

**St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Day of Pentecost
May 24, 2026**



*We celebrate that we are given the breath of the Holy Spirit
and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.*

We serve God through caring and compassionate service.

The Service

*The Congregation shall stand

The Prelude

*The Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness

L: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit, God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. **C: Amen.**

***The Gathering Hymn "Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"**

Text: Samuel Longfellow, 1819-1892

Music: Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625

SONG 13

- 1. Holy Spirit, truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine;
breath of God and inward light, wake my spirit, clear
my sight.**
- 2. Holy Spirit, love divine, glow within this heart of mine;
kindle ev'ry high desire; purge me with your holy fire.**
- 3. Holy Spirit, pow'r divine, fortify this will of mine; by your
will I strongly live, bravely bear, and nobly strive.**
- 4. Holy Spirit, peace divine, still this restless heart of mine;
speak to calm this tossing sea, stayed in your
tranquility.**
- 5. Holy Spirit, right divine, king within my conscience reign;
be my guide, and I shall be firmly bound, forever free.**

***The Greeting**

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

C: And also with you.

***The Kyrie**

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord

C: Amen.

***The Hymn of Praise**

L: Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

C: O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly shall be seated.

The Children's Meditation

The First Reading Raynaud C in Creole Acts 2:1-13(NRSVue)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a

tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Karl G in German

Acts 2:15-21

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Holly E in Hebrew

24 How manifold are your works, O Lord!*
in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your
creatures.

25 Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too
many to number,*
living things both small and great.

26 There go the ships to and fro,*
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

27 All of them look to you*
to give them their food in due season.

28 You give it to them; they gather it;*
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

29 When you hide your face, they are terrified;*
when you take away their breath, they die and return
to their dust.

30 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;*
and so you renew the face of the earth.

31 May the glory of the Lord endure forever;*
O Lord, rejoice in all your works.

32 You look at the earth and it trembles;*
You touch the mountains and they smoke.

33 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;*
I will praise my God while I have my being.

34 May these words of mine please God.*
I will rejoice in the Lord.

35b Bless the Lord, O my soul,*
Hallelujah!

The Second Reading

Shukti S in Hindi

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13(NRSVue)

No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly shall stand.

***The Gospel Acclamation**

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

***The Holy Gospel**

John 20:19-23(NRSVue)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."
²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly shall be seated.

The Sermon

Dena Travelsted

"Pentecost, Soldier, Race Car Driver, and a Newlywed"

The Hymn of the Day

"Spirit of Gentleness"

Text: James K Manley, b 1940

Music: James K Manley

Text and music © 1978 James K. Manley

SPIRIT

Refrain: Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free; Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

1. You moved on the waters, you called to the deep, then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing: "Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." Refrain:

2. You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand, and you goaded your people with a law and a land; and when they were blinded with idols and lies, then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

Refrain:

3. You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill, then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still; and down in the city you called once again, when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

Refrain:

4. You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes. From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams; our women see visions, our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise.

Refrain:

The assembly shall stand.

***The Apostle's Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell,
on the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**

L: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

O God, you send the Holy Spirit to gather your church into one. Inspire all ministers of the gospel to speak prophetic and hope-filled words to all whom they encounter. Bless the work of interreligious dialogue. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. Protect all living things, bring forth clean water and abundant food, and grant us wonder as we contemplate all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to break down the barriers of communication among nations. Bestow peace in war-torn areas, guide all in government and society to work for justice, and guard those serving in the armed forces, especially this weekend as we remember those who died in service to their country. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to accompany those who feel abandoned. Provide food for those who hunger and drink for those who thirst, soothe those who are anxious or bereaved, comfort those who are sick or suffering, and answer all who call upon your name especially members of our Congregation who are suffering silently, Scott's great aunt, Raynaud's family, Sharon's brother, Bill, Carla, De, Dave, Bob, Deb, Cathy H, Frank, Leroy, Wendy, Yvonne, Donna, Stephanie, Anita, Michelle, Ann, Genie, Wally, Troy, Anne, Cathy, Chyrstal, and Vivian. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit through the gift of baptism. Bless both those preparing for or affirming their baptism. May they be encouraged by this community of faith as they live out their baptismal promises. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Father, as we pause today, help us to remember all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms that we enjoy every day. We pray that you hold our servicemen and women in your strong arms. Cover them with your sheltering grace and your presence as they willingly stand in the gap for our protection. Bless the families of our fallen troops and fill their homes and their lives with Your strength and peace.

We pray, Loving God, for the leaders of the church. Guide the synod staff as they select possible candidates for our call process. Give us patience as we await a pastor. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You send the Holy Spirit to console us in our grief. We give you thanks for our ancestors in the faith whose witness to your mighty works continues to inspire our lives. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

***The Peace of the Lord**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.
The assembly shall be seated.*

The Offering

The assembly shall stand.

***The Offertory**

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit.

***The Offertory Prayer**

L: Let us pray,

We offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **C: Amen.**

***The 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 trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

***The Sending Hymn**

*Text: John S B Monsell, 1811-1875, alt
Music: Frances R Havergal, 1836-1879*

"On Our Way Rejoicing"

HERMAS

1. On our way rejoicing, gladly let us go. Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe. Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy; who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?

Refrain: On our way rejoicing; as we forward move, hearken to our praises, O blest God of love.

2. Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing; unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring; unto God the Spirit bow we and adore, on our way rejoicing now and evermore. Refrain:

The candles are extinguished.

The assembly shall be seated

The Announcements

The Assembly shall stand.

***The Benediction and Blessing**

L: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
+ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

L: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Care and serve others with
compassion. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

The Postlude

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May 24, 2026

Welcome to St. Stephen's! We are glad you have joined us for worship. **In case of emergency ministerial care, please contact Tom Stempson, Phone #317-374-8708, email: stempson@att.net, or Dena Travelsted, Phone #317-379-5977, email: denatravelsted31@gmail.com.** We have been blessed to worship alongside you and hope to see you again soon!

This morning we welcome Dena Travelsted presiding and delivering the message for today. Thank you for your time and talents.

Please have all announcements for the bulletin to Peg Graham by 5:00 pm on Thursday before worship on Sunday. Thank you. Email - peglgra@att.net; cell phone - 317-796-0424.

Prayer Requests...

Patti W – husband Bill, surgery; sister Deb diagnosed with PSP.

Tom & Shirley – friend Dave, cancer.

Peg G – sister in law De.

Pastor Bob & Sally – Yvonne, broken ribs & hip.

Tori A – Luann's cousin Carla; Sharon's brother; Stephanie, heart; Michelle, infection.

Bob R – health issues.

Jim & Dena T – Leroy, health.

Holly E – Deb, lung cancer recurred; Anita, bone cancer; Anne, kidney transplant.

Member of Sewing Group – Cathy H, entering hospice.

Genie & Wally R – Frank, multiple surgeries; Genie, health; Wally, back.

Wendy B – gainful employment.

Jim B – wife Donna, recovering from a liver transplant.

Raynaud C – family in Haiti.

Dave & Beth – Troy, broken back.

Scott C – great aunt, broken hip.

Phyllis H – daughter Cathy, granddaughter Chrystal.

Izzy L – friend, Vivian, health.

Up-coming Events:

Wed, May 27 9:00 am Pins & Needles Sewing
6:30 pm Bible Study

Bill Beck will join the Kairos Team for a Christian Men's weekend at Heritage Trail Correctional Facility. Your support is needed and appreciated. The event has been postponed until June 4th through June 7th because of illness.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14 - There are children activity bags in a basket in the Narthex for children, of various ages, to use during church. The children's bulletin follows the Lectionary for each week and the children can take it home. At the end of the service, please return the bags to the basket.

Volunteers are always needed to make our services a fellowship of community. Please take time to check the sign-up sheet posted on the black bulletin board for opportunities to serve. **Volunteers are needed to help with Fellowship.** If you can supply the food and snacks on a Sunday, please sign up on the list in the Fellowship Hall. Monetary donations are welcome, too. If you have questions, please see Gloria Kocher.

Current giving income received in the month of April was \$6,691.60. Amount needed each month per 2026 budget is \$9,583.00. If you'd like to make your offering online so you don't have to deal with checks and envelopes, go to ststephensplainfield.org and click on the Online Offering tab. Thank you.



Please fill out the yellow cards and place them in the offering plate. The cards allow us to track attendance and follow up with visitors. For members, your name and date, along with any prayer requests will suffice. For visitors, please provide your contact information so we can send you a follow-up email or text.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY: Next month our pantry is **Saturday, June 27.** Pantry set-up will be **Friday, June 26.** We know it's a lot to ask, but please consider giving some time to this important mission. Remember us when you shop or during your regular giving. We've been so successful with this mission only because of your loyalty. God Bless.

Preparing for Next Week: Monday *Romans 8:18-24* **Tuesday** *Psalm 104:24-34,35b* **Wednesday** *Numbers 11:24-30* **Thursday** *2 Timothy 1:8-12a* **Friday** *Psalm 8* **Saturday** *Job 38:22-38* **The Holy Trinity, First Sunday after Pentecost:** *Genesis 1:1—2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20*