

St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

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

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Organist: Sue Slattengren

August 13, 2017 † Pentecost 10

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 119:33-40 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

Opening Hymn: 737 *Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing*

LSB 737

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:

Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what You want done. 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

Isaiah 55:7-11 (ESV)

⁷ *let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

⁸ *For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.*

⁹ *For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

¹⁰ *"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,*

¹¹ *so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:44-52 (NKJV)

P The Gospel reading is from Matthew 13:44-52.

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

⁴⁴ *[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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: 765 *God Moves in a Mysterious Way*

LSB 765

Sermon: “Everything’s Going to be Alright!”

Text: Romans 8:28-32 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

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: 760 *What God Ordains is Always Good*

LSB 760



St. Stephen Lutheran School Begins – Tuesday – Opening Service – 8:15am

You are invited to join us for the opening service for St. Stephen Lutheran School on **Tuesday at 8:15am** (school starts at 8am on Tuesday). The service will last about 15-20 mins. Pictures of the school families will be taken afterward.

Sunday Bible Class Start Time – 9am – We have changed the Sunday Bible Class start time to **9am**. Please make plans to join us as we continue our study of the Book of Ephesians!

UPDATE - Southern California Worship Service & Visits (St. Stephen – South) –

The next Southern California (St. Stephen – South) worship service & visits are scheduled for **Sunday, August 27th @ 6:30pm** (visits, if needed will be on Monday, Aug. 28th). Both congregations have agreed with Pastor Luke's assessment that it would be better over-all for the services in Southern California to be held on Sunday evenings (instead of on Saturday afternoons).

Other Changes:

- ✝ Beginning in October the Southern California services will be held on the 2nd Sunday of each month, with Pastor Gurath from Phoenix, AZ and Pastor Luke trading off each month.
- ✝ On Sundays when Pastor Luke will be up for Southern California services there will be NO Bible Class at either St. Stephen-West or East Bay (essentially every-other 2nd Sunday of the month).
- ✝ We plan on changing the location of the services to a more central location since a majority of our St. Stephen – South members and contacts live south and east of the Los Angeles area. We will be meeting in Corona, CA at our August meeting and will assess if this is a better location.

Please continue to keep these efforts, and our brothers and sisters in Southern California in your prayers.

CLC Mission Helpers to Nepal –The CLC's Mission Helper Team has returned safely home from their trip to Nepal. If you'd like to read the recap, the accounts from the Mission Helpers (including former St. Stephen pastor, Bruce Naumann), and see photos, please visit this link: <http://2017clcmhtnepal.blogspot.com/>



CLC News – Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato, MN, has called Pastor Michael Wilke, of Gethsemane Lutheran, Saginaw, MI, to serve as co-pastor; Pastor Emeritus John Schierenbeck of Eau Claire, WI, to serve as interim pastor; and member Eric Libby of Mankato, MN, to teach 11-12 grade Religion for the first semester of the 2017-2018 school year. <> Pastor Richard Kanzenbach, of Morning Star Lutheran, Fairchild; Peace with God Lutheran, Onalaska; and Trinity Lutheran, Millston, all in WI, has returned the call to St. Luke's Lutheran, Lemmon, SD. <> Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire, WI, has called Mrs. Valerie Hammett of Mankato to serve as its teacher in the 3rd and 4th grade. Mrs. Hammett has CLC teaching experience, but is not serving a regular call at this time. <> Teacher Matthew Thurow, Berea Lutheran, Inver Grove Heights, MN, has returned the call to Faith Lutheran school, Markesan, WI.; Faith Lutheran has now called Teacher Barry Hay to be principal for one year and Teacher Marie Muehlenhaupt full time for one year and they both have accepted their calls.