

**ST. STEPHEN'S NEWS**  
**Sunday, August 2, 2026**  
*The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**WELCOME!**

If you are worshipping at St. Stephen's for the first time today, you are welcome to share in the Holy Communion. Please fill out a "Visitor" card at one of the Greeters tables and/or the guest book on the podium before you leave and get a welcome packet.

**COMMUNION**

If you are in need of a gluten free wafer during Communion, please let an usher know before the offertory or let one of the persons serving the host know. If you have a mobility problem, please let an usher know before the service begins and communion will be brought to you.

**LOOKING FORWARD**



**THE WELCOME TABLE**  
A Christian spiritual gathering  
for the LGBTQ+ community & our allies.



**Tuesday, August 4, 2026**  
7:00 pm in the Chapel

**SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
24901 Orchard Village Rd. / Santa Clarita, CA 91355 / Tel / 661 259 7307 / st-stephens.org

Come join us for The Welcome Table on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 7PM in the Chapel. The Welcome Table is an experience crafted by and for the LGBTQ+ community. Gather with us as we eat, pray, discuss, share communion, celebrate diversity and explore our faith in community as our true, authentic selves. Come as you are, this place is for you.



Dinner is potluck style. You can sign up for your contribution here: <https://tinyurl.com/yy7csfe5>



**ST. STEPHEN'S  
BRANCH  
MANAGERS**



**NEW  
MINISTRY!!**

**JOIN US!**

Marvel in the sacred soil  
under your fingernails.

**BEGINNING SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH**

If you enjoy getting your hands in the dirt, the smell of sage, reveling in the sights and sounds of hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies, have we got a deal for you!!! Come and join in with the St. Stephen's "Branch Managers" the 2nd Saturday of every month, where we will rake, weed, prune, plant, mulch, water and tend to the grounds of St. Stephen's! When finished we will enjoy some laughs while sharing some well-earned tasty treats and cool beverages. Our first gardening day will be Saturday, August 8th, from ~ 8:30am - 11:30am (any time you can be there is a blessing). If interested in signing up, please contact Tracy Stapp at in the Church office at: [office@st-stephens.org](mailto:office@st-stephens.org) or (661) 259-7307.



**JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS WAY TO  
RAISE MONEY!**

**Date: Aug 06, 2026** **Time: 11:00AM to 11:00PM**

**For Dine In, Takeout or Curbside at this BJ's Location:**  
24320 Town Center Drive  
Valencia, CA 91355  
661-288-1299

Enjoy delicious food in a fun atmosphere along with your family and friends while earning funds in support of:

**Walk to End Alzheimer's**

**WITH EACH FLYER PRESENTED DURING THIS FUNDRAISING EVENT, BJ's WILL DONATE 20% OF FOOD AND SOFT BEVERAGE SALES TO THE DESIGNATED ORGANIZATION!**

**VISIT US IN PERSON, ORDER ONLINE OR PLACE A TAKE-OUT ORDER**

**When dining in:** Present this flyer to your server at any time during your meal.

**When ordering online:** Enter the 6-digit fundraiser code below at the time of checkout.

**When placing a take-out order:** Present this flyer to a BJ's team member upon your arrival.



**AUG 7 33**

Valid for dine in, takeout or curbside when applicable. Not valid toward alcoholic beverages. Happy Hour specials or for delivery orders. Please do not distribute flyers on site during the event.



**LAUNDRY LOVE**  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**5:30-7:30PM**  
**COIN AND DROP OFF LAUNDRY**  
**24725 RAILROAD AVE.**  
**NEWHALL**



## Food Collection

Collections are **SECOND Sat. in Aug & Sept.**  
St. Stephen's Church  
Parking Lot

Next one: Sat., **AUGUST 8<sup>th</sup>**, from 9 —11am

**CRITICAL NEEDS *Change Monthly!***

\* Collection benefits *FYT's Back-to-School Event! (Fostering Youth Independence)*

Toilet Paper & Paper Towels  
Laundry & Dish Detergent  
Deodorant, Shave Cream, Razors  
Toothbrushes & Toothpaste  
Lotion (sm), Body Wash & Soap  
Shampoo & Conditioner  
PB & Jelly (sm - med size)  
Beef Jerky & Trail Mix  
Canned Fruits & Fruit Cups  
Cereal & Nutrition Bars  
Can'd Pasta Meals; Chunky Soups  
Tuna & Canned Chicken  
Vienna Sausage & Spam

### Other NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

Mac & Cheese; Rice & Pasta  
Pasta Sauce (NOT large)  
Can'd Vegetables (NO Beans)

### OTHER NEEDED ITEMS:

Baby Diapers & Wipes

**Recycle Day- Sat., August 8<sup>th</sup>**

Bring **pull tabs** from cans of soda AND food.

