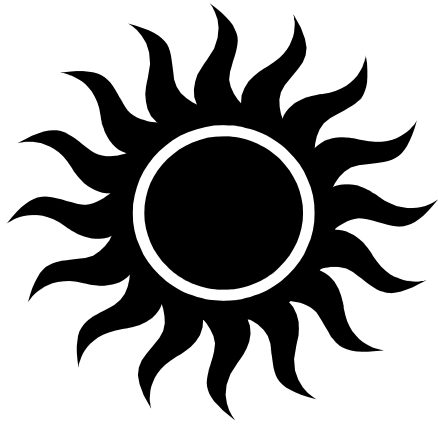


St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

*Celebrating 62
Years of Ministry
May 2017*

*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)



National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 4

8:00 am — 6:00 pm

National Day of Prayer, held on the first Thursday of May, has been observed annually since 1952 and invites people of all faiths to prayer. The church will be open from 8 am to 6 pm to offer a place for people to come to pray, to meditate, or to have a moment for silent reflection. All are welcome. Volunteers will serve two hour shifts throughout the day to greet guests to the church. Coffee/tea and cookies will be offered in the narthex. 476-4700

SUMMER WORSHIP

One Service - 9:30am

Sundays, May 28 - Sept. 3

(Memorial Day Weekend - Labor Day Weekend)

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

“Annually, the Alumni Board of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago confers the seminary’s Distinguished Alumni Awards upon individuals whose commitment to Jesus Christ and partnership in ministry have been exemplary. In this regard, it is my great joy and delight to officially inform you that you have been selected as the recipient of the 2017 **Excellence in Parish Ministry Award**, which celebrates your work as a rostered leader in a parish setting. I am delighted you were chosen for this honor and look forward to your visit to LSTC in October for the Awards Ceremony.” - Dr.

James Nieman, President

Always nice to get a letter like that in the mail! I am very surprised and humbled by this honor, especially given the many, many other deserving colleagues who have graduated from my seminary over its long history. I graduated in 1994 as the second person to complete their Dual Degree program of a Masters of Divinity from LSTC and a Masters of Social Work from the University of Chicago. I’m still not sure how I was nominated or chosen, but I am very grateful.

In many ways I am sharing this honor with Leslie, my partner in life and in ministry, who keeps me organized and handles so much of our church’s ministry with such grace and care. I also share it with all of you and those who have been a part of St. Stephen’s for the 20 years we have all served together.

The Bible verse I raised up when I was first called here was John 15:8 - “This is to God’s glory, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.” Indeed we have borne much fruit together, following Jesus in so many ways. Our commitment to justice work in our local community through COPA, our justice work in El Salvador, and our justice work through the use of our land for low-income housing in the most unaffordable county in the USA, I’m sure had something to do with this award. May we continue to bear this kind of valuable fruit that makes a very big

May Happenings

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

National Day of Prayer

May 4 @ 8:00 am—6:00 pm

Synod Assembly

May 4-6 Fresno

Finance Committee

May 5 @ 8:30 am

Church Council

May 8 @ 6:30pm

MMRR Circle

May 11 @ 10:30

Women’s Café Group

May 17 @ 6:30 pm

Child Dev. Center Board

May 22 @ 11:30 am

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

May 23 @ 10:30

Bible Study

May 23 @ 10:00 am

Church Council Highlights

1. Devotions from “Reclaiming the “L” Word: Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core” by Kelly Fryer, focused on where to begin this endeavor. It begins with us asking who we are and what makes us want to be a part of God’s church. We need to spend less time on the “how” to be the church and more time on the core reasons we are part of it. Are we so confident in God’s love as the source of our lives, that it becomes contagious for others?

2. This devotion leads right into our efforts to ask ourselves what it will take for us to have a sustainable future as a church. Our Sustainability Group led by Mark Linder, Connie Creel, Pastor Jim and COPA Lead Organizer, Tim McManus has met with the 8 others from our church, and will meet again soon. This group will spend time preparing to engage our congregation in some serious conversations about what kind of future we *want* to have instead of the slow decline we have been experiencing the last 10 years or so.

3. The Ariose Singers, a choral group that our Music Director Suzanne Duval is the Lead Soprano for, will be rehearsing in our sanctuary on Tuesday nights. They will occasionally sing in worship on some special Sundays. They are fantastic! Thanks,



5-1 Matteo Salandro
 5-3 Margaret Schraft
 5-5 Kathleen Allen
 5-5 Kent Madsen
 5-6 Cheryl Curry
 5-6 Renee Robe

5-7 Ross Johnston
 5-9 Lois Meeker
 5-10 Julie Mouw
 5-12 Troy Dauler
 5-15 Jesse McMilin
 5-18 Jordan Ayers
 5-18 Rebecca Balogh
 5-19 Laney Johnson
 5-20 Aria Bartee
 5-22 Nicolas Mitchell
 5-23 Don Fuqua
 5-24 Travis Awe
 5-25 Trent Hopping
 5-26 Andrew Davis
 5-26 Epimenio
 Valencia

5-27 Mark Brouse

5-27 Tyleigha
 Brouse- Jones

5-
 27



Barbara Rice

5-27 Mary Robe
 5-28 Mitch Ronning



Short Term: Eugene Gross, Family of Shirley Fuqua, Family of Mary Jane Hoch, Stephen Shafffer (kids & mothers), Edna Lindquist, Taiyo, Don, Margot Wilson, Erker Family, Laura Hayes Meerman, Jean Petersen, Lois, Scott Trippel, Oskar & Kasper, Stephen Shaffer,

Jack, Randall Morgan, Benjamin Riordan, Chris & Sandy, Keith & Noelle, Dee Dee S., Chris S., the Massa Family, Pat Ferronte, Chris & Carla Brown, John Morgado, David, Joseph, Laura, Mom, Caitlin, Stefan, Kevin, Babe, Pam, Andrew, Mark, Linda, Polk Family, Rossi Family, Scott Trippel, Kyle, Fred Allen, Sandra Eldridge, Margot Wilson, Gretchan, Susan Anderson, Elliott Family, Jan, Ross Poulson, Carmen Harper, Adrienne, Kathy, Chad & Claire Haman, Dawn, Margarita, Stephanie Jager, Leslie, Bryden, 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, Anne Teboe, Tom Blegen, Ed Drews, Vi Olly, Mike Jugan, Jenny Rebecca Hodge, Bobbie Erickson, Becky, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Brouse Family, 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 Forces, and the Youth of today.



Child Development Center

I had the opportunity to meet Gabriela Alvarez who works for Mid Penn and will be the Senior Services Coord. for S.S. Senior Housing (SSSH). We quickly realized that we will make a very good team in developing an intergenerational program, which has been a longtime dream of mine. Blended activities discussed were attending/helping with our annual fundraising breakfast/dinner, and attending Chapel. I let her know how enthusiastic our congregation is about the SSSH and how long Pastor Jim and many others worked to realize this dream. I also let her know that our congregation is welcoming regarding worship and fellowship gatherings. She was touched by the congregation's enthusiasm and support having observed how many members showed up for the groundbreaking ceremony. I am grateful for her partnership and trust we will become good supportive neighbors.

I also met with Janine Canada retired Small Business Advisor at Cabrillo who noticed SSSH and offered to meet with me. She was instrumental in guiding us through our first business year as we assumed ownership of the school. She ran an intergenerational program combining activities at her preschool and nearby senior center. I shared this info with Gabriela and it set a nice starting point for our meeting. We have many ideas about how this program could work and the activities we would offer. We both need to investigate the legal parameters regarding Community Care Licensing. We trust that we will create the appropriate guidelines with minimal extra requirements of the seniors once we understand the protocol. For example, some requirements would be a moot point as the seniors will always be accompanied by a teacher.

