

Staying Connected

Always Connected to God, Each Other and the World

Current Worship Opportunities during COVID-19 Pandemic

SUNDAYS 9:30 AM Worship Options

In person in Sanctuary – This option is currently not available per our Safety Committee. We will revisit this possibility in the coming month. Thank you for your patience!

Online Live streamed on St. Stephen's Face Book

From your car in either parking lot. Broadcasted via 87.9 FM / Communion brought to car

WEDNESDAYS 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM Wednesdays during Lent / Stations of the Cross

Broadcasted via St Stephen's Face Book page—replaces "The Well" service
(service available online via Facebook from 11AM on)

WEEKDAYS Varying times Channel 16—Comcast (Sunday 9:30 am Service Recorded)



Ash Wednesday—February 17

In keeping with tradition, St Stephen's will have two services on **Ash Wednesday 11am and 7pm** however adhering to our COVID-19 protocols currently in effect, these services will not be in-person they will be streamed on our St Stephen's Face-book page. You can find them at the same location where you find the Sunday worship services. <https://www.facebook.com/sslcwsp/live/>. Once premiered, they will be archived so you can watch them anytime that works for you. In addition, the two services will be broadcasted via FM radio at 87.9 FM if you chose to listen from you car in either parking lot at 11am or 7pm.

We recognize that "ashes" and communion are sacred elements of our Ash Wednesday worship services. Though we are unable to offer in person worship we feel we can safely provide ashes and communion to those that wish to stop by the church to pick up the elements and if you wish can stay for the broadcasted service to the parking lots. On Ash Wednesday Pastor John will be available **9-10:30am** and again from **5:30-7pm** to administer ashes. Communion and "ashes" kits will be distributed to your cars in the parking lot by volunteers for the 11am and 7pm in the same fashion as Sunday mornings.

Wednesdays during Lent (February 24-March 24) 7pm Facebook

For this season of Lent at St Stephen's we are using the eight biblical Stations of the Cross as a framework for our worship, including Scripture readings, meditations, music and prayers. Beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Good Friday, we will follow Jesus along the *Via Dolorosa*, the Way of Sorrow, as he journeys from Pilate's Hall to his death on the cross, meditating on one station each service. We enter this journey with the penitent's prayer, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139:23-24) We pray that you find peace and be blest by these reflections on God's grace and gift of love. Amen.

Wednesday evening services will be pre-recorded premiering on our Facebook page at 11am and 7pm. These services will not be broadcasted to the parking lots. DVD copies will be available upon request. Bulletins will be posted to our website under the resources tab.



THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED—MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 IN HONOR OF THE PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY

Contemplative Prayer and Study Continues via Zoom

2nd & 4th Wednesdays (Feb. 24) St. Stephen's Zoom Room 7-8 pm - All are welcome.

Zoom Meeting ID: 380-950-620 Password: 55118

We have returned to the basics of Contemplative Prayer, using the book "**Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening**" by **Cynthia Bourgeault**. This is a prayer practice that will renew your life. Please read through Chapters 7 & 8 for discussion on February 24th.

NEW! 4-WK WORKSHOP "SHORT DISCUSSIONS TO FOSTER DEEPER THOUGHTS ABOUT RACISM"

This workshop will be held via Facebook. Here's the link to the Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/775125196689728>.

This four-week workshop will provide an introduction to current conversations on race. Topics introduced will include Whiteness and the Norm; Economic Repercussions of Racism and Action through Allyship. Our conversations will be facilitated by Rachel Cagle who is the Equity and Inclusion Coordinator for Metro Transit.

Sessions will be on **Thursdays from 6:30 pm to 8pm** on the following dates: **February 25, March 4 and 11, (no session March 18), March 25. BEFORE FIRST SESSION** - please view this video (<https://bit.ly/3rtalAb>) and read this article (<http://strib.mn/3twHKkN>).

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Tim.



ARE YOU PLANNING A BAPTISM?

The season of Lent has traditionally been dedicated to the preparation for baptism – and it will be this year. The five Sundays of Lent, February 21-March 21, will focus on preparing for the joyful gift of baptism.

We invite all that are interested in being baptized or having a child baptized to attend all five worship services via Facebook. They are available live each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on Facebook Live on the St. Stephen's Facebook page [sslcwsp](https://www.facebook.com/sslcwsp). They are then available whenever convenient for you – (We would also be happy to send a DVD of each service if that's helpful.) Once the five Sundays are complete three things can happen/probably on zoom—(1) Pastor John can meet with you to clarify any questions about baptism. (2) All who are planning a baptism can meet as a group to be introduced – in preparation for the day when we will be together. (3) A date can be scheduled for your baptism during the season of Easter, April 4-May 23. We may be together in worship then – if not, we'll film the baptism in advance. We look forward to sharing the beauty and grace of baptism with you. Please call the church office to RSVP for the group baptism meeting.

ANNUAL "BREAKFAST" WITH POLICY MAKERS



Friday, February 19

7:50am check-in on Zoom
8-9:30am Panel & Dialogue

All are invited to attend to build relationships and proclaim as people of faith: **All God's People Need a Home!** You will also have the opportunity to ask questions related to homelessness and housing.

Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZEtceysqTw-tEtalKKICd9H_gaHCzRFOMA6a.

LOAVES AND FISHES-SPECIAL OFFERING DRIVE-BY | FEBRUARY 21 10:30-11:30AM

So much has changed in the past year, but one thing that continues on is our Loaves and Fishes program. Each month a group of volunteers from St. Stephen's serves a meal to people in need over at St. Matthew's church. The number of people they serve each month has doubled in the past year.

Much of the money to pay for these meals was donated through our "Pots and Pans" offerings for Loaves and Fishes. Those special offerings haven't been held since we aren't worshipping in person at church.

On Sunday, February 21 from 10:30 to 11:30am we will be having a **drive-by Pots and Pans offering**. Just drive into the Charlton parking lot and someone will gladly come out to your car with a kettle for you to drop in your donation. **Of course you can always send a check to the church, made out to St. Stephen's with Loaves and Fishes on the memo line.** You can also give on the giving tab of the church's website.

Thank you for continuing to support this important ministry. - *The Missions Committee*

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING-WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17-TIME CHANGE TO 7:30PM-SEE YOU ON ZOOM!

The Saint Paul Area Synod 2021 Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders

Saturday, February 27 - 9:00-11:45am | Online via Zoom

All persons in leadership in our faith community are welcome to attend ... Council and committee members, staff, dedicated volunteers, or anyone who's interested in what makes our church tick. This year, we'll gather on Zoom for a morning of learning and networking. **Dr. Michael Osterholm** will provide his assessment of where we're at with the pandemic and what the future might hold for churches. After his keynote, we'll break off into separate workshops. There's no cost to attend.



TOOL KIT
for congregational leaders



ST STEPHEN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Connecting to God, each other and the world

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Thank You for your Support of our St. Stephen's Ministries ♥

By Mail | Online thru St Stephen's website | GIVE+Text (Text 844-907-2702) | GivePlus Vanco Mobile App

PLEASE NOTE: Links included in the eUpdate are not active—watch for a separate email that contains resources available and active links all in one handy document.