

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

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Organist: Barb Gullerud

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Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Pastor Luke Bernthal (Principal)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: sssl.org

August 18, 2024 † Christian Education Sunday

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 1 (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: 867 *Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds*

LSB 867



1 Let chil - dren hear the might - y deeds Which God per -
2 So make to them His glo - ries known, His works of
3 Our sons and daugh - ters we shall tell And they a -
4 O teach them with all dil - i - gence The truths of
5 To learn that in our God a - lone Their hope se -



formed of old, Which in our youn - ger
pow'r and grace; And we'll con - vey His
gain to theirs That gen - er - a - tions
God's own Word, To place in Him their
cure - ly stands, That they may nev - er



days we saw, And which our par - ents told.
won - ders down Through ev - 'ry ris - ing race.
yet un - born May teach them to their heirs.
con - fi - dence, To fear and trust their Lord,
doubt His love But walk in His com - mands.

Text (sts. 1-3, 5): Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.; (st. 4): Bernhard Schumacher, 1886-1978

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Text (sts. 1-3, 5) and tune: Public domain

Text (st. 4) and tune: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. 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 Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:5, 7-9)

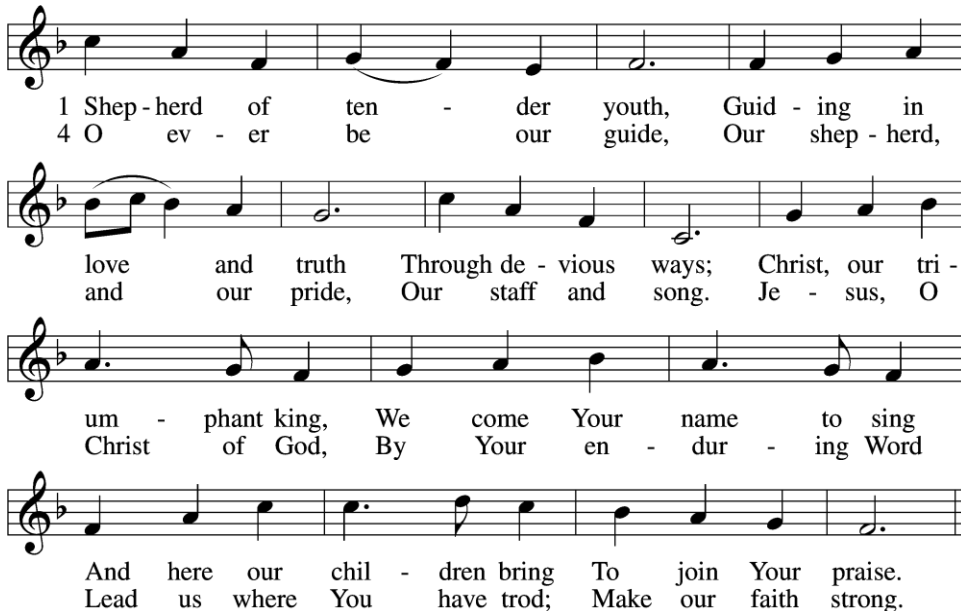
P Let us pray...

C **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer:**

We confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the joy and peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord...

(LSB 864 v.1, 4)



1 Shep-herd of ten-der youth, Guid-ing in
4 O-ev-er be our guide, Our shep-herd,
love and truth, Through de-vi-ous ways; Christ, our tri-
and our pride, Our staff and song. Je-sus, O
um-ph-ant king, We come Your name to sing
Christ of God, By Your en-dur-ing Word
And here our chil-dren bring To join Your praise.
Lead us where You have trod; Make our faith strong.

Text: attr. Clement of Alexandria, c. 170–c. 220; tr. Henry M. Dexter, 1821–90, alt.
Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716–96
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

Heavenly Father, mercifully bless the Christian education of Your children in our congregation that they may grow up to know and love You and praise Your holy name. Bless our Christian Day School and all other settings in which our children are brought closer to You. Restrain the activities of the evil one who would seek to undermine these efforts to provide for the spiritual growth of Your children. Help us all to regard these children and our educational ministries as gifts from You.

