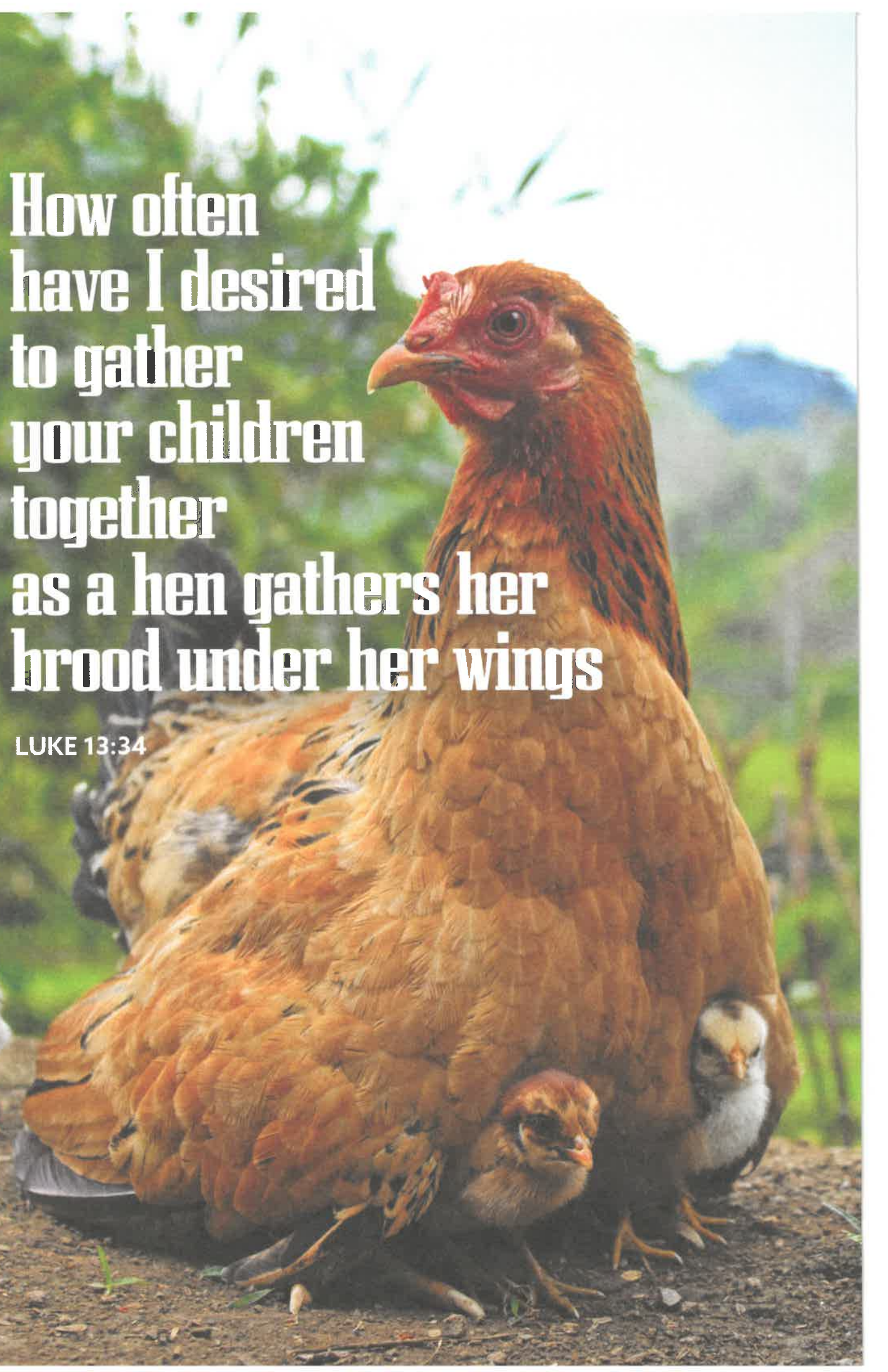


**How often
have I desired
to gather
your children
together
as a hen gathers her
brood under her wings**

LUKE 13:34



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
“Everything Between Faith & Works”

Sunday March 16, 2025—10am

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.

