

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
**180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759**  
**Phone: 732-350-2121, Fax: 732-350-6000**  
**ssechurch@gmail.com**  
**www.saintstephenswhiting.org**

**A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey**

The Rt. Rev. William H. (Chip) Stokes, Bishop  
The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector  
Gerrie Vergona, Treasurer  
Esther Graham, Music Director  
Greg Mathews, Parish Administrator  
Tom O'Brien, Sexton

**Wardens and Vestry 2021**

Stefanie Rotsaert, Rector's Warden  
Richard Smithson, Property Warden  
Debbie Fisher, Marge Pomykala, Peter Quigley  
Pat Russo, Maryann Payne, Dottie Kaster  
Kay Karlick, Tom Larson, Ken Seda  
Joanne Smithson, Clerk

**Mission Statement**

To proclaim the faith that our years have engendered: to use the diversity of our Episcopal experience while working toward a common goal; to teach the young about Jesus and to reach out and affect the lives of those in the community.

*"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20*

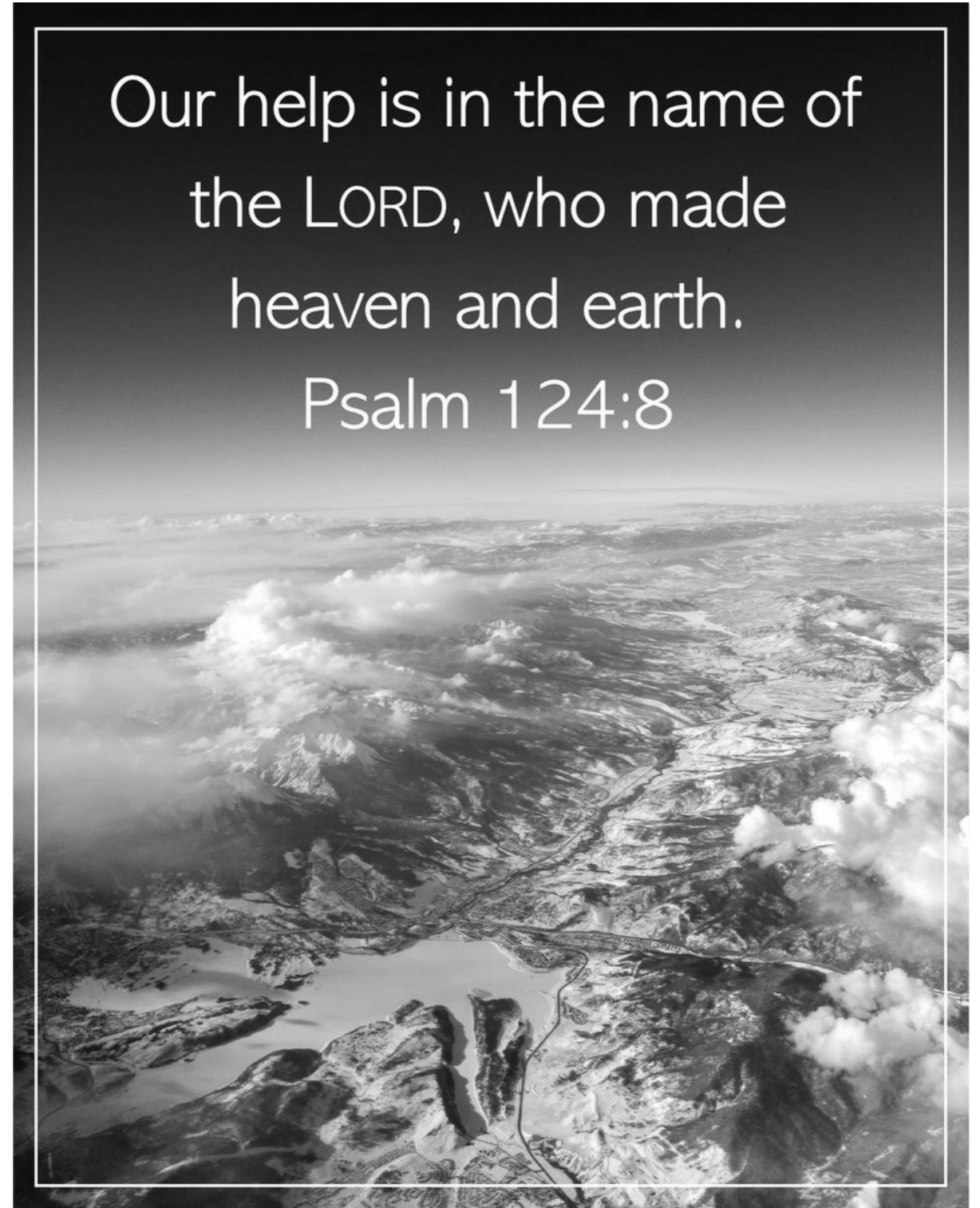
**Welcome to St. Stephen's Church!**

We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly with the Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector.