Encourage the members of our congregations to support those who teach and those who learn. Give joy to all who serve as teachers, staff and volunteers in our school and give them the privilege of seeing the fruits of their labors. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

First Reading

Proverbs 9:1-6, 10 (EHV)

Wisdom has built her house.

She has carved out her seven pillars.

² *She has prepared her meat.*

She has mixed her wine.

She has already set her table.

³ *She has sent out her servant girls.*

She calls from the highest point in the city,

⁴ *"Whoever is naïve, let him turn in here."*

To someone who lacks sense she says,

⁵ *"Come, eat my food,*

and drink the wine that I have mixed.

⁶ *Abandon your naïve ways and live.*

Travel the road to understanding."...

**¹⁰ *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.***

Second Reading

Matthew 7:24-29 (EHV)

P The second reading is from Matthew 7:24-29.

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

***24** “Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on bedrock. **25** The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house. But it did not fall, because it was founded on bedrock. **26** Everyone who hears these words of mine but does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. **27** The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—it was completely destroyed.”*

***28** When Jesus finished speaking these words, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, **29** because he taught them as one who had authority, and not like their experts in the law.*

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

(LSB 864 v. 5)

5 So now, and till we die, Sound we Your
prais - es high And joy - ful sing: In - fants and
all the throng, Who to the Church be - long,
U - nite to swell the song To Christ, our king!

Text: attr. Clement of Alexandria, c. 170–c. 220; tr. Henry M. Dexter, 1821–90, alt.
Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716–96
Text and tune: Public domain

**☐ 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: 862 Oh, Blest the House

LSB 862



1 Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where Je - sus
2 Oh, blest that house where faith is found And all in
3 Oh, blest the par - ents who give heed Un - to their
4 Oh, blest that house; it pros - pers well. In peace and
5 Then here will I and mine to - day A sol - emn



Christ is all in all! A home that is not whol - ly
hope and love a - bound; They trust their God and serve Him
chil - dren's fore - most need; And wea - ry not of care or
joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's lives is
prom - ise make and say: Though all the world for - sake His



His— How sad and poor and dark it is!
still And do in all His ho - ly will!
cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!
shown How rich - ly God can bless His own.
Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Text: Christoph Carl Ludwig von Pfeil, 1712–84; (sts. 1–2, 4–5): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 3): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal, 1880, Columbus
Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Ephesians 5:15-20 (EHV)

¹⁵ Consider carefully, then, how you walk, not as unwise people, but as wise people. ¹⁶ Make the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ For this reason, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk on wine, which causes you to lose control. Instead, be filled with the Spirit ¹⁹ by speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (singing and making music with your hearts to the Lord), ²⁰ by always giving thanks for everything to God the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon Theme: Walk Wisely

† What are some ways we can “walk” (or “live”) wisely according to our text?

v. 16 –

v. 17 –

v. 18b –

v. 19 –

v. 20 –

† What are some ways we can “walk” (or “live”) as “unwise” or “foolish” people?

Offertory

LSB 956



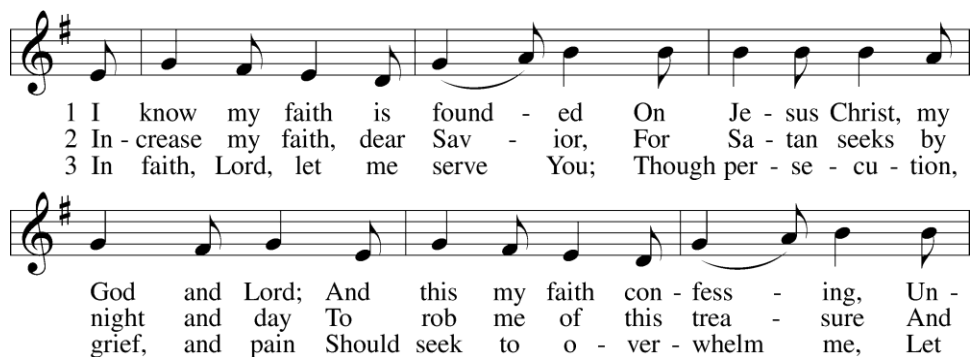
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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.*

Sermon Hymn: 587 I Know My Faith is Founded

LSB 587



1 I know my faith is found - ed On Je - sus Christ, my
2 In - crease my faith, dear Sav - ior, For Sa - tan seeks by
3 In faith, Lord, let me serve You; Though per - se - cu - tion,
God and Lord; And this my faith con - fess - ing, Un -
night and day To rob me of this trea - sure And
grief, and pain Should seek to o - ver - whelm me, Let



moved I stand on His sure Word. Our rea - son can - not
 take my hope of bliss a - way. But, Lord, with You be -
 de - me a stead - fast trust re - tain; And then at my de -
 fath - om The truth of God pro - found; Who trusts in hu - man
 side me, I shall be un - dis - mayed; And led by Your good
 par - ture, Lord, take me home to You, Your rich - es to in -
 wis - dom Re - lies on shift - ing ground. God's Word is
 Spir - it, I shall be un - a - fraid. A - bide with
 her - it As all You said holds true. In life and
 all - suf - fi - cient, It makes di - vine - ly sure; And
 me, O Sav - ior, A firm - er faith be - stow; Then
 death, Lord, keep me Un - til Your heav'n I gain, Where
 trust - ing in its wis - dom, My faith shall rest se - cure.
 I shall bid de - fi - ance To ev - 'ry e - vil foe.
 I by Your great mer - cy The end of faith at - tain.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: Concentus novi, 1540, Augsburg
 Text and tune: Public domain

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

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

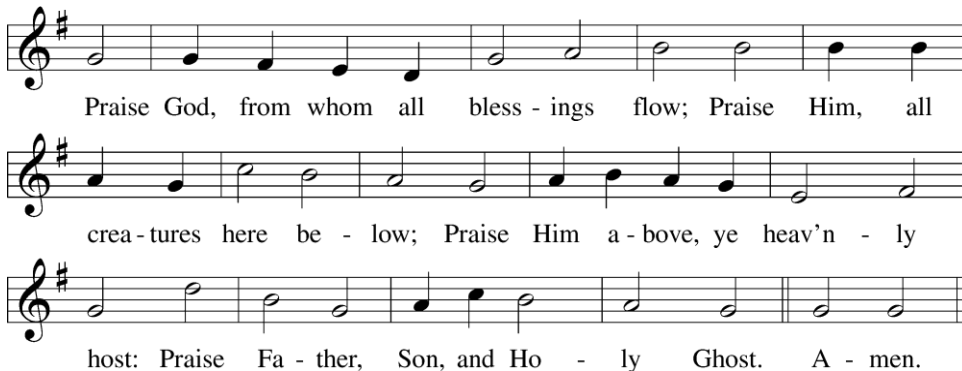
- ☩ Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine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

The Doxology

LSB 805



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Public domain

Closing Hymn: 866 *Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend* (please stand for last verse)



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, the chil - dren's friend, To each of
2 In Chris - tian homes, Lord, let them be Your bless - ing
3 That car - ing par - ents, gra - cious Lord, And faith - ful
4 For by Your Word we clear - ly see That we have
them Your pres - ence send; Call them by name and
to their fam - i - ly; Let Chris - tian schools Your
teach - ers find re - ward In lead - ing these, to
sinned con - tin - ual - ly; But show us too, for -
keep them true In lov - ing faith, dear Lord, to You.
work ex - tend In liv - ing truth as You in - tend.
whom You call, To find in Christ their all in all.
giv - ing Lord, Your sav - ing Gos - pel's great re - ward.

