

SAINT STEPHENS

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Let's Worship with Polka!

OCTOBER 19, 2025 | 9:00 AM | NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON
LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Polka Service featuring The Jim Pekol Band

On most Sundays, the children will follow their teachers to Sunday School after the Time for All Ages. On the first Sunday of the month, Communion Sunday, they will start in Sunday School and join their families for Communion during the service.

For those children staying in worship, please use the bookmarks available to mark the pages for today's hymns. Go through the bulletin with your children and circle the things in which they might be interested (Children's time, hymns, helping with the offering). Mark the bulletin with symbols for when it is time to be quiet and listen, join in the hymn, read a prayer aloud, etc.

Busy Bags are available in the church entryway. Quite often, children can absorb what is going on in church if their hands are occupied and their minds do not have to focus so much on "behaving." It takes a great deal of energy and concentration for a child to stay quiet and still. Please use the busy bags to occupy their hands so they are free to listen. Nudge them when it is time for a hymn and ask them to sing along with you. Encourage them to come forward for the *Time for All Ages* and to participate in presenting the offering.

POINTS TO PONDER PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Maya Angelou, 21st century

"As soon as healing takes place, go out and heal somebody else."

Quick and Easy Electronic Giving!!

To give an offering one time to the church, to a special offering, or to set up regular giving, text **"SAINTSTEPHENS" to 73256** to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply. **OR Scan the QR Code** to be connected to our website.



Stay in the loop!

Sign up for text alerts to stay updated on all upcoming events and church news. To join, text "Join" and your email to 715-255-1232.

Copyright notice: The music today is from a variety of sources with most of it from Fr. Frank Perkovich's original Polka Mass, first celebrated in 1973 in Eveleth, MN. Two Lutheran pastors have contributed greatly to the Polka Service music repertoire, Pastors Glenn Beard and Edward Battiste. These three composers generously shared their work with churches throughout the U.S. and the world, with Fr. Perkovich celebrating Polka Masses in Slovenia and Croatia, as well as at the Vatican with Pope John Paul II in audience. They have allowed their words to be changed to fit the specific national/ethnic festivals around the country.

In addition to the above pastors, we need to acknowledge the contributions of Mary Cvek and Gladys Waller for original lyrics to some of the songs.

To the best of our knowledge, all of these songs and the variations made for worship in protestant churches have been generously made available with general permission for use in worship services under copyright law.

This particular performance by The Jim Pekol Band is, of course, copyrighted and may not be reproduced or broadcast except by St. Stephens UCC through our streaming and social media accounts without the express, written consent of Jim Pekol.

SOMETHING TO INSPIRE

WELCOME

*GATHERING MUSIC *"Welcome to Worship"*

**We come to worship, worship today
We'll play the music so we can pray.
Bring in the people, fill every chair.
We'll play a polka for everyone here.**

**We come to worship and praise the Lord.
We'll read some scripture, feed on his word.
We'll greet our neighbors, we're glad we came.
We're here to worship in Jesus' holy name.**

**We come to worship, give God our care.
We know he hears us, hears every prayer.
He understands us, wants us to pray.
Let's bow to worship, worship today.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (Jeremiah 31:31-34, adapt.)

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

not like the covenant that I made with their ancestors on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord.

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each their family, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord.

For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Let us worship God who forgives and calls us to live in community with one another.

Amen.

*PRAISE HYMN "Come Now and Worship" (tune: Rosamunde)

Come Now and Worship

(Tune: Rosamunde)

1. Come now and wor - ship, come now and
 2. We bring our gifts, gifts of and
 3. We're here to praise you, praise you for

wor - ship the Lord. Come now and wor - ship,
 selves and our lives. Fears, sins, and wor - ries,
 this brand new day. You're here to join us,

join as we sing and a - dore. Ga - ther to - ge - ther;
 all that can cause us such strife. This ce - le - bra - tion
 teach us and show us your way. Mold - us and shape us,

— give Him the praise that is due. Hear us as we come to
 — us all to you. Hear us as we come to
 — help us to be more like you. Hear us as we come to

wor - ship, sing - ing praise to you
 wor - ship, sing - ing praise to you.
 wor - ship, sing - ing praise to you.

*LORD'S PRAYER

PASSING THE PEACE

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

A LESSON FROM THE EPISTLES

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

THE GOOD NEWS

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

This is the Good News. In this truth we find eternal life.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

*HYMN

"Lord, Teach Us How to Love"

Next Pg

Lord, Teach Us How to Love

Tune: Baruska - Bohemian Polka

1. Our Fa-ther up in hea-ven,
 2. Je-sus Christ our Lord and Sa-vior,
 3. God of love, O Ho-ly Spi-rit,
 hear us as we pray. Take our sins a-way; help us live each day. Thank you for the
 you came down to us. Died up-on the cross to re-deem our loss. Teach us how to
 full of power and might. Keep us in your sight. Teach us wrong from right. Thank you for your
 gifts you give us. You care for our needs. When you sent your Son to save us, you showed us you
 love each oth-er as you love us all. Help us fol-low your ex-am-ple, car-ing for each
 love and gra-cies, make us pure and strong. Be our hope and con-so-la-tion. Guide our wea-ry
 loved us true. Hear us as we sing your prais-es; help us live our lives for you. Lord,
 oth-ers needs. Show-ing that we all are bro-thers by our ve-ry words and deeds.
 steps to thee. Through your gui-dance we all hope to live with you e-ter-nal-ly!
 teach us how to love as we fol-low in your way. Oh, Lord, teach us how to love
 as we fol-low in your way.

