

The Eight Sunday After Pentecost

August 3, 2025

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Longview, WA

We as people of faith who are called to care for this creation **want to respectfully acknowledge the Cowlitz and Chinook People**, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Cowlitz and Chinook People. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths.



St. Stephen's is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love and service to welcome all people just as God created you. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. **We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we!**



Connect with St. Stephen's!

Please leave your name and email/phone number and Fr. Nic will connect with you this week with an invitation to enjoy a cup of coffee on us!

Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Your Email: _____



Come down, O Love divine

The Hymnal 1982, #516

1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,
2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

Words: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434?); tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890), alt. Music: *Down Ampney*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The Liturgy of the Word

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God for ever and ever.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise (*see next page*)

Children's worship is on summer break and will resume on August 17th.

Worship Leaders August 3, 2025

Presider	The Rev. Nic Mather
Musician	Riki Davis
Altar Guild	Gretchen Niemi, Heather Niemi
Reader	Rob Sudar, Josh Carter
Greeter	Rob Painter-Johnson
Chalice Bearer	Mary Hoover
Usher	Don Willows
Verger	Lisa Sudar
Vestry Presence	Gretchen Niemi, Rob Painter-Johnson

Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

$\text{♩} = 145$ Joyfully!

Mike Anderson

D G A D G A D *Last time to*

(clap, clap) (clap, clap)

Glo - ri - al! Glo - ri - al! In ex - cel - sis De - o!

5 A D A F#7

v.1 Lord - God hea - ven - ly - King, peace you bring to
v.2 Je - sus, Sa - viour - of all, Lord - God, Lamb - of
v.3 At the Fa - ther's right hand, Lord, re - ceive our
v.4 Glo - ry Fa - ther and Son, glo - ry Ho - ly

8 Bm Em Em7

us! We wor - ship - you, we give you thanks, we
God, you take a - way our sins, oh Lord, have
prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly - One and
Spi - rit! To you we raise our hands up high! We

11 Em A sus4 A D.C. G A

sing our song - of praise! In ex - cel - sis
mer - cy on - us all!
you - a - lone are Lord!
glo - ri - fy your name!

15 D G A D

De - o! In ex - cel - sis De - - -

19

o!

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated for readings from Holy Scripture)

A Reading from **Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me -- and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 49:1-11

- 1 Hear this, all you peoples;
hearken, all you who dwell in the world, *
you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.**
- 2 My mouth shall speak of wisdom, *
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.**
- 3 I will incline my ear to a proverb *
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**
- 4 Why should I be afraid in evil days, *
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,**
- 5 The wickedness of those who put their trust in their goods, *
and boast of their great riches?**
- 6 We can never ransom ourselves, *
or deliver to God the price of our life;**
- 7 For the ransom of our life is so great, *
that we should never have enough to pay it,**
- 8 In order to live for ever and ever, *
and never see the grave.**
- 9 For we see that the wise die also;
like the dull and stupid they perish *
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**
- 10 Their graves shall be their homes for ever,
their dwelling places from generation to generation, *
though they call the lands after their own names.**
- 11 Even though honored, they cannot live for ever; *
they are like the beasts that perish.**

A Reading from **Colossians 3:1-11**

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things-- anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Processional (before reading) & Recessional (after reading)
(Please stand in body or spirit)



The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ According to **Luke 12:13-21**
Glory to you, O Christ.

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The Gospel of our Savior. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily

The Rev. Nic Mather

Nicene Creed *(Please stand in body or spirit)*

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Celebrant: Merciful God, align the desires of our hearts with your will for us and answer our prayers as may be best for us as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Reader: Your holy church is a sacrament, making visible your grace and mercy. Keep it on the narrow path that leads to salvation and let it be a beacon of hope and an advocate for merciful justice throughout the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide the people and leaders of our nation to see the dignity of all persons, and to work together to ensure that all persons have the opportunity to live into the potential with which they were created by you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that this community of faith might be a place where your presence is known and where each of us can fully bring our gifts to bear for the building of the kingdom. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remind us of the glory of your creation and spur us into action on its behalf that the wonder of the natural world might be preserved and sustained, not only for ourselves but for all future generations. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Come swiftly to the aid of all who suffer or are oppressed, for all who are ill, injured, or facing disability. Help them know peace and wholeness. Especially we pray for Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Reed Nunnelee, D. Rowley, Marlene Norman, Mary Russell, Duane Jones, and those we now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give strength to those who stand at the threshold of mortal death and those who love and care for them. Grant them a share in your peace and reunite them in the light of your eternal kingdom. Especially we pray for Bruce Norquist, John Ostrand, and those we now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Hear these prayers which we offer with confident faith in your love and mercy and answer us that your glory may be known; through Christ our Lord and Redeemer who stands with you and the Holy Spirit, overseeing all creation now and always. **Amen.**

