

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

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July 20, 2025 ✚ Pentecost 6

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 27 (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 Hymn 694 Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower (LSB 694)



1 Thee will I love, my strength, my tow - er; Thee will I
 2 Thee will I love, my life, my Sav - ior, Who art my
 3 I thank Thee, Je - sus, Sun from heav - en, Whose ra - diance
 4 O keep me watch - ful, then, and hum - ble; Per - mit me
 5 Thee will I love, my crown of glad - ness; Thee will I



love, my hope, my joy. Thee will I love with all my
 best and tru - est friend. Thee will I love and praise for -
 hath brought light to me; I thank Thee, who hast rich - ly
 nev - er - more to stray. Up - hold me when my feet would
 love, my God and Lord, A - mid the dark - est depths of



pow - er, With ar - dor time shall ne'er de - stroy. Thee will I
 ev - er, For nev - er shall Thy kind - ness end. Thee will I
 giv - en All that could make me glad and free; I thank Thee
 stum - ble, And keep me on the nar - row way. Fill all my
 sad - ness, And not for hope of high re - ward, For Thine own



love, O Light di - vine, So long as life is mine.
 love with all my heart— Thou my Re - deem - er art!
 that my soul is healed By what Thy lips re - vealed.
 na - ture with Thy light, O Ra - diance strong and bright!
 sake, O Light di - vine, So long as life is mine.

Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624–77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Harmonischer Lieder-Schatz, 1738, Frankfurt

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:

Gracious God, all that we have comes from You: our bodies and minds, our strength and intelligence, our time and abilities, our energy and earthly possessions. Guard us from the temptation to use these gifts only for our own personal benefit. Make us willing to use them joyfully in service to You and Your kingdom.

C Amen.

First Reading

1 Kings 17:8-16 (NKJV)

⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ⁹ "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." ¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." ¹¹ And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." ¹² So she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." ¹³ And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ "For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.' " ¹⁵ So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶ The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.

Second Reading

Galatians 5:1,13-25 (NKJV)

P The second reading is from Galatians 5:1,13-25

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage...¹³ **For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.** ¹⁴ **For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."** ¹⁵ **But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!** ¹⁶ **I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** ¹⁷ **For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.** ¹⁸ **But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.** ¹⁹ **Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,** ²⁰ **idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,** ²¹ **envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.** ²² **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** ²³ **gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.** ²⁴ **And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.** ²⁵ **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

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

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!

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

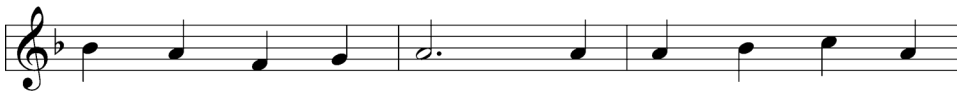
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From 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: 787 The Temple Rang with Golden Coins (LSB 787)



1 The tem - ple rang with gold - en coins The
2 A wid - ow came with cop - per coins And
3 When Je - sus saw her cost - ly gift And
4 At last He brought His of - fer - ing And
5 Lord, help us all, with You, to yield What -



rich in bright ar - ray Con - trib - ut - ed from
of - fered them in praise. They were the last she
knew she had no more, He praised a love that
laid it on a tree; There gave Him - self, His
ev - er love de - mands And free - ly give, as



gleam - ing hoards Their scales could scarce - ly weigh.
had to give Or save for dark - er days.
spared not self And called her rich, though poor.
life, His love For all hu - man - i - ty.
You have giv'n, With o - pen hearts and hands.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007

Tune: The Whole Booke of Psalmes, 1562, London

Text: © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

Tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Mark 12:41-44 ⁴¹ Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many *who were* rich put in much. ⁴² Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. ⁴³ So He called His disciples to *Himself* and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; ⁴⁴ "for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

Sermon Theme: Jesus Invites us to Come and See the Widow's Offering to the Lord.

1. Her offering was 'more' than the other offerings
2. Her offering was given in cheerful response to God's sacrificial love.
3. Her offering was given with trust in the Lord.

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: 783 Take My Life and Let it Be

(LSB 783)



- 1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

**5 Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.**

**6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79

Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayers *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.**

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 to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



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

Closing Hymn: 785 We Praise You, O God

(LSB 785)



1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.
And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,
With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.



We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.

Tune: Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, 1626, Haarlem

Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today:

7/20/25

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:00 a.m. VBS Staff Meeting

This Week

7/21-25

9-11:30 a.m. Vacation Bible School

Next Sunday:

7/27/25

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. Church Picnic at Cuesta Park in Mountain View

Online Worship Services -

<https://www.ststephenclc.org/worship.html>

St. Stephen Vacation Bible School will be conducted this week, with sessions going from 9:00-11:30 a.m. A Traveling Vacation Bible School team will be here to assist in the teaching of the children, as well as help with other aspects of the VBS. The team of two is made up of Becky Noeldner from Eau Claire, WI and Grant Bernthal from Winter Haven, FL. This year the students will be studying about Missionaries in the New Testament (Paul, Philip, Stephen, Peter and Lydia). We pray for the Lord's blessing upon our VBS. It is not too late to invite children to our VBS.

