

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

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Website: ststephenclc.org or sslcwest.org



August 3, 2025 ✝ Pentecost 8

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 100 (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 Prayer

Hymn 790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LSB 790



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear-ful-ly, won-drous-ly
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-
a-tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
reign-ing And, as on wings of an ea-gle, up-
made you, Health has be-stowed and, when heed-less-ly
fend you; Sure-ly His good-ness and mer-cy shall
dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with
health and sal-va-tion! Let all who hear Now to His
lift-ing, sus-tain-ing. Have you not seen All that is
fall-ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev-er has
dai-ly at-tend you. Pon-der a-new What the Al-
prais-es be-fore Him! Let the A-men Sound from His
tem-ple draw near, Join-ing in glad ad-o-ra-tion!
need-ful has been Sent by His gra-cious or-dain-ing?
failed of re-lief? Wings of His mer-cy did shade you.
might-y can do As with His love He be-friends you.
peo-ple a-gain; Glad-ly for-ev-er a-dore Him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuernten Gesang-Buchs, 1665, Stralsund

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.

G 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...

Prayer of the Day

P We pray: Almighty God, we thank You for planting in us the seed of Your Word. By Your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits of faith, displaying a spirit of Christian love and hope; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. immortal God, with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, living and reigning, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:9-14 (NKJV)

Deuteronomy 30:9-14 ⁹ ***"The LORD your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the LORD will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers,*** ¹⁰ ***"if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His***

commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ¹¹ " For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. ¹² "It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹³ "Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹⁴ "But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."

Second Reading

Luke 10:25-37 (NKJV)

P The second reading is from Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" ²⁷ So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' " ²⁸ And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." ²⁹ But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ "Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² "Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. ³³ "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ "So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ "On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' " ³⁶ "So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" ³⁷ And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

☐ 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.

Hymn of the Day: 707 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways (LSB 707)



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, But keep my con-science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Colossians 1:1-14 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ² To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; ⁵ because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; ⁷ as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸ who also declared to us your love in the Spirit. ⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Sermon Theme: Fruit Bearing Christians

1. Cause for the giving of thanks to God

2. Reason for making supplication to God to bring about continued growth

Offertory

LSB 956



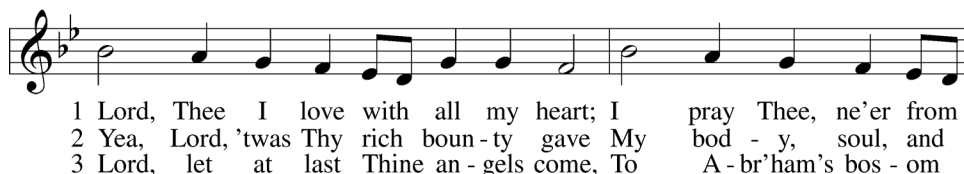
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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: 708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

(LSB 708)



1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from
2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich boun - ty gave My bod - y, soul, and
3 Lord, let at last Thine an - gels come, To A - br'ham's bos - om

me de - part, With ten - der mer - cy cheer me. Earth
all I have In this poor life of la - bor. Lord,
bear me home, That I may die un - fear - ing; And

has no plea - sure I would share. Yea, heav'n it - self were
grant that I in ev - 'ry place May glo - ri - fy Thy
in its nar - row cham - ber keep My bod - y safe in

void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me. And should my
lav - ish grace And help and serve my neigh - bor. Let no false
peace-ful sleep Un - til Thy re - ap - pear - ing. And then from

heart for sor - row break, My trust in Thee can noth - ing shake.
doc - trine me be - guile; Let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.
death a - wak - en me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,

Thou art the por - tion I have sought; Thy pre - cious
Give strength and pa - tience un - to me To bear my
O Son of God, Thy glo - rious face, My Sav - ior

blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and
cross and fol - low Thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and
and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at -

Lord, my God and Lord, For - sake me not! I trust Thy Word.
Lord, my God and Lord, In death Thy com - fort still af - ford.
tend, my prayer at - tend, And I will praise Thee with - out end.

Text: Martin Schalling, 1532–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Zwey Bücher . . . Tabulatur, 1577, Strassburg

Text and tune: Public domain

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

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.

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.

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.

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 Amen.

Closing Hymn: 698 May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

(LSB 698)

1 May we Thy pre - cepts, Lord, ful - fill And do on
2 So may we join Thy name to bless, Thy grace a -
3 Spir - it of life, of love and peace, U - nite our

earth our Fa - ther's will As an - gels do a - bove;
dore, Thy pow'r con - fess, From sin and strife to flee.
hearts, our joy in - crease, Thy gra - cious help sup - ply.

