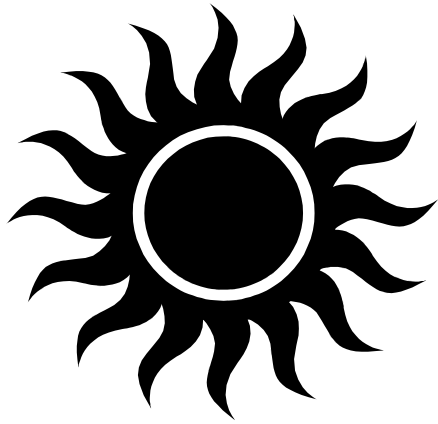
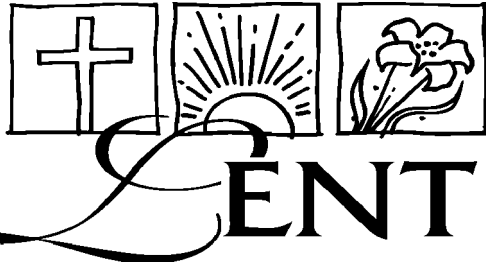


St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

*Celebrating 62
Years of Ministry
March 2017*



March 1 – Ash Wednesday
11:30am & 7:15pm Worship

Every Wednesday during Lent March 8 – April 5

We have TWO opportunities to gather:

Worship – 11:30 am, Soup lunch – 12:30

Soup Supper – 6:30 pm, Worship @ 7:15pm (No Soup Ash Wed)

These worship gatherings are designed to help us reflect more deeply on our walk of faith with God. The Season of Lent calls all Christians into a time of fasting, prayer and helping those in need in order to help us prepare for the miracle of the Resurrection at Easter. We do need more hosts for soup lunches, so please sign up if you can help. Supper sign ups look great, thank you.

*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America*

2500 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, California 95062

Phone—831-476-4700 — Fax—831-476-3918

www..ststephenslutheran.org

email—office@ststephenslutheran.org

Rev. James P. Lapp, Pastor

Ministers: The Entire Congregation
Church Council: Pres. — Mark Linder V.P.— Jay Johnston
Secretary - Robbin Heppe Treasurer— Ron Buswell
Jill Adachi, David Balogh, Connie Creel,
Jeanette Dawson, and Renee Rice.
Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts
Sunday School: Candace Anderson & Robbin Heppe
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens
Custodian: John Hopping
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30am—2:30pm
Pastor's Office Hours—Wed. & Thurs. 10:00 am –1:00 pm
Pastor's Cell Phone: 325-9095 (Call Pastor between 9 am and 5 pm, M-Thurs.
or anytime for emergencies. Please only give to church members)

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, and invite people to share the joy of the Spirit.

VISION STATEMENT

To become an energetic, inclusive, multigenerational, multicultural, missional community that offers, hope, joy, worship, service, play, and life as disciples of Jesus Christ



from Pastor Jim...

With the completion of St. Stephens's Senior Housing coming soon, your Church Council is now seeking God's will for what is next. Our President, Mark Linder is organizing a "Sustainable St. Stephen's Task Force". This group of 8-10 people will be working with our COPA organizer Tim McManus who, with the IAF (Industrial Areas Foundation), has developed a congregational development process that strengthens the relationships within the church toward a healthier future.

The time is right for us to start asking the question: "What kind of church will we be in the coming years?" At the Church Council level, we have learned a great deal about one way, through our study of the book Slow Church: Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus. Now it's time to implement what we have learned by expanding our leadership base with this new Task Force.

I hope that you look forward with us toward this time of renewal and rededication of ourselves to our mission and purpose as a church. It is still not the best of times for churches like ours and we need to address how we can remain a viable and sustainable congregation over the next 5 years. We need to figure out how we will relate to our new neighbors and how we can continue to invite our surrounding community into this beloved community.

May God bless this new effort and may each of us eagerly seek to engage faithfully in it.

February Happenings



March 12
Spring
forward

Sunday Adult Forums 9:30

Chapel with the Pre-Schoolers

Wednesdays at 10:15 am

Knitting Group

Thursdays at 6:45pm

Alcoholics Anonymous

Fridays at 7:00 pm

MMRR Circle

March 9 @ 10:30

Finance Committee

March 10 @ 8:30 am

Women's Café Group

Hiatus during Lent

Church Council

March 13 @ 6:30pm

Child Dev. Center Board

March 27 @ 11:30 am

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

March 28 @ 10:30

Bible Study

Church Council Highlights

1. Devotions from "Slow Church: Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus" focused on the conclusion. We identified the ways that, like in Holy Communion, our church eats together in order to be filled as much spiritually as physically. We thought about how we can share meals with neighbors as way to welcome them into this faith community.

2. Church Council meetings will now take place on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30pm.

3. Officers were elected: President -Mark Linder, Vice Pres.-Jay Johnston, Secretary-Robbin Heppe, Treasurer-Ron Buswell.

4. The open trench (meant for landscaping) in our patio is being rectified so that it can be filled in eventually. ADA regulations require that a certain slope level be achieved and new plans are being submitted to eliminate the trench so that we can have better access to our facilities. New concrete was poured after the sewer line was laid for our new bathroom, which triggered the ADA requirements.

5. Our 800lb. church bell was moved so that it can be placed in a newly designed structure. It will be installed outside of the church entrance on the opposite side of the



*Belated Wishes to
James Russell 2-8*

- 3-2 Nancy Prevedelli
- 3-5 Steven Pond



Chris & Carla Brown, Betty, Colin, Jimi, Brian, Marta, Dustin, Mark, Lisa, John Morgado, Steve, Crystal, Binnie, James & family, Kyle, Cabel & family, Richard, Sandra Eldridge, Margot Wilson, Gretchan, Susan Anderson, Jan, Ross Poulson, Carmen Harper, Adrienne, Kathy, Chad & Claire Haman, Dawn, Margarita, Stephanie Jager, Leslie, Ryan, Joe, Pat & brothers, Justin, Riley, Shelby, Kaitlyn, Daniel, Ryder, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and Our Church Family.

Long Term: Lu Walthart, Shirley Fuqua, Anne Teboe, Tom Blegen, Ed Drews, Jenny Rebecca Phillips, Bobbie Erickson, Becky, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Kim, Brian, Tim, Isaiah, Lance Elliott, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Barry & Barbara, Emma Peterson, Margaret Elkins, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Bonnie Hansen, Karin, Pat Hubbard, Beverly Gilladett, Cathy Lorenzo, Pearl Runquist, Volpi Family, Robe Family, C.J. Muchanic Jr., men and women of Armed

- 3-6 Bev Hickman Ioni
- 3-10 Marshall Bautz
- 3-10 Mark Mabry
- 3-12 Theresa Loback-
Campbell
- 3-18 Keith Slay
- 3-18 Shelby Volpi
- 3-19 Oliver Spires
- 3-20 Peggy Crews
- 3-21 John Schneider
- 3-22 Elizabeth Ba-
logh
- 3-23 Sheila Buswell
- 3-23 Polly Cappel-



- Dean Slay
- 3-27 Chuck Davis

3-24



Child Development Center

February was filled with fun Valentine activities for the children. You can see Valentine hearts decorating the halls and classrooms. A week before the Valentine Party and Exchange we put out a Post Office box with their pictures on it so they can make and give out valentine letters to each other. The children selected from doilies, stickers, and bright colored paper to create their mail. It is fun to check the box for mail! Each child decorated a paper bag in which they passed out the official Valentines on party day. We ate delicious fruit, heart shaped cheese, crackers, and cookies. After snack they sat in a circle and selected one treat while listening to a story. Afterward we sang songs. This group was the first that gave unanimous applause after I read the story and sang a silly song about Mr. and Mrs. Valentine! Fortunately, we could play outside after all the excitement! At SSCDC we enjoy keeping our holiday gatherings traditional and simple as our youngsters are being born into a much busier and faster paced world.

As we approach spring, we begin to think about butterfly metamorphosis, silk worms, egg hatching, and gardening. This year we must wait and see how long the rain season will last. We have several projects on the playground such as painting to give it a fresh look once it clears up.

UCSC has begun a third study with our students. We enjoy working in partnership with the university to study how children's social understanding develops through every day interactions with other children, such as play, cooperation, discussions, and conflicts. Major changes occur in social understanding in the preschool years. Our goal is to give young children the social emotional tools they will need for Elementary School.

Our annual March Fundraiser dinner is cancelled for 2017. We decided our tried and true volunteers deserve a much-needed break. We are also exploring options for a 2018 dinner fundraiser that incorporates more parent volunteers. In the meantime, if you would like to support our school in another way please contact Kathy!

Warmly, Kathy Berens 462-4453
kathy@sscdcpreschool.com

THE SOUND OF MUSIC IN OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERINGS

While learning, in February, about God's commandments to us: to love God with our mind, heart & soul and to love our neighbor as ourselves, music has become a beautiful sound on Sundays! Candace found chimes that have been in a church closet for sometime and we decided to let the children experience making the chimes "sing". We played our first song last week for the congregation.

March & April will be centered on Lent & Easter, filled with learning and fun filled activities & snacks.

As always, parents thank you for bringing your children to church. These young hearts & souls are such a joy to spend Sunday mornings with. May their spirits continue to spread love, kindness & God's word to the world!

Peace ~
Robbin A. Heppe



Treasurer Notes...

Actual income was ahead of budget thanks to one of our families paying all their planned donations for the year.

Budget Information

	January Actual	January Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Net
Contribution Income	\$16,892	\$13,000	\$16,892	\$13,000	\$3,892
Facility Use Income	\$483	\$583	\$483	\$583	-\$100
Investment Income	\$3,813	\$3,333	\$3,814	\$3,333	\$480
Misc. Income	\$0.45	\$0.00	\$0.45	\$0.00	\$0.45
Total Income	\$21,190	\$16,917	\$21,190	\$16,917	\$4,273
Expenses	\$20,482	\$18,906	\$20,482	\$18,906	\$1,576
Net	\$708	-\$1,989	\$708	-\$1,989	\$2,697

Contribution income was 130% of budget in January and also for the year.

Investment income was 114% of budget in January and also for the year. Investment income was 114% of budget in January and also for the year.

Expenses were above budget in January primarily because of the additional roof repair that was done in late December.

Also, expenses were planned to be higher than income in January because we budgeted to pay part of our insurance in January instead of December.

Thanks to everyone for your support,
Ron Buswell

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

<u>2017 through January</u>	<u>Donations</u>	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$550.00	
SS Scholarships	\$0.00	
Live Oak Resource Center	\$0.00	
Habitat for Humanity	\$0.00	
Mt. Cross	\$0.00	
World Hunger	\$20.00	
Homeless Service Center	\$0.00	
CLU/PLTS	\$0.00	
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$11.00	
SS CDC	\$40.00	
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0.00	
Lutheran World Relief	\$0.00	
COPA	\$0.00	
ELCA Synod	\$300.00	
Total	\$921.00	% of Target
2017 Benevolence Target	\$7,637.00	12.1%

Special Funds for the Organ, Piano, Hearing Impaired, Solar, Bathroom and Landscaping

	<u>January</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Needed to Payoff</u>
Organ	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$1,683.91	
Piano	\$20.00	\$50.00	\$342.00	
Hearing Impaired				
Equipment	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$220.00	
Solar Electric				
Payback	\$105.32	\$105.32		\$26,235.38
Narthex				
Bathroom	\$65.00	\$65.00		\$13,585.94
Landscaping	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15.00	
Sound System	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	

Narthex Bathroom All work has been completed. The total cost was \$29,990.94.

Worship and Music Committee

Meeting held Jan. 26, 2017

Attendees- Gary Roberts, Bonnie Bell, Barbara Rice, Candace Anderson

Devotions --Pastor Jim unable to make meeting due to flooding at Mt Cross **PLAN:** Next meeting-- Jim

Review Purpose of WM Comm.- Established in 2013-- All-- These were reviewed. It was felt that they covered everything we should be doing as our focus. **PLAN:** Done annually at first meeting of the year. Approved.

Liturgy- Lent and mid-week service-- Jim, Connie Suzanne. All 3 were unable to attend this meeting. Ash Wednesday is March 1. **PLAN:** Will schedule meeting of liturgy sub-committee.