Music

Lent Music

Richard Purvis and Roger Anderson

The Gathering

Call to Worship

Come as you are.

If you have deep faith

or your faith has run dry,

if you know every scripture

or none at all,

if you have calloused hands

and live your faith through good works,

or if you kneel at God’s feet,

with a million hungry questions,

come as you are.

This is God’s house.

None are turned away.

All are welcome here.

Call to Confession

The story of Mary and Martha is often painted as a story where one does right and one does wrong.

We know that life is often more complicated than that.

We know that faith is embodied through being present *and* taking action—and everything in between.

Knowing this, like Mary and Martha, let us draw near to God.

Let us be honest about our lives, our hopes, and our mistakes.

For even in our messy middle, God meets us with grace.

Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

God of Grace,

We long to do the “right” thing.

We long to make the “right” choice.

We long to stand on the “right” side of the dividing line.

In our earnestness,

we sometimes miss the sacred right in front of us.

In our earnestness, we sometimes miss opportunities to show love.

Show us how to hold our heart’s desire for perfection loosely.

Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else.

For even more than our desire to be right,

we desire to be close to you.

Show us the way.

Amen.

Words of forgiveness

Faithful friends, God knows your heart.

When you mean well and lose your way, God knows.

When you try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows.

When you long to be close to God, and doubt your worth, God knows.

You are seen. You are loved. You are forgiven.

You have been sent to serve.

This is the good news of the gospel!

Nothing can separate you from God’s love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“O Beauty Ever Ancient”

ACS #1100 blue

O beauty ever ancient, O beauty ever new,
divine and Holy Presence, my being sings to you,

REFRAIN

In gratitude, in worship my being sings to you!

O beauty in creation, in world of sound and sight,
O beauty in the silence, in darkness as in light,

REFRAIN

O beauty that is movement in liquid line of grace,
O beauty that is stillness in lovely form or face,

REFRAIN

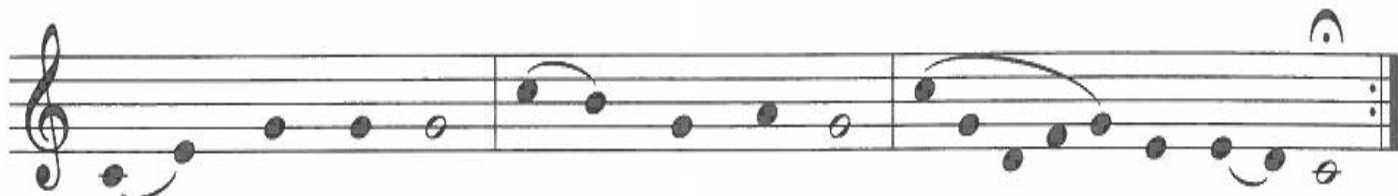
O beauty of the Spirit where love is shining through,
O beauty ever ancient, O beauty ever new, REFRAIN

*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—We bring our burdens, cares and hopes for God’s mercy.



1. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy.
2. Christ, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy.
3. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer-cy.

*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 15:1-18

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 27

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Celebrate pg. 3

L: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation—Leader sings first, then all together.

After the Gospel, all sing together twice.

GOSPEL

Cantor, then All

Glo-ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Glo-ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Prayer for illumination

Loving God,

When our anxiety hovers close,
when fear clings to our bones,
when our stress rises like the tide,
see us.

Speak to us.

Call us by name.

See us in the kitchen, in the classroom,
in the hospital waiting room.

Speak to us in the quiet, in the crowd, in the inky black of night.

Call us beloved. Call us by name. Call us your child.

Whatever you do, speak to us,
for we cannot live on bread alone.

Amen.

*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.

