

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Member congregation 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

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

Organist: Barb Gullerud



Website: sslcwest.org

Church Office: (650) 964-5915

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

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

January 15, 2023 † Epiphany 2

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.

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 89 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.
To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

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

Opening Hymn: 394 *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

LSB 394



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
2 Man - i - fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak-ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest-ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
And at Ca - na wed - ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest;
Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo - rious sign;
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, Ev - er bring-ing good from ill;
All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;
That we might be - come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
Thou by all wilt be con-fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93
Text and tune: Public domain

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.

G **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.

G **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 everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days. We pray this in His name, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

1 Peter 1:13-21 (EHV)

¹³ Therefore, after preparing your minds for action by exercising self-control, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ Rather, just as the one who called you is holy, so also be holy in everything you do. ¹⁶ For it is written, "Be holy, because I am holy."

¹⁷ If you call on the Father who judges impartially, according to the work of each person, conduct yourselves during the time of your pilgrimage in reverence, ¹⁸ because you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, not with things that pass away, such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was chosen before the foundation of the world but revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Second Reading

John 1:35-42 (NKJV)

P The second reading is from John 1:35-42.

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

³⁵ Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. ³⁶ And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We

have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

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: "I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

TLH 652

- 1. *I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains
White in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.***
- 2. *I lay my wants on Jesus, All fulness dwells in Him;
He healeth my diseases, He doth my soul redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases, He all my sorrows shares.***
- 3. *I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces, I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.***
- 4. *I long to be like Jesus, Meek, loving, lowly, mild;
I long to be like Jesus, The Father's holy Child.
I long to be with Jesus Amid the heav'nly throng
To sing with saints His praises, To learn the angels' song.***

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: John 1:29-34 (NKJV)

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ "This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' ³¹ "I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." ³² And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ "I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ "And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

Sermon Theme: What Does this Text REVEAL About Jesus? – “Behold! The Lamb of God!”

It REVEALS that Jesus is...


✝ 1) _____

✝ 2) _____

✝ 3) _____

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

Sermon Hymn: 547 *The Lamb*

LSB 547



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

Text and tune: Gerald P. Coleman, 1953

Text and tune: © 1987 and 1997 MorningStar Music Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

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

Lord's Prayer

- ☐ 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.**

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.



Closing Hymn: 702 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* *(please stand for the last verse)* LSB 702



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark-ness turn to day, Wipe sor-row's
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, A liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
trust re-move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran-somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-87
Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872
Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**
Worship – 10am
Women's Auxiliary – 11am

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): **Worship – 1pm**
Bible Class – 2pm

This Week: Monday – **No School at SSLS** (MLK Day)
Tuesday – **Board of Education** (Mt. View – Zoom) – **6pm**
Wednesday – **Elders / Church Council** (Mt. View – Zoom) – **7:15pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**
1/22/23 **Worship – 10am**

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): **Worship – 1pm**
Bible Class – 2pm

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

Annual Voter's Meeting & Annual Reports – Sunday, January 29th @ 11am – Our annual voter's meeting and annual reports will be held on **Sunday, January 29th at 11am.**

A reminder to all of the committee chairmen that your reports need to be turned in to our secretary, Mark Gullerud, by **Sunday, January 22nd.**

National Women's Retreat (Virtual)—You're Invited! A women's event is planned for two hours on Saturday, January 28, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (Pacific Time), via Zoom. The event theme is: "Press Pause: Our God in All Seasons."

The two hours will include speakers from CLC congregations in a panel session highlighting God's guiding hand across the seasons of life. Breakout groups will be included for discussion and sharing.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/PressPause01282023> This is a free event. You can participate from home via Zoom or at church with other St. Stephen participants. Not good with Zoom? Not to worry, help is available!

Contact Tina Eichstadt (teichstadt@gmail.com, 651-398-2386) with questions.
See you (virtually) there!

2023 CLC Mission Helper Trip –

The application deadline for the 2023 CLC Mission Helper Trip to Nepal is tomorrow, January 16th. There are still a few open slots available. Find more information and apply at: <https://mht.lutheranmissions.org/2023-nepal>

CLC World Missions Prayer List – January 2023

...pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified...

2 Thessalonians 3:1

Liberia – Missionary Peter Evensen (resident missionary to Togo) is currently working with Pastor Joseph Kwiwalazu as they conduct Bible seminars in Liberia and Guinea. Pastor John Hein (part-time visiting missionary to Liberia) continues cancer treatments and is unable to travel at this time. **Ask the Lord** to bless the treatments that Pastor Hein is receiving along with both strength and healing. **Pray also** for comfort and encouragement for his family and all those he is called to serve both at home and abroad. **Pray** for the Lord's continued blessings on the work of Missionary Evensen and Pastor Kwiwalazu as they teach and train others in the truths revealed in God's word and for the wisdom and provision to conduct the work He has given to all those involved.

Bangladesh –Pastor Monotosh continues to spread the Gospel in new areas of Bangladesh. He recently reported that recently one young lady has been baptized and two families have been received into the fellowship of the BLCM after seven months of Bible instruction. Pastor Monotosh also reports that they are completing negotiations on a piece of land upon which they hope to build a multipurpose building that would be used as a church headquarters, worship facility, and Bible School for training pastors and church leaders. The Board of Missions has approved a grant from the Mission Development Fund to assist the BLCM in purchasing land. Once the land is purchased and the building is constructed, this will be a great blessing for the BLCM. Over the past few years, they have had to move several times because of persecution. Missionary Ohlmann is planning a visit to Bangladesh in early May. **Ask the Lord** to continue to bless both the preaching and hearing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by the BLCM. **Pray for the Lord's wisdom and provision** as the BLCM finalizes plans for the purchase of land and the construction of a building.

Tanzania – The students at the Wittenberg Lutheran Theological Seminary in Arusha are scheduled to return to classes on Monday, January 16th. They will have five students from Tanzania along with two students from the Kenya-CLC enrolled in the three-year seminary course. Three additional students will be enrolled in the one-year pre-seminary/evangelism course. The pre-seminary students will spend one-year studying basic theology, Bible History, Evangelism, and English. At the conclusion of the pre-seminary year of classes, the faculty will evaluate each student. Some students will receive an Evangelist certificate and be assigned to a congregation. Students who demonstrate the necessary gifts and commitment will move on to the three-year seminary program to prepare for ordination and a call into the pastoral ministry. **Ask for the Lord's blessings** on these students and those called to teach and train them.

Tanzania Missionary – Pastor Bruce Naumann has been led to accept the divine call to serve as a resident Missionary to Tanzania. His primary responsibility will be assisting the TZ-CLC as they continue to develop the Wittenberg Lutheran Theological Seminary. He will be teaching several classes and helping to develop seminary curriculum that will be used for years to come to train faithful pastors and leaders. Missionary Naumann will be commissioned in mid-March and is planning to take up residence in Tanzania by the last week of late March. This will give him a couple of weeks to get settled before second-semester classes begin shortly after the Easter break. Following a one-month furlough in the U.S. this summer he will be joined by his wife Paula when he returns to Tanzania in August in time for the beginning of the third semester. **Thank the Lord** for providing a faithful servant to take up this important work of training more workers for the harvest fields of East Africa and his faithful and willing wife! **Ask for the Lord's** blessings and wisdom as Missionary Naumann and Paula make final preparations to take up this new calling.

Nepal – Pastor Raju recently reported that classes at the Himalayan Bible Institute have resumed with ten students in attendance. **Thank the Lord** for these students who are dedicated to learning and teaching God's word so that others may be led to repent of their sins and rejoice in faith that their sins are forgiven and that they have a home in heaven.

Mexico – Pastor Olvera's son was recently hospitalized and underwent emergency surgery for intestinal blockage. The surgery was successful and he has returned home. The CLC Board of Missions and Kinship Committee were able to provide a medical aid grant to assist with the hospital and medical. It has been a few years since a visit has been made to our brothers and sisters in Mexico. Missionary Ohlmann is planning a visit sometime in 2023. **Thank the Lord** for His love, protection, and provision in caring for Pastor Olvera's son. **Ask the Lord** to continue to bless Pastor Olvera's efforts to proclaim the Gospel in Mexico and to train others to join him in this work.

The Philippines – Pastor Jordan Palangyos has completed the first introductory Online Theological Study course based on the CLC Statement of Faith and Purpose. Missionary Ohlmann and Pastor Rob Sauers (Bd of Missions member) are planning an initial face-to-face visit in late April. **Pray** that the Lord would continue to bless this correspondence and that it will lead to a God-pleasing unity of faith and teaching. **Ask the Lord** to provide opportunities and all that is necessary for Pastor Jordan to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Zambia – While Missionary Ohlmann was in Zambia in December, an organizational meeting was held with representatives from the three areas of Zambia where the CLC has been actively involved for several years. This meeting was scheduled to take place a few years but was postponed due to the pandemic. Pastors from the northern Copperbelt District (near the DR Congo border), the Lusaka District, and the Livingstone District in the south (near the Zimbabwe border) met and discussed the progress on registration of the ZCLC and officially elected District Leaders. They also discussed plans for ongoing quarterly Pastoral Training Seminars. They plan to meet again in March to finalize plans and distribute registration certificates. This is a big and important step forward for the work in Zambia. **Thank the Lord** for His blessings on these efforts to organize the work of the ZCLC in a

decent and orderly way. Pastor Ibrahim reports several new contacts and a few prospective students for the Martin Luther Bible School. **Pray that the Lord** would grant Pastor Ibrahim an extra measure of wisdom as he continues to lead and organize the work of the ZCLC. **Thank the Lord** for the opportunity to be a part of these efforts to faithfully proclaim the Good News of Jesus in Zambia.

Kenya –The CLC Bd of Missions (BoM) recently began sending the MDF Grant funds that were approved to assist with much-needed classroom repairs and construction at both schools. **Give thanks to the Lord** for the privilege of assisting our brothers and sisters in Christ in the training of so many young souls through the two schools that are supported through Kinship. **Pray for the Lord's continued blessings** upon the teachers, students, and staffs of St. David's Kinship School and Emmaus Millimani School as they grow in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

India – After many years of faithful and dedicated service to the many sheep of our Savior's CLC-India flock, the Lord recently called His servant V.S. Benjamin to his eternal rest. **Pray that the Lord will continue** to provide hope, comfort, courage, and joy to the many who loved and appreciated this faithful servant of Christ as they mourn.

Pakistan – Pastor Tim Daub continues to teach online video Bible lessons to a group of Christians who are eager to start a Lutheran church in Pakistan. The Board of Missions has authorized Missionary Ohlmann to accompany Pastor Daub on a visit to Pakistan when the time comes. **Pray that the Lord will continue to bless** the teaching and learning of His word. **Thank our Savior** for this opportunity and the technology to proclaim the truth of His word in such a way.

Myanmar – Our brothers and sisters in Christ in Myanmar, especially in Chin State continue to struggle under the harsh rule of the military Junta that has brought much pain, suffering, economic hardship, and uncertainty. Recent reports indicate that more than two million people have been displaced since the military coup in February of 2021. **Pray** for justice and peace for all the people of Myanmar. **Pray** especially for our brothers and sisters in Christ that the Lord will grant them strength, courage, and boldness during these difficult times and that He will provide for their needs.

D.R. Congo – Missionary Ohlmann was able to spend a few weeks in the DRC this past November and December visiting congregations and conducting Bible training seminars. He also spent one week teaching fifteen students at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Bible School. Much progress has been made on the Bible School facilities and ten of the fifteen students are preparing to graduate in the Fall of 2023. Missionaries Evensen and Ohlmann are planning to be on hand to hear each student deliver the oral defense of their doctrinal thesis' in the Fall. **Ask for the Lord's continued blessings** on the training of pastors and spreading the truth of God's word in D.R. Congo.

Visiting Missionary Upcoming Travels – Missionary Ohlmann recently returned from an eight-week visit to Africa where he visited and worked with pastors and leaders in Nigeria, DR Congo, Tanzania, and Zambia. He will return to Africa in February to attend and host the West Africa CLC Pastoral Conference in Lomé, Togo. Pastors from Togo, Nigeria, Benin, Ghana, and Liberia will spend three days

growing in their understanding of God's word and encouraging one another in the work that the Lord has blessed them with. In late March he will travel to Tanzania to be on hand to help introduce and install Missionary Bruce Naumann and to help him get accustomed to and settled in. In April Missionary Ohlmann is scheduled to spend time in the Philippines, Tokyo, and Bangladesh. He'll then be back in the States for a couple of months before the Mission Helper Trip to Nepal in July. **Pray** for the Lord's blessings on the preparation for these trips and that the Lord will provide safe and uneventful travel. Ask for the Lord to be with, protect, and provide for Missionary Ohlmann's family while he is away. **Thank the Lord** for His faithfulness in blessing the truths of His saving Word that are taught throughout the world!

Ongoing Opportunities – please continue to pray for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, who by God's grace, are dedicated to proclaiming the truths of God's saving word for the salvation of souls as they trust the promise of our Savior that His Word will not return to Him void but will accomplish that for which He sent it.

That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. - Psalm 67:2