

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

June 11, 2023 ✝ Graduation Sunday

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 78 (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: 686 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

LSB 686



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -
4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,
strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter
love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less
Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
Bind my wan-d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I
How I'll sing Thy won-drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me
strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to
feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my
tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.
an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–90, alt.
Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg
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.

G 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:

Lord God, heavenly Father, You provide schools and teachers for faithful instruction and dedicated learning. Receive our thanks for the knowledge gained by those who are now graduating. As they continue to learn and grow, grant them Your Holy Spirit that their talents and abilities may be used for Your glory and as a blessing to others. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 (EHV)

¹⁸ Put these words of mine in your hearts and in your soul, and tie them on your wrists as signs and as symbols on your forehead. ¹⁹ Teach them to your children by talking about them when you sit in your house and when you travel on the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ²⁰ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, ²¹ so that your days and the days of your children may be many on the land that the Lord promised to your fathers with an oath, as many as the days that the heavens remain over the earth.

Second Reading

Matthew 7:24-29 (EHV)

P The second reading is from Matthew 7:24-29.

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

²⁴ [Jesus said], ***“Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on bedrock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house. But it did not fall, because it was founded on bedrock. ²⁶ Everyone who hears these words of mine but does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—it was completely destroyed.”***

²⁸ ***When Jesus finished speaking these words, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught them as one who had authority, and not like their experts in the law.***

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: 725 *Children of the Heavenly Father*

LSB 725

1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God - His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His

in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose

heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
Tune: Lofsånger och andeliga visor, 1873, Sweden
Text: Public domain
Tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 3:10-16 (EHV)

¹⁰ In keeping with the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder, I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. But let each person be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ In fact, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has been laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² But if anyone is building on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, ¹³ each person's work will become evident. The Day will make it plain, because it is going to be revealed in fire, and the fire will test each person's work to show what sort of work it is. ¹⁴ If what someone has built remains, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If someone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but it will be like an escape through fire. ¹⁶ Do you not know that you yourselves are God's temple, and that God's Spirit lives in you?

Sermon Theme: Building a Foundation for Life!

✠ What is the best and most stable foundation on which you can build your life?
(v. 11)

✠ What are the best and longest-lasting materials with which we can build on that foundation? (v. 12-13)

Application: Pray that God will help you be a **“wise master builder” (v. 10)** as you continue to build your life on the foundation of Jesus Christ and His Word.

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: 728 *How Firm a Foundation*

LSB 728

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose
4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,
5 "Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove

Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply.
My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can He say than to you He has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,
The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,

Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!
Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne."

Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.
Tune: Genuine Church Music, 1832, Winchester
Text and tune: Public domain

Graduation Ceremony - St. Stephen Lutheran School



Rachel Blank
Akhil Komarabathini
Serena Stefanek



Ms. Mikkela Hammond - Principal

Graduation Prayer / 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.**

Graduation Hymn – “A Year of Life Has Glided By”

(v. 1-5 Children & Choir; v. 6-8 Congregation, Children & Choir)

(Children & Choir v. 1-5)

*1. A year of life has glided by I trace its course with thoughtful eye;
For rich in blessings from above It shines with marks of heav'nly love.*

*2. From day to day by Him were giv'n Each earthly good, each hope of heaven;
Nor did His hand correction spare, But ev'n His chast'nings proved His care.*

*3. And now my life before me stands, The future hidden in His hands.
I know not what it may disclose; But One who loves me sees and knows.*

*4. Upheld by Him, I will not fear To meet the secrets of each year;
Its changes follow His command; I know my times are in His hand.*

*5. My foes are strong, and I am weak, But help divine I still may seek;
Look up, my heart, and fear no harm, Almighty strength is in His arm.*

(Congregation Joins – v. 6-8)

**6. For us His love hath wonders done, For us He spared not His own Son;
O Christ, my unbelief remove! Nor ever let me doubt that love.**

**7. And when my sins my heart should grieve Then in Your promise I'll believe
And to Your cross my heart will flee And find forgiveness on that tree!**

**8. And when my days and years are past, And all life's training ends at last,
May I, accepted through His grace, Behold for evermore His face.**

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: "In Christ Alone" *(please stand for the last verse)*

- 1. In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.**
- 2. In Christ alone! – who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.**
- 3. There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine – Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

(please stand) **4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.**

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Worship – 10am**
Cake Reception for Graduates – 11am

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

St. Stephen – South (Ontario): Worship and Bible Study-6:30pm

This Week: Tuesday – **Stockton Worship Service (Oakmont) – 2pm**
Wednesday – **Wed. Online Bible Class (Zoom) – 7pm**

Next Sunday: *Father's Day*

6/18/23 **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am**
Worship – 10am
Voter's Annual Budget Meeting – 11am

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

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



Congratulations SSLS Graduates Rachel, Akhil, and Serena! –

Please join us in the fellowship hall and picnic area for cake and a short reception for our graduates.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6 - NKJV)

SSLS Teacher Call News – At our voter’s meeting last week we extended a part-time call to Isaac Schmitt (who will be marrying Mikkela Hammond on July 4th), to teach our kindergarten and lower grades beginning next school year. Isaac has accepted our call. His response is below:

Dear Pastor Bernthal and the congregation of Saint Stephen Lutheran Church and School,

I have received your call letter and am overjoyed at the additional opportunity God has created there. I am further humbled and honored to be considered for the call to teach the kindergarten and potentially the lower grade classes should the LORD provide additional students in the future. I think sometimes God makes it so obvious where He wants us to go that we couldn't miss it even with our eyes closed, and as such, I am led to accept this Divine Call. I find it appropriate that our Old Testament reading today was taken from Isaiah 6:1-8, for as God calls, all I can say in answer is "here am I. Send me."

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Your servant in Christ,

Isaac Schmitt

As a result of Isaac accepting this call, Mikkela Hammond, in light of her upcoming marriage to Isaac and in consideration of the Bible’s headship principle, has requested to relinquish being principal.

At the recommendation of both the Board of Education and the Church Council the voters called Pastor Luke Bernthal as principal of St. Stephen Lutheran School. Pastor Luke has accepted this call. His response is below:

Dear Members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School Families of St. Stephen Lutheran School,

I accept the call to serve as principal of St. Stephen Lutheran School next school year, with the understanding that it is a designation of leadership/headship and the duties of enrollment, administration, curriculum, etc. would continue to be distributed between our SSLS teachers and

administrator. I look forward to continuing to work with our outstanding staff here at SSLS, and welcome Isaac Schmitt into our outstanding school and staff.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Luke Bernthal

Southern California Worship and Bible Study – TONIGHT Sun. 6/11 @ 6:30pm

Our Southern California Worship Service and Bible Study will be held **TONIGHT Sunday, June 11th @ 6:30pm**. We will be meeting in the conference room at Kevin Fossum's workplace. The location is near the Ontario airport. Here is the address and parking info:

Total Transportation & Distribution

9278 Charles Smith Ave.

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Parking & Entrance - Enter off of Charles Smith Ave. and park near the 1st set of doors you come to off of Charles Smith Ave. (this is the entrance to the Total Transportation offices).

Voter's Meeting – Annual Budget Meeting – Sunday, June 18th – 11am – Our annual financial voter's meeting is **Sunday, June 18th** after our worship service. We will be setting the budgets for both our church and school. Please make plans to attend this important meeting.

VBS – Registration is Open! July 24th-28th – Ages 4-13 – Registration can be done online

through our school's website (**ssls.org**). Flyers are also available in the entryway if you know of anyone who would be interested in sending their children to our **VBS**. It will be held **Mon.–Fri., July 24th–28th from 9am-11:30am**. The CLC's TVBS program is sending us up 2 teachers to assist us as well: Marcie Schierenbeck and her daughter, Jordyn. If you would like to volunteer to help with our VBS please speak with Pastor Luke or Mikkela Hammond.



COME JOIN US

Vacation Bible School

July 24 - July 28
Monday through Friday
9 am to 11:30 am

Activities include Bible stories, games, crafts, music, playground time, and snacks.

Ages 4-13

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH
320 Moorpark Way
Mountain View

For information or to register:
WWW.SSLS.ORG | 650-282-5752 | pastor@sslcwest.org

Safe Church policies: our congregation intends to safeguard all the children and nurture good conduct consistent with our Christian values.

Wednesday Zoom Bible Class this Week - 7pm – Please make plans to join us this Wednesday at 7pm for our online Bible Study. Pastor Luke's Zoom link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8729663333>

Lutheran Spokesman Subscriptions - If you are interested in renewing or starting a new subscription to the Lutheran Spokesman devotional magazine please see the sign-up sheet in the entryway. Please sign up by **June 25th** to receive the reduced congregational subscription rate of only **\$14 per year**. Please mark your offering "Lutheran Spokesman." Please speak with Pastor Luke for more info.

Daily Rest Subscription Renewal – Our congregation provides each family with a subscription to the *Daily Rest* daily devotions. If you would like an additional subscription for yourself or someone else, please speak with Pastor Luke. Subscriptions are **\$15 per year**.



I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. -John 15:5

"**The Branches**" is a Christian Women's magazine which is published quarterly by women of the CLC. Subscriptions are available for the 2023-2024 subscription year (July through June). The Branches staff prays that, through this publication, we serve:

- to encourage you in your personal and family Bible study
- to edify you in your daily walk with Christ
- to provide a means to use and share your God-given gifts
- to celebrate and reflect upon God's gift of Christian sisters, near and far

Consider a subscription for yourself and/or gift subscriptions for women in your life! The cost is \$15.00/year for 4 issues. Checks are payable to, "The Branches," and should be sent to: Sandy Hulke, Subscription Manager, 29985 Norway Ave, Lindstrom, MN 55045. Online payments are also available via PayPal - you may contact Sandy Hulke at thebranchesmagazine@gmail.com.

CLC News - Noah Ohlmann *has accepted the call* to be a fulltime assistant for the lower grades of Grace School in Valentine, NE for the 2023-2024 school year. < > Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew Lutheran in Dallas, TX *has returned the call* to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI to be their third pastor.