

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

"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

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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 Director: Gary Roberts

Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens

Sunday School: Leslie Lapp

Custodian: John Hopping

Powerpoint: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

14th Sunday after Pentecost
September 11, 2022
10:00 a.m.

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians 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 and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day.

Please fill out the "Worship Slip" and place it in the offering plate.

(*) Asterisk means, "Please stand as you are able."

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,
 The only Sovereign, who dwells in light;
 Christ Jesus, who came to save all from sin;
 The Holy Spirit, who lives within us.

C: Amen.

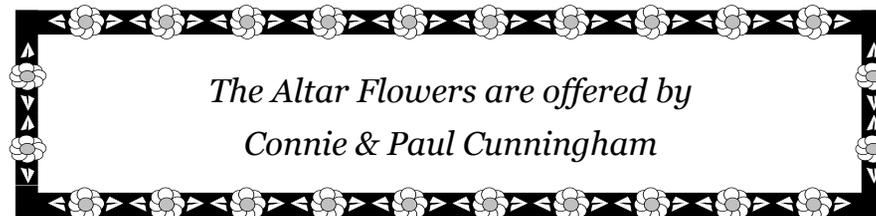
P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
 and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: God of overflowing grace,

C: we come to you with repentant hearts.

Forgive us for shallow thankfulness.
Forgive us for passing by the ones in need.
Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures.
Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness.
Bring us home from the wilderness of sin,
And strengthen us to serve you
In all that we do and say;
Through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.



Serving This Week

Reader: Janet Slay
 Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager
 Altar Guild: Connie Cunningham
 Counters: Janet Slay Fence Repair: Bill Schraft

Upcoming Events:

September Benevolence - Lutheran Campus Ministry

- Sept. tba Confirmation Class 6:30 pm
- Sept. 12 Embroiders 7:00 pm
- Sept. 13 Knitting Guild 6:30 pm
- Sept. 13 Church Council 6:30 pm
- Sept. 13 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm (Fellow. Hall)
- Sept 15 Knitting Guild 10 am
- Sept. 15 Knitters 7:00 pm
- Sept. 15 Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
- Sept. 15 Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm
- Sept. 15 Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm (Fellowship)
- Sept. 16 A.A. 7:00 pm
- Sept. 26 Newsletter Collate 2:00 pm

Go with us on our way.
Equip us for every good work,
That we may continue to give you thanks
By embracing others with mercy and healing;
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

*Blessing

P: May God send you light and truth
To keep you all the days of your life.
And may the blessing of Almighty God,
The Father, The † Son, and The Holy Spirit,
Be with you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Closing Hymn *"Amazing Grace"* Red #779

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come
Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home**

**The Lord has promised good to me;
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the Good News.

C: Thanks be to God. 10

P: There is joy in heaven over every person who repents.
By the grace of God in † Christ Jesus,
Who gave himself up for us all,
Your sins are forgiven and you are made free.
Rejoice with the angels and with one another!
We are home in God's mercy, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" Red #834

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!**

**Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

*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.

Kyrie - Greek for: "God have mercy" ACS setting 12
(We bring our burdens and pleas for God's help)

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.
 Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.
 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria ACS setting 12

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.
 Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;
 ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
 Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
 yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

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 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"
 Red #608

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
 calling for you and for me.
 See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
 watching for you and for me.**

REFRAIN:
 "Come home, come home!
 You who are weary, come home."
 Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
 calling, "Oh sinner, come home!"

**Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
 Pleading for you and for me?
 Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
 Mercies for you and for me? *REFRAIN***

**Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
 Promised for you and for me!
 Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
 Pardon for you and for me. *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:
 We come again to you, O God,
 Giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy
 You have embraced us and healed us,
 Making us one in the body of Christ.

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord**

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 that we should...

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer - Sung version

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.
For—give 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: Take hold of the life that is God's abundant life.
Come, take your place at the table.

(You may be seated)

Holy Communion

Our practice is to come forward and receive the bread from Pastor Jim, and then pick up a cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white) from the tray. If you choose the pre-sealed bread and cup, please have your prepared elements ready to receive Holy Communion.

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray: ...now and forever.

Celebrate p. 1

C: **Amen**

God Stories

The Word of God

First Reading

Exodus 32:7-14

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: **Thanks be to God**

Second Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Celebrate pg. 2

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: **Thanks be to God**

*Alleluia

ACS setting 12

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing one of these verses.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*Gospel Reading Luke 15:1-10 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O God. (The Gospel is read.)

P: The gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day "The King of Love My Shepherd is" #502

1. The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
And he is mine forever.

2. Where streams of living water flow
With gentle care he leads me,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With heav'nly food he feeds me.

3. Perverse and foolish I have strayed,
But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With you, dear Lord, beside me;
Your rod and staff my comfort still,
Your cross before to guide me.

5. You spread a table in my sight,
Your saving grace bestowing;
And O what joy and true delight
From your pure chalice flowing!

6. And so through all the length of days
Your goodness fails me never:

**Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
Within your house forever.**

*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.

Offering Song "Welcome Table" ACS #969

I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table,
I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table, some of these days.
I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table,
I'm agoin'a eat at the welcome table, some of these days.

I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey,
I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey, some of these days.
I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey,
I'm agoin'a feast on milk . . . And honey, some of these days.

I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river, some of these days.
I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
I'm agoin'a wade 'cross Jordan's river, some of these days.

*Offertory Prayer

P: Merciful God,

As grains of wheat scattered upon the hills
Were gathered together to become one bread,
So let your church be gathered together
From the ends of the earth into your kingdom,
For yours is the glory through Jesus Christ,
now and forever. **C: Amen**