

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

West & East Bay, Central Valley, and Southern California

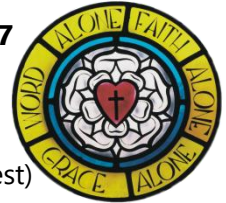
A member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (cclutheran.org)

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600

Pastor: Luke Bernthal

Email: lbernthal@live.com † Cell: (402) 389-2147

Online Video Production: Chris Holt, Julia Bernthal



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

Church Office: (650) 964-5915

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

September 8, 2024 † Pentecost 16

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 146 (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.sslwest.org/worship.html>

Opening Hymn: 790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LSB 790



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.
peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuereten Gesang-Buchs, 1665, Stralsund

Text and tune: 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.

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.
- C** **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.
- 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:

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what we ask may be in accord with Your gracious will. Open our ears to hear Your Word and live by it. 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 146 (Responsive) (NKJV)

P Praise the LORD!

C Praise the LORD, O my soul!

P While I live I will praise the LORD;

C I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

P Do not put your trust in princes,

C Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.

P His spirit departs, he returns to his earth;

C In that very day his plans perish.

P Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help,

C Whose hope is in the LORD his God,

P Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever,

C Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.

P The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;

C The LORD raises those who are bowed down; The LORD loves the righteous.

P The LORD watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow;

C But the way of the wicked He turns upside down.

P The LORD shall reign forever -- Your God, O Zion, to all generations.

C Praise the LORD!

Second Reading

James 1:17-27 (EHV)

P The second reading is from James 1:17-27

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

¹⁷ Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the lights, who does not change or shift like a shadow. ¹⁸ Just as he planned, he gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of his creations.

¹⁹ Remember this, my dear brothers: Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. ²⁰ Certainly, a man's anger does not bring about what is right before God. ²¹ So after getting rid of all moral filthiness and overflowing wickedness, receive with humility the word planted in you. It is able to save your souls.

²² Be people who do what the word says, not people who only hear it. Such people are deceiving themselves. ²³ In fact, if anyone hears the word and does not do what it says, he is like a man who carefully looks at his own natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ Indeed, he carefully looks at himself; then, he goes away and immediately forgets what he looked like. ²⁵ But the one who looks carefully into the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continues to do so—since he does not hear and forget but actually does what it says—that person will be blessed in what he does.

²⁶ If anyone considers himself to be religious but deceives his own heart because he does not bridle his tongue, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled in the sight of God the Father is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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!

C 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: 524 *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*

LSB 524



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In
2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole And
3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, My
4 O Je - sus, shep - herd, guard - ian, friend, My



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
calms the heart's un - rest; 'Tis man - na to the
shield and hid - ing place; My nev - er - fail - ing
Proph - et, Priest, and King, My Lord, my life, my



heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fear.
hun - gry soul And to the wea - ry, rest.
trea - sury filled With bound - less stores of grace.
way, my end, Ac - cept the praise I bring.

**5. How weak the effort of my heart, How cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.**

**6. Till then I would Thy love proclaim With ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name Refresh my soul in death!**

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
Tune: Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799–1877
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Mark 7:31-37 (EHV)

³¹ Jesus left the region of Tyre again and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought a man to him who was deaf and had a speech impediment. They pleaded with Jesus to place his hand on him.

³³ Jesus took him aside in private, away from the crowd. He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ After he looked up to heaven, he sighed and said, "*Ephphatha!*" (which means "Be opened!")

³⁵ Immediately the man's ears were opened, his tongue was set free, and he began to speak plainly. ³⁶ Jesus gave the people strict orders to tell no one, but the more he did so, the more they kept proclaiming it. ³⁷ They were amazed beyond measure and said, "He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!"

Sermon Theme: "Be Opened!"

- † Imagine how grateful this man was for the healing miracle Jesus performed. In what way(s) can we relate to this man—if not in a *physical* sense, in a *spiritual* one?

- † Why might Jesus have given "**the people strict orders to tell no one**" (v. **36**) that He had done this miracle?

Do these "**strict orders**" from Jesus still apply to us today? Why or why not?

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.* †)

Sermon Hymn: 841 (tune of LSB 528) O Son of God, in Galilee

LSB 841

- 1. O Son of God, in Galilee You made the deaf to hear,
The mute to speak, the blind to see; O blessèd Lord, be near.**
- 2. O listen to the silent prayer Of Your afflicted ones.
O bid them cast on You their care; Your grace to them make known.**
- 3. The speechless tongue, the lifeless ear You can restore, O Lord;
Your "Ephphatha," O Savior dear, Can instant help afford.**
- 4. Meanwhile to them the list'ning ear Of steadfast faith impart,
And let Your Word bring light and cheer To ev'ry troubled heart.**
- 5. Then in Your promised happy land Each loss will prove a gain;
All myst'ries we shall understand, For You will make them plain.**

