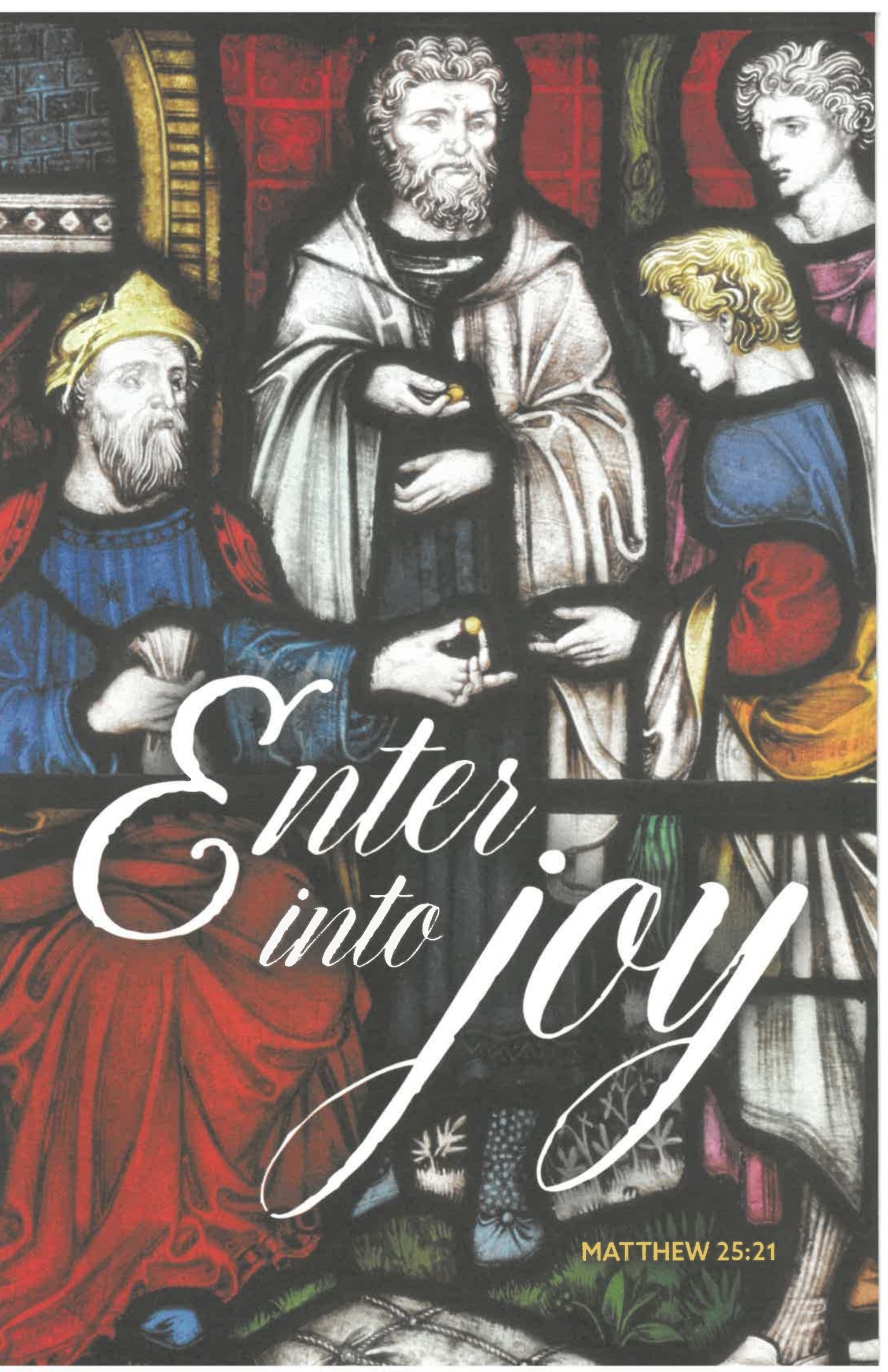

Enter into joy
MATTHEW 25:21

25th Sunday after Pentecost
German Folk Mass
November 15, 2026 10:00 a.m.

Music Johannes Brahms, op. 39

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

"We Praise You, O God" Red #870

We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,
And with your help, O Lord our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

*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 Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 Celebrate pg. 1

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

Psalm Psalm 90:1-12 Choir with cong. response Cel. pg. 2

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 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 25:14-30 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

"Light Dawns on a Weary World" #726

Light dawns on a wary world
When eyes begin to see
All people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
The promised day of justice comes.

REFRAIN
The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains
shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

Love grows in a weary world
When hungry hearts find bread
And children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world;
The promised feast of plenty comes. REFRAIN

Hope blooms in a weary world
When creatures, once forlorn,
Find wilderness reborn.
Hope bloom in a weary world;
The promised green of Eden comes. 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 "Bring Him Home" from Les Miserables
Guest Nancy Adams, soprano

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.

(hymn continued)

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 *Deep River" Blue #951*

REFRAIN
Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.

1. Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
That promised land where all is peace? Oh,
REFRAIN

2. Oh, when I get to heaven, I'll . . . Take my seat,
And cast my crown at Jesus' feet. Oh,
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

"Christ, Be Our Light" *Red #715*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

REFRAIN
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

(hymn continued)

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *REFRAIN*

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed. *REFRAIN*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone. *REFRAIN*

Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Signs of your kingdom come. *REFRAIN*

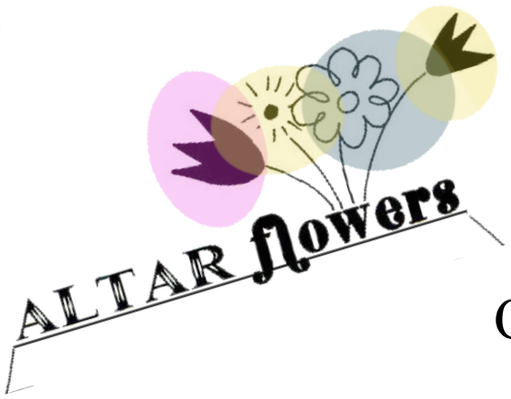
*Dismissal

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

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

Serving Today

Reader: Paula Castagna
Coffee Host: Bill Anderson
Altar Guild: Candace Anderson
Office Support: Candace Anderson, Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager



Given by Barb & Kent

Celebrating Chris' birthday



More Special Music!

Nov. 29 “My House” (Build My House) musical adaptation of Jim Barrie’s Peter Pan. Lyrics & Music - Leonard Bernstein
Sung by Gretchen Retka

Nancy Adams will be singing again:
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