Regarding a timeline, residents should start to move in soon. They will need an adjustment period to acclimate to the change and settle in. By Gabriela's experience this could take months. I will prepare necessary paperwork to follow licensing guidelines, parent permission/field trip forms, a welcoming letter, and survey time and talents in July. Gabriela will get to know the residents and assess the interests of the seniors. In the meantime, I will visit and get to know the residents to become a friendly face on campus. We will discuss senior citizens with our children as curriculum. We discussed a possible picnic lunch gathering in August. Activities will start no sooner than September. However, depending on how the seniors are adjusting and where their interest is it may be delayed until timing is appropriate. We would like the children to parade on Halloween, and sing Christmas carols in December.

I gave Gabriela a tour of our campus and introduced her to the teachers. She will give me a tour when she is allowed on the construction site. We did discuss that the raised planter beds, garbage dumpster, and tree placement is different than the original plan presented to us. We agreed that we need to wait and see the completion of the grounds so we know what we are working with regarding activities on their part of the property. This is very exciting!! I will continue to keep you posted.

Sunday School Delight

Christ is Risen – He is Risen indeed!

April has been filled with the joyful spirit of the children learning about Lent and then celebrating the true meaning of Easter on Sunday with a bountiful **26 children** at church, finding the Resurrection Eggs during the Children's sermon, telling the story and then participating in many fun filled arts and craft activities with yummy snacks!!!! **Thank you to Leslie and Marla for the extra help and Candace for the fantastic 'prep-work' in setting up the activity stations. And to Kirk for leading the older children with a meaningful lesson. A beautiful Sunday indeed.**

May will focus on the Reformation. **May 21st, 2017 will conclude our Sunday School year with a review of the year's lessons, Pentecost and fun filled crafts and snacks.**

Parents thank you for continuing to bring your children to church! Each Sunday spending time with these lively, bubbly, intelligent and shining souls is so wonderful knowing that their spirits are spreading love, kindness and God's word to the world.

Peace.

Robbin A. Heppe
and Candace Anderson



Treasurer Notes...

Budget Information

Mar-17

	March Actual	March Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Net
Contribution Inc	\$12,062	\$14,600	\$39,186	\$40,600	-\$1,414
Facility Use Income	\$992	\$583	\$2,208	\$1,750	\$458
Investment Income	\$3,033	\$3,333	\$10,188	\$10,000	\$188
Miscellaneous Inc	\$0.47	\$0.00	\$1.34	\$0.00	\$1.34
Total Income	\$16,087	\$18,517	\$51,583	\$52,350	-\$767
Expenses	\$17,434	\$17,293	\$53,755	\$52,730	\$1,026
Net	-\$1,347	\$1,223	-\$2,172	-\$380	-\$1,792

Contribution income was only 83% and investment income was 91% of budget in March.

For 2017 we are just slightly below budget on income but contributions have only been about 80% of budget over the past two months.

Expenses were essentially on budget in March but above budget for the year since we paid for the roof repair in January.

Thanks to everyone for your support ~ Ron Buswell



Women's Build Week - May 9-13

You are invited to volunteer at Habitat for Humanity during the week of May 9-13. We will be working at the Los Esteros site just off Rodriguez from 8AM to 2PM. We need at least 50 women volunteers during the week to meet our goal. Men are welcome to come

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING
April 6, 2017

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

<u>2017 through March</u>	<u>Donations</u>	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$550.00	
SS Scholarships	\$315.00	
Live Oak Resource Center	\$185.00	
Habitat for Humanity	\$25.00	
Mt. Cross	\$30.00	
World Hunger	\$20.00	
Homeless Service Center	\$0.00	
CLU/PLTS	\$0.00	
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$78.00	
SS CDC	\$120.00	
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0.00	
Lutheran World Relief	\$25.00	
COPA	\$500.00	
ELCA Synod	\$1,135.00	
Total	\$2,983.00	% of Target
2017 Benevolence Target	\$8,175.00	36.5%

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

March 2017	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ \$5.00	\$33.00	\$1,696.81
Piano \$0.00	\$50.00	\$170.00
Hearing Impaired		
Equipment \$10.00	\$30.00	\$230.00
Solar Electric		
Payback \$224.23	\$448.85	\$25,891.85
Narthex Bathroom \$75.00	\$150.00	\$13,500.94
Landscaping \$0.00	\$0.00	\$15.00
Sound System \$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00

Agenda item	Discussion
1. Devotions	Pastor Jim lead us in devotions from "Reaching for the Rainbows" a resource he used from with youth and camp days; church and it's seasons. Messages for Advent, Epiphany, Good Friday, Easter--- we come out of death and into life. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit liberates to free & love others. We are the Church Triumphant & are commissioned to His work.
2. Recorder	Candace-- thank you
3. Goals for 2017	
National Day of Prayer	Candace lead sub-committee--update-- Meeting held 4/1. Candace, Barb, Kent, Connie. Pastor Jim, Connie and Kent will be attending the Synod Assembly. Decision to scale down event to being open from 8am to 6pm, no service. No other Pastor is unavailable. Refreshments and Lighting of candles will be made available. Candace will have sign up for 2 hr slots beginning this Sunday; handout for community distribution. There will be a community breakfast @ 7—8 am sponsored by the city.
Organ Booklet	Gary/Barb-- 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. Lots of emails and gathering of information; input from Barb's brother -in-law Gary Toops. Final list of organist included. Others have contributed to the history of the organ.
Organ Maintenance and Improvement (renamed)	Organ Fund — Gary not here today but sent an email with updates. Areas to be covered-- History of the organ and organists, pictures of the pipes. \$1600 in organ fund and fund-raise as needed. Tuning once/year included in church budget.
Cover for Piano in Fellowship Hall	Suzanne update-- Piano has temporary cover. Suzanne reviewed letter from Jeffery and his recommendations. Suzanne asked to write a letter to Council reviewing these recommendations. We would request full funding, or we would fund-raise, or continue to use the sheet on this piano. UPDATE --Connie presented letter to Council. They voted and decided to use the balance of the piano fund (\$170) and designate monies raised from the Easter breakfast for the piano cover.

Congregational Survey	Barb -- Review of these surveys is an annual goal of WM Comm. and completed by Barb--- preliminary report; 21 turned in with a few new ones. (33 in 2016) Barb contacted members on 2016 survey and updated list.
Sunday school decorate Sanctuary	Discussion with Candace re: SS provide decorations to adorn the sanctuary for Reformation Sunday. Update--unable
Psalm read regularly	Being read regularly at 8:15 service
Bell tower	Updates; Jim-- Design underway. Will have structured fence around it. Asked about use Rose window from Light of Life-- not able to be used for this structure.
Easter lilies	Connie --has ordered plants; taking plant orders from members; will pick up plants and keep at her house so the blooms open
Dedications	Dedication of new upright piano and bathroom-- updates-- Jim
Hymn sing	Next date 4/30-- need to request songs the 9/16 and 23. Getting good feedback from members-- especially learning new ones.
4. 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. -	Planning for next year as it's the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Confirmation will take place on Reformation Sunday. Kent has book today. Ideas--- use bulleting stuffers or send in the newsletter; Graphics for power point; Pastor will do an adult class on the Reformation.
5. Additions to agenda	1. New campus site map- Candace is working on this to include changes to Narthex for booklet kept in the pew. 2. Electronic media-- Kent is working on this along with Kathy Berens. Would like to put the organ history information, the site map and possible tape sermons on the web site. 3. Wheels to sanctuary piano-- Suzanne-- these had been at her house but now they are in the seat of the piano.

NEXT MEETINGS---- 2017 —1st Thursdays, 9:30 AM. ---- 6/1, 10/5, 8/3, 12/7
HYMN sing dates 2017 Hymn sing dates for 2017: 4/30, 7/30, 10/22, 12/31.

KSBW JEFFERSON AWARD

Outstanding local volunteer **B. Scott Caldwell**

For the past 34 years, Scott has devoted his time to the Boy Scouts of America, serving his community as a Scout Master at St. Stephen's. He has created hands-on life experiences for scouts, fostering the development of leadership skills and shaping their character. He has guided over 47 (working on 50) young men to achieve the honor of Eagle Scout. Scott has perfected his unique "boy-run" troop style, in which the boys plan and run their own meetings, plan meals, plan outings and learn about leadership. Scott has spent years setting his troop up for success with his oversight of the day to day operations. This style of troop takes a lot of organization and dedication to ensure the scout is in control of their own experience. In the scouting community of the Monterey Bay, Scott is a living legend.

Scott also works with the Native American Community and teaches scouting youth about the Native American Culture. Scott often attends Native American Pow Wows with interested scouts held throughout the Central Coast and has been known to participate by dancing and drumming. Scott is also a vigil member of the Order of the Arrow (OA), an honor society of scouts and scout leaders that focus on serving other and their community. Scott's pet project associated with the OA's Saklan Lodge is leading the White Bear Singers & Dancers. This group performs at the many Cub Scout Bridgings' held each year as well as other scout related events.

Scott Caldwell and scouting go hand and hand. Scott is always making sure that the scouts have the best experiences possible.

May Forums — Sundays @ 9:30

May 7, 14, 21

"How Jesus Became God: A Historian's Perspective
Continuing the DVD series from The Great Courses

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

MAY: Mt. Cross Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

“Igniting Passionate Faith, Equipping Servant Leaders
& Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ”

Mt Cross has brought so much joy to our young campers for 69 years. Many of our children at St Stephens have enjoyed our outdoor ministry. Many of those children are grown adults sitting next to you right now. This Months benevolence is for Mt Cross. Let’s remember them in our prayers. Thank You for your continued prayers and support!

Mt Cross Ranger - Don Smawley



Pastor Greg Ronning Installed at First Lutheran in Fullerton, CA

Mary-Martha / Ruth-Rebecca Circle

Thursday, May 11 at 10:30 am

There will be a brief business meeting followed
by our “potluck” salad luncheon.
This is our last meeting before the summer break.

Women’s Café Group

Wed, May 17 at 6:30 pm

Come, share a meal, devotions & fellow-
ship.
More info 476-4700

Bible Study

with **Rev. Bonnie Bell**

Tuesday, May 23 at 10:00 am
Fireside Rm.

All women & men are welcome!



Sister Parish News

The deadline for this newsletter falls well before the date of the Bargetto Wine Tasting Event, so I won't be able to provide a recap of the results until the next newsletter. In place of specific Santa Cruz al Salvador news, I would like to highlight an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) initiative, AMMPARO. The following information is from elca.org:

"Dios es nuestro amparo y fortaleza," ("God is our refuge and strength,") - Psalm 46:1

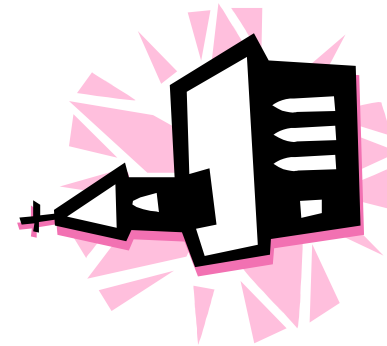
AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany children today and in the future.

The word "amparo" in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA's strategy to Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Due to our connection to companion churches in the region, including companion synod relationships, and existing ministries in the U.S., the ELCA is well-positioned to help ensure that these vulnerable children are protected.

In a holistic, whole church response that connects international and US outcomes, the ELCA has developed this strategy based on the following commitments:

- * Guarantee basic human rights and safety of migrant children and their families;
- * Address the root causes of migration in countries from Central America's Northern Triangle and Mexico and the treatment of migrants in transit;
- * Work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.; and
- * Engage as a church body with all of its companions, affiliates and partners to respond to the migration situation and its causes and to advocate for migrant children and their families.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, the ELCA is called to bear witness to the conditions affecting so many communities and to work to find solutions that will acknowledge the humanity in all of God's children. Join us in making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families.



ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 am Worship Service

10:30 am Adult Forum & Choir Practice

10:30 am Worship & Children's Church

And Coffee Fellowship

NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
April 26, 2017

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

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

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