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

<u>Pastor</u>: Luke Bernthal

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

Church Office: (650) 964-5915

<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

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 34 (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: 870 (tune of LSB 664) Now that the Daylight Fills the Sky

(please stand for last verse)

- I Now that the daylight fills the sky,
 We lift our hearts to God on high,
 That He, in all we do or say,
 Would keep us free from harm today;
 - Would guard our hearts and tongues from strife; From anger's din would shield our life; From evil sights would turn our eyes, And close our ears to vanities.
 - 3 So we, when this new day is gone And night in turn is drawing on, With conscience by the world unstained Shall praise His name for vict'ry gained.
- △ 4 "All praise to You, creator Lord!
 All praise to You, eternal Word!
 All praise to You, O Spirit wise!"
 We sing as daylight fills the skies.

Text: Latin, c. 5th-6th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Text: Public domain

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.
- C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- C 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.

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:

Gracious Father, Your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Grant that Christ, the bread of life, may live in us and we in Him. 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

Psalm 34 (selected verses) (Responsive) (EHV)

- P I will bless the LORD at all times. His praise will always be in my mouth.
- **I** In the LORD my soul will boast. The humble will hear and rejoice.
- Proclaim the greatness of the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.
- I sought the LORD, and he answered me. From all my terrors he delivered me.
- **P** This poor man called, and the LORD heard.
- From all his distress the LORD saved him.
- P The Angel of the LORD camps around those who fear him,
- and he delivers them.
- **P** Taste and see that the LORD is good.
- **1** Blessed is everyone who takes refuge in him.
- P Who wants to find pleasure in life? Who would love to experience many good days?
- **G** Guard your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.
- **P** Turn from evil and do good.
- **©** Seek peace and pursue it.
- **P** The eyes of the LORD watch over the righteous.
- His ears listen to their cry.
- P The face of the LORD is set against those who do evil,
- **©** to cut off memory of them from the earth.

- **P** The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears.
- **G** From all their distress he delivers them.
- **P** The LORD is close to the brokenhearted.
- **1** He saves those whose spirits have been crushed.
- P Many are the troubles of the righteous,
- **G** but the LORD delivers him from them all.
- P Evil will slay the wicked.
- Those who hate the righteous will be found guilty.
- **P** The LORD redeems the soul of his servants.
- Anyone who takes refuge in him will not be found guilty.

Second Reading

John 6:41-51 (EHV)

- P The second reading is from John 6:41-51
- **©** Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

⁴³ Jesus answered them, "Stop grumbling among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the Last Day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets, 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. ⁴⁶ I am not saying that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God. He is the one who has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me has eternal life.

⁴⁸ "I am the Bread of Life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that anyone may eat it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

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

⁴¹ So the Jews started grumbling about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴² They asked, "Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? So how can he say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

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

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.



Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–87, alt. Tune: A Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony, 1820, Harrisonburg Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862 Tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Ephesians 4:30-5:2 (EHV)

³⁰ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. ³² Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us.

5:1 Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. ² And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Sermon Theme: Imitators of God

- ⊕ Why? v. 30, 5:1
- ⊕ How? v. 31-32, 5:2

Offertory W.S. p. 16

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.

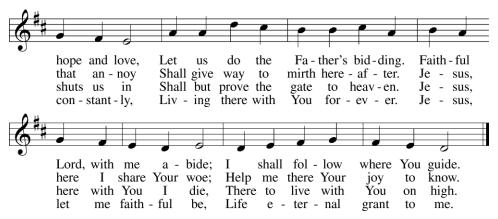
Offering We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.

(† If you have an offering to give today, please place it in the plate in the church entryway. †)



LSB 685





Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

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Tune: Public domain

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.

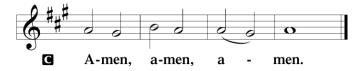
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

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.



Closing Hymn: 845 (tune of LSB 528) Where Charity and Love Prevail

(please stand for last verse)

- 1 Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found; Brought here together by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
 - With grateful joy and holy fear His charity we learn; Let us with heart and mind and soul Now love Him in return.
 - 3 Forgive we now each other's faults
 As we our faults confess,
 And let us love each other well
 In Christian holiness.
 - 4 Let strife among us be unknown; Let all contention cease; Be God's the glory that we seek; Be ours His holy peace.
 - Let us recall that in our midst
 Dwells Christ, His only Son;

 As members of His body joined
 We are in Him made one.
 - 6 For love excludes no race or clan
 That names the Savior's name;
 His family embraces all
 Whose Father is the same.

Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

8/11/24 **Joint Worship Service – 10am**

Joint Congregational Meeting /

Call Meeting / Voter's Meeting - 11:15am

NOTE: A light lunch will be provided during the meeting.

Women's Auxiliary Meeting – (after voter's meeting)

St. Stephen - South (Ontario): Worship & Bible Study - 6:30pm

No East Bay (Hayward) Worship Service

This Week: <u>Tuesday</u> – **Elders / Church Council Meeting** (Mt. View) (Zoom) – **7pm**

Thursday - SSLS Back to School Night (Fellowship Hall) - 6:30pm

Saturday – SSLS School Spruce-Up Day – 10am

Next Sunday: Education Sunday

8/18/24 St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Study – 9am

Worship – 10am Choir – 11am

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

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

Coming Up: SSLS First Day of School Year / Opening Devotion – Mon. Aug. 19th @ 8:15am

Joint Congregational Meeting in Mountain View – TODAY, Sun., Aug. 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. A light lunch will be provided during the meeting for those attending. Members at a distance who cannot attend in person will be able to attend via Zoom.

Pastor's Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8729663333

<u>St. Stephen-West (Mt. View) Voter's Meeting - Church Council Position - TODAY 8/11</u> - We will be conducting a voter's meeting **TODAY Sunday, August 11**th (after the joint congregational meeting) to fill our slate of officers for the remaining months of 2024.

<u>Southern California Worship and Bible Study – TONIGHT Sunday 8/11 @ 6:30pm</u> - Our Southern California Worship Service and Bible Study will be held **TONIGHT Sunday**, **August 11th @ 6:30pm**. We plan to meet in the conference room at Kevin Fossum's workplace. The location is near the Ontario airport. Here is the address:

Total Transportation & Distribution 9278 Charles Smith Ave.
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

<u>CLC News</u> - 80TH ANNIVERSARY AT TRINITY, SPOKANE - Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church of Spokane WA will be celebrating their 80th anniversary with a commemorative worship service at 3pm on Sunday, September 22nd. Bringing us the Word for this thankful occasion will be Rev. Terrel Kesterson. All are invited to join us as we praise the Lord for His countless blessings on our flock in years past and as we ask for His continued grace in the years to come.

CLC World Missions Prayer List – August 2024

...pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified...

2 Thessalonians 3:1



India (South Asia) – A joint India Pastoral Conference is scheduled for August 20-22 in Chennai, India. Pastors, leaders, and delegates from the CLC-India and the BELC will be in attendance. The CLC will also have one Pastor in attendance to represent the CLC. Thank the Lord for this opportunity for Christian fellowship and study of His saving Word. Pray that the Lord would bless all the travel and protect everyone in attendance. Pray especially for the CLC representative that he will have no trouble entering India.

Mexico – Board of Missions member Jeff Radichel and Missionary Ohlmann will visit Juarez August 23 to 26 to meet with Pastor Olvera to discuss Gospel outreach efforts in Mexico. They will also meet with three independent pastors who are interested in joining the CLC-affiliated church body in Mexico. These men have been studying Lutheran doctrine with Pastor Olvera for the past few months. Pray for safe travels and a productive, God-pleasing visit.

Pakistan – Pastor Tim Daub and Missionary Ohlmann will be traveling to Faisalabad, Pakistan in October. This will be their first face-to-face meeting with the group of believers that Pastor Daub has been instructing through online classes for the past few years. Please pray for the Lord's continued blessings on all the preparations that need to take place over the next couple of months to make this visit possible. Also, ask the Lord to continue to bless the teaching and learning of His word and give thanks to our Savior for granting us this opportunity and the technology to spread the truth of His word in such a manner.

Bangladesh (South Asia) – Pastor Monotosh, his family, and our brothers and sisters in Christ have been sheltering in their homes as Bangladesh has been embroiled in <u>violent protests</u> over economic policies and other issues. Nearly 100 people have been killed. The prime minister recently <u>resigned</u> and left the country. Pastor Monotosh reports that Muslim jihadists have taken advantage of the unrest to persecute minority Christians and Hindus through beatings and destruction of church buildings and temples. The government has shut down internet access to disrupt communication among the protestors. Pastor Monotosh has found a way for limited email access through a VPN. Missionary Ohlmann will continue to correspond with Pastor Monotosh for online theological classes and to discuss and assess the situation to make plans for a visit when advisable. Ask for the Lord's protection of His children and give them confidence and boldness in the love of our Savior. Pray that our Savior will bring peace and justice to Bangladesh.

Myanmar (South Asia) – It's been over three years since the military overthrew Myanmar's democratically elected government, plunging the nation into a devastating civil war. Countless innocent people are suffering, including farmers who can't grow crops, leading to food shortages and soaring prices. Many members of the CLCM have been forced to flee their homes, seeking safety for their families. To help our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, the CLC Board of Missions has approved Kinship funding for one year. This funding will provide vital humanitarian aid, ensuring access to essentials like food, shelter, and medical care for displaced CLCM members. Please continue to keep our brothers and sisters in Christ in your thoughts and prayers, asking for peace, justice, and relief for all affected by this conflict.

Liberia (West Africa) – Pastor Kwiwalazu is still engaged in doctrinal discussions with a group of independent pastors who have separated from the Methodist Church of Liberia. Pastor Joseph is making plans for a proposed CLC Board of Missions visit in November. Pray for God's blessings and provision for the work of spreading the Gospel in Liberia and for the developing opportunities in Guinea. Ask the Lord to bless the cancer treatments that John Hein is receiving so he can resume his work in Liberia.