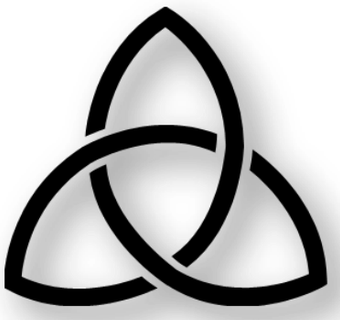
Come, Watch, a bright star is shining

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

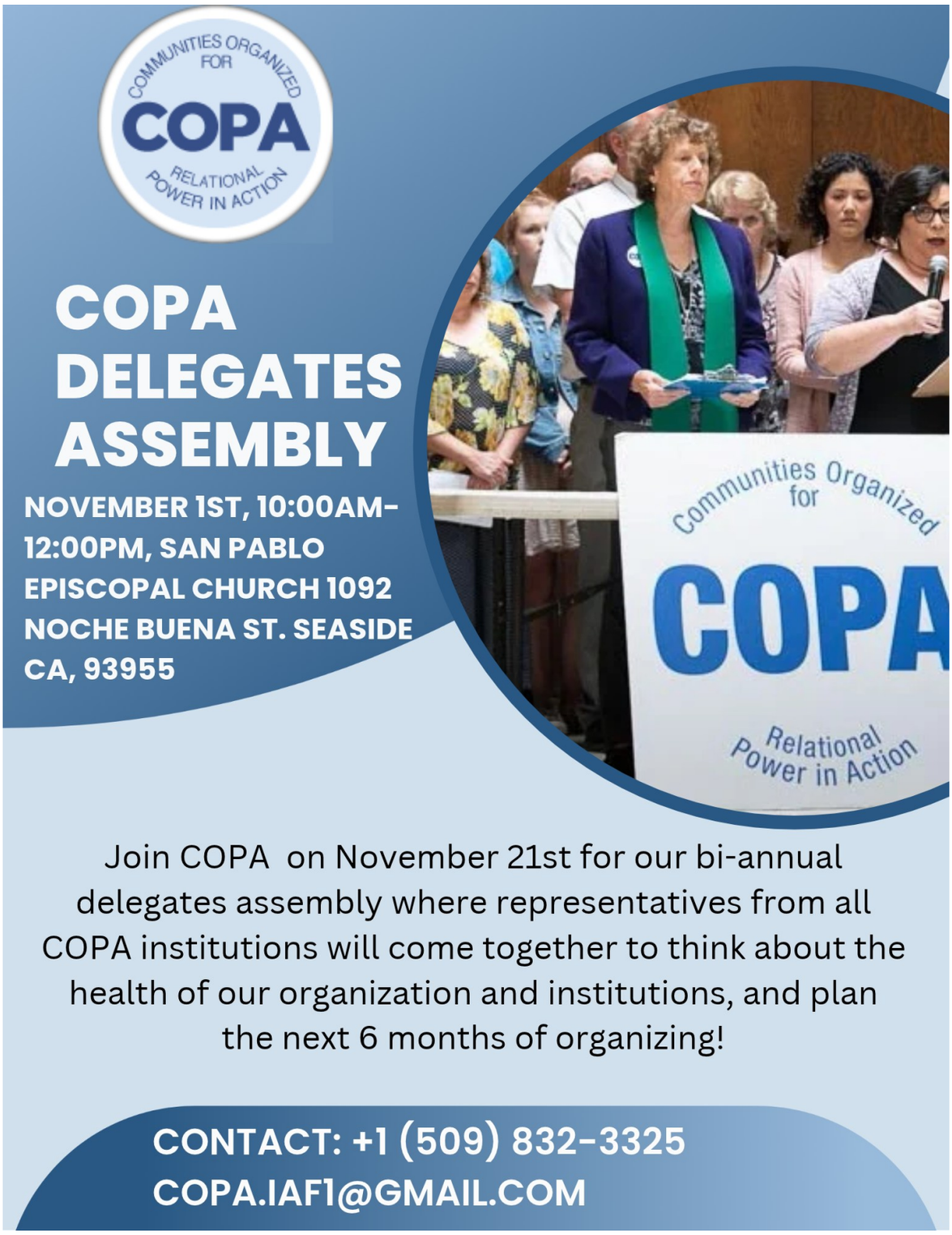
BRING YOUR DEEPEST QUESTIONS,
AN OPEN HEART,
& A CURIOUS MIND

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, Barbara Hughes, Priscilla Sanchez, Kenny Sanchez, Jordan Perez, Michael, Kathybelle, Rebecca Wickham, family & friends of Barbara Allen, Oai Families, Julie Franier, France Huddle, Leiahetta, Jamie & Debbie, Cheryl Curry & Family, Sue DV, 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*



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
TODAY 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

TODAY	Special Cong. Meeting 11:00 (Roof $)
Nov. 16-24	El Salvador Sister Parish Delegation
Nov. 17	Scouts 6:00 pm
Nov 19	Newsletter deadline NOON
Nov.19	Women's Bold Café 6:00pm devotions and potluck
Nov. 18	Bible Study Zoom 7:30 pm
Nov. 19	Men's A.A. Group 7:00 pm
Nov. 20	"Next Stage Productions" 11 to 1
Nov. 20	A. A. Group 7:00 pm
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
Nov. 30	Newsletter Collating 2:00 pm
Dec. 1	Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm Discretion Brewry 41st Ave. Faith Questions with genuine community
Dec. 2	St. Nick's Senior delivery
Dec. 8	Church Council 6:30 pm

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: Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539