

# LOVE ONE ANOTHER

JOHN 13:34





## 5th Sunday of EASTER

### everything between grief & hope

May 18, 2025 at 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 during the offering.**

( \* ) Asterisk means, “Please stand as you are able.”

Prelude      *“Christ has Risen While Earth Slumbers”*  
                    *Calvin Hampton 1938-1984*

## Gathering

### \*Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.**

### \*Call to Confession

Faithful friends, Easter is a joyful season!

This time of year, all creation sings

of new life and resurrection and hope.

But the prayer of confession  
that we often begin our worship service with  
has a reputation for being somber and serious.  
Instead, let's make this prayer of confession  
feel like a fresh and new start!  
Let's allow the prayer of confession  
to help us see things in a new and hopeful way.  
When we move closer to God,  
we are always met with grace, mercy, and abundant love.  
And my friends, *that* is joyful.  
That feels like Easter, doesn't it?  
So join me in the prayer of confession. It's a joyful day!

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

The Gospel of Luke says: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women who told the disciples of the resurrection.

But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb."<sup>1</sup>

**Forgive us, God,  
when good news lands in our lap  
and we refuse to believe it.**

**Forgive us, God,  
when grief and fear crowd out  
any room in our hearts for hope.**

**Forgive us, God,  
when we dismiss the stories of others  
and minimize the voices of our neighbors.**

When our world teeters between grief and hope,  
show us how to be like Peter.

**Show us how to hold onto hope.**

**Show us how to run toward you. Amen.**



## \*Words of Forgiveness

Family of Faith,  
At first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen.  
They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid.  
Peter was the only exception.  
But Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days.  
**God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful  
and when we're grieving,  
when we're shouting and when we're silent,  
when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear.  
God's grace exists for us on the best days,  
the worst days, and every day in between.  
Thanks be to God for this good news!  
Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.**

## \*Opening Hymn

*"All Creatures Worship God Most High"*  
Red #835 (vs. 1~4, 6)

All creatures, worship God most high!  
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;  
Sing, sister moon and stars of night:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain  
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Dear sister water, useful, clear,  
make music for your Lord to hear:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong;  
drive far the shadows, join the throng:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, so rich in care,  
praise God in colors bright and rare:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive,

All who in pain or sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ bears your burdens and your fears;

Still make your song amid tears:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O sisters, brothers, take your part,

And worship God with humble heart:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

All creatures, bless the Father, Son,

And Holy Spirit, Three in One:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

#### \*Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen

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

P: The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you**

#### \*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate pg. 1

## God's Word

God Stories

Congregation

First Reading

Acts 11:1-18

Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm 148    Choir / Congregation Response

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-6

Celebrate pg. 2

\*Gospel Reading

John 13:31-35

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. John 13th 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

*“Blest Be the Tie That Binds” #656*

1.     Blest be the tie that binds  
        our hearts in Christian love;  
        the unity of heart and mind  
        is like to that above.
2.     Before our Father's throne  
        we pour our ardent prayers;  
        our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
        our comforts and our cares.

3. We share our mutual woes,  
our mutual burdens bear;  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.
4. From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
and sin we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign  
through all eternity.

### \*Prayer for Illumination

God of Alleluias and empty tombs,  
God of garden plots and good news,  
Easter has come!  
When the world is full of grief and heartache,  
When the world is full of violence and oppression,  
When the world is full of loss and separation,  
we long for this season  
because Easter sings a different song.  
Easter sings a song of hope.  
Easter sings a song of new life.  
Easter sings a song of love that makes you  
want to jump out of your chair  
and run barefoot to the tomb.  
Easter smells of blossoms and warming air.  
It sounds like trumpets and laughter.  
It feels like a crowded table and a warm hug.  
Yes, Easter sings a different song.  
So in a world full of grief,  
help us to cling to Easter's hope.  
When the world seems full of grief,  
help us hear this story of good news. (next page)

When things seem to get overwhelming,  
we're ready to jump out of our chairs  
and run barefoot to the tomb.  
With hope we pray, with hope we listen.  
**Amen.**

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

In the dark before dawn,  
**we believe that God is alive.**  
In the midst of our grief,  
**we believe the Spirit is at work.**  
In the chaos of our broken world,  
**we believe that love is on the loose.**  
For no stone could keep God at bay,  
**and no violence could keep God's love from us.**  
So today we sing,  
***Alleluia!***  
For somewhere in between our belief and doubt,  
**hope lives.**  
Christ has died,  
**and Christ has also risen. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*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.

Music                    “To God Be the Glory”  
Fanny J. Casoby 1875 William H. Deane 1875

### \*Offertory Prayer

P: Risen One,

**You have gathered us around your table of grace  
Along with these gifts we bring.  
Come among us again,  
Breathe your life into us,  
And enliven us with this meal,  
That we may live as your risen body in the world.  
Amen**

### **\*A Prayer of Invocation**

God meets us in the night—  
**before the sun rises,  
before the wound heals,  
before there are answers,  
before there is closure.**  
God meets us in the light—  
**where joy is effervescent,  
where laughter is contagious,  
where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,  
where people gather around tables.**

(next page)

God meets us in between—  
**at the edge of the water,**  
**at the beginning of the wilderness,**  
**at the start of something new,**  
**on the edge of faith.**

And if God meets us in all those places,  
**then surely God meets us everywhere—**  
**at the water's edge, at the start of something new,**  
**after the baptism, and before the call.**

We are not alone. God is all around.

**We worship the God of everything.**

\*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 our thanks and praise.**

\*Eucharistic Prayer

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

\*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.

