

# ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Saturday, May 9, 2026 5:00pm

Sunday, May 10, 2026 9:30am



*Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.*

***Please note:*** Sunday Service is streamed, recorded and posted on YouTube beginning with the prelude and continuing through the postlude. Be aware that you may be recorded when coming up the center aisle for communion.

***ELW is the cranberry red Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship***

**SSM is equipped with hearing assistance devices. If you would like more information on how to gain access please see an usher for the instructions and assistance.**

**PRELUDE: (5:00)** “My Jesus, I Love Thee” with “I Love You, Lord” -arr. A. L. Page  
**(9:30)** "Children of the Heavenly Father" -arr. Robert Hobby

## **WELCOME**

**P:** Good morning! We are gathered today from a variety of places and spaces and emotions. On this Mother's Day we give thanks for all the women in our lives, and for parents of all kinds. And just as important, we acknowledge the difficult or complicated feelings this day may bring. Most of all, we remember our parent God, Mother of all, who holds her beloved children in her arms.

## **LITANY FOR ALL THE WOMEN**

**P:** We give thanks for all women, and for the mothers of our faith. For all the women saints, for the matriarchs of this church, and for the women here among us today. For all that they have been, for their leadership, for their faith, for their companionship.

**L:** Mothering God,

**C:** We receive your strength.

**P:** We give thanks for mothers in all stages of life and for all those who parent. For those who are pregnant, for new moms, for mothers with young children, for mothers with grown children, and for mothers now mothering their own moms. We thank you for those who have chosen the vocation of parenthood and we honor and celebrate their sacrifice and love.

**L:** Mothering God,

**C:** We receive your strength.

**P:** And we remember too all those for whom today is tender and full of grief. Comfort those who grieve the death of their own parents or children. Today we especially lift up the families of the many children and mothers killed in ongoing wars in the Middle East and Ukraine. Strengthen negotiators and diplomats, give heads of state a heart for love alone, and make a way for an urgently needed peace.

**L:** Mothering God,

**C:** We receive your strength.

**P:** Bless those who long to have children, those struggling with infertility, and those who have suffered miscarriage. Come alongside those who are suffering from maternal mental health challenges. Be with those who have strained relationships with their children and heal those whose relationships with their parents is marked by pain.

**L:** Mothering God,

**C:** We receive your strength.

**P:** We give thanks for all those who mother. For those who love and care for children at school, in our extracurricular activities, in our families, and at home. For teachers,

childcare workers, coaches, mentors, aunts, friends, grandmothers, and all those who make up the village of care for our children.

**L:** Mothering God,

**C:** We give you thanks! Amen

## **GATHERING HYMN: ELW #456 Baptized in Water**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**P:** Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

**P:** Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**P:** Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**P:** Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**P:** Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **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.**

## NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of



God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**C:** Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (9:30)** *(Please be seated)*

Billie Jo Kunesh

### FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

**L:** The Word of the Lord

**C:** Thanks be to God

### SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

*The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.*

<sup>13</sup> Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, <sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

**L:** The Word of the Lord

**C:** Thanks be to God

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*please stand as you are able*)

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line is written in a soprano or alto clef, and the piano accompaniment is in a bass clef. The lyrics are: "Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia." The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community  
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## **GOSPEL: John 14:15-21**

*In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**MESSAGE** “Orphans No More”

Rev. Brian Hooper

## **HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #403 Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song**

**APOSTLE’S CREED:** *(please stand as you are able)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each petition will end with the words, “Merciful God”. After each petition the congregation will respond, “receive our prayer”.*

**SHARING OF THE PEACE** *(please be seated after sharing the peace)*

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM: (9:30)** “Touch that Soothes and Heals” -ACS#939

## OFFERINGS

*Offerings can also be made electronically using the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app. More information can be found on our website [ssmelca.org](http://ssmelca.org) or use the QR codes listed here:*



*for Google*



*for iPhone*

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P:** Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

**C: Amen**

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Please stand as able)*

**P:** The Lord 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 our thanks and praise.**

**P:** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Continued on next page*

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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**WORDS OF INSTITUTION:** “In the night...”

**CELTIC LORD’S PRAYER**

**Holy One beyond all names, Eternal Wellspring**

**May love rise again in us today with food for every table, shelter for every family  
 and reverence for every life.**

**Forgive us our failings in love and free us from all falseness that the light of our  
 souls may shine and the strength of our spirits endure**

**For Earth and all its people this day, tonight, and forever. Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI**

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take  
 a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.  
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 grant us your peace. A - men.

Music: J. Bugenhagen, *Christliche Ordnung*, 1528

## **COMMUNION HYMN ELW #474 Bread of Life from Heaven**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P:** Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

**C: Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** *(Please be sure to read the printed announcements.)*

### **BLESSING**

**P:** God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN: ELW #781 Children of the Heavenly Father**

### **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE: (5:00)** “Toccata on Hymn to Joy” -arr. D. Wagner

**(9:30)** “Jesus Shall Reign” -arr. Charles Callahan

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***Flowers for Mother's Day Weekend are Provided by Deb Perl***

### ***THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN WORSHIP***

**Ushers: (5:00)** Dan & Cheryl Stefanski

**(9:30)** Chris Dollar, Diane Moraza, Shelly Rosenstock

**Reader: (5:00)** Nick Winter **(9:30)** Diane Moraza

**Communion: (5:00) Set Up** Betty Court **Server** Patti Nelson

**(9:30)** Cheryl & Dan Stefanski

**Streaming Technician: (9:30)** Ben Hooper

<i>This Week at SSM</i>		
<b>Tuesday, 5/12</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Mega/Council Meeting
<b>Wednesday, 5/13</b>	<b>10:15am</b>	Women's Bible Study
	<b>6:00pm</b>	Handbell Rehearsal
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
	<b>7:00pm</b>	High School Youth Bonfire at St. Luke's in the village
<b>Thursday, 5/14</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Unfinished Objects
<i>7<sup>th</sup> Weekend of Easter – Meru Coffee Weekend</i>		
<b>Saturday, 5/16</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
		Ushers: Herb Leppien, Deb Perl
		Reader: Pam Maschke
		Communion Set Up: Betty Kroll Communion Server: Heidi Hennessy
<b>Sunday, 5/17</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
		Ushers: Pat & Shelley Burns, Nancy Mineau, Penny Whitmore
		Reader: Kelly Sachse
		Communion: Tracy & Jason Covert
	Sunday School	
<b>10:45am</b>	Coffee Hour – Robyn, Lorin & Quinn Schuchardt. hosts	
	Newcomer Orientation	

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

**Youth Group** will meet at St. Luke's in the Village for a bonfire on Wednesday, May 13 at 7pm.

**Unity Lutheran is looking for volunteers to help with their deep cleaning** scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon. Both the food storage area and kitchen will be given a thorough cleaning. A sign-up sheet with more information will be posted as soon as details are available.

**Newcomer Orientation:** Are you a newcomer to St. Stephen the Martyr? If you would like to find out more, get connected, deepen your ties, or if you are considering membership, please join us following the 9:30am worship service on Sunday, May 17 for a newcomer orientation.

Green Corners in collaboration with Common Ground will be hosting a **Community Listening Session on May 17<sup>th</sup>** at Our Lady of Lourdes, 3722 S 58<sup>th</sup> St. More information is on the bulletin board between the offices. Please RSVP in advance.

**Faith Santa Fe congregation's new pastor, Rev. Germán Novelli Angrisano will be installed** on Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon at Faith Santa Fe. Please consider joining them in their celebration.

**Food donations for the month of May** will go to the Bay View Community Center. **Food pantries are very busy the demand is high, because in this time when everything costs more people are having to make the choice between buying food and paying for other necessities. Please consider making a donation.** Please make sure that items donated are not past their “use by” dates, as these cannot be distributed at the food pantries. Monetary donations are always welcomed and allow the pantries to fill in needed items that have not come in otherwise. Items high in protein are always in need, canned tuna or chicken, beans (dry or canned) and peanut butter (and the jelly to go with it). You can mark your contribution “Food Ministry” or use the Food Ministry envelope found on the giving station board.

Watch for the **special June, July and August food collections** which will focus on items that children can prepare without adult supervision. When there is no school, not only do children not get school lunch, but often are home alone while parents have to work. Look for more information in your May Martyr Monthly.

**Broken hymnal?** Due to regular use (and less-than-superior construction) our hymnals can crack and break along the inner and outer covers. If you find a broken hymnal do not attempt to fix it yourself; packing tape and glue cause different problems later. Put any damaged hymnals on the office desk. The church has book binding materials and trained volunteers ready to fix the hymnals and return them to service. Thank you.

### **KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER**

Sharon Behling, Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins, Jay Chadwick, Diana Gastrau,  
Sue Jarchow, Ken & Carolyn Kahl, Joy Kilimann, Sally Kowalewski, Dick Kroll,  
Carol Kucharski, Billie Jo Kunesh, Shirley Lieske, Carol Manning, Larry Petricek,  
Joan Retzlaff, Stephanie Rodenkirch, Eleanor Salb, Richard Sontvedt

Rev. Brian Hooper, Pastor  
Tabitha Moldenhauer, Music Director  
Mark Breutzmann, Saturday Musician  
Jim Hennessy, Church Maintenance

Bonnie Zimmermann, Ministry Assistant  
Office phone - 414-421-3543  
email - [office@ssmelca.org](mailto:office@ssmelca.org)  
Website – [www.ssmelca.org](http://www.ssmelca.org)  
Facebook - <https://m.facebook.com/SSMELCA/>

## HYMN ELW #456 Baptized in Water

1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the  
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the  
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his  
 tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -  
 sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Seward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

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## HYMN ELW #403 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her  
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the  
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the  
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our  
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

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## 474 Bread of Life from Heaven

*Refrain*

Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en,

we eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.

- |   |                     |                              |            |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Break now the bread | of Christ's sac - ri - fice; | giv - ing  |
| 2 | Seek not the food   | that will pass a - way;      | set your   |
| 3 | Love as the one     | who, in love for you,        | gave him - |
| 4 | Dwell in the one    | who now dwells in you;       | make your  |
| 5 | Drink of this cup   | and de - clare his death;    | eat this   |

thanks, hun - gry ones,	gath - er round.	Eat, all of you, and be
hearts on the food	that en - dures.	Come, learn the true and the
self for the life	of the world.	Come to the one who is
home in the life - giv - ing	Word.	Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
bread and be - lieve	Eas - ter morn;	trust his re - turn and, with

sat - is - fied;	in Christ's pres - ence	the loaves will a - bound.
liv - ing way,	that the full - ness	of life may be yours.
food for you,	that your hun - ger	and thirst be no more.
One of God,	and be - lieve in the	truth you have heard.
ev - 'ry breath,	praise the one in	whom you are re - born.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952  
 Music: ARGENTINE SANTO | BREAK NOW THE BREAD, Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas  
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## HYMN ELW #781 Children of the Heavenly Father

*Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,*  
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

*stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.*  
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

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