**RECYCLABLE "CRV" plastic, cans, bottles.**

St. Stephen's Church Parking Lot



DEANERY 2 INVITES YOU  
TO A  
RECEPTION TO  
MEET AND GREET

*The Rt. Rev. Dr.  
Antonio José  
Gallardo Lucena*

EIGHTH BISHOP OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

AUGUST

SATURDAY **15** AT 11 AM

ST. MARTIN IN-THE-FIELDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
7136 WINNETKA AVENUE  
WINNETKA, CA 91306

RSVP TO  
PDEARY@STMARTINSSCHOOL.ORG OR  
818-348-1419

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



## VOICES UNITED 2026 GOSPEL CHOIR WORKSHOP SERIES!

EVERYONE WELCOME! ALL AGES, BACKGROUNDS, FAITHS ARE INVITED  
TO SHARE IN A MUSICAL EXPERIENCE OF JOY AND COMMUNITY.

INTERESTED IN SINGING? NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.

MEANINGFUL  
EXPERIENCE

UPLIFTING  
MUSIC

EXPERT  
TEACHING

CULTURAL  
CONNECTIONS

WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP

CONCERT

**JULY 11**  
1-4 PM

**AUG 8**  
1-4 PM

**AUG 22**  
7-9 PM

JOIN A GOSPEL CHOIR!  
JUST A FEW REHEARSALS  
BEFORE A FREE  
COMMUNITY CONCERT!



ST. STEPHENS EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
24901 ORCHARD VILLAGE RD.  
SANTA CLARITA, CA 91355



FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.OIGC.ORG/VOICESUNITED](http://WWW.OIGC.ORG/VOICESUNITED)

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other  
up, just as in fact you are doing."* **Thessalonians 5:11**



21+

*Join us!*

**THURS  
AUG 13  
6:30 PM**

NEW YOUNG ADULTS OF FAITH GROUP

Wolf Creek Restaurant and Brewing Co.

Santa Clarita

Text Hallie to RSVP at 661.713.3305

Good food and casual conversation about faith, life, and navigating  
young adulthood without any pressure. Come exactly as you are.



## Why EfM?

### Why should I sign up for EfM?

While the answer may be different for each individual, having your own "why" is an important part of

your decision!

Making the decision to sign up for EfM could begin with questions that hint at your own learning desires. Take a moment to ponder the below questions.

*Do you seek fellowship that goes beyond coffee hour?*

*Does Sunday morning whet your appetite for more?*

*Are you seeking God and desire others to accompany you on your search?*

*Do you question different interpretations of biblical passages and want to explore them more deeply?*

What other questions come to mind?

If you answered "yes" or maybe" to any of those questions, **perhaps EfM is for you!**

For more information, contact Mary Jo Higginbotham at: [maryjohigg@gmail.com](mailto:maryjohigg@gmail.com)  
Then take a moment to pray!

*Lord, take my lips, and speak through them;  
take my mind, and think through it;  
take my heart, and set it on fire.*

*Amen.*

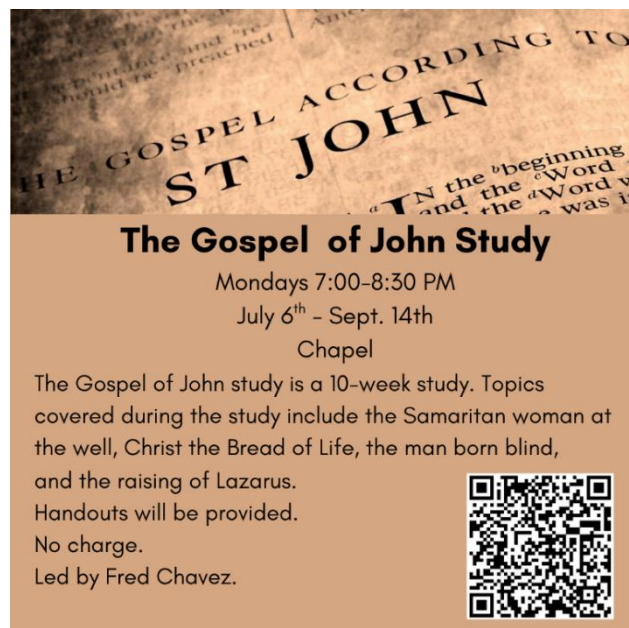
*by W.H.H. Aitken, from Prayers Ancient and Modern*

**2026-27 EfM Registration begins Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> and continues through Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>.**

EfM sessions at St. Stephen's meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00pm. Our tentative start date is Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, with breaks for Thanksgiving, Christmas/New Year & Holy Week (a full calendar will be available when our sessions begin).

