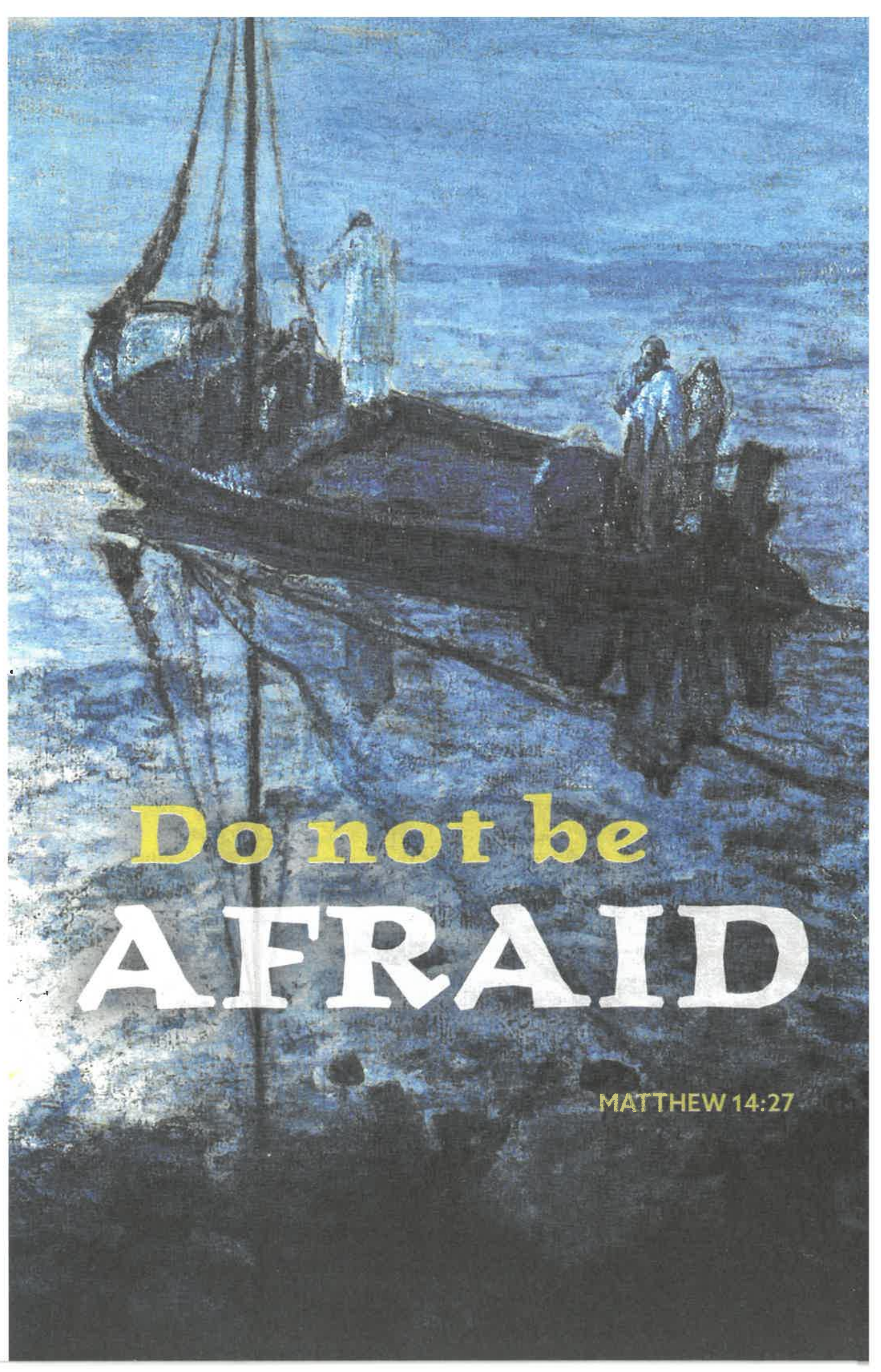




Do not be
A FRAID

MATTHEW 14:27

11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Music A Harmonization of Psalm 85
Assurance of Divine Peace

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.”

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

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

#533

Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before thee;
Come thou also unto me;
Where we find thee and adore thee,
There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou,
Let it be thy temple now!

(hymn continued)

Here thy praise is gladly chanted,
Here thy seed is dully sown;
Let my soul, where it is planted,
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken,
Let me keep thy gift divine;
How soe'er temptations thicken,
May thy word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.

Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,
Let thy will be done in deed;
May I undisturbed draw near thee
While thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.

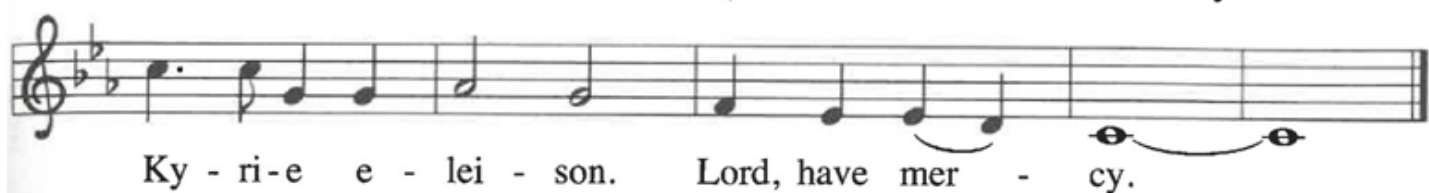
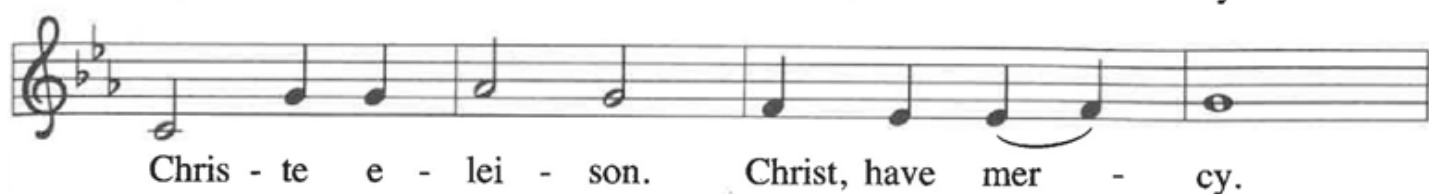
*Greeting

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

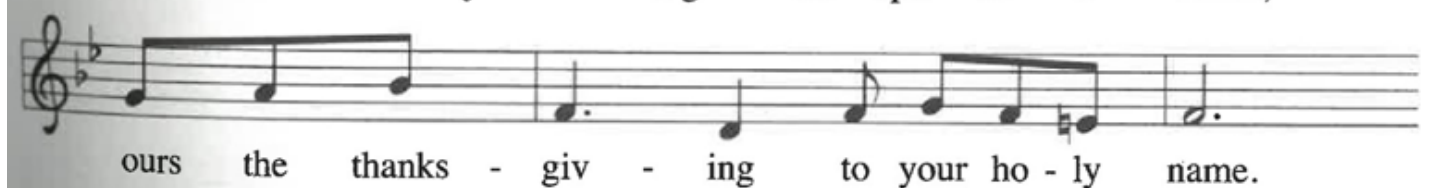
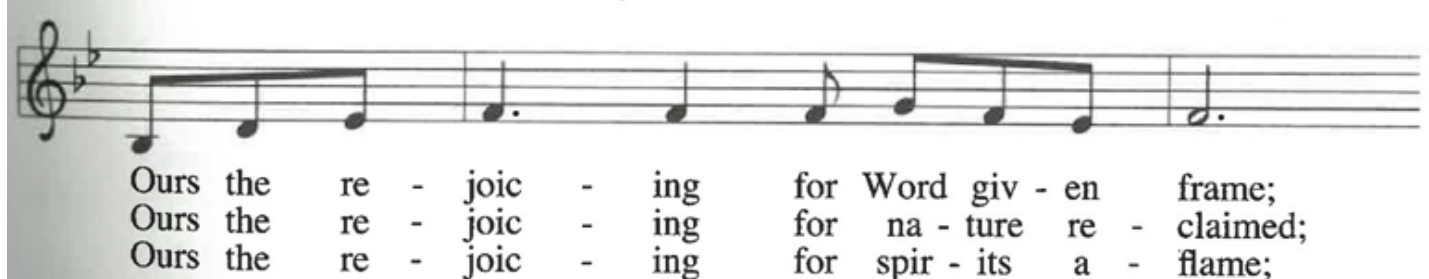
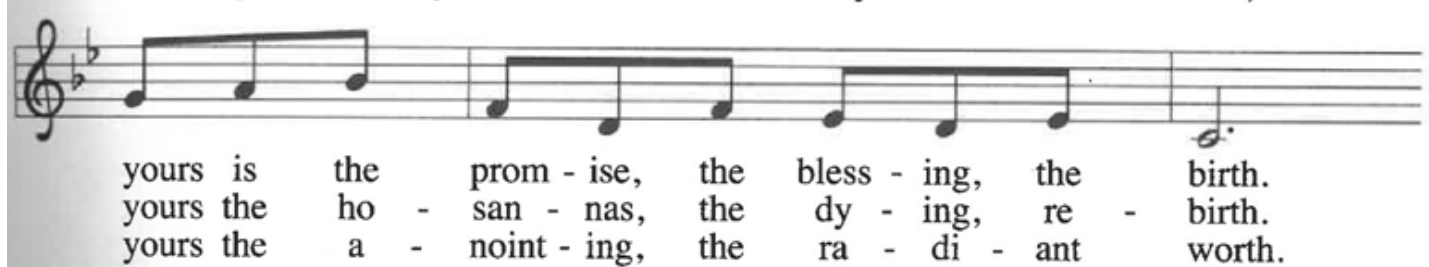
C: And also with you

*Kyrie & Hymn of Praise

Blue #31



One of the following or another song of praise may be sung.



*Prayer of the Day

The Word of God

God Stories - How has God's Word come alive in your life?

First Reading

1 Kings 19:9-18

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 85:8-13

(read responsively)

Cel. pg. 2

Second Reading

Romans 10:5-15

Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

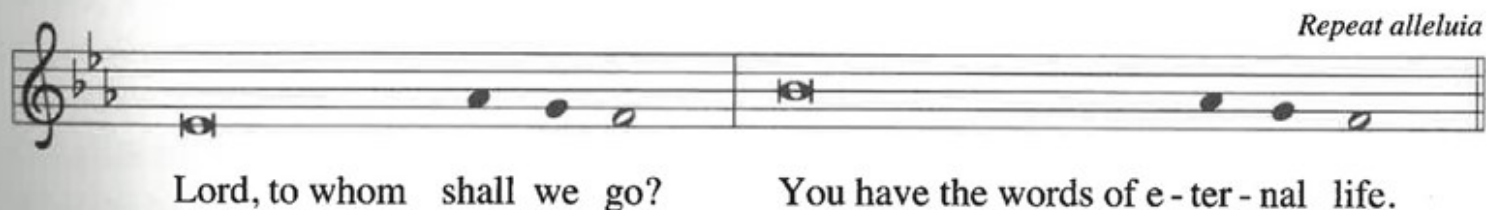
C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Blue #33



The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing one of these verses.



*Gospel Reading

Mathew 14:22-33

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew, the 13th 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

Chrisa Wyneken Garcia, Seminarian

*Hymn of the Day

"Day by Day" #790

Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
where at last I'll find eternal rest.

Day by day, I know you will provide me
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
o'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow,
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow
till in glory I behold your face.

(hymn continued)

Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
when my burdens grow too great to bear;
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
you will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.

The Prayers of the Church Celebrate, Page 4

Back to School Blessing

Students / Parents / Educators

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 “Romanza” Richard Purvis

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.

*Eucharistic Prayer

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our JOY,
that we should at all times and in all places,
offer thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
You pour out your Holy Spirit,
Uniting in one body,
people of every tongue and nation.

*Words of Institution

In the night, in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it,
And gave it to his disciples saying:

“Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”
After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
And gave it for all to drink, saying:
“this cup is the new covenant in by blood, shed for you
And for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

*Lord's Prayer

P: God, remember us in you love and teach us to pray:

**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
Communion Hymn

"Let Us Break Bread Together" Red #471

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.

REFRAIN

When I fall on my knees,
With my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees.

REFRAIN

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees.

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

"God, Bless to Us Our Bread" ACS (Blue) #1056

God bless to . . . us our . . . bread,
And give bread . . . To all those who are hungry,
and hunger for justice to those who are fed.
God bless to . . . us our . . . bread.

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Christ is sending you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music “Postlude in E Major”— Mary Richardson

Serving Today

Reader: Janet Slay

Coffee Host: Rebecca Wickham

Altar Guild: Tina Gates

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



Hope and Love in South Stockton - Mt. Cross Day Camp at Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina

Grace and peace be upon you all. At the new home of Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina, St. Mark's United Methodist Church in South Stockton, the staff of Mt. Cross, led by Seminarian Christa Wyneken García, brought hope and love to the children who attended the summer camp. Among these young campers, there were migrant children whose parents were taken into custody by ICE agents in a traffic stop.

The title of Camp was "Wear Love." Christa, Jess, Tyler and Sofía, the Mt Cross staff, showed the participants the meaning of God's love through games, Bible Studies, songs, prayers, arts and crafts and their kindness. We did not have many kids given the fact that many families are afraid of going out, because of the increase of ICE activity in the area, but also because many are working hours that do not allow them to send their kids and be able to pick them up. Other families leave to other states looking for work and return in late August. Nevertheless, the collaboration between the Sierra Pacific Synod, Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina, Mt. Cross Outdoors Ministries and St. Mark's United Methodist Church planted a seed of hope and love in one of the poorest ZIP codes in the state of California: 95206.

It is there in the margins that God awaits us all. Just like Christ was crucified outside the city of Jerusalem as a marginalized peasant Jew by the Roman Empire, we are called to meet Christ at the foot of the crosses experienced by other marginalized communities. We find Christ in the means of grace, but we also find him among his little ones, in the margins. The Love and Hope of God were experienced in one of the marginalized communities of the wealthiest state in the nation. The seed has been planted. Next year, I know more children will attend because the Word has been planted. Amen.

-The Rev. Nelson H. Rabell-González,
M. Div., STM, and BSME

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.

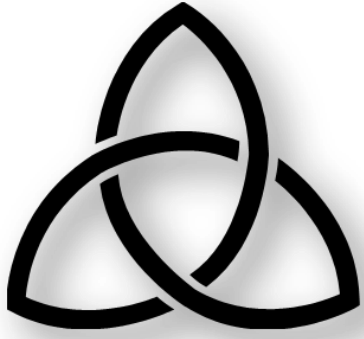
All are available at
<https://ststephenslutheran.org>
Or by scanning this QR code.



Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM *Mark Linder, Ross Johnston, Zaun family, Doug Lentz, Celeste, Calvin Perez, Mary Basnight, Tiffany, Amy Perez, Lizeth Medina, Bryan Diaz, Carolyn Del Po, Stefan Laushlim, Lisa Wyat, Kayla Ratliff, Frannes Hyddie, Thomas Viucera, Peggy Reed, Deontae Ratliff, Barbara Allen & Family, Jordan Perez, Fred, Rev. Will & Dorothy Sieburg, Pam Huypner, Bob Zigler, Kathybelle, Taiyo, Sam, Nancy's Family, Kat, Penny, Colin, Camryn, Dorothy Ronning, Bob Holzwarth, Mary Robe & Family, Sina & Bella, Chad Fields, James, Don, Pr. Gary & Corinne Stevenson, Kevin, Liz, Sam, Kathy M., Nancy, Grey, Levi, James, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Isaac & Marissa, Mateo & Lina, Atlas, Katarina. Lorraine & Pr. Larry*

LONG TERM *James, Biergiel—Colclough family, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Beth UG, Brian Utto, Kathy Brooks, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit & family (Ethiopia), Miller, April, Aaron Johnson, Shelby, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Mike, Susan Anderson, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris & John B., Those suffering with Mental Illness, Immigrant families, The Unhoused, People of Ukraine, People of Palestine/Israel, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, S.S. Senior Housing,*



Trinity Tuesday

(Pub Theology / Discussion)

One Beverage ~ One Hour ~ One Question

Tuesday September 1 at 6:30pm

First Tuesday of the month at Discretion Brewery

*BRING YOUR DEEPEST QUESTIONS,
AN OPEN HEART,
& A CURIOUS MIND*

Gather with us for an evening of meaningful conversation and real community. Bring your questions about faith, life, and everything in between. No judgment, no limits—just authentic dialogue over a cold one.

Whether you've been with us from the start or you're stepping through the door for the first time, there's a seat waiting for you.

Past conversations: How do we see God? How are we called? Why do bad things happen to good people? Recognizing our God-given talents. How do we forgive?

Kathy Allen 430-6359 for more info.



On ZOOM
with Pr. Larry

Check email on
Tues. for link

WEDNESDAYS

7:30 – 8:30 pm

We will be looking at the upcoming scripture readings for Sunday, to enrich our worship experience and uncover some of the deeper truths of our faith. As we grow in our faith, we grow in community.

Larry Vilardo <lvilardo@earthlink.net>

HOLY CLOSURE

Child Development Center

August 30



10 am

Worship

Join in this faithful process of our Preschool ending,
Grieve it's loss &
Affirm God's ongoing presence.



Greetings! My vision is to recruit talented church members who are interested in music used in worship and love to praise God, as I do.

Let's celebrate, and enhance our weekly singing, playing, praying together, here in our God centered / worship gatherings. Won't you take a moment and speak to yourself and see if this is good for you and others. Relax, pray, and say yes!

Be a leader in these four instrumental parts to an orchestra—find (1 player each) and build a team:

Strings Wood Brass Percussion

I will work with you also. You will not be a lone contact person.

Support team:

Posters, artwork etc.

Pre-recorded music, listen & order

Website, communications etc.

Yours in Christ and Mission,
Gary



Upcoming Events:

August Benevolence Offering =
California Lutheran University &
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

TODAY after worship check out the
Preschool items for sale

Aug. 11 Scouts 6:00 pm

Aug. 12 Bible Study Zoom 7:30 pm

Aug. 13 `Men's A.A. Group 7:00 pm

Aug. 14 A. A. Group 7:00 pm

Aug. 16 — September Coffee Hosts & readers needed !

Aug. 20 Women's Bold Café 6:00pm
devotions and potluck

Aug. 23 Farewell Potluck for Pastor Larry

Aug. 29 Host AFC Shelter Dinner St. John's, Aptos 6 p
Sign up for one item

Aug. 30 "Holy Closure" worship honoring our preschool

Sept. 1 Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm
Discretion Brewry 41st Ave.
Faith Questions genuine community

Sept 11-13 Women of ELCA Retreat

Sept 12 Embroider's Guild 10—4

Pr. Larry will have brief office hours Tues. & Weds. Afternoons
Now through August 24 Pastor Jim on sabbatical

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.
2500 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
831/476-4700 FAX 831/476-3918
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

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