**To Report Illness, Hospitalization, etc.**

Please notify the church office 732-350-2121 of any illnesses or hospitalizations. If it is an emergency you may also reach Stefanie Rotsaert, Rector's Warden at 732-350-2904 or Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.

Our help is in the name of  
the LORD, who made  
heaven and earth.  
Psalm 124:8



**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 21  
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

**SEPT. 26, 2021  
8&10:15 am**

**Sept 26, 2021**

<b>Hymnal</b>	<b>The Word of God</b>	<b>BCP</b>
343	Processional Hymn: <i>“Shepard of Souls” (vs I &amp; II)</i>	
	Open Acclamation	355
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <i>Book of Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22</i>	Insert
	<i>Psalm 124</i>	Insert
	Second Lesson: <i>Letter of James 5:13-20</i>	Insert
	Gradual: <i>“Word of God Speak”</i>	Insert
	Gospel: <i>Mark 9:38-50</i>	Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
	The Nicene Creed	358
	Prayers of the People Form VI	392
	Confession and Absolution	393
	The Peace	
	Offertory: Choir Anthem	Insert
<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>		
<b>The Great Thanksgiving</b>		
	Eucharistic Prayer A	361
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S136	Memorial Acclamation	363
	The Lord’s Prayer	364
	Breaking of the Bread	
S152	Fraction Anthem	
	Communion Hymns:	
325	<i>“Let Us Break Bread Together”</i>	
509	<i>“Spirit Devine, attend our Prayers”</i>	
609	<i>“Where cross the crowded ways”</i>	
	Post Communion Prayer	365
	Blessing	
	Announcements	
550	Closing Hymn: <i>“Jesus Calls us o’er the Tumult” (vs I &amp; IV)</i>	
	Dismissal	

**Save the Date on Upcoming Events**

**CHOIR PRACTICE:**

Wednesdays @ 10:00 am

**HEALING SERVECES:**

Thursdays @ 10:00 am

**ORDER OF ST. LUKE:**

2nd Thursday of each month after Healing Service

**PINELAND SYMPHONIC BAND:**

Fridays @ 9:30 am (practice)

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:**

Pick up a shoebox on the table in the Narthex.

**VESTRY MEETING:**

Monday, September 27th (and is held on the 4th Monday of each month)

**ST. FRANCIS DAY, BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS:**

Monday, October 4th after our 10:00 am Service.

**CROPWALK:**

Sunday Oct, 17th 1:30PM at St. Stephen's, walkers needed  
for info See *Stefanie Rotsaert*

**BOSCOV’S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS:**

Wednesday October 20th at Store, Coupons for sale at \$5 each

**25th ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE BIKES:**

Saturday, October 23rd, 12-4pm, Blessing will be at 2:00 pm Rain or Shine



FATHER PAUL  
WELCOMES YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR  
25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
*BLESSING OF THE BIKES*  
**SATURDAY OCTOBER 23<sup>RD</sup>**  
**2021**

**HOURS 12 TO 4 RAIN OR SHINE**

BIKES WILL BE BLESSED AT 2 pm

BY: *FATHER PAUL VAN SANT*

Donation \$15 per person

Proceeds to benefit St. Stephen's Ministry

**NO CHARGE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 10**

Ticket price includes Pork, Barbeque, Non-Alcoholic  
Beverages, Family's Welcome, Trophies

**There will be a Bike Show for Best Bike at the Blessing  
Our Address is**

**ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH**

***180 RT 539, WHITING, NJ 08759***

For info on where to purchase tickets & directions call the Church at:

**732-350-2121** (Mon-Thurs 10am to 2pm)

or e-mail us at [ssechurch@gmail.com](mailto:ssechurch@gmail.com)

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Proper 21**

**September 26, 2021  
8&10:15am**

**Collect of the Day**

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**First Reading**

*Book of Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22*

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. And on the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; for our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king." Then King Ahasu-e'rus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, that would presume to do this?" And Esther said, "A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!" Then Haman was in terror before the king and the queen. Then said Harbo'na, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, "Moreover, the gallows which Haman has prepared for Mor'decai, whose word saved the king, is standing in Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows which he had prepared for Mor'decai. Then the anger of the king abated. And Mor'decai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasu-e'rus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same, year by year, as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending choice portions to one another and gifts to the poor.

## Psalm 124

- 1 If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD! \*  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.



**CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE** ~ sells well to groups meeting at our church. Now accepting **Winter** clothes **ONLY** in **TOP** condition, (clean, with no missing buttons, tears or stains). Also, continue to use the **FOUR BINS** in our parking lot for *out of season clothing, all men's wear*, and other items. Our Summer clothes are now on clearance sale. We are very appreciative of your kind donations to, and purchases from, this fundraising project.

**ST. STEPHEN'S PRAYER CHAIN** ~is in need of additional members. The Prayer Chain is a dedicated group of parishioners who will pray for any who are in need. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Greta Pearl at 732-350-7584 for details. Greta is the contact when placing, on the Prayer Chain, your name or the names of family, neighbors, or friends who would like prayers for healing, comfort, or any other purpose.

**CARE GIVERS VOLUNTEERS** ~JoAnn Smithson is the Congregational Coordinator for Care Givers Volunteers here at St. Stephen's. Please continue to use the mailbox in the Office to put in your hours. JoAnn's phone number is 609/268-0821.

### **COFFEE HOUR**

A new coffee hour sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. If you would like to share fruit, sandwiches, quiche, baked goods, sign up and help us. Everyone is so grateful for your help. It is also nice to chat after the services. Any questions, contact Stefanie.

Thank you.

*Stefanie Rotsaert (732) 350-2904*



## YOUR PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING

Prayerfully consider making an endowment gift to St. Stephen's as part of your estate plan.

## RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Thank you to all who have donated. There are parishioners as well as other members in our community who benefit greatly from this valued fund. If you wish to contribute, please use the basket on the back table for donations



## OSL SERVICE

The Order of St. Luke Healing Ministry will return on the second Thursday of each month, as well as, October 14, November 11, and December 9, 2021. With the return of OSL, healing prayers will be more available to people, our studies, and readings will continue, and we can plan our next Healing Mission for 2022. There are so many items to share!



## Prayer to send out LEMs with the Sacrament:

**Celebrant:** N. we send you out to share Communion this week with those who have been entrusted to your care.

**People:** May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this

Sacrament of Christ's presence.

**Celebrant:** Continues with a closing prayer.

## ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNION SERVICES

The Pines	1st Sunday of each month	at 9:30 am
The Arbors	2nd Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm
The Pines	3rd Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm

## Second Reading

*Letter of James 5:13-20*

Is any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. Eli'jah was a man of like nature with ourselves and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit. My brethren, if any one among you wanders from the truth and some one brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

## Holy Gospel

*Mark 9:38-50*

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him; for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon after to speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is for us. For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ, will by no means lose his reward. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung round his neck and he were thrown into the sea. And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. \* [No text] And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched. For every one will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

## Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

In today's Gospel reading, the disciples complain about someone (who was not part of their group) casting out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus' response is that the man should not be stopped, for "whoever is not against us is for us." The importance of the ministry of every person, rather than just the ministry of disciples or clergy or church members, is so great, that to despise other ministries is to risk personal disaster. If pride in our own ministry is getting in the way, cut off that pride.

The first reading today is from the section of the Hebrews known as "The Writings." In Jewish practice, the little book of Esther is read on the feast of Purim. While there is little of religious value in this book (God is never mentioned), it gives us a story of a heroic Jewish woman who uses her wiles to save the Jews living in Persia from genocide. When read in synagogue, everyone rattles noise makers and makes rude sounds each time wicked Haman is mentioned.

We continue to read from the Letter of James for our second lesson. Here James give some pastoral advice to the elders (the Greek word is "presbyters," the origin of the term "priest" in the Christian church). The leaders are to minister to the sick, anointing them with laying on of hands and prayer. James reminds us that the prayers of faithful people are the source of God's power.

Our ordained leaders are not the sole ministers of Christ; rather, they model the ministry we are all to perform. In our baptism, we are set apart as ministers of Christ who share in his royal priesthood. It is in that ministry, especially to the poor, oppressed, and dying, that we find God present to us in the lives of those for whom we care. Our ministry is expressed in our liturgical actions, and the Eucharist is the model for our daily living and for the nature of God's Kingdom.

*From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year.*

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## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 21

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	JoAnn Smithson
LEM 8:00 am	Richard Smithson
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Mary Storey, Debbie Fisher, Dave Fisher
Ushers 8:00 am	Mary Storey, Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine
Lector 10:15 am	Susan Clarke
LEM 10:15 am	Stefanie Rostaert
Altar Guild 10:15 am	Valerie Thompson
Ushers 10:15 am	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson



### Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is given to  
The Glory of God  
**Sans Memorial**

### Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers are given to the  
Glory of God  
In Memory of  
**Kathleen Molnar**  
by her Mother Ruth