**St. Stephen's will provide a scholarship** for any participant who completes an application and is approved for one year. Applications will be available Sunday, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> and must be completed and submitted for approval by email before Sunday, Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> (may be done by email).

Each participant completes registration individually and pays tuition by computer through the EfM Pathwright program. Pathwright is the online learning management system that houses and distributes all EfM formation products, through the University of the South, Sewanee, TN. Participants must purchase their own books and materials determined by their year of participation. Books can be obtained in print, digital, or audio format from any distributor of your choice. In addition, some books are available for loan from St. Stephen's bookstore.



**The Gospel of John Study**  
Mondays 7:00-8:30 PM  
July 6<sup>th</sup> - Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>  
Chapel

The Gospel of John study is a 10-week study. Topics covered during the study include the Samaritan woman at the well, Christ the Bread of Life, the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus. Handouts will be provided. No charge. Led by Fred Chavez.



<https://tinyurl.com/5n79jt79>

As the new academic year begins, we invite you to the **Blessing of the Backpacks** on Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30AM service.

At St. Stephen's, we understand the significance of education and the journey it sets for our children and young adults. The Blessing of the Backpacks ceremony is an annual tradition where we come together as a community to pray for the young minds and souls who are about to embark on a new academic adventure.

This event is open to students of all ages, from preschoolers to college students and beyond. We encourage each attendee to bring their backpack, representing their readiness for the new school year, filled with hope, dream, and ambitions.



**Blessing of the Backpacks**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH  
AT 10:30AM**



## Communications Committee Meeting

Want to get involved with the Communications Committee at St. Stephen's? It's as easy as jumping on Zoom! Meetings every 1st Monday of the Month at 3pm on Zoom. Use the QR code to join the meeting



Use Camera to Open

## Sunday School Registration 2026-2027

[www.st-stephens.org](http://www.st-stephens.org)

Paper  
applications  
are available  
in the parish  
hall

## Books, Bites & Blessings!



Looking for a relaxing night out and some sweet new friendships? You are officially invited to our **Women's Night Out Book Swap!**

- **When:** Friday, August 21 at 6:00 PM
- **Where:** Spurling Hall
- **The Food:** It's an appetizer and dessert potluck! Bring your favorite finger food or sweet treat to share.
- **The Books:** Bring a book or a few books you've loved and are ready to pass along (any genre is welcome!). You'll leave with a fresh read. If you don't have one to bring, don't worry, there will be plenty of books to spare. Bring a recommendation to share with the group.
- **Not really a reader?** Come anyway, there will be great snacks!



**Bring a friend!** Whether you've been at our church for years or are looking to make your very first connections, this night is for you. This is a safe, affirming and celebratory space for all women, including our LGBTQ+ sisters and

siblings. Let's open our hearts, share some blessings, make new friends and invigorate Women's fellowship at St. Stephen's!

Please **RSVP** and let us know what you're bringing, we can't wait to connect with you! If you will need childcare, please let us know by August 15.

**Questions?** Email Mary Jo Higginbotham ([maryjohigg@gmail.com](mailto:maryjohigg@gmail.com)), Kathleen Jensen ([jensencurl@gmail.com](mailto:jensencurl@gmail.com)), or Julia Nelson ([juliajohnnelson@comcast.net](mailto:juliajohnnelson@comcast.net)) or talk to us at church.



The first day of Sunday School  
will be on August 23<sup>rd</sup>  
on the Stage in Spurling Hall.



## Registration

6<sup>th</sup> grade -  
12<sup>th</sup> grade



Use Camera to Open

Complete and return to  
[shannon@st-stephens.org](mailto:shannon@st-stephens.org) or  
to the church office

**SIGN UP  
NOW**

[st-stephens.org](http://st-stephens.org)



If you wish to have your birthday or anniversary prayed for during Sunday services or if you would like a white rose to signify a death in your family or a red rose to signify a birth in your family, please email Tracy in the Church office at [office@st-stephens.org](mailto:office@st-stephens.org) no later than 5:00pm on Thursdays with all of the relevant details.

