

No prophet is accepted
in the prophet's hometown

LUKE 4:24

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 2, 2025

WELCOME AND A NOTE TO VISITORS

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.

Choir Introit “Cantilena”
Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

The Gathering

Call to Worship “Come to the Water of Life” [ACS #955](#)

- 1. All who are thirsty for mercy, all who are thirsty for love;
All who are thirsty for love, for mercy, come:
Come to the Water of life.**
- 2. All who are thirsty for healing, all who are thirsty for touch;
All who are thirsty for touch, for healing, come:
Come to the Water of life.**
- 3. All who are thirsty for beauty, all who are thirsty for truth;
All who are thirsty for truth, for beauty, come:
Come to the Water of life.**
- 4. All who are thirsty for justice, all who are thirsty for peace;
All who are thirsty for peace, for justice, come:
Come to the Water of life.**

*Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations
of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

***Forgive us for the ways we act
With judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
We resist your call to oppose injustice;
We give in to scarcity and fear;
We assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults
And release us from their grasp.
Show us your loving kindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
That we may live in Christ's ways.***

Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance;
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine.”
In † Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
Live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

#631

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav’n to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev’ry trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev’ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav’n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

*Greeting

*P: Grace and peace from God our Creator,
from God who became one of us, Jesus Christ,
and may the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*Kyrie

1. **Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**
2. **Christe eleison. Christe eleison.**
3. **Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

Kyrie 18



Music: Jacques Bouffier
© 1998, Les Éditions de Talon, CMA Publications, Inc. - 9988

Glory to God

WOV #607

8
Glo - ry to God in the high - est,

and peace to God's peo -

ple on earth!

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y

God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

8
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's

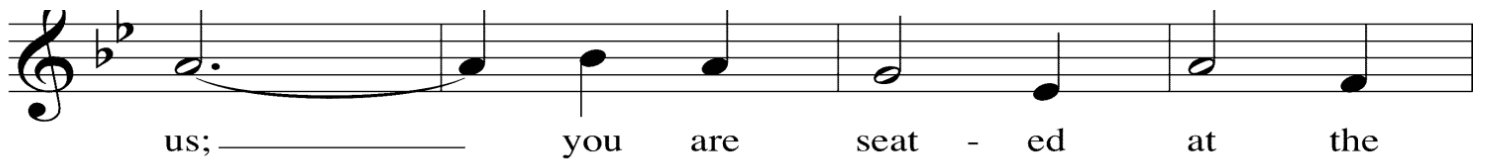
peo - ple on earth!

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

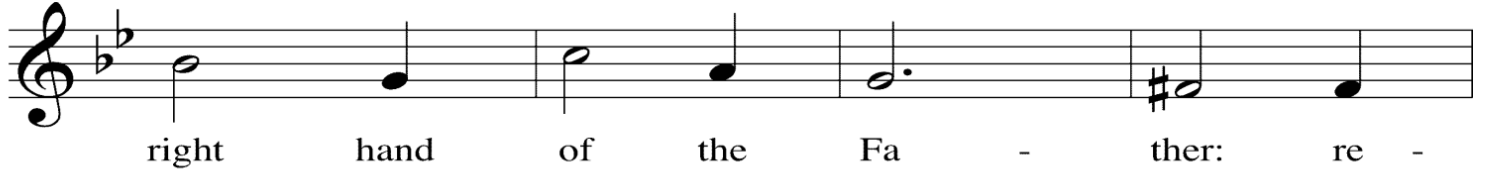
Fa - ther, Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

