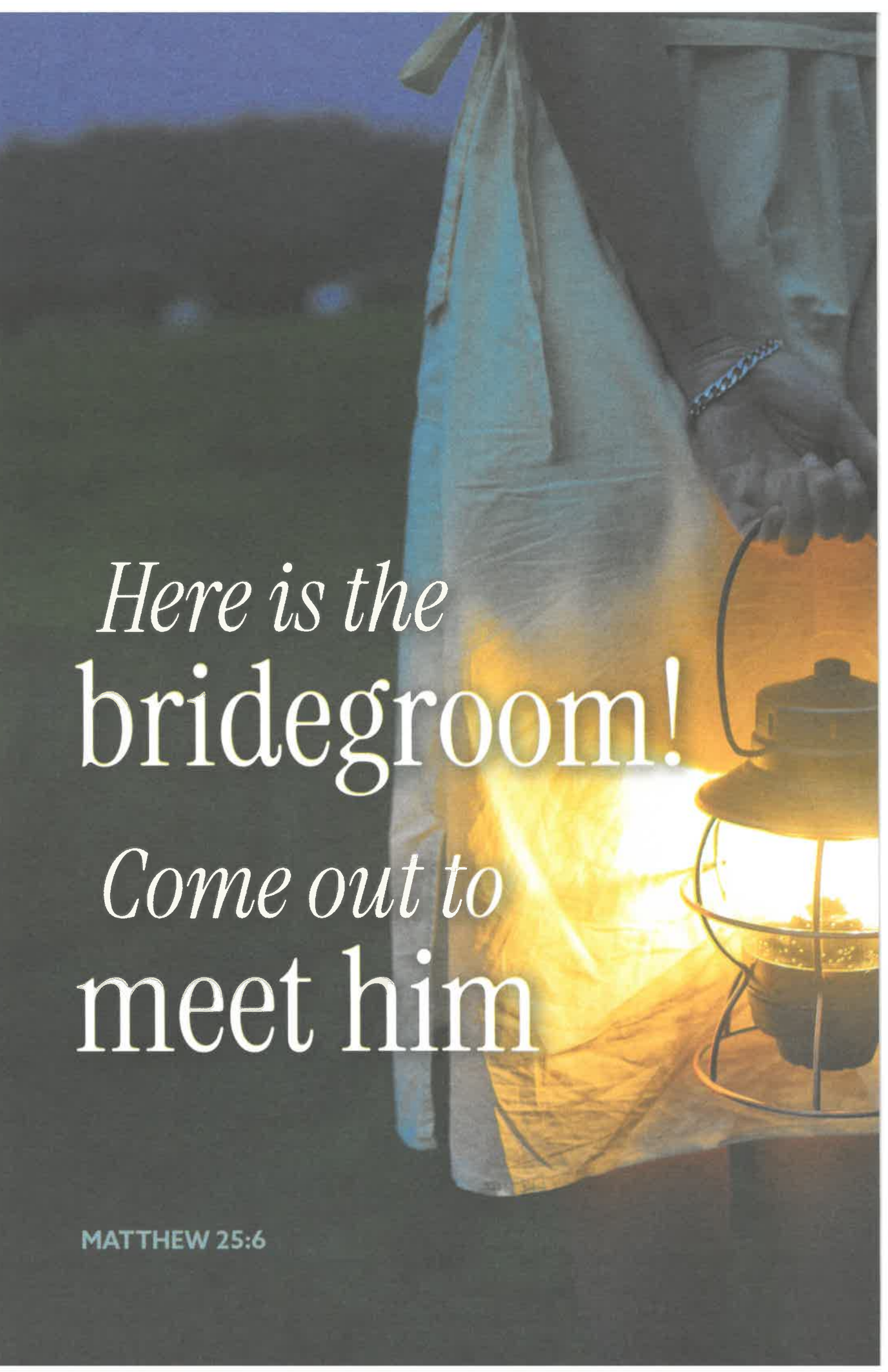

Here is the
bridegroom!
Come out to
meet him
MATTHEW 25:6

24th Sunday after Pentecost
German Folk Mass
November 8, 2026 10:00 a.m.

Music "Prelude in D Major"
Sergei Rachmaninoff op. 23, No 4

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.

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,
Our dwelling place for all generations,
Whose compassion never slumbers.
C: Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: Holy God,
C: We confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
Which keeps us from entering fully
Into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
That we may enter into your joy. Amen.

