

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600



Pastor: Luke Bernthal

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

Home: (650) 282-5752

Online Video Production: Chris Holt, Julia Bernthal, Scott Mueller

Organist: Barb Gullerud



Websites: ststephenclc.org (East Bay) - sslcwest.org (West)

Church Office: (650) 964-5915

St. Stephen Lutheran School Staff: Mikkela Hammond (Principal), Julia Bernthal (Administrator)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

December 18, 2022 ✝ Advent 4

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 24 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✝

To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:

<https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

Opening Hymn: 384 *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (please stand for last verse) LSB 384



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
 Δ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77
 Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V
 Text and tune: Public domain

Advent Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- P** In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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

- P** Jesus is the Light of the World, and in Him is no darkness at all.
- C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.**
- P** In this Advent season we celebrate the *coming* of Jesus, the Light of the World.
- C** **Dear Jesus, we celebrate Your coming at Your birth in Bethlehem.
We thank You for coming into our hearts by Your gift of faith,
and we look forward to Your coming on the Last Day when You will take us,
and all believers, to be with You forever in heaven.**
- P** As we meditate on Your manger, Your cross, Your empty tomb, and Your Word, we come before Your throne today confessing our sins and asking for Your forgiveness.
- C** **Lord of heaven and earth, forgive us all our sins.
As we see the world in darkness and in need of Your light,
increase our faith, love, courage, and strength.
Give us Your power to be lights in this world, reflecting Your love. Amen.**
- P** Our Father in Heaven has been good and merciful to us.
In His love He has given us, His children, the greatest Gift: He sent His Son Jesus, the Christ Child, whose birth in Bethlehem so long ago we celebrate.
Jesus came as a lowly servant to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. By His shed blood on the cross we are forgiven! In peace and joy let us sing of our salvation!

340 v. 4-5 “Fling Wide the Portals of Your Heart”

LSB 340 v. 4-5

4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a tem - ple
5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to Thee; here,

set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy, A -
Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di - vine; Thy

dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov - reign
face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin. To
guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -

God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy. We pray this in Your name, dear Jesus, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!" ¹³ Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? ¹⁴ "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Second Reading

Matthew 1:18-25 (NKJV)

P The second reading is from Matthew 1:18-25.

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

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." ²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, ²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

LSB 207

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 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: 900 Jesus Name of Wondrous Love

LSB 900



1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,
 2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid-en moth - er told,
 3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth
 4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 Kneel-ing in her low - ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
 For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo-ple save."
 When the cup of hu-man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

***5. Jesus! Only name that's giv'n Under all the mighty heav'n
 Whereby those to sin enslaved Burst their fetters and are saved.***

***6. Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Human name of God above;
 Pleading only this, we flee Helpless, O our God, to Thee.***

Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt.
 Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: 1 John 3:1-5 (NKJV)

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. ⁴ Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. ⁵ And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

Sermon Theme: “Christmas Traditions” – Family Time

- † There is no doubt that our **family** is one of the greatest blessings God has given us. How high up the “**Christmas Traditions**” ranking list **family time** for you?

- † What two “**families**” are actually more important than our earthly family when it comes to truly having a “Merry Christmas”?

- † Why don’t we always realize or appreciate just what an incredible blessing it is to be adopted into God’s family—that “**we are children of God**”? (v. 2)

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.*
(† *If you have an offering to give today, please place it in the plate in the church entryway.* †)

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

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

**☩ Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Sermon Hymn: 389 *Let All Together Praise Our God*

LSB 389



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our
glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His
give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

5. He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!

How strong the tender Christ Child's love!

No truer friend than He,

No truer friend than He.

6. He is the key and He the door To blessèd paradise;

The angel bars the way no more.

To God our praises rise,

To God our praises rise.

△ 7. Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore

And praise to God the Father yield

And Spirit evermore;

We praise You evermore.

Text (sts. 1, 3-7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

Text and tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561

Text (sts. 1, 3-7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

Text (st. 2) and tune: Public domain

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.

The Doxology

LSB 805

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Public domain

Choir Song: "Advent Prayer" (O Come, O Come Emmanuel)

Acknowledgments - Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Scripture quotations marked EHV are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®)

© 2019 Wartburg Project, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today (Sun. 12/18): **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**

Worship – 10am

Choir – 11:15am / Children's Christmas Eve Practice – 11:30am

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

Bible Class – 2pm

This Week: Tuesday – **Stockton Worship** (Oakmont) – **2pm**

Saturday – **Christmas Eve Worship & Children's Program** (Mt. View) – **5pm**

Next Sunday: *Christmas Day*

12/25/22

St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Christmas Day Worship – 10am



St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): Christmas Day Worship – 1pm

Online Worship Services - <https://www.sslcwest.org/worship.html>

Food & Gift Card Donations / Volunteer Opportunities for Thanksgiving and Christmas

We are collecting non-perishable food items to deliver to the Community Service Agency (CSA) in Mountain View for Thanksgiving and Christmas. There is a large box in the church entry marked "Food Drive." Note: I plan to take in the donations this **Thurs. 12/22 by noon.**

Scrip School Fundraising Info Pamphlets on the Entryway Table – Just a friendly reminder for Christmas gift card ideas! Don't forget about our online version of the scrip program to help raise funds for St. Stephen Lutheran School (now called "Raise Right."). There are printed pamphlets with info on the program on the table in the entryway. Please speak with Leslie if you have any questions.

Christmas Season Worship Schedule 2022

Christmas Eve – Sat. Dec. 24th – 5pm (Mt. View) – Christmas Eve Joint Worship
& Children's Program

Christmas Day – Sun. Dec. 25th – 10am (Mt. View) Christmas Day Worship
1pm (Hayward)



CLC News - Pastor Rob Sauers of Luther Memorial, Fond du Lac, WI, *has accepted* the call to Immanuel Lutheran, Winter Haven, FL. + Pastor Tim Daub of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hecla, SD, *has received* the dual call to serve Redemption Lutheran, Lynnwood, WA and Ascension Lutheran, Tacoma, WA. + **V.S. Benjamin Memorial Service** – From President Michael Eichstadt: Our brethren in the CLCI informed the Bd. of Missions of their plans to hold a large memorial service to thank the Lord of the Church for the work and ministry of Pastor VS Benjamin, the founder of the CLCI. They requested financial assistance for outstanding hospital and funeral expenses, as well as for costs associated with a memorial

service at which they expect 5,000 attendees. With my approval, the Bd. of Missions has sent funds from Kinship to help with these expenses. As a result, Kinship is in need of replenishment. Please let your flocks know of this opportunity for us to express our gratitude to the Lord for Pastor Benjamin's service and for the blessing of Christian fellowship with the CLCI through offerings designated to Kinship.

KINSHIP Overseas Mission Updates –

- Over \$4000.00 in medical requests were sent out October to those in need
 - The India widow support and leprosy aid was sent out from Kinship in November
 - Christmas cards were made by school children and sent to the orphanages and schools
 - Christmas monetary gifts for orphans and staff members to both orphanages and schools were sent in December
 - The Kenyan schools finished their school year in November. The 2023 school year will begin on January 23, 2023
 - This week \$9000.00 was sent to India to help offset medical and other expenses when Pastor VS Benjamin passed away recently. President Eichstadt through ClergyTalk has informed the synod of this need. Those wishing to assist are to direct gifts to Kinship.
- Building Projects:

Emmaus Hill School - Moi's Bridge - Kenya

- Funding for the new classroom building has been completed and construction is underway
- A new kitchen was built first before the old classroom was removed
- The goal is to have the building ready for the start of the 2023 school year

St. David's School - Etago - Kenya

- Communication continues with Pastor Enosh and others in Etago
- The first of four building fund transfers was completed today. Construction is anticipated to resume in late January or early February