Confession of Sins *(Please kneel in body or spirit)*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace (*Please stand in body or spirit*)

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Sentence

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Give to the virtual offering plate by scanning or online @ sslv.org

Today is FISH Sunday, please leave an extra offering in the FISH envelopes in the pew (or online under FISH) to support our FISH food pantry ministry (and see their July report on the last page of the bulletin)!

Virtual Offering Plate

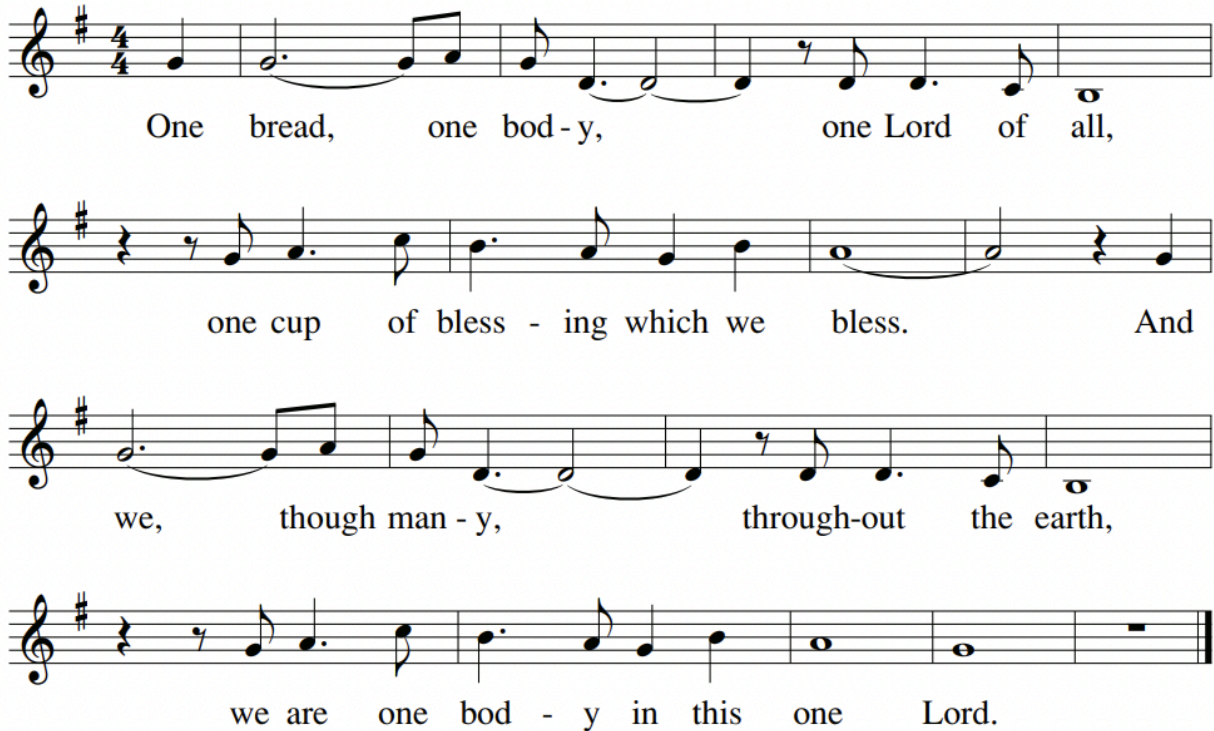


Offertory Music

(Please stand in body or spirit)