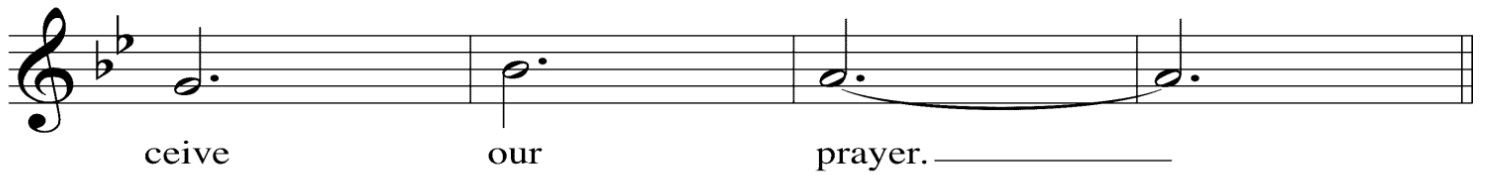
sin of the world: have mer - cy on



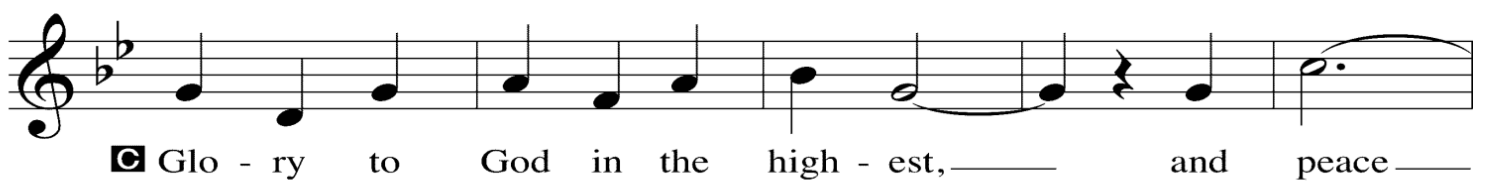
us; ————— you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



ceive our prayer. —————



C Glo - ry to God in the high - est, ————— and peace ———



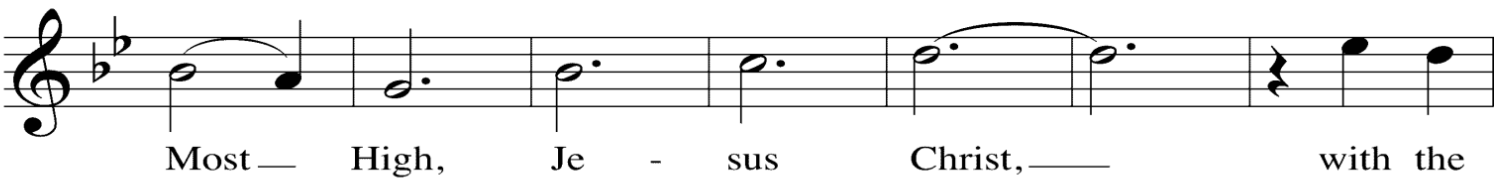
— to God's peo - ple on earth! —————



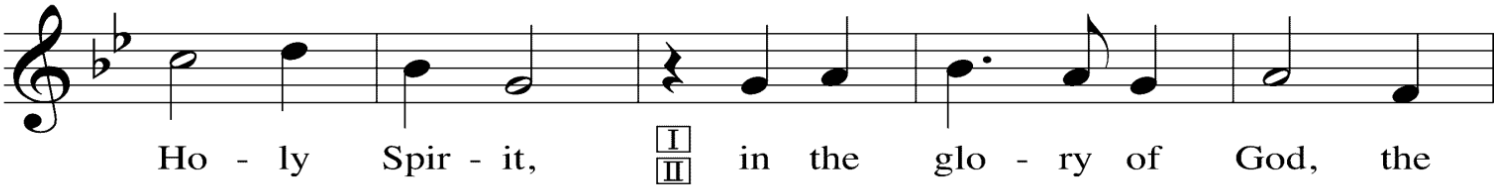
I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



lone are the Lord, ————— **II** you a - lone are the



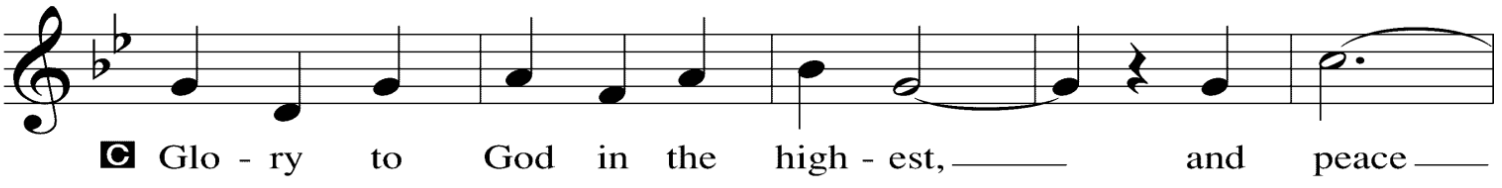
Most — High, Je - sus Christ, ————— with the



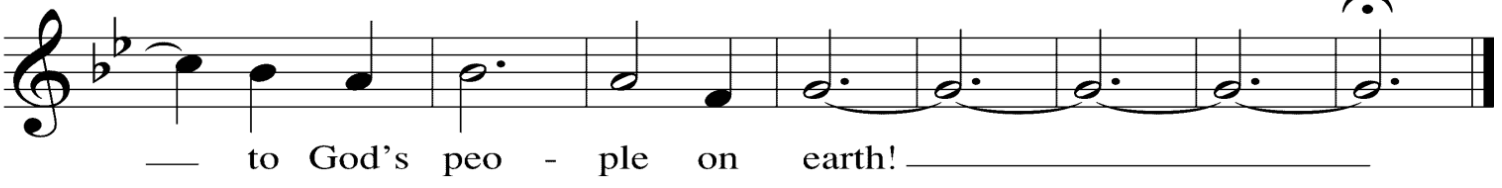
Ho - ly Spir - it, **I** in the glo - ry of God, the



Fa - ther. ————— A - men! ————— A - men! —————



C Glo - ry to God in the high - est, ————— and peace ———



— to God's peo - ple on earth! —————

*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate insert pg. 1

P: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...

C: (following the prayer) Amen.

The Word of God

First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 71:1-6

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Celebrate pg. 3

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA



*Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 4th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“O God , Who Gives Us Life” [ACS #1086](#)

O God, who gives us life and breath,
who shapes us in the womb,
Who guards our lives from birth to death,
then leads us from the tomb;
Deliver us from fears that kill
the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still
is making all things new.

O God , who calls your people out
to venture and to dare,
To plumb the bleak abyss of doubt
and find you even there;
When we despair in wandering
through wastes of empty lies,
Refresh us with the living spring
of hope that never dies.

O God of covenant and law,
revealed in cloud and flame,
Your mighty deeds evoke our awe;
we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you
and will your people prove,
As on our hearts you write a new
the covenant of love.

*Passing of the Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

The Communion Meal

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

Offering Hymn *“This Little Light of Mine”*

#677

This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’-a let it shine;
Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’-a let it shine;
Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’-a let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’-a let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Music Scout Campfire Song: “We’re on the Trail,
Everybody Singing, Scooting Bound”.
Lyrics & Music, R. Paul Thompson

*Offering Prayer

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
And your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service;
Our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
Now and always.

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 our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

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 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**

Invitation to Communion

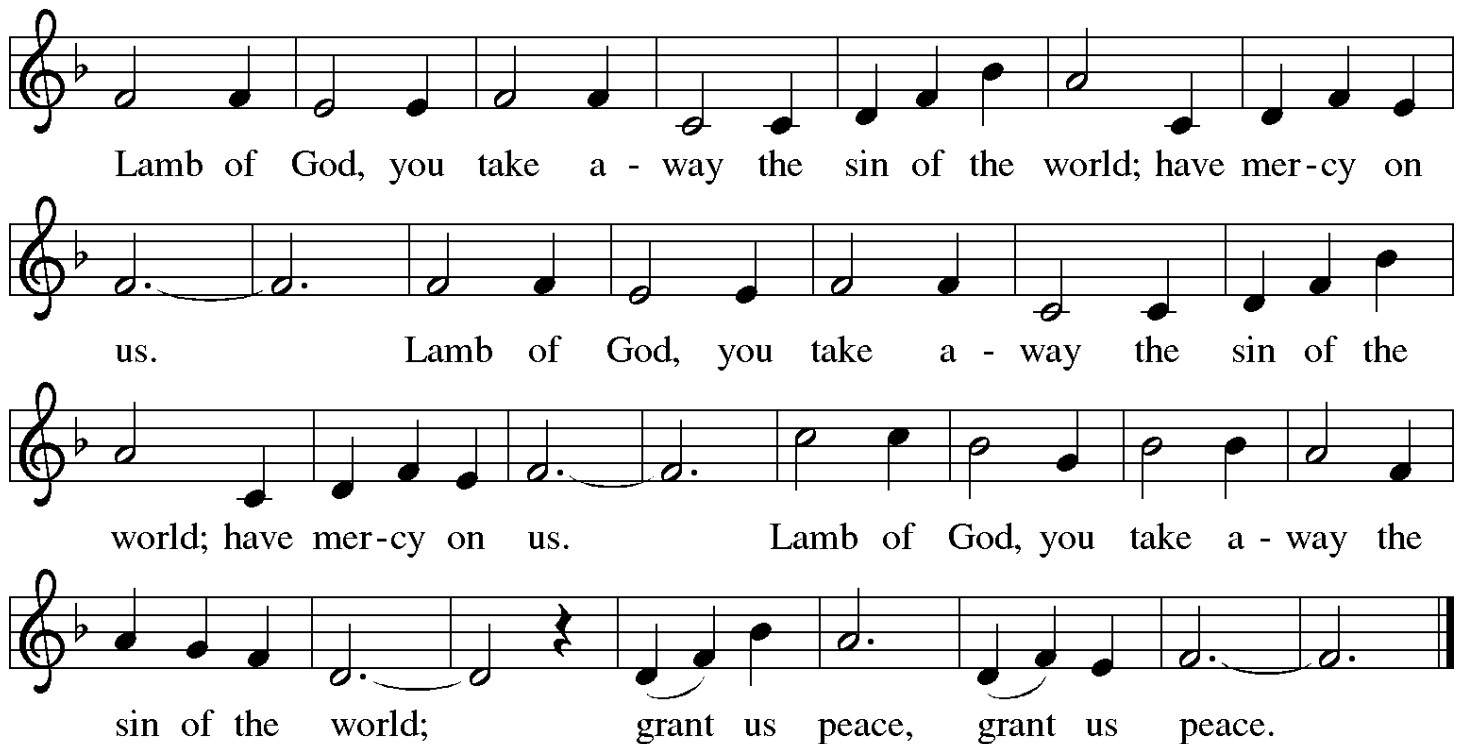
**P: The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.**

