



JULY 12, 2026 | 9:00 AM | SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Technical Directors: Jody Meyer, Corey Dornbrack
Organist: Darlene Johnson
Music Director: Tiffany Bucheger
Faith Formation Director: Kari Weiland

Sunday School is on break for the summer. Children are welcome and valued in worship with all of us.

To encourage children to participate 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 other ways during the service.

POINTS TO PONDER PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

"Prayer is a surge of the heart, it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy."
– St. Therese of Lisieux

Quick and Easy Electronic Giving!!

To give an offering to the church, 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.



SOMETHING TO INSPIRE

GATHERING MUSIC

Leaning In
Arise

Christopher Grundy
Tracey Howe

WELCOME

PRELUDE

* GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

* CALL TO WORSHIP *(Based on Psalm 65:9-13)*

God visits the earth and waters it

Greatly enriching the earth.

God waters the earth, softening it with showers,

And blessing the earth.

Along with the hills, the meadows, and the valleys,

Let us shout and sing together for joy!

* PRAISE HYMN

"For the Fruit of all Creation"

#714

PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

THE GOOD NEWS

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately

receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

This is the good news. In this truth we find eternal life.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

* HYMN OF THE DAY *"In the Bulb There is a Flower"* #638

PRAYER LITANY

... Gracious One,
In your mercy, hear our prayers.

LORD'S PRAYER

MISSION FOCUS Our Church's Wider Mission

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

* PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS *"Take My Gifts"* #381

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1988
Music: Colin Gibson, 1988
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***Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter,
Gave me life and set me free.
Now, because your love has touched me,
I have love to give away;
Now the bread of love is rising,
Loaves of love to multiply!***

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious God, filled by your generosity to us,
may we be generous to others.
Accept from us these gifts of word, work and money
as we commit our lives to you,
through Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

* CLOSING HYMN

“O God, Whose Word Well-Planted”

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007

Music: Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

Text and music ©1990 Augsburg Fortress Press

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***O God, whose word well-planted yields fruit a hundred-fold,
we praise your graces granted to those who sowed of old,
who by their witness scattered good seed upon the soil,
where others, reaping, gathered the harvest of their toil.***

***O God of seed and harvest, of sun and soil and rain,
attend the word we sow, lest its planting be in vain.
Send showers of your Spirit, bright sunshine of your grace,
That multitudes who hear it your gospel may embrace.***

***O God your final harvest of hist'ry's ancient field,
will test with truth the proudest that human work can yield.
Oppression's blight will vanish, fair freedom's fruits increase;
and love and joy will flourish to clothe the earth with peace.***

* BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

As Jesus sent the disciples out into the world to preach and to heal, so Christ sends us to speak words of hope and to heal human hurts today.

Amen.

Go on your way, rejoicing in the presence of the Risen Christ and in the power of the gospel of love and hope.

To God be the glory, now and forever. Amen.

RESPONSE

“May the God of Hope Go With Us”

Next Pg

Words: Alvin Schutmaat, 1921-1988, alt.

Music: Argentine folk melody

Public Domain

POSTLUDE

May the God of Hope Go with Us

Dios de la esperanza



¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz!
May the God of hope go with us ev - 'ry day,



Al mun - do en cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad.
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.



Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da - nos tu luz,
May the God of jus - tice speed us on our way,



luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.
bring - ing light and hope to ev - 'ry land and race.



O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos
Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our



de tu a - mor. Lu - che - mos por la paz,
joy with all; work - ing for a world that's new,



fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.
faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.

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TAKING THE LESSONS HOME

Those who live in the Spirit, says Matthew, bear good fruit.

This week, walk around the yard and identify the plants that grow from seeds, from bulbs and in other ways (vines that start new plants, root vegetables, etc.).

Talk about the way different plants bear different kinds of fruit.

Then, around the dinner table or in a quiet time in the evening, talk about what kind of fruit each person in the family yielded today. If you were kind to someone, think about how they might, in turn, be kind to someone else, and so on. How many people do you think felt kindness because of the kindness you first offered?

Was the fruit you bore helpfulness? Or encouragement? Or comfort? How might all of those fruits spread out to others?

Say a prayer that the good things you did may be multiplied and bear good fruit in the days ahead.

THANK YOU!

Musicians today are Darlene Johnson and Tiffany Bucheger.

Radio Ministry is sponsored in memory of Reuben & Dorothy Koehler from Dennis & Ione Koehler.

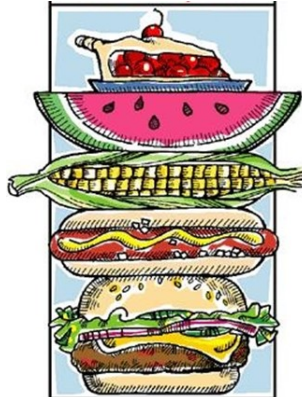
Livestream is sponsored in memory of my dad, Fred Seeger, on his birthday, July 12, from Stan & Deb Seeger.

Technical Directors: Jody Meyer, Corey Dornbrack

****Launch August 5 at 6 pm**



**Saint Stephens
Church Picnic
Next Week!
July 19 @ 10 AM
Kitchenette Park**



Rev. Mike Southcombe
Terra Holdridge
Kari Weiland
Kimberly McCaskill
Tiffany Bucheger
Timothy Ruprecht
Darlene Johnson

Senior Minister
Administrative Director
Christian Education Director
Administrative Assistant
Music Director
Facilities Manager
Organist

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