Still walk in Christ, the liv - ing way, With all Thy
One is our call - ing, one our name, The end of
To each of us the bless - ing give In Chris - tian

chil-dren and o - bey The law of Chris - tian love.
all our hopes the same, A crown of life with Thee.
fel - low - ship to live, In joy - ful hope to die.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion**
8/3/25 **11:00 a.m. Women's Auxiliary Meeting**
 Work on the Parsonage

Next Sunday **10:00 a.m. Worship Service**
8/10/25 **11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting**
 6:30 p.m. SoCal Worship Service and Bible Study

Upcoming:
8/17/25 **10:00 a.m. Anniversary Worship Service**
 11:00 a.m. Luncheon

Worship Music We thank Timothy Blank for providing recorded music of the hymns today. Barb Gullerud, our organist, is in Eau Claire to help her mother who had eye surgery this past week. She plans on returning home this Thursday.

Work on Parsonage After the worship service today, work continues on the interior of the parsonage. May the Lord bless this effort, as we make preparations for the dwelling of a new pastor's family.

SoCal Worship Service and Bible Study will take place next Sunday at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Paul Krause, who is the father of Alyssa Hamblin, will be conducting the worship service and leading the Bible Study. The group will be meeting at Peralta Canyon Park located at 115 N Pinney Dr, Anaheim CA, 92807. Please let Alyssa know if you are planning on attending so that they know whom they may need to wait for before starting. Alyssa's contact information is (714)472-4289 or indyjones2010@gmail.com.

Anniversary Worship Service On Sunday, August 17th, St. Stephen will observe the 50th Anniversary of Pastor Gullerud's ordination with a special service at 10:00 a.m. His ordination took place at St. Stephen, because he received a one year call from St. Stephen in conjunction with the CLC Mission Board to help do mission exploratory work in the northern peninsula of the Bay Area. Pastor Drew Naumann, who serves Trinity Lutheran in Spokane, WA, will be our guest preacher. The ladies are planning to have a luncheon after the service.

Call News Pastor Emeritus John Schierenbeck has **accepted** the call to serve as vacancy pastor of Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church, Middleton, WI. <> Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church, Dallas, TX, has **received** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Mr. Peter Reim has **received** the vacancy call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Lori Ruthenbeck and Mary Albrecht have both **accepted** their part-time, one-year calls to St. John's, Okabena, MN. <> Pastor David Ude of Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI, has **received** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Mountain View, CA.

INSTALLATIONS On Sunday, July 6, 2025, Christine Starland and Deborah Owens, were installed as teachers at Berea Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN. Mrs. Starland will be teaching part-time in the lower grade classroom, along with helping in Berea's preschool and kindergarten classrooms. Mrs. Owens will be teaching music.

CLC Financial Report - June 2025

Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2024	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 12 Months	Balance 6/30/2025
General Fund	0	1,133,646	1,223,163	1,312,993	(89,517)
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	1,688,836	1,657,154	1,724,100	31,682
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	110,979	49,408	61,244		99,143
ILC Building Projects	1,560,282	508,273	1,842		2,066,713
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	120,784	272,028	244,410		148,402
Kinship	169,884	189,795	190,207		169,472
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	2,684,208	536,797	717,209		2,503,796
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	117,317	187,416	203,044		101,689
EduK8 Fund	47,692	26,119	3,500		70,311
Reserve Fund	79,964	81,500	57,835		103,629
Auxiliary Funds Totals	\$4,891,110	\$1,851,336	\$1,479,291		\$5,263,155

With June bringing an end to our fiscal year, we are able to look back and see how we ended up financially. In the table above, under Operating Funds, you will see the revenue and disbursements for the **General Fund** and for **ILC Operations**. Comparing them to the budget for the year, contributions to the **General Fund** were \$179,347 less than the amount budgeted, and disbursements were \$89,830 less than budget, resulting in a shortfall of \$89,517. Although **ILC Operations** ended the year with \$35,264 less in revenue than was planned, disbursements were \$66,946 less than budget, resulting in a positive balance for the year of \$31,682. Because

the **General Fund** subsidizes **ILC Operations**, the balance that is left in **ILC Operations** is closed out to the **General Fund**. Netting the two still leaves the **General Fund** with a deficit of \$57,835 for the year. Consequently, that amount is pulled from the **Reserve Fund** in order to bring the balance in the **General Fund** up to zero at June 30. This leaves a balance of \$103,629 in the **Reserve Fund** to carry forward to future years.

For the new fiscal year beginning in July 2025, the **General Fund** budget was reduced almost \$50,000 to \$1,265,097. This was possible due to a couple of things, including an anticipated increase in ILC student enrollment and revenue, resulting in a decrease in the amount of subsidy needed, and a decrease in the budget for funding the EduK8 Fund based on the actual expected needs for the fiscal year. The new budget did provide for modest salary increases for called workers and staff and was also increased to fund an increased portion of the costs of the third missionary. Although there is a reduction in the budget, the new budget is still an increase of 11.6% over the amount of contributions received last year.

For the **Auxiliary Funds** you can look at the numbers above to see how each of them fared. The revenue in the **Auxiliary Funds** included over \$400,000 that came by way of market gains for the year on the investments in **ILC Building Projects** and the **Church Extension Fund**.

We are thankful to have had the **Reserve Fund** available to cover the deficits the past several years. With the 11.6% increase in needed contributions for the new year, your prayers, consideration, and contributions will be needed once again.

Stephen R. Lentz, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees