

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

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July 14, 2024 † Pentecost 8

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.

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 78 (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: 602 *The Gifts Christ Freely Gives*

LSB 602



1 The gifts Christ free - ly gives He gives to you and me
2 The gifts flow from the font Where He calls us His own;
3 The gifts of grace and peace From ab - so - lu - tion flow;
4 The gifts are there each day The ho - ly Word is read;



To be His Church, His bride, His cho - sen, saved and free!
New life He gives that makes Us His and His a - lone.
The pas - tor's words are Christ's For us to trust and know.
God's chil - dren lis - ten, hear, Re - ceive, and they are fed.



Saints blest with these rich gifts Are chil - dren who pro - claim
Here He for - gives our sins With wa - ter and His Word;
For - give - ness that we need Is grant - ed to us there;
Christ fills them with Him - self, Blest words that give them life,



That they were won by Christ And cling to His strong name.
The tri - une God Him - self Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.
The Lord of mer - cy sends Us forth in His blest care.
Re - stor - ing and re - fresh - ing Them for this world's strife.

**5. The gifts are in the feast, Gifts far more than we see;
Beneath the bread and wine Is food from Calvary.
The body and the blood Remove our ev'ry sin;
We leave His presence in His peace, renewed again.**

**6. All glory to the One Who lavishes such love;
The triune God in love Assures our life above.
His means of grace for us Are gifts He loves to give;
All thanks and praise for His Great love by which we live!**

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SERVICE OF THE WORD

(Worship Supplement, p. 12)

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.
G **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

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

- P** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.
- G** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy upon me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- P** God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. Through faith in Him, which was created in you by the Holy Spirit, you are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.
- G** **Amen.**

Kyrie *Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.* W.S. p. 13

♪ Lord have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

Gloria in Excelsis *Latin for "Glory to God in the highest."* W.S. p. 13

**♪ Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.**

(song continues on next page ->)

***Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.***

***Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high:
Who with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.***

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, souls may be saved, faith may be strengthened, and Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger. 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

Amos 7:10-15 (EHV)

¹⁰ Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹ For thus Amos has said, "'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'"

¹² And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, ¹³ but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴ Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, "I was no prophet, nor a prophet's son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. ¹⁵ But the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

Second Reading

Mark 6:7-13 (EHV)

P The second reading is from Mark 6:7-13.

G Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

⁷ And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts—⁹ but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. ¹⁰ And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. ¹¹ And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³ And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it!

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!”

♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written that we may believe
That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Apostles' Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

W.S. p. 15

G I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

→

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 856 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

LSB 856



1 O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and fol - low You, For -
2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for a - ges sealed, Whose
3 O Christ, who led the Twelve A - mong the des - o - late And
4 O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd nev - er trod To
5 O Christ, th'a - pos - tles' Lord, The mar - tyrs' strength and song, The



sak - ing old, fa - mil - iar ways For ven - tures bold and new:
words and works a - wak - ened faith, The ways of God re - vealed:
broke as bread of life for all Your love com - pas - sion - ate:
serve, to suf - fer, teach, pro - claim The near - er reign of God:
cru - ci - fied and ris - en King To whom the saints be - long:



Grant us to hear Your call To risk se - cu - ri - ty And,
In - struct us now, we pray, By Your em - pow' - ring Word. True
Lead us a - long the ways Where hope has near - ly died And
Send us on ways where faith Tran - scends ti - mid - i - ty, Where
Though gen - er - a - tions pass, Our trib - ute still we bring, Our



bound in heart and will to You, Find per - fect lib - er - ty.
teach - er, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.
help us climb the lone - ly hills Where love is cru - ci - fied.
love in - forms and hope sus - tains Both life and min - is - try.
hymns a sac - ri - fice of praise, Our lives an of - fer - ing.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007
Tune: English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930
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Sermon Text: Ephesians 1:3-14 (EHV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.


¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Sermon Theme: Chosen!

† By God's grace in Christ **(v. 4)**

† Predestined from eternity ("**before the foundation of the world**") **(v. 4-5)**

† Sealed by the Spirit **(v. 13-14)**


**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 And renew a right spirit within me.
 Cast me not away from Your presence,
 Take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.
 Uphold with Your Spirit free.**

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*
 (✠ *If you have an offering to give today, please place it in the plate in the church entryway.* ✠)

Sermon Hymn: 776 (Worship Supplement) **Lord, 'Tis Not that I Did Choose You**

Prayer / Prayer Requests *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord's Prayer

**☐ 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.**

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

☐ 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.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 738 Lord of All Hopefulness (please stand for last verse)

LSB 738



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today:
7/14/24

St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Study – 9am

Worship – 10am

Women’s Auxiliary Meeting – 11:15am

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

This Week: Tuesday – **Elders & Church Council Meeting (Zoom) (Mt. View) – 6pm**

Next Sunday:

7/21/24 **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Study – 9am**
Worship – 10am
VBS Volunteers Meeting – 11am
VBS Teachers' Meeting / Set up – 6pm

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

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

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

website ([ssls.org](https://www.sslcwest.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**. We currently have 19 students registered.

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.

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.

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.

Church Picnic & Joint Worship Service – Sun., July 28th – Cuesta Park in Mountain View-

Our annual church picnic will be held on **Sunday, July 28th** starting at approx. **11:30am**, after our **10am joint worship service in Mountain View**. We will be having our picnic at a new location this year: **Cuesta Park** (615 Cuesta Park Dr.) in Mountain View. There is a sign-up sheet in the entryway if you'd like to help provide food for the picnic.

Directions to the reserved picnic area: Turn in to the first parking lot opposite Nilda Ave. At the picnic area at the end of the parking lot, go to the left.

Voter's Meeting to Fill Church Council Position – Sunday, August 18th - Because of our potential loss of Scott (and Diane) when they move to Hawaii in the late summer/early fall, we will need to hold elections to fill the positions that Scott is currently holding (Board of Property Chairman, Vice President/Elders Chairman). Voting members who are interested in serving on our St. Stephen council and being elected to one of our council positions please inform either Pastor Luke or our congregation president, Michael Slattengren, of your willingness to serve and which position(s) you'd be willing to serve. We will be conducting a voter's meeting on Sunday, August 18th (after the worship service) to fill our slate of officers for the remaining months of 2024.

2024 CLC Mission Helpers to East Africa – Twelve CLC Mission Helpers arrived safely this week in the East African nations of Kenya/Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia. The Tanzania team were 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.