Music “Beautiful Things” Michael & Lisa Gunger
Good News Singers

*Offering Prayer

**C: Gracious Provider,
You have set your immense treasures among us,
Opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
Deepen our commitment
to sharing those treasures with others.
Through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

A Prayer of Invocation

God meets us in the night—
**before the sun rises,
before the wound heals,
before there are answers,
before there is closure. (*continued*)**

God meets us in the light—
**where joy is effervescent,
where laughter is contagious,
where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,
where people gather around tables.**

God meets us in between—
**at the edge of the water,
at the beginning of the wilderness,
at the start of something new,
on the edge of faith.**

And if God meets us in all those places,
**then surely God meets us everywhere—
at the water's edge, at the start of something new,
after the baptism, and in the bread and cup.**

We are not alone. God is all around.

Let us worship the God of everything.

*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: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

Holy Communion — ALL, Yes — EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Communion is by intinction, we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white).

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,
have mer - cy on us. *Repeat as needed* *Last time* Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn "Welcome Table" ACS #969 blue

I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table,
I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table, some of these days.
I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table,
I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table, some of these days.

I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey,
I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey, some of these days.
I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey,
I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey, some of these days.

I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river, some of these days.
I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river, some of these days.

*Communion Blessing

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

C: **Amen.**

*Prayer After Communion

P: Generous Host, You have shared your feast with us
and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and
grace in our communities, that your liberating love
might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Sending

Blessing

P: As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,
and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through this world with an open heart,
with a curious mind,
and with the confidence that you do not go alone.
God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys,
and everywhere in between.
Believe that good news, and go in peace.

C: Amen.

*Closing Hymn *“Lead Me, Guide Me” Red #768*

REFRAIN

Lead me, guide me, along the way;
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord let me walk each day with thee
Lead me, O Lord, lead me

I am weak and I need thy strength and pow’r
To help me over my weakest hour
Help me through the darkness thy face to see
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

(Hymn Continued)

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress
I am putting all my trust in thee
Lead me, O Lord, lead me

I am lost If you take your hand from me
I am blind without thy light to see
Lord just always let me thy servant be
Lead me, O Lord, lead me

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “The Spirit Sends us Forth”
Music, Robert Hobby 1962

Serving Today

Reader: Robert Bartee
Coffee Host: **please sign up**
Altar Guild: Tina Gates

SHORT TERM: family of George Webber, Eric, Ellie, Paula & family, Julia, Jim Aller’s family, 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, Glosier family, Unemployed, Isaac & Marissa, Chris Powers, Gloria, Marta’s parents, Gary & Louse Matz, 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, Nancy, 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, Aaron Johnson, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Brouse Family, Karin, Will, Chris, 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.



Music at St. Stephen's

'Tis always the season.
Come and Sing: For a week, for a season, or stay year round.

Palm Sunday — graced by the music of Julia & Patrick Tracey

Easter — "All That Brass" is back in full swing!

Thank you for your donations to the musicians fund.

Yours in Christ & Mission, Gary



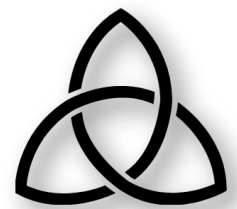
Long Range Task Force Small Group Meetings

Sundays, March 23 & 30 at 11:30 a
and
Thurs. March 27 & April 3 at 7:00 p

Plan to gather for these important conversations as we begin to plan for our ministry in the next 5 years.

Trinity Tuesday

April 1 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

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

Upcoming Events:

March Benevolence Offering — Scholarship Fund

Easter Lilies for sale today through April 10

March 18 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm

March 19 Preschool Chapel 10:15

March 19 Lent Souper 6:00 pm
(Jeanette & Margaret to host)
Worship 7:00 pm

March 20 Mens beginner A.A. Thurs. 7:00 pm Fireside

March 21 A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall

March 23 & 30 Long Range Meetings 11:30 am

March 26 **2 Soup Hosts needed**

March 27 & April 3 Long Range Meeting 7:00 pm

April 1 Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm Discretion Brew

April 13 Palm Sunday Dramatic Worship—readers pls

April 17 Maundy Thursday 11:00 am & 7:00 pm
(Maundy Thursday lunch)

April 18 Good Friday 11:00 am 7:00 pm

April 19 Easter set up 10 am

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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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
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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prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org