

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600

Mark Gullerud: Vacancy Pastor

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Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Isaac Schmitt (Principal)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

February 23, 2025 † **Epiphany 7**



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.

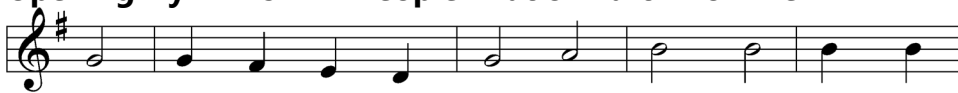
† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 40 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**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 791 All People That on Earth Do Dwell

LSB 791



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our
3 O en - ter then His gates with praise; Ap - proach with
4 For why? The Lord our God is good: His mer - cy
△ 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with mirth, His
aid He did us make. We are His folk, He
joy His courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless His
is for - ev - er sure. His truth at all times
heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the



praise forth - tell; Come ye be - fore Him and re - joice.
doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.
name al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood And shall from age to age en - dure.
an - gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1593, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

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...

"Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" LSB 811

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn "Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices" in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff in treble clef. The lyrics are: "I Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es To praise my God with thou-sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re - joic - es, Would then pro-claim in grate - ful songs To all, wher - ev - er I might be, What great things God has done for me." The music consists of four lines of notes with lyrics underneath. The first line ends with a double bar line.

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658-1734; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691-1758
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862 Tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray: Gracious Father, keep Your family, the Church, always faithful to You, that we may lean on the hope of Your promises and be strong in the power of Your love; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading

2 Corinthians 1:18-22 (NKJV)

¹⁸ But as God is faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No. ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us -- by me, Silvanus, and Timothy -- was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. ²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, ²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Second Reading

Mark 2:1-12 (NKJV)

P The second reading is from Mark 2:1-12

And again He entered Capernaum after *some* days, and it was heard that He was in the house. ² Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive *them*, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. ³ Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four *men*. ⁴ And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." ⁶ And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, ⁷ "Why does this *Man* speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸ But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? ⁹ "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, '*Your* sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? ¹⁰ "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" -- He said to the paralytic, ¹¹ "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." ¹² Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw *anything* like this!"

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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

W.S. p. 15

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: 560 Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed

(LSB 560)



1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed With heal - ing
2 Thou know - est all my griefs and fears, Thy grace a -
3 Wash me and take a - way each stain; Let noth - ing
4 And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so



gifts for souls dis - tressed, To find in Thee my
bused, my mis - spent years; Yet now to Thee with
of my sin re - main. For cleans - ing, though it
sweet a ser - vice be That an - gels well might



life, my rest, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
 con - trite tears, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
 be through pain, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
 en - vy me, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.

Text: Genevieve M. Irons, 1855–1928

Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838–96

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Isaiah 43:18-25 ¹⁸ "Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. ¹⁹ Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness *And* rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The beast of the field will honor Me, The jackals and the ostriches, Because I give waters in the wilderness *And* rivers in the desert, To give drink to My people, My chosen. ²¹ This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise. ²² " But you have not called upon Me, O Jacob; And you have been weary of Me, O Israel. ²³ You have not brought Me the sheep for your burnt offerings, Nor have you honored Me with your sacrifices. I have not caused you to serve with grain offerings, Nor wearied you with incense. ²⁴ You have bought Me no sweet cane with money, Nor have you satisfied Me with the fat of your sacrifices; But you have burdened Me with your sins, You have wearied Me with your iniquities. ²⁵ " I, *even I, am* He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.

Sermon Theme: God Remembers our Sins no More

1. Consider how we have wearied the LORD with our sinfulness.
2. Behold the new deliverance and gracious redemption.
3. Speak the praises of His saving grace.

Offertory

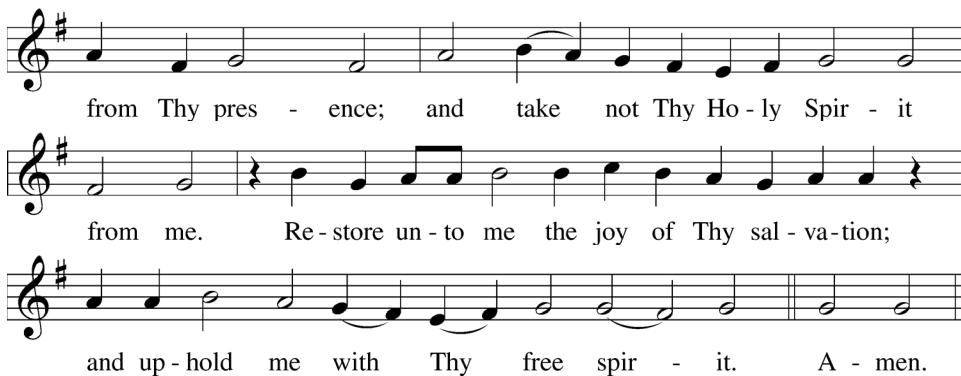
LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new



