

*Abide
in my love*

JOHN 15:9

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

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 "Oh Father God in Heaven"
 Tune V. Schumann

The Gathering

*Call to Worship

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
The Wellspring of Grace,
Our Easter and our joy.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us come into the light,
the revealing and healing light of God.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: God of grace and glory,

**C: We confess to you all the ways in which
we dismiss the resurrection news.
We are slow of heart to believe.
Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin.**

**C: Renew us in grace, reawaken our trust,
strengthen our hope,
and restore us to living in your ways,
Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

**P: The Risen Christ's first words to his disciples were:
Peace be with you.
Sisters and brothers, rejoice with all creation!
The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil,
Casts out hate and brings peace.
Jesus + Christ loves you and has freed us all from sin.
Rejoice and welcome this freedom as a cherished gift!
Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

C: Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

*Opening Hymn

"God We Gather as Your People" ACS #1038

God, we gather as your people to raise our song above,
And we dare to claim the promise of your love.
Though the day may not yet be here,
We trust it soon will be, when your children will be free.

REFRAIN

Oh, may our hearts and minds be opened,
Fling the church doors open wide.
May there be room enough for ev'ryone inside.
For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.
May that welcome be our song.

(hymn continued)

Oh, we sing for all the children,
That one day they be free;
And we sing for generations yet to be,
That they never have a reason
To doubt that they are blest.
May they, in your love, find rest. REFRAIN

Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short
By fear and shame,
So afraid of who they are and whom they love.
May the message now be banished
That your love is for the few;
May their faith in you renew. REFRAIN

God, we're working for the future
when children far and wide can . . .
Live their lives with dignity and pride,
As they grow in strength and stature,
May they join us hand in hand,
As against all hate we stand. REFRAIN

*Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: The beauty of the Creator inspire us,
The grace of the Good Shepherd be with us,
and the unity of the Breath of Life enfold us all.

C: May it be so!

*Prayer of the Day

God Stories

The Word of God

First Reading Acts 10:44-48 Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading 1 John 5:1-6 Celebrate pg. 2

*Alleluia “Alleliua, Alleluia, Give Thanks” WOV # 671 vs.4

Refrain: **Alleluia, Alleluia, gi-ve thanks to the Risen Lord.**
Alleluia, Alleluia,gi-ve praise to Christ’s name.

Verse: **God has proclaimed the just re-ward:**
Life for all people, A-a-lelu-ia. (Refrain)

*Gospel Reading John 15:9-17 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John, the 15th Chapter

C: Glory to you. O God.

(The Gospel is read)

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

Red #708

REFRAIN

Jesu, Jesu,
fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. REFRAIN

Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race;
neighbors are nearby and far away. REFRAIN

These are the ones we will serve,
these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. REFRAIN

Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet;
this is the way we will live with you. REFRAIN

*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.

Music

Good news singers.
“Draw the Circle Wide”
Lyrics and Music Gordon Light

Offertory Prayer

P: Giver of life,

C: **Whatever we ask, in accordance with your will,
We receive and our cup overflows.
Confident in divine abundance
And humbly eager to turn from covetous greed,
We return what we have received for the Shepherd’s work,
That green pastures and safe folds,
Will welcome any who live in fear;
That peaceful waters will sustain hurting hearts;
That a voice of welcome will be heard at each door;
That a feast will be prepared for all who hunger and thirst;
And all may safely find enough.
In the name of the One who is our comfort. 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.**

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

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer (Sung)

**C: Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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.**

*Invitation to Communion

P: The risen Christ is made known to us
In the breaking of the bread.
Come and be nourished at God's table.

(You may be seated)

Holy Communion

*Guests: EVERYONE is welcome to come forward to receive
Communion as part of this church family!*

Communion Hymn

"Jesus Loves Me" Red #595

Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

REFRAIN

Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died
heaven's gates to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in.

REFRAIN

Jesus loves me! He will stay
close beside me all the way;
When at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high. REFRAIN

The Sending

*Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen

*Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray:

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us
And nourished us with your love.

Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness
And share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
Our Redeemer and Friend.

C: Amen

*Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power,
The Christ of unending joy,
And the Spirit of Easter hope
+ Bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

*Closing Hymn “Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”
Red #389

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now,
And touching ev’ry place and time.

In ev’ry insult, rift, and war,
Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
And lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
Can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
And find the way, the life, the truth,
Revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
Good news to this and ev’ry age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring
With joy, with justice, love, and praise.

*Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in Peace. Rejoice and be glad..

