

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time September 3, 2023

Weekend Masses: Saturday (Vigil) 5:00 PM Sunday 8:30,11:00 AM and 7:00 PM* (Returns to 5:00 PM Sept 10*) Reconciliation: Friday: 9:15 AM & Saturday: 3:00-4:00 PM

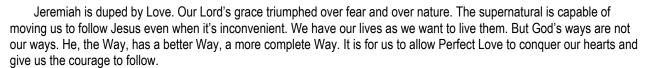
or by Appointment (Call Main Office)

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration - See pg 2

Parish Office (253) 631-1940 Faith Formation (253) 631-6175 13055 SE 192nd Street Renton, WA 98058 www.ststephenslife.com Listing of Parish Staff on the back inside page

Words from Fr. Ed

You duped me, O LORD, and I let myself be duped; you were too strong for me, and you triumphed. (Jeremiah 20:7)





We see in our Gospel how Peter, just after declaring Jesus the Son of God, now loses sight of Jesus' Way, the Way of the Cross.

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised.

Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you."

He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me.

You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Then Jesus said to his disciples,

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?

Or what can one give in exchange for his life?

For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory,
and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

- Mt 16:21-27

Following Jesus is not just a belief, but also actions that befit the Holy Spirit's guidance in our lives. Belief leads to love. We will be judged by our conduct. Luther's "faith alone" (sola fide) falls apart under the examination of Scripture. This is the same Scripture that Luther professed to be the sole source of revelation (sola scriptura). Of course, the principle of "sola scriptura" is not found in Scripture!

The Sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Orders), however, give us Jesus, fulfilling His promise to be with us always. In the Sacraments we come under His Spirit of Love that can dupe us, leading us into a life of discipleship and apostleship. We need the Holy Spirit to deliver us from an otherwise natural life lived under the governance of a wounded nature. God desires more for us. Thus, He places Himself within us. Jeremiah continues:

I say to myself, I will not mention him,
I will speak in his name no more.
But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones;
I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.

The power and love of God compels us. How do we **dispose** ourselves to receive such **graces**? Bl. Dom Columba writes:

I have only one piece of advice to give to help you to increase your love for God: compel yourself, but in a spirit of peace and without any exhaustion of soul, to bring to every action as pure and as definite an intention as possible; "that the name of God may be sanctified, that His Kingdom may come, that His will may be done". In this way, says the Apostle, your conduct will be worthy of the Lord and capable of pleasing Him in all things: all your good works will bear fruit. (Col 1:10)



Weekly Readings

September 3 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

September 4 Monday of the 22nd Week in Ordinary Time 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 11-13; Lk 4:16-30

September 5 Tuesday of the 22nd Week in Ordinary Time 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37

September 6 Wednesday of the 22nd Week in Ordinary Time Col1:1-8; Ps 52:10-11; Lk 4:38-44

September 7 Thursday of the 22nd Week in Ordinary Time Col 1:9-14: Ps 98:2-6; Lk 5:1-11

September 8 Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6abc; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

September 9 Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8; Lk 6:1-5

September 10 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Ez 33:7-9; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

Parish Calendar

Sunday September 3

8:30 am – 9:30 am Mass (live-streamed)

11:00 am -12:15 pm **Mass**

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Mass (Returns to 5:00 PM on Sept. 10)

Monday September 4

9:00 am – 9:30 am Darling Dusters

10:00 am – 11:45 am Food Bank (drive by only) 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm **Mass** (live-streamed)

Tuesday September 5

6:30 pm - 7:15 pm Mass (live-streamed)

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Apologetics

Wednesday September 6

8:00 am – 12:00 pm Campus Crew 10:00 am – 10:45 am Rosary Group

4:00 pm – 5:45 pm 6:30 pm – 6:45 pm Food Bank (drive by only) **Mass** (live-streamed)

7:15 pm – 7:45 pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm Young Adult Group 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm Adoration & Reconciliation

Thursday September 7

8:30 am – 9:30 am 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Encounter Ministry

7:00 pm - 7:30 pm Precious Blood of Jesus devotion

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Knights of Columbus

Friday September 8

6:30 am –7:30 am Men's Prayer/Reflection (Doors open at 6:15)

8:30 am – 9:30 am 9:00 am – 10:00 am 10:00 am – 11:45 am

Mass (live-streamed) Sacrament of Reconciliation Food Bank (Drive by only)

Saturday September 9

7:30 am – 8:30 am 8:30 am – 9:30 am 9:15 am – 10:45 am 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Exodus 90 in Social Hall

Mass (live-streamed)

Blessing of Sacramentals

Sacrament of Reconciliation

5:00 pm - 6:15 pm **Vigil Mass**

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Saturday Night Social

Parish Financials - Included are last weekend's collection, the week- end before, and the fiscal year to date through the last full month.

Weekly Collections			
	Aug 19 & Aug 20 2023	Aug 12 & Aug 13 2023	FY To date July 1 2023-June 30 2024
Collections-actual	15,433	17,169	79,544
Collections-Budget	31,602	14,747	74,752
Variance	(16,169)	2,422	4,792
*EFT-Actual	8,434	8,274	42,518
*EFT-Budget	9,192	8,358	37,981
Variance	(758)	(84)	4,537
Total Collections Variance	(16,927)	2,338	9,329

*EFT= Electronic Funds Transfer (Online Collections) New Fiscal Year began 7/01/2023



Share your Gifts and Talents at St. Stephen's

Here are a few needs at our parish. Contact Beth Nieva for more information (253-480-7105, bnieva@ststephenslife.com).

Screen Operator - Once a month run the screens at the Saturday 5 PM Mass or Sunday 8:30 AM Mass. Ideal candidates are comfortable using a PC, attentive to the action of the liturgy, able to confidently "go with the flow."

Collection Counters - Monday mornings a fun team counts the weekend collections. If you are proficient with 10-key and like numbers, we need you. Contact dblakey@ststephenslife.com

Eucharistic Minster to the Homebound - Sunday morning Communion is brought to the residents at Benson Rehab and the Chateau. If you assist with this valuable opportunity please contact Marijean at mheautmaker@ststephenslife.com

Food Bank - Helpers needed to unpack and pack large orders of Food on Thursdays.

Maui Relief The USCCB currently recommends two opportunities to donate to Maui wildfire relief efforts. The Hawaii Catholic community foundation, tinyurl.com/MauiCatholic and Catholic charities Hawaii, catholiccharitieshawaii.org/maui-relief.



Adoration Invitation

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Stephen's is now perpetual!

- Jesus is exposed daily from midnight to midnight
- No adoration during regularly scheduled Masses
- To sign up or for more information: visit the website: https://ststephenslife.com/eucharistic-

adoration or visit the adoration table in the Narthex after Mass. All hours have room for more adorers. Call one of the coordinators: Tina (206) 715-8462 or Bernie (206) 427-6085

Liturgy of the Hours https://ststephenslife.com/holy-mass-live-stream

Mon - Fri 6:30 -7:30 AM Holy Hour, Office of Reading Morning Prayer

Mon - Fri 12:00 PM Angelus
Mon - Fri 3:00 PM Divine Mercy
Mon - Fri 5:30 PM Evening Prayer
Sat - Sun 7:30 PM Evening Prayer

Faith Formation Programs



Registration is Open for Fall Classes!

Grow closer to Jesus, meet new families, make new friends!

Children and Families (K-5th Grade)

This year, we provide onsite classes, family learning & activities, family Mass, and at-home learning. On-site classes are once/month on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30pm. We're also adding community nights for families (all parish) on Friday nights!

