

New Member Class
December 16, 18, 2021

1. **Galatians 5:22-23** ²² *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,* ²³ *gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.*

2. **Get acquainted.**
 - a. Trace a brief outline of your spiritual journey
 - b. How/why St. Stephen's?
 - c. Hopes for your involvement with a congregation?

3. **3 Lutheran Contributions to the Christian tradition**
 - a. **Priesthood of All Believers**
 - i. Relationship with God the same for all
 1. Constant learning: In, Up, Out
 2. 360 degree: intellect, relationship, character, emotion, spirit
 - b. **Vocation**
 - i. Life as a calling to serve God through serving our neighbor
 1. Purpose
 2. Dignity in all work if used to bless
 3. Multiple bottom lines
 - a. Meaning
 - b. Growth
 - c. Community
 - d. Income
 - c. **Grace of Community**
 - i. 3rd Sacrament
 - ii. The shared vision, shared work in the Lord's Vineyard, shared time
 - iii. Blessing of working it out with other people

4. **Church** is a training ground for the people of faith. An hour of coaching/encouragement before you get back on the field by the Holy Writings, practices, community. Always from a surprising place. Watch for it. Recognize it.
 - a. Focus on Jesus, someone we will never get our heads around
 - i. Teacher
 - ii. Example
 - iii. Friend
 - iv. Savior
 - b. A place to invest, put in roots relationally, make a difference
 - c. If you need forms at home look in Resource drop down menu for New Members on our webpage: www.ststephenswsp.org
 - d. If you want to watch the services live or at a later time go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/sslcwsp/live/>

5. Culture of Generosity

- a. God so loved the world that he gave (John 3:16)
- b. It is better to give than to receive (Acts 20:35b)
- c. Faithful practice is percentage giving
 - i. Expresses faith that all of life is God's
 - ii. We practice 10% as a way of life
 - iii. Money can get a grasp on you, around your neck, giving help breaks the grip