

**\$CHEDULE** (starting Sept. 11) IT. STEPHEN'S **WOR\$HIP** 

Worship Service MD 8:15

Adult Forum & Choir Practice MD 9:30

Children's Church Worship & WD 10:30

Fellowship And Coffee

NEWSLETTER μΩ ASE August 25, σÖ Õ WAS SENT ON 25, 2016 NOT DELAY

POST

MATE OFFICE

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



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church





Celebrating 62 Years of Ministry September 2016

# Resume 8:15 & 10:30 Worship on Sept. 11

Adult Class and Choir Practice at 9:30 am

# "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday, September 11 Service Project at Mt. Cross 12:00 — Bring your own lunch

Celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. This year's dedicated day of service will mark the 15year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the U.S. As you continue to share God's love with your neighbors, consider thanking and holding in prayer the emergency responders in your area as part of your service.

"The world can be a dangerous place. But there are some who, when disaster strikes, run toward the danger. These are the first responders, firefighters, police and EMTs, who live out their baptismal vocation in service to their communities in times of intense need. They do - ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton God's work with their hands."

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. You work every day to make your community a better place. Let us continue doing this work together in 2016!

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 RobertsPre-School Director:Kathy BerensCustodian: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

# **Monthly Special Benevolence Offering**

## September — Lutheran Campus Ministry

Reaching out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the students, faculty and staff of UC Santa Cruz and CSU Monterey Bay, Lutheran Campus Ministry of the Monterey Bay supports students on their faith journey by providing opportunities for Bible study, prayer, worship, service and fellowship.

## July – Homeless Service Center = \$448

August – C.L.U. and P.L.T.S. = \$395 (as of Aug. 22)

## Annual Women's Retreat

Sept 30—Oct. 2 (or Saturday only)

The Fall Women's Retreat is a long standing tradition at Mt. Cross that offers women a chance for spiritual renewal, fellowship, learning, laughing, fine dining and the beauty of God's creation. This fall, our special speaker will lead us in thought provoking sessions as we explore what it means to trust God's plan and live out faith in the midst of adversity.

**Register by September 3:** \$135.00 Only Saturday: \$85.00 Www.mtcross.org

## September is Lutheran Campus Ministry Month

Greetings from the Board of Lutheran Campus Ministry Monterey Bay! Since the founding of UC Santa Cruz and Cal State University Monterey Bay, we have offered a Lutheran presence on the two campuses. Our Lutheran Campus ministers provide important opportunities for worship services on campus, fellowship activities, rides to church on Sunday. Bible studies, and community service projects. According to research done by Theologian and Religious Studies Professor James Veitch\*, in the early groups of Jesus' Followers, a strong sense of bonding & community is what made Christianity attractive: people from all walks of life learned to accept and trust each other. People could enjoy the care and forgiveness that each offered the other in demonstration of the love and compassion of God. This is a distinctive Lutheran identity. Our campus pastors are reaching out to young adults at a critical time in their lives. Even the smallest amount of support can contribute to positive development and overall well-being. Campus Ministry wants students to feel nurtured and supported by a community of faith. We give students an opportunity to be part of a Christian community – a church home away from home- at a time when they are making decisions that affect the rest of their lives. This sense of belonging can shape how students negotiate the world after college. In times like these, that's important!

The Santa Cruz campus ministry is in transition. Inese Dahl has accepted a new position as Director of Christian Education at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in McAllen, Texas effective September 1. Over the past year, she has been mentoring a new leader named Grace Kistler-Fair who will assume some of her duties. We are relying on volunteers to help with other activities. At CSUMB Rev. Clark Brown, pastor at St. Timothy's Monterey and Vicar Jon Perez, pastor at Epiphany Lutheran & Episcopal Church, Marina continue to provide spiritual support as campus chaplains. They have an office in the Personal Growth & Counseling Center on campus where they meet with students.

#### What can you do to help us?

• We ask you to keep the ministry in your prayers as we restructure for the coming school year.

• In addition to prayers, your financial support is also needed! Funding from the ELCA has been greatly reduced. The support of individuals like you and local congregations here in the Monterey Bay area is what allows this important work to happen. Send your tax-deductible donation to Lutheran Campus Ministry, 801 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Every gift, large or small, helps us continue this ministry.

• Volunteer! Contact Rev. Herb Schmidt or Connie Creel for more information.

