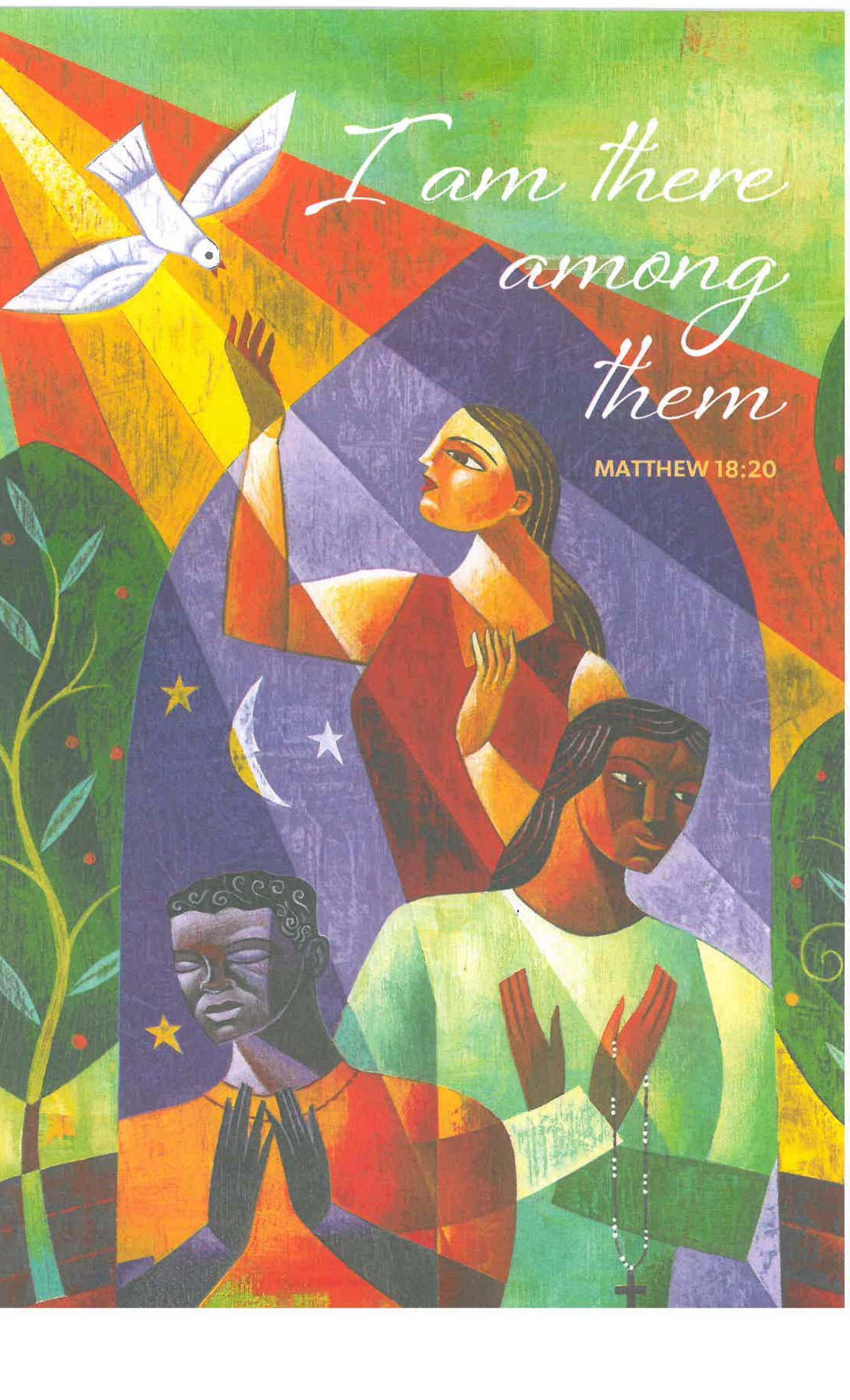


*I am there
among
them*

MATTHEW 18:20



**15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 10, 2023
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.”

