

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.—Fri. Noon—5:00 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

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

October 24, 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

PRAYER CONCERNS

SHORT TERM: Tyler Slay, Family of Rick Oldfield, Family of Ron Buswell, Pastor Jim, Chris & Patty, Gaye Cornell, Harriet Edsall, Joe & Ali, Dorothy, Laura, Gerardo's Family, Zachary Alvarado, Family of Jennifer Deconde Borgardt, Family of Jean Petersen, Family of Betty Kievlan, 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**

"God, Whose Almighty Word Red #673

**God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
And took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the Gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.**

**Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
Healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
Oh, now to humankind
let there be light.**

**Spirit of truth and love,
life giving, holy dove,
Speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.**

Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light.

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

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm (chant responsively) Psalm 126:5

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

Hebrews 7:23-28

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**

*Closing Hymn

"Lead Me, Guide Me" Red #768

REFRAIN

Lead me, guide me, along the way;
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord let me walk each day with thee
Lead me, O Lord, lead me

I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
To help me over my weakest hour
Help me through the darkness thy face to see
Lead me, O Lord, lead me

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress
I am putting all my trust in thee
Lead me, O Lord, lead me

I am lost If you take your hand from me
I am blind without thy light to see
Lord just always let me thy servant be
Lead me, O Lord, lead me

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Sound the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Gary Roberts

Serving today

Ushers:

Reader: Mark Linder

October Special Offering

St. Stephen's Child Development Center

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.

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.

*Gospel Reading

Mark 10:46-52

Celebrate pg. 3

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

"There is a Balm in Gilead" Red #614

REFRAIN

**There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sinsick soul.**

**Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again. REFRAIN**

**If you cannot preach like Peter,
If you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus
And say, "He died for all." REFRAIN**

**Don't ever be discouraged,
For Jesus is your friend;
And if you lack for knowledge,
He'll ne'er refuse to lend. 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: 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

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" Red #332

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life—giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.**