

May Elder & Usher: Scott Mueller (Elder) & Dan Gullerud (Usher)

In Your Mailboxes – CLC Financial Report – April

Voter's Meeting – 2nd Teacher Call – The voters are asked to meet after the service for a meeting to discuss the call for our 2nd teacher in St. Stephen's School.

CLC News – Teacher David Bernthal, Lutheran Memorial, Fond du Lac, WI, has returned the call to be teacher/principal at Grace Lutheran school, Sleepy Eye, MN. <> Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire, WI, has called Carly Meyer, Living Hope Lutheran, Appleton, WI, to teach grades 3-4 at its school. <> Teacher Paul Tiefel III, Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire, WI, has returned the call to be teacher/principal at St. Stephen Lutheran school, Mt. View, CA. <> Faith Lutheran, Markesan, WI, has called Teacher Neil Bernthal, Immanuel Lutheran, Winter Haven, FL, as principal/ teacher.

Arise and Shine 20's - 30's Retreat – Less Than a Month Away! – Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Phoenix, AZ is once again sponsoring a four-day retreat at Camp JIM in **Pillager, MN, June 15–18 (Thurs. - Sun.)**. The retreat is designed for men and women in their 20s & 30s. Singles, couples, and families are welcome. The registration fee includes a t-shirt (if registered by June 1st, 2017), lodging, meals and snacks, and activities during the retreat. The cost is **\$140.00 per adult** (ages 12 and up), **\$100 per child** (ages 0-11). This year's theme is "Jars of Clay". Our theme is based on 2 Corinthians 4:7 *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."* If you are looking for a faith-strengthening weekend with young adult Christians that is focused on the Word of God, this retreat is for you! You can find more information and register on our web site: www.AriseAndShineRetreat.com. For more info, please contact: Sam Rodebaugh (414) 534-7279 sam.rodebaugh@gmail.com or Josh Ohlmann (314) 874-9184 joshohlmann@swbell.net.

Note: Pastor Luke will be attending the retreat (which follows the CLC Pastoral Conf. in Eau Claire, WI) and will be preaching for the Sunday worship service at the retreat.

VBS – July 24th – 28th – Ages 4-13 – Start spreading the word! Fliers and registration forms will be available soon. The CLC's TVBS program is sending us teachers to assist us as well.

St. Stephen 50th Anniversary Committee – Plans are being made to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our congregation this summer. We are forming a 50th Anniversary Committee to help plan the day's events. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on that committee, please speak with our congregation's president, Paul Pelzl 734-660-4248 (cell).

St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (cclutheran.org)
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Organist: Sue Slattengren

May 21, 2017 † Easter 6



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 66 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

Opening Hymn: 825 Rise, Shine, You People

LSB 825

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.

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession and Absolution

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and gives them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Kyrie *Latin for “O Lord.” We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.* LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.



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 shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 770 (Worship Supplement) *I Hear the Savior Calling*

W.S. 770

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **Voter’s Meeting – 2nd teacher call meeting** (after worship service)

This Week: **Tuesday – Elders Meeting – 6:30pm / Church Council Meeting – 7pm**

Next Sunday: *Ascension Sunday*

5/28/17 **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 8:45am / Worship – 10am**
St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): **Worship – 1pm / Bible Class – 2pm**

The Distribution

Note to our Guests: We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.

Communion Hymn: 618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

LSB 618

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

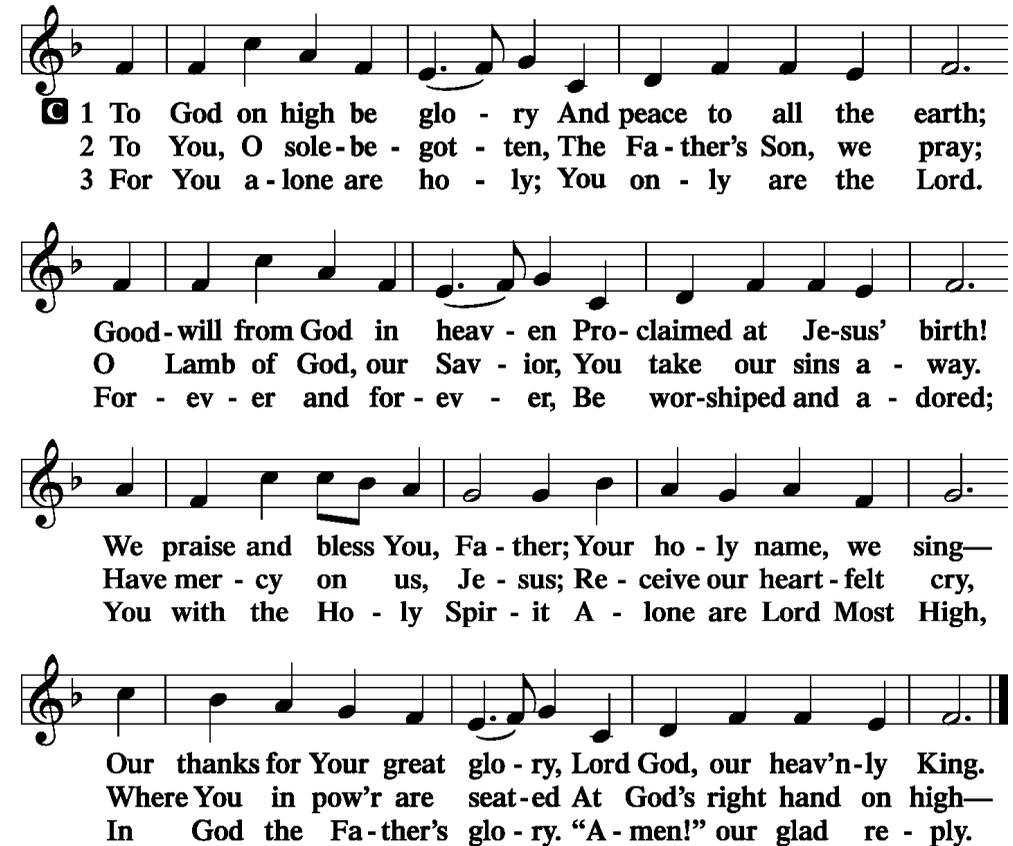
Latin: "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

Gloria in Excelsis *Latin for "Glory to God in the highest."*

LSB 204



1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.
Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;
We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,
Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation ("Greeting") and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P We pray:

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your Holy Spirit, help us that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them as well. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

First Reading

Acts 17:22-31 (ESV)

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "'For we are indeed his offspring.'

²⁹Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 14:15-21 (NJKV)

P The Gospel reading is from John 14:15-21.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁵ "If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--¹⁷ "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ "At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹ "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

The Words of Institution

The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His body and blood in the Sacrament.

Pax Domini ("The Peace of the Lord")

LSB 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

Latin: "Lamb of God." Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)

G 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly fitting, right, and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. We praise You especially for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by His sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by His resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus *Latin: "Holy."*

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P We give You thanks, O Lord our God, for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ and His cross. Give us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. In His name we pray, as we now join in the prayer that He taught us

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

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!"



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that
Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.
C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Nicene Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

LSB 206

C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven**

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 826 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying

LSB 826

Sermon: Be Prepared!

- 1. Know Your "Hope"
- 2. Give an Answer

Text: John 3:15-18 (NIV)

¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

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.

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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 / Prayer Requests *We bring our prayers to God.*

Sermon Hymn: 831 "How Shall They Hear," Who Have Not Heard LSB 831

Service of the Sacrament

*Now we approach the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in which Jesus comes to bless us with His very body and blood.
 We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.*

Preface

LSB 208

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**