

*One of them turned back,
praising God*

LUKE 17:15

18th Sunday after Pentecost

October 12, 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 “Come to the water of life”

All who are thirsty for mercy, all who are thirsty for love;
All who are thirsty for love, for mercy, come;
Come to the Water of life.

All who are thirsty for healing,
all who are thirsty for touch;
All who are thirsty for touch, for healing, come;
Come to the Water of life.

All who are thirsty for beauty,
all who are thirsty for truth;
All who are thirsty for truth, for beauty, come;
Come to the Water of life.

All who are thirsty for justice,
all who are thirsty for peace;
All who are thirsty for peace, for justice, come;
Come to the Water of life. 3

*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

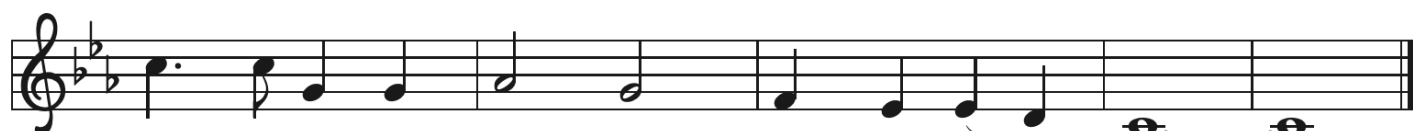
Blue #31



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 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15 Celebrate pg. 1
R: Word of God, Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.


Psalm Psalm 111 Choir with congregation response
Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading 2 Timothy 2:8-15 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.



Repeat alleluia

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

*Gospel Reading

Luke 17:11-19

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Luke, the 17th 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)

God Stories

Message

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day "Healer of Our Every Ill" Red #612

REFRAIN

Healer of our every ill
Light of each tomorrow
Give us peace beyond our fear
And hope beyond our sorrow

You who know our fears and sadness
Grace us with your peace and gladness
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts

REFRAIN

In the pain and joy beholding
How your grace is still unfolding
Give us all your vision, God of love

REFRAIN

Give us strength to love each other
Ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide

REFRAIN

You who know each thought and feeling
Teach us all your way of healing
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart *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

Offering Prayer

P: Lord of the harvest,

We return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
To bless all who are suffering and in need,
Through Jesus 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: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

(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 *“Jesus Remember Me” Red #616*

Jesus, remember me
When you come into your kingdom

Jesus, remember me
When you come into your kingdom

Eat this bread, drink this cup
Come to me and never be hungry

Eat this bread, drink this cup
Trust in me and you will not thirst

The Sending

*Prayer after Communion

P: O God,
Through this meal you have strengthened us
And appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
With all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen**

*Blessing

P: The God of righteousness,
Who gives justice to the oppressed,
Who gives food to the hungry,
Who sets the prisoners free,
+ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen**

*Closing Hymn *"Now Thank We All Our God"* Red #840

Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

(hymn continued)

Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all harm In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
The Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Do not lose heart.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music

Serving Today

Reader: Beth Stiles

Coffee Host: Rebecca Wickham

Altar Guild: Tina Gates

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



SHORT TERM

Tom Williams, Charlotte & family, Tim Oldfield, Kathy M., Georgina Beyer's family, Nancy, Jennifer Linkeon, Corrine & Daniel, Connie Garcia & Family, Laura, 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, Grey, Levi, Lisa J., Unemployed, Nick, James, Mary D., Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Francisco, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, 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 & 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 *

The Altar Flowers are given
By Judi & Robert Alvarado
Celebrating their 15 grandkids



MUSIC AT ST. STEPHENS

Choir Fest Thanks choir for the great food and fellowship we will do it again.



Invitation to join Good News Singers is always open in the choir. Bring an instrument and share your talents with us., your voice, spirit, and praising God through music.

Christmas choir Please consider joining and be a member of a Christmas ensemble. It would be so great to see 20 strong celebrating Jesus in a choir.

Taize worship I'm still working on printing songs for this special time. Together we will have a booklet with introduction, and music available for everyone.

“Let not your heart be troubled;
ye believe in God,
believe also in me. I will not leave you.
Peace I leave with you always.”

Yours in Christ & Mission,
Gary



**WORKFORCE HOUSING
IS ON THE BALLOT
NOVEMBER 4**

COPA CIVIC ACADEMY

**SATURDAY, OCT. 18TH 3:00-4:30 PM
PEACE UNITED CHURCH**

Fellowship Hall 900 High Street Santa Cruz

Join fellow COPA leaders to learn

- What is this special election all about?
- What's the difference between Measures B and C?
- Why does COPA support Measure C?

We'll look at these questions as **VOTERS**
AND as **LEADERS** of democratic and **FAITH** institutions --

- What does it mean to 'love your neighbor as yourself' where teachers, nurses, public safety and hospitality workers can't afford to live in the community they serve?
- What is the impact on our community social fabric when parents have to work multiple jobs to pay the highest rent in the country?



**REGISTER TO JOIN US Saturday, October 18
at Peace United Church from 3:00 to 4:30**
to consider these questions, share your own experience
and make a plan to vote by mail before November 5.

COPA GOTV Days: Every Saturday at 10 am at 740 Front St (the Galleria) for training.
Join us in contacting voters by walking neighborhoods, making calls, sending texts,
to inform voters of the difference their vote can make on housing in Santa Cruz.





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, November 4th - 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



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. We need an additional \$10,000 for both projects.

2025 DELEGATION

Monday, November 24 to Wednesday, December 3

Deposits are due

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!

“American Agitators”

Documentary screening and discussion
with free dinner.

Wednesday,
November 5th
4:30–7:00 pm
Samper Hall @
Cabrillo

- Learn about the history of community organizing in our region
- Meet past and present community organizers
- learn about current opportunities to get involved.



Register here



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.



Upcoming Events:

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

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Oct. 14 | Scouts 6:00 pm |
| Oct. 14 | Knitter's Guild 6:15 pm |
| Oct. 15 | Preschool Chapel 10:15 |
| Oct. 15 | Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm |
| Oct. 16 | Knitter's Guild 10 am |
| Oct. 16 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays
Dinner and devotions (Bring your "hopes") |
| Oct. 16 | Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside |
| Oct. 17 | A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall |
| Oct. 18 | COPA Civic Academy 3:00 Peace United High St. |
| Oct. 26 | * Reformation Polka Mass & Oktoberfeast * |
| Nov. 4 | Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm - Discretion Brew 41st |
| Nov. 5 | "American Agitators" documentary screening &
discussion with free dinner 4:30 pm Cabrillo |
| Nov. 12 | MMRR Circle 10:30 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.
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email: office@ststephenslutheran.org
Web Address: 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