

## **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

# 15th Sunday after Pentecost

## September 5, 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,

The Altar Flowers are dedicated

To Parents

By Bill & Margaret Schraft

### Habitat For Humanity Lunches

**September 28**

The 4th Tuesday of each month we provide lunch for the volunteers. Please call the office if you can bring cookies or fruit (everything else filled).

### 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, Ron & Sheila, Jo Ann, Bobbie Erickson, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Jane Davis, Eugene Gross, Healthcare workers, teachers, 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.

## **September Special Offering**

### **Lutheran Campus Ministry**

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**Sept. 5, a recorded service at  
[www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://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)

Protocols: Masked at all times, fans at doors, pre-sealed communion, 6ft. distanced , and peace gestures only

**And cleanse us from proud thoughts & empty desires.  
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**

*"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #886*

**Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and king,  
the triumphs of his grace!**

**My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth  
abroad the honors of your name.**

**The name of Jesus calms our fears  
and bids our sorrows cease,  
Sings music in the sinner's ears,  
brings life and health and peace.**

**He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,  
new life the dead receive;  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.**

**Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
Be justified by grace!**

(hymn continued)

**To God all glory, praise, and love  
Be now and ever giv'n  
By saints below and saints above,  
The church in earth and heav'n.**

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 Isaiah 35:4-7 Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm (chant responsively) Psalm 15 Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading James 2:1-17 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 Mark 7:24-37 Celebrate pg. 3

\*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

"Light Dawns on a Weary World" #726

**Light dawns on a weary world  
when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.  
Light dawns on a weary world:  
the promised day of justice comes. REFRAIN**

**Loves grows in a weary world  
When hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.  
Love grows in a weary world"  
The promised feast of plenty comes. RERAIN**

**Hope blooms in a weary world  
when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.  
Hope blooms in a weary world:  
The promised green of Eden comes. REFRAIN**

REFRAIN

**The trees shall clap their hands;  
the dry lands, gush with springs;  
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,  
As all the world in wonder echoes shalom.**

\*Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Gary Roberts

REFRAIN

**Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! He who died  
heaven's gates to open wide;  
He will wash away my sin,  
let his little child come in.**

REFRAIN

**Jesus loves me! He will stay  
close beside me all the way;  
When at last I come to die,  
he will take me home on high.**

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 Holy Gospel acc. to St. Mark the 7th 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

"Healer of Our Every Ill"

#612

*REFRAIN*

**Healer of our every ill  
Light of each tomorrow  
Give us peace beyond our fear  
And hope beyond our sorrow**

**You who know our fears and sadness  
Grace us with your peace and gladness  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts**

*REFRAIN*

**In the pain and joy beholding  
How your grace is still unfolding  
Give us all your vision, God of love**

*REFRAIN*

**Give us strength to love each other  
Ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide**

*REFRAIN*

**You who know each thought and feeling  
Teach us all your way of healing  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart**

*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

"Jesus Loves Me" Red #595

**Jesus loves me! This I know,  
for the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to him belong,  
they are weak, but he is strong.**

(hymn continued)