Music

Prelude by Helmut Walcha
German organist 1907—1991

The Gathering

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us,
+ Christ Jesus who bears the cross,
And the Holy Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

**C: You have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path:
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend
Amen.**

**P: Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.**

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn "Earth and All Stars!" Red #731

**Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snow storm!
Sing to the Lord a new song!**

**Refrain
God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!**

**Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain**

**Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain (Hymn Cont.)**

Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Daughter and son! Loud praying members!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

*Greeting

*P: The grace that is Christ's gift to us, The love of God, and
 the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace be with you all.
C: And also with you.

KYRIE

Assistant: In peace, in peace,

Assistant: Congregation:
 Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
 Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
 mer - cy.

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of
 all... (Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to
 live your Word... (Refrain)

Assistant: Congregation:
 Help, save and de - fend us, O God.
 A - - - men.

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1:

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great

To refrain

peo - ple of God.

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and

might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ

To refrain

for ev - er.

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us,

to make us peo - ple of God; to make

To refrain

all things new.

*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: Let us pray:

C: Amen

The Word of God

God Stories

First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-11 Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading Romans 13:8-14 Celebrate pg. 2

*Gospel Acclamation ELW #175

GOSPEL VERSE

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat optional

*Gospel Reading Matthew 18:15-20 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew, the 18th 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 Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“Where Charity and Love Are Shown” ACS # 931

REFRAIN

Where charity and love are shown,
Our God is there made known,
Our God is there made known.

One as assembly at one table;
One the cup, the bread, the wine;
In one love we are companions,
And in unity we dine

At the table we are welcomed
To the banquet from above.
We recall the Lord’s commandment
That we live and grow in love.

This, the bread of life eternal;
This, the saving cup we claim,
Draw us close within one fam’ly,
Make us one in Jesus’ name.

*Prayers of the Church

Celebrate insert pg. 4

*Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord 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.

Music

Prayer in Tone

Richard Purvis, American Musician

*Offering Song

AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

Refrain

Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be



gath - ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst, _____
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

To refrain



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with
Presider: *Congregation:*

you. Lift up your hearts. We
Presider:

lift them to the Lord. Let us give
Congregation:

thanks to the Lord our God. It is
 right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is our duty and delight... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the
 One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!


*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.**


LAMB OF GOD

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*



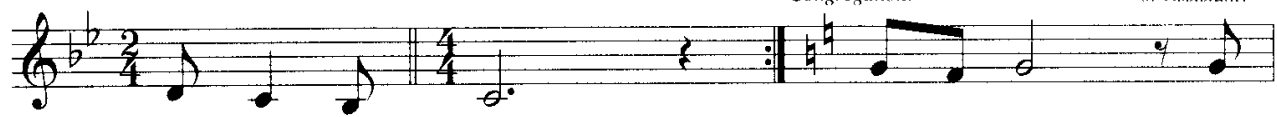
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
* you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:




world:
fear: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
peace:
love:

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

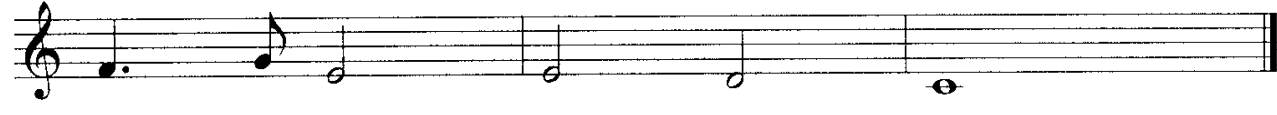


mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Holy Communion

Everyone is most welcome to receive this means of God's love and grace! Communion is by intinction, which means that we dip the bread into the cup. The red is wine and the white is grape juice.

Communion Hymn

“Holy, Holy, Holy” Red #473
Santo, Santo, Santo (alternate English / Spanish)

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly, my heart, my heart a-dores you!
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho-ly, God!

!San-to, san-to, san-to. Mi Co-ra-zon te a-do-ra!
Mi Co-ra-zon te sa-be de-cir: !San-to e-res Dios!

*Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen.

*Prayer after Communion

P: Blessed be your name, O God
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

*Blessing

P: May the God of glory,
+ Jesus Christ, the Lover of all humanity,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Making Their Way” ACS #979

Making their way down through the ages,
Sinners and saints have heard God’s call:
Wealthy and poor, powerful, lowly,
Jesus’ disciples, one and all.
Gathered for worship, offering thanks,
The greatest with the least have come to share this feast.

