

The birds
of the air
make nests in its shade

MARK 4:32



4th Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day.

Please fill out the “Worship Slip” and place it in the offering plate.

(*) Asterisk means, “Please stand as you are able.”

Music

“Seventh Symphony 2nd Movement (excerpt)
Ludwig van Beethoven

The Gathering

*Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

**C: In the name of the Father,
And of the + Son,
And of the Holy Spirit.
Amen**

P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

**C: Merciful God,
You free us to love others,
But we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
But we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
And generosity,
But we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
And show us the path of life.
Amen.**

**P: You belong to Christ Jesus
And you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of + Christ,
And through the power of the Holy Spirit,
Your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
C: Amen.**

*Opening Hymn *"This Is My Father's World"* #824

**This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
He speaks to me ev'ry where.**

This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget
That, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;
God reigns, let earth be glad!

*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C: And also with you

Kyrie "Spirit, Open My Heart" ACS #1043

REFRAIN

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

1. God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender.

REFRAIN

2. Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory.

REFRAIN

3. May I weep with those who weep;
Share the joy of friend and neighbor.
As I live from day to day,
love will be my finest labor.

REFRAIN

*Prayer of the Day

God Stories

The Word of God

First Reading Ezekiel 17:22-24 Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:6-17 Celebrate pg. 2

R: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation

ELW #175

ALLELUIA



*Gospel Reading

Mark 4:26-34

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Mark, the 4th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O God.

(The Gospel is read)

P: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Rev. Carol Been

*Hymn of the Day

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

Red #679

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev’ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth’s safe keeping, thanks be to God

In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done.
In our world wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

*The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

The Communion Meal

* Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Music

“Pastoral Symphony #6” Beethoven

Offering Prayer

P: Creator God,
In your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
And the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at you table with these gifts of the earth
And our labor,
That we may work for the good of all;
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to God

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our JOY...

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today, our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever.
Amen**

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come for all is ready!

(You may be seated)

Invitation to Communion

P: The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice.

Communion Gathering Song *"As the Wind" ACS #943*

As the wind song through the trees,
as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the heart made strangely warm,
as the voice within the storm,
so it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing pow'r to the world,
as the dancing tongues of fire,

as the soul's most deep desire,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

As the rainbow after rain, as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God,
as the green in the . . . spring,
as a kite on a . . . String, so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new, making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,
As the rising of the yeast, as the wine at the . . . feast,
so it is with the Spirit of God.

Communion Hymn

“Children of the heavenly Father” Red #781

Children of the heavenly Father
Safely in his bosom gather
Nestling bird or star in heaven
Such a refuge ne'er was given

God his own doth tend and nourish
In his holy courts they flourish
From all evil things he spares them
In his mighty arms he bears them

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord his children sever
Unto them his grace he showeth
And their sorrows all he knoweth

Though he giveth or he taketh
God his children ne'er forsaketh
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy

The Sending

*Prayer after Communion

P: Mothering God,
You gathered us to your table
And we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
To love our neighbors as ourselves
And proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C: Amen

*Blessing

P: The love of God abound in you;
The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
And the life of the Spirit
+ bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen

*Closing Hymn

“Go My Children, with My Blessing” Red #543

“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can
cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”

“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music

“Ode to Joy” Symphony
Beethoven

Serving Today

Reader: Janet Slay

Coffee Host: Shelly Barker

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

*The Altar Flowers are given
by Tina Gates In Memory of Bill on
the 40th anniversary of their wedding*

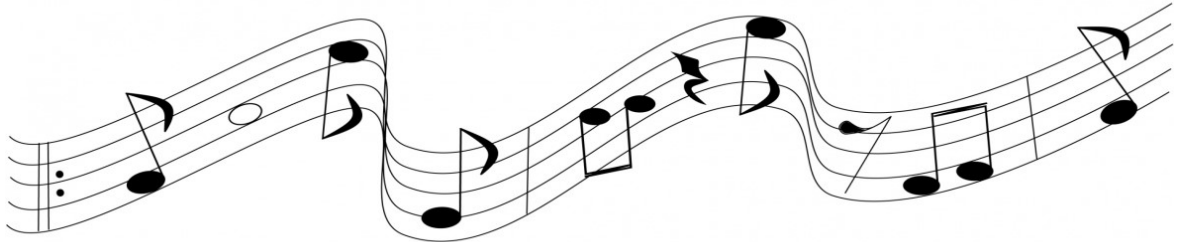




**Saturday
June 22
9am — 11:30am**

For those of you who remember, we used to have a committee who faithfully & proudly took care of our property. Now, we have you. Yes, YOU. Please sign up for an hour or two.

Standard: Weeding, Windows and Cleaning.
Sometimes: Mopping the church floor, Tree-trimming, Painting and Re-organizing.



Music at St. Stephen's

The singers will be on their summer break and will return in the Fall. Think about joining, we can use more good news singers.

Please come and share your talents ~ anything musical.
We will rejoice!

Yours in Christ, and Mission ~ Gary



Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM: *Mary D., Candace Anderson & family, Family of Gary Meeker, Galahad, Susan O., Family of Mike Homer, Debbie, Sam, Michael Lee, Nate Barker, Grandpa Dennis, Bob & Shirley Salter, Monica & Family, Lurline Moore, Barry Hansen, Beth Butler, Family & friends of Sgt. William Nelson, Jen, Robbin, Maria Mendoza, Ila & Reina, Family of Richard Barker, Francisco, Margot Wilson, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Tim Oldfield, Sierra, Beth's mom, Julie R., Anne Rice, Rosie, The Webber Family, Janet, Sue, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, James, Keith, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, Atlas, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Joel Hurttgam, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Paul Cunningham, Paul Paustian, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Rose, Will, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.*

LONG TERM: *Biergiel—Colclough family, Carla Brown, April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Joyce, Mike, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, S.S. Senior Housing, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.*



Sister Parish News

Prayer Child Sponsorships - *Thank you* to those who have committed to support your prayer children for another year and have made the associated donations. We would also like you to write a short letter to your prayer child and include a photo. Please send them to:

Marian Langdon
220 Horizon Way
Aptos, CA 95003

There are 6 children that still need a sponsor. If you want to sponsor a child, please let me know. Thank you!

2024 Delegation?

Planning has begun for a delegation this year. It will probably be in November. Please let me know if you are interested in going to El Salvador.



**Home Dedication
June 22 @ 12 noon
Rodeo Creek**

See www.habitatmontereybay.org

Upcoming Events:

June Benevolence Offering
Society for the Prevention of Suicide

- June 16 & 30 No Sunday School
- June 17 Embroiders 7:00 pm
- June 18 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
- June 19 Women's Café Group Weds at 6:00 pm
- June 20 Knitters Guild 10 am
- June 20 Mens beginner A.A. Thursday 7:00 pm
- June 21 NL Collating Friday, 1:00 (helpers needed)
- June 21 A.A. Friday 7:00 pm
- June 22 Property Work Day 9 am
- June 22 Habitat Home Dedication 12 noon Rodeo Creek
- June 24 CDC Board 11:15 am
- June 25 Provide Habitat Lunches 10:30 am
- June 30 Pastor Carol Been presiding
- July 10 Preschool Chapel resumes 10:15 am
- July 10 Bible Study Resumes Wed. 11 am & 7:30 pm

No June Newsletter. Will do July / August Combo

Our Mission Statement

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community who worship God in Christ, nurture people growing in faith, serve others with acceptance and love, invite people to share the joy of the Spirit.

Reconciling in Christ

"We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ."

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Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
Music Director: Gary Roberts
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp
Custodian: John Hopping
Powerpoint: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539