St. Stephen Church Picnic will be held next Sunday after church at Cuesta Park in Mountain View. There is a sign up sheet in the entryway for those willing to bring food for the picnic.

Mission Chairman Appointment Since Isaac Schmitt, who served as Mission Chairman, has moved away, President Blank appointed Daniel Gullerud to serve as Mission Chairman. We thank him for being willing to serve in this role for St. Stephen. May the Lord bless his efforts.

CLC World Missions Prayer List – July 2025

...pray for us that the Word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified...

2 Thessalonians 3:1



Bangladesh (South Asia) – Due to Islamic festivals in Bangladesh, which is predominantly Muslim, and the annual monsoon season, the BLCM building project experienced delays as workers took time off, and the rains continue to impact working conditions. Despite these challenges, progress has been made. The Board of Missions has sent the

first three installments of an MDF grant to support this project. The plan is to distribute the remaining funds over the next few months to complete Phase One. Contributions to the MDF will help complete phase one of the project and continue supporting other MDF projects worldwide. This multipurpose building will serve God's Kingdom as a Bible Institute for training faithful church workers, a place for worship, and housing for teachers and students. Fourteen men are ready to begin pastoral training once the building is completed. Please continue to pray for the success of this building project and that the Lord would move the hearts of His people to give generously for this important work, so the project can stay on schedule.

Nepal (South Asia) – Fifteen men will finish their Himalayan Bible Institute studies in the coming months, with a graduation planned for October. Missionary Ohlmann hopes to be there for the graduation. Eight CLC Mission Helpers to Nepal returned home safely on July 11th. While in Nepal, they traveled and hiked to twelve different HCLCN congregations and preaching stations, where they had the privilege of working with Pastor Raju and his brother, Rajan, to teach the Good News of Jesus to over 1,300 children! Ask for the Lord's blessings on the last few months of Bible instruction for the HBI students. Thank the Lord for blessing the 2025 Mission Helper Trip and ask for His blessings on the Gospel "seed" that was planted!

The Philippines (Southeast Asia) – Pastor Palangyos has started remodeling a new worship and Bible training facility that his sister donated to the LAMP. One of the two LAMP congregations has recently experienced significant growth with new members, increased attendance, and baptisms. Please pray for the LAMP outreach efforts so that more people may repent of their sins and rejoice in the forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Thank the Lord for recent growth and ask for His blessings on these new members. Pray that the Lord provides everything necessary to complete the new worship and training facility.

Tanzania (East Africa) — Missionary Naumann has identified several essential improvements needed for the seminary facilities. These include replacing the seminary door, which has deteriorated due to rainfall, and installing an overhanging roof to safeguard the new door and prevent water from entering classrooms, completing two small instructor offices, and office furniture. Completion of these projects is dependent upon sufficient support from MDF offerings. Following Pastor Lengutai's retirement, the TZCLC has appointed Pastor Tobias Mbise as his successor on the seminary faculty. Pray for the seminary students as they continue to prepare for service in our Savior's kingdom as faithful preachers and teachers of God's saving Word. As for the Lord's continued blessings and provision for the instructors, Missionary Naumann, Pastor Loskira, Pastor Issangya, and the newly appointed Pastor Mbise.

Nigeria (West Africa) – With an MDF grant and local offerings, the Nigeria-CLC continues to make progress in constructing a new multipurpose building for the seminary. Upon completion, the building will feature new classrooms, a library/computer room, and an office for faculty. Missionary Ohlmann plans to visit the NCLC in November for the dedication. Ask the Lord to continue to bless this project and thank Him for providing the funding through the NCLC and MDF offerings of CLC members. Thank the Lord for the privilege of working together in this effort to train faithful workers in His Nigerian harvest of souls!

DR Congo (Central Africa) – Violence in the DRC continues to be a concern as the M23 militia has pushed into areas of the country where the CCLC is active. Recent peace negotiations and ceasefires have been consistently violated by the militias. Because of these issues, a planned visit by Missionaries Evensen and Ohlmann has been temporarily postponed until security improves. Pastor Yumba, who serves the CCLC, reports that the seminary students of Holy Trinity Lutheran Seminary are completing their vicarages. A graduation and ordination, when it is safe for Missionaries Evensen and Ohlmann to visit, is being planned. Thank the Lord for the diligent study and faithful teaching of God's Word over the past several years at the Holy Trinity Seminary. Ask for the Lord's continued blessings on the students as they finish their vicarage assignments. Pray that the Lord will bring peace and an end to the greed and violence that have been such a terrible part of the DR Congo's history.