a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way



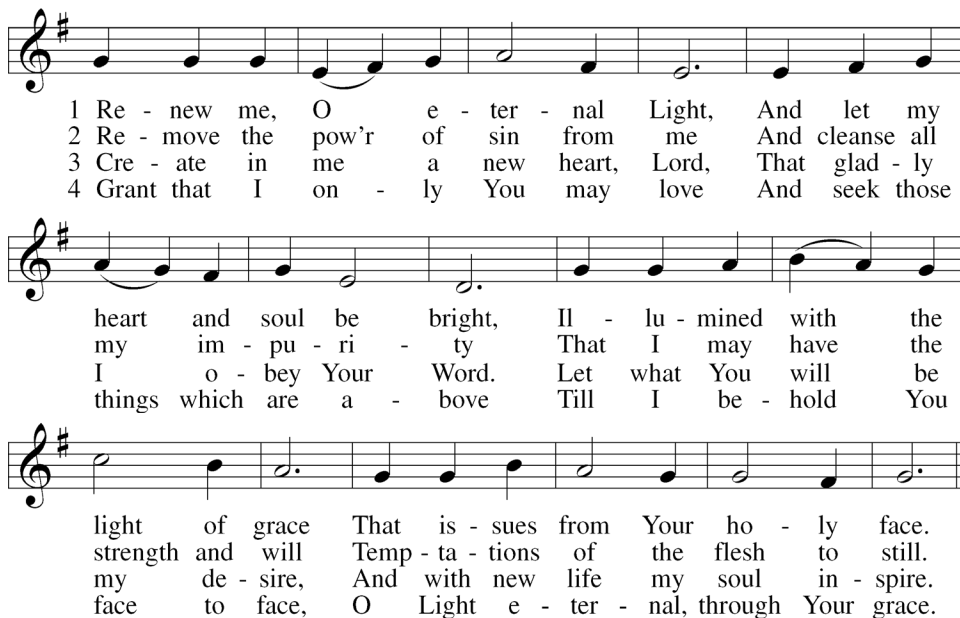
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
 and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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: 704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light

LSB 704



1 Re - new me, O e - ter - nal Light, And let my
 2 Re - move the pow'r of sin from me And cleanse all
 3 Cre - ate in me a new heart, Lord, That glad - ly
 4 Grant that I on - ly You may love And seek those
 heart and soul be bright, Il - lu - mined with the
 my im - pu - ri - ty That I may have the
 I o - bey Your Word. Let what You will be
 things which are a - bove Till I be - hold You
 light of grace That is - sues from Your ho - ly face.
 strength and will Temp - ta - tions of the flesh to still.
 my de - sire, And with new life my soul in - spire.
 face to face, O Light e - ter - nal, through Your grace.

Text: Johann Friedrich Ruopp, 1672–1708; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: As hymnodus sacer, 1625, Leipzig

Text and tune: Public domain

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

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

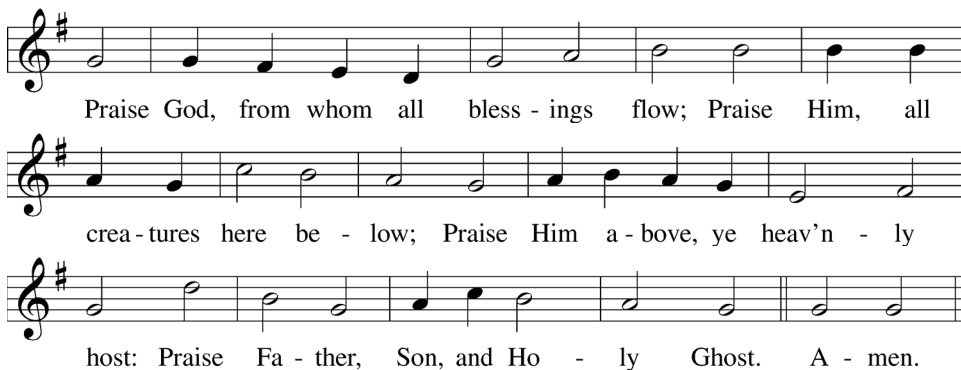
- C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is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

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 to shine upon you and be gracious unto 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: 548 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

LSB 548



1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! Thanks to Thee, O
2 Thou hast died for my trans - gres - sion, All my sins on
3 For the joy Thine ad - vent gave me, For Thy ho - ly,



Lord of Life! Death hath now no pow - er o'er us,
Thee were laid; Thou hast won for me sal - va - tion,
pre - cious Word; For Thy Bap - tism, which doth save me,



Thou hast con - quered in the strife. Thanks be - cause Thou didst a -
On the cross my debt was paid. From the grave I shall a -
For Thy blest Com - mu - nion board; For Thy death, the bit - ter



rise And hast o - pened par - a - dise! None can ful - ly
rise And shall meet Thee in the skies. Death it - self is
scorn, For Thy res - ur - rec - tion morn, Lord, I thank Thee



sing the glo - ry Of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.
tran - si - to - ry; I shall lift my head in glo - ry.
and ex - tol Thee, And in heav'n I shall be - hold Thee.

