

**Those  
who  
humble  
themselves  
will be  
exalted**

LUKE 14:11



# 12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

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 | “Ye Sweet Retreat” | William Bayce<br>Arr. Virgil Fox |
|-------|--------------------|----------------------------------|

# The Gathering

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor,  
let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of mercy

**C: We confess that we have sinned against you,  
Against one another,  
And against the earth entrusted to our care.  
We are worried and distracted by many things,  
And we fail to love you above all else.  
We store up treasures for ourselves  
And turn away from our neighbors in need.  
Forgive us,  
that we may live in the freedom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: When we were laid low by sin and the world's evil,  
God made us alive together with Christ,  
Forgiving us + all our trespasses  
By taking the sin of the world to the cross.  
For freedom Christ has set us free:  
Rejoice in this good news!

**C: Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn

*“As We Gather at Your Table” Red #522*

As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
Help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
Teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's vict'ry known.

(hymn continued)

Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
Send us forth to love and serve you  
bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
May we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
other guests to share that feast  
Where triumphant Love will welcome  
those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us  
nor will pride our peace destroy,  
As we join with saints and angels  
to repeat the sounding joy.

\*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**C: And also with you**

\*Kyrie & Hymn of Praise

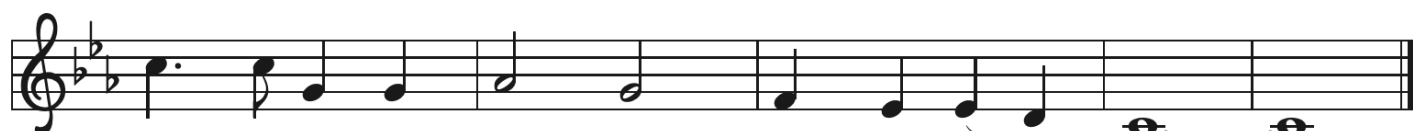
Blue #31



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

\*Prayer of the Day


**The Word of God**

First Reading                      Proverbs 25:6-7                      Celebrate pg. 1  
R: Word of God, Word of Life.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**


Psalm              Psalm 112      (read responsively)      Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading              Hebrews 13:1-16                      Celebrate pg. 3  
R: Word of God, Word of Life.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*Gospel Acclamation                                      Blue #33



Al-le-lu - ia,      al - le-lu - ia,      al-le-lu      -      ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go?      You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*Repeat alleluia*

\*Gospel Reading

Luke 14:1,1-14

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Luke, the 14th Chapter

**C: Glory to you. O God.**

*(The Gospel is read)*

P: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

Message

Rev. James P. Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day

“Come Now, You Blessed”

Blue #1059

1. 'Come now, you blessed, eat at my table,'  
said Jesus Christ to the righteous above.  
'When I was hungry, thirsty and homeless,  
sick and in prison, you showed me your love.'

2. When did we see you hungry or thirsty?  
When were you homeless, a stranger alone?  
When did we see you sick or in prison?  
What have we done that you call us your own?

3. 'When you gave bread to earth's hungry children,  
when you gave shelter to war's refugees,  
when you remembered those most forgotten,  
you cared for me in the smallest of these.'

4. Christ, when we see you out on life's roadways,  
looking to us in the faces of need,  
then may we know you, welcome, and show you  
love that is faithful in word and in deed.

## **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      “Greensleeves” R. Purvis 2004

### Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God,  
For the greening earth given for all,  
For the talents we are given to share,  
And for this bread and fruit of the vine.  
Transform us to be the body of Christ,  
That, feasting on this food and drink,  
Our lives may reflect your generosity;  
Through Christ our Lord,

**C: 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

**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: God invites you to this table of bounty.  
Come, the banquet is ready.

(Please be seated)

## Communion Gathering Song



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn

“In the Singing” Red #466

In the singing, in the silence,  
in the hands expectant, open,  
In the blessing, in the breaking,  
in your presence at this table,

**REFRAIN**

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace'  
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.

In the question, in the answer,  
In the moment of acceptance,  
In the heart's cry, in the healing,  
In the circle of your people,

**REFRAIN**

**The Sending**

\*Prayer after Communion

P: O God, in this Holy Communion  
You have welcomed us into your presence,  
Nourished us with words of mercy,  
And fed us at your table.  
Amid the cares of this life,  
Strengthen us to love you with all our heart,  
Serve our neighbors with a willing spirit,  
And honor the earth you have made;  
Through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

\*Blessing

P: Live your lives in Christ,  
rooted and built up in God's Spirit.  
May you abound in thanksgiving;  
And may the blessing of the holy Trinity, + one God,  
Be upon you and remain with you forever.

**C: Amen**

\*Closing Hymn

“On Our Way Rejoicing”      Red #537

On our way rejoicing gladly let us go.  
Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe.  
Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy;  
Who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?

REFRAIN

On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,  
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing;  
Unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;  
Unto God the Spirit bow we and adore,  
On our way rejoicing now and ever more.      REFRAIN

\*Dismissal

P:    Go in Peace, Christ is sending you.  
C:    **Thanks be to God.**

Music      Congregational Hymn Pick

**Serving Today**

Reader: Jeanne Boudreau  
Coffee Host: Margaret Schraft  
Altar Guild: Connie Cunningham  
Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



## **Prayer Concerns**

**SHORT TERM:** Georgina Beyer's family, Nancy, Jennifer Linkeon, Corrine & Daniel, Tom D., Connie Garcia & Family, Laura, Ayla, Tate, The World & Texas, Family of Elizabeth Schilling, Tina & family, Family of Patrick McCalmont, Atlas, Ana, Kathybelle Barlow, Family & friends of Rev. Jim Carr, Mt. Cross Summer Staff, Family of Ed Valencia, Family of Tex Ronning, Carla Brown, Tim Oldfield, James S. Chad Fields, Grey, Levi, Lisa J., John B., Linda, Unemployed, Gloria, Marta's parents, Gary & Louse Matz, Nick, James, Mary D., Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Francisco, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Sam, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Isaac & Marissa, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager.

**LONG TERM:** Those suffering with Mental Illness, James Sheehan, Biergiel—Colclough family, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), Miller, April, Aaron Johnson, Shelby, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Mike, Susan Anderson, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris and John B. 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 \*





## Habitat Update

It has been about a year since we last provided lunches to the volunteers, but that does not mean the organization is at a standstill. Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay's administrative office, currently located in Santa Cruz, will consolidate the staff office space with the Watsonville Restore location. Habitat's dedicated construction volunteers have taken on this rehab project, which is scheduled for completion in early September. A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is tentatively scheduled for **October 1, time TBD**. The next home builds will likely break ground in September 2025— a 14-unit home development in Watsonville, at Evan Circle, and another 9-unit home development in Marina, at Marina Station. Applications for homeownership, for both locations will open October 20, 2025. The Habitat Volunteer Manager will be reach-

## New Ways of Giving

Our *Virtual Offering Plate* has been enhanced. Donations can be made by: credit card, debit card, PayPal, Venmo and Zelle.

- 1) **Vanco**, our regular electronic giving provider;
- 2) **PayPal / Venmo / Zelle** for single one-time gifts;
- 3) **PayPal** with the possibility of recurring donations and an option to cover the fees.

All are available at  
<https://ststephenslutheran.org>  
Or by scanning this QR code.





## Sister Parish Events

**PUPUSA LUNCHEON**  
**Sunday, September 7**  
Trinity Presbyterian (420 Melrose)

For those of you who are not familiar, pupusas are thick tortillas stuffed with savory fillings such as cheese, or pork and are typically served with curtido, a tangy pickled cabbage slaw, and a mild salsa. The luncheon will begin after the Sunday 10:30-11:30 a.m. worship service. It will include a brief slide show by Trinity's Chuck Cobery, who has participated for ten years in this mission. We will be entertained by Trinity's own home-grown a cappella group, the Presby-Tones, and a few other musical surprises.

~ ~ ~

**Watsonville Public House Fundraiser**  
tentatively titled "Give Water, Give Life 2025"  
**October 11 at 2:00 pm**

Details to be provided later – mark your calendars

~ ~ ~

**2025 DELEGATION**  
**Sunday, November 23 to Wednesday, December 3**

Contact us if you would like to join this year's delegation. The agenda is being developed. There will be visits to both communities, Guillermo Ungo and Las Orquideas/Bendicion de Dios. Lodging will be in two guest houses, one in San Salvador and the other in Suchitoto, which is near Guillermo Ungo. Airfare will probably not get cheaper from here, so it's time to make a decision and plan to join the group.

*Visiting El Salvador is a life-changing experience!*



On ZOOM  
with Pr. Jim

Check email on  
Tues. for link

**WEDNESDAYS**

7:30 – 8:30 pm

*As we grow in our faith, we grow in community.*



Our Preschool is enrolling NOW.    Ages 2-4  
Full & Part Time openings.  
Tell your friends!  
Contact Kathy 462-4453



# Trinity Tuesday

*One Hour ~ One Question ~ One Beverage*

**Tuesday, September 2 at 6:30pm**

## **YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION TO OUR 9TH EPISODE OF T3**

Join us for informal faith conversations in a welcoming, relaxed setting. On the first Tuesday of each month, we gather to explore one thoughtful question together - from deep theological mysteries to everyday questions about how faith intersects with life.

### **What to expect:**

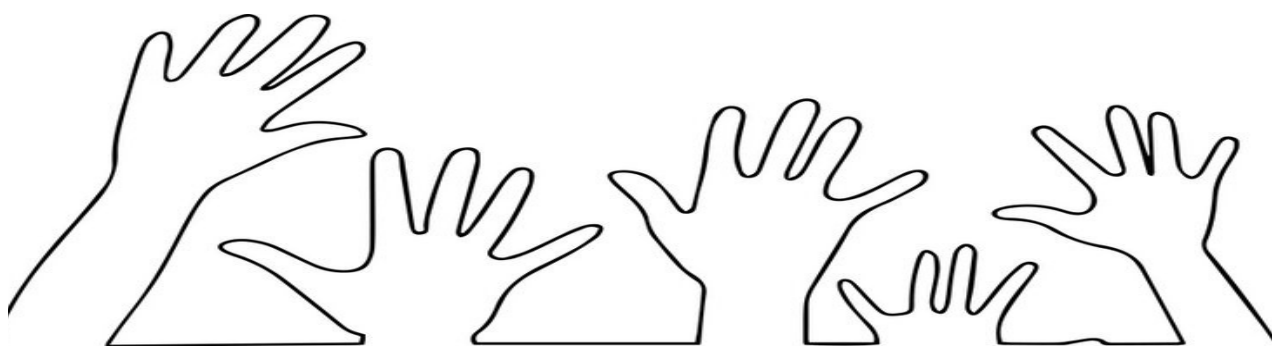
- One focused discussion topic per month
- All perspectives welcome -  
doubters, seekers, and believers alike
- Variety of beverages available (no need to drink beer!)
- Comfortable, judgment-free environment

Whether you're wrestling with big theological questions or simply curious about how others see the church's role in today's world, Trinity Tuesday is a place for honest conversation and genuine community.

**When:** First Tuesday of each month, 6:30 PM

**Where:** Discretion Brewery, 2703 41st Ave. Ste A

**Questions?** Contact Kathy Allen, 831-430-6359



## MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

So many creative ideas for fellowship this Fall. The time is NOW. We are looking for Thrivent Members to apply for a Action Team Grants for these two events. Contact for info.

REFORMATION SUNDAY OKTOBER-FEAST  
OCT. 26

ST. NICKS SURPRISES FOR SENIORS  
DEC. 5

In Partner with MMRR circle

- - -

Other ways to help:

PROPERTY WORK DAY : Pick up truck & people needed  
OCT. 4

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Big coffee hour & juice boxes  
DEC. 7



# Upcoming Events:

August Benevolence Offering -  
Cal. Lutheran University & Pacific Lutheran Theo. Seminary

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Sept. 2      | Scouts 6:00 pm  |
| Sept. 2      | Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm<br>Pub Theology Discretion Brew 41st Ave. |
| Sept. 3      | Preschool Chapel 10:15  |
| Sept. 3      | Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm   |
| Sept. 4      | Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside                     |
| Sept. 4 & 18 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays<br>Dinner and devotions      |
| Sept. 5      | A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall                              |
| Sept. 7      | Choir Lunch   |
| Sept. 11     | MMRR Circle 10:30 am  |
| Sept. 14     | MMRR Bake Sale  |
| Oct. 4       | Property work day   |
| Oct. 5       | Blessing of the Animals   |
| Oct. 26      | * Reformation Polka Mass & Oktoberfest *                          |

**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.  
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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