If you're interested in **First Sacraments (Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist)**, follow the link to our webpage. The program will be the same as above, plus more! There are prerequisites for First Sacraments and you will use a different registration form. (Our website will guide you.) To learn more and register, visit: https://ststephenslife.com/elementary-programs

Teens (6th-8th Grade)

Get ready for a great year! Teens sign up for **EDGE** (6th-8th) or **LIFE TEEN** (9th-12th). **Both programs** will be on Sundays, trading off every other week. (Look for a new kind of schedule.) We have a lot of fun things planned, and we're ready to help you know our Lord, walking out your faith in you heart and with your friends! Once a month, we'll host an awesome night for – and with – your parents. (Last year, these nights were so good!)

If you're interested in **Confirmation**, request it on your registration when you sign up for EDGE or Life Teen. (These programs are required to be part of Confirmation.) Whether you're "All-In" or "Just Watching to See How Things Go," be sure to register so you don't miss out!

To learn more and register, go to our webpages: For **EDGE** visit https://ststephenslife.com/edge. For **LIFE TEEN** visit https://ststephenslife.com/life-nights).

Calling All Teens: Youth Ministry Kick-Off Sunday September 17th*

Join us for the official launch of the Edge and Life Teen Youth Groups Sunday, September 10th, immediately following the 5:00 pm Mass. All 6-12th grade teens are welcome, and bring many friends! *Note: this date is a correction.



Baptism Classes In-person classes to prepare for

Infant Baptism are now available. Pre-registration is required to attend. Class size will be limited, and you must have proof of pre-registration to be admitted. Please, only 2 parents, baby, 2 godparents (5 total) per family. Pre-register by calling (253) 480-7106 or emailing Ellen Golden at eqolden@ststephenslife.com.



St Stephen's Hosts Encounter School of Ministry Encounter School of Ministry draws from the richness of our Catholic heritage as we seek to teach, equip, and activate disciples to demonstrate the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in their spheres of influence. Register now for the Seattle Campus (at St Stephen's) 2023-2024 school year! Wondering if this is for you? the first three classes are open to all (Sept. 14, 21, 28).



Grief Ministry - If you are grieving the death of a loved one, come find strength and compassion with the St. Stephen's Grief Support Meeting on Sunday, September 17th at 1:00pm. The meeting will be held in the Chapel as well as on Zoom. Our topic will be "Stages and Tasks of Successful Grieving" and "The Anger Within". For more information and to register, please contact Sharon Rasmussen at srasmussen910@yahoo.com. "God, the Father of compassion encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may encourage those who are in affliction." 2 Corinthians 1: 2, 3



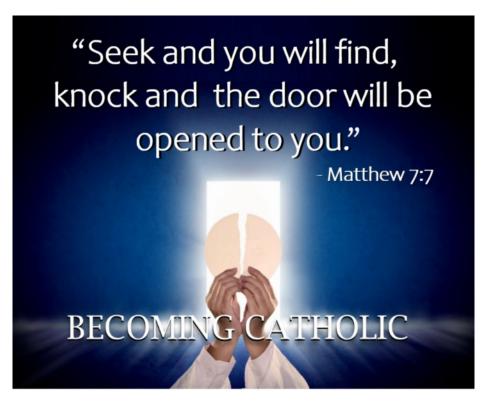
Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Etienne All are encouraged to read Archbishop's Etienne's latest pastoral letter on Partners in the Gospel. Click the image to view the PDF at https://archseattle.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Pastoral-Letter-Partners-in-the-Gospel English.pdf

September Events for Life

September 1st, First Friday - Respect Life Ministries Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm in the church Sanctuary. Please mark you calendar.

September 14th, 2nd Thursday - Respect Life Ministry Meeting 7:00pm in the Office conference room. Please come to see how you can stand for life.

September 1st - 30th - Standing vigil at Cedar River is on hold since they are not in the building, and supposedly have moved to an an undisclosed place.



Wondering about Becoming a Catholic Christian?

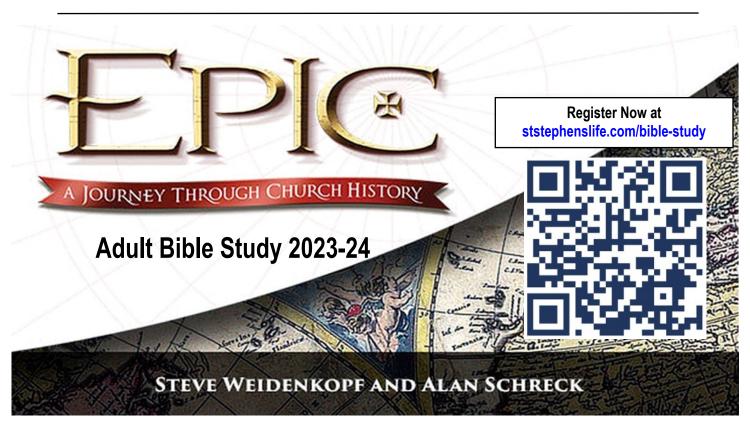
Do You Know Someone Who Might Be Interested in Becoming a Catholic Christian?

Join Us for Inquiry Sessions Starting Tuesday, September 19th, 7:00-9:00 PM in the Social Hall

Inquiry Sessions are the first step in RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). These Sessions are for adults interested in exploring the Catholic Faith in a non-judgmental atmosphere, these include:

- Seeker and Inquirers who want to learn about the Catholic Faith, Traditions and Sacraments.
- Adults from other Faith Traditions who are interested in joining the Catholic Church.
- Baptized Adult Catholics who haven't received all their Sacraments.

For Information or Questions contact: Anne Merklin at AMerklin@ststephenslife.com or 253-480-7108 (126).



Adult Bible Study 2023-24 It's time to Register for Adult Bible Study! We have amazing materials and instructors, and an awesome community. There are 2 study sessions: Tuesdays at 9:20-11:30 a.m. and Tuesdays at 6:30-8:30 p.m. When you register, you'll choose your session. Come study with us - we'd love to meet you!

About our EPIC, a Journey through Church History (our study) Do you know your family history? The history of the Church is the story of our family. It is the epic story of our ancestors in the Faith – the heroic men and women who shaped civilization and spread the Gospel throughout the world. Knowing this story is crucial to our identity as Catholics. Just as we would uncover exciting and interesting stories of our ancestors through the study of our family genealogy, we can uncover our Catholic past through the study of Church history.



















September 3: Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time: Today, we hear Jesus say to us, "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." The challenge is to let go so God can lead us.

Faith Insights from Bishop Fulton Sheen - Creation: Because God is full of life, I imagine each morning Almighty God says to the sun, "Do it again", and every evening to the moon and the stars, "Do it again", and every spring time to the daisies, "Do it again, and every time a child is born into the world asking for a curtain call, that the heart of the God might once more ring out in the heart of the babe.

Darling Dusters - We Need Your Help! The Darling Dusters, who serve the church by helping to keep it neat and tidy, need more helpers. Please join us for an hour on Mondays, starting at 9 am. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please call Betty in the church office (253-631-1940).

St. Stephen Housing Association is gearing up for its November 4th Wine Tasting and Auction Fundraiser "HOPE FOR HOUSING". We are looking for auction items, such as tickets to events, rounds of golf, and restaurant and spa gift certificates, or brand new items you've just never used, just to name a few. Or if you love to make gift baskets and would like to make one for the auction, we would be thrilled! Do you have a skill you would be willing to donate that could be auctioned off? If you have something to donate that could be used in our auction to raise money for homeless families, we would love to talk to you! Please contact us at 253-638-9798 or SSHAfundraiser@gmail.com. Thank you!

New Altar Server Training Saturday, September 9, at 10AM in the Church Interested children and teens who have received First Communion are invited to attend. Adults may attend who are available to serve at daily Masses or who are interested in becoming mentors to teach and encourage our young people. please email jstewart@ststephenslife.comwith questions or to RSVP for training.

