

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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Organist: Barb Gullerud

Website: sslcwest.org

St. Stephen Lutheran School Staff: Isaac & Mikkela Schmitt (Teachers),
Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Pastor Luke Bernthal (Principal)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

July 7, 2024 † Pentecost 7

We Welcome Our Visitors who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.

We invite you to join us every Sunday. Please sign our guestbook in the entry.

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 143 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.
To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>



Opening Hymn: 966 *Before You, Lord, We Bow*

LSB 966



1 Be - fore You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns a - bove
2 The na - tion You have blest May well Your love de - clare,
3 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, Each vale and for - est green,
4 Earth, hear your Mak - er's voice; Your great Re - deem - er own;
5 And when in pow'r He comes, Oh, may our na - tive land



And rules the world be - low, Bound-less in pow'r and love. Our thanks
From foes and fears at rest, Pro - tect - ed by Your care. For this
Shine in Your Word's pure light, And its rich fruits be seen! May ev -
Be - lieve, o - bey, re - joice, And wor-ship Him a - lone. Cast down
From all its rend - ing tombs Send forth a glo - rious band, A count -



we bring In joy and praise, Our hearts we raise To You, our King!
bright day, For this fair land—Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay.
'ry tongue Be tuned to praise And join to raise A grate - ful song.
your pride, Your sin de - plore, And bow be - fore The Cru - ci - fied.
less throng, With joy to sing To heav'n's high King Sal - va - tion's song!

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt.
Tune: John Darwall, 1731–89
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore we stand in awe of You.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

G **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and gives them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

G **Amen.**

Kyrie *Latin for “O Lord.” We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.*

LSB 204



G Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation ("Greeting") **and Prayer of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P We pray:

Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith through Your Word, and graciously receive our prayer and praise. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading

Ezekiel 2:1-5 (EHV)

He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you." ² The Spirit entered into me as he spoke to me and brought me up to my feet. Then I heard him speaking to me.

³ He said to me, "Son of man, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to disloyal nations, who have been disloyal to me. They and their fathers have rebelled against me to this very day. ⁴ These children of mine are brazen-faced and hard-hearted. I am sending you to them, and you are to tell them that this is what the LORD God says. ⁵ Then, whether they listen or do not listen—for they are a rebellious house—then they will know that a prophet has been among them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Mark 6:1-6 (EHV)

P The Gospel reading is from Mark 6:1-6.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus left there and went to his hometown. His disciples followed him. ² When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue. Many who heard him were amazed. They asked, "Where did this man learn these things? What is this wisdom that has been given to this man? How is it that miracles such as these are performed by his hands? ³ Isn't this the carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

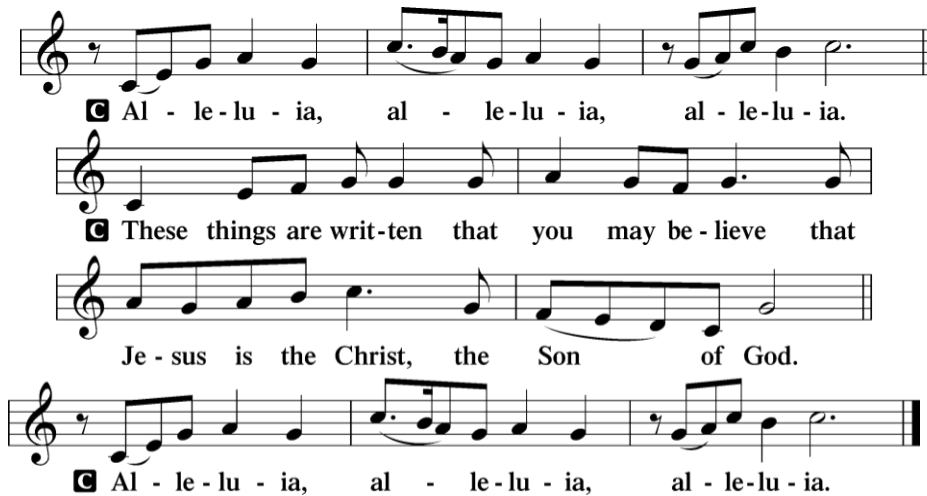
⁴ Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own house." ⁵ He could not do any miracles there except to lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶ He was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went around the villages teaching.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Alleluia and Verse

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Allelujah!"—meaning, "Praise the Lord!"



