St. Stephen Lutheran Church

West & East Bay, Central Valley, and Southern California

Member congregations of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org) 320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600

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Websites: ststephenclc.org (East Bay) - sslcwest.org (West)

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

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

July 28, 2024 🕆 Pentecost 10

<u>We Welcome Our Visitors</u> 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.

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

0 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With lib а er 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With а strong, yet 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered light; Praise the who at - ing One frees the pris -'ners, word; Praise the One who gen-tle, drove out de mons in place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to rious our - \mathbf{O} Turn - ing blind - ness sight. Praise the One in - to who preached the With the pierc-ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and o Heal-ing Gos - pel, ev 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm-ing wa - ter To the des ert's burn - ing sand: From this glad - ness, See - ing what God has done: Let our us 0 storms, and feed-ing thou-sands With the ver - y Bread of peace. Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land. praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one. Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955

Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia

Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

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,
- **G** who made heaven and earth.

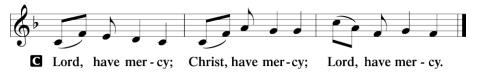
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **G** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore we stand in awe of You.
- Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- C 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





Salutation ("Greeting") and Prayer of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **G** And also with you.
- **P** We pray:

Almighty and most merciful God, the provider and protector of all who trust in You, strengthen our faith and give us courage to believe that in Your love You will rescue us from all adversities. 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.

over all, and through all, and in us all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given, according to the measure of the gift from Christ.

calling.⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is

one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in the one hope of your

As a prisoner in the Lord, therefore, I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called. ² Live with all humility, gentleness, and

³ Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is

P This is the Word of the Lord.

patience, bearing with one another in love.

G Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

First Reading

P The Gospel reading is from John 6:1-15.

Glory to You, O Lord.

After this, Jesus crossed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). ² A large crowd followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he was performing on those who were sick. ³ Jesus went up on the hillside and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a huge crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, "Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ But Jesus was saying this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to have just a little."

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There's a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what is that for so many people?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, so they sat down. There were about five thousand men.

¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves and, after giving thanks, he distributed pieces to those who were seated. He also did the same with the fish—as much as they wanted.

¹² When the people were full, he told his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over so that nothing is wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with pieces from the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

Ephesians 4:1-7 (EHV)

John 6:1-15 (EHV)

¹⁴ When the people saw the miraculous sign Jesus did, they said, "This really is the Prophet who is coming into the world."

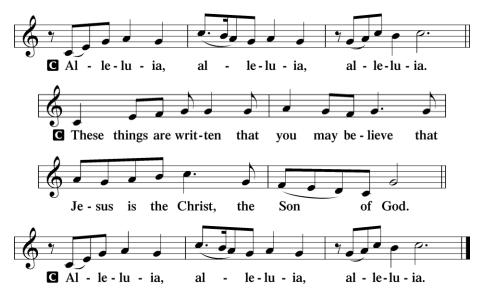
¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they intended to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

- P Here ends our Gospel reading.
- **G** Praise to You, O Christ.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205

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



Apostles' Creed We boldly confess what we believe.

LSB 207

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 thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

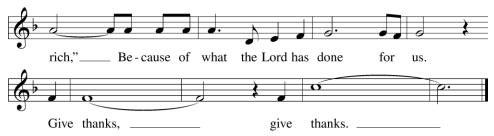
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 806 Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

LSB 806

(This is one of the songs our children learned during our VBS this past week.)





Text and tune: Henry Smith, 1952 Text and tune: © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

Sermon Text: Ephesians 4:1-7 (EHV)

¹¹ He himself [Christ] gave the apostles, as well as the prophets, as well as the evangelists, as well as the pastors and teachers, ¹² for the purpose of training the saints for the work of serving, in order to build up the body of Christ. ¹³ This is to continue until we all reach unity in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, resulting in a mature man with a stature reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ The goal is that we would no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, when people use tricks and invent clever ways to lead us astray. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we would in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, being joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows in accordance with Christ's activity when he measured out each individual part. He causes the growth of the body so that it builds itself up in love.

Sermon Theme: Christ's "Body Building" Program

1. Equipped

✤ What "trainers" and equipment has Christ given us to build up our faith and His body, the church? (v. 11-12)

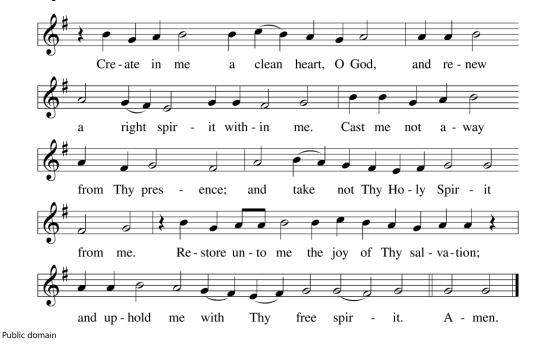
2. United

✤ What is it that unifies us as one body in Christ? (v. 13)

3. Growing

What key "ingredient" does Christ use to grow and strengthen His body, the church? (v. 16)

Offertory



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. *)

9



Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt. Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76 Text and tune: Public domain

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

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 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.