Togo (West Africa) – Three students are in their final year at Mount Horeb Lutheran Seminary, with graduation tentatively scheduled for November. One of the students has started a preaching station in his home and is actively inviting people to attend. Pastor Kossi Blewu has been conducting a Gospel outreach radio program in a town located about 30 minutes away from the seminary. If the Lord blesses this effort to establish a preaching station, one of the graduates from the seminary will be called to serve there. Please pray for these students as they complete their studies and ask the Lord to bless their efforts in establishing preaching stations and congregations so that the truth of His saving word may be proclaimed for the salvation of Togolese souls.

Liberia (West Africa) – Due to serious health issues and the complications of the necessary treatments, Pastor John Hein has resigned his call as the part-time visiting missionary to Liberia. The Board of Missions has assigned visiting, correspondence, and oversight duties to Missionary Ohlmann. Thank the Lord for Pastor Hein's faithful service to his call and for the many blessings experienced by both Pastor Hein and the members of the Liberia-CLC. Ask the Lord to grant patience and wisdom to Missionary Ohlmann and those he is now working with in Liberia as they make plans to continue the Gospel outreach work.

India (South Asia) – Seventeen students graduated and were ordained as CLCI pastors in late June. These men successfully completed three years of full-time theological studies at the CLCI seminary and will now be assigned to new and established CLCI congregations. A joint pastoral conference of the CLCI and BELC is tentatively being planned for October to coincide with Missionary Ohlmann's planned visit. Please pray that the Lord will protect, support, and strengthen the faith of His children in India, especially amid the increasing persecution against Christians. Also, ask the Lord to bless the new pastors of CLCI and the preparations for the upcoming pastoral conference in October.

Myanmar (South Asia) – The [civil war in Myanmar continues](#) with no end in sight, causing much suffering for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thankfully, we have been able to provide minimal humanitarian assistance through Kinship. With so much damage done to the infrastructure, consistent electricity is scarce. The orphanage has been relying on a generator for a couple of hours each evening for light and to pump water. The generator is now beyond repair. Kinship has provided a grant to help them purchase a new generator for the orphanage. Please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers, asking for peace, justice, and relief for all affected by this conflict. Thank the Lord for providing a new generator through the offerings to Kinship.

Missionary Peter Evensen (Togo, West Africa) – Missionary Evensen returned to Togo following a furlough in the U.S. Classes have resumed at the Mt. Horeb seminary as the

students are on schedule to graduate and be ordained in November. Pray for the Lord's continued blessing on Missionary Evensen's work to prepare faithful preachers and teachers of God's saving word.

Missionary Bruce Naumann (Tanzania-East Africa) – Missionary Naumann and Paula have returned to Tanzania following a furlough in the U.S. Classes have resumed at the seminary, and outreach visits to the Ruvu District are being planned. Their 2-year resident status will soon be up for review. Pastor Issangya continues to work on the TZCLC government registration. You can follow Missionary Naumann's blog at <https://clc-tz.blogspot.com/>. Pray for the Lord's blessings and provision in the resident status renewal for Missionary Bruce and Paula Naumann, and for the church registration process.

Missionary Todd Ohlmann – Missionary Ohlmann has been granted a 5-year visa to visit India again, after it was revoked five years ago. Praise the Lord! He recently returned from a successful Mission Helper Trip to Nepal, and in August, he will travel to Zambia. In September, he is scheduled to attend the CLC Board of Missions meetings. In October, he plans to visit Nepal and India, with trips to Togo, Liberia, and Nigeria tentatively scheduled for November and December. Pray for God's blessing and provision on the necessary arrangements for these trips, and for his wife, Beth, as she cares for her elderly father, who is longing for his heavenly home. You can read reports and see pictures here: missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com

Ongoing Opportunities – Please continue to pray for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, who, by God's grace, are dedicated to proclaiming the truths of God's saving Word for the salvation of souls as they trust the promise of our Savior that His Word will not return to Him void but will accomplish that for which He sends it.

CALL NEWS Pastor Emeritus John Schierenbeck has received the call to serve as vacancy pastor of Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church, Middleton, WI. <> Pastor Tom Naumann of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI, has returned the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Teacher Kathleen Naumann of Immanuel Lutheran School, Winter Haven, FL, has returned the call to Luther Memorial School, Fond du Lac, WI. <> Pastor David Ude of Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI, has received the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Mountain View, CA. <> Erin Franson has accepted the call to serve as the female Mentor at Immanuel Lutheran High School and College. <> 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.