# **The Witness**

Volume 28, Issue 8

**Welcoming Worshipping Working** 

August 2024

Episcopa

## Special points of interest:

### Sunday

8:00 AM Service 10:00 AM Service with coffee hour following the service

### **Monday**

8:30AM Prayers & Pastries at The Bridge Café—1074 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo

### Wednesday 12:15 PM Service



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## The "Welcoming" Part of Who We Are

By The Rev Ian M Delinger, Rector

A seemingly minor detail that would have had near-catastrophic public relations consequences for St Stephen's was prevented from ever seeing the light of day. It prompted several conversations, including one between the Junior Warden and me about our understanding of what it means to be "Welcoming". While we are friendly to all who show up, does "Welcoming" go beyond that? Can we be even more welcoming if we better understood the issues facing people who are not necessarily like us? Allow me to illustrate this with a story from the past.

This is how it was relayed to me, as I recall. When Nan Gascoigne became confined to a wheelchair, her husband Hal was unhappy that the ADA wheelchair ramp was in the back. He felt that it reduced Nan's dignity to have to enter through the back. So, at his own expense, he had the ramp to the main entrance constructed. Being able to enter the church through the front, in her wheelchair, restored and maintained Nan's dignity.

This is not the time or place to get mired into the background of the placing of the ADA ramp, or the challenges of access issues in a 150 -year-old building and buildings from the 1950s. More importantly, this story illustrates that, even if we welcome people with physical disabilities, there are more aspects to welcoming them than a friendly smile as they enter. We hadn't considered "maintaining dignity" as part of our Welcoming. Conversely, on two occasions this year, we have had conversations with those in wheelchairs ahead of time to help them feel more dignified when they wanted to join us for worship.

For simplicity, let's focus on the legally protected classes, which include, but are not limited to: age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, or any other bases under the law (for a full list of protected classes in California, see: <a href="www.senate.ca.gov/protected-classes">www.senate.ca.gov/protected-classes</a>).

What do we at St Stephen's need in our "Welcoming Toolkit" to be more welcoming? We asked ourselves that question in the conversation with the Junior Warden, but we didn't have an immediate answers. Then, a couple of weeks later, I was at a

(Continued on next page)

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presentation at the synagogue (by all accounts a very welcoming place) during which a member asked the speaker: How can we be more welcoming to our LGBTQ+ folks? The speaker rattled off the typical things like the Pride flag and an inclusivity statement. But then my epiphany came: She said that it's important to demonstrate your welcome by being in their spaces. Being in the spaces of those who are not like you (when invited) demonstrates that you are willing to welcome them on their terms, not just your terms. They see that you are a safe person in their space, which gives them the confidence that you will actually be welcoming to them in your own space. Being welcoming is not just about being friendly when they show up.

We are fortunate that, even though the Central Coast is not a metropolis (about 1.5 million in the Tri-Counties), there are numerous opportunities where we are invited into the spaces of those whose lives are different from ours:

- Veterans: Veterans' Day Community Celebration (Annual)
- AAPI: Lunar New Year Celebration (Annual)
- BIPOC: Diversity Coalition of SLO monthly webinars
- Gender Identity or Expression, Sexual Orientation: Numerous Pride activities (Annual)
- Ancestry: ak tit<sup>y</sup>u tit<sup>y</sup>u yak tiłhini, Northern Chumash Tribe Archeology Days
- HIV/AIDS: AIDS LifeCycle Episcopal Church Welcomes You into SLO County (Annual)
- Disabilities: Amp Surf on Saturdays enabling those with disabilities to surf

It could even be working harder on getting Rev Jen's pronouns correct and learning more about the importance of using correct pronouns. And so much more. And many of the organizations which represent different groups are looking for volunteers. It would boost St Stephen's visibility if you were to volunteer as a member of St Stephen's and not just as a private citizen. They then see St Stephen's as Welcoming!

Being in the spaces of others results in the most important aspect of being welcoming: having an understanding of the issues of others. I hear a lot of "Why don't they just ..." about whole groups of people. (We all do it!) If someone starts a sentence with "Why don't they just ...", they do not have any understanding of the issues of that group of people. It's usually followed with "That's what I did." It suggests that there is a need to spend some time with the people for whom you have such sage advice.

St Stephen's is welcoming, but we could be, and should endeavor to be more welcoming. Going into the spaces of others when invited, learning more about the issues facing groups of people, leads to a deeper understanding that we are each part of the Body that is made of *many members*. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. (1 Cor 12.14,26) And to paraphrase Matthew 18.5: if anyone welcomes one such person in my name, they welcome Jesus!

## Being More Relational

By Fr Ian

For Vestry meetings in 2024, the Vestry will reflect on how we can be more relational in our leadership of the parish. Each month we will reflect on a message from Jesus on how Jesus is calling us to be more relational.

For the June 9 meeting, we reflected on ways in which Jesus demonstrates or calls on us to be more relational as we share our Gifts of the Spirit in leadership and the idea of "Stay in Touch vs. Keep Informed" based on Matthew 24.36-44 – The Coming of the Son of Man.

# St Stephen's Day Celebrations: September 7 & 8! Join us, Being us!

Our patronal festival and Bishop's Visitation is nigh! The tagline of our Mission Statement is Welcoming – Worshiping – Working. That's us! So, come along, bring along others and join us, being us as we celebrate who we are as a Christian community and as a part of the wider San Luis Obispo Community!

Saturday, September 7 at 7pm – WORKING with music! A recital of some of the wonderful music sung by our choral scholars. In the sanctuary. Enter through the main doors of the church at the corner of Pismo & Nipomo Streets.

Sunday, September 8 at 8am and 10am – WORSHIPING! The Bishop of El Camino Real will lead our worship and formally welcome newcomers into the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement (the Church) through Confirmation and Reception. Our worship is open to all: Whoever you are, and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, St Stephen's welcomes you! In the sanctuary. Enter through the main doors of the church at the corner of Pismo & Nipomo Streets.

Sunday, September 8 at about 11.30am – WELCOMING with food, music and fun! Local artists will perform as we dine on end-of-summer BBQ fare. In the parking lot at 650 Pismo Street.

Whoever you are, and wherever you are, Join us, Being us!

For more information: office@ststephensslo.org

## The Italian Job

The rearrangement of the Gordon Gritter Library and the clear-out of Room 4/5 continued on July 18 when Eli Enney brought four of his Italian buddies to move two gigantic bookcases from the Library to Room 4/5. Due to ill timing on Fr Ian's part, the bookcases had the preschool children in awe and amazement as the bookcases

traversed the patio during their lunch. (Maybe it wasn't so ill-timed, based on the fixed attentions and big eyes of the children!) The boys also helped with a dump run, getting rid of some of the stuff cleared out of Room 4/5. A big thank you to Filippo Torricella, Alessandro Tansini, Eli Enney, Lorenzo Bolsi, Alessandro Sartori (L to R in photo). Thanks also goes to those who helped with the clear-out at various stages: Becky Moseley,



Gus Gibson, Rick Brady and Lee Hollister. As we get closer to making the rooms more usable, we need a couple of large area rugs and someone who likes to paint walls. See Fr Ian if any of that resonates with you.



## **Hands on Stewardship**

**Thank you to** Adele Butterfield, Bill Crewe, Kay Lewis, Kathleen Pennington and Elizabeth Potter for counting the collection and preparing the deposits during July. **Thank you to** Cheryl & Craig McCollum, Rosey & Skip Parks, Elizabeth Potter & Nancy Cook for hosting coffee hour in July.

**Thank you to** Ethan Stan and Spud Schroeder for taking the trash cans to the street for pick up each week.

Thank you to Gail Taylor, Nancy Deovlet, Elizabeth Potter and Cheryl McCollum who

fold, tape and label The Witness every month. **Thank you to** Stephanie Olsen for taking The Witness to the USPS Bulk Mail office every month.

**Thank you to** Elizabeth Potter for helping with the celebration cards.

**Thank you to** Clark Lewis, Cheryl & Craig McCollum for picking up the no cook bags to distribute to those in need. **Thank you to** Clark Lewis, Craig McCollum, Kathleen Pennington and Beau Parks for live streaming the Sunday Services.

**Thank you** for reading The Witness and watching the services at home.

## Fellowship Hour

Thanks to **Ryan Deovlet** who hosted the July Fellowship Hour and taught us all about winemaking in SLO County, and to **Nancy Deovlet** for being such a gracious host. Fellowship is the last Monday of the month at 5.30pm. You can host whatever you want, as long as it brings us together for fellowship.

### **Knit Love**

We've been given a donation of a few boxes of yarn. Now that may seem pretty useless to those of you who



don't knit or crochet, so if you're in that group don't bother reading further.
But if you find the rhythm of the needles is music for your soul, let's think of ways to put that yarn to good use. Contact Kathleen (kapennington@netscape.net)

### General Information

**The Witness** is a monthly newsletter published by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, San Luis Obispo, CA to provide information about the parish to the congregation. Subscriptions are free to anyone. Send request along with your name and mailing address to the church office. Donations to help offset distribution costs are appreciated.

Make checks payable to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Church's e-mail address is: office@ststephensslo.org

Contribution of articles is encouraged. Please e-mail submissions to witness@ststephensslo.org

The deadline for emailed submission of articles is the third Friday of the month. Email any questions to witness@ststephensslo.org

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POSTMASTER: Please send address corrections to: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1344 Nipomo Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3935

## **Donations**

If you would like to make a donation to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

You can scan this QR Code with your phone and be taken directly to our PayPal site or go to paypal.me/ ststephensslo



Scan. Pay. Go.



### Birthdays

Name	Date
Gina Hafemeister	August 19
George Gorrindo	August 25
Pam Myers	August 25
Carol Astaire	August 26
Kay Lewis	August 31
Anastasia Preston	August 31

### Anniversaries

Name	Date
Bob & Carol Misson	August 02
Lee & Lynn Hollister	August 29

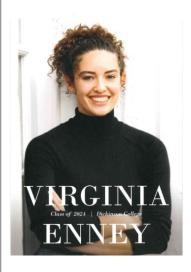
If you would like us to help you celebrate your special day, please reach out to the office to have you and your family members added to the list.

#### Email:

office@StStephensSLO.org, Phone: 805-543-7212 or drop a note: 1344 Nipomo Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



## Congratulations!



Congratulations to Virginia Enney, a proud graduate of Dickinson College's Class of 2024!

Virginia graduated Summa
Cum Laude with Honors,
earning a BA in International
Studies with minors in
Economics and Women,
Gender, and Sexuality
Studies. After a summer of
travel, she is excited to
embark on a journey of
service through nonprofit
work.

## August Fellowship Hour

Monday, August 26, 2024 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

As the weather warms, please join us for light refreshments and Bingo!

We will be asking the children to volunteer to help the "caller" with the bingo letters and numbers.

Gift certificates from local merchants will be awarded to the winners.

Come join us for frozen dessert, fun and fellowship as we get to know each other a little bit deeper.

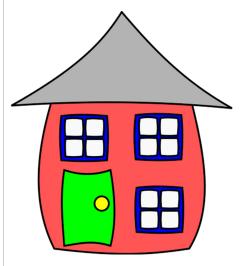
-Craig and Cheryl McCollum

### Who We Are

St Stephen's has its Mission Statement, but also an Inclusivity Statement, Values Statement and Land Acknowledgement. To remind ourselves who we purport to be, one of these statements will be printed in The Witness in July, August and September. All four statements can be found in our service booklets used in Sunday Worship, and on our website.

Values Statement: The Vestry adopts the following as a statement of essential parish values:

- A sense of community that includes our parish family but extends to the larger community of San Luis
   Obispo.
- A spirit of inclusion that reaches beyond a passive acceptance of difference to actively embrace what makes us each unique.
- A thirst for **spirituality** that believes in everyday things made holy by the sacred acts of creation, incarnation, and the continuing transformation of the sacraments;
- A practice of stewardship as "our personal response to God's generosity in the way we share our resources of time, talent, and money" (https://episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary/stewardship).



## **Sunday School Moving**

This past year Sunday School was held in half of the Children's Chapel while Grass Roots II used the other half of the room. Though the small space was a bit limiting, it worked out since the kids were mostly young and small. We're excited to be getting a new, larger home this fall! We'll be in "Rooms 4 & 5" which are at the end of the Education Building, just past "Grandmother's House Children's Center" and across from the back entrance to the Parish Hall.

Over the summer many people in the church worked hard at clearing out and cleaning up a larger space that has been used for many different things. In fact, it had been a Sunday School room a couple of times in the past. It's also been a meeting room for various groups, a gathering place, called "The Shire" for college students and most recently storing things nobody was using.

The children's altar, which was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Belcher in memory of their daughter Melissa Ann Belcher (1952-1957) and dedicated by Bishop James A. Pike, will be moving with us, as well as many books and lesson and craft materials that were stored away while we were in the smaller space. The larger space also gives us room to grow as the children grow, and could be arranged in a way to hold separate classes for young children and older children.

## Opening Doors Of Interfaith Understanding

When: Monday, August 12 at 7PM in person and by ZOOM Where: First Presbyterian Church SLO, 981 Marsh St, SLO

We are so fortunate to have the Imam from Santa Barbara, Wael Hegazy, Ph.D presenting the book "What Everyone Needs to Know About Islam" by John Esposito

Rich Carsel speaking on "The Nine Questions People Ask About Judaism".

Looking forward to seeing you! Rev. Luanne Griguoli

Topic: Opening Doors of Interfaith Understanding Time: Aug 12, 2024 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85923862811? pwd=ZoGVHGLft46PHIkFkkmiGwQJwv9h2g.1

Meeting ID: 859 2386 2811 Passcode: 478723



Take the helmet of salvation.

and the sword of the Spirit.

which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:17

### **Coffee Hour Hosts**

Can you smell the coffee wafting through the parish hall?

Volunteers, ask a friend to help prepare coffee and tea for our gatherings. The sign up sheet has openings!

Thank you to all who volunteer!

# Donations for **People's Kitchen Needed**

For many years St. Stephen's has prepared and served meals at 40 Prado every 4th Wednesday of the month. Not surprisingly, costs for ingredients continue to go up.

To donate to help pay the cost of providing these meals, write "People's Kitchen" on the memo line of your check made out to St. Stephen's, or on a note with a cash donation and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1344 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. THANK YOU!

## Flowers & Candle Donations

Each Sunday of the year the Altar Guild supplies flowers (or greenery) and candle oil for the Sunday services. If you would like to dedicate flowers or

candles in thanksgiving, in celebration or in memory of your loved ones let us know. Sign up is in Ramsden Hall, drop a note in the offering plate with your donation or reach out to the office



## **Our mission**

To ensure that our community is a place of refuge and safety for refugee families as they start over; we operate with compassion, integrity, and inclusion.

Changing Lives...One Car at a Time. Morro Bay Lions Club, in collaboration with Bill Todd, of Todd's Garage in Morro Bay donated a car for the Afghan family.

## Our goal

To raise \$600,000 to settle ten families in SLO County. So far, we've welcomed the first two families. We aim to settle additional families every 4-6 weeks.

### How you can help:

Thanks to a generous gift from Rick Stollmeyer, your donation will be matched – up to \$300,000 – doubling your impact and bringing us closer, faster, to our goal. Be the change you want to see!

### What we do

Ease the transition of families into their new life, through a coordinated network of volunteer committees, among them:

- Housing
- Employment
- Culture and hospitality
- Education
- Health
- Transportation
- Fundraising

## **Board of Directors**

Vance Rodgers, M.D. – President Katie Lichtig – Vice President David Acosta – Treasurer Lauren Brown, Ph.D. – Secretary Susan Dressler, Ed.D – Director Julia Jones – Director Kathleen Minck – Director Ahmad Nooristani, M.D. – Director

## Support today

## You can be a lifeline for refugee families in need.

While the immediate focus is on refugees from Afghanistan, SLO4Home is working to ensure San Luis Obispo will be a supportive new home for families fleeing unimaginable circumstances around the world in the coming years. We cannot do this without your help.

### Who we are

In October 2021, a broad coalition of religious organizations, veteran and active duty military members, and community activists came together to launch a new nonprofit to help refugees establish new lives and livelihoods on the Central Coast. 160 volunteers. 400 donors.

### In just a few short months, we have:

- Grown to 160 active volunteers
- Formalized our partnership with Church World Services (CWS), a governmentauthorized agency that has resettled refugees since World War II
- Welcomed two Afghan families to San Luis Obispo and one Syrian family to Santa Maria
- Been supported by more than 400 individual donors.

## How we're expanding



We are now forming a Santa Maria Co-Sponsor Team, to assist refugee families in this area to live out their lives in safety and prosperity. Are you

interested in becoming part of this effort? If so, please contact SLO4Home at <a href="mailto:info@slo4home.org">info@slo4home.org</a>.



Donations can be mailed to: Online at our website SLO4Home, Inc. SLO4Home.org
P. O. Box 3901

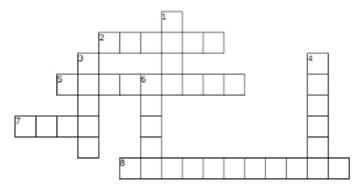
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

## The Armor of God

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13

Based on Ephesians 6:13-17





#### ACROSS

- A piece of metal carried to protect the front of the body
- 5. To deliver from the penalty of sin
- A flexible band of leather or cloth, worn around the waist
- A piece of armor that covers the breast

#### DOWN

- The body parts at the end of the legs
- Trust or confidence in God
- A hard hat that covers and protects the head
- A covering of metal, wood, or leather, worn to protect the body against weapons

	FAITH	HELMET	BREASTPLATE	ARMOR	
١	SHIELD	BELT	SALVATION	FEET	

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## Ephesians 6:13-17

<sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

# Time, Treasure, Talent Education

Unlike many churches in other denominations, St. Stephen's does not have a paid Youth Minister or a specific Education clergy.

#### **Time and Talent**

For our youth, we are deeply indebted to the kindness, energy, and generosity of volunteer Kathleen Pennington. She chooses the program most appropriate for our <u>Sunday School</u> each season based on the ages and abilities of the children attending. She then prepares each class session with stories, songs, games, and art projects. She also prepares a simple snack for the children, which they look forward to eagerly.

Kathleen is supported by volunteers who usually take one Sunday a month, they include: Lynn Hollister, Elizabeth Potter, Jennifer Sayre, and Gail Taylor.

Kathleen also organizes, advertises, and runs the <u>Vacation Bible Camp</u> which takes place every summer for a week. For this she also has a long list of volunteers who help with registering, watching over, and feeding the many children who attend each year. 2024 "God's Garden" VBC is scheduled for July 29-August 2 and volunteers who have stepped forward at the time of this writing are: Alica Bisselle, Diana Kimball, Georgia Maggelet, Sarah Maggelet, Kathleen Pennington, Elizabeth Potter, River Steinberg and Gail Taylor. 2023 Volunteers were Alicia Bissell, Georgia Maggelet, Sarah Maggelet, Bernadette Monterosa, Moe Monterosa, Kathleen Pennington, Elizabeth Potter, Frances Robertson, Christa Stephoni, and Gail Taylor.



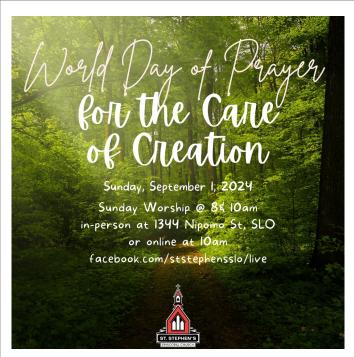
Kathleen Pennington and Hazel

Fr Ian has added <u>Adult Education</u> to his responsibilities. He prepares people for Confirmation, and is currently offering a Faith Formation Class on Monday evenings at 5:30 live and via zoom.

### **Treasure**

Not much of our budget goes to education. The written materials for the programs are purchased, but beyond that we are indebted to Kathleen and Fr Ian to add what is needed to present the classes.

For <u>Vacation Bible Camp</u>, treasure is needed to provide T-shirts, food, craft materials and supplies. Often there are also fees for professional presenters or program leaders. Most of those costs are covered by the fees families pay to enroll their children. There are usually a few families that can't afford the fees, so we offer scholarships, and we're very fortunate that members of our congregation make donations to fund those scholarships. In 2023 Bob & Mary McCorkle, Stephanie Sherman, Karen Siegfried and Dorothy Truesdale funded scholarships. Jim Gates has offered to fund scholarships this year. In 2023 other expenses were \$105.30 for snacks, \$75.98 for T-shirts and craft supplies, \$100 for the professional who wrote and directed the "play" and \$400 for the professional who brought reptiles for the children to learn about and touch. Expenses are likely to be similar this year.



# World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation: Sunday, September 1, 2024

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation kicks off the Season of Creation, a time of sustained prayer and action which lasts a month and four days. We live in a culture that values busy-ness and accomplishments. Following our Creator's call to "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10) humbles us. With prayer, we become open to God's guidance, inspiration, and calls to action. With prayer, God knits us closer together in community. Only by the grace and inspiration of God can hearts and minds transform. https://www.creationjustice.org/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation.html

Our worship on September 1 will reflect our role in Creation Care, and be a precursor to a more

encompassing worship experience later in the month. To learn more about Creation Ministries in The Episcopal Church: https://newcreationliturgies.org/seasonofcreation/

## From the Vestry

The Vestry meets on the 2nd Sunday of the Month to discuss the business affairs of the parish. Here are some highlights of the meeting on July 14, 2024:

- The Vestry approved replacing the toilets in the Office building. The new ones will be low flow. The work will be completed in August when the preschool is not in session.
- The Vestry will begin planning the Annual Giving Campaign for 2025 pledges at the August meeting.
- The details of a short, direct fund-raising campaign were developed in order to match the generosity of a dollar-for-dollar matching gift of \$20,000 to support the current year budget. The details will be rolled out to the congregation on July 21. It is hoped that pledgers will rollover the sum of their 2024 pledge and their matching gift when they pledge for 2025.

The next meeting is August 11, 2024. It will be a conversation meeting with updates on the various ministries of the parish. If you have an issue that you think should be addressed by the Vestry, please submit your request no less than 2 weeks before the next Vestry Meeting to the Rector or Wardens. All Vestry Meetings are open to members of the parish. Requests to speak can be made, approved on an individual basis. Executive Sessions are closed to Vestry members only, including the Clerk, Treasurer and Rector.





Welcoming Worshiping Working

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## **Bible Selections for August**

1st Reading Psalm 2nd Reading Gospel 4-Aug-24 11-Aug-24
Pent 11 - Proper 13B Pent 12 - Proper 14B

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2 Samuel 11.26-23.13a	2 Samuel 18.5-9,15,31-33
Psalm 51.1-13	Psalm 130
Ephesians 4.1-16	Ephesians 4.25-5.2
John 6.24-35	John 6.35,41-51

1st Reading Psalm 2nd Reading Gospel 

 18-Aug-24
 24-Aug-24

 Pent 13 - Proper 15B
 Pent 14 - Proper 16B

1 Kings 2.10-12,3.3-14	1 Kings 8.1,6,10-11,22-30,41-43
Psalm 111	Psalm 84
Ephesian 5.15-20	Ephesians 6.10-20
John 6.51-58	John 6.56-69