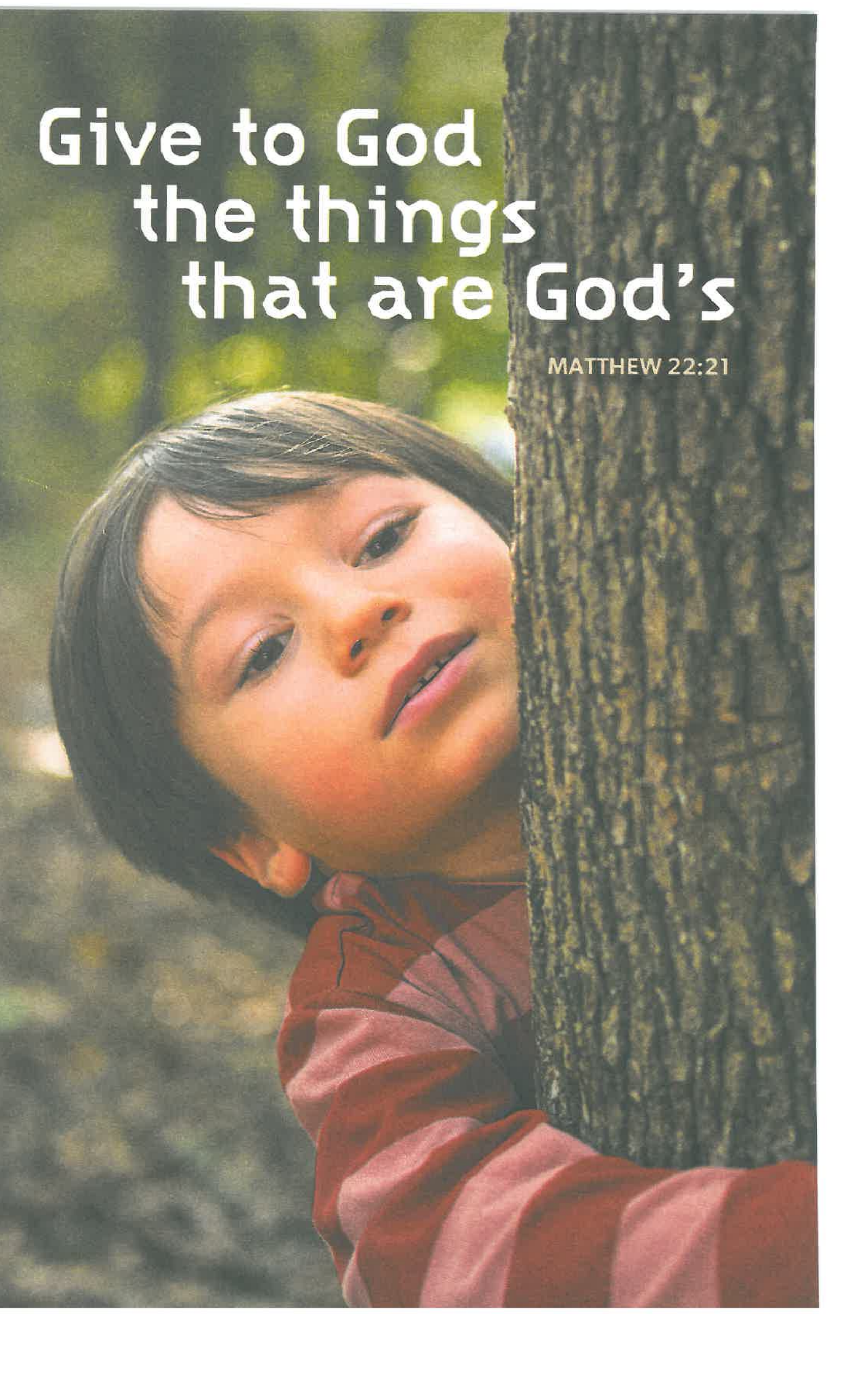


Give to God  
the things  
that are God's

MATTHEW 22:21



**21st Sunday after Pentecost  
October 22, 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     “Evening and Morning”     Benjamin Culli

## ***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      *"Lift Every Voice and Sing" #841*

Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
We have come,  
treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

(hymn continued)

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet  
stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
Lest, our hearts  
drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;  
Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.

\*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

Isaiah 45:1-7

Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading

1 Thess. 1:1-10


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 22:15-22

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew, the 22nd 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

*Bring many names, beautiful and good,  
Celebrate, in parable and story,  
Holiness in glory, living, loving God.  
Hail and hosanna! Bring many names!*

*Strong mother God, working night and day,  
Planning all the wonders of creation,  
Setting each equation, genius at play:  
Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!*

*Warm father God, hugging every child,  
Feeling all the strains of human living,  
Caring and forgiving, till we’re reconciled:  
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!*

*Old, aching God, grey with endless care,  
Calmly piercing evil’s new disguises,  
Glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:  
Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!*

*Young, growing God, eager, on the move,  
Saying no to falsehood and unkindness,  
Crying out for justice, giving all you have:  
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!*

*Great, living God, never fully known,  
Joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,  
Closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:  
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!*



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

Music “Oh , Lord we Praise You” Benjamin Culli

\*Offering Song

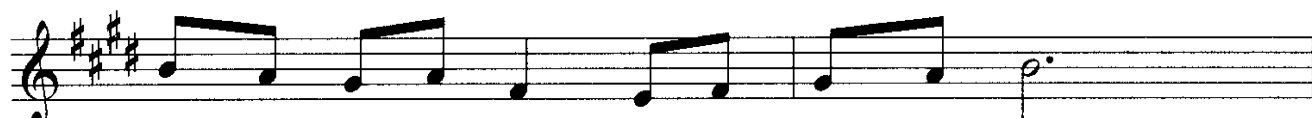
## AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

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

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” #623

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labor of my hands  
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to Thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress,  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace:  
Foul, I to the fountain fly,  
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyelids close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee.

\*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    “God of Grace and God of Glory”    #705

God of grace and God of glory,  
On your people pour your pow'r;  
Crown your ancient church's story;  
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom grant us courage  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us  
Scorn the Christ assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts to Faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation  
To the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of your salvation  
Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving you whom we adore,  
Serving you whom we adore.

\*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. God is at work in you.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music            "Dur ar Helig. You are Holy" Setting  
Rick Seaton



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*The Altar Flowers are given by Janet Slay  
in memory of Sylvia Hansen & Carol Kline  
on their birthdays*

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## Serving Today

Reader: Janet Slay

Coffee Host:

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

## **Prayer Concerns**

**SHORT TERM:**      *Middle East Peace, Carla Brown, James, Tina, Lurline Moore, Keith, Taiyo, Monte Anderson, Beth's mom, George Webber, James Boudreau, Frank, Dustin, Julie, Caitlin S., Family of Lupe Rodriguez, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, Corcoran family, Keith, Frank, Susan, Mike Homer, Charlie & Tracy, Andre, Joshua & Andrea, Irma, Family of Deane Strong & M. Hudi, Sam, Jamie Sheehan, Ralph, Aria Brown, Karin Zaun, Chelsea, John, Tim, Charmaine, Linda, Atlas, Tony, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, Amy Wimmer, Gray, Hailey, Jesse, Joyce, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Rowe, George & Scott, Darlene Woodburn, Barbara Hansen, Tom Harris, Barbara Allen, Kathy, Joel Hurttgam, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Norman's Father, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Genell Csik, Barbara Barte, 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, 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, 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.*

# Music at St. Stephen's



*Many thanks to:*

The GOOD NEWS SINGERS  
and ALL THAT BRASS.

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 17

Please donate to the “Musicians Fund”  
to enhance our worship together.  
Yours in Christ , and mission, Gary

Musical Quote:

“Music is sort of my safety  
Net. It catches me when I fall. “

~ Unknown

*SAVE THE DATES*

TODAY  
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:

October Benevolence Offering  
S.S. Child Development Center

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Oct. 24     | Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am                                  |
| Oct. 24     | Boy Scouts 7:00 pm  |
| Oct. 25     | Sign up for House Meetings  |
| Oct. 25     | NL Collating 2:00 pm  |
| Oct. 26     | Preschool chapel 10:15 am   |
| Oct. 26     | Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:30 pm                                    |
| Oct. 26     | Mens beginner A.A. 7:00 pm  |
| Oct. 27     | A.A. 7:00 pm  |
| Oct. 29     | Reformation / Confirmation Sunday—wear red<br>Sign up for potluck |
| Oct. 31     | Pre school Halloween parade                                       |
| Nov. 1 & 22 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm  |
| Nov. 9      | MMRR Circle 10:30 am  |
| Nov. 14     | Church Council 6:30 pm  |
| Nov. 16     | Knitters Guild 10 am  |

**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](mailto:office@ststephenslutheran.org)  
Web Address: [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://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