

## **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.**

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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

# 9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 25, 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.**



**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](http://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.*

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)

**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](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)"**

**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

*"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"* Red #461

**All who hunger, gather gladly;  
Holy manna is our bread  
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.  
Here in truth we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness,  
All around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger, never strangers;  
Seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming.  
Here in joy we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered  
In communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.**

**All who hunger, sing together,  
Jesus Christ is living bread.  
Come from loneliness and longing.  
Here in peace we have been fed.  
Blest are those who from this table  
Live their days in gratitude.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.**

### 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

2 Kings 4:42-22

Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm (chant responsively) Psalm 145:10-18 Celebrate pg. 2

### Second Reading

Ephesians 3:14-21

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 6:1-21

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.**

### \*Closing Hymn

*"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"*

Red # 674

1. **Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

REFRAIN (two times)

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

2. **Christ is able to make us one,  
at the table he sets the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
love and word and in deed express.** REFRAIN (two times)
3. **Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) ev'ry-where!** REFRAIN (two times)

### \*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

3- What wine of love is offered here,  
what holy drink from heaven?  
What stream of everlasting life,  
what precious blood is given?  
This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

## 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**

### \*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.**

### Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

### \*Hymn of the Day

*"The Church of Christ, in Every Age" Red #729*

**The church of Christ, in ev'ry age beset by change,  
But Spirit led, must claim and test its heritage  
And keep on rising from the dead.**

**Across the world, across the street,  
The victims of injustice cry for shelter  
And for bread to eat, and never live before they die.**

**Then let the servant church arise,  
A carving church that longs to be a partner in Christ's  
sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity**

**For he alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in  
our blood, and teach us how to share our bread  
And feed the starving multitude.**

**We have no mission but to serve in full obedience  
to our Lord; to care for all, without reserve,  
And spread his liberating word.**

### \*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

"What Feast of Love" #487

**1- What feast of love is offered here,  
what banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
the bread come down from heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!**

**2- What light of truth is offered here,  
what covenant from heaven?  
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!**

(hymn continued)