

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.

Reconciling in Christ Statement

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.

We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status.

We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us.

Our unity is in Christ.

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

2500 Soquel Avenue

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

831/476-4700 FAX 831/476-3918

email: office@ststephenslutheran.org

Web Address: www.ststephenslutheran.org

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 Directors: Gary Roberts

Sunday School: Leslie Lapp

Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens

Custodian: John Hopping

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

6th Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians and faiths 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 & questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate & sorrow, rejoice & recover. This is a place where lives are made new.

Welcome on this GLORIOUS day!

Instructions: Please fill out the enclosed orange "Worship Slip" and place it in the offering plate with your offering, as a sign of thanksgiving for all of God's blessings.

Prelude

The Gathering

*Call to Worship

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

P: Welcome to God's new day!

C: **Everywhere we look we see new life!**

P: Alleluia! Today is a new day!

C: **Alleluia! New life is within and among us!**

P: Today we are challenged to live fully in God's love!

C: **So we will greet one another in love, and praise the God who lifts us up in grace!**

P: Alleluia! Today is a new day!

C: **We come with the past behind us, and the future open!**

P: This is the day that the Lord has made!

C: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Krispa, Patsy, Zachary, Family of Al Mitchell, Jean Patterson, Frank Giammona, Heather, Kevin, Vanessa, Rose, Shelly Barker & family, Sam, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Lorraine Chavez, Lora Schraft Poulson, Nelleke, Kayla, Don, Lina, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Miller, Kyle, Noah, Esdras, Jackson, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim and Our Church Family. **Long Term:** Jan Wagner, The Sanders Family, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, John B., Michelle, Josh, CJ, Jeff Tarantino, 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.

May Special Offering

Thursday Bible Studies

Zoom with Pastor Jim
(check email on Weds. for link)
11am -12noon and 7:30 pm—8:30 pm

We will be looking at the upcoming scripture readings for Sunday, to enrich our worship experience and uncover some of the deeper truths of our faith. As we grow in our faith, we grow together in spirit and community.

Please call the church office at 476-4700
to offer flowers for worship.

Lift us to the joy divine!

*Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!



Postlude

Gary Roberts

Prayer Concerns

Short Term: Family of Jean Petersen, Family of Betty Kivlan, Bobbie Erickson, Lu Sluiter, Eugene Gross, Leslie Lapp and Family, Healthcare workers, teachers, Marla Meek and family, Kathy Allen and Family, Beth Stiles, Nancy and Sam, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Kent, Donna, Betsy, Tom, Anna,

*Opening Hymn

"All Are Welcome" Red #641

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

REFRAIN

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

REFRAIN

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

REFRAIN

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:

REFRAIN

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

REFRAIN

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

P: God of the empty tomb and abundant surprises, who announces new life in the face of death, dry our tears of grief and calm the anguish of our losses as we listen for amazing good news. Help us to find our identity in the person of Jesus Christ. Be to us a living presence, that the story of Easter may become our story, and we can embody its hope for the whole world.
C: **Amen.**

The Word of God

First Reading Acts 10:44-48 Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading 1 John 5: 9-17 Celebrate pg. 2

*Alleluia "Halle, Halle, Halelujah" Red #172

**Halle, halle, halle—lu-u-jah!
Halle, halle, halle—lu-u-jah!
Halle, halle, halle—lu-u-jah!
Halleujah! Halle-lu-jah!**

*Gospel Reading John 15: 9-17 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

C: **Glory to you. O God**

(The Gospel is read)

*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

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" Red #836

1. **Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
Praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.**
2. **All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in thee.**
3. **Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other,**

Communion Hymn

“Jesus Loves Me” Red #595

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.**

REFRAIN

**Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! He who died
heaven’s gates to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in.**

REFRAIN

**Jesus loves me! He will stay
close beside me all the way;
When at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high.** REFRAIN

The Sending

*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of the risen Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace now and
forever.

C: Amen

*Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray:

O God, you have brought us together in love through
this meal. You have strengthened us by the risen life of
Jesus Christ. 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

P: The Gospel of our Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth” Red #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, m 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.**

**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.**

REPEAT vs. 1

Installation of Church Council

Renee Rice, Robert Bartee, Alyssa Burkhardt,
Kent Madsen, Jay Johnston, Paul Cunningham,
Bill Schraft, Steven Hendrickson, Shelly Barker.

*The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

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 by confessing our sin and need of forgiveness:

**C: O God, our Creator, we celebrate the new life
Which you have given us.
We have experienced broken lives made whole,
Old wounds of alienation healed over,
And tired spirits rejuvenated with new vision.**

**Gracious God, we are so grateful for the purpose
And possibilities you have placed before us.
Yet there are times when doubt has overcome hope,
Cynicism has replaced dedication,
The worlds values have captured us more than yours.**

**Forgive for those times, we pray.
Help us let go of the past
That we might live joyfully into a new future
That points to your love and justice.
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!

Holy Communion

We have changed our practice in order to reflect our concern for the most vulnerable among us. Jesus often lifted up those who were most at risk in life as ones that we all need to care for lovingly. May this way of receiving draw us nearer to God's ways.

Please have your prepared elements ready to receive Holy Communion. Please commune yourself or a loved one with you with the words: "The Body of Christ given." and "The Blood of Christ shed."