**5. That all of us, Your children dear, By Christ redeemed, may Christ revere;
Lead us in joy that all we do Will witness to our love for You.**

**6. Then guard and keep us to the end, Secure in You, our gracious friend,
That in Your heav'nly family We sing Your praise eternally.**

Text: Henry L. Lettermann, 1932-96 Tune: William Knapp, 1698-1768
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Tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Worship – 10am

Choir – 11am

Help Needed After Worship: Move Desks & Items Back into Classroom

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

Congregational/Voters' Meeting – 2pm

Elders' Meeting (after Congr. Meeting)

This Week: Monday – **SSLS First Day of School Year – Opening Service – 8:15am**

Tuesday – **Church Council / Elders Meetings** (Mt. View) (Zoom) – **7pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Worship – 10am**

8/25/24 Conducting Worship: Mark G. (sermon); Isaac S. (liturgy)

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

Conducting Worship: Timothy Blank

(Pastor Luke will be out of town officiating a wedding in Southern California next Sunday)

SSLS School Year Begins TOMORROW – Monday, 8/19 – Opening Service @ 8:15am -

You are invited and welcome to join us for our opening service for our school year tomorrow, Monday, August 19th at 8:15am. Our opening service will take place in the church sanctuary.

Praise God for bringing us to the beginning of yet another school year!

Pastor Out of Town Next Weekend Officiating a Wedding Next Sunday (8/25) –

I will be officiating the wedding of Sarah Fox and Joshua Folwarski near Escondido, CA next Sunday (8/25) and will be out of town from Saturday morning until Monday afternoon. (Sarah was the first baby I baptized when I entered the pastoral ministry back in 2003. This is a particularly meaningful privilege and blessing to be able to officiate at her wedding).

The worship service in Mountain View at 10am next Sunday will be conducted by Mark Gullerud (sermon) and Isaac Schmitt (liturgy), and the Hayward worship service at 1pm will be conducted by Timothy Blank. We thank these men for their willing service to our congregations.

East Bay Congregational Meeting/Voters' Meeting – Hayward - TODAY @ 2pm –

Our East Bay will hold a voter's meeting this afternoon (8/18) in Hayward at 2pm to discuss proposed dissolution of the congregation and transfer of memberships to St. Stephen-West in Mountain View. We pray for the Lord's guidance, wisdom, and direction during this time of transition for our congregations.

Call Meeting – Mountain View – Sunday, Sept. 1st @ 11:15am – There will be another congregational meeting / potential pastor call meeting on September 1st after the worship service in Mountain View at 11:15am.

Farewell Luncheon for Scott and Diane – Sunday, Sept. 1st – Following the Call Meeting

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us as we bid a fond farewell (or more appropriately, "Aloha!") to Scott Mueller and Diane Fowler as they are moving back to Hawaii in September. We will have a luncheon in their honor following our call meeting on **Sunday September 1st**.

Kinship Sponsors Needed - Kinship is facing the largest seminary sponsorship shortage in many years. Currently there are 18 seminarians in need of support. While we give thanks for the increasing number of overseas seminarians preparing to spread the gospel, we pray for an increased resolve to support their training. Please consider sponsoring a seminary student in one of the many schools partnered with Kinship--Tanzania, India, Nepal, Togo, Congo, and Nigeria. The approximate cost of a sponsorship is \$40--\$50/mo (\$500--\$600/yr).

To begin a sponsorship or for more information, please text, call, or email:

Dan Roehl – cell: 507-381-2042 Email: danroehl@hotmail.com

CLC News – Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ has *returned* the call to Grace Lutheran Church, Sleepy Eye, MN. <> Pastor Tim Wheaton of Prince of Peace, Loveland, CO, has been diagnosed with a rare form of inoperable stage-4 thyroid cancer. This is a very aggressive cancer for which there is currently no known cure, but he will be undergoing chemotherapy treatments to, by God's grace, prolong his earthly walk and time with his family. Plans now call for Tim to step down from his pastoral duties likely sometime in October, after hosting the West Central Pastoral Conference in September. Your prayers for Tim and his family would be most welcome.