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Holy Communion — ALL, Yes — EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

*Communion is by intinction, we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white).*

## AGNUS DEI



## Communion Hymn

“Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal”

Red #464

Bread of life, our host and meal, Jesus, feed us.  
Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.

Bread now break and wine now pour, Jesus, feed us.  
Make us one, our hope restore; feed us with your love.

Grant forgiveness in the feast—Jesus, feed us ~  
For the greatest and the least; feed us with your love.

Thank you for this gift we share. Jesus, feed us.  
Save God’s children ev’rywhere; feed us with your love.

### \*Communion Blessing

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

**C: Amen.**

### \*Prayer After Communion

P: Living One,  
In this feast you have made yourself known to us.  
Send us now to tell of your wonders,  
Sing of your glory,  
And proclaim your risen life  
To a wounded and weary world.

**C: Amen.**

## **The Sending**

### \*A Blessing

The triune God,  
Who was, who is, and who is to come,  
Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit,  
Light your way with resurrection dawn,  
Now and always.

**Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn     *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*  
Red #631

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heav'n to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.  
(next page)

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit  
into ev'ry troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

\*Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P: Go in peace.

In Christ you are made new.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Postlude

“The Day of Resurrection”

Robert Buckley Farlee 1950



## **Serving Today**

Reader: Mark Linder

Coffee Host: Connie Cunningham

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



Sign up for Altar Flowers  
Dedicate to loved ones

Full & Part Time openings  
Ages 2-4  
Contact Kathy 462-4453





PRAYERS SHORT TERM: Kevin & Cindy, Tex, Dawn, Gerry Daves, Tim Oldfield, Laura, Joana, James S. Chad Fields, Chelsea & Logan Preston, Cassidy, family of George Webber, Sam, Isabelle Hackman, Eric, Ellie, Paula & family, Julia, Jim Aller's family, Bill Giles family, Dr. Bruce Dunn's family, Grey, Ruth Stiles, Susan Birkelo Family, Riley, Mary Saccullo, Ana Cardenas, Rose, Levi, Lisa J., John B., Linda, Unemployed, Isaac & Marissa, Gloria, Marta's parents, Gary & Louse Matz, Nick, James, Mary D., Tom, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Francisco, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Sierra, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Sam, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Nancy, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager.

LONG TERM: Those suffering with Mental Illness, James Sheehan, Biergiel—Colclough family, Carla Brown, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), April McCalmont, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Will, Aaron Johnson, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, 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, People of Palestine/Israel, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

Please notify when to remove

## Pastoral Letter from Bishop Eaton

We of the E LCA join with the world in praying for the ministry of Pope Leo XIV. We rejoice with the people of the Roman Catholic Church, as they joyfully receive their new shepherd.

We witnessed the historic election of the first Augustinian and the first U.S.-born pope. We share with him context and theological roots (Martin Luther was also an Augustinian). We pray that this will provide us, as Catholics and as Lutherans, with an opportunity to strengthen our visible unity in Christ through dialogue and cooperation for the life of the world.

The new pope extended the blessing of Pope Francis, saying: “God loves us, all of us, evil will not prevail. We are all in the hands of God. Without fear, united, hand in hand with God and among ourselves, we will go forward. We are disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us, and the world needs His light. Humanity needs Him like a bridge to reach God & His love. You help us to build bridges with dialogue and encounter so we can all be one people always in peace.”

We pray that the Holy Spirit will sustain Pope Leo for the ministry to which he has been called, and will strengthen us all in our vocations as bridge-builders and as witnesses to God’s love for all people & creation. In Christ ~

### Music at St. Stephen’s Christ has risen!



It is with great pleasure to thank all musicians for their dedication and continued love for music, here at SSLC.

Our Good New Singers are great! Always well prepared & sing from the heart! Thank you, choir very much. All are welcome to join us, enjoy songs to God, and enjoy our company, and fellowship.

Julia & Patrick Tracey have truly grown musically, and played like pro’s — thanks!

All That Brass — Great to have you back once more. For some, it was the last time here. We all grow and go. It’s the good times we remember always and wish the very best!

Special thank you to all who have donated to the music ministry. Yours in Christ & Mission, Gary



## **Memorial Day Work Weekend May 23-25**

This FREE volunteer retreat is open to all and includes time for service, fellowship, worship, campfires, and s'mores! Plus delicious food and cozy lodging, all provided. When was the last time you slept at camp???

Throughout the weekend, volunteers will help with a variety of projects including:

- Trail maintenance
- Gardening
- Landscaping
- Carpentry
- Painting
- Cleaning

Projects will be tailored to match the skills and gifts of those attending.

Sign up on the Mt. Cross website by Friday, May 16 to join us in giving back to this sacred place we love! Email [mtcross@mtcross.org](mailto:mtcross@mtcross.org) or call Christa at the Mt. Cross Office (831) 336-5179 for more information

# Upcoming Events:

May Benevolence Offering - Mt. Cross Camp

May 19	Newsletter Deadline Noon
May 19	Embroiders Guild 7:00 pm
May 20	Scouts 6:30 pm
May 21	Preschool Chapel 10:15 am
May 21	Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm
May 22	Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside rm
May 23	A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall
May 23-25	Mt. Cross Memorial Day Work Weekend (Or just come Saturday)
May 27	Newsletter Collate 2:00 pm helpers needed
June 3	Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm Pub Theology Discretion Brew 41st Ave.
June 5 & 19	Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays Dinner and devotions
June 29	Summer Kick off BBQ — 11:30 am

SAVE THE DATE July 26 at noon Paul Cunningham Memorial  
Scotts Valley Community Center

**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."*

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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

*prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*