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942

Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667

Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **10:00 a.m. Worship Service**
2/23/25 **11:00 a.m. Choir Practice**
11:15 a.m. Ladies' Auxiliary Meeting

Sat. and Sun. **Volunteer Work Dates on the Parsonage**
3/1,2/25

Sunday **10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion**
3/2/25 **11:00 a.m. Voters' Call Meeting**

Upcoming: **6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service**
3/5/25

Sat. and Sun **Volunteer Work Dates on the Parsonage**
3/8,9/25

Pastoral Call Response Below is the letter received from Pastor David Pfeiffer in response to our call to him.

Dear members of St Stephens,

Grace and peace to you all.

After prayer and reflection, I've decided to return the call you've extended to me. It was a privilege to have you entrust me with this decision as we learn to depend on the Lord in every way.

It was a great opportunity to learn about your current situation in the bay area so that we can pray more specifically for you. What stood out to me is the dedication of members who are willing to drive some distance for worship. The church which you call home is far from many of your homes. But that reminded me of the heavenly home we have as well. I can see some of the challenges you are facing in your current context. However, I am grateful that when speaking with your leaders, I can see their love for the Lord and His word. I know that love will surely continue to bear its own special fruit. Your continued contentment and commitment to receiving the Word and Sacraments is a fruit that I was glad you could share with me.

Even though I have returned this call, please do accept our love. Know that the Lord is your Shepherd, and He has plans of hope and a blessed future for y'all. Praying the Lord supplies you with a faithful undershepherd soon. Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

In Jesus Christ our Lord, David Pfeiffer

Voters’ Call Meeting In view of Pastor Pfeiffer returning our call to him, the voters of St. Stephen will meet next Sunday for call meeting, following the worship service.

Volunteer Work on the Parsonage The following is from Michael Horrillo, Property Chairman: “In preparation for our next Pastor, the parsonage/ADU needs our attention. We have a list of “To Do” items that will need volunteer labor to get the property ready for move in. We will require at least two weekends of work parties to accomplish: Minor repairs, flooring, cleaning, painting, wood repair, roof vent repair...Nothing we need to do is too complicated. Men and ladies will be welcome. I am very good at teaching you, if it is something you have not done before. (March 1 and March 2nd) as well as (March 8th and 9th) will do as a start. I will be on site 8:00 a.m. to least 5:00 p.m. Please email me directly to confirm that you will be able to help. properwood@aol.com . Thank you in advance, they will be a few “Fun” weekends!”

Lenten Season begins with our Ash Wednesday Service on March 5th at 6:30 p.m. Our Lenten sermon series will be based on Isaiah’s prophetic writings on Christ’s passion found in chapters 52 and 53. Through these inspired words it is as if Isaiah was at the foot of the cross telling us what was happening to our Savior there.

CLC Financial Report - January 2025

Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2024	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 7 Months	Balance 1/31/2025
General Fund	0	701,801	705,155	765,905	(3,354)
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	1,096,415	965,829	1,005,725	130,586
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	110,979	34,092	53,954		91,117
ILC Building Projects	1,560,282	338,576	0		1,898,858
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	120,784	151,968	92,055		180,697
Kinship	169,884	89,202	96,771		162,315
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	2,684,208	345,894	230,573		2,799,529
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	117,317	57,073	148,521		25,869
EduK8 Fund	47,692	19,903	0		67,595
Reserve Fund	79,964	78,733	0		158,697
Auxiliary Funds Totals	\$4,891,110	\$1,115,441	\$621,874		\$5,384,677

General Fund – We thank the Lord for moving the hearts of His people to remember the General Fund in their recent offerings. We received about \$80,000 more than we spent in January, reducing the deficit to just over \$3,000.

ILC Operations – Revenue is up about \$27,000 over the same period as last year while disbursements are up about \$34,000.

ILC Building Projects – Year-to-date contributions have been about \$230,000. The remaining year-to-date revenue of around \$108,000 is from increases in the market value of the investments in this fund.

Church Extension Fund – Year to date revenue consists of payments received of just over \$172,000 from congregations on the loans they owe the CLC, just under \$173,000 of increases in the market value of the investments and just under \$1,000 of contributions to the fund.

Other Auxiliary Funds – The activity in the other funds in the table above is similar to the activity in the same period a year ago.

Stephen R. Lentz, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees

Daily Rest Devotional Booklets have arrived and are available in the distribution boxes.

Church Directory St. Stephen's church directory has been updated for 2025. You will find a copy of it on the stand near the front door of the church. Please check through it for your information, family members, and others who are unable to do this in person. Make any necessary corrections. We will leave the copy of the directory there for a number of Sundays in order to give people enough time to look it over. Thank you.