

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

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sslwest.org**

Church Office: (650) 964-5915

August 24, 2025  Pentecost 11

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.

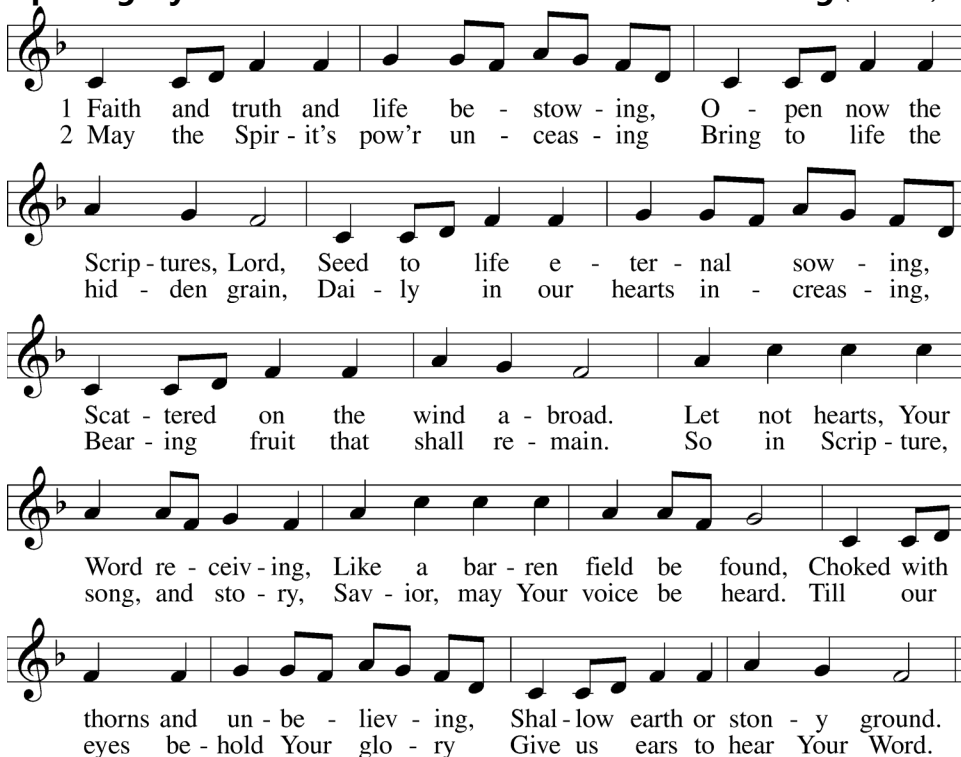
 Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 50 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) 

**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.
To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

<https://www.ststephenc lc.org/worship.html>



Opening Hymn 584 Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing (LSB 584)



1 Faith and truth and life be - stow - ing, O - pen now the
2 May the Spir - it's pow'r un - ceas - ing Bring to life the

Scrip - tures, Lord, Seed to life e - ter - nal sow - ing,
hid - den grain, Dai - ly in our hearts in - creas - ing,

Scat - tered on the wind a - broad. Let not hearts, Your
Bear - ing fruit that shall re - main. So in Scrip - ture,

Word re - ceiv - ing, Like a bar - ren field be found, Choked with
song, and sto - ry, Sav - ior, may Your voice be heard. Till our

thorns and un - be - liev - ing, Shal - low earth or ston - y ground.
eyes be - hold Your glo - ry Give us ears to hear Your Word.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024

Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1825, Cincinnati

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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.

C 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: Almighty and everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour out upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

First Reading

Genesis 15:1-6 (NKJV)

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I *am* your shield, your exceedingly great reward." ² But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house *is* Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!" ⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." ⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Second Reading

Luke 12:32-40 (NKJV)

P The second reading is from Luke 12:32-40

³² "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ "Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. ³⁴ "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ³⁵ " Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; ³⁶ "and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. ³⁷ "Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them. ³⁸ "And


if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants. ³⁹ "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

C 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!*

Apostles' Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

W.S. p. 15

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: 728 How Firm a Foundation (LSB 728)



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way will lie,
 5 "Through - out all their life - time My peo - ple will prove



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!
 For I am your God and will still give you aid;
 I will not, I will not, de - sert to his foes;
 My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, will be your sup - ply;
 My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can He say than to you He has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,
 The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 And then, when gray hairs will their tem - ples a - dorn,



Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er, for - sake!
 Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
 Like lambs they will still in My bos - om be borne."

Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.

Tune: Genuine Church Music, 1832, Winchester

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible... ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to

receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. (ESV)

Sermon Theme: Examples of Faith from the Hall of Faith

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: 587 I Know My Faith is Founded

(LSB 587)



1 I know my faith is found - ed On Je - sus Christ, my
2 In - crease my faith, dear Sav - ior, For Sa - tan seeks by
3 In faith, Lord, let me serve You; Though per - se - cu - tion,



God and Lord; And this my faith con - fess - ing, Un -
night and day To rob me of this trea - sure And
grief, and pain Should seek to o - ver - whelm me, Let



moved I stand on His sure Word. Our rea - son can - not
take my hope of bliss a - way. But, Lord, with You be -
me a stead - fast trust re - tain; And then at my de -



fath - om The truth of God pro - found; Who trusts in hu - man
side me, I shall be un - dis - mayed; And led by Your good
par - ture, Lord, take me home to You, Your rich - es to in -



wis - dom Re - lies on shift - ing ground. God's Word is
Spir - it, I shall be un - a - fraid. A - bide with
her - it As all You said holds true. In life and



all - suf - fi - cient, It makes di - vine - ly sure; And
me, O Sav - ior, A firm - er faith be - stow; Then
death, Lord, keep me Un - til Your heav'n I gain, Where



trust - ing in its wis - dom, My faith shall rest se - cure.
I shall bid de - fi - ance To ev - 'ry e - vil foe.
I by Your great mer - cy The end of faith at - tain.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Concentus novi, 1540, Augsburg
Text and tune: Public domain

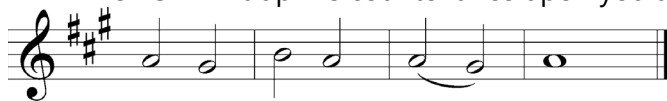
Prayers *We bring our prayers to God.*

Lord's Prayer

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.

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: 714 Who Trusts in God a Strong Abode

(LSB 714)



1 Who trusts in God A strong a - bode In heav'n and
2 Though Sa - tan's wrath Be - set our path And world - ly
3 In all the strife Of mor - tal life Our feet will



earth pos - sess - es; Who looks in
scorn as - sail us, While You are
stand se - cure ly; Temp - ta - tion's



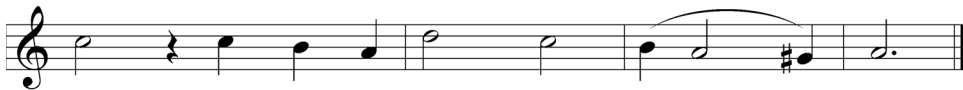
love To Christ a - bove, No fear that heart op -
near, We shall not fear; Your strength will nev - er -
hour Will lose its pow'r, For You will guard us



press - es. In You a - lone, Dear Lord, we own Sweet
fail - us. Your rod and staff Will keep us safe And
sure - ly. O God, re - new With heav'n - ly dew Our



hope and con - so - la - tion, Our shield from foes, Our balm for
guide our steps for - ev - er; Nor shades of death Nor hell be -
bod - y, soul, and spir - it Un - til we stand At Your right



woes, Our great and sure sal - va - tion.
neath Our lives from You will sev - er.
hand Through Je - sus' sav - ing mer - it.

Text: tr. Benjamin H. Kennedy, 1804–99, alt.; (st. 1): Joachim Magdeburg, c. 1525–after 1587; (sts. 2–3): Harmonia cantionum, 1597, Leipzig

Tune: Claudin de Sermisy, c. 1490–1562

Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today:

8/24/25

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Work continues on the parsonage grounds

Next Sunday:

8/31/25

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Online Worship Services -

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

Udes' Arrival The two oldest girls of Pastor Ude and Rachel, Anatasia and Samara, are scheduled to arrive in Mountain View either this Monday or Tuesday in order for the girls to start attending school. They will be staying in the parsonage.

The Udes will be moving their belongings in five U-Haul box-pod containers. They are scheduled to be picked this Tuesday, August 26th. The U-Haul company has given an estimate of their arrival in Mountain View to be about 11 days. This would be sometime close to September 6th.

Michelle, Rachel's sister, will be moving with the family and living in the ADU attached to the parsonage garage.

Pastor Ude, Rachel and son Simon will be driving out to California and expect to be here by the 3rd or 4th of September.

We look forward to the Ude family moving out here to join our fellowship to work and worship among us.

The Installation Service of Pastor David Ude will be held on Sunday, September 14th at our regular service time of 10:00 a.m. The guest preacher at this service will be Professor John Ude, who is the father of our new pastor.

Food Shower Since the Ude family will be moving into a home with empty shelves, it would be a fine and helpful gesture to give them a food shower. You may do this either by donating canned or dry goods, or since we don't know the food preferences of the Ude family, grocery gift cards could be given.

Work on the Parsonage continues with a number things still to do before the Ude family moves into the home. If you are able to spare some time today after the church service to give your help on this project, it would be most welcome and appreciated.

Thank You We want to express our gratitude for all the time and effort that volunteers have given in order to have a nice home for the Udes to move into. We especially want to acknowledge with thanks the many, many hours that Mike and Leslie have devoted to this project.

The Ude family also want to add their thanks to this collective effort to provide them with this refurbished home.

Thank You Pastor Gullerud would like to thank all those involved in observing with him last Sunday the 50th Anniversary of his ordination. The special service, luncheon, generous monetary gift, slide presentation and picture collection, as well as the wall-hanging were all much appreciated.

ILC – Immanuel in Eau Claire, WI is set to begin another school year with an opening service at ILC today at 3:00 p.m. central time. The service can be viewed online at ilc.edu. May the Lord bless the school year for Immanuel. Rachel Blank will once again be attending high school at Immanuel.

Resignation We received the sad news that Professor David Schaller has resigned his call to Immanuel for personal reasons. Please include in your prayers of intercession petitions for Professor Schaller and his family, as well as for Immanuel.

CLC News Call News Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has **received** the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Matthew Hanel of St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church, Dallas, TX, has **returned** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI.

Dedication Mt. Zion Lutheran Church (Detroit, MI) will dedicate their new church property on Sunday, September 14, at 4:00pm.

Pacific Coast Women's Retreat -- *Run the Race!* (Hebrews 12:1-2) – "Registration is [open](https://tinyurl.com/MtnWomen) (<https://tinyurl.com/MtnWomen>) for the retreat! Please consider joining us for a

weekend in God's Word while relaxing in the mountain beauty of His creation. We'd love to have you with us! September 26-28 in Cusick, WA (fly or drive into Spokane, WA)
 Questions? Contact Tina at teichstadt@gmail.com."

CLC Financial Report - July 2025

Operating Funds	Balance 7/1/2025	YTD Revenue	YTD Disbursed	Budget 1 Month	Balance 7/31/2025
General Fund	0	109,503	116,228	105,425	(6,725)
ILC Operations (incl. CLC subsidy)	0	80,590	124,304	147,920	(43,714)
Auxiliary Funds					
ILC Improvement Fund (IIF)	99,143	3,281	0		102,424
ILC Building Projects	2,066,713	31,796	340		2,098,169
Mission Development Fund (MDF)	148,402	14,727	21,318		141,811
Kinship	169,472	9,476	17,730		161,218
Church Extension Fund (CEF)	2,503,796	35,327	14,093		2,525,030
Student Aid Fund (SAF)	101,689	45,833	1,168		146,354
Eduk8 Fund	70,311	16,878	10,000		77,189
Reserve Fund	103,629	302	0		103,931
Auxiliary Funds Totals	\$5,263,155	\$157,620	\$64,649		\$5,356,126

July is the start of our new fiscal year and a good time to look forward to the financial goals set before us. The Coordinating Council passed a **General Fund** budget for our contributions of \$1,265,097 for the new year or about \$105,425 per month. Although this is a decrease from the prior year budget, it is still an increase of 11.6% over what was received in contributions last year.

You can look at the details above to see how each of the **Operating** and **Auxiliary** Funds fared in July. With the substantial increase in the need for contributions over last year to do the work set before us, your prayers, consideration, and contributions are needed for the new year.

Stephen R. Lentz, CLC Treasurer

Thomas J. Lentz, Chairman, CLC Board of Trustees