500th Anniversary of the Reformation- Any additional activities we'd like to do this year? Reference book. Book has not been seen by half of the group. Connie left several "tabs" in the book including one for mid-week Lenten service. **PLAN :** Barb to schedule meeting of liturgy sub-committee. Book needs to be circulated to all members-- still researching options.

WM Committee GOALS 2017— Group Review

National Day of Prayer: Barb/Candace update-- Barb created a 5-10 minute presentation now available; she gave presentation to Messiah Lutheran Church Mission Comm. Pastor Rick will contact Barb re: their commitment to National Day of Prayer. **PLAN:** Pastor Schmidt and Connie has contact for the Siek. Candace will contact Christ Lutheran; Temple Beth Al; Barb to try and reach Inman from the San Jose Muslim Center or ask Pastor Schmidt for help. Still need to call- Susan Berkelow from Watsonville; and Calvary Lutheran- Wat.

Organ Maintenance and Improvement (renamed): Organ Fund— Gary Organ booklet will try to get completed by end of year; will include photos and history of the organ. Will make this a team goal for 2017 and begin in Jan. 2017. Areas to share- History of the organ and organists, pictures of the pipes. \$2500 in organ fund and fundraise as needed. **PLAN:** Check with Leslie regarding the history of the organ. Other history- check with Pastor Schmidt and Barbara Johnston.

Cover for Piano in Fellowship Hall --- Suzanne update-- Piano arrived first of January. Needs cover-She has emailed Jeffery with model of piano. **PLAN:** Candace will provide temporary cover ASAP.

Building of new bathroom in Narthex- Candace Bathroom in Narthex completed. Needs free standing heater. Cabinets in choir loft for Altar Guild completed **PLAN:** No further action. Inspector coming today for the bathroom.

Sunday school decorate sanctuary - Discussion with Candace re: SS provide decorations to

(Worship and Music continued)

Additional worship opportunities -- Barb completed tally of Congregational Fall survey. Members were asked a question if they would attend a service at another time. Only 4 positive responses for people who would attend a service on a Friday or Saturday PM. Summary sheet attached to agenda for review.** **PLAN:** Will table this project due to lack of congregational interest.

Christmas evening services-- Review requested by Gary---- Everything went very well- solos were wonderful. Need to start planning at the Aug 3 meeting. Nativity in narthex-- any comments? looked very nice; good location. Maybe update services-- focus on 5 (children's) and 7 pm (adult). **PLAN:** Maybe update services with focus on 5 PM (children's) and 7 pm (adult). SS create a back drop for the Nativity Scene?

Advent Wreath Lighting- Barb follow up-- --This was very positively received by members. Thank you Bonnie for locating this service on line. **PLAN:** Barb to schedule Liturgy Subcommittee meeting to work on Lent and mid-week Lent services

Additions to agenda - NONE

Meeting closed - the Lord's Prayer.

For next Agenda— any special activities during 500th anniversary of Reformation; Organ Fund; Congregational survey summary (if available)

****Additional worship opportunities for people who work, other than on Sunday**--- Barb--from Congregation Fall Survey. Summary handout. Only 4 positive responses for people who

Additional question: Would you come to a service other than on a Sunday morning?			
Sat PM - Yes 3	Maybe- 2	Sat PM No - 7	Didn't have either question - 2
Fri PM - Yes 1	NONE	Fri PM No - 9	Left both questions blank- 6
TOTAL 4		TOTAL 16	

would attend a service on a Friday or Saturday PM. Will table this project due to lack of congregational interest. Of the 21 who turned in the timer and talent sheets:



STEWARDS OF THE MONTH:

These folks did an amazing job preparing, serving, and cleaning at the Salvation Army Winter Shelter Project:

- Jan Wagner, Jean Calvert, Martin Nehring, James, Judy, and Ellie Russell, Janet Slay, Joel Hurttgam, Rebecca Wickham, Eve Roberson, Barbara Rice, Robert Bartee, Jeanette Dawson, Suzanne Duval, Bill and Margaret Schraft, Kim Frey, Connie Creel, Judy Weber, Jocelyn Weber, Charles and Sandra Eldridge, Mary Kelly, Lu Sluiter, Jill and Wayne Adachi**

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

Live Oak Family Resource Center

This valuable community center serves many in our local neighborhood and is one of our COPA partners as we seek to meet the needs of families by organizing for changes and new opportunities. Below is an excerpt from the 'Thank You Letter' we received last year. It reminds us about the importance of our partnership with places who are serving the more vulnerable ones in our community.

"Thank you so much for your generous donations. Your contribution has already gone to work providing vital services for the Live Oak Families, including connecting them with health insurance and providing free summer sports leagues for kids." Kate Hinnenkamp, Director

March Adult Forums — Every Sunday @ 9:30

"How Jesus Became God"

a DVD series from The Great Courses

by Prof. Bart Ehrman, Princeton

El Salvador Sister Parish News

Bargetto Wine Tasting Event - Save the Date!

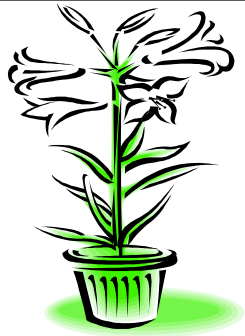
Come and join us for a relaxing spring afternoon tasting wine at Bargetto Winery in Soquel on **Saturday, April 29th, 3:00 to 5:00 pm**. There is a new winemaker at Bargetto, Olivia Teutschel, and we'll be tasting some of the results of her efforts. There will be food, music, drawings, updates on our work, and great conversation. Please stay tuned for details. We hope to see you there!

Water is Life

Water is vital for our faith and life. We celebrate the water of baptism during the season of Epiphany at St. Stephen's; water has also been an important part of our work in El Salvador. The first money we raised was used to secure the original water supply for the communities of Guillermo Ungo, to purchase the land around their spring for their use. We continued with funding for repair and improvement of the water distribution system. Today we are continuing the work begun by Trinity Presbyterian Church to provide a clean, reliable water supply for the communities of El Pilar and Bendición De Dios. We provided funds to help the community purchase the land immediately around one of their wells to secure it for their use. We also provided funds for materials to build an enclosure around the pump to control access to that water. The community has asked us for \$1,000 to build an enclosure around the second well, as people outside the community are pumping water at night, often in large quantities. We are confirming the details and will most likely be moving forward with this project. We are also celebrating the success of the initial phase of our composting latrine project in these communities - to help keep their water clean and safe. The tenth latrine was completed last week! This completes the initial phase, which proceeded after community education and planning. The community originally asked for 81 latrines, so there is much more work to do.

Thrivent Choice Dollars are available!

If you are a Thrivent Financial benefit member, you may have Thrivent Choice Dollars available to designate to your church or charity (on the Thrivent qualifying list) of your choice. St. Stephen's, as well as the St. Stephen's Child Development Center, are on the list. Those Choice Dollars need to be designated by March 31. It is easy to do—just a few clicks on the Thrivent web site, or a phone call to the Benefit Department at 1-800-847-4836. If you need additional help, call Sheila Buswell at 438-9397.



Easter Lilies

Sale to benefit Lutheran Campus ministry

- ~ Make \$15 checks payable to St. Stephen's
- ~ Memo line "Lily"
- ~ List your dedication on the sign up sheet

You may take home your Lily after the second service on Easter.

MMRR Circle - Thursday, March. 9 at 10:30

Join us with Guest Speaker Ron Buswell with information on Habitat for Humanity. Bring a sandwich for lunch after the meeting. Dessert and coffee will be provided.

Bible Study continues with Rev. Bonnie Bell

St Stephen's Lutheran Church
2500 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

**POST OFFICE:
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
February 23, 2017**

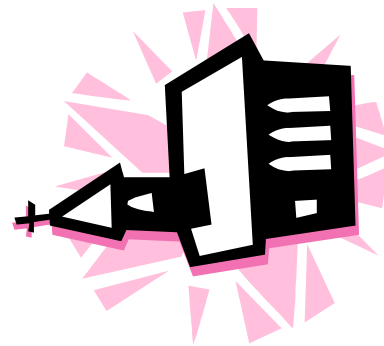
And Coffee Fellowship

10:30 am Worship & Children's Church

09:30 am Adult Forum & Choir Practice

8:15 am Worship Service

ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Non-Profit Org.
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Santa Cruz, CA 95060-9998