

*I have found the
coin that I had lost*

LUKE 15:9

14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 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

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 *“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”*
Red #324

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o’er take me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

*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

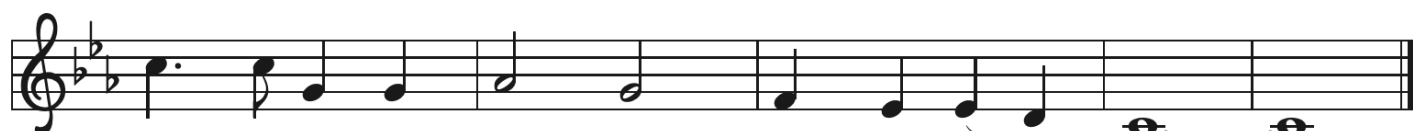
Blue #31



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 Exodus 32:7-14 Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 51: 1-10 Choir with congregation response
Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading Timothy 1:12-17 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 15:1-10

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

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus” #338

Beneath the cross of Jesus

I long to take my stand,

The shadow of a mighty Rock

Within a weary land;

A home within the wilderness,

A rest upon the way,

From the burning of the noontide heat,

And the burden of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus,

My eye at times can see

The very dying form of one
who suffered there for me.

And from my contrite hearth,

With tears, two wonders I confess:

The . . . Wonder of his glorious love

And my unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, your shadow
For my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
The sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by,
To know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame,
My glory all the cross.

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 “Draw the Circle Wide” ~ The Choir

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

**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

“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery”

Red #334

1. Tree of Life and awesome mystery,
In your death we are reborn;
Though you die in all of hist'ry
Still you rise with ev'ry morn
Still you rise with ev'ry morn
2. We remember truth once spoken,
Love passed on through act and word

Ev'ry person lost and broken
Wears the body of our Lord
Wears the body of our Lord

3. Christ, you lead and we shall follow
Stumbling though our steps may be
One with you in joy and sorrow
We the river you the sea
We the river you the sea

General

4. Light of life beyond conceiving
mighty Spirit of our Lord;
give new strength to our believing,
give us faith to live your word.
give us faith to live your word.

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 *"Go to the World"* Blue #991

Go to the world!
Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
Baptizing, as the sign of our rebirth.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world!
Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world!
Go struggle, bless, and pray;
The nights of tears and give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

"Go to the world!
Go as the ones I send,
For I am with you till the age shall end,
When all the hosts of glory cry, Amen!"
Alleluia. Alleluia.

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Christ is sending you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music "Romedal" Robert Farlee

Serving Today

Reader: Bill Schraft

Coffee Host: Shelly Barker

Altar Guild: Tina Gates

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

The Altar Flowers are given
by Janet Slay
In memory of Chris





SHORT TERM: Tim Oldfield, Kathy M., Georgina Beyer's family, Nancy, Jennifer Linkeon, Corrine & Daniel, Tom D., Connie Garcia & Family, Laura, Ayla, Tate, Family of Elizabeth Schilling, Tina & family, Family of Patrick McCalmont, Atlas, Ana, Kathybelle Barlow, Family & friends of Rev. Jim Carr, Family of Ed Valencia, Family of Tex Ronning, Carla Brown, 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.

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.





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



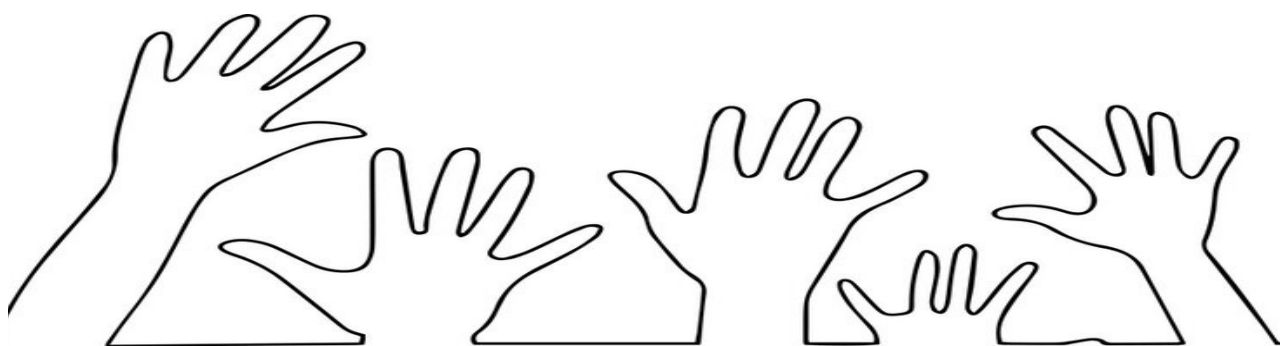
Trinity Tuesday

One Hour ~ One Question ~ One Beverage

Tuesday, October 7 at 6:30pm @ Discretion Brew

Informal faith conversations in a welcoming, relaxed setting. Explore one thoughtful question together - from deep theological mysteries to everyday questions about how faith intersects with life.

Kathy Allen 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.
Bring snacks & juice boxes DEC. 7



Sister Parish news

El Pilar Projects

After our November 2024 visit, local leaders held public meetings and community members voted on current priorities. Las Orquídeas and Bendicion de Dios (often referred to together as “**El Pilar**”) identified their top needs:

- **Las Orquídeas:** piped water to all 75 homes so families would not have to use the hand pump wells multiple times a day for their water needs.
- **Bendicion de Dios:** a community building where they could host meetings, events and have a room that could be used for medical exams.

We thought the Las Orquideas water project would be a multi-year effort, but now we have an incredible opportunity to partner with another organization and complete the work this year. However, we need an additional \$10,000 for both projects. Join us to benefit these projects:

Watsonville Public House Fundraiser

“Prime the Pump”

October 11 at 2:00 pm

Tickets are \$35; more details and tickets at santacruzalsalvador.org. Tickets may also be purchased from Jeanne Boudreau or Kent Madsen.

2025 DELEGATION

Monday, November 24 to Wednesday, December 3

Deposits are due October 1

Contact us if you would like to join this year’s delegation. The agenda is being developed.

Upcoming Events:

September Benevolence Offering -
St. Stephen's Child Development Center

TODAY	MMRR Bake Sale
Sept. 16	Scouts 6:00 pm
Sept. 17	Preschool Chapel 10:15
Sept. 17	Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm
Sept. 18	Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays Dinner and devotions
Sept. 18	Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside
Sept. 19	A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall
Sept. 19	Newsletter Deadline
Sept. 20	Pastor Eduardo Trejo's church 11:00 am El Buen Pastor 40th anniversary celebration 817 Beech St. Salinas
Sept. 21	Guest preacher—seminarian Christa Garcia
Sept. 25	Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm
Oct. 4	Property work day

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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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