

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026

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

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia

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 & Children's Procession

Children are invited to follow the procession of the cross from the Church to the Parish Hall for Sunday School. While the program is geared for children 10 & under, ALL children are welcome to attend. Parents are also welcome to attend. Children will return to the church in time for Eucharist (typically returning after the passing of the peace).

Worship Leaders May 10, 2026

Presider	The Rev. Nic Mather
Musician	Riki Davis
Acolyte	Esther Henricksen, Miles Henricksen
Altar Guild	Robin Swecker
Reader	Katherine Beauregard, Lauren Henricksen
Greeter	Wes & Lauren Henricksen
Chalice Bearer	Mary Hoover, Krista Mather
Usher	John Brugman
Verger	Garry Beauregard
Vestry Presence	Mary Lyonns, Katherine Beauregard
Coffee Hour	Mother's Day Brunch

REFRAIN

Glo - ry! ___ Glo - ry to God! Glo - ry ___
 in the high - est! Glo - ry! ___ Glo - ry to God!

1-5 (repeat Refrain 1st & last time) to Verses Final 3- Fine
 Glo-ry to God Most High! ___ Glo-ry to God Most High!

VERSES 1, 2

1. O God, ___ Ho - ly One, al - might-y God and Fa -
 2. O Lord, ___ Je - sus Christ, 7 Ho - ly One, ___ Re-deem -
 1. - ther, ___ we wor-ship you, ___ we give ___ you
 2. - er, ___ Lord ___ God, ___ Lamb ___ of

1. thanks, we praise ___ you for your glo - ry! ___
 2. God, ___ you

2. take a - way ___ the sin ___ of the world. ___

VERSE 3

3. You a-lone ___ are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone ___
 3. ___ are the Lord, ___ you a-lone ___ are the Most ___
 3. ___ High God, with the Spir-it in the glo-ry of God! ___

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on

which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

Psalm 66:7-18

- 7 Bless our God, you peoples; *
 make the voice of his praise to be heard;
- 8 Who holds our souls in life, *
 and will not allow our feet to slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have proved us; *
 you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- 10 You brought us into the snare; *
 you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
 we went through fire and water; *
 but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
- 12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
 and will pay you my vows, *
 which I promised with my lips
 and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
- 13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
 with the smoke of rams; *
 I will give you oxen and goats.
- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
 and I will tell you what he has done for me.
- 15 I called out to him with my mouth, *
 and his praise was on my tongue.

- 16 If I had found evil in my heart, *
the Lord would not have heard me;
- 17 But in truth God has heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- 18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me.

A Reading from 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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 **John 14:15-21**



Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

Homily
Mather

The Rev. Nic

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: Let us pray for the world, saying Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Reader: Holy God, through the gift of your spirit we are given the ability to do what you ask of us and the desire to respond with our hearts and hands. Give each person who hears this prayer the ability to live a life of discipleship and the courage to make a difference in the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the health and welfare of our nation, for the health and security of all nations, and for those who have the authority to bring your vision of peace, prosperity, and safety to fruition. Bless us with the will to solve problems, care for the marginalized, and improve the lives of all people. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick and for those who work to heal, that the pain and suffering of this world might be diminished. We pray especially for Ron & Harriet Byrnes, D. Rowley, Marge Ofstun, Holly Spieth, Newt Phillips, Jacob, Mike Deltman Sr., Lyle Mackey, and those you now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer from abuse, who are not safe at home. We pray for those who have no shelter, for the hungry, the oppressed, the downtrodden and the fearful. We pray for those without hope and who are alone. We pray for those who prey on the weak, for those who seek to do harm and for those who embrace evil-that they might turn away from the darkness inside them and embrace the light of God's love. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Holy God, you are our strength and compass. Send us your spirit, your advocate to guide us in this life and strengthen us to love and serve you through service to your people. Be present to us this day and always, as creator, redeemer, and sustainer. **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



Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

The Hymnal 1982, #488



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought,— by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart,— what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Eucharist Prayer D

(Please stand in body or spirit)

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 him thanks and praise.

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord [*Sanctus*]

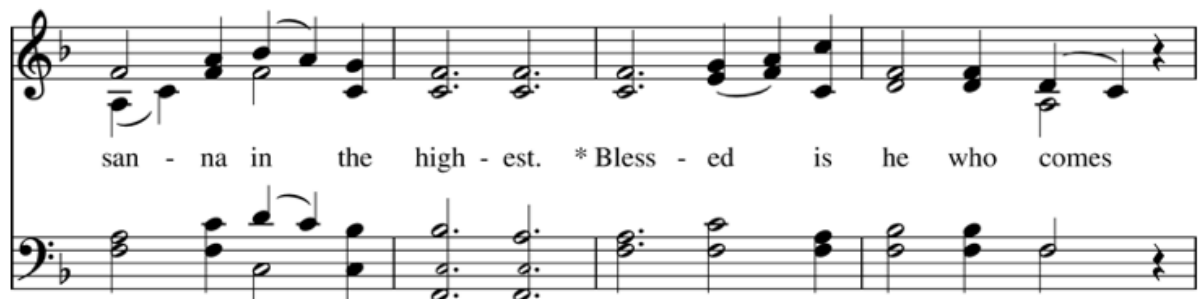
Wonder Love and Praise, #858



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



might, heaven 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.

