

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

8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 18, 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.

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)

Habitat For Humanity Lunches

July 27

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.

Prayer Concerns **Short Term:** 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 and Sam, 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.

July Special Offering **Homeless Service Center**

Outdoor **Worship Dates**

(Inclement weather cancels)

July 25th & August 8th 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.

**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**

"God is Here"

Red #526

**God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
Into open minds and hearts.**

Here are symbols to remind us
Of our life long need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit;
Here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
Here in silence, as in speech,
Here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
Here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
Seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living
To believe and to adore.
Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
In an age of change and doubt,

**Keep us faithful to the gospel;
Help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
All we have to give, receive;
We, who cannot live without you,
We adore you! We believe!**

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 Jeremiah 23:1-6 Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm (chant responsively) Psalm 23 Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading Ephesians 2:11-22 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!**

*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

"The Church's One Foundation" Red #654

**The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.**

**Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth:
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses with ev'ry grace endued.**

**Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up "how long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.**

**Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace evermore,
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
That we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.**

*Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

**Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
You lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
My spirit shall sing the music of your name.**
(Refrain)

**Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
Your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.**
(Refrain)

**You have set me a banquet of love in the grace of hatred,
Crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold.**
(Refrain)

**Surely your kindness and mercy follow me
all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore.**
(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,
May we hunger for your reign of justice,
May we thirst for your way of peace,
For you are Lord forevermore.

C: Amen

*Gospel Reading Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Mark 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

*Hymn of the Day

"Have No Fear, Little Flock"

Red #764

**Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock,
For the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom;
Have no fear, little flock!**

**Have good cheer, little flock; have good cheer, little flock,
For the Father will keep you in his love for ever;
Have good cheer, little flock!**

**Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above,
For he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you;
Praise the Lord high above!**

**Thankful hearts raise to God; thankful hearts raise to God,
For he stays close beside you, in all things works with you;
Thankful hearts raise to God!**

*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

"Shepherd Me, O God" Red #780

*Refrain:
Shepherd me, O God,
Beyond my wants,
beyond my fears,
from death into life.*

**God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
Rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.
(Refrain)**

(hymn continued)