

## **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](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

# 12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 15, 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.

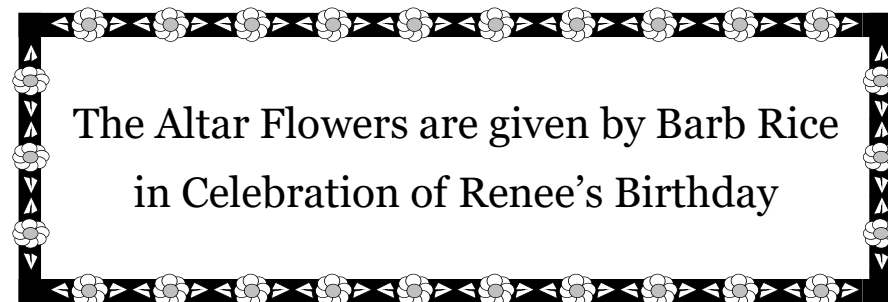
*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

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**

## **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](http://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**

“Praise and Thanksgiving” Red #689

**Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer  
For all things living, you have made good:  
Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,  
Hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

**God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,  
That with our neighbor we may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,  
Harvesting, milling for daily bread.**

**Father, providing food for your children,  
By Wisdom's guiding teach us to share  
One with another, so that , rejoicing with us,  
All others may know your care.**

**Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,  
freely confessing your gracious hand.  
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;  
Your love sustaining showers the land.**

### **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 Proverbs 9:1-6 Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm (chant responsively) Psalm 34:9-14 Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading Ephesians 5:15-20 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 6:51-58 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

**God rules all the forces: the stars in their courses  
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
The deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
With glad adoration a song let us raise  
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"**

\*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 Zöllner, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

\*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.**

\*Closing Hymn

"Let All Things Now Living" Red #881

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
To God the creator triumphantly raise,  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
As forward we travel from light into light.**

(hymn continued)

\*Hymn of the Day

*"Break Now the Bread of Life"*

Red #515

Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,  
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.  
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;  
My spirit waits for you, O living Word.

Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me,  
As when you blessed the bread by Galilee.  
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;  
And I shall find my peace, my All in All!

You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,  
Your holy word the truth that rescues me.  
Give me to eat and live with you above;  
Teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

\*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

*"Now in This Banquet"*

WP #104

CHORUS

**Now in this banquet, Christ is our bread;**

**here shall all hungers be fed.**

**Bread that is broken, wine that is poured;**

**love is the sign of our Lord.**

**You who have touched us and graced us with love,  
make us your people of goodness and light.**

**Let our hearts burn with the fire of your love;  
open our eyes to the glory of God.**

**God who makes the blind to see,  
God who makes the lame to walk,  
bring us dancing into day, lead your people in your way**

**Hope for the hopeless, light for the blind,  
strong is your name, Lord, Gentle and Kind.**

**Call us to be your light, call us to be your love;  
make us your people again.**

**Come, O Spirit! Renew our hearts!  
We shall arise to be children of light.**

#### **The Sending**