

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

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 14, 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,

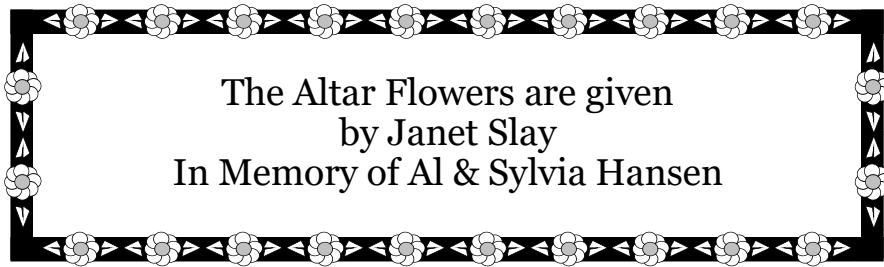
**C: We confess that we have not allowed
Your grace to set us free.
We fear that we are not good enough.
We hear your word of love freely given to us,
Yet we expect others to earn it.**

Upcoming Events:

November Benevolence Offering = Sister Parish
Santa Cruz al Salvador

- TODAY Film Festival at Greater Purpose Brewery:
"United Against Hate" 6:00—8:00 pm (Library event)
- Nov. 15 Embroider's Guild 7:00 pm
- Nov. 16 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
- Nov. 17 Women's Café Group 6:00 pm
- Nov. 17 A Call to Action: Inspired by "Not in Our Town
Films" 6:30—8:00 pm at Greater Purpose Brewery
(Library event)
- Nov. 18 Bible Study 11:00 & 7:30 pm (Zoom)
- Nov. 21 Gratitude Sunday 10 am
- Nov. 21 Confirmation 6:30 pm
- Nov. 22 Child Development Board 11:15 am
- Nov. 23 Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 (sign up narthex)
- Dec. 1 Women's Café Group 6:00 pm

Pastor's Office Hours Wed & Thurs. 10:00 to 1:00



The Altar Flowers are given
by Janet Slay
In Memory of Al & Sylvia Hansen

Gratitude Sunday! November 21st

Let's all respond generously to God's love and grace for us. We take this time each year around Thanksgiving and the Fall Harvest to remember that all we have belongs to God. Use the materials mailed out to you to faithfully reflect on how you will give thanks in the coming year. By faith, as God enables us, let's strive to:

- Pray regularly for the ministry of our church.
- Attend worship services often to keep our faith first, and seek to invite others in sharing that with us.
- Be available to follow God's leading by offering your gifts of time and abilities to lift up the witness of our faith and mission as a church. Exercise our faith!
- Significantly give financially to the work of God's Spirit through the ministry of our church in 2022. Dedicate a percentage of your income as you are able.

Your 2022 offering envelopes are in the narthex ready for pick up. If your envelopes are not there, please contact the office 476-4700. Online giving is available, for info. contact Janet Slay (jolene95@comcast.net).

**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 "My Lord, What a Morning" Red #438

REFRAIN

**My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning;
Oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.**

**You will hear the trumpet sound,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall. REFRAIN**

**You will hear the sinner cry,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall. REFRAIN**

**You will hear the Christian shout,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall. REFRAIN**

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 Daniel 12:1-3 Celebrate pg. 1

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

Second Reading Hebrews 10:11-14 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 13:1-8 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Mark the 13th 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

**Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger.
REFRAIN**

**Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,
Strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful Gospel.
REFRAIN**

*Dismissal

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

Postlude Gary Roberts

Serving today

Greeters:
Reader: Barbara Johnston
Coffee Host: Connie Cunningham

PRAYER CONCERNS

SHORT TERM: Tyler Slay, Family of Rick Oldfield, Family of Ron Buswell, Family of Edna Lindquist, Barb R., Don S., Trace & Clare, Chris & Patty, Gaye Cornell, Harriet Edsall, Joe & Ali, Dorothy, Laura, Gerardo's Family, Family of Jean Petersen, Family of Betty Kievlan, Erickson, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Jane Davis, Kirsten Skiles, Healthcare workers, teachers, Jane, Nancy, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Rose, Sam, George Webber & Family, Aaron Johnson, 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 & 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, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

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 "Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises" Red #535

REFRAIN

**Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
All our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
All our hearts are filled with gladness**

*Hymn of the Day "Canticle of the Turning" Red #723

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?**

REFRAIN

***My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.***

**Though I am small, my...God, my all,
You work great...things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
To the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
And to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
For the world is about to turn.** *REFRAIN*

**From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
Not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
Ev'ry tyrant...from his throne.
The hungry poor shall...weep no more,
For the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn.** *REFRAIN*

**Though the nations rage from...age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
From the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.** *REFRAIN*

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 "Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil" #721
(repeat often)

**Goodness is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness;
Life is stronger than death;
vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours,
Through God who loves us.
Vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours,
Through God who loves us.**