

# 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: sslcwest.org**

Teachers: Kirsten Gullerud (Principal), Rebecca Lillo

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

Organist: Sue Slattengren

**December 31, 2017 † New Year's Eve**



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**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.

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† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 111 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Opening Hymn: 896 *Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year***

LSB 896

## 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, and call upon Him in prayer and praise, 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.

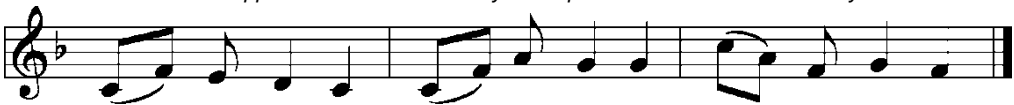
## Confession and Absolution

*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.
- G** **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.
- G** **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



**G** 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:

Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray this in Jesus' name, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## First Reading – *Psalm 90 (NKJV - Responsive)*

**P** LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed  
the earth and the world,

**C** **Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.**

**P** You turn man to destruction, And say,

**C** **"Return, O children of men."**

**P** For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past,

**C** **And like a watch in the night.**

**P** The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,

**C** **Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.**

**P** Who knows the power of Your anger?

**C** **For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.**

**P** So teach us to number our days,

**C** **That we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

**P** Return, O LORD! How long?

**C** **And have compassion on Your servants.**

**P** Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy,

**C** **That we may rejoice and be glad all our days!**

**P** Let Your work appear to Your servants,

**C** **And Your glory to their children.**

**P** And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us,

**A** **And establish the work of our hands for us;**

**Yes, establish the work of our hands.**

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*Lamentations 3:21-26 (ESV)*

**P** The Second reading is from Lamentations 3:21-26.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*21But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:*

*22The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;*

*23they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

*24“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”*

*25The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.*

*26It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.*

**P** Here ends our second reading.

**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.

**☩ 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 thence 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: 733 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past***

LSB 733

## **Sermon: "Let It Alone This Year Also"**

By Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer, Trinity Lutheran Spokane, WA  
Preaching Today: Paul Pelzl, Chairman - St. Stephen Lutheran Church

**Text: Luke 13:6-9 (ESV)**

**<sup>6</sup> And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' <sup>8</sup> And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup> Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"**

## 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.*

## **Sermon Hymn: "Now the Year Has Gone Away"**

*Adapted from TLH 653*

**♪ Now the year has gone away; Father listen while I pray,  
Asking Thee in this New Year, Oh, please watch and keep me near.**

**Jesus, Savior, wash away All my sins. O Lord, I pray,  
Help me every day to be Good and gentle, more like Thee.**

**Let my near and dear ones be Always near and dear to Thee.  
Oh, bring me and all I love To Thy happy home above.**

**Now my morning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.  
All my blessings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!**

(over ->)

***Thou, my best and kindest Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.  
Help me love Thee more and more, Always better than before.***

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

**Lord's Prayer**

LSB 209

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

LSB 202

- 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.



**G** A-men, a-men, a - men.

**Closing Hymn: 878 *Abide with Me***

LSB 878

Acknowledgments

Adapted from Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **NO East Bay Worship services**

This Week: Wednesday – **Catechism Classes (via Skype)** (Fossum) – **7pm**  
Thursday – **SSLS – School Resumes – 8am**  
Friday – **Pastor Luke & Julia leave for honeymoon (return Fri. 1/12)**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **NO Bible Class**  
1/7/17 **Worship – 10am**

**St. Stephen – East Bay** (Hayward): **Worship – 1pm**  
**NO Bible Class**

<b><u>December Elder &amp; Usher:</u></b> Michael Slattengren (Elder) & Brenton Horrillo (Usher)
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<b><u>January Elder &amp; Usher:</u></b> Wayne Bliss (Elder) & Michael Slattengren (Usher)
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**Thank You!** – Thank you to Paul Pelzl and Scott Mueller for conducting our worship service today. Pastor Mark Bernthal was scheduled to preach today, but his original flight home was cancelled and switched to early this morning. We thank Paul for filling in to preach the sermon on short notice which allowed me to sit with my new bride for the worship service during our wedding weekend.

We also thank all of you who were able to attend our wedding service on Friday, and for all of your gifts, prayers, and expressions of love and support that you have given to us. We are so grateful and thankful to be blessed by our Savior in so many ways. God's richest blessings to you all, in Christ, in the coming New Year!

– Pastor Luke Bernthal

**CLC News** - Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato, MN, has called Pastor Neal Radichel, of Luther Memorial, Fond du Lac, WI, as co-pastor.