

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

**Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)
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July 6, 2025 ✚ Pentecost 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. Please sign our guestbook in the entry.

✚ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 32 (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.ststephenclc.org/worship.html>

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: 904 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

LSB 904

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your Word We are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light of Light, from
△ 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Lord, Praise to You and

all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed Till Your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we may trust Your Word,

Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teach - ings,
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry Your
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -

sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
Church now rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, Till we sing Your prais - es yon - der.

Text (sts. 1–3): Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; (sts. 1–3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 4): Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein, 1707, Berlin; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.

Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625–73, alt.

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, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, 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-shipped 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:

Lord God, with contrite hearts and afflicted spirits we come to You for healing and help. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation and refresh us with Your Holy Spirit that we may declare Your praise and teach Your saving way; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Epistle Reading

Galatians 2:11-21 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; ¹² for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?" ¹⁵ "We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, ¹⁶ "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. ¹⁷ "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ "For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. ¹⁹ "For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. ²⁰ "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in

the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. ²¹ "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 7:36-50 (NKJV)

P The second reading is Luke 7:36-50

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁶ Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. ³⁷ And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, ³⁸ and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it." ⁴¹ "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² "And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." ⁴⁴ Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. ⁴⁵ "You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. ⁴⁶ "You did not anoint My head with oil, but

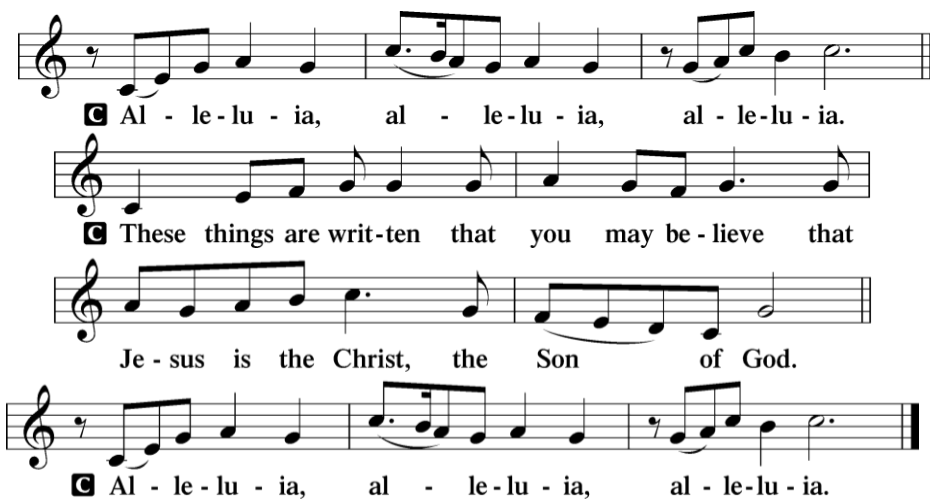
this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. ⁴⁷ "Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." ⁴⁸ Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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!"



The musical score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C'. The lyrics are: **C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. The second staff begins with a common time signature 'C'. The lyrics are: **C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that. The third staff begins with a common time signature 'C'. The lyrics are: Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God. The fourth staff begins with a common time signature 'C'. The lyrics are: **C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,**

**God of God, Light of Light, very God of very
God, begotten, not made, being of one substance
with the Father,**

**by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our
salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy
Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified
also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

He suffered and was buried.

**And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and
ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will
come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose
kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds
from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I
look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the
world to come. Amen.**

Sermon Hymn 608 Lord, to You I Make Confession LSB 608

1 Lord, to You I make con - fes - sion: I have sinned and
2 Yet, though con - science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther, I will
3 For Your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv'n Him - self to
4 Lord, on You I cast my bur - den— Sink it in the
gone a - stray, I have mul - ti - plied trans - gres - sion,
seek Your face; Though Your child I dare not call me,
res - cue me, Died to save me and re - store me,
deep - est sea! Let me know Your gra - cious par - don,
Cho - sen for my - self my way. Led by You to
Yet re - ceive me in Your grace. Do not for my
Rec - on - ciled and set me free. Je - sus' cross a -
Cleanse me from in - iq - ui - ty. Let Your Spir - it
see my er - rors, Lord, I trem - ble at Your ter - rors.
sins for - sake me; Let Your wrath not o - ver - take me.
lone can van - quish These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.
leave me nev - er; Make me on - ly Yours for - ev - er.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

(NKJV)

Sermon Text: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:10,13 ²⁶When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. ²⁷And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD. 2 Samuel 12Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: "There were two men in one city, one rich

and the other poor. ² "The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. ³ "But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴ "And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." ⁵ So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! ⁶ "And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity." ⁷ Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ 'I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! ⁹ 'Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon... ¹³ So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

Sermon Theme: The Rescue Mission for King David

- 1. David's great need for rescue**
- 2. The loving rescue effort**
- 3. The blessed outcome of the rescue mission**

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.* †)

Prayer of the Church

Hymn of the Day 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

LSB 611

1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.

Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Sacrament

Now we approach the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in which Jesus comes to bless us with His very body and blood. We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly fitting, right, and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus *Latin: "Holy."*

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** We give You thanks, O Lord our God, for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ and His cross. Give us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. In His name we pray, as we now join in the prayer that He taught us:

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.

The Words of Institution

The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His body and blood in the Sacrament.

Pax Domini ("The Peace of the Lord")

LSB 209

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210 Latin: "Lamb

of God." Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true us, Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

The Distribution

- ✝ For the distribution we will start with those who would like to partake of the Lord's Supper from the pew. After that, those who would like to come up to the altar steps will partake as directed by our usher.

Note to our Guests: We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. By following this practice we do not make any judgment on your faith. Rather we do this out of love for you, as a public confession of our unity, and out of obedience to and love for God's Word. Speak to our pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211 Latin: "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

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.



Closing Hymn: 923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word

LSB 923

1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your
2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward
△ 3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious
now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye
seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!
wor - shiped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text (sts. 1–2): Church Poetry, 1823, Philadelphia, alt.; (st. 3): Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

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Adapted from Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

Announcements

Today **10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion**
7/6/25 **11:00 a.m. Brief meeting with VBS Staff**
 Voter's Call Meeting

Next Sunday **10:00 a.m. Worship Service**
7/13/25 **11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting**

Upcoming Dates

7/21-25 **9-11:30 a.m. St. Stephen Vacation Bible School**

7/27/25 **11:30 a.m. Church Picnic at Cuesta Park in Mountain View**

Voters' Call Meeting The voters will be meeting today to issue a call for a new resident pastor.

For voters unable to attend the meeting in person you can participate Via Zoom. Please text President Blank (530-574-6459) to inform him of the pastor you are voting for. Here is the Zoom link: <https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/93265630172>

The Vacation Bible School Staff is asked to meet briefly today to discuss plans for the upcoming Vacation Bible School.

Work on the Parsonage Our thanks to all those who gave of their time and talents on this holiday weekend in the continuing efforts to prepare the parsonage for our new pastor and family. Work on the parsonage continues today after the voter's meeting.

Church Calendars for the month of July are available and can be picked up in the distribution boxes.

Lutheran Spokesman If any want to subscribe or renew subscription to the Lutheran Spokesman and you haven't put your name on the sign-up sheet on the stand near the church entry, please do so today. You can also email or text the pastor. The total number of names will be sent in after today.

Good News Concerning Students Training for the Pastoral and Teaching Ministry This note comes from Professor Paul Naumann of ILC in Eau Claire, WI:

"This fall, Immanuel College is projected to have over thirty students enrolled for the first time in nearly twenty years. **Of these, fully fifteen are in pre-theology** (Training to be pastors). A further **eleven are in the teaching program**.

"If all our current pre-the students graduate, we would expect the following -- **one new pastor** a year from May. Then we skip a year, but the following year (May 2029) there would be **four new pastors** and one **Limited Ministry candidate**, The following year **five new pastors**, the year after that **two new pastors**, and the year after **that three new pastors**."

Pacific Coast Women's Retreat 2025 Theme: Run the Race, When: September 26-28, Where: Ponderosa Lodge, Cusick, WA. "Join us for a wonderful weekend (day-only participation is an option too!) of time in the Word of God, fellowship with others, and kicking back to relax. There will be main sessions, small breakout sessions, crafts, outdoor activities (e.g. firepits, hikes down to Pend Oreille river, or up to view breathtaking landscapes) and more. For more information or to see how you can help, contact Tina Eichstadt (teichstadt@gmail.com/651-398-2386) or Emily Hagen (emily.m.hagen@gmail.com/509-939-4846)."

CLC Mission Helper Trip to Nepal – Eight CLC Mission Helpers are currently in Nepal proclaiming the simple Gospel message to children in Himalayan villages where Himalayan Church of the Lutheran Confession congregations and preaching stations are located. You can read the trip blog and see pictures at: www.2025clcmhtnepal.blogspot.com.

CLC CALL NEWS Rebecca Buck of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has returned the call to Luther Memorial School, Fond du Lac, WI. < > Kathleen Naumann of Immanuel Lutheran School, Winter Haven, FL, has received the call to Luther Memorial School, Fond du Lac, WI. < > St. John's Lutheran Church, Okabena, MN, has extended two part-time, one-year

calls to two St. John's members: Lori Ruthenbeck and Mary Albrecht. <> Pastor Tom Naumann of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Erin Franson has received the call to serve as the female Mentor at Immanuel Lutheran High School and College. <> It has been reported that for conscience reasons concerning the following two pastors: Pastor Mark Tiefel of Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church, Middleton, WI, has returned the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI,, resigned his call to Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church, Middleton, WI, and has stepped down from the pastoral ministry. <> Pastor Ed Starkey, who was serving Our Redeemer's in Red Wing, MN, is no longer in the CLC.