Sunday Dramatic Worship—readers pls
- April 20         Easter Breakfast & celebration — help needed

***Pastor's Office Hours: Weds. & Thur. 10:00—1:00 pm***

## **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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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  
Church Musician: Gary Roberts  
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp  
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens  
Custodian: John Hopping  
Videographers: Kent Madsen & Barb Rice

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