

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

11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 8, 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,

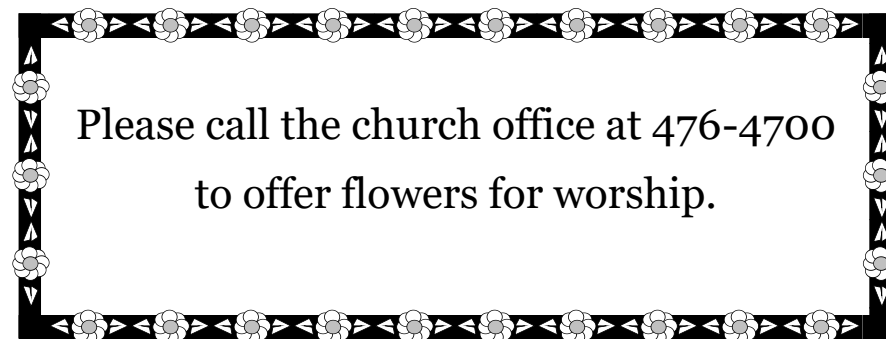
C: in you we live and move and have our being.

Look upon us, your children,

The work of your hands.

Forgive us all our offenses,

And cleanse us from proud thoughts & empty desires.



Please call the church office at 476-4700
to offer flowers for worship.

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.

August Special Offering

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

Outdoor Worship Dates

(Inclement weather cancels)

August 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**

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

“As We Gather at Your Table”

Red #522

**As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.**

**Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.**

**Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.**

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 1 Kings 19:4-8 Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm (chant responsively) Psalm 34:1-8 Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading Ephesians 4:25-5:2 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 6:35, 41-51 Celebrate pg. 3

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

C: Glory to you. O God

(The Gospel is read)

*Closing Hymn

"Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises" #535

REFRAIN

**Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
All our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
All our hearts are filled with gladness**

**Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger.**

REFRAIN

**Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,
Strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful Gospel.**

REFRAIN

*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, 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, 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, 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.

**Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace'
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.**

**In the question, in the answer,
In the moment of acceptance,
In the heart's cry, in the healing,
In the circle of your people, **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

*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.

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

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"Let Us Go Now To The Banquet"

Red #523

REFRAIN (sing Spanish only)

Va-mos to-dos al ban-que-te,
(Let us go now to the banquet,)

A la me-sa de la crea-cion;
(To the feast of the universe.)

Ca-da cual con su ta-bu-re-te
(The table's set and a place is waiting;)

Tie-ne un pues-to y u-na mi-sion.
(Come, ev'ryone, with your gifts to share.)

**I will rise in the early morning;
The community's waiting for me.
With a spring in my step I'm walking
With my friends and my family. *REFRAIN***

**God invites all the poor and hungry
to the banquet of justice and good
Where the harvest will not be hoarded
So that no one will lack for food. *REFRAIN***

**May we build such a place among us
Where all people are equal in love.
God has called us to work together
And to share ev'rything we have. *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

"In the Singing" Red #466

In the singing, in the silence,
in the hands expectant, open,
In the blessing, in the breaking,
in your presence at this table,

REFRAIN