• For those of you who are Thrivent members, you can decide where Thrivent Financial will direct their charitable gifting dollars. Please choose to support Lutheran Campus Ministry Monterey Bay with your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Keep the money local! All it takes is a phone call to 1-800-847-4836. They handle all the details.

Thank you! Your support of Lutheran Campus Ministry is very much appreciated!



# from Pastor Jim... Congratulations **St. Stephen's Family!**

Recently, we have received two awards related to our work with Mid-Pen Housing and the development of 40 units of lowincome housing on church land.

First The Silicon Valley Business Journal has awarded us the "Best Structure" award in recognition of the high quality, low-income nature of the new housing being built on the field. There will be a ceremony at the Fairmont in San Jose on Sept. 22.

Second we have also received a Community Assessment Project Community Heroes Award from the United Way of SC County. We received it because we are creating tangible change towards their Goal #2: That by the year 2020 the housing stock in Santa Cruz County will increase by 1,000 units. The award will be presented at a Celebration on Monday, Nov. 21 at 10 am.

I hope you'll be able to join me at these events as we continue our witness of faith in our community. More details will be coming soon. In the meantime, we give all the glory to God who became one of us and showed us that we are to specifically care for those in need. May these awards speak loud and clear that the church cares deeply about its community, and proves it by offering its resources as it "walks the talk."

## September Happenings

<u>Chapel with the Pre-Schoolers</u> Wednesdays at 10:15 am

#### Knitting Group Thursdays at 6:45pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Fridays at 7:00 pm

MMRR Women's Circle Sept. 8 @ 10:30 am

Finance Committee Sept. 9 @ 8:30 am

Church Council Sept. 19 @ 7:00 pm

Women's Café Group Sept. 21 @ 6:30 pm

#### Child Dev. Center Board Sept. 26 @ 11:30 am

Habitat for Humanity Lunches Sept. 27 @ 10:30

#### Bible Study Sept. 27@ 10:00 am

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<u>Mt. Cross Women's Retreat</u> Sept. 30 — Oct. 2

Blessing of the Animals Oct. 2

Please sign up to help on Sundays.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear Sierra Pacific Synod Friends,

October 31, 2017, will be the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, 500 years to the day after Martin Luther, as tradition holds, nailed his 95 Theses to the Wittenberg Church door in 1517. Around the world, across the ELCA, plans are under way for observances and celebrations of this anniversary.

□ September 21 – Founder's Day, "Space Studies and New Theology: God Out of the Box" with astronomer Pamela Gay and theologian Ted Peters. Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, 9 AM. Visit plts.edu for more info.

September 21 – 1st Meeting of Reading Group, "500 Years of Protest" with Rev. Dr. Kirsi Stjerna, Professor of Lutheran History and Theology at PLTS. This gathering follows lunch on Founder's Day at PLTS.

□ October 2016 – 2017 – Monthly Justice Projects. The San Francisco Welcome Ministry will host a justice project in different locations each month throughout the synod and post doit-yourself guides for congregations and youth groups. To learn more, visit our website, www.ref500.info, and click on "Do Justice."

 October 29 – San Francisco Volunteer Day and Concert. "Volunteer Day" activities take place at congregations and non-profits, 10 AM
3 PM, followed by a Jonathan Rundman concert, 4 PM, Grace Lutheran Church, 3201 Ulloa St @ 33rd Ave.

Stay tuned, more to come...

Often our seasons of financial prosperity draw our attention to bigger homes, bigger cars, bigger mutual funds, and bigger TVs, rather than to bigger opportunities for advancing the cause of Christ. The lure of "more" is highly seductive. Giving to God's work is not a habit that starts when we're experiencing material success. It's a habit best cultivated and nurtured in seasons of depending on God through lean times.

Paul points that fact out one chapter earlier when, speaking of the Macedonian church's generosity, he writes, "Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity" (<u>2 Corinthians 8:2</u>). Which all goes to prove that an attitude of joyful generosity starts now, right where you are, with whatever you have. What a joy it is to be addicted to proving that God and His work is worthy of the very best that we have—regardless of how much that might be!

And, speaking of being rich, viewed from a global perspective even the poorest of us have much more than most people do in this world. For reasons best known to God, Christians in our corner of the world have staggering resources by comparison. Which gives us an unusual opportunity to use our wealth to "abound in every good