

St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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July 23, 2017 † Pentecost 7



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 143 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

Opening Hymn: 664 *Fight the Good Fight*

LSB 664

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:

O God, we pray that you would so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we would always be mindful of Your final judgment, and be stirred up to live godly lives here, and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter in heaven. 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

Romans 6:12-23 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³ And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! ¹⁶ Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? ¹⁷ But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. ¹⁸ And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:25-30 (NKJV)

P The Gospel reading is from Matthew 11:25-30.

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

²⁵ *At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. ²⁶ Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. ²⁷ All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. ²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

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

G 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: 665 *Be Strong in the Lord*

LSB 665

Sermon: The “Jekyll & Hyde” Christian

1. The “Monster” of Our Sinful Flesh
2. The “Antidote” of Our Savior

Text: Romans 7:15-25a (NIV)

¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do-- this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. ²¹ So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God-- through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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: 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

LSB 611

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).*

- 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: 704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light

LSB 704

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **VBS/TVBS Teachers Meeting – 6pm**

This Week: Mon.-Fri. – **Vacation Bible School – 9am-11:30am**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View):**

7/30/17

Bible Class – 9am

Joint Worship Service (West & East Bay) – 10am

Installation of Teacher Rebecca Lillo

Church Picnic / Welcome Meal for Rebecca – 11am

Reminder: Congregational photo after worship.

****NO Worship Service in Hayward (East Bay) Next Sun.****

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

Welcome! – We welcome our new teacher, Mrs. Rebecca Lillo, and her son, Jacob who arrived here earlier in the week and has been hard at work preparing for the school year (Jacob has been doing a great job of helping around school as well!). Welcome to your new home & our St. Stephen family, Rebecca and Jacob!

We also welcome our TVBS teaching team from the Midwest. Immanuel Lutheran High schoolers, Grace and Tim Meyer (Bismarck, ND), and Immanuel College student Zack Sippert (Eau Claire, WI) are here this week helping teach our Vacation Bible School. Please introduce yourself to them and welcome them to our St. Stephen family. We hope you have an enjoyable and blessed week with us and our VBS students!



VBS THIS WEEK! – July 24th – 28th – Ages 4-13 – Our VBS is THIS WEEK! There is still time to register! Registration 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 currently have 12 students registered, so we have plenty of room for more! Please pray for our efforts this week.

VBS / TVBS Donations – As a “thank you” for their volunteer efforts we’d like to do some sightseeing and fun activities with our TVBS teachers in the Bay Area in the afternoons and evenings while they are here. Plans include: redwood tour & beach day (Santa Cruz); Great America; Golden Gate Bridge & S.F. sights; and a few other local sights as time permits (Mt. View & Sunnyvale area). We also hope to send a donation to the CLC’s TVBS program to help fund their efforts. If you’d like to donate to the costs of the sightseeing for the teachers, or if you’d like to donate to the TVBS program, please mark your offering: “**VBS/TVBS.**” If you have any questions—or if you would like to join us for any of the events this week—please speak with Pastor Luke.

Rebecca Lillo Teacher Installation / Joint Worship w/ East Bay / Church Picnic – July 30th -
We will be having the installation service for our new teacher, Rebecca Lillo, on **Sunday, July 30th**. We’ll be having a “welcome meal” as part of our church picnic after the service as well. We’ll be having the picnic here at the church & school facility for this special occasion. The Women’s Auxiliary will be making the preparations for the church picnic. That Sunday will be a joint worship service with both St. Stephen congregations attending. Please make plans to come and join us!

“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**.

We will plan to take a congregational picture (or two) after the worship service NEXT Sunday, 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!

Update from the Karps – (for those of you who know Pastor Steve & Elizabeth Karp)

Dear Family and Friends,

After months of preparation, planning and packing, we are now settling into our new home in Klamath Falls, Oregon, USA.

KF is a city of about 40,000 about 15 miles north of the CA border and is located in a basin in what is called the high desert. We are hoping for a fairly mild climate although the first week we've been here has been way too hot for both of us (90sF / 30sC).

Our new home is in a subdivision in the northeast corner of KF. The houses were built in the mid 60s when a large yard with a single story bungalow and a large pad for an RV were the American dream. Our house is in the 2nd or 3rd last road before the hills begin. There is a large back yard and our dog, Bear, has found a spot under a tree to dig a large hole to keep cool. We discovered that we have 2 apple trees, half an apricot tree and a cherry tree. Lots of pruning needs to be done in time. The neighbors have been friendly and helpful.

Shopping for everyday things is quite convenient and a larger city (Medford) is an hour and a half west. The Oregon Institute of Technology is located here as well as a community college and a new hospital. It seems that there are lots of activities advertised – from live theater, an air show at the end of July, a Brats, Brews & Blues Festival in early August, lots of art galleries, a quilting competition in the fall etc.

It will take us some to unpack the hundreds and hundreds of books Steve has, as well as all of Elizabeth children's book collection and her craft supplies. It really is time to think about downsizing!

We have been blessed to find a home that meets nearly all of our "requirements" and thank our heavenly Father for that.

We are looking forward to retirement here and finally have a spare bedroom and would be happy to have you visit us.

Blessings to you all.

Steve and Elizabeth Karp

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