

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

Email: markgull76@hotmail.com † **Cell: (605) 282-9185**

Church Office: (650) 964-5915



Online Video Production: Chris Holt, Michael Slattengren

Website: sslcwest.org

St. Stephen Lutheran School Staff: Isaac & Mikkela Schmitt (Teachers),
Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Isaac Schmitt (Principal)



School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

March 16, 2025 † Lent 2

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 130 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

Our Worship Service

will be Posted to Our Website tomorrow at midafternoon.

To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:

<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn 429 We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died

(LSB 429)



1 We sing the praise of Him who died, Of Him who
2 In - scribed up - on the cross we see In shin - ing
3 The cross! It takes our guilt a - way; It holds the
4 It makes the cow - ard spir - it brave And nerves the



died up - on the cross. The sin - ner's hope let
let - ters, "God is love." He bears our sins up -
faint - ing spir - it up; It cheers with hope the
fee - ble arm for fight; It takes the ter - ror



all de - ride; For this we count the world but loss.
on the tree; He brings us mer - cy from a - bove.
gloom - y day And sweet - ens ev - 'ry bit - ter cup.
from the grave And gilds the bed of death with light;

5 The balm of life, the cure of woe,
The measure and the pledge of love,
The sinner's refuge here below,
The angels' theme in heav'n above.

6 To Christ, who won for sinners grace
By bitter grief and anguish sore,
Be praise from all the ransomed race
Forever and forevermore.

Text (sts. 1–5): Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855; (st. 6): Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861

Tune: attr. Daniel Read, 1757–1836

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 Father, and of Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Responsive Reading (NKJV)

(Psalm 98:1-6)

- P** *Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!*
- C** ***For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.***
- P** *The LORD has made known His salvation;*
- C** ***His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.***
- P** *He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;*
- C** ***All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God***
- P** *Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;*
- C** ***Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.***
- P** *Sing to the LORD with the harp,*
- C** ***With the harp and the sound of a psalm,***
- P** *With trumpets and the sound of a horn;*
- C** ***Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.***

Confession

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

Almighty and most merciful Father, I have strayed from Your paths like a lost sheep. Out of my heart have come evil thoughts, emotions, and desires. I have offended against Your holy law of love in my words and actions. I am truly sorrow for all my offenses of thought, word, and deed. Have mercy on me and forgive me for Jesus' sake! Restore me and revive my spirits, according to the promise You

have declared to me in Jesus Christ, my Lord. Fill my heart with Your love that I may lead a godly and righteous life, to the glory of Your name.

Absolution

The LORD declares His forgiveness through His called servant.

Lift up your hearts in peace and with joy. The Lord God, according to His promise, is slow to anger and abounding in mercy and love. By the command and in the stead of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

☪ Amen

☪ We pray:

Almighty God, You see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☪ Amen.

The Passion History of Our Lord Jesus Christ

(According to the Four Gospels (New King James Version))

III -- Jesus Before Pilate

Immediately in the morning, as soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together. They took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death. They held a consultation with the elders and the scribes and the whole council.

They led Jesus into their council, saying, "If You are the Christ, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe; and if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God." Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" And He said to them, "You rightly say that I am." And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we

have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

Then the whole multitude of them arose, bound Jesus, and led Him away from Caiaphas to the Praetorium and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor; and it was early morning. Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"

Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed; and went and hanged himself. And falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is now lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." And they took counsel and bought with them the Potter's Field to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced; and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

And the Jews themselves did not enter into the Praetorium lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. Pilate then went out to them, and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you."

Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him, and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death", that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die. And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this Fellow perverting the nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, and called Jesus. Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the king of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself on this, or did others tell you this about Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me; what have You done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered and said to him, "It is as you say. You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man. I find no fault in Him at all."

And the chief priests accused Him of many things. And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? Do You not hear how many things they testify against You" See how many things they testify against You!" But Jesus still answered nothing. He answered him not one word, so that Pilate, the governor, marveled greatly.

Confession of Faith

The 2nd Article of the Apostle's Creed *with explanation from Luther's Catechism (Sydow, p. 87)*

**☩ I believe 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, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God,

begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man,
born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,
purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil,
not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood
and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom,
and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy;
just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

This is most certainly true!

