

Worship livestream online at [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)  
Recorded for you to view anytime.  
Please participate by having your worship bulletin  
and Celebrate ready from the email sent.

**Zoom Bible Studies with Pastor Jim  
on Thursdays at 11am & 7:30pm.  
Check your email on Wednesday for the ZOOM link.**

### 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  
831/476-4700 FAX 831/476-3918  
email: [office@ststephenslutheran.org](mailto:office@ststephenslutheran.org)  
Web Address: [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)  
Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 12—5:00 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's  
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp  
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp  
Church Musician: Gary Roberts  
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp  
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens  
Custodian: John Hopping

# Baptism of Our Lord

## January 8, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

### WELCOME AND A NOTE TO VISITORS

Welcome Visitor! We pray the service will be a blessing for you and that you will join us again soon. Thank you for worshiping with us — your presence is a joy to this faith community. Please fill out the “Worship Slip” and place it in the offering plate. We welcome children (wiggles & all), however there is a family room adjacent to the sanctuary if you prefer.

( \* ) Asterisk means, “Please Stand”

### The Gathering

#### Welcome

#### Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the Holy One of Israel,  
The Word made flesh,  
The Power of the Most High.  
† one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Gathered in the name of Jesus,  
Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: In Christ Jesus you come among us  
As light shining in darkness.  
We confess our failure to welcome this light.  
Forgive us and renew our hope,  
So that we may live in the light of your grace,  
And welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.**

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all the people:  
To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord.  
Our sins are forgiven in † Jesus’ name. **C: Amen.**

## Upcoming Events:

### January Benevolence Offering - Society for the Prevention of Suicide

Jan. 10	Knitter's Guild 6:15 pm
Jan. 10	Church Council 6:30pm
Jan. 10	Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
Jan. 12	Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
Jan. 12	MMRR Circle 10:30 am
Jan. 12	Bible Study 11:00 am
Jan. 12	Men's Beginner A.A. 7:00 pm
Jan. 13	A.A. 7:00 pm
Jan. 16	MLK Holiday office & school closed
Jan. 18	Women's Café Group
Jan. 23	CDC Board 11:30 am
Jan. 24	Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am
Jan. 29	Annual Meeting after 10:00 am Worship

Living water, never ending,  
Quench the thirst and flood the soul.  
Well-spring, source of life eternal,  
Drench our dryness, make us whole

\*Dismissal

P: Glory to God in the highest!

**C: Peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer Concerns

**SHORT TERM:** Lisa, Family of Sandie Sanders, Craig Dahl, Family of Kurt Bell, Genell Csik, Mike Homa, Mateo, Family of Mark Cronquist, Erica Curry, Rosio, Barbara Stiles, Alessandra, John W., Family of Connor Kowalski, Shiela P., Mary Smith, Tina G., Paul Cunningham, Barbara Allen, Beth Stiles, Anita & Howard, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, Kurt Bell, Will, Deborah Henry, Carla, Ellie, Adrian, Cameron, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Kirsten Skiles, Nancy, Marisa & Isaac, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Sam, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.

**LONG TERM:** April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Dom, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Michelle, Josh, CJ, Bobbie Erickson, Lupe, Joyce, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Miller, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

### Serving Today

Reader: Please sign up to read lessons  
Altar Guild: Connie Cunningham

\*Opening Hymn "Shall We Gather at the River" Red #423

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

*REFRAIN*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God*

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.

*REFRAIN*

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;  
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.

*REFRAIN*

Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.

*REFRAIN*

\*Greeting

\*P: Grace and peace from God our Creator and God, the Babe in  
the manger, Jesus Christ, and may the promised gifts of the Holy  
Spirit, be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

Kyrie "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" # 257 vs. 1 - 2

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

**REFRAIN**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
Teach us your will and guide our way. **REFRAIN**

**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" REFRAIN**

**REFRAIN  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth REFRAIN**

\*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate pg 1.

