

# ***St. Stephen Lutheran Church***

**Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)  
320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600**

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**Church Office: (650) 964-5915**

**September 7, 2025 ✝ Pentecost 13**

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**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.

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✝ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 130 (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: 901 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

LSB 901

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me  
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so  
3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is  
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy  
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be

en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty  
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,  
du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,  
gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;  
done in - deed. May I un - dis - turbed draw near Thee

Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed  
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O  
Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I  
May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing  
While Thou dost Thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the

is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!  
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!  
hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.  
foun - tain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Joachim Neander, 1650–80

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:

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain Your promised blessings in this life, make us delight in what You command and carry it out in the spirit of Christian love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

## **Epistle Reading**

**Isaiah 66:18-24 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> "For I know their works and their thoughts. It shall be that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory. <sup>19</sup> "I will set a sign among them; and those among them who escape I will send to the nations: to Tarshish and Pul and Lud, who draw the bow, and Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. <sup>20</sup> "Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the LORD out of all nations, on horses and in chariots and in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem," says the LORD, "as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD. <sup>21</sup> "And I will also take some of them for priests and Levites," says the LORD. <sup>22</sup> "For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me," says the LORD, "So shall your descendants and your name remain. <sup>23</sup> And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the LORD. <sup>24</sup> "And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Reading

Luke 13:22-30 (NKJV)

**P** The second reading is Luke 13:22-30

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup> And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup> Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them, <sup>24</sup> "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup> "When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' <sup>26</sup> "then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' <sup>27</sup> "But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' <sup>28</sup> "There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. <sup>29</sup> "They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup> "And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last."

**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!"*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The second staff contains 'These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that'. The third staff contains 'Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.' The fourth staff contains 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

## Nicene Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

LSB 206

**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 576 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less**

LSB 576



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than  
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I  
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup -  
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my  
rest on His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and  
port me in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly  
may I then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.  
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is





sink - ing sand, All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68

Text and tune: Public domain

(NKJV)

**Sermon Text: Hebrews 12:18-24** <sup>18</sup> For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. <sup>20</sup> (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." <sup>21</sup> And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.") <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, <sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, <sup>24</sup> to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

**Sermon Theme: Which Mountain Shall We Go To?**

- 1. Mt. Sinai with its demands and threats of the law or**
- 2. Mt. Zion wherein is saving grace and eternal glory**

## 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 645 Built on the Rock

LSB 645



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when  
 2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most  
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His  
 4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how  
 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the L



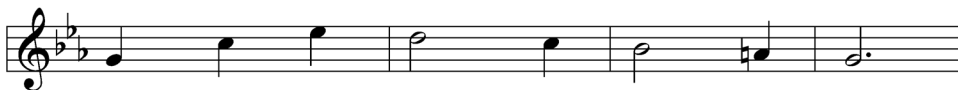
stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in  
 High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His  
 own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal  
 God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's  
 church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -  
 tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -  
 grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -  
 sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives  
 faith may come Where Christ His mes - sage is bring -



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,  
 ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove  
 tion. Were we but two His name to tell,  
 us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim  
 ing: "I know My own; My own know Me.



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,  
 Choos - es to live with us in love,  
 Yet He would deign with us to dwell  
 Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,  
 You, not the world, My face shall see.



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.  
 Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.  
 With all His grace and His fa - vor.  
 And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.  
 My peace I leave with you. A - men.”

Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig, 1783–1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.

Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–87

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.