Holy Communion

Visitors: You are welcome to come forward to receive Communion as part of this church family! Children are welcome to come and receive a special blessing if they have never communed. Communion is by intinction, we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Please follow the guidance of the ushers.

#195

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

“God Welcomes All” [ACS #978](#)

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God’s love is strong and it never ends.

Prayer after Communion

P: Nourishing God,
At this table you have refreshed us
With holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
And send us out to embody your good news
Of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

Post Communion Hymn “Light Shone in Darkness” #307

Light shone in darkness at the world’s creation,
Bathing in beauty nature’s revelation.
All that has being cry in adoration,
“Praise for the light. Amen!”

Light shone in darkness at the new creation;
Christ rose in glory, won for us salvation.
Sing, earth and heaven, hymns of jubilation,
praise for the light. Amen!

Light shines in darkness till the full creation;
Christ’s body, groaning, suffers tribulation,
longs for God’s justice,
Global transformation, prays for the light. Amen!

The Sending

*Blessing

P: The Spirit of the triune God
† Bless you with joy,
Anoint you with compassion,
And send you in love.

C: Amen

*Closing Hymn *“Go My Children With My Blessing”* #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.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
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 in hope.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music “Allegro” Leon Boellmann (1862~1897)

The Altar Flowers are given by Janet Slay

In memory of Al & Sylvia Hansen





PRAYERS

SHORT TERM: Ruth Stiles, Susan Birkelo Family, James, Riley, Mary Saccullo, Chad Fields, Ana Cardenas, Rose, Levi, Lisa J., John B., Trace Hull, Linda, Scoutmaster Scott, Connie & Family of Paul Cunningham, Glosier family, Unemployed, George Webber, Isaac & Marissa, Chris Powers, Gloria, Beth & Family of Barbara Stiles, Marta's parents, Gary & Louse Matz, Friends in Tel Aviv, Nick, James, Mary D., Tom, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Francisco, Michael, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Sierra, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, Alvarado family, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager.

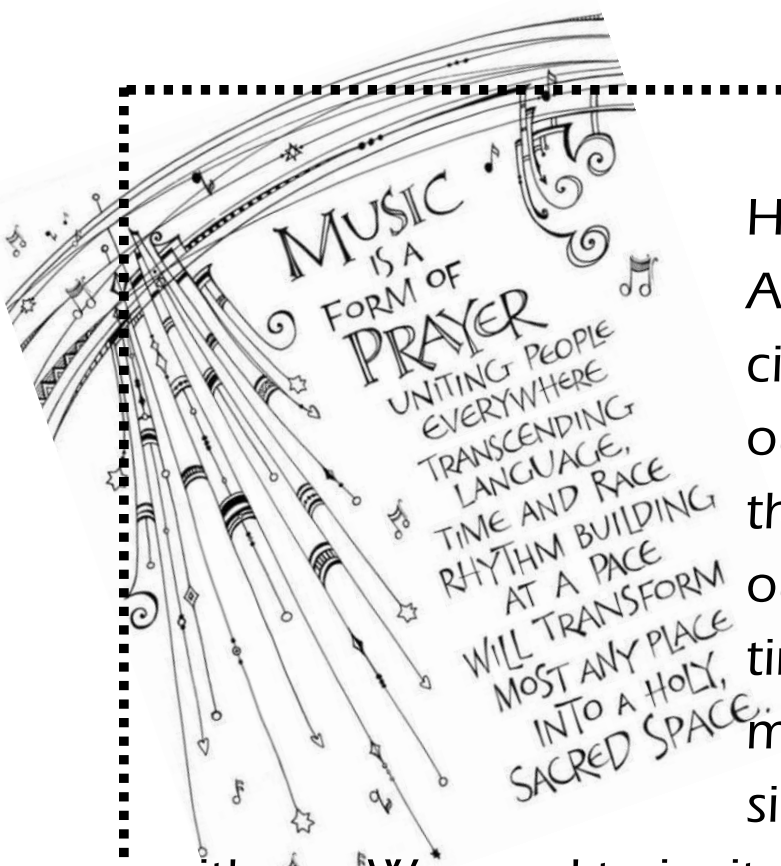
LONG TERM: Those suffering with Mental Illness, James Sheehan, Biergiel—Colclough family, Carla Brown, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Will, Aaron Johnson, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, 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, People of Palestine/Israel, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

Serving Today

Readers & Coffee Host: Scouts

Altar Guild: Connie & Tina

Office Helpers: Sherilyn Jager & Sheila Buswell



Hello Everyone -

After speaking to several musicians local, and members in our church, I've concluded that, the time is right to reach out to the community. It is time to share our church with more people who love live music, and are ready to receive it

with us. We need to invite our neighbors and extended community inside our church, so more people can enjoy vocals & instrumentalists together. St. Stephen's can be the "other" platform for them, where they feel welcome, and share their music. Maybe WE just might be able to help THEM out! I will be forming a small steering committee for this purpose. We must make our church for others to enjoy. The fun has already begun. Vision, Mission, Evangelism, and Outreach, and God will be our guide. We will present findings at a latter date.

Yours In Christ & Mission ~ Gary

Sunday Helpers Needed

- ~ Setting up Communion
- ~ Greeting people
- ~ Reading the scripture lessons
- ~ Hosting Coffee



“Reaching into the Woods”

Women’s Retreat

March 7-9

TBD Saturday only option

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and connect with other women in a beautiful, peaceful setting. We’ll gather for reflection, community, and renewal.

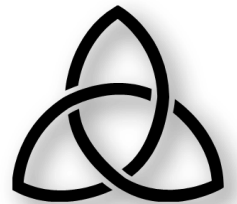
Through inspiring conversations, meaningful activities, and time to reflect, you’ll leave feeling refreshed and ready to embrace what’s next. It’s a chance to pause, grow, and connect with other women under the Redwoods .

Trinity Tuesday

(Pub Theology / Discussion)

February 4 at 6:30pm

(First Tuesday of the month)



Place: Discretion Brewing 41st Ave.

1 HOUR 1 QUESTION 1 DRINK (3-in-1)

One old time Puritan definition of theology- “the science of living blessedly for ever. Blessed life arises from the knowledge of God.” Christians maintain that our best life possible is one that is lived in relationship with the living God. The “blessed life” is based on the “knowledge of God.” It is this knowledge that theology helps to provide. What do YOU think? Kathy Allen 430-6359 for more info.

*** Come : Share — Ponder — build community ***

Upcoming Events:

February Benevolence Offering— Association of Faith communities—Rotating Shelter & Safe Spaces

- Feb. 4 Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm Discretion Brew.
- Feb. 4 Boy Scouts 6:00 pm
- Feb. 5 Preschool Chapel 10:15
- Feb. 6 Bible Study 11 am & 7:30 pm
- Feb. 6 & 20 Women's Café Group now Thursdays
6:00 pm Fellowship Hall
- Feb. 6 Mens beginner A.A. Thurs. 7:00 pm Fireside
- Feb. 7 A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall
- Feb. 9 Valentine delivery to Seniors
- Feb. 11 Council 6:30 pm
- Feb. 11 Knitters Guild 6:15 pm
- Feb. 13 MMRR Circle 10:30
- Feb. 16 No Sunday School
- Feb. 17 Embroiders Guild 7:00 pm
- Feb. 20 Knitters Guild 10 am
- March 7-9 Women's Retreat Mt. Cross

Pastor's Office Hours: Weds. & Thur. 10:00—1:00 pm

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."

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.
2500 Soquel Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062
831/476-4700 FAX 831/476-3918
email: office@ststephenslutheran.org
Web Address: www.ststephenslutheran.org
Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. Noon—5:00 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
Church Musician: Gary Roberts
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens
Custodian: John Hopping
Videographers: Kent Madsen & Barb Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539