

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

18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 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,

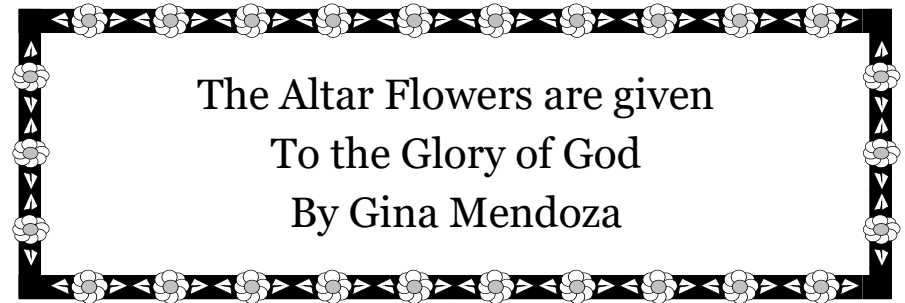
C: Amen.

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,



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: Chris & Patty, Gaye Cornell, Barbara & Laura, Gerardo's Family & Aptos High community, 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, 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

We resume indoor, in-person, public worship services EVERY SUNDAY 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** "When Morning Gilds the Skies" #853 vs. 1-4

**When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
This rings my curfew call:
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**When mirth for music longs,
This is my song of songs:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer
Has none that can compare
With "Jesus Christ be praised!"**

**No lovelier antiphon
In all high heav'n is known
Than "Jesus Christ be praised!"
There to the eternal Word
The eternal psalm is heard:
Oh, Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Let all of humankind
In this their concord find:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around
Ring joyous with the sound:
May Jesus Christ be praised!**

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 Numbers 11:4-29 Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm (chant responsively) Psalm 19:7-17 Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading James 5:13-20 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 Mark 9:38-50 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Mark the 9th 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

"Soli Deo Gloria" Red #878

**O God of blessings, all praise to you!
Your love surrounds us our whole life through.
You are the freedom of those oppressed;
You are the comfort of all distressed.
Come now, O h holy and welcome guest:**

REFRAIN

Soli Deo gloria! Soli Deo gloria!

**All praise for prophets, through grace inspired
To preach and witness with hearts on fire.
Your Spirit chooses the weak and small
To sing the new reign where mighty fall;
With them may we live your gospel call:**

REFRAIN

**All praise for music, deep gift profound,
Through hands and voices in holy sound;
The psalms of David, and Mary's praise,
In wordless splendor and lyric phrase,
With all creation one song we raise;**

REFRAIN

**All praise for Jesus, best gift divine
Through word and witness, in bread and wine;
Incarnate love song of boundless grace,
Priest, teacher, prophet in time and space,
Your steadfast kindness with human face:**

REFRAIN

**A billion voices in one great song,
Now soft and gentle, now deep and strong,
In every culture and style and key,
From hill and valley, with sky and sea,
With Christ we praise you eternally:**

REFRAIN

*Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Gary Roberts

**You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
Then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still;
And down in the city you called once a gain,
When you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.**

REFRAIN

**You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With...bold new decisions your people arise.**

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.

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“Be Thou My Vision” Red #793

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
Thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord,
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**Light of my soul, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

*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 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" #396

REFRAIN:
**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

**You moved on the waters, you called to the deep
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
And over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."**

REFRAIN

**You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand
And you goaded your people with a law and a land;
And when they were blinded with idols and lies,
Then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.**

REFRAIN