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Music

“The Day of Resurrection”

Robert Buckley 1950

Serving Today

Reader: Elke Spires

Coffee Host: Potluck

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



*The Altar Flowers are offered
by Shelly Barker
To the Glory of God*

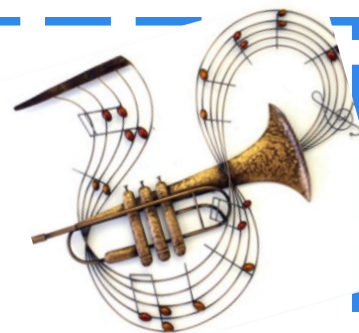


Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: Candace Anderson & family, Family of Gary Meeker, Galahad, Nate Barker, Grandpa Dennis, Bob & Shirley Salter, Monica & Family, Lurline Moore, Barry Hansen, Beth Butler, Travis, Sandy P., Family & friends of Sgt. William Nelson, Jen, Robbin, Maria Mendoza, Ila & Reina, Family of Richard Barker, Francisco, Margot Wilson, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Tom Peyser, Bob Zeigle, Jan, Jessie V., Margaret, Bill Gile, Mike Homer, Randy M., Tim Oldfield, Sierra, Beth's mom, Julie R., Anne Rice, Cheryl Davis, Rosie, The Webber Family, Janet, Sue, Lindsay Rosenberg, Middle East Peace, Maria, Cody Turner, Jan, Jacque N. Diane Strong, Tom Dawson, James, Tina, Keith, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, James Boudreau, Alvarado family, Dustin, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, Sam, Atlas, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, Jesse, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Joel Hurttgam, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Paul Cunningham, Paul Paustian, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, 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, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Joyce, Mike, 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 & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

Music at St. Stephen's



Good morning,
Soon the singers will be on their summer break and will return in the Fall. During this time, feel free to share your talents ~ anything musical. We will rejoice! We are happy to welcome back, Kristin to the Music Program.

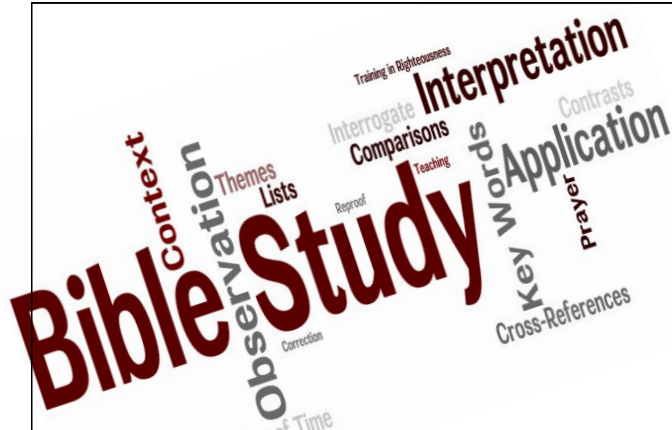
The Singers will be worshiping through song on May 19th — Pentecost, and 26th ~ Holy Trinity.

Keyboard music for the summer will in part lift-up women composers, some strings, flutes, and vocals.

As always, please give to the Musicians Fund.
Many thanks!

“The purpose of music is to touch hearts”
~ J.S. Bach

Yours in Christ, and Mission ~ Gary



On Zoom or at
Church w Pastor Jim

check email on Tuesday

**WEDNESDAYS from 11a -12noon
and
7:30 pm — 8:30 pm**



Sister Parish

Prayer Child Sponsorships - *Thank you* to those who have committed to support your prayer children for another year and have made the associated donations. We would

also like you to write a short letter to your prayer child and include a photo. Please send them to:

Marian Langdon
220 Horizon Way
Aptos, CA 95003

There are 6 children that still need a sponsor. If you want to sponsor a child, please let me know. Thank you!

2023 Delegation?

Planning has begun for a delegation this year. It will probably be in November. Please let me know if you are interested in going to El Salvador.



12th Anniversary Gala Fundraiser

Saturday, May 18 at 6 pm

Tickets at [Afcsantacruz.org](https://afcsantacruz.org)

Upcoming Events:

May Benevolence Offering - Mt. Cross Camp

TODAY	Johnson family dedication 10 am & POTLUCK (stay, always plenty of food!)
May 6	Women's Café Group Monday at 6:00 pm
May 7	Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
May 8	Preschool Graduation 10:15 am
May 8	Bible Study now Wednesdays 11 am & 7:30 pm
May 9	Mens beginner A.A. Thursday 7:00 pm
May 10	A.A. Friday 7:00 pm
May 11	A.A. birthday 1:00
May 14	Knitter's Guild 6:15 pm
May 16	Knitter's Guild 10 am
May 18	Property Work Day 9:00 —11:00
May 18	AFC Gala Fundraiser 6-8:30 pm
May 19 & 26	Pastor Carol Been presiding
May 20	Embroiders Guild 7 pm
May 24-27	Mt. Cross Volunteer work weekend. Many projects. Elizabeth Schilling is organizing the craft area again. RSVP 831-239-6012.

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.
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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

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