Making their way all the world over,
Christians assemble on this day,
Hearing the Word, sharing the Banquet,
Learning to walk in Jesus’ way.
Members of Christ, united in love,
They seek our God to know, and so together grow.

Making our way season by season,
Pilgrims, we journey till life’s end,
Traveling light, sharing the riches,
Caring for stranger as for friend,
Till in the joy of longing fulfilled,
Together we will come to our eternal home.

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. God is at work in you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music Music from Grace Cathedral



*The Altar Flowers are given by Sheila
In Memory of Ron*

Serving Today

Reader: Barbara Johnston

Coffee Host: Rebecca Wickham

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: *Family of Lupe Rodriguez, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Pr. Susan, Keith, Frank, Susan, Mike Homer, Charlie & Tracy, Andre, Joshua & Andrea, Irma, Family of Deane Strong & M. Hudi, Sam, Family of Jim Schafer, Jamie Sheehan, Ralph, Aria Brown, Karin Zaun, Family of Marshall Bautz, Conrad, Boudreau family, Chelsea, John, Tim, Charmaine, Linda, Atlas, Tony, Sandi Csik, Janiea Paustian, Amy Wimmer, Gray, Hailey, Jesse, Joyce, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Rowe, George & Scott, Darlene Woodburn, Jacob & Family, Barbara Hansen, Tom Harris, Barbara Allen, Rena Brown, Carla Brown, Kathy, Joel Hurttgam, Jacob & Family, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Norman's Father, friends in Bakersfield, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Genell Csik, Barbara Bartee, Family of Mark Cronquist, Barbara Stiles, Paul Cunningham, Anita & Howard, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Marisa & Isaac, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.*

LONG TERM: *Biergiel—Colclough family, April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, 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, 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.*



**Habitat
for Humanity®**

Provide Lunches

Tues, Sept. 26 10:30 am

We Feed 12 to 14 volunteers every month who are serving in our community — Sandwiches, fruit, chips, cookies, and drinks. Sign-up to provide one item. More info, call our Coordinator Sheila 214-1228.

Other ways to support this org:

- volunteer at a work site
- purchase items at the “ReStore”



Blessing of Animals

October 1st

10:00 am

Bring your pet or a photograph of your pet to receive a special blessing during

worship. All creatures great and small are welcome! This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's celebration of all of God's creation including all the animals, on the Sunday his life is remembered and his witness of faith is lifted up.

MUSIC at St. Stephen's



On September 17th,
The *Good News Singers* will
introduce the new song:

"Come Christians Join to Sing" with *All That Brass*
Anthony Plaza , Rawley Capone, and
Adonay Gonzalez . . . all of Soquel Music

Still looking forward to strings & woodwinds in our
service. Many talented young musicians are eager to
participate in our church music. So, come on down!

Thanksgiving Brass — November 19

Christmas Brass — December 31

Please donate to the “Musicians Fund”
to enhance our worship together

Musical Quote:

" I don't need therapy . . . I just need Music."

~ Unknown

SAVE THE DATES !!!

SUNDAYS OCT. 15 & 22

11:30AM—1PM

WEDS. OCT. 18 & 25

6:30PM—8PM

Holy Conversations with Pastor Jim

SUNDAY OCTOBER 29

10:00 AM

Confirmation Youth Sunday -

Followed by Church 70th

Anniversary Celebration Feast

Upcoming Events:

September Benevolence Offering
Lutheran Campus Ministry

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| TBA | Confirmation 6:30 pm |
| Sept. 12 | Knitters Guild 6:15 pm |
| Sept. 12 | Church Council 6:30 pm |
| Sept. 12 | Boy Scouts 7:00 pm |
| Sept. 14 | Preschool chapel 10:15 am |
| Sept. 14 | MMRR Circle returns 10:30 am |
| Sept. 14 | Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm |
| Sept. 14 | Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm |
| Sept. 15 | A.A. 7:00 pm |
| Sept. 15-17 | Synod Assembly Burlingame |
| Sept. 20 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm |
| Sept. 21 | Knitters Guild 10 am |
| Sept. 23 | Marshall Bautz Memorial
1:00 pm Christ Lutheran Aptos |
| Sept. 26 | Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am |
| Sept. 28 | Newsletter Collating 2:00 |

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

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
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