PASTORAL PRAYERS

MISSION FOCUS

St. Vincent De Paul Society

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Say Thank You Lord"

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

"Above the Mountains"

**High above the mountain tops the angels sing,
 Praise the Lord, for he is King.
 And we answer from this humble church below,**

Praise the Lord, forever so.

Chorus

All the world with joyful heart,

Singing praise of love.

His blessings sent to all of us from up above,

It is right in thanking him and praising him.

Amen. Amen.

In this humble church the angels join in praise,

Glory be to God our King.

Through his love, we ask of him to be with us,

To the end, Lord Jesus Christ.

Chorus

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of increase and bounty, Source of all good things:

we offer these gifts as a portion of that which you have given us.

May these gifts be as loaves and fishes

for those who find themselves in poverty or hunger.

May this act of giving bring about change:

change in our lives, change in the lives we touch,

change in the systems that harm.

Through Christ, who gave so much.

Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

***CLOSING HYMN**

"God Sends the Sunshine"

Chorus

God sends the sunshine, the lovely sunshine,

He sends the rainbow after the rain.

We'll never know just how much he loves us.

Please don't take the sunshine away.

The other night Lord as I lay thinking,

How much I need you every day,

I realized God it's time to tell you,

That I'm thankful as I pray.

When I consider the lovely flowers

And how your sunshine makes them grow.

It's then I know Lord, you really love me.

It's your way to tell me so.

You walk beside me in all my trials,

You give me strength for all I do,

So as we meet here, I'm very thankful,

That I can come to worship you.

***BENEDICTION**

As our worship service ends, our worship through service begins anew.
Now as we leave from this place,
but not from God's presence,
let us remember God's still-speaking voice.
And may God send grace to go with us,
peace to keep us,
and love to surround us as we travel.
Go forth empowered to love and
speak God's holy truth each day.

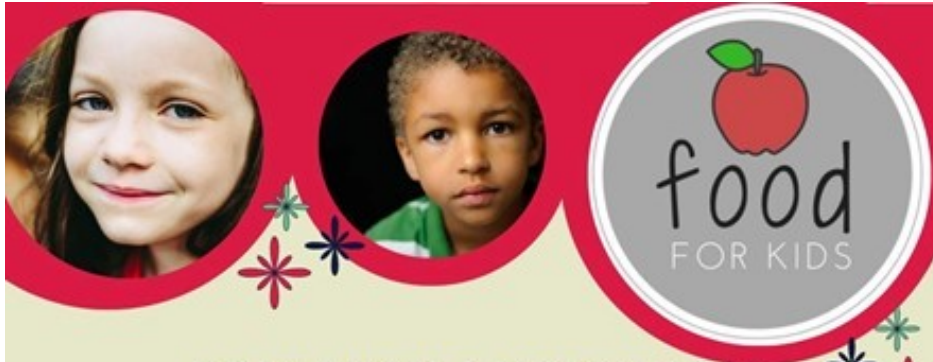
Amen.

Go in peace. Remember the refugee.

Thanks be to God.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *"Amazing Grace"*

POSTLUDE



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR FUNDRAISING BANQUET

NOVEMBER 1, 2025

LES & JIM'S | 4:00 PM

\$50/PERSON

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT SAINT STEPHENS UCC, NICOLET BANK,
OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE ONLINE (FEES APPLY).

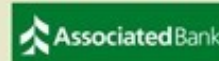
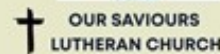
****TICKETS INCLUDE DINNER, 2 DRINK TICKETS, AND ENTRY INTO THE
DOOR PRIZE**



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2025 SPONSORS



THANK YOU!

Musicians today are the Jim Pekol Band!

Radio Ministry is in memory of Bruce Schaefer on what would have been our 29th wedding anniversary, October 18, from Janet Schaefer.

Livestream is sponsored in honor of Tyler Frederick's birthday on October 19, from Todd & Renea Frederick.

Technical Director: Jody Meyer and Corey Dornbrack



Trunk or Treat will be on **October 31 from 4 PM to 7 PM**. If you are interested in hosting a trunk for the Trunk or Treat, please sign up on the kiosk! We hope to have at least 10 or 12 trunks. Last year we served around 300 kids!!

In the event of inclement weather or we have very cold temperatures, we will move it inside to Kuck Lounge!

Dinner will be at **Los Mezcales, this Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 5:30 PM**. This will be a casual gathering to converse about life and enjoy a meal together. The meal is at your own expense, but the company is free! If interested, please sign up at the kiosk or call the church office.



TAKING THE LESSONS HOME

So often we teach our children prayers handed down from others. But how can we model for children a more personal relationship and conversational prayer life with God (and nurture a sense of patience when our prayers are not answered immediately)?

Yes, it is good to know the traditional prayers. It is also good to feel comfortable lifting up our very real, human—and sometimes childish—needs.

This week, take a few moments to say aloud your prayers to God. Let your children hear you bringing very real, very personal prayers to God. Then listen as they offer their prayers.

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