<u>Closing Hymn</u>: "Grace Has a Thrilling Sound" (please stand for last verse) 778 W.S.

(This is the hymn our children learned during our VBS this past week.)

- Grace has a thrilling sound To each believer's ear; That peace with God through Christ is found Is news I gladly hear. Grace first devised the way To save our fallen race; The Father sent His only Son Who came to take our place.
 - Grace first inscribed my name In God's eternal book, And grace has brought me to the Lamb, Who all my sorrows took. Grace led my wand'ring feet To tread the heav'nly road, And grace supplies each hour I meet While pressing on to God.
 - 3. Grace taught my soul to pray And made my eyes o'erflow; His grace has kept me to this day And will not let me go. Grace all our work shall crown Through everlasting days; The heav'nly home God gives His own Shall echo with our praise.

Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today:St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Joint Worship Service – 10am7/28/24Church Picnic (Cuesta Park) – 11:30am

(No East Bay Worship Service)

This Week: <u>Tuesday</u> - **Board of Education** (Mt. View) (Zoom) – 6pm <u>Thursday</u> - **Stockton Worship** (Oakmont) – 2pm **Sacramento Worship** (Forever Easter House) - 4:30pm

Next Sunday:	St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Study – 9am
8/4/24	Worship w/ Communion – 10am

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

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

Church Picnic – Following Worship Service - Cuesta Park in Mountain View -



Our annual church picnic will be 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. Maps are available in the entryway.

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.

<u>VBS Recap and Thank Yous</u> - We were blessed with a wonderful Vacation Bible School this



past week. Our theme was "Vibrance of the Son: Explore the Colors of God's Grace." Each day we learned how a different color from the seasons of the church year can remind us about Jesus and His Word. Our students ended the week with a presentation of some wonderful songs of praise and a review of what they learned. We had 15 total students attend and had all 15 students attend each day, except for Wednesday when we had 14 students. 7 of the students

were attending our VBS for the first time. Praise God! We were assisted by an incredible group of volunteer teachers and staff who did an amazing job of sharing the love of our Savior Jesus with His little lambs. We thank everyone for their time, efforts, donations, and support. Thanks to donations from our congregations, we were also able to do some fun sightseeing trips with our teachers to Alcatraz and Golden Gate Bridge area, as well as to the Santa Cruz area. We were even able to spend a day at California's Great America with our teachers and helpers. We thank God for giving us such a blessed and successful VBS!

Teachers:Miss Sam Schmitt (Preschool)Mr. Isaac Schmitt (1st - 2nd Grade)Mr. Grant Bernthal (3rd - 6th Grade)Mrs. Jewels Bernthal (Music)Mrs. Mikkela Schmitt (Arts & Crafts)Dester Jude (VDS Georglington (Strengther Strengton Streng

Pastor Luke (VBS Coordinator / opening & closing devotions)

<u>Staff</u>: Mrs. Tari Bliss (Snacks prep & Recess help) Rachel Blank, Natalie Lang, and Serena Stefanek

(Registration, Crafts, Recess, and music help)

East Bay Congregational Meeting (Hayward) – Next Sunday, August 4th @ 2pm –

St. Stephen-East Bay will be having a congregational meeting to discuss the current state of our congregation and our plans going forward. Our congregations have also received a pastor call list from CLC President Wilke that can be discussed. All East Bay congregation members are invited and encouraged to attend. This meeting will be in advance of the joint congregational meeting that is planned for **Sunday, August 11th in Mountain View** (see announcement below).

Joint Congregational Meeting in Mountain View – Sunday, August 11th @ 11:15am –

We are planning on having a joint congregational meeting following our joint worship service on **Sunday, August 11th in Mountain View at 11:15am.** We will be discussing the current state of our congregations and our plans going forward. We will also be discussing the pastoral call list and, Lord willing, having a call meeting to extend a call to our next pastor. All of our congregation members are invited and encouraged to attend. The voting members of both congregations are, of course, strongly encouraged to attend this important meeting. Members at a distance who cannot attend in person will be able to attend via Zoom.

St. Stephen-West (Mt. View) Voter's Meeting - Church Council Position - Sun., 8/11 -

We will be conducting a voter's meeting on Sunday, August 11th (after the joint congregational meeting) to fill our slate of officers for the remaining months of 2024.

<u>CLC News</u> - Grace Lutheran, Sleepy Eye, MN. Grace has *extended* the call to Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor James Albrecht of St. John's Lutheran Church, Okabena, MN has announced that he will be *retiring* from the ministry at the end of this year.