

# SAINT STEPHENS

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## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



AUGUST 10, 2025 | 9:00 AM | NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

## NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Children will go directly to Sunday School Classes today and join us during the offering so that they may be with their families for Communion. This divine interruption allows the Sunday School teachers to join us for Communion as well. We encourage parents to help their children learn to participate in and enjoy worship.

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

Henri Nouwen:

*In recent years, I have become more and more aware of my own tendency to think that the value of my presence depends on what I say or do. And yet it is becoming clearer to me every day that this preoccupation with performing in fact prevents me from letting God speak through me in any way he wants and so keeps me from making connections prior to any special word or deed.... over the years we have developed the idea that being present to people in all their needs is our greatest and primary vocation. The Bible does not seem to support this. Jesus' primary concern was to be obedient to his Father, to live constantly in his presence. Only then did it become clear to him what his task was in his relationship with people.*

### 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.**

SOMETHING TO INSPIRE <https://youtu.be/ZhzTXiflcwg>

## PRELUDE

### GREETING

The joy and peace of God be with you all!

**And also with you.**

Alleluia! Keep awake and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. (Matt. 24:42, 44)

**Alleluia!**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ be with you!

**And also with you.**

Come, listen to the One

**who speaks and summons the earth,  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

Come, see the One

**who shines forth in the perfection of beauty.**

Come, bring thanksgiving, the sacrifice that honors the One

**who shows the salvation of God.**

### \*PRAISE HYMN

*"Gather Us In"*

#284

### 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

Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he

considered God who had promised these things to be faithful. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

<sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

#### THE GOOD NEWS

Luke 12:32-40

<sup>32</sup> “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup> “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup> “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

**Thanks be to God.**

#### MESSAGE

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

*“O Master Let Me Walk With Thee”*

#602

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

##### LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

MISSION FOCUS    Bluejay NEST, Bluejay AID, and Bluejay Pantry

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

\*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS    *"Accept, O God, the Gifts We Bring"*    #379

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God loves a generous giver! Let us pray with joy as we dedicate these gifts:

**Loving and merciful God,  
we offer these gifts in gratitude  
for all the ways in which you have blessed our lives.  
With these gifts we commit ourselves to serve you  
and to work for peace in this world.  
Bless these gifts that they might be used  
in ministries of restoration and reconciliation. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN    *"O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life"*    #432

\*BENEDICTION

Go now, children, and know that the Spirit of Jesus will be watching over you.  
Go now and enjoy God's summer gifts of warm sun, cooling waters, and long,  
light-filled days.

Go now, children, with the gift of faith, that you might see God's hand in all  
your work and play.

**Amen.**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*BENEDICTION    *"Wherever You Go"*

Next Pg

Words and Music: Barbara Hamm

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*Wherever you go, God is with you;  
Wherever you go, God is there.  
Wherever you go, whatever you do,  
You are in God's care.*

*Wherever we go, God is with us;  
Wherever we go, God is there.  
Wherever we go, whatever we do,  
We are in God's care.*

## Wherever You Go

$\text{♩} = 120$

1. Wher - ev - er you go, God is with you; wher -  
 2. Wher - ev - er we go, God is with us; wher -

-ev - er you go, God is there. Wher - ev - er you go, what -  
 -ev - er we go, God is there. Wher - ev - er we go, what -

-ev - er you do, you are in God's care.  
 -ev - er we do, we are in God's care.

**\*\*Still seeking nursery volunteers  
 for this fall! Please reach out if you  
 would be willing and able!**

## THANK YOU!

**Musicians** today are Darlene Johnson and Tiffany Bucheger.

**Radio Ministry** is in memory of Norm Hass, Donald & Bernice Radke and brother Jeff Radke from the Radke family.

**Livestream** is sponsored by Harlan Fausch in lovng memory of Phyllis Fausch, whose birthday is on August 16 from her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

**Technical Director:** Jody Meyer and Corey Dornbrack



Join Pastor Mike and members of Saint Stephens at **Sideways in Tomahawk on August 13 at 6 PM** for an evening out! 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.



Kari is putting together the Labor Day parade, and we would love for you to join us! If you're interested in walking in the parade and sharing the joy of Saint Stephens and our ministries, just drop Kari an email at [kari@ststephensucc.net](mailto:kari@ststephensucc.net). We can't wait to celebrate together!

## TAKING THE LESSONS HOME

The Gospel speaks the language of children. It is the language of family, trust, safety, mystery, and anticipation, with some family dinners scattered into the story. Today, Jesus tells us to always be ready for God's presence in our lives. Be ready, for God can come at any time.

Play a game at dinner this week. Everyone must share a time for that day when, looking back at the day, we see God was present in some way. Perhaps you forgave someone, or someone forgave you. Perhaps you helped with the Fill the Gazebo food drive; invited a new friend to join in a game or activity; made a new friend at a summer activity or took time to notice some birds or animals playing in the yard.

Recognizing how God is present with us and active in the world through us helps us develop a spirit of thanksgiving and pulls us away from despair and cynicism. It is a good activity for adults as well as children.

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715.536.7322

903 East 2nd Street, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452

[ststephensucc.net](mailto:ststephensucc.net)

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Rev. Mike Southcombe	Senior Minister	<a href="mailto:mike@ststephensucc.net">mike@ststephensucc.net</a>
Terra Holdridge	Administrative Director	<a href="mailto:terra@ststephensucc.net">terra@ststephensucc.net</a>
Kari Weiland	Christian Education Director	<a href="mailto:kari@ststephensucc.net">kari@ststephensucc.net</a>
Kimberly McCaskill	Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:kimberly@ststephensucc.net">kimberly@ststephensucc.net</a>
Tiffany Bucheger	Music Director	<a href="mailto:tiffany@ststephensucc.net">tiffany@ststephensucc.net</a>
Timothy Ruprecht	Facilities Manager	
Darlene Johnson	Organist	