

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Pastor Luke Bernthal (Principal)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

April 21, 2024 † Easter 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.

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 23 (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: 467 v. 1-3, 6, 7 Awake, My Heart with Gladness LSB 467 v. 1-3, 6, 7



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, See what to - day is done;
2 The foe in tri - umph shout - ed When Christ lay in the tomb;
3 This is a sight that glad - dens—What peace it doth im - part!
6 Now I will cling for - ev - er To Christ, my Sav - ior true;
7 He brings me to the por - tal That leads to bliss un - told,



Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, Comes forth the glo - rious sun.
But lo, he now is rout - ed, His boast is turned to gloom.
Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens The joy with - in my heart.
My Lord will leave me nev - er, What - e'er He pass - es through.
Where - on this rhyme im - mor - tal Is found in script of gold:



My Sav - ior there was laid Where our bed must be made
For Christ a - gain is free; In glo - rious vic - to - ry
No gloom shall ev - er shake, No foe shall ev - er take
He rends death's i - ron chain; He breaks through sin and pain;
“Who there My cross has shared Finds here a crown pre - pared;



When to the realms of light Our spir - it wings its flight.
He who is strong to save Has tri - umphed o'er the grave.
The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.
He shat - ters hell's grimthrall; I fol - low Him through all.
Who there with Me has died Shall here be glo - ri - fied.”

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text and tune: Public domain

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 God is light 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 His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:5, 7-9)

P Let us pray...

C **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer:**

We confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the joy and peace of forgiveness let us praise the Lord...

“Alleluia, Christ is Risen!” LSB 477 v. 2

2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
See the an - cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re - treat;
Once He died, and once was bur - ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,
Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor - ship and a - dore.

Text: rev. The Jubilate Group Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867
Text: © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862
Tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray:

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, Your Son, Jesus Christ, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads. We pray this through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

First Reading

Psalm 23 (KJV - Responsive)

P The LORD is my shepherd;

G I shall not want.

P He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

G He leadeth me beside the still waters.

P He restoreth my soul:

G He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

P Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

G For thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

P Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

G Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

G And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Second Reading

John 10:11-18 (EHV)

P The second reading is from John 10:11-18.

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

¹¹ *"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired man, who is not a shepherd, does not own the sheep. He sees the wolf coming, leaves the sheep, and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ Because he works for money, he does not care about the sheep.*

¹⁴ ***“I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me ¹⁵ (just as the Father knows me and I know the Father). And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I also have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. Then there will be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again. This is the commission I received from my Father.”***

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory be to God on High” *LSB 477 v. 3*

△ 3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior Who has gained the vic - to - ry;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia To the tri - une Maj - es - ty!

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85
 Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867
 Text and tune: Public domain

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

W.S. p. 15

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.**

(Creed continues on next page ->)

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: 710 *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want*

LSB 710



1 The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; He makes me
2 My soul He doth re - store a - gain And me to
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I
4 My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life Shall sure - ly



down to lie In pas - tures green; He
walk doth make With - in the paths of
fear no ill; For Thou art with me,
of my foes; My head Thou dost with
fol - low me; And in God's house for -



lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.
righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.
and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.
oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.
ev - er - more My dwell - ing place shall be.

Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, 1650, Edinburgh
Tune: William Gardiner, 1770-1853
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: 1 John 3:1-2 (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.

Sermon Theme: Not Just Sheep, Children!

- † As we read in the familiar words of **Psalm 23**, Jesus being our Good Shepherd and we being one of His sheep is a comforting and endearing thought. What blessed status does John remind us that we have also been given by our Heavenly Father? (**v. 1, 2**)

- † What blessings and privileges are ours because of this status—in this life and the next? (**v. 2**)

- † What does this mean for our relationship with our fellow believers?

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

(song continues on next page ->)




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: 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

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

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

- C** 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.

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

Closing Hymn: 740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb (please stand for last verse)

LSB 740



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the

heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,

Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He
By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me

day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724-82; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941 Tune: Choral-Buch . . . Brüder-Gemeinen, 1784, Leipzig
Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Bible Class – 9am**
Worship – 10am
Women’s Auxiliary / Luncheon
(at Barb Gullerud’s residence) – **11:15am**

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

This Week: Tues. – Thurs. – **Pacific Coast Spring Pastoral Conference** (Spokane, WA)
(Pastor Luke out of town Mon. – Thurs.)

Friday - **SSLS Run-A-Thon – 11am – 12noon**
Confirmation Class (Lang) (Mt. View) – **4pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View): Worship – 10am**
4/28/24 **Crafting Bee / Book Club – 11:15am**

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

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

Pastor Luke Out of Town Monday – Thursday this Week – Pastoral Conference –

I will be out of town from Monday until Thursday this week attending the Pacific Coast Spring Pastoral Conference at Trinity Lutheran, Spokane, WA. I have the privilege of preaching for our conference's communion service on Wednesday evening. If pastoral assistance is needed during this time, please call my cell **(402) 389-2147**.

Run-a-Thon Fundraiser for SSLS – Friday, April 26th – 11am -12pm –

This yearly tradition is a fundraiser to raise money for the school, usually aimed at getting something useful and fun. Over the past few years we've used Run-a-Thon funds to purchase things such as the playground structure, STEM kits, and new projectors for our classrooms. The kids raise money by collecting pledges to donate, based on the number of times they can do certain athletic activities (Traditionally running, hence the name). Pledgers either choose to donate a flat amount or to donate a certain amount per activity performed (i.e. donating \$2 dollars for each lap that a student runs). If you wish to participate by giving a donation, feel free to donate directly to the school or seek out a student. Regardless of whether you wish to donate, we invite you to join us at 11am-12pm on Friday, April 26th to cheer on the students as they do their Run-a-thon activities!

– Mikkela Schmitt, SSLS Upper Grade Teacher

Southern California Worship and Bible Study – Next Sun. 4/28 @ 6:30pm

Our Southern California Worship Service and Bible Study will be held **next Sunday, April 28th @ 6:30pm**. We plan to meet in the conference room at Kevin Fossum's workplace. The location is near the Ontario airport. Here is the address:

**Total Transportation & Distribution
9278 Charles Smith Ave.
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730**

VBS – Registration is Open! July 22nd-26th – 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 22nd–26th from 9am-11:30am**.

The CLC's TVBS program is planning on sending us up to 2 teachers to assist us as well. If you would like to volunteer to help with our VBS please speak with Pastor Luke or one of our SSLS staff.

CLC Convention in Eau Claire, WI – Thurs. June 20-Sun. June 23 - Delegate needed- We currently have one volunteer delegate (along with Pastor Luke and teacher Isaac Schmitt) as representatives for our congregation at this summer's CLC Convention in Eau Claire, WI (June 20-23). We are allowed one more delegate from our voting membership. If you are interested in attending as a delegate, or for more information, please speak with Pastor Luke.

CLC News – Seminary graduate Paul Agenten *has accepted the calls* from St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran of Iron River, MI and Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI. <> Ms. Ann Sprengeler *has accepted the limited call* from Grace Lutheran in Valentine, NE to teach the lower grades from August through December 2024. <> Pastor David Ude, Living Hope Lutheran, Appleton, WI, *has been called* to Grace Lutheran, Sleepy Eye, MN. <> Teacher Mathew Kranz, Immanuel Lutheran School, Mankato, MN, *has been called* to Berea Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights. MN. <> Teacher Neil Bernthal, Immanuel Lutheran School, Winter Haven FL, *has been called* to Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI. <> Teacher Katie Naumann of Immanuel Lutheran School in Winter Haven, FL *has returned the call* to teach at Luther Memorial in Fond du Lac, WI.