Lector Workshop - Interested in becoming a lector? Join our team for a workshop on proclaiming the Word boldly: Saturday, September 16 from 9:45 until noon. For more information on the event, the ministry, or to RSVP please email <code>jstewart@ststephenslife.com</code>.

Our Lady of La Vang Celebration September 10th

A wonderful event put on by the Vietnamese community of St. Stephen, we would like to **invite everyone** to join the Blessed Lady of La Vang festivities in honor of our Blessed Virgin Mother. Rosary & Procession outside around the church starting at 10 AM. Holy Mass inside in the church at 11:00 AM. Reception in the Social Hall: Children dance performance and Food

We would also like to **invite all children to join the procession flower dance** for our Blessed Virgin Mother. If you have children from 5 years old and up (both Boys and Girls) who are interested in joining this wonderful event. Dance practice schedules as follows: Thurs 8/17, 8/24, 8/31, 9/7 from 5:30 to 7pm, Rehearsal: 9/9 from 3 to 5pm. Please contact Quyen Ho at (206) 858-3870 or email: Quyenho6and4@gmail.com.

Food will be provided by the Vietnamese community. Please feel free to bring your favorite desserts and fruits to share with others. Please contact Monica Schwarz at monicas001@yahoo.com or Phuong Truong at phuong.truong@gmail.com and let them know what you will be bringing.



St Anthony School

Now Enrolling: St. Anthony School - Are you interested in your child receiving a mission-based, community-focused Catholic education? For nearly 100 years, St. Anthony School has educated the whole child to better the world and serve others. We still have spot available in all grades for this upcoming school year, 2023-2024 and will continue to register through fall. Please visit our website at www.sasr.org or email Jean Dang at dang@sasr.org to set up a school tour or to learn more info.

St. Anthony School in Renton is looking to hire teacher for 3rd grade. If you would like to inquire about this open position please email your resume to Deacon Michael at cantu@sasr.org.

Women's Guild

Meeting Reminder! St. Stephen's Women's Guild will meet on Wednesday, September 13, at 10:00 am.

Parish Information

New to St. Stephen's? Welcome! Learn more about our vibrant community by visiting our web site at www.ststephenslife.com. Registration forms are online or may be obtained from the ushers and put in the collection basket or mailed in. **Bulletin Notices:** The **content deadline is 12:00 PM on the Friday** a week before the weekend you wish it to appear (8 days in advance). Notices about parish events or items of interest to the parish are welcome, however posting cannot be guaranteed. Email notices to: oursule.com.

Main Office Phone: TEL 253-631-1940 / FAX 425-255-2943 Ten digit phone numbers listed below are direct lines.