Tanzania (East Africa) – Classes have resumed at the Wittenberg Lutheran Theological Seminary, with eight students enrolled. Missionary Naumann <u>reports</u> that the main focus of these next few months will be on the four students who are scheduled to graduate at the end of November. Thank the Lord for the privilege of partnering with the TZCLC in training men to be faithful preachers and teachers of God's saving word. Ask for God's continued blessing, guidance, and provision for Wittenberg Seminary and the work of the TZCLC.

Kenya/Uganda (East Africa) – Six CLC Mission Helpers spent two-and-half weeks spreading the Gospel among the two Kinship supported Kenyan schools, along with congregations and an orphanage in Uganda. The team was privileged with the opportunity to teach nearly 1300 children at twelve different schools, churches, and orphanages. Thank the Lord for this opportunity and pray that our Savior will bless all those children who heard the Good News with repentant and believing hearts.

Zambia (Central Africa) – After the visit by the <u>CLC Mission Helpers</u> in July, Pastor Ibrahim in Livingstone and Pastor Mwanza in Kitwe have been busy following up with several independent schools and preschools where nearly 1,800 children were taught the Good News of Jesus. They plan to offer teacher Bible training and provide weekly Bible studies for the children. They are excited about these new opportunities. Much progress has been made on the church registration process and is nearing completion. This is important for the work of the church and for Pastor Ibrahim's immigration status. Pray for our Savior's blessings on the new opportunities to reach out with the Gospel and the ongoing efforts to register the Zambia-CLC.

The Philippines (Southeast Asia) – Pastor Palangyos has started outreach efforts among the large youth population in Baguio City where he and his family live. There are several colleges and a university in Baguio with Filipino youth coming from several different rural areas to study. His wife Amabel holds a PhD in language and is a professor at the university, which provides an "in" to this Filipino demographic. Outreach also continues in the two rural congregations that Pastor Palangyos serves in the mountains that surround the city. Pray for our Savior's blessings on the outreach efforts of the Lutheran Autonomous Mission in the Philippines (LAMP), both in rural and urban areas.

Nepal (South Asia) – Thirteen students continue to <u>attend theology classes</u> for one week each month at the Himalayan Lutheran Bible Institute in the Chitwan district. The new Kinship-supported Cheli project has started efforts to assist at-risk girls in rural communities, helping them to receive education and life skills along with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Missionary Ohlmann is planning a visit to Nepal in December. Praise the Lord for the thirteen men who have dedicated their time and lives to training for the Gospel ministry. Thank the Lord and ask His blessings on the efforts to assist at-risk girls through the Cheli project.

Nigeria (West Africa) – The NCLC has been hoping and planning for the construction of a multipurpose building for the seminary for more than twenty-five years. The proposed building will have two large classrooms, a library/computer room, and an office for the faculty. For the past several years, they have been using two small dormitory rooms as classrooms. With an increase in enrollment and in anticipation of an even larger enrolment next year, this building is much needed. They hope to have the necessary funds raised to begin construction in the fall so that the facility can be ready for use by the start of the new school year in January 2025. The CLC Board of Missions has approved an MDF grant to assist with construction costs. Ask the Lord to bless this project and to provide necessary funding through the offerings of NCLC members and MDF offerings of CLC members. Thank the Lord for the privilege of working together in this effort to train faithful workers in His Nigerian harvest of souls!

Missionary Peter Evensen (Togo, West Africa) – Missionary Evensen is currently undergoing rehabilitation and recovery in Spokane, WA, after undergoing knee surgery in late June. Additionally, he experienced some heart irregularities during his hospital stay. His return to Togo is postponed until he regains his health and is fit for travel. Pray for a swift and full recovery for his knee, and for his medical team to have wisdom as they assess and determine the best course of treatment for his heart issues.

Missionary Bruce Naumann (Tanzania-East Africa) – After a short furlough in the U.S., Missionary Bruce and Paula Naumann returned to Tanzania in early July. They had the privilege and joy of hosting the CLC Mission Helper Team shortly after their return. They are now back to their normal routine at the seminary, outreach visits, and weekly Sunday School. Thank the Lord for their safe and uneventful travels back to Tanzania, and ask for the Lord's continued blessing on their work among our brothers and sisters in Christ of the TCLC. You can follow Missionary Naumann's blog at clc-tz.blogspot.com.

Missionary Todd Ohlmann – Missionary Ohlmann recently returned home from leading the CLC Missions Helper Team to Zambia. Thank the Lord for safe travels and a productive trip. His upcoming schedule includes visits to Mexico, Pakistan, Liberia, and Nepal, as well as a few guest preaching opportunities in CLC congregations. Ask the Lord to bless and provide for all the preparations that need to take place for these trips to take place. Please continue to pray for his wife Beth as she cares for her elderly father, who longs for his heavenly home, and for her mother, who was recently diagnosed with a rare and incurable form of blood cancer. You can read reports and see pictures here: missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com

Ongoing Opportunities – **Please continue to pray** for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, who, by God's grace, are dedicated to proclaiming the truths of God's saving word for the salvation of souls as they trust the promise of our Savior that His Word will not return to Him void but will accomplish that for which He sent it.

That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. Psalm 67:2