The congregation may kneel or stand in body or spirit. The Presider continues.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption, recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Presider and People

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember Phil, Nic, Michael, Susan, and all who minister in your Church. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone, and bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, matriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Stephen and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

People **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.

A fraction anthem follows on the next page.

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

4
ia. Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us, There-fore let us keep the

8
feast. Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia.

The Invitation to the Table

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*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. You may also place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. **Know that ALL who God calls to the table are welcome here this day.***

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.

You Are Called to Tell the Story



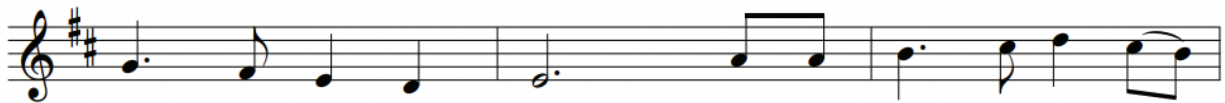
1. You are called to tell the sto - ry, Pass - ing
 2. You are called to teach the rhy - thm Of the
 3. You are called to set the ta - ble, Bless - ing
 4. May the One whose love is broad - er Than the



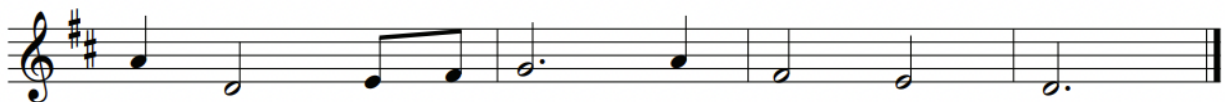
words of life a - long, Then to
 dance that nev - er ends, Then to
 bread as Je - sus blessed, Then to
 meas - ure of all space Give us



blend your voice with oth - ers As you
 move with - in the cir - cle, Hand in
 come with thirst and hun - ger, Need - ing
 words to sing the sto - ry, Move a -



sing the sa - cred song. Christ be known in all our
 hand with stran - gers, friends. Christ be known in all our
 care like all the rest. Christ be known in all our
 mong us in this place. Christ be known in all our



sing - ing, Fill - ing all with songs of love.
 danc - ing, Touch - ing all with hands of love.
 shar - ing, Feed - ing all with signs of love.
 liv - ing, Fill - ing all with gifts of love.

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: ROSEMARY, 8 7 8 7 8 7; Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 2002, GIA Publications, Inc.

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 stand 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 Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God, strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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 Sends Us Forth



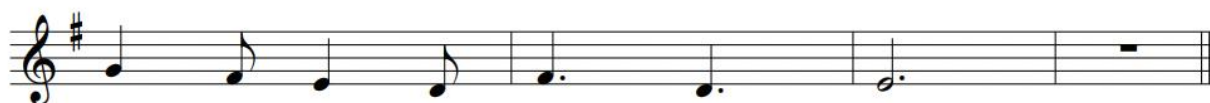
1. God sends us forth to love and serve,
2. Nour - ished by Christ, our Word and Bread,
3. Called to the ones the world ig - nores—
4. So, with the cross to lead the way,



Make known God's name and live God's word,
Burn - ing with love and Spir - it - led,
Hun - gry and thirst - y, weak and poor—
Let us go forth in peace to - day,



Mir - ror God's love, re - flect God's grace Till
Sent to em - brace a world in need, To
Let us bear Christ, who heals all pain And
And to the ends of earth make known The



all have seen the Sav - ior's face.
make God known in word and deed.
com - forts those bowed down by shame.
sav - ing love our God has shown.

Text: Tony E. Alonso, b.1980
Tune: GAILHAC, LM; Tony E. Alonso, b.1980
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Community Invitations:

Bloodworks Northwest @ St. Stephen's–Thursday, May 14, 9am-2:30pm
Register Online or Walk in!

Feast of the Pentecost–May 24 @ 10:30am with Festive Potluck Coffee Hour
Last Name A-H: Side Dish
Last Name I-O: Dessert
Last Name P-W: Main Dish

90th Birthday Celebration honoring Judy Krausch

Sunday June 7 Coffee Hour

You are invited and encouraged to wear a fancy church hat today!

St. Stephen's Parish Summer Picnic Potluck–June 13 @ Noon, Willow Grove
Hamburgers & Hot Dogs Provided please bring a side dish or dessert to contribute as able!
Games & Fellowship for ALL!

SquirrelFest Tabling and Volunteers Needed!

Join us at SquirrelFest on Saturday August 22!

Volunteers needed to help man our table from 9am-5pm! Multiple shifts available!

Come and help us spread the Good News of St. Stephen's in our Community!
See Katherine Beauregard for details!