

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Steven E. Harold      7100 Granville Avenue, Richmond, BC V6Y 1N8  
Associate Pastor: Rev. Wayne Zhang      Phone: 604-278-5766      Website: tlc-lcc.ca  
Youth Director: Ms. Samantha Neeb      Email: [tlcoffice@telus.net](mailto:tlcoffice@telus.net)  
President: Mr. Allen Schellenberg

### SERMON OUTLINE -- MAY 21, 2023

# If You Could Choose The Way to Die

*(Acts 7:58-60)*

**INTRODUCTION:** *If you could choose the way to die...*

## **I. STEPHEN STONED: WHAT A WAY TO DIE**

- A. The trial was a farce; the mob was loud and vicious
- B. He didn't deserve it
- C. His "crime" was standing up for Jesus in public

## **II. STANDING UP FOR JESUS TODAY BRINGS ATTACK**

- A. More Christians martyred in last 100 years than 2000 years previous
- B. Common people today at work & school & daily life

## **III. BUT – LOOK AT STEPHEN... WATCH HOW HE DIES**

- A. He looks to heaven & what does he see? (vv. 55-56)
- B. He sees Jesus at the Father's right hand (John 14:1-3)
- C. In the face of death (and attack) we look to Jesus
- D. Looking is not all he does; He testifies of Jesus
- E. We are called to do the same today

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#### IV. KEEP LOOKING HOW STEPHEN DIES...

- A. He looks, he testifies, **and** he trusts & forgives (vv. 59-60)
- B. Attacked or dying, **we** trust & forgive
- C. Stephen: loved by Jesus – **what a way to die!**
- D. These aren't easy days for Christians either
- E. But in life or in death we are the Lord's!

CONCLUSION: *So, if we could choose the way to die...*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Confirmation Sunday NEXT Week

Join us next Sunday, May 28, as we celebrate the Confirmation of (*private name*) at the 11:00am English Service.

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### AGM Follow-Up Motion NEXT Sunday, May 28

1. The minutes of the AGM are posted on the bulletin board. Copies are available in the church office.
  2. Further to our discussion at the AGM, a formal motion to reduce the mortgage by \$150,000, using available funds, should also be passed. To this end, **a formal vote will be held at the end of each fellowship's worship service on May 28th.** This will allow us more flexibility in negotiating a favourable interest rate prior to the end of the current term.
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### Help Needed

... New sign-up sheets are available for Usher and Coffee Service volunteers for July through December. Please consider helping to serve in either of these ways. We also still need some Coffee Service volunteers for the month of June.

Please see the yellow sign up sheets on the bulletin board by the stairs (and elevator).