

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

21th Sunday after Pentecost

October 17, 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 †,
the one who fashions us,
The one who heals us,
The one who reforms us again and again.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Source of all life,

**C: We confess that we have not allowed
Your grace to set us free.
We fear that we are not good enough.
We hear your word of love freely given to us,
Yet we expect others to earn it.**



Habitat For Humanity Lunches

October 26

The 4th Tuesday of each month we provide lunch for the volunteers. All taken care of this month. Please call the office if you can bring sandwiches next month.

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

October Special Offering

St. Stephen's Child Development Center

PRAYER CONCERNS

SHORT TERM: Tyler Slay, Family of Rick Oldfield, Family of Ron Buswell, Chris & Patty, Gaye Cornell, Harriet Edsall, Dorothy, Laura, Gerardo's Family, Zachary Alvarado, Family of Jennifer Deconde Borgardt, Family of Jean Petersen, Family of Betty Kivlan, Jo Ann, Bobbie Erickson, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Jane Davis, Eugene Gross, Healthcare workers, teachers, Jane, 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.

We resume indoor,
in-person, public worship

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



We turn the church inward,
Rather than moving it outward.
Forgive us. Stir us.
Reform us to be a church powered by love,
Willing to speak for what is right,
Act for what is just,
And seek the healing of your whole creation.
Amen.

P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
And to empower our lives in the world.
Our sins are forgiven,
† God's love is unconditional,
And we are raised up as God's people
Who will always be made new,
In the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"You Servants of God" #825

**You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad his wonderful name;
The name all victorious, of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all!**

**Ascended on high, almighty to save,
Yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!**

**Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.**

**Then let us adore and give him his right,
All glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing, with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!**

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 53:4-12 Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm (chant responsively) Psalm 91:9-16 Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading Hebrews 5:1-10 Celebrate pg. 3

*Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks”
WOV #671 vs. 2

REFRAIN

**Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.**

**Spread the good news o’er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen. REFRAIN**

*Gospel Reading Mark 10:35-45 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Mark the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to you. O God

(The Gospel is read)

**Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy’s perfect deed:
We your servants bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
Consecrating to your purpose ev’ry gift which you impart.**

**Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
By your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.**

**As we worship, grant us vision till your love’s revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens,
Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.**

**Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, good-will and comfort,
counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.**

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Sound the good news.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Gary Roberts

Serving today

Ushers: Paul Cunningham & Rebecca Wickham
Reader: Janet Slay

4) Let my spirit always sing, to your Spirit answering,
Through the silence, through the pain
know my hope is not in vain,
like a feather on your breath
trust our love, through life and death.

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: Holy and compassionate God,
In bread and wine you give us gifts
That form us to be humble and courageous.
May your words come to life
In our serving and in our witness,
That we might speak a living voice
Of healing and justice to all the world,
Through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen

*Blessing

P: God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;
Holy Spirit, living voice,
calling and enlightening the church;
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
Bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Closing Hymn

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

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"On Eagle's Wings"

Red #787

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
Say to the Lord; "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"**

REFRAIN

**And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of his hand.**

**The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under God's wings your refuge,
with faithfulness your shield.** REFRAIN

**You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come.** REFRAIN

**For to the angels God's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

FINAL REFRAIN

**And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of his hand.
And hold you in the palm of his hand.**

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: God of life,
You give us these gifts of the earth,
These resources of our life and our labor.
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,
And use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

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: Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
And make us one with you.

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

*"Let My Spirit Always Sing" #916 (All Creation Sings)
Vs. 1, 3 & 4*

1) Let my spirit always sing, though my heart be wintering,
though the season of despair give no sign that you are there,
God to whom my days belong let there always be a song.

3) Let your wisdom grace my years,
choose my words and chase my fears,
give me wit to welcome change, to accept, and not estrange;
let my joy be full and deep in the knowledge that I keep.