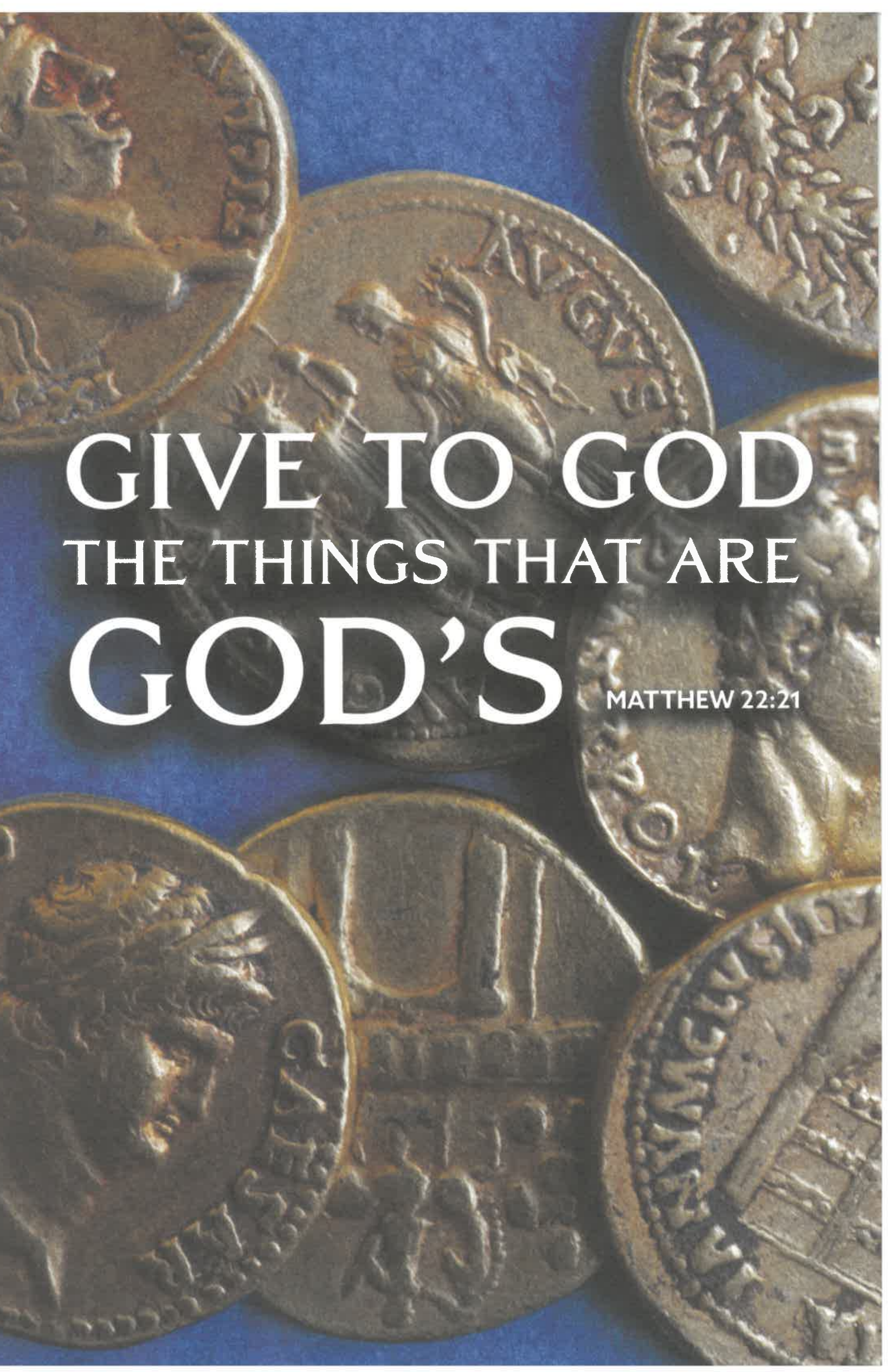




GIVE TO GOD THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S

MATTHEW 22:21

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Music “Introit” by Richard Purvis

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.”

Good morning Beloved Community of God! I am very grateful to Steven Hendrickson for serving as Worship Leader today. He has been taking a Preaching Class offered to Lay Leaders by our Sierra Pacific Synod recently. And thanks to our faithful worship techies Barbara and Kent, I will be able to hear his sermon online and with you in spirit.

Leslie and I are attending my 40th(!) Class Reunion at Cal Lutheran this weekend. It’s a 4.5 hr drive and because it’s a milestone, we decided to stay for Sunday worship there—at the Chapel that Leslie and I both helped persuade the Administration to build during the time we were student leaders in the campus congregation—Lord of Life. We both served as President at one point. Previously, our congregation worshipped in the gym.

I will also be attending the Founders Day event featuring a keynote address by the previous Bishop of the ELCA, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton (whom Steven has met!). She will speak on the topic “The Once and Future Church”.

So it will be a kind of Continuing Education time for me and I look forward to bringing back the messages I will receive there, as we are currently engaged in our own Holy Conversations about what God may be calling us to next at St. Stephen's.

Also we will be able to meet with and encourage our two St. Stephen's Tippins Scholarship recipients who are students at Cal Lutheran right now—Sofia and Arija Bartee.

It is always good to honor and remember where you came from, and lift up the memory of the ones who helped you so much along the way during those crucial and formative 4 years at our church-related university. It's always meaningful to return to beginnings of one's own marriage and family and be able to reflect upon how God's love and grace has been made known throughout those 40 years!

Blessings on your time together as you offer yourselves back to God in gratitude for what God has done for each of us.

The Gathering

*Litany of Praise for Creation

P: Glory to you, O God: you speak a word of power,
And so you create the world. We praise you, O God:

C: We praise you, O God.

P: For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life,
For the earth ordered from chaos, and for light and dark,
We bless you, O God:

C: We bless you, O God.

P: For the cosmos beyond our earth,
for the sky above our heads,
And for the cycle of evening and morning,
We exalt you, O God:

C: We exalt you, O God.

P: For the seas the lakes and the rivers,
For the land with its mountains and plains,
And for the trees, the plants, and their fruits,
We magnify you, O God:

C: We magnify you, O God.

P: For the sun to rule the day,
For the moon to brighten the night,
And for the shining stars, We extol you, O God:
C: We extol you, O God.

P: For the fish in the sea, and for the birds of the air,
And for the creatures in the deep,
We glorify you, O God:
C: We glorify you, O God.

P: For wild animals and creatures of all kinds,
For cattle and all livestock,
And for everything that creeps on earth,
We adore you, O God:
C: We adore you, O God.

P: For humankind made in your image,
For setting us on your good earth,
And for providing us food to eat, We praise you, O God:
C: We praise you, O God.

P: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving
And honor and power and might
Be to you, our God, forever and ever.
C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Bring Many Names" ACS #1094

*Bring many names, beautiful and good,
Celebrate, in parable and story,
Holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and hosanna! Bring many names!*

*Strong mother God, working night and day,
Planning all the wonders of creation,
Setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!*

*Warm father God, hugging every child,
Feeling all the strains of human living,
Caring and forgiving, till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!*

*Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
Calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
Glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!*

*Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
Saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
Crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!*

*Great, living God, never fully known,
Joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
Closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!*

