

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

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 22, 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

August 24

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

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.

New Office Hours

Monday — Friday 12:00—5:00 pm

PRAYER CONCERNS

SHORT TERM:

Rick & Susan Oldfield, Zachary Alvarado, Family of Jennifer Deconde Borgardt, 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, 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, Aaron Johnson, Lorraine Chavez, Lora Schraft Poulson, Kayla, Don, Lina, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Miller, Kyle, Noah, Esdras, 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, Edna Lindquist, Richard C., 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**

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**Aug. 29 & Sept. 5, a recorded service at
www.ststephenslutheran.org**

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**We will resume indoor, in-person,
public worship services**

Sun., Sept 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 "For the Beauty of the Earth" #879*

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:**

REFRAIN
**Christ, our God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
Sun and moon and stars of light:** REFRAIN

**For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:** REFRAIN

**For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
For the friends on earth and friends above;
For all gentle thoughts and mild:** REFRAIN

**For each perfect gift of thine,
Peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
For thyself, best gift divine,
To our world so freely giv'n:** REFRAIN

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 Joshua 24:1-2, 14-18 Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm (chant responsively) Psalm 34:15-22 Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading Ephesians 6:10-20 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 6:56-69 Celebrate pg. 3

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

C: Glory to you. O God

(The Gospel is read)

*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

" On Our Way Rejoicing" Red #537

**On our way rejoicing gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy;
Who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?**

REFRAIN

**On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!**

**Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing;
Unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;
Unto God the Spirit bow we and adore,
On our way rejoicing now and ever more. REFRAIN**

*Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Gary Roberts

**I will bless the Lord at tall times,
Praise with heart and voice;
In my God I glory forever:
Listen and rejoice!** REFRAIN

**Look upon the Lord, be radiant,
Never turn away.
God will save in ev'ry affliction,
Hear us when we pray.** REFRAIN

**Angels fold their wings around us,
Guard through good and ill.
Those who seek the Lord will lack nothing;
Taste, and have your fill.** REFRAIN

**Saints of God, bow down and worship,
Bless the holy name.
Rise to tell God's greatness forever,
Wondrous deeds proclaim!** 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

P: The Gospel of our Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Red #759

**My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!**

**May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As thou has died for me,
Oh, may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!**

**While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

**When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll;
Blest Savior, then , in love
Fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!**

*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

"Eat This Bread , Drink This Cup" Red #492

REFRAIN

***Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Taste and see the goodness of God.
Bread of life, cup of love,
We rejoice in your presence***