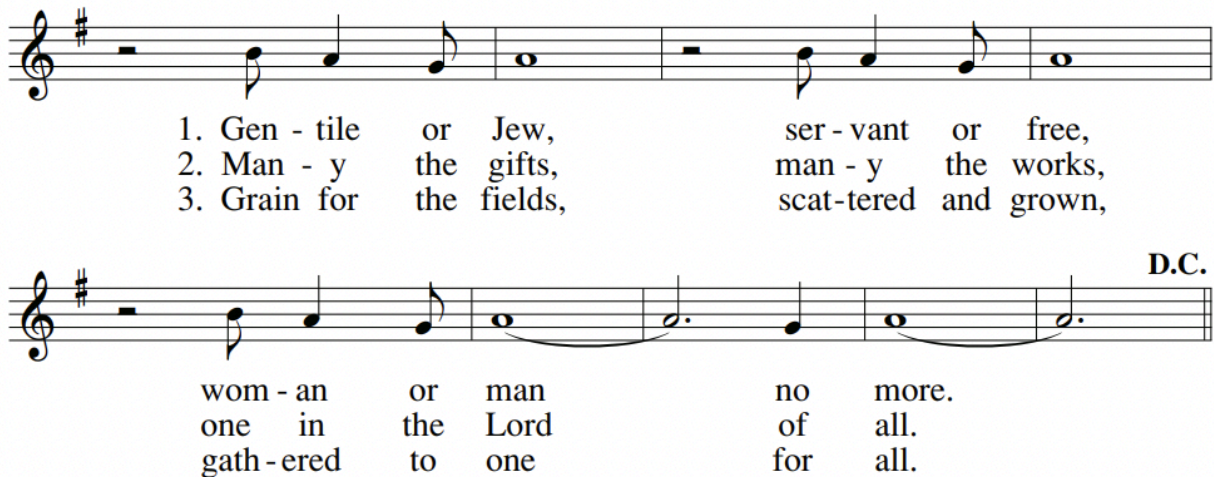
One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod - y, one Lord of all,
one cup of bless - ing which we bless. And
we, though man - y, through-out the earth,
we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

Verses



1. Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2. Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3. Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,
wom - an or man no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:16; 17, 12:4, Galatians 3:28; the *Didache* 9; John Foley, SJ, b.1939
Tune: John Foley, SJ, b.1939
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Eucharistic Prayer C

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. **By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with a great diversity of gifts and abilities. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace. **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

The Sanctus acclamation is sung to conclude the introduction to the eucharistic prayer.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er, God of might, heav - en and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is
he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Fraction Ann Marie Long

Al - le lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu

ia. Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us, There-fore let us keep the

feast. Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

You are invited to come forward and receive Eucharist at this time. We will be sharing wine from a common chalice, so if you would prefer intinction please leave the bread in your hands and the chalice bearer will intinct for you. Gluten free communion is available and a non-alcoholic option in place of the wine is also available upon request.

For those joining via Live-Stream:

A Prayer for a Person Unable to Take the Eucharist

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Prayer for Eucharistic Visitor

We offer a prayer from our community to those who are unable to join us as we send the sacrament to them carried by a minister of the church

As you go to the sick and homebound, take with you not only the sacrament that we have celebrated, but also the Word of God which we have heard, as well as the affection of this parish community. Ask for the prayers of those whom you visit in return. Go, now, with God's peace and blessing. AMEN.

Postcommunion Prayer

(Please kneel in body or spirit)

**Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The blessing of God: Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

(Please stand in body or spirit)

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Saints that have come before and the Spirit that is with us now.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

Following the closing hymn you are invited to join us in the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour!

If you are new today, please take a welcome packet and coffee mug (found at the front door)!

God of grace and God of glory

The Hymnal 1982, #594

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 4/4 time. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal staff and a piano accompaniment staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;

crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.

Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
days, for the liv - ing of these days.
goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt. By permission of the author. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932).

Community Invitations

Save the dates:

- ❖ St. Stephen's Summer Picnic–Will be rescheduled in September.
- ❖ The Deneckes, Episcopal Folk Duo
 - Performing live at St. Stephen's, Wednesday August 6 @ 7pm
- ❖ Booth Volunteers Needed @ SquirrelFest–Saturday August 16
- ❖ Join us in reading *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan this summer. Join us on Wednesday August 20 @ 6pm at Hop-n-Grape to discuss your reflections and learnings from the book (please come even if you haven't yet completed the book).



Fish Report for July

Our FISH team and wonderful volunteers were able to distribute food to 156 families in heat from July 15-18, 2025. This is a new record for us, as we increased our daily count to 40 from 36 families served. We also had three walk in families we served and delivered to two families with food insecurity.

A special thank you to Janice Stixrud and Jeanne O'Connor, who sewed several "cold" thermal blankets for us to keep the food cold during distribution.

We continue to need donations of plastic and paper bags for distributions, we deplete our supply every week. We appreciate all donations of bags, now until September 15 and they can be left in the basket by the church office.

In September we will be giving out toothbrushes and tooth paste to all families, as it is the beginning of the school year. We welcome any donations of these items.

Thank you all for your support!

Gretchen Niemi, Robin Swecker and Judy Swanson, your FISH Team