

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

10th Sunday after Pentecost

August 1, 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.

Outdoor Worship Dates

(Inclement weather cancels)

August 8th & 22nd at 10am.

(2nd and 4th Sundays thereafter.)

Please remember to wear a mask, 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)

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.

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Gary Roberts

Prayer Concerns **Short Term:** Rick & Susan Oldfield, Family of Lu Sluiter, Family of Jean Petersen, Family of Betty Kievlan, Jo Ann, Bobbie Erickson, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Jane Davis, Eugene Gross, Leslie Lapp and Family, Healthcare workers, teachers, Marla Meek and family, Beth Stiles, Casey, Nancy, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Kent, Donna, Betsy, Tom, Anna, Krispa, Patsy, Zachary, 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, 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.

August Special Offering

**California Lutheran University
&
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary**

**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

"O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts" Red #658

**O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,
The fount of life, the light of all:
From ev'ry bliss that earth imparts
We turn, unfilled, to hear your call.**

**We taste you, ever living bread,
And long to feast upon you still;
We drink of you, the fountain head;
Our thirsting souls from you we fill.**

**For you our restless spirits yearn,
Where'er our changing lot is cast;
Glad, when your smile on us you turn,
Blest, when by faith we hold you fast.**

**O Jesus, ever with us stay!
Make all our moments fair and bright!
Oh, chase the night of sin away!
Shed o'er the world your holy light.**

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

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm (chant responsively)

Psalm 78:23-29

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

Ephesians 4:1-16

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!
Halleujah! Halle-lu-jah!**

*Gospel Reading

John 6:24-35

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John the 6th 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

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

“Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer Red #618

**Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
Hold me with your pow’rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
Where the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
Shield me with your might arm.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell’s destruction,
land me safe on Canaan’s side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises
I will raise for-ever-more,
I will raise for- ever-more.**

"The bread that . . . I will give
Is my flesh for the life of the world,
And if you eat . . . of this bread,
You shall live forever.
You shall live forever."

REFRAIN

"Unless . . . You . . . eat
Of the flesh of the Son of Man
And...drink . . . of his blood, and
Drink . . . of his blood,
You shall not have life within you."

REFRAIN

"I am the resurrection,
I . . . am the life.
If you believe . . . In . . . me,
Even . . . though you die,
You shall live forever."

REFRAIN

Yes, Lord, . . . I believe
That . . . you. . . are the Christ,
The . . . Son . . . Of . . . God,
Who . . . have . . . come
Into . . . the . . . world.

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**

*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,

*Hymn of the Day

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" Red #484

REFRAIN: You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat.
Come give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.

As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
They know and heed his voice;
So when you call your fam'ly, Lord,
We follow and rejoice. *REFRAIN*

With joyful lips we sing to you
Our praise and gratitude
That you should count us worthy, Lord,
To share this heav'nly food. *REFRAIN*

Is not the cup we bless and share
The blood of Christ out-poured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
Our oneness in the Lord? *REFRAIN*

The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
No mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain
Comes in our hearts to dwell. *REFRAIN*

You give yourself to us, O Lord;
Then selfless let us be,
To serve each other In your name
In truth and charity. *REFRAIN*

*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 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

"I Am the Bread of Life" Red #485

**"I am the Bread of life.
You who come to me shall not hunger,
And who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me
unless the Father beckons."**

REFRAIN

**"And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up
on the last day."**