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace.
+ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Oh When the Saints Go Marching In" Blue #950

Oh when the saints go marching in,
Oh, when the saints go marching in,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
When the saints go marching in.

Oh when the Lord in glory comes,
Oh, when the Lord in glory comes,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
When the Lord in glory comes.

Oh when the new world is revealed,
Oh, when the new world is revealed,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
When the new world is revealed.

Oh when they gather round the throne,
Oh, when they gather round the throne,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
When they gather round the throne. (hymn continued)

And on that hallelujah day,
And on that hallelujah day,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
On that hallelujah day.

*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.

Call To Worship "Come Now and Worship"

Come Now and worship
Come now and worship the Lord
Come now and worship
Join as we sing and adore
Gather together
Give God the praise that is due
Hear us as we come to worship
Sing praise to you.

We bring our gifts
Gifts of our selves and our lives.
With bread and wine
We offer you our whole lives.
This celebration
Draws us all closer to you.
Hear us as we come to worship.
Singing praise to you.

Jesus our Savior.
Died on the cross just for us.
Rose from the dead
He gives salvation to us.
Gather together

Drawing us closer to you.
Hear us as we come to worship.
Singing praise to you.

*Prayer of the Day

P: May God be with you.
C: And also with you.

P: Let us Pray.

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

The Word of God

First Reading Amos 5:18-24 Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 70:5 Choir with cong. response Cel. pg. 2

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Cel. pg. 3

R: Word of God, Word of Life.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

Good News Acclamation (before & after Gospel)

Allelujah. Allelujah. Allelujah. Allelujah.

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Matthew the 25th Chapter.
C: Glory to You, O God.

*Gospel Reading Matthew 25:1-13 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Allelujah. Allelujah. Allelujah. Allelujah.

Sermon Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"Canticle of the Turning" Red #723

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

REFRAIN
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my...God, my all,
You work great...things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past

To the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
And to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
For the world is about to turn. *REFRAIN*

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
Not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
Ev'ry tyrant...from his throne.
The hungry poor shall...weep no more,
For the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn. *REFRAIN*

Though the nations rage from...age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
From the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. *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 "Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table"

Offering Hymn "At This Sacrifice"
(Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain)

At this sacrifice we gather
Celebrating of your love.
For the sins we have committed,
Grant us pardon Lord of love.
Hearts to grow a little tender,
As the time of life goes by.
Love and kindness for each other,
Much too fast the moments fly.

Jesus we're not worthy ever,
To receive you here today.
Say the word denying never.
Make us pure again we pray.
God is love and God is mighty.
God is ever merciful.
Graces from God's holy bounty,
Sends God's love most wonderful.

Through the ages and forever,
In the heavenly domain.
Show the path for us to enter,
There for always to remain.
Life is like a dying ember,
Only moments do remain.
Increase our feeble faith O Jesus.
Shed thy healing light a gain.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us Pray...
Eternal God,
Our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer and all that you entrust to us,
Until hunger is no more and all the world is fed,
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.
C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord

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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every tongue and nation.

*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: In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

(You may be seated)

Holy Communion

Guests: You are welcome to come forward to receive Communion as part of this church family! Children are welcome to come forward and receive a special blessing if they have never communed before. Communion is by intinction, which means that we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white). If you need gluten-free bread, please indicate that to the pastor. You will receive an individually wrapped gluten-free wafer to open yourself and dip into the cup. All are truly welcome!

Lamb of God (Tune: Edelweiss)

Lamb of God, Lamb of God,
you take away the world's sin.
Lamb of God, Lamb of God,
you take away the world's sin.
Mercy and peace may you grant to us,
Grant to us forever.
Lamb of God, Lamb of God, grant to us your peace.

Communion Hymn *"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"*
Blue #949

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
For this work's almost done.

REFRAIN
Children, don't grow weary;
Children, don't grow weary,
Children, don't grow weary,
For this work's almost done.

Darker midnight lies before us,
Darker midnight lies before us,
Darker midnight lies before us,
For this works' almost done. REFRAIN

Lo, the morning soon is breaking,
Lo, the morning soon is breaking,
Lo, the morning soon is breaking,
For this work's almost done. REFRAIN

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
For this work's almost done. REFRAIN

The Sending

*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.
C: **Amen.**

Post Communion Hymn
"Let Us Sing" (Wooden Heart)

Let us sing, let us sing, let us sing to Christ our King.
Sing to Christ our King as we ask for his help this day.
God is good God is kind,
God will give us peace of mind,
Give us peace of mind if we following God's way.
There's no strings upon this love
God gives, God asks only your love in return
God is good, God is kind,
God will give us peace of mind,
Give us peace of mind if we follow in God's way.

