

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

West & East Bay, Central Valley, and Southern California

Member congregations 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

Online Video Production: Chris Holt, Julia Bernthal, Dan Gullerud

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



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

September 22, 2024 ☩ Pentecost 18

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 31 (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>

Note: Sung responses will have musical notes 🎵 next to them.
All other responses will be spoken.

Opening Hymn: 802 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

LSB 802



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree
All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Tune: Welsh Text and tune: Public domain

THE INVOCATION

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

(TLH, p. 5)

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

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

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.


C **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C **Amen.**


THE GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory to the Father" (TLH, p. 6)

C  ***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.***

THE KYRIE

Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life. (TLH, p. 7)

 ***Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.***

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

In Latin "Gloria in excelsis Deo" means "Glory to God in the highest." We rejoice In our Lord who came to earth to bring us His peace. (TLH, p. 7)

**♪ Glory be to God on High, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee.
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE SALUTATION *(Greeting)*

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The main thoughts for the day are "collected" together in this prayer.

P We pray:

O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith that we may trust You completely. Move our hearts to love and serve You all our days. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

God speaks to us.

First Reading

Psalm 31 (Selected verses – Responsive) (NKJV)

P In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed;

C Deliver me in Your righteousness.

P Bow down Your ear to me, Deliver me speedily;

C Be my rock of refuge, A fortress of defense to save me.

P For You are my rock and my fortress;

C Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and guide me.

P Into Your hand I commit my spirit;

C You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

P I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy,

C For You have considered my trouble; You have known my soul in adversities,

P Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;

C My eye wastes away with grief, Yes, my soul and my body!

P But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD;

C I say, "You are my God."

P My times are in Your hand;

C Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, And from those who persecute me.

P Blessed be the LORD, For He has shown me His marvelous kindness in a strong city!

**C Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart,
All you who hope in the LORD.**

THE GRADUAL

When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Hallelujah!"—meaning "Praise the Lord!"

P Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it. Hallelujah!

C Hallelujah!

P The Gospel reading is from Mark 9:30-37.

G Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:30-37 (EHV)

³⁰ *They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know this, ³¹ because he was teaching his disciples. He told them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill him. But three days after he is killed, he will rise."*

³² *But they did not understand the statement and were afraid to ask him about it.*

³³ *They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴ But they remained silent, because on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵ Jesus sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he will be the last of all and the servant of all." ³⁶ Then he took a little child and placed him in their midst. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me, welcomes not just me but also him who sent me."*

P Here ends our Gospel reading.

G Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

We boldly confess what we believe. (TLH, p. 12)

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 Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary;

Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried;

He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven

And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;

The Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints;

The forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body;

And the life everlasting. Amen



1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to Him be-long; They are weak, but He is strong.
He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.
Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-68
Text and tune: Public domain

THE SERMON

James 3:13-18 (EHV)

¹³Who among you is wise and intelligent? Let him by his good way of living show that he does things in wise humility. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not boast and lie, contrary to the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but it is worldly, unspiritual, and demonic. ¹⁶In fact, where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and every bad practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom that comes from above is first pure, then also peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, and sincere. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who practice peace.

Sermon Theme: Wise Humility

✝ How does James say that we show that we are wise & intelligent? (v. 13)

✝ What are some of the ways wisdom **“from above”** (Godly wisdom) contrasts with the so-called “wisdom” of our human nature? (v. 14-18)

Application: What are some ways you can put this “wise humility” into practice?

✝ In your personal life?

✝ In our congregation (esp. as we are combining our congregations)?

THE OFFERTORY

(TLH, p. 12-13)

***♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.***

THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, 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: 850 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

LSB 850



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Your peo - ple
 2 Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure Your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour Your pow'r; Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;
 sail His ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 Your con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion

Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom,
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
 Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this
 grant us cour - age For the liv - ing of these
 grant us cour - age Lest we miss Your king - dom's
 grant us cour - age, Serv - ing You whom we a -

hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, For the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, Lest we miss Your king - dom's goal.
 dore, Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878–1969 Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932 Text and tune: Public domain

THE GENERAL PRAYER / THE 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.**

THE 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 upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C  **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

Closing Hymn: 523 O Word of God Incarnate *(please stand for last verse)*

LSB 523



1 O Word of God in - car-nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The Church from You, dear Mas-ter, Re-ceived the gift di - vine;
3 O make Your Church, dear Sav-ior, A lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light as of old!