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Nicene Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

LSB 206

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day: 583 *God Has Spoken by His Prophets*

LSB 583



1 God has spo - ken by His proph - ets, Spo - ken His un - chang - ing Word;
 2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
 3 God is speak - ing by His Spir - it, Speak - ing to our hearts a - gain,



Each from age to age pro - claim - ing God, the one, the righ - teous Lord.
 Bright - ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry, With the Fa - ther ev - er one;
 In the age - less Word de - clar - ing His own mes - sage, now as then.



In the world's de - spair and tur - moil, One firm an - chor holds us fast:
 Spo - ken by the Word In - car - nate, God of God, be - fore time was;
 Through the rise and fall of na - tions One sure faith yet stand - ing fast;



God is king, His throne e - ter - nal; God the first, and God the last.
 Light of Light, to earth de - scend - ing, He re - veals our God to us.
 God a - bides, His Word un - chang - ing; God the first, and God the last.

Text: George W. Briggs, 1875–1959, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79

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Tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (EHV)

⁷Therefore, to keep me from becoming arrogant due to the extraordinary nature of these revelations, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me, so that I would not become arrogant. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that he would take it away from me. ⁹And he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, because my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will be glad to boast all the more in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may shelter me. ¹⁰That is why I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For whenever I am weak, then am I strong.

Sermon Theme: Whenever I Am Weak...

1. ...God's grace is sufficient

- † Why did God allow Paul to have his "thorn in the flesh" even after he pleaded with God three times to take it away from him? **(see v. 7, 9, 10)**

2. ...We are strong in Christ

- † When God allows "thorns" in our lives, of what can we be certain, just like the Apostle Paul? **(see v. 9-10)**

Offertory

LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal-va-tion;
and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.

Public domain

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

Prayer of the Church / Prayer Requests *We bring our prayers to God.*

Sermon Hymn: 756 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

LSB 756

1 Why should cross and tri-al grieve me? Christ is near
2 When life's trou-bles rise to meet me, Though their weight
3 God gives me my days of glad-ness, And I will
4 From God's joy can noth-ing sev-er, For I am
5 Now in Christ, death can-not slay me, Though it might,

With His cheer; Nev-er will He leave me.
May be great, They will not de-feat me.
Trust Him still When He sends me sad-ness.
His dear lamb, He, my Shep-herd ev-er.
Day and night, Trou-ble and dis-may me.

Who can rob me of the heav-en That God's Son
God, my lov-ing Sav-ior, sends them; He who knows
God is good; His love at-tends me Day by day,
I am His be-cause He gave me His own blood
Christ has made my death a por-tal From the strife

For me won When His life was giv-en?
All my woes Knows how best to end them.
Come what may, Guides me and de-fends me.
For my good, By His death to save me.
Of this life To His joy im-mor-tal!

Service of the Sacrament

*Now we approach the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in which Jesus comes to bless us with His very body and blood.
We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.*

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

G **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly fitting, right, and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus *Latin: "Holy."*

LSB 208



G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** We give You thanks, O Lord our God, for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ and His cross. Give us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. In His name we pray, as we now join in the prayer that He taught us:

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

- C** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Institution

The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His body and blood in the Sacrament.

Pax Domini ("The Peace of the Lord")

LSB 209

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

Latin: "Lamb of God." Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

The Distribution

- ✠ For the distribution we will start with those who would like to partake of the Lord's Supper from the pew. After that, those who would like to come up to the altar steps will partake as directed by our usher.

Note to our Guests: We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. By following this practice we do not make any judgment on your faith. Rather we do this out of love for you, as a public confession of our unity, and out of obedience to and love for God's Word. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

Latin: "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 965 *God Bless Our Native Land* (please stand)

LSB 965



1 God bless our na - tive land; Firm may she ev - er stand
2 So shall our prayers a - rise To God a - bove the skies;



Through storm and night. When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of
On Him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, Guard - ing with



wind and wave, Do Thou our coun - try save By Thy great might.
watch - ful eye, To Thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

Text (st. 1): Charles T. Brooks, 1813–83, alt.; (st. 2): John S. Dwight, 1813–93, alt.
Tune: Thesaurus Musicus, c. 1740, London
Text and tune: Public domain

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Scripture quotations marked EHV are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today:
7/7/24

St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am
Worship w/ Communion– 10am

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship w/ Communion – 1pm
Bible Class – 2pm

Next Sunday:
7/14/24

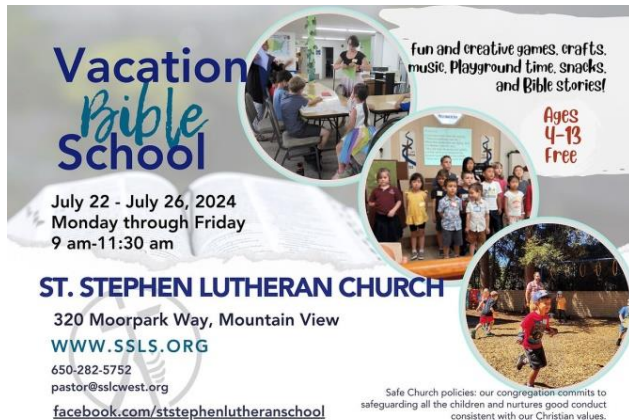
St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am
Worship – 10am
Women’s Auxiliary Meeting – 11:15am

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Worship – 1pm
Bible Class – 2pm

Online Worship Services - <https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

In Your Mailbox & Church Entryway – St. Stephen Church Calendar - July

VBS – July 22nd-26th – Ages 4-13 – Registration can be done online through our school's



Fun and creative games, crafts, music, playground time, snacks, and Bible stories!

Ages 4-13 Free

July 22 - July 26, 2024
Monday through Friday
9 am-11:30 am

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH
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facebook.com/ststephenluthranschool

Safe Church policies: our congregation commits to safeguarding all the children and nurtures good conduct consistent with our Christian values.

website (ssls.org). Flyers are also available in the entryway if you know of anyone who would be interested in sending their children to our VBS. It will be held **Mon.–Fri., July 22nd–26th from 9am-11:30am.**

The CLC's TVBS program is sending us 2 teachers to assist us: Sam Schmitt (SSLS teacher Isaac Schmitt's sister), and Grant Bernthal (nephew of Pastor Luke and Jewels).

If you would like to volunteer to help with our VBS please speak with Pastor Luke or one of our SSLS staff.

TVBS Volunteer Donations – We have two volunteer TVBS teachers helping with our Vacation Bible School July 22nd – 26th. During that week we usually try and do one or two sightseeing activities with them in the area. This year we plan to take our teachers on the Alcatraz tour in San Francisco, and do an afternoon in Santa Cruz. If you would like to donate to help pay for our volunteers' activities during the week of VBS please mark your offering "TVBS." If you have any questions please speak with Pastor Luke or Mikkela Schmitt.

VBS/TVBS Snack & Lunch Sign-Up Sheet – If you'd like to help provide snacks and drinks for the VBS, or if you'd like to help provide lunches for the VBS teaching staff please sign the sheet in the entryway.

Lutheran Spokesman Delayed - *Lutheran Spokesman* subscribers may receive a duplicate copy of the June issue, and the July issue will be delayed. The editor offers his apology for the mix-up.

CLC News - Mr. Rick Mariner, a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, *has accepted the call* to fill their high school teacher vacancy.

2024 CLC Mission Helpers to East Africa – Twelve CLC Mission Helpers (Elinor Gbedey, Catherine Gbedey, Lauren Gurgel, Nicole Hansen, Fletcher Hughes, Kaylee Koenig, Gary Peters, Sam Radermacher, Jeff Radichel, Ulrika Speckman, Noah Sydow, and Amy Tester) along with three team leaders (Pastors Mike Gurath and Tom Naumann and Missionary Ohlmann) will depart on an evening flight from Chicago on Monday, July 8th. The Mission Helpers will travel together as far as Doha, Qatar. From Doha, they will divide into three teams and fly to the East African nations of Kenya/Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia. The Tanzania team will be welcomed and joined in their work by Missionary Bruce and Paula Naumann. The Mission Helpers will spend the next few weeks proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to an estimated 6,000 children. They will focus their efforts in some of the towns and villages where the Kenya-CLC, Uganda-CLC, Tanzania-CLC, and Zambia-CLC have or are working to establish congregations and preaching stations. You can follow along with the Mission Helpers through the trip blog at www.2024clcmhteastafrica.blogspot.com. Your prayers are requested and much appreciated.