## St. Stephen's Prayer List

Current Needs: Joanne, Innocent victims of global and domestic conflicts and wars, especially involving the U.S. involvement in the Middle East, Jim and Judy, Lisa and Lou, Eliza, Janet, Gail, Bill, John and the Nelson family, Marie, Lilly and husband, Patrick, Amy, Dolores and family, Steve, Maria, Moses, Jerome, Joy and Dennis, Ron, Jose Manuel, Sandy H., Peggy, Barbara, Jenny, Kevin, Brisa, Sandra, Claudia, Keith, Mary, Mehar, Marionette, B.J., Rae, Susan, Claudia, , Bob, Jerri, Jeff, Susan, Phyllis and Stu, Linda and Charlie, Madelyn, Maria, Pastor Clarence and children, Greg, Neville, Jeff and Helen, Tom and Desiree, Jim and Donna, Greg and Cathy, Jim, Cathy, Doris, Gia, Caroline, Carolyn, Karen, Angeline, Vickie, Judy, Laurie, Vince and Fran, Karen and Jim, Malcolm, Brendan, Reverend Lynn, Stephen, Cathy, Berta, Sue, Stacy, Lily, K. C., David, David, Brendan, Rebecca, the Barlow family, **Joy and Dennis, Raye, Richard, Collette**

Rest in Peace:: Susanna Saulog, David Hoskey, Linda Lott, Ellen Ardman, Diana F., Jeff Krueger, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, Joan Sebastian Guerrero, Jeff Barlow, John Domeniccuci

If you would like to have prayers for yourself or someone else, please email Peggy Stabile at [pstable@pegasus2.net](mailto:pstable@pegasus2.net) or call the church office at 661.259.7307. Please be aware that your prayer request content will be shared with the members of the prayer chain. If you wish for Peggy to hold your prayer request in confidence, please clarify that in your submission. Prayer requests remain active for 4 weeks and must be renewed thru Peggy or the office to be on the list again.



## GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S

If you are able to continue supporting the mission and ministry of St. Stephen's, you

can pay your pledge or make a new or recurring donation online here [st-stephens.org/giving](http://st-stephens.org/giving). You can also text your donation by texting the word GIVE to 661.228.8909 and following the prompts. Click here for an easy [How To Use Text Giving guide](#). We are deeply grateful for your commitment and support.

| St. Stephen's Week |  | August 2, 2026 to August 9, 2026                     |  |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------|--|
| TODAY'S SERVICE    |  | 7:45 & 10:30 AM                                      |  |
| SUNDAY 8/2         |  | VPOD: Nick Vestuto                                   |  |
| 7:45am             |  | Holy Eucharist                                       |  |
| 10:30am            |  | Holy Eucharist (also livestreamed via Facebook live) |  |
|                    |  |                                                      |  |
| MONDAY 8/3         |  |                                                      |  |
| 3:00pm             |  | Communications Committee meeting / Zoom              |  |
| 6:45pm             |  | Troop 2019 / Spurling Hall                           |  |
| 7:00pm             |  | Gospel of John Study / Chapel                        |  |
|                    |  |                                                      |  |
| TUESDAY 8/4        |  |                                                      |  |
| 6:30pm             |  | Crew 314 / Spurling Hall                             |  |
| 7:00pm             |  | The Welcome Table / Chapel                           |  |
|                    |  |                                                      |  |
| WED. 8/5           |  |                                                      |  |
| 7:00am             |  | Holy Eucharist followed by breakfast                 |  |
| 9:30am             |  | Circle of Gratitude / Zoom                           |  |
| 5:30pm             |  | Laundry Love                                         |  |
|                    |  |                                                      |  |
| THURS. 8/6         |  |                                                      |  |
| 9:30am             |  | Book Study Group / Sacristy                          |  |
| 6:30pm             |  | Troop 2222 / Spurling Hall                           |  |
|                    |  |                                                      |  |
| FRIDAY 8/7         |  |                                                      |  |
|                    |  |                                                      |  |
| SAT. 8/8           |  |                                                      |  |
| 8:30am             |  | Branch Managers / Buildings and Grounds              |  |
| 9:00am             |  | Food & Recycling Collection / Parking Lot            |  |
| 1:00pm             |  | Craft Group mtg./ Lounge                             |  |
| 1:00-4:00pm        |  | OIGC Workshop/ Church                                |  |
|                    |  |                                                      |  |
| NEXT SUNDAY 8/9    |  | VPOD: Nick Vestuto                                   |  |
| 7:45am             |  | Holy Eucharist                                       |  |
| 10:30am            |  | Holy Eucharist (also livestreamed via Facebook live) |  |

During the month of August, the Church office will be closed on Mondays and Fridays. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays the office will be open from 9AM to 3PM. Jared Simmons will be filling in while Tracy is on vacation.