*Blessing

P: The holy Trinity, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
Bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
Today and always.

.
C: Amen.

*Closing Hymn
"Soon and Very Soon" Red #439

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

No more crying there, we are going to see the King!
No more crying there, we are going to see the King!
No more crying there, we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

No more dying there, we are going to see the King!
No more dying there, we are going to see the King!
No more dying there, we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. Encourage one another.
C: Thanks be to God.

Music Hymn Tune, Austria, from Kaiser Quartet, by Joseph Hayden—Richard Purvis, composit

Serving Today

Reader: Janet Slay
Coffee Host: Margaret Schraft
Altar Guild: Candace Anderson
Office Support: Candace Anderson, Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



Thank you, to everyone who donated to *Music Outreach f*or the month of October. It was greatly appreciated.

Nancy Adams will be singing again:

Nov. 15 “Bring Him Home” from Les Miserables.

AND

Dec. 5 “When You Wish Upon a Star”

Dec. 20—Greg Ferrer, tenor, returns to sing “Sing Joy”, a medley of joyful Christmas carols, with a touch of Messiah, thrown in.

Our choir will share their talents weekly with us as well.

Nathan Lapp returns during the Christmas season, always great to work with him. Looking forward to adding brass to worship. It seems all fairly busy.

Come, Listen, a thrill of hope is calling

Come Rejoice, a weary world is healing

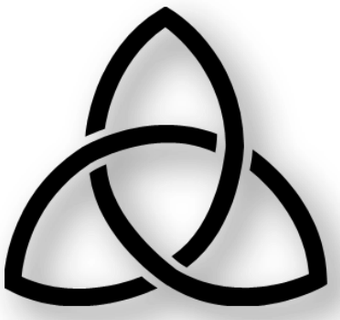
Come, Watch, a bright star is shining

Come Worship, the Messiah is coming

Advent is near! Tell a friend!

Yours in Christ and Mission, Gary





Trinity Tuesday

(Pub Theology / Discussion)

One Beverage ~ One Hour ~ One Question

(Corrected date)

Tuesday December 1 at 6:30pm

First Tuesday of the month at Discretion Brewery

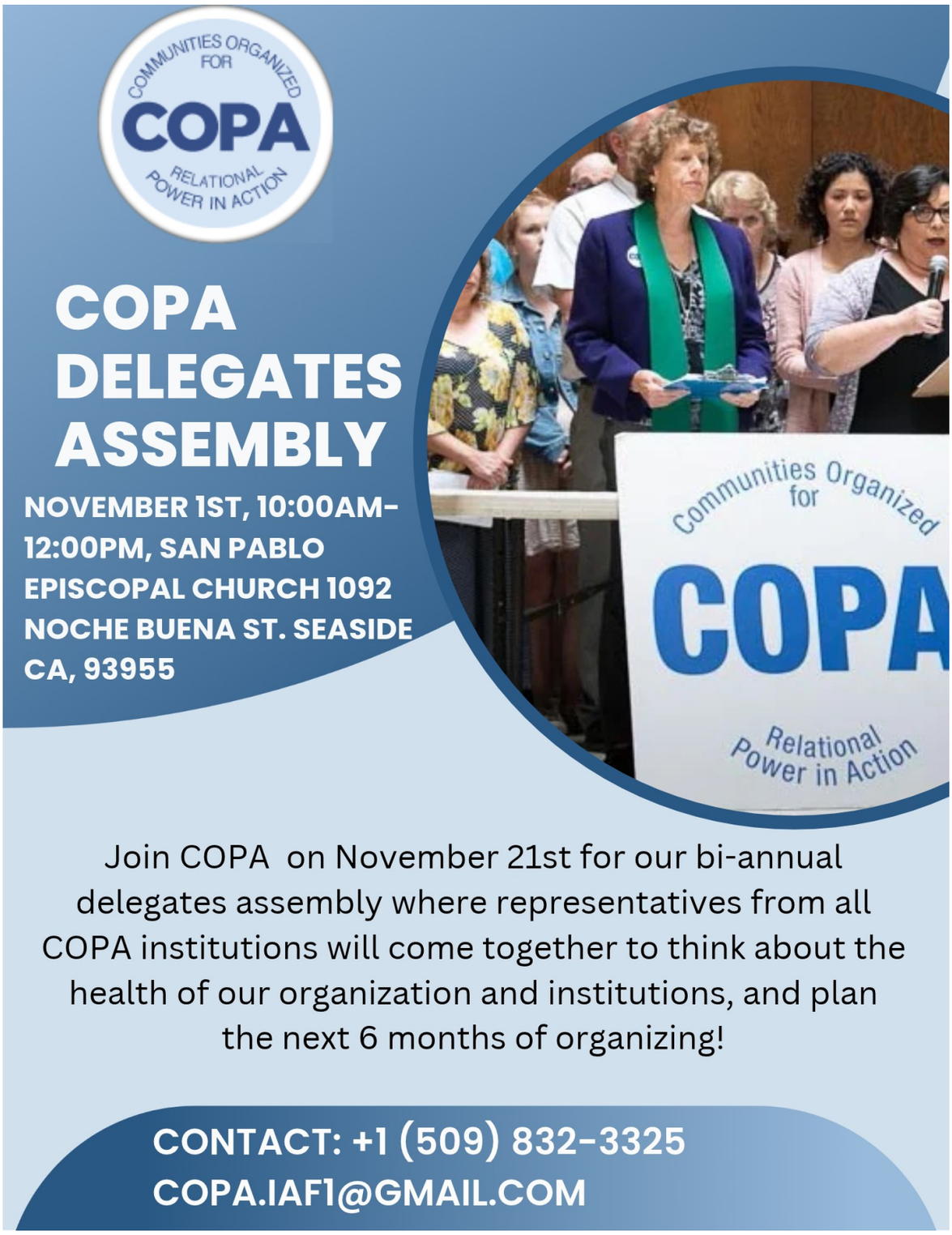
BRING YOUR DEEPEST QUESTIONS,
AN OPEN HEART,
& A CURIOUS MIND

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 he 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.


COMMUNITIES ORGANIZED FOR
COPA
RELATIONAL POWER IN ACTION
COPA DELEGATES ASSEMBLY
NOVEMBER 1ST, 10:00AM-12:00PM, SAN PABLO EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1092 NOCHE BUENA ST. SEASIDE CA, 93955
Communities Organized for
COPA
Relational Power in Action
Join COPA on November 21st for our bi-annual delegates assembly where representatives from all COPA institutions will come together to think about the health of our organization and institutions, and plan the next 6 months of organizing!
CONTACT: +1 (509) 832-3325
COPA.IAF1@GMAIL.COM

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 *Family of Lew Erickson, Michael, Kathybelle, Rebecca wWckham, family & friends of Barbara Allen, Oai Families, Julie Franier, France Huddle, Leiahetta, Jamie & Debbie, Cheryl Curry & Family, Nancy, James & Family, Family of Mark Linder, Dorothy Ronning, Doug Yaryan, 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, 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.*



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.

Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 15
11:00

Topic:

approval of funds to repair the Fireside Room roof.

Details about this repair will be provided before and during the meeting. We need a quorum of approximately 30 members present to vote to release the funds for this repair. I expect the meeting to be brief. We will start the meeting immediately after worship.



Upcoming Events:

Nov. Benevolence Offering = Santa Cruz al Salvador

Nov. 10	Scouts 6:00 pm
Nov. 10	Church Council 6:30 pm
Nov.19	Women's Bold Café 6:00pm devotions and potluck
Nov. 11	Bible Study Zoom 7:30 pm
Nov. 12	Circle of Promise 10:30 am
Nov. 12	Men's A.A. Group 7:00 pm
Nov. 13	"Next Stage Productions" 11 to 1
Nov. 13	A. A. Group 7:00 pm
Nov. 14	Embroider's Guild 10—12:30
Nov. 14	2:00 pm Memorial for Barbara Allen (Jeanette's mother)
Nov. 15	Special Cong. Meeting 11:00 (Roof $)
Nov. 16-24	El Salvador Sister Parish Delegation
Nov. 21	COPA Assembly 10 am San Pablo Episcopal Ch. 1092 Noche Buena St. , Seaside
Nov. 22	Stewardship Sunday & Thanksgiving Potluck
Nov. 22 & 29	readers needed
Dec. 1	Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm Discretion Brewry 41st Ave. Faith Questions with genuine community

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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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: Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice

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