

St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School
An affiliate of the Church of the Lutheran Confession
320 Moorpark Way
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Website: www.sslcwest.org
Pastor: Terrel Kesterson Organist: Sara Pfeiffer

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 11, 2011

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

Preservice meditation: Psalm 98, page 144 (red hymnal)

OPENING HYMN: 706 (Worship Supplement) “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Service of Word and Sacrament, setting 1 (page 1 in The Worship Supplement)

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11

God sent Jesus to preach to us the Good News of our salvation in Him!

Responsive Litany

L: During Advent we listen for the wonder of God’s Word.

C: SPEAK TO US, O LORD, FOR OUR HEARTS ARE OPEN.

L: During Advent we reach beyond the noise and distractions of this world.

C: SPEAK TO US, O LORD, FOR OUR HEARTS ARE OPEN.

L: During Advent we ponder the Good News that is our great joy.

C: SPEAK TO US, O LORD, FOR OUR HEARTS ARE OPEN.

L: During Advent we speak words of hope to those engaged in life’s struggles.

C: SPEAK TO US, O LORD, FOR OUR HEARTS ARE OPEN.

L: During Advent we offer words of peace to those overcome by life’s fears.

C: SPEAK TO US, O LORD, FOR OUR HEARTS ARE OPEN.

Candle Lighting

Pastor: Today we light three candles. The *first candle* calls us to behold the wonder of the season in a fresh way. In a world where too often the familiar becomes commonplace, Advent is a time to ponder the mystery of God’s amazing love. The *second candle* invites us to hear again the ancient prophecies that, like flames in the darkness, illuminate our world, inspire our faith, and guide our journey. As we light the *third candle*, we affirm that Advent is a time to hear again the still small voice calling us to behold God’s promise, and embrace the gift of a Savior who is Christ our Lord.

Second Lesson: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John the Baptist told the people that Jesus Christ has come to save us from our sins!

The Apostles’ Creed (page 15 in The Worship Supplement)

Children’s sermon

HYMN 102 (red hymnal) “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

THE SERMON: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

“HOW WE CAN BE JOYFUL AT CHRISTMAS TIME”

The Offertory, page 6 (Worship Supplement)

The Offering

HYMN 103 (red hymnal) “To Shepherds as They Watched by Night”

Special Prayers, The General Prayer, The Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction (page 11 in The Worship Supplement)

CLOSING HYMN: 94 (red hymnal) “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

WELCOME, VISITORS! We’re very happy that you are here today! You are always welcome. Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the entryway.

TODAY AFTER CHURCH OUR SCHOOL BOARD MEETS BRIEFLY, our BIBLE CLASS will watch the latest CLC MISSIONS DVD on NEPAL, and our CHILDREN will PRACTICE for the Christmas Eve Service.

WEDNESDAY: NO MIDWEEK BIBLE HOUR. ADVENT SERVICE at 7:00 PM, followed by CAROL SINGING and a COOKIE EXCHANGE.

THURSDAY: CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:30-7:30 PM.

FRIDAY: PASTORS STUDY CLUB at 11:30 AM in Redwood City.

SUNDAY: WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:00 AM; BIBLE STUDY: 11:15 AM.

NEXT SUNDAY is the FINAL CHILDREN’S PRACTICE AFTER CHURCH for the Christmas Eve Service.

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS are 2 Samuel 7:8-16; Romans 16:25-27; and Luke 1:26-38.

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN’S SERVICE is at 5:00 PM.

OUR CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE falls on a SUNDAY this year. Our service is at the usual 10:00 AM time.

OUR NEW YEAR’S SERVICE is on NEW YEAR’S DAY, a SUNDAY, at 10:00 AM.