

## **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 men-  
tal 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](mailto:office@ststephenslutheran.org)

Web Address: [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://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

## **Outdoor Worship Dates**

# Day of Pentecost

## May 23, 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

### \*Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity † one God,  
Full of compassion and mercy,  
Abounding in steadfast love,

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting God’s promise of forgiveness,  
Let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

P: Eternal God our creator,

**C: in you we live and move and have our being.**

**Look upon us, your children,**

**The work of your hands.**

**Forgive us all our offenses,**

**And cleanse us from proud thoughts & empty desires.**

Meek and family, Kathy Allen and Family, Beth Stiles, Nancy and Sam, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Kent, Donna, Betsy, Tom, Anna, Krispa, Patsy, Zachary, Family of Al Mitchell, Jean Patterson, Frank Giammona, Heather, Kevin, Vanessa, Rose, 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, 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.

## **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*

Here you heard my dear Son's story,  
here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

"Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you,  
here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude  
Gary Roberts

## May Special Offering Mt. Cross

### Prayer Concerns

**Short Term:** Family of Lu Sluiter, Family of Jean Petersen,  
Family of Betty Kievlan, Bobbie Erickson, Eugene Gross, Leslie Lapp and Family, Healthcare workers, teachers, Marla



**By your grace draw us near to you,  
Our refuge and our strength;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Since we are justified by faith,  
We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
God's love has been poured into our hearts  
Through the Holy Spirit given to us.  
In the mercy of almighty God,  
Christ died for us while we still were sinners;  
And for his sake, God † forgives you all your sins.

**C: Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn

*"O Day Full of Grace"* Red #627

**O day full of grace that now we  
see appearing on earth's horizon,  
Bring light from our God that we may be  
abundant in joy this season.  
God, shine for us now in this dark place;  
Your name on our hearts emblazon.**

**O day full of grace, O blessed time,  
our Lord on the earth arriving;  
Then came to the world that light sublime,  
great joy for us all retrieving;  
For Jesus all mortals did embrace,  
all shame and despair removing.**

**For Christ bore our sins, and not his  
Own, when he on the cross was hanging;  
And then he arose and moved the stone,  
That we, unto him belonging,  
Might join with angelic hosts to raise  
our voices in endless singing.**

**God came to us then at Pentecost,  
The Spirit new life revealing,  
And we might no more in death be lost,  
Its pow'r over us dispelling.  
This flame will the mark of sin efface**

**And bring to us all true healing.**

(hymn continued)

**When we on that final journey go  
That Christ is for us preparing,  
We'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,  
All joy of the heavens sharing,  
And there we will join God's endless praise,  
With angels and saints adoring.**

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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: Let us pray: .... now and forever. Celebrate p.1

**C: Amen.**

**The Word of God**

First Reading Acts 2:1-21 Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading Romans 8:22-27 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!**

\*Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray:

Jesus Christ, host of this meal,  
You have given us not only this bread and cup,  
But your very self, that we may feast on your great love.  
Filled again by these signs of your grace,  
May we hunger for your reign of justice,  
May we thirst for your way of peace,  
For you are Lord forevermore.

**C: Amen**

\*Blessing

P: May God, whose power working in us  
Can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,  
Grant you the gifts of faith and hope.  
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn

*"Go My Children, with My Blessing"*

Red #543

**"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with  
my blessing, you are my  
own."**

**"Go, my children, sins  
forgiven, at peace and  
pure.  
Here you learned how  
much I love you, what I  
can cure.**



munion. Please commune yourself or a loved one with you with the words: "The Body of Christ given." and "The Blood of Christ shed."

### Communion Hymn

"Loving Spirit" Red #397

**Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
You have chosen me to be  
You have drawn me to your wonder,  
You have set your sign on me.**

(hymn continued)

**Like a mother you enfold me,  
Hold my life within your own,  
Feed me with your very body,  
Form me of your flesh and bone.**

**Like a father you protect me,  
Teach me the discerning eye,  
Hoist me up upon your shoulder,  
Let me see the world from high.**

**Friend and lover, in our closeness  
I am known and held and blessed:  
In your promise is my comfort,  
In your presence I am rest.**

**Loving Spirit, loving Spirit,  
You have chosen me to be  
You have drawn me to your wonder,  
You have set your sign on me.**

## **The Sending**

### \*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion from Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace now and forever.

**C: Amen**

\*Gospel Reading John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John, the 15th chapter.

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

*(The Gospel is read)*

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

### \*Hymn of the Day

*"This Little Light of Mine"*

#677 Pastor Jim & guitar

## **Rite of Holy Baptism**

### **Miss Ila Mendoza**

### Apostles Creed

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**And he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Hol Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting.**

\*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: Merciful God,  
You open wide your hand  
And satisfy the need of every living thing.  
You have set this feast before us.  
Open our hands to receive it.  
Open our hearts to embrace it.  
Open our lives to live it.  
We pray this through Christ our Lord.

**C: 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.**

Eucharistic Prayer

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

\*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 Com-