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Taped for you to view anytime

Our Mission Statement

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community who worship
God in Christ, nurture people growing in faith,
serve others with acceptance and love,
invite people to share the joy of the spirit.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.

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Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30 am—2:30 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's

Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp

Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp

Music Director: Gary Roberts

Sunday School: Leslie Lapp

Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens

Custodian: John Hopping

Videographers: Kent Madsen & Barb Rice

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day.

(*) Asterisk means, "Please stand as you are able."

The Gathering

*Call to Worship

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: O radiant God, in the midst of fragile hopes and shattered dreams, you worked your brightest surprise—

C: The shining glory of the risen Christ.

P: Even now, you are birthing new hopes and prompting new dreams.

C: Our eyes are open wide—

P: Seeing your glory in the springtime blossoms,

C: Noticing that your blessing leaves a calm in our hearts,

P: And a patience in our voices,

C: Sensing your presence in the breaking of bread,

P: The comfort of a friend and the planting of a seed.

C: O radiant God, with songs of praise and hearts of gladness, we worship you as beams of joy and candles of hope!

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod News

"And things were going so well!" That's pretty much what our reaction/lament has been for the last 6 weeks while we've been sheltering-in-place here at Mt. Cross. Summer 2019 went super-well and saw 14% more campers than Summer 2018, and on March 16, the day the orders came down from our county health officer, our registration numbers for Summer 2020 were ahead of where we were last year. We were well on our way to hiring a terrific group of young adult camp counselors, and our fall calendar was quickly filling up with weekend retreats and rentals. Little did we know on March 16 that we would be just about a month away from making the incredibly difficult decision to cancel summer camp this year, that our rental calendar would look drastically different, and life in general would be upended.

What was an exciting time has turned into a time of disappointment and uncertainty, and a fair amount of worry. And we know we're not the only ones who have been affected adversely by this new COVID-19 reality and are wondering how to navigate through it.

For over 70 years, Mt. Cross has been in the business of changing lives, developing leaders, and helping kids and adults explore their faith. We plan to be around for another 70. Your Second Mile Support this month, in a year when our camp revenue is zero and our rental revenue is severely decreased, will help us ensure that we can continue providing profound experiences in God's creation for years to come. Thank you for your support of Mt. Cross! We are church together. We are stronger together. We will get through this together.

Blessings,

Rev. Sarah & Adam Erickson
Mt. Cross Executive Directors

I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
To help me over my weakest hour
Help me through the darkness thy face to see
Lead me, O Lord, lead me REFRAIN

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress
I am putting all my trust in thee
Lead me, O Lord, lead me REFRAIN

(continue)

I am lost If you take your hand from me
I am blind without thy light to see
Lord just always let me thy servant be
Lead me, O Lord, lead me REFRAIN

*Dismissal

P: Go in the power of the Spirit.
Proclaim the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer Concerns

Short Term: Healthcare workers, Robert Bartee & Family, Heather, Kevin, Family of Suzanne Duval, Vanessa, Rose, Shelly Barker & family, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Marlene Simmen, Kimberly & Danny, Lora Schraft Poulson, Doug Hahn, Michael, Kayla, Don, Lina, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Kyle, Esdras, Jackson, Joe, Pat, Riley, Shelby, Frank, Kaitlyn, Daniel, Ryder, Jenny, Abby, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim and Our Church Family.

Long Term: people of the Bahamas, The Sanders Family, Barbara & John Bartee, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Susan Anderson, Rick, Bobbie Erickson, Edna Lindquist, Richard C., Eric VonSchell, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Barry & Barbara, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Karin, Will, Chris, Pat Hubbard, Cathy, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today

*Opening Hymn

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing” #389

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now,
And touching ev'ry place and time.

In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,
Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
And lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
Can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
And find the way, the life, the truth,
Revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
Good news to this and ev'ry age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring
With joy, with justice, love, and praise.

*Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen
C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: The grace of our risen Savior,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C: **And also with you**

*Prayer of the Day

The Word of God

<u>First Reading</u>	Acts 7:55-60	Celebrate pg. 1
Read Responsively	Psalm 31:1-5; 15-16	Celebrate pg. 2
<u>Second Reading</u>	1 Peter 2:2-10	Celebrate pg. 2
* <u>Gospel Reading</u>	John 14:1-14	Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter. (*The Gospel is read*)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Message Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth” #735

**Mothering God, you gave me birth
In the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of ev’ry breath,
You are my rain, my wind, my sun.**

**Mothering Christ, you took my form,
Offering me your food of light,
Grain...of life, and grape of love,
Your very body for my peace.**

(continued)

*Communion Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen**

*Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray:
In this meal, O God, you have strengthened us by the risen life of your Son. Send us by your Spirit to live in peace with one another and to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: **Amen**

*Benediction

P: God, who raised Jesus from the dead,
Make you stand strong in faith.
C: **Amen. Alleluia!**

P: Jesus Christ, triumphant over the grave,
Make you bold to tell the good news.
C: **Amen. Alleluia!**

P: The Spirit of truth abide with you
And guide you into paths of service.
C: **Amen. Alleluia!**

*Closing Hymn

“Lead Me, Guide Me” Red #768

REFRAIN
**Lead me, guide me, along the way;
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord let me walk each day with thee
Lead me, O Lord, lead me**

(You may be seated)

Holy Communion

Communion Hymns

"I Received the Living God" Red #477

REFRAIN

**I received the living God,
and my heart is full of joy.
I received the living God,
and my heart is full of joy.**

- 1. **Jesus said: I am the bread kneaded long to give you life; you who will partake of me need not ever fear to die.** REFRAIN
- 2. **Jesus said: I am the way, and my Father longs for you; so I come to bring you home to be one with us a-new.** REFRAIN
- 3. **Jesus said: I am the truth; if you follow close to me, you will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.** REFRAIN
- 4. **Jesus said: I am the life far from whom no thing can grow, but receive this living bread, and my Spirit you shall know.** REFRAIN

The Sending

**Mothering Spirit, nurt'ring one,
In arms of patience hold me close,
So that in faith I root and grow
Until I flow'r, until I know**

**Mothering God, you gave me birth
In the bright morning of this world,
Creator, source of ev'ry breath,
You are my rain, my wind, my sun.**

Easter Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God,

**Who lights the dawn to chase away the darkness;
Who rolls away each stone of doubt;
Who surprises us with incredible gifts of family and friends,
silence and laughter;
Who raises us from sadness and despair
to the possibilities of blessing and joy.**

We believe in Jesus,

**Friend of the poor and searcher for the lost,
Who comes to us in our grief and longing, calls us by name
and sends us on the paths of peace to speak of an awesome
love that is not overcome by death.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

**The hidden partner, the gentle messenger of God,
Who fills our every breath with blessing;
Who guides us in the dark, beckons us to do good,
speaks to us in dream and image,
and watches over us with tender compassion.**

We believe in the church,

**An instrument of God in this present moment, striving for
justice, celebrating in joy, clawing at despair, living in hope,
praying for healing and forever proclaiming Good News of
God's persistent and redeeming love.**

The Communion Meal

* Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Offertory Prayer

P: Giver of life,

**C: We bring to your table what we have, gifts from you,
the one who makes all things new.
With these signs we bring ourselves,
that we may carry to the world
the love of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to God

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*Prayer of Preparation

P: We prepare our hearts to receive God's grace together now.

C: Generous God, you have given us so much. Give us one more thing. Give us thankful hearts because we know our hearts can turn hard and cold. We hold on when we should let go. We are clutching when we should be sharing. We are fearful instead of trusting in your everlasting care.

Open our hands and our hearts to the bounty of your love, which cares for the flowers of the fields, the birds in the air, each child who toddles, every parent who worries, every adult who struggles.

**Loving God, you have given us so much.
Give us again the assurance of your love and care,
and fill us with grateful hearts and open hands. Amen.**

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today, our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever. Amen**

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come for all is ready!