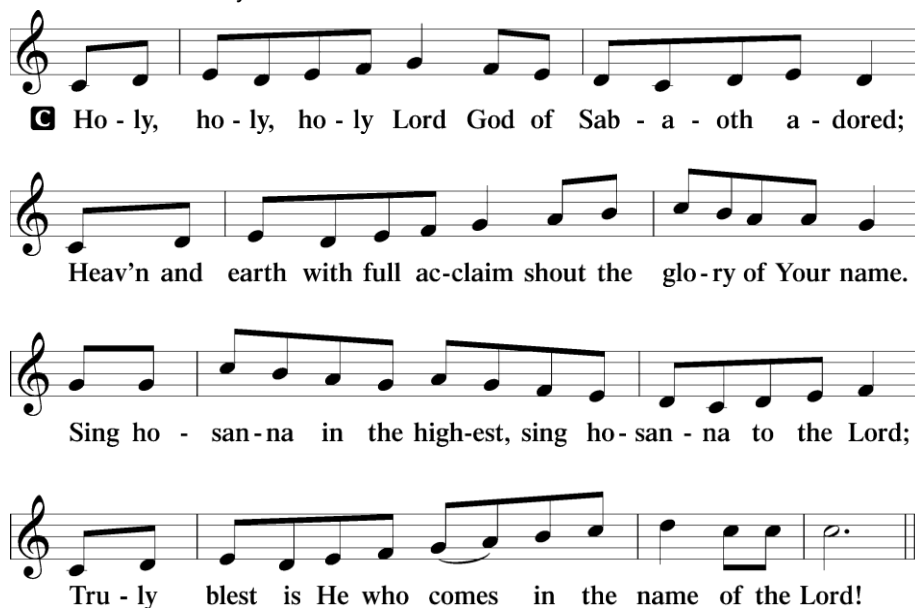
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**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)

**C** 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 For light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in lead 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.



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

## **Closing Hymn: 924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing**

*LSB 924*



1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's  
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling  
joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion  
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;  
 In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,  
 Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,  
 O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
 ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.  
 may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

Text (sts. 1–2): attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79

Text and tune: Public domain

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## Announcements

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

Next Sunday **10:00 a.m. Installation Worship Service**  
 9/14/25 **11:00 a.m. Luncheon**

**Welcome to the Ude Family** The Ude family arrived on Wednesday evening. We are thankful that they had a safe trip to California. Please introduce yourself to Pastor David Ude, his wife Rachel, and their three children: Anastasia (11 yr. old), Samara (9 yr. old) and Simon (2 yr. old), as well as Rachel's sister Michelle. Here is the contact information for the family members:

Pastor David Ude - [david.m.ude@gmail.com](mailto:david.m.ude@gmail.com) Cell: (715)450-2968

Rachel – [Rachel.m.radtke@gmail.com](mailto:Rachel.m.radtke@gmail.com) Cell: (715)338-0945

Michelle – [michelle.a.radtke@yahoo.com](mailto:michelle.a.radtke@yahoo.com) Cell: (715)456-8129

**A Thankful You** to all those who helped with unloading the U-Haul Moving Pods and carrying the Ude's household belongings into their new home.

**Installation Service and Luncheon** Pastor Ude will be installed as our pastor during the worship service next Sunday at 10:00 a.m. A luncheon will be served by the ladies, following the service.

**The Sign-up Sheet** to indicate what food dish you are planning to bring for the luncheon next Sunday can be found by the entryway of the church.

**Theresa (Tari) Bliss Called Home to Heaven** This past Wednesday, the Lord in His infinite mercy translated Tari's soul to heaven. Shortly after Tari suffered a back injury in late July and then underwent back surgery, she was diagnosed with a cancer called Multiple Myeloma which brought her earthly pilgrimage to an end. A memorial service will likely take place at St. Stephen later this month. Cards can be sent to Tari's daughter Patricia Jordan at 3164 Kimber Ct. #65, San Jose, CA 95124. "'Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." (Revelation 14:13)

**Congregations in South Dakota Reorganized** Pastor Timothy Daub of Hecla, SD writes, "Zion Lutheran Church (formerly of Ipswich, SD) welcomes you to a dedication of their new church building: 1223 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Aberdeen, SD. Join us 5 pm Sun. Oct. 26 for a Reformation-themed dedication service followed by a German-themed dinner. You are welcome to bring any side dish to share. Reach out to Pastor Daub at pastor\_daub@hotmail.com or (406) 240-0980 with any questions.

As a merger with Prince of Peace (Hecla) and Redeemer (Bowdle) members residing in the Aberdeen area, Zion has called Pastor Daub to serve the congregation and is currently in the process of relocating their legal incorporation status from Ipswich to Aberdeen.