P: Let us Pray...

**C: Amen**

## **The Word of God**

God Stories

First Reading Isaiah 42:1-9 Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading Acts 10:34-43 Celebrate pg. 2

Gospel Acclamation "Angels We Have Heard on High"  
#289 vs. 1

**Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains**

## **The Sending**

\*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion from our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace now and forever,  
C: Amen.

\*Communion Prayer

P: God our Redeemer, You have fed us at this table With gifts of  
grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, Send us  
forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good  
news of your glory, Born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
Lord.  
C: Amen.

\*Blessing

P: May Christ, who by his incarnation  
Has filled us with grace and truth,  
Give you peace this Christmas and always.  
Almighty God, Father † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen**

Closing Hymn "Crashing Waters at Creation" Red #455

**Crashing waters at creation,  
ordered by the Spirit's breath,  
First to witness day's beginning  
from the brightness of night's death.**

**Parting water stood and trembled  
As the captives passed on through,  
Washing off the chains of bondage  
Channel to a life made new.**

**Cleansing water once at Jordan  
Closed around the one foretold,  
Opened to reveal the glory  
Ever new and ever old.**

(hymn continued)

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
 Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
 See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
 What is the name her heart is saying?  
 Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
 Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!  
 Love is life everlasting and free.  
 Love is Jesus within and among us,  
 Hear how their song of joy arises:  
 Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
 Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Communion Hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" #742

What a friend we have in Jesus  
 All our sins and griefs to bear!  
 What a privilege to carry  
 Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
 Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
 Oh, what needless pain we bear -  
 All because we do not carry  
 Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
 Is there trouble anywhere?  
 We should never be discouraged -  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Can we find a friend so faithful  
 Who will all our sorrows share?  
 Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness -  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,  
 Cumbered with a load of care?  
 Precious Savior, still our refuge -  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
 You will find a solace there.

*G l o — r i a . . . in excelsis Deo*  
*G l o — r i a . . . in excelsis Deo*

P: The Holy Gospel acc. To St. Matthew.  
**C: Glory to you, O God.**

\*Gospel Reading Matthew 3:13-17 Celebrate pg. 3

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon Rev. James Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day "Come to the Water of Life" ACS #955

1. All who are thirsty for mercy, all who are thirsty for love;  
 All who are thirsty for love, for mercy, come:  
 Come to the Water of life.
2. All who are thirsty for healing, all who are thirsty for touch;  
 All who are thirsty for touch, for healing, come:  
 Come to the Water of life.
3. All who are thirsty for beauty, all who are thirsty for truth;  
 All who are thirsty for truth, for beauty, come:  
 Come to the Water of life.
4. All who are thirsty for justice, all who are thirsty for peace;  
 All who are thirsty for peace, for justice, come:  
 Come to the Water of life.

\*The Prayers of the Church Celebrate, Page 4

\*Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.  
**C: And also with you.**

## The Communion Meal

Offering— We honor and worship God by returning some of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Offering Song    “O Come, All Ye Faithful”    Red #283 vs. 1

O come, all ye faithful  
Joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of angels

### *REFRAIN*

O come, let us adore him  
O come, let us adore him  
O come, let us adore him  
Christ the Lord

### \*Offering Prayer

P: God with us,  
**C: You came as a baby to a manger.**  
    You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.  
    You come again in bread and wine.  
    Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.  
    And then, through these gifts,  
    Help us to bless the lives of others  
    In the strength of your holy name. Amen.

### \*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.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...

### \*Words of Institution

### \*Lord's Prayer

P: God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

**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: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.  
    Share in the feast of salvation.

(You may be seated)

### Holy Communion

Holy Communion Visitors: You are welcome to come forward to receive Communion as part of this church family! Children are welcome to come and receive a special blessing if they have never communed. Wine (red) or grape juice (white) are both available.

Lamb of God    “Love Has Come”    Red #292

Love has come a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
Hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!    (hymn continued)