Text: Anna B. D. Hoppe, 1889–1941, alt. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

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: 848 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service *(please stand for last verse)*



1 Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser-vice Bore the weight of
2 Still Your chil-dren wan-der home-less; Still the hun-gry
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, Till Your love's re-
4 Called by wor-ship to Your ser-vice, Forth in Your dear



hu-man need, Who up-on the cross, for-sak-en,
cry for bread; Still the cap-tives long for free-dom;
veal-ing light In its height and depth and great-ness,
name we go, To the child, the youth, the a-ged,



Of-fered mer-cy's per-fect deed, We, Your ser-vants, bring the
Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com-
Dawns up-on our quick-ened sight, Mak-ing known the needs and
Love in liv-ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good-will and



wor-ship Not of voice a-lone, but heart, Con-se-
pas-sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the
bur-dens Your com-pas-sion bids us bear, Stir-ring
com-fort, Coun-sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your



crat-ing to Your pur-pose Ev-'ry gift that You im-part.
love Your Spir-it kin-dles Still to save and make us whole.
us to tire-less striv-ing, Your a-bun-dant life to share.
ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom May Your mer-cy know and live.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today:
9/8/24

St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am
Worship – 10am
Crafting Bee / Book Club – 11:15am

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

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

Next Sunday:
9/15/24

St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Study – 9am
Worship – 10am

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

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

St. Stephen Voters' Meeting Recap and Pastor Call – On Sunday, September 1st we had a voters' meeting/call meeting to call our next pastor. We have called Pastor Drew Naumann, of Trinity Lutheran, Spokane, WA. Please pray that the Lord would give Pastor Naumann clarity in his call deliberations, and if it is the Lord's will, that he would accept our call. Pastor Naumann shared his contact info and invites you to contact him as you please during his call deliberation. **Email: pastordrewnaumann@gmail.com cell: (253) 414-4740**

Some info on Pastor Naumann is below (see also his letter on p. 12):

Pastor Drew Naumann - 28 years old. Unmarried. Graduated from Immanuel Lutheran Seminary in 2021. Pastor of Trinity, Spokane, WA since June 2021. Gifted preacher and writer. Impressive commitment to the ministry and has adapted well to the challenges his current congregation faces. Delivered CLC Convention paper this summer, which was very well received.

Also, our East Bay congregation has officially begun the process of dissolution, effectively making us now a combined congregation. So far 13 of our East Bay members, including 5 voting members, were welcomed into membership at St. Stephen in Mountain View on Sunday. May God bless our combined efforts going forward! NOTE: We will continue with our usual worship schedule of Mountain View at 10am and Hayward at 1pm until October, when Pastor Luke and Jewels move to Wisconsin.

Meal Sign-up / Donations Requested – Pacific Coast Pastoral Conf. – Oct. 1st – Oct. 3rd –

We will be hosting the Pacific Coast Pastoral Conference from Tues. Oct. 1st – Thurs. Oct. 3rd here at St. Stephen-West in Mountain View. There will be a total of 8 pastors in attendance. We are in need of volunteers to provide snacks and meals for the sessions from Tues.-Thurs., and we are having a fellowship meal “Taco Bar” on Wednesday evening **Oct. 2nd at 6pm** before the **Worship Service at 7pm**. Please see the sign-up sheet in the entryway if you’d like help provide food for the meals or the snacks.

Also, we have reserved tickets for the Alcatraz Tour on Tues. Oct. 1st for the pastors’ recreational outing. We also plan to treat the pastors to a meal afterwards. If you would like to make a donation to help pay for the outing please mark your offering “Pastoral Conference.”

NOTE: We have housing volunteers in place already for all of the pastors.

Please speak with Pastor Luke if you have any questions. Thank You!

CLC News - Pastor Samuel Rodebaugh of Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO has **accepted** the call to St. John’s Lutheran Church, Okabena, MN following Pastor James Albrecht’s retirement at the end of the year. <> Pastor Zachary Sippert of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Bowdle, SD and Zion Ev. Lutheran Church Ipswich, SD has **accepted** the call to Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Sleepy Eye, MN. <> Pastor Timothy Wheaton of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Loveland, CO has **announced his retirement** from the ministry on September 29, 2024.



Rev. Drew Naumann

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(253) 414-4740

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ of St. Stephen,

I have received the divine call you have been led by the Spirit to issue, asking me to serve as your full-time pastor. I will be taking as much time as necessary to carefully and prayerfully consider where the LORD may best use me for the equipping of the saints and the proclamation of His Gospel of salvation.

I thank you in advance for your prayers on my behalf, and I welcome any input or questions you may have. Pastor Bernthal will make my contact information available.

You all remain in our prayers here at Trinity. May our gracious LORD's will be done in this matter, as it is in every matter.

Hebrews 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Lord be with you all,

Pastor Drew Naumann