Pastor	Fr. Edward G. White	For Fr. Ed contact his assistant, Betty Mencke 253-480-7103 (100)	
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Robert Antony	253-480-7111 (132)	FatherRobert@ststephenslife.com
Deacon	Dec. Carl Chilo		sstmdeaconcarlchilo@gmail.com
Deacon	Dec. Sonny Ungco		sonny.ungco@gmail.com
Deacon	Dec.lke Tarabi		ike.tarabi@outlook.com
Director of Parish Operations	Tom Jones	253-480-7114 (103)	tjones@ststephenslife.com
Pastoral Associate	Anne Merklin	253-480-7108 (126)	AMerklin@ststephenslife.com
Pastoral Assistant for Outreach	Darlene Simpson	253-480-7121 (127)	Dsimpson@ststephenslife.com
Outreach Ministry Assistant	Lisa Grigaliunas	253-480-7109	lgrigaliunas@ststephenslife.com
Office Manager/Pastor's Assistant	Betty Mencke	253-480-7103 (100)	bmencke@ststephenslife.com
Liturgy Coordinator	Janet Denby-Stewart	253-480-7115 (102)	JStewart@ststephenslife.com
Pastoral Care	Marijean Heutmaker	253-480-7116 (106)	Mheutmaker@ststephenslife.com
Bookkeeper	Debbie Blakely	253-480-7113 (101)	DBlakely@ststephenslife.com
Facilities & Parish Life Coordinator	Kim Anderson	253-480-7120 (129)	KAnderson@ststephenslife.com
Director of Faith Formation	Shannon Battles	253-480-7112 (114)	SBattles@ststephenslife.com
Youth Ministry	Michael Joseph	253-480-7110 (113)	mjoseph@ststephenslife.com
Young Adult Ministry/Talents Ministry	Beth Nieva	253-480-7105 (123)	bnieva@ststephenslife.com
Evangelization & Communications	Bill Swedberg	253-480-7107 (121)	bswedberg@ststephenslife.com
Marriage & Child Baptism Prep	Ellen Golden		
Faith Formation Support Coordinator	Maria Trejo	253-631-6175 (115)	MTrejo@ststephenslife.com
Choir Director	Nina DeJesus	253-236-2882 (137)	ndejesus@ststephenslife.com
St Stephen Housing Association		253-480-7122	office@ststephenhousing.org
SVDP Help-Line		206-767-6449	
Lead Custodian	Luke Sanchez		Lsanchez@ststephenslife.com

Marriage: Couples seeking Marriage must contact the church 9 months before their wedding date. Some preparation and Parish Registration are required before a date can be set. Contact See contact information above to reach a Staff person for Marriage or Baptism. **Annulments:** (for those who are divorced): For compassionate and confidential answers to your questions and for help through the annulment

Baptism: Preparation and Parish Registration are required for both Parents and Godparents/Sponsors. Baptisms are held monthly. Contact the Faith Formation Office for details (253-631-6175).

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) For adults desiring to become Catholic, including those needing baptism. Contact Anne Merklin 253-631-1940 ext 126. sstmassociate@gmail.com

process, please contact our parish Tribunal Advocate, Veronica Smith-Casem, at vsmithcasem@gmail.com or 425-301-0356.

Praying For Sick

Renato Desiderio, Linda Marie Parker, Grace Ragonesi, Kelley Chaves, Angelina Rivera, Leila Rivera-Abada, Jojo Castillo If you or a loved one would like to be included in the bulletin listing please contact Betty Mencke at 253-631-1940.

Recent Deaths

Joseph Marci, Adrian Perez, Walter Joseph Koczor, brother of Mary Kasprzyk, Terry Strom, Rose Heryla, Jim Steckler, Violeta Castaneda, Mary Claire Duncan and Adrian Abada, Robert Paulsen, Ingeborg Hoffman (Brier), Kay Boyle, sister of Mike Nolan

Serving in the Military

Captain Philip Clay, LT Luke Carpenter (deployed), Jack Cullers US, Zenaida Roth, Joey Buslon Poland, Pv. 2
Anthony Vogeler, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs

To add names to the box, please email ourbulletin@gmail.com, or contact Betty Mencke, 253-631-1940. To contact the Prayer Chain, please see Teresa Wright, at 425-255 0301 or teresa2pray@gmail.com

Rachel's Corner: Hope and Healing After Abortion The Lord sets prisoners free; the Lord gives sight to the blind. The Lord raises up those who are bowed down. - Psalm 146: 7-8. When thoughts come to your mind regarding the day you were involved in an abortion decision, do they make you feel blind to hope, entrapped in regret and burdened with shame? Call for a compassionate, confidential conversation, and be free again. Registering now for our Virtual Healing Series. English: (206) 920-6413 / Español: (206)-450-7814 Email projectrachel@ccsww.org Visit us at www.ccsww.org/projectrachel or www.facebook.com/projectrachelww Project Rachel is a program of Catholic Community Services. You are loved with an everlasting love!



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