

St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (cclutheran.org)
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July 9, 2017 † Pentecost 5



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 31 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

Opening Hymn: 707 *Oh That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*

LSB 707

SERVICE OF THE WORD

(Worship Supplement, p. 12)

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.

Confession and Absolution

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

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy upon me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. Through faith in Him, which was created in you by the Holy Spirit, you are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C **Amen.**

Kyrie *Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.* W.S. p. 13

♪ Lord have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

Gloria in Excelsis *Latin for "Glory to God in the highest."* W.S. p. 13

♪ ***Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.***

***Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high:
Who with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.***

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the difficulties, challenges, and changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading - *Psalm 62* (Selected Verses – RESPONSIVE)

P For God alone my soul waits in silence;

C **from him comes my salvation.**

P He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;

C **I shall not be greatly shaken.**

P How long will all of you attack a man to batter him,

C **like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?**

P They only plan to thrust him down from his high position.

C **They take pleasure in falsehood.**

P They bless with their mouths,

C **but inwardly they curse.**

P For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,

C **for my hope is from him.**

P He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;

C **I shall not be shaken.**

P On God rests my salvation and my glory;

C **my mighty rock, my refuge is God.**

P Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him;

C **God is a refuge for us.**

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-5 (NKJV)

P The Gospel reading is from John 15:1-5.

C Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it!

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!"

 **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**
These words are written that we may believe
That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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: 783 *Take My Life and Let it Be*

LSB 783

Sermon: What Kind of “Fruits” are You Producing?

1. The Fruits of the Flesh?
2. Or, the Fruits of the Spirit?

Text: Galatians 5:19-25 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Offertory

W.S. p. 16

♪ *Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
Take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.
Uphold with Your Spirit free.*

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: 691 *Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing*

LSB 691

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

Lord's Prayer

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- ▣ 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.



▣ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 698 *May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill*

LSB 698

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week: Tuesday & Thursday – **Catechism Classes (via Skype)** (Fossum) – **10am**
Thursday – **Board of Ed Meeting** – **6:30pm** (meet at Pastor's house)

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 8:45am**
7/16/17 **Worship w/ communion – 10am**
VBS Meeting – 11am

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): **Worship – 1pm**
Bible Class – 2pm

Coming Up: **VBS – July 24th – 28th – 9am -11:30am (ages Pre-K – 8th Grade)**
Church Picnic and Joint Worship Service w/ East Bay – Sun. July 30th

July Elder & Usher: Wayne Bliss (Elder) & Michael Slattengren (Usher)



VBS – July 24th – 28th – Ages 4-13 – Our VBS is fast approaching!

Registration is open and available online at our church or school websites (sslwest.org or ssls.org), or you can fill out a registration sheet in the entryway. We'll be having a meeting for VBS staff and volunteers after the worship service next Sunday (7/16). Our TVBS teaching team is scheduled to arrive on Saturday, July 22nd.

CLC Mission Helpers to Nepal – Seventeen Mission Helpers will depart on an evening flight from Chicago on Monday (7/10) on their way to Kathmandu, Nepal where they will be met by Pastor Raju Bhitrakoti, his family, and other pastors and members of the Himalayan Church of the Lutheran Confession of Nepal (HCLCN). These seventeen individuals will divide into four teams as they spend the next three weeks proclaiming the simple Gospel message to approx. 1,500 children in Himalayan villages where HCLCN congregations are located. Pastoral training classes will also be taught among the pastors and Himalayan Bible Institute students of the HCLCN. You can follow along with the Mission Helpers through the trip blog at: <http://2017clcmhtnepal.blogspot.com/> Your prayers are much appreciated. – Pastor Todd Ohlmann

CLC News – Teacher Amy Mielke, Messiah Lutheran, Hales Corners, WI, has returned the call to Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor James Albrecht, pastor of St. John's Lutheran, Okabena, MN, has returned the call to St. Luke's Lutheran, Lemmon, SD. <> Faith Lutheran, Markesan, WI, has called Teacher Matthew Thurow, Berea Lutheran, Inver Grove Heights, MN, to teach grades 3-5 and serve as principal. <> Holy Cross Lutheran, Phoenix, AZ, has called Teacher Ross Kok of St. John's Lutheran, Okabena, MN.

"Slice of Life in the CLC" Spokesman Article – St. Stephen – Mt. View –

The "A Slice of Life in the CLC" article for the October, 2017 *Lutheran Spokesman* has been assigned to us, and is due on **August 1st**.

These "A Slice of Life in the CLC" articles are not intended as an additional devotion, but rather they are to be profiles of individual CLC congregations for the information and interest of the rest of the CLC members. What we're looking for is not just a recitation of the history of the congregation (although that may well be a part), but even more so a narrative that will give the *Spokesman* readers a "taste" of what makes that congregation what it is.

The assigned length is **800 to 1,000 words**. The assignment is to write an article about our congregation, including its location and history. We can include basic membership information (how many members, average attendance, and so forth).

Also to be included would be anything you're currently doing that's of interest to the rest of the CLC readership—especially in the area of outreach. Most of all, we need three or four good photographs (the bigger the selection the better) in the highest resolution possible. If you don't have any on hand, perhaps you have a member with a good camera and an interest in photography who could help. Photographs of the exterior and sanctuary should be included. Group pictures or candid photographs of the members would be good, and possibly a historic photograph as well. **We will plan to take a congregational picture (or two) after the worship service on July 30th (church picnic Sunday).**

Please speak with Pastor Luke if you have any digital photographs, historical summaries, or other items that you think would be important to be included in this article. Thank you!