

St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

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

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600

Pastor: Luke Bernthal

Email: lbernthal@live.com † Cell: (402) 389-2147

Home: (650) 282-5752

Church Office: (650) 964-5915 Church Website: sslwest.org

Teachers: Kirsten Gullerud (Principal), Rebecca Lillo

School Office: (650) 961-2071 School Website: ssls.org

Organist: Sue Slattengren



September 3, 2017 † Pentecost 13

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 133-134 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

Opening Hymn: 829 *Christ the Eternal Lord*

LSB 829

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.



C 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.

C And also with you.

P We pray:

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading – Responsive Psalm - Psalm 1 (ESV)

P Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
C **nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**

P but his delight is in the instruction of the Lord,
C **and on his instruction he meditates day and night.**

P He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,
C **and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.**

P The wicked are not so,
C **but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

P Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
C **nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;**

P for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
C **but the way of the wicked will perish.**

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading – James 1:2-8 (NJKV)

P The second reading is from James 1:2-8.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

P This is the Word 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!"



☐ Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



☐ Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Nicene Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

LSB 206

☐ **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 of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day: 705 *The Man is Ever Blessed*

LSB 705

Sermon: Live Wisely

Text: Ephesians 5:15-20 (NIV)

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live-- not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Public domain

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: 844 *Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace*

LSB 844

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.**

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, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. 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

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.

C 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)



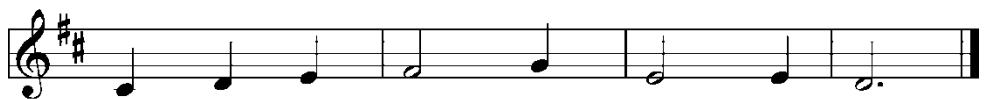
C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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.

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.

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

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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: 632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee

LSB 632

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week: Monday – *Labor Day (NO School at SSLs)*
Thursday – **50th Anniversary Meeting** (Drews' residence) – **7:30pm**
Friday – **Board of Education Meeting** (Horrillo residence) – **6:30pm**
Saturday – **New School Parents' Bible Instruction Class (SSLs)** – **1pm – 3pm**

Next Sunday: **Christian Education Sunday**
9/10/17 **St. Stephen – West** (Mountain View): **Bible Class – 9am / Worship – 10am**
St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): **Worship – 1pm / Church Council – 2pm**
Bible Class – 2:30pm

September Elder & Usher: Chris Holt (Elder) & Brenton Horillo (Usher)
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In Your Mailbox – St. Stephen Financial Report - August

Pastor Out of Town – Monday – Wednesday – I will be flying to Wisconsin to visit Jewels over Labor Day and will be returning on Wednesday evening. If pastoral assistance is needed during that time, please call my cell phone **(402) 389-2147**.

Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund Options –

If you are looking for options (other than the Red Cross) for donating to the relief efforts in Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey here is a helpful link from the website **Charity Navigator.org** (a reputable online charity rating & monitoring group):



<https://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=content.view&cpid=5239>

We praise the Lord that reports from the CLC pastors in Corpus Christi and Houston are positive about the state of our churches and the CLC members that live in that area. Those members are directing their efforts to those in other areas nearby who have been devastated by the flooding. After the 2008 hurricane (Ike) we sent our donations to the Houston Food Bank (a "4-star" rated charity). Please, above all, continue to pray! In Christ, Pastor Luke

CLC News – Pastor John Schierenbeck (em.) has returned the call from Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato, MN, to serve as part-time interim pastor. <> Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire, WI, has issued a 1-year interim call to several local, part-time teachers in order to staff its classroom for grades 3-4. The ladies who have accepted this call are Barbara Gurgel, Lynette Roehl, Kelly Beekman, and Valerie Hammett, who had returned the full-time call. <> Eric Libby has returned the call to teach 11/12 Religion at Immanuel Lutheran High School, Mankato, MN for the fall semester of 2017; the congregation has now called Pastor Douglas Libby to the same position, and he has accepted. <> St. Luke's Lutheran, Lemmon, SD, has called Pastor Mark Weis, of Grace Lutheran, Cape Coral, FL. <> Pastor Michael Wilke, of Gethsemane Lutheran, Saginaw, MI, has returned the call to Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato, MN.

KINSHIP – Sponsors Needed - CLC Project KINSHIP provides for orphans and seminary students in India, Nepal and Africa through the kind sponsorship of stateside CLC members. If you are interested in sponsoring a man who is preparing for the Lutheran ministry in India or Africa, please contact KINSHIP Committee member:

Pastor David Fuerstenau
426 Buren Road, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: (907) 225-2842; E-mail: djfuerstenau@kpunet.net

Another CLC Women's Fellowship Opportunity – Southeastern Women's Retreat -

The *CLC Southeastern Women's Retreat* will be held November 10-12, 2017 in Savannah, Georgia. For more information please contact Pastor Matthew Hanel at pastor@dallaslutheran.com, or 972-733-4535.