

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

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

June 6, 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,

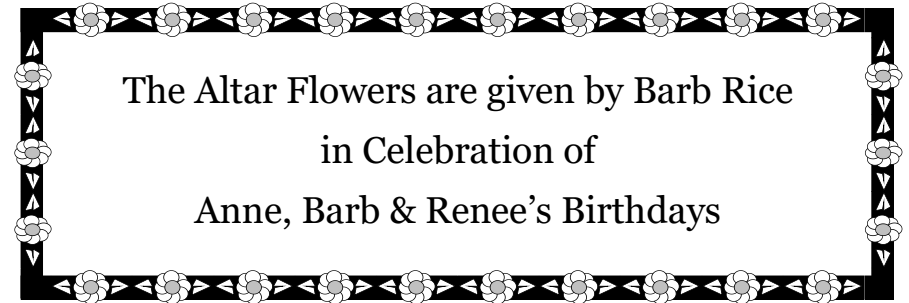
C: in you we live and move and have our being.

Look upon us, your children,

The work of your hands.

Forgive us all our offenses,

And cleanse us from proud thoughts & empty desires.



Habitat For Humanity Lunches

June 22

The 4th Tuesday of each month we provide lunch for the volunteers. Please call the office if you can bring sandwiches or fruit.

For more info See www.habitatmontereybay.org

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.

Outdoor Worship Dates



(Inclement weather cancels)

June 13th & 27th at 10am.

(2nd and 4th Sundays thereafter.)

Please remember to wear a mask or two, bring your own chair, or remain in your car. Holy Communion will be offered with pre-sealed cups and wafer.

**For all other Sundays, a recorded service on our Website is provided:
“www.ststephenslutheran.org”**

**We will resume indoor, in-person,
public worship services on
Sunday, September 12th at 10 a.m.**

(Subject to County Health Dept. Rules)

**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;
God † forgives you all your sins.

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“Creating God, Your Fingers Trace” #684

**Creating God, your fingers trace
the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light
and what lies hidden praise your might.**

**Sustaining God, your hands uphold
earth's mysteries known or yet untold;
let water's fragile blend with air,
enabling life, proclaim your care.**

**Redeeming God, your arms embrace
all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove,
make known on earth your healing love.**

**Indwelling God, your gospel claims
one family with a billion names;
let every life be touched by grace
until we praise you face to face.**

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 Genesis 3:8-15 Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm (chant responsively) Psalm 130 Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1 Celebrate pg. 3

*Gospel Acclamation "Halle, Halle, Halelujah" Red #172

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

*Gospel Reading Mark 3:20-35 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Mark the 3rd 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 "Let My Spirit Always Sing" #916

Let my spirit always sing, though my heart be wintering,
though the season of despair give no sign that you are there,
God to whom my days belong let there always be a song.

**Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to less you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.**

*Dismissal

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

Postlude

Gary Roberts

June Special Offering
World Hunger

Prayer Concerns **Short Term:** Family of Lu Sluiter, Family of Jean Petersen, Family of Betty Kievlan, Hannah Mullen Family, Bobbie Erickson, Eugene Gross, Leslie Lapp and Family, Healthcare workers, teachers, Marla Meek and family, Kathy Allen and Family, Beth Stiles, Casey, Nancy and Sam, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Kent, Donna, Betsy, Tom, Anna, Krispa, Patsy, Zachary, 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, Rev. Jack Zoellner, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

*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

“O God beyond all Praising” Red #880

**O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at ev’ry gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.**

**The flow’r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
It’s fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
But hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown -
Though small in mortal stature, to heaven’s garden grown:
For Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
And we through him are given the final victory.**

Though my body be confined, let your word engage my mind,
let the inner eye discern how much more there is to learn,
see the world becoming whole through the window of the soul.

Let your wisdom grace my years,
choose my words and chase my fears,
give me wit to welcome change, to accept, and not estrange;
let my joy be full and deep in the knowledge that I keep.

Let my spirit always sing, to your Spirit answering,
Through the silence, through the pain
know my hope is not in vain,
like a feather on your breath
trust our love, through life and death.

*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 Communion. 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

"How Great Thou Art" Red #856 vs. 1 & 2

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;**

REFRAIN

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *REFRAIN***

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