*Greeting

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

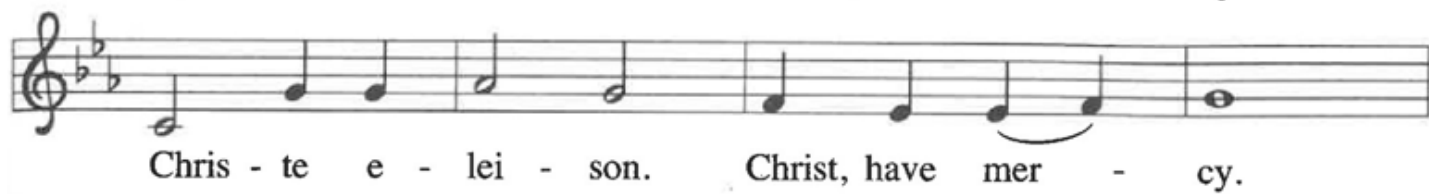
C: **And also with you**

*Kyrie & Hymn of Praise

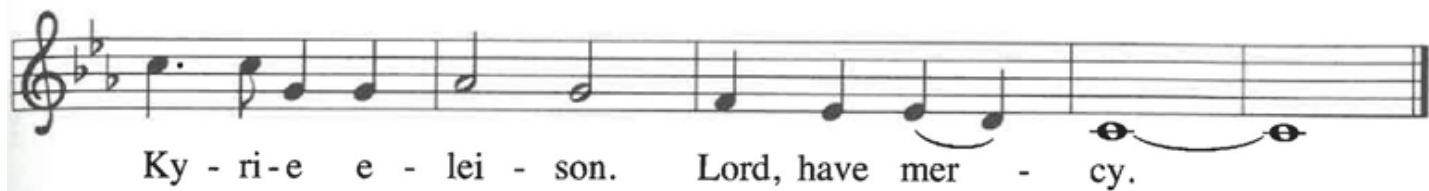
Blue #31



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.

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



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

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

First Reading Isaiah 45:1-7 Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 96:1-9 (choir & congregation) Cel. pg. 2

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

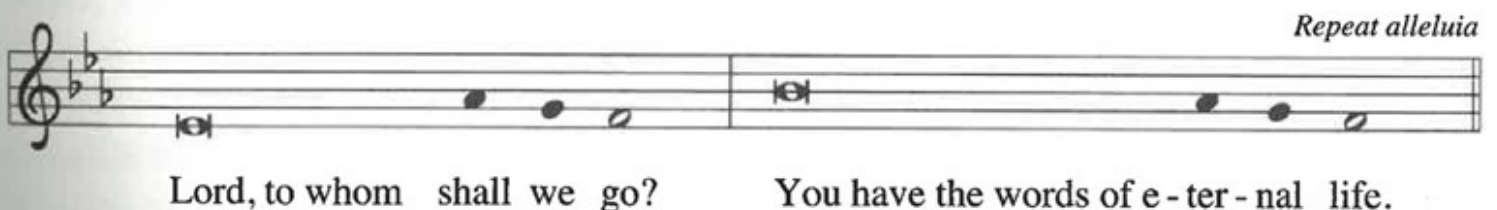
C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Blue #33



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



*Gospel Reading

Mathew 22:15-22

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew, the 22nd 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 "Giving What Belongs to God" Steven Hensrickson

*Hymn of the Day

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Red #841

Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song

full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;

Sing a song

full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,

Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet

Come to the place for which our parents sighed?

We have come

over a way that with tears has been watered;

We have come,

treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,

Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last

Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet
stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
Lest, our hearts
drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

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 guest, Greg Ferrer from Next Stage, singing
“Wick” from the Secret Garden

Offering Prayer

P: God of creation,
You send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.

C: Amen

Take my life, that I may be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I with-hold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.

*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.**

The Sending

***Blessing**

**P: Creator God bless you and keep you.
Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy.
Creative Spirit nourish you and give you + Peace.
C: Amen.**

***Closing Hymn**

"God of Grace and God of Glory" #705

**God of grace and God of glory,
On your people pour your pow'r;
Crown your ancient church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom grant us courage
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.**

(hymn continued)

Lo! The hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to Faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving you whom we adore,
Serving you whom we adore.

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Flourish with creation.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music "Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen"
Text, Susan D. Cherwisen music, Timothy J. Strand

Serving Today

Worship Leader: Steven Hendrickson

Reader: Bill Anderson

Coffee Host: Bill & Candace Anderson

Altar Guild: Candace Anderson

Office Support: Candace Anderson, Sheila Buswell
& Sherilyn Jager



Given by
Jennifer, Liam & Aidan
In honor of
Arnie Swan's Birthday

REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCT. 25TH

10:00am WORSHIP
GERMAN MUSIC LITURGY

11:15am OKTOBER FEAST
& Fun

Brats Provided!

You bring Sides, Dessert & Beer!

See sign ups

(Set up Sat.10 am and clean up Sun.)

“Roll out the barrel . . . ”

with Thirsty Nine,
OOMPA Band (confirmed!)

A Free will offering will be collected to
go to their music scholarships



Holy Conversations

Today & Nov. 1

A time for exploring where God might be calling us to next! These small group gatherings have been planned by our Long Range Task Force (Pr. Jim, Mark Linder, Tina Gates, Jeannette Dawson & Steven Hendrickson). As we have studied the book “When Church Stops Working” as a faithful response to the reality of our church’s decline, it is time to re-gather our spirits and begin to ask “What are our hopes for the future of our congregations ministry.” Let’s begin to dream and imagine together about some creative ways that our ministry together can now engage in.



& Día de los Muertos

November 1

Bring a photo of your departed loved ones, framed or unframed, to display on a remembrance table in the church narthex. You can pick up your photo beginning Sunday, November 8 following worship.

Don't have a physical photo or can't come in-person to church right now? Email a digital photo by October 28 (or any other questions you may have) to Christa Garcia at christawynekengarcia@gmail.com and she will print and display them for you.

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.

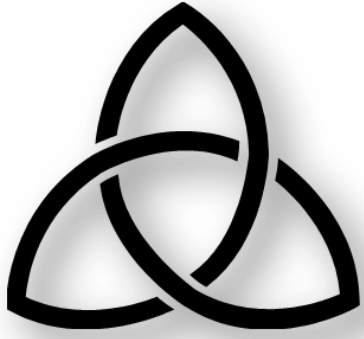
All are available at
<https://ststephenslutheran.org>
Or by scanning this QR code.



Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM Kathybelle, family & friends of Barbara Allen, Cheryl Curry & Family, Alfred Family, James & Family, Family of Mark Linder, Brian Garcia & Family, Dorothy Ronning, Kavon, Janet, Shelton, Judy, Mary, Brandon, Josie, Andre, Lurline, Tyeleiga, Diane Johnie, Phill, Tina Brown, Alma Black, Andrea Black Tamsen, Leila, Doug Yaryan, Rob, Debbie Greso, James White, Jeffery, Zaun family, Doug Lentz, Rev. Will & Dorothy Sieburg, Pam Huypner, Bob Zigler, Taiyo, Kevin, Liz, Sam, Kathy M., Nancy, Grey, Levi, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Isaac & Marissa, Mateo & Lina, Atlas, Katarina.

LONG TERM Pr. Gary & Corinne Stevenson, 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, Ruth, 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, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.



Trinity Tuesday

(Pub Theology / Discussion)

One Beverage ~ One Hour ~ One Question

Tuesday November 10 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. Jim

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 & uncover some of the deeper truths of our faith. As we grow in our faith, we grow in community.



Good morning, ALL ARE WELCOME!

We have had good support so far in October, for donations from the heart, to the Musicians Fund. Thank you so much. You will have the opportunity to share until October 25th.

Many thanks and welcome to Mr. Greg Ferrer, for his talents and for singing for us & God this morning. Nancy Adams will return on Nov. 18, singing “Bring Him Home”, from Les Miserable. On Dec. 5 she sings, “When You Wish Upon A Star.”

The Good News Singers will begin rehearsal for Advent, and the Christmas season. Anyone who loves to sing is welcome to join & make music. Thank you Barbara, Ross, and Jay for your many faithful years, leadership, friendship & all that Jazz. We will meet again, in a better place. Thank God for our Church!

Yours in Christ and Mission, Gary

Upcoming Events:

October Benevolence Offering =
Music Outreach

- TODAY & Nov. 1 Holy Conversations 11:30 am
Sign up now
- Oct. 20 Scouts 6:00 pm
- Oct. 21 Bible Study Zoom 7:30 pm
- Oct. 22 Newsletter Deadline NOON
Think about sharing a God Story!
- Oct. 22 Women's Bold Café 6:00pm
devotions and potluck
- Oct. 22 Men's A.A. Group 7:00 pm
- Oct. 23 "Next Stage Productions" 11 to 1
- Oct. 23 A. A. Group 7:00 pm
- Oct. 24 Set up Oktoberfest 10 am
- Oct. 25 Reformation / Oktoberfest
- Oct. 25 Reader needed
- Oct. 31 Host AFC Shelter Dinner St. John's, Aptos 6 p
- Nov. 1 All Saints / Dia de los Muertos celebration
- Nov. 3 Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm
Discretion Brewery 41st Ave.
Faith Questions with genuine community
- Nov. 12 Circle of Promise 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.
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
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp
Custodian: John Hopping
Powerpoint: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539