

*St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School*  
*An affiliate of the Church of the Lutheran Confession*  
320 Moorpark Way  
Mountain View, California 94041-1600  
Church Office (650) 964-5915 School Office (650) 961-2071  
Website: www.sslcwest.org  
Pastor: Terrel Kesterson Organist: Sara Pfeiffer

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 18, 2011

*“The angel Gabriel said to ... Mary, ... ‘The holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.’”*  
(from Luke 1:1f.)

Preservice meditation: Psalm 91, page 143 (red hymnal)

OPENING HYMN: 711 (Worship Supplement) “See In Yonder Manger Low”

Service of Word and Sacrament, setting 2 (page 12 in The Worship Supplement)

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:8-16

King David’s great Descendant, Jesus Christ, is our Savior and heavenly King!

Responsive Litany – *The Wonder of Hope*

L: During Advent, we ignite the wonder of expectation.

C: OPEN OUR EYES, O LORD, TO BEHOLD YOUR GLORY.

L: During Advent, we look for the Light that shines in the darkness.

C: OPEN OUR EYES, O LORD, TO BEHOLD YOUR GLORY.

L: During Advent, we embrace the Hope that enlivens the soul.

C: OPEN OUR EYES, O LORD, TO BEHOLD YOUR GLORY.

L: During Advent, we welcome the Savior who beckons the world.

C: OPEN OUR EYES, O LORD, TO BEHOLD YOUR GLORY.

L: During Advent, we rejoice in the One who has reclaimed the lost.

C: OPEN OUR EYES, O LORD, TO BEHOLD YOUR GLORY.

Candle Lighting

Pastor: Today we light four candles. The *first candle* calls us to behold the glory of the season with a renewed wonder. Advent is a time to be awed by God’s redeeming love for the lost and broken. The *second candle* calls us to reclaim the promises of God spoken in ages past. As the light fills this room, so the Word of God fills our world with hope for the hurting, peace for the restless, and joy for the heavy hearted. The *third candle* is an invitation to wait patiently upon the Lord. In a world where we often lack for patience, Advent reminds us to rest in God’s timing and trust God’s plan. The *fourth candle* challenges us to

grow in faithful expectation. As people whose faith often becomes tamed to the miraculous, Advent is a time to remember afresh a God with whom all things are possible.

Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27

Praise God for bringing salvation to all people through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ!

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

Children’s sermon

HYMN 98 (red hymnal) “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

**THE SERMON: Luke 1:26-38**

**“GABRIEL, GOD’S MESSENGER OF SALVATION”**

The Offertory, page 16 (Worship Supplement)

The Offering

HYMN 76 (red hymnal) “A Great and Mighty Wonder”

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

The Benediction (page 21 in The Worship Supplement)

CLOSING HYMN: 708 (Worship Supplement) “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

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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 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETS BRIEFLY; our CHILDREN will PRACTICE for the Christmas Eve Service; and there will be a SOUTH PASADENA SERVICE at 7:30 PM.

WEDNESDAY: NO MIDWEEK BIBLE HOUR.

THURSDAY: CHILDREN have the final PRACTICE for the Christmas Eve Service: 10:00 AM (a pizza lunch will be provided afterwards); CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:30-7:30 PM.

SATURDAY: CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN’S SERVICE: 5:00 PM.

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

NEXT SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY, we will have our service at the usual 10:00 AM time. We will NOT have Bible Hour afterwards.

OUR CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE falls on a SUNDAY this year.

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