Hymn 437 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

(LSB 437)



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, And
2 Was it for crimes that I had done He
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide And
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face While
5 But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay The



did my sov - reign die? Would He de - vote that
groaned up - on the tree? A - maz - ing pit - y,
shut his glo - ries in When God, the might - y
His dear cross ap - pears, Dis - solve my heart in
debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give my -



sa - cred head For such a worm as I?
grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!
mak - er, died For His own crea - tures' sin.
thank - ful - ness, And melt mine eyes to tears.
self a - way: 'Tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824

Text and tune: Public domain

Isaiah's Passion History

Sermon Text: Isaiah 53:4-5 ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Sermon Theme: We Behold Jesus as the Willing Substitute for the Guilty Ones

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.*

Prayer of the Church *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.**

Hymn 421 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing

(LSB 421)



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly
2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my
3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and
4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,
5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your



wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of
sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new
eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me
is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing
death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in
cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,
weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.
new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet
crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Tempt my treach-'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from
Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was
Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp-
Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing
Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -



sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.
wound - ed," That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.
tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite, alt.

Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

Text and tune: Public domain

Responsive Reading (NKJV)

(Psalm 96:1-3,10)

P *Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!*

C ***Sing to the LORD, all the earth.***

P *Sing to the LORD, bless His name;*

C ***Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.***

P *Declare His glory among the nations,*

C ***His wonders among all peoples.***

P *Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns; The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved;*

C ***He shall judge the peoples righteously."***

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.

C ♩ Amen, Amen, Amen.

Closing Hymn 427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory *(LSB 427)*



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–67

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments - Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission.
All rights reserved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today	10:00 a.m. Worship Service
3/16/25	11:00 a.m. Choir Practice
Sunday	10:00 a.m. Worship Service
3/23/25	11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

Loaned Books to SSLS If there are any who have loaned books to SSLS and desire to receive them back, you are asked to contact the teachers and inform them which books this involves. The teachers would like to take care of this before the end of this school year.

Work on the Parsonage Much work has been done and much has been accomplished in sprucing up the parsonage. There was also work done on the parsonage beyond the work days in the past two weekends. Our thanks to all who have put in time and effort in this project.

There is still more work to be done. Mike Horrillo has given us the following to do list:

- 1) Mike will be setting master bath tile.
- 2) Brenton will be replacing all electrical plugs and switches.
- 3) Terry will be replacing damaged screens.
- 4) Kitchen and Laundry room need to be painted.
- 5) All moldings, crowns, baseboards and doors need to be trim painted out.
- 6) Kitchen/laundry room floors need to be stripped out and polished { once the cabinets are finished}
- 7) Fiberglass tub/shower in Jack and Jill bathroom needs to be buffed out.
- 8) Install window in ADU {cut, mount, stucco}.
- 9) Paint yellow in ADU.
- 10) Prep and paint ADU exterior door and screen.

OUTSIDE (once the inside is done, or we have spare labor)

- 1) Burn off Boston ivy off garage.
- 2) Scrape loose paint off of under eaves and casing.
- 3) Paint under eaves.

- 4) Paint base stucco.
- 5) Paint gutters, window casing, doors
- 6) Paint and install front corner gutter.

LANDSCAPING { I have two gas weed wackers and an backpack garden sprayer in Templeton. Will bring back in two weeks}

- 1) Roundup weeks.
- 2) Weed wack underbrush.
- 3) Trim trees.
- 4) Broom mold off ADU pathway.

While Mike will take ANY HELP, he can get, it would be nice to email {properwood@aol.com or Text 408-891-5331} in advance so Mike is prepared with supplies and so he can have an idea of what your skills and capabilities are. Very critical this weekend, since I am setting tile and will not have a lot of time to supervise.

St. Stephen's Church Treasury Update This update covers the period from July '24 to February '25. The total income was \$71,661.55 and the total expenses were \$63,812.64. This resulted in a net positive balance of \$7,848.91

CLC Financial Report - February 2025

Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2024	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 8 Months	Balance 2/28/2025
General Fund	0	792,279	808,305	875,320	(16,026)
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	1,254,568	1,117,659	1,149,400	136,909
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	110,979	37,476	53,954		94,501
ILC Building Projects	1,560,282	378,370	1,800		1,936,852
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	120,784	166,891	114,659		173,016
Kinship	169,884	124,660	114,116		180,428
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	2,684,208	429,688	248,434		2,865,462
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	117,317	68,101	162,800		22,618
Eduk8 Fund	47,692	20,644	0		68,336
Reserve Fund	79,964	79,341	0		159,305
Auxiliary Funds T totals	\$4,891,110	\$1,305,171	\$695,763		\$5,500,518

General Fund and ILC Operations – The combined balance of these two operating funds is down about \$47,000 compared to the same time one year ago. Contributions to and disbursements from the General Fund are below budget for the first eight months of our fiscal year. For ILC Operations, the revenue is ahead of budget with disbursements less than the pro-rated budget.

ILC Building Projects – Year-to-date contributions have been about \$235,000. The remaining year-to-date revenue of around \$143,000 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 \$229,000 from congregations on the loans they owe the CLC, just under \$230,000 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