We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,
O teach Your wan - d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace



A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.
Mid mists and rocks and quick - sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.
Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They see You face to face!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt.

Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen

Text and tune: Public domain

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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**
9/22/24

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

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

This Week: Tuesday – **Board of Education Meeting** (Mt. View) (Zoom) – **6pm**
Wednesday – **Wed. Night Online Bible Study** (Zoom) – **7pm**

Next Sunday: **St. Stephen – West** (Mt. View): **Bible Class – 9am**

9/29/24

Joint Worship Service (Mt. View) @ **10am**

Voters' Meeting/Call Meeting – 11:15am

East Bay Church Council Meeting – (after call meeting)

No East Bay Worship Service (Hayward)

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

St. Stephen Pastor Call UPDATE – Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Ev. Lutheran, Spokane, WA has **returned** the call to serve as our pastor. (See his letter on the last page of the bulletin). <> It was also mistakenly not announced in our bulletin after our Sept. 1st meeting that Pastor Emeritus Mark Gullerud **has been called and has accepted** the call to serve as our vacancy pastor beginning October 15, 2024.

Call Meeting – Mountain View – NEXT Sunday, Sept. 29th @ 11:15am – There will be another voters' meeting / pastor call meeting next Sunday, September 29th after the joint worship service in Mountain View at 11:15am. Members at a distance who cannot attend in person will be able to attend via Zoom.

Pastor's Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8729663333>

Also, the East Bay church council will have their meeting after the call meeting next Sunday (9/29).

Southern California Worship and Bible Study – TONIGHT Sunday 9/22 @ 6:30pm -

Our Southern California Worship Service and Bible Study will be held **TONIGHT Sunday, September 22nd @ 6:30pm.** This will be my “farewell” worship service and Bible Study with the Southern California group. 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. 9/25 @ 7pm –Please make plans to join us for our final Wed. Zoom online Bible Study **this Wednesday (9/25) 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>

Meal Sign-up / Donations Requested – Pacific Coast Pastoral Conf. – Oct. 1st – Oct. 3rd –

We will be hosting the Pacific Coast Pastoral Conference from Tues. Oct. 1st – Thurs. Oct. 3rd here at St. Stephen-West in Mountain View. There will be a total of 8 pastors in attendance. We are in need of volunteers to provide snacks and meals for the sessions from Tues.-Thurs., and we are having a fellowship meal “Taco Bar” on Wednesday evening **Oct. 2nd at 6pm** before the **Worship Service at 7pm.** Please see the sign-up sheet in the entryway if you’d like help provide food for the meals or the snacks.

Also, we have reserved tickets for the Alcatraz Tour on Tues. Oct. 1st for the pastors’ recreational outing. We also plan to treat the pastors to a meal afterwards. If you would like to make a donation to help pay for the outing please mark your offering “Pastoral Conference.”

NOTE: We have housing volunteers in place already for all of the pastors.

Please speak with Pastor Luke if you have any questions. Thank You!

Upcoming “Farewell” Schedule –

-East Bay “Farewell” Sunday – Sun. Oct. 6th @ 1pm (Grace Lutheran, 1836 B Street, Hayward)
Light refreshments and fellowship hour after worship service.

-Loading Day for Pastor Luke and Jewels – Sat. October 12th – time: TBD

-Joint “Farewell” Worship Service – Mountain View - Sunday, October 13th @ 10am
Farewell Fellowship Meal for Pastor Luke and Jewels – 11am

-Moving Day for Pastor Luke & Jewels – Tues. October 15th

CLC News - Pastor Timothy Daub of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hecla, SD has **received** the call to serve as vacancy pastor of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Bowdle, SD. <> Pastor Timothy Daub has also **received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.<> Pastor Zachary Sippert will be **installed** at Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Sleepy Eye, MN on September 29, 2024. <> Pastor Tom Schuetze has **received and accepted** the call to serve as vacancy pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Loveland, CO following Pastor Timothy Wheaton's retirement on September 29, 2024.



Rev. Drew Naumann

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
4724 N Wall St. Spokane, WA 99205
pastordrewnaumann@gmail.com
(253) 414-4740

September 20th, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ of St. Stephen,

After careful deliberation and many prayers, the Holy Spirit has led me to return the call you have extended to me. I pray that the LORD might lead your next pastor to you soon, confident that He will strengthen you all in the meantime by His Word of Truth – just as He always does.

James 1:2-4 - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

The Lord bless and keep you all,

Pastor Drew Naumann