

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

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Website: ststephenc lc.org or sslcwest.org

August 31, 2025 † Pentecost 12

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 131 (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 688 "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake

LSB 688



1 "Come, fol - low Me," the Sav - ior spake, "All in My
2 "I am the light, I light the way, A god - ly
3 "My heart a - bounds in low - li - ness, My soul with
4 "I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your
5 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, And take the



way a - bid - ing; De - ny your-selves, the world for-sake,
life dis - play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day;
love is glow - ing; And gra - cious words My lips ex-press,
soul's sal - va - tion, Your heart from ev - 'ry guile to free,
cross ap - point - ed And, firm - ly cling - ing to His Word,



O - bey My call and guid - ing. O bear the cross, what -
I keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
With meek-ness o - ver - flow - ing. My heart, My mind, My
From sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
In suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide, Take My ex - am - ple for your guide.
well I show How you must so - journ here be - low.
strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call.
of the soul And lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
bat - tle's strain The crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–96; (sts. 1–3, 5): Johann Scheffler, 1624–77; (st. 4): Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge, 1695

Tune: Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555–1613, adapt.

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.

C 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...

“Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices” LSB 811

1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es To praise my
God with thou-sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
joic - es, Would then pro-claim in grate - ful songs To all, wher -
ev - er I might be, What great things God has done for me.

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862 Tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

P We pray: O God, You reveal Your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of Your grace that we may obtain Your promises and become partakers of Your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:18-26 (NKJV)

² "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."... ¹⁸ Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me. ¹⁹ And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ Therefore I turned my heart and despaired of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun. ²¹ For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² For what has man for all his labor, and for the striving of his heart with which he has toiled under the sun? ²³ For all his days are sorrowful, and his work burdensome; even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity. ²⁴ Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God. ²⁵ For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment, more than I? ²⁶ For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight; but to the sinner He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to him who is good before God. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Second Reading

Luke 12:13-21 (NKJV)

P The second reading is from Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he

possesses." ¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷ "And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' ¹⁸ "So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹ 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry." ' ²⁰ "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' ²¹ "So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

P Here ends our Scripture readings.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

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

W.S. p. 15

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

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy 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: 730 What is the World to Me (LSB 730)



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure
2 The world seeks to be praised And hon - ored by the might - y
3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



When You, and You a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
Yet nev - er once re - flects That they are frail and flight - y.
Yet nev - er is con - tent Though gold should fill its cof - fers.
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, My soul's de - light shall be;
But what I tru - ly prize A - bove all things is He,
I have a high - er good, Con - tent with it I'll be:
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
My Je - sus, He a - lone. What is the world to me!
My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
Once more, then, I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

Text and tune: Public domain

(NKJV)

Sermon Text: Colossians 3:1-11 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. ⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. ⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do

not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Sermon Theme: Having Become New Creatures in Christ

- 1. Set your hearts and minds on things above**
- 2. Put off from yourselves the sins of the flesh**
- 3. And be renewed in the knowledge of Christ**

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: 693 O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace

(LSB 693)



1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, grant us grace That we our Lord and Sav - ior
2 Help us that we Thy sav - ing Word In faith - ful hearts may trea - sure;
3 And when our earth - ly race is run, Death's bit - ter hour im - pend - ing,



In faith and fer - vent love em - brace And tru - ly serve Him ev - er.
Let e'er that Bread of Life af - ford New grace in rich - est mea - sure.
Then may Thy work in us be - gun Con - tin - ue till life's end - ing,



The hour of death can - not bring loss When we are shel - tered
O make us die to ev - 'ry sin, Each day cre - ate new
Un - til we glad - ly may com - mend Our souls in - to our



by the cross That can - celed our trans - gres - sions.
life with - in, That fruits of faith may flour - ish.
Sav - ior's hand, The crown of life ob - tain - ing.

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–99; tr. Oluf H. Smeby, 1851–1929, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug

Text and tune: Public domain

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

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

- ☐ 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).*

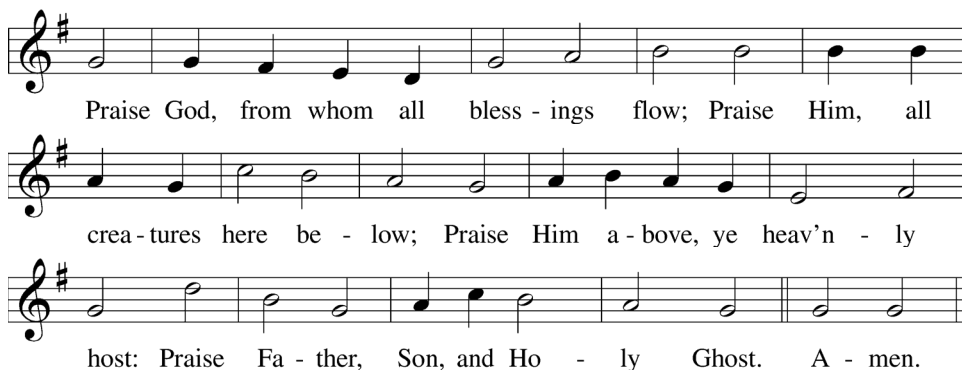
P The LORD bless you and keep you.

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.

The Doxology

LSB 805

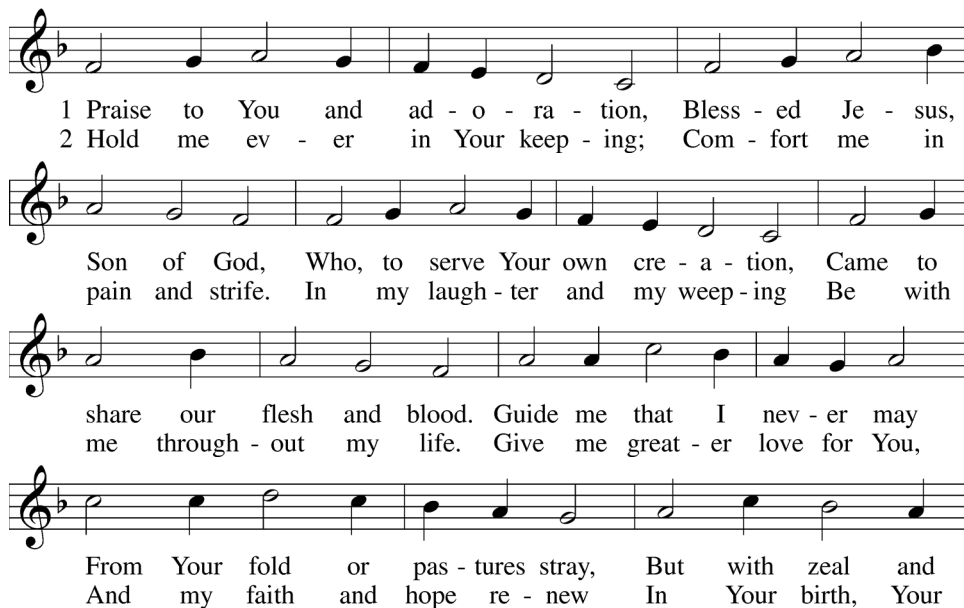


Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Public domain

Closing Hymn: 692 Praise to You and Adoration

(LSB 692)



1 Praise to You and ad - o - ra - tion, Bless - ed Je - sus,
2 Hold me ev - er in Your keep - ing; Com - fort me in
Son of God, Who, to serve Your own cre - a - tion, Came to
pain and strife. In my laugh - ter and my weep - ing Be with
share our flesh and blood. Guide me that I nev - er may
me through - out my life. Give me great - er love for You,
From Your fold or pas - tures stray, But with zeal and
And my faith and hope re - new In Your birth, Your



joy ex - ceed - ing Fol - low where Your steps are lead - ing.
life, and pas - sion, In Your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; (st. 1): tr. Kristen Kvamme, 1866–1938, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Christian Worship, 1993

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

Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: **10:00 a.m. Worship Service**
8/31/25

Tuesday **5:30 p.m. Women's Auxiliary Meeting via Zoom**
9/2/25

Next
Sunday **10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion**
9/7/25

Upcoming: **10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Installation of Pastor David Ude**
9/14/25 **11:00 a.m. Luncheon**

The Women's Auxiliary of St. Stephen plan to meet this Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Leslie will send out a link on Tuesday morning. If there are any ladies at a distance who wish to participate in the meeting, please let Leslie know (email: lehorrillo@aol.com, cell number: (408)891-3325) and inform her of your email address.

September Church Calendars for the month of September are available in the distribution boxes or on the entryway table.

The Ude Girls (Anastasia and Samara) have arrived with their Aunt Mandy Bailey and have started attending school. They are away this Labor Day weekend.

The Ude Family of Pastor Ude, Rachel and son Simon are planning to start traveling today following the worship service at Appleton, WI. They are hoping to arrive in Mountain View on Wednesday or Thursday the 3rd or 4th of September. The U-Haul moving pods will arrive around Saturday, September 6. We will need laborers to help unload the pods.

The Installation Service for Pastor David Ude will be on Sunday, September 14th at 10:00 a.m. This will be followed by a luncheon. There is a **sign-up sheet** on the lectern in the entryway where you can indicate what food dishes you wish to bring for the luncheon.

Adult Bible Class at St. Stephen will start up on Sunday, September 21st at 9:00 a.m. with Pastor Ude leading the study.

Pacific Coast Women's Retreat:

"Hello, Sisters of the Pacific Coast Conference!

It's time to introduce you to our speakers for the upcoming retreat, "Run the Race," based on Hebrews 12:1-2. First up, our very own Joelle Lentz!

Joelle Lentz is a member at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Spokane Valley, WA. She is married and has 4 children. She received a B.S. degree in Kinesiology and after two additional years of coursework became a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA). After working several years in the Madison, Wisconsin Public School District, rotating between three elementary schools and one high school, became a full-time stay-at-home mom. She loves to do anything outdoors- camp, hike, bike, etc. She loves to explore VRBO vacation rentals, read children's books, and has a massive sweet tooth :)



Joelle 's session will focus on endurance. We hope to have you join us September 26-28. Register [here](#).

Other details: We are looking for someone to help with planning and/or making decorations (mostly for the tables, but more is welcome!). Could this be you? Please contact Tina or Emily!"

CLC Call News Pastor Andrew Schaller of Luther Memorial Church, Fond du Lac, WI, **has received and accepted** the vacancy call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI <> Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Ev. Lutheran, Spokane, WA **has received** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, **has received** the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI.