

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 Staff: Isaac & Mikkela Schmitt (Teachers),
Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Pastor Luke Bernthal (Principal)

School Office: (650) 961-2071

School Website: ssls.org

April 28, 2024 † Easter 5

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 33 (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: 919 *Abide, O Dearest Jesus*

LSB 919



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,
3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;
4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

**5. *Abide with Your protection Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us And overcome at length.***

**6. *Abide, O faithful Savior, Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us To reach our home above.***

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615
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 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 we stand in awe of You.

- 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.
- C** **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.
- C** **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



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis *Latin for "Glory to God in the highest."*

LSB 204



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:

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed on heaven where true joys are found.

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 33 (selected verses – Responsive) (NKJV)

P Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous!

C **For praise from the upright is beautiful.**

P Praise the LORD with the harp;

C **Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings.**

P Sing to Him a new song;

C **Play skillfully with a shout of joy.**

P For the word of the LORD is right,

C **And all His work is done in truth.**

P He loves righteousness and justice;

C **The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.**

P By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,

C **And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.**

P He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap;

C **He lays up the deep in storehouses.**

P Let all the earth fear the LORD;

C **Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.**

P For He spoke, and it was done;

C **He commanded, and it stood fast.**

P The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;

C **He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.**

P The counsel of the LORD stands forever,

C **The plans of His heart to all generations.**

P Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,

C **The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.**

P No king is saved by the multitude of an army;

C **A mighty man is not delivered by great strength.**

P Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him,

C **On those who hope in His mercy,**

P To deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine.

C **Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.**

P For our heart shall rejoice in Him, Because we have trusted in His holy name.

C **Let Your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, Just as we hope in You.**

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10 (EHV)

P The second reading is from 1 Peter 2:2-10.

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

² Like newborn babies, crave the pure milk of the word so that by it you may grow up with the result being salvation. ³ Certainly you have tasted that the Lord is good!

⁴ As you come to him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it says in Scripture:

See, I lay a stone in Zion,

a chosen and precious cornerstone,

and the one who believes in him will certainly not be put to shame.

⁷ Therefore, for you who believe, this is an honor. But for those who do not believe:

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,

⁸ and,

a stone over which they stumble

and a rock over which they fall.

Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it. And that is the consequence appointed for them.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out

of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ *At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.*

P Here ends our second reading.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205

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.

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.

(creed continues on next page ->)

**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: 909 *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* (please stand for last verse)



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of
3 Grant, we pray, to all Your faith - ful All the gifts they
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; Come with all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
ask to gain; What they gain from You, for - ev - er
to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
Hear Your peo - ple as they pray; And Your full - est
With the bless - ed to re - tain; And here - af - ter
Ev - er three and ev - er one: One in might and



help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in these walls to - day.
in Your glo - ry Ev - er - more with You to reign.
one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
Tune: Henry Purcell, 1659-95, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: John 14:1-6 (NKJV)

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ "And where I

go you know, and the way you know." ⁵ Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Sermon Theme: Jesus said, "I AM...

...The Way



...The Truth



...The Life



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.* †)

Sermon Hymn: 526 *You Are the Way; Through You Alone*

LSB 526

1 You are the way; through You a - lone Can
 2 You are the truth; Your Word a - lone True
 3 You are the life; the emp - ty tomb Pro -
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant

we the Fa - ther find; In You, O Christ, has
 wis - dom can im - part; You on - ly can in -
 claims Your con - qu'ring arm, And those who put their
 us that way to know, That truth to keep, that

God re - vealed His heart and will and mind.
 form the mind And pu - ri - fy the heart.
 trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.
 life to win Whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.
 Tune: The CL Psalms of David, 1615, Edinburgh
 Text and tune: Public domain

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.**

- 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.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 912 *Christ Is Our Cornerstone* *(please stand for last verse)*



- 1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,
△ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.
that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, alt.
Tune: John Darwall, 1731-89
Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View):** **Worship – 10am**
4/28/24 **Choir – 11am**
Crafting Bee / Book Club – 11:30am

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

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

This Week: Tuesday – **Board of Ed Meeting (Zoom) (Mt. View) – 6pm**
Wednesday – **Confirmation Class (Lang) (Mt. View) – 4pm**
Wednesday Online Bible Class (Zoom) - 7pm
Friday – **Confirmation Class (Lang) (Mt. View) – 4pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West (Mt. View):** **Bible Study – 9am**
5/5/24 **Worship w/ Communion – 10am**

St. Stephen – East Bay (Hayward): **Worship w/ communion – 1pm**
Bible Study – 2pm

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

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

Our Southern California Worship Service and Bible Study will be held **today 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

Wednesday Zoom Online Bible Study – THIS Wed. 5/1 @ 7pm – On Sundays like today when we do not have Bible Class we usually have an online Bible Class via Zoom on **Wednesday at 7pm**. Please make plans to join us **this Wednesday (5/1) at 7pm**. You can join the Bible Study on Wednesday by clicking on this link or cutting and pasting it into your web browser: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8729663333>

SSLS Run-A-Thon Fundraiser UPDATE – On Friday our St. Stephen Lutheran School students had their “Run-A-Thon” annual fundraiser. What an amazing day! Everyone did a great job running laps and completing their athletic events. Not only that, they all had such positive and uplifting attitudes and cheered each other on (you can still see some of the positive encouragements they drew and wrote in sidewalk chalk on the church parking lot and sidewalks). We were grateful for the support of parents and supporters of our school who showed up to cheer the students on as well. Some of them even ran a few laps! The students also did a great job getting pledges for donations to our school and were given some fun prizes for their efforts. We gave the students a preliminary donation total in class on Friday, but we are still waiting on some donations. We will share the complete total once everything has been received and calculated. We thank you all for your support and prayers for our school! - The SSLS Staff

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 - Mrs. Laura Wales *received the call* to be Part-Time Kindergarten Teacher at Grace Lutheran in Fridley, MN, her current congregation. <> Mrs. Karen Swyter, a member of Peace with God Lutheran Church, Onalaska, WI, *has accepted the call* to be the 1st & 2nd grade teacher of Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI. <> Blair Sydow *has accepted the one-year call* to teach the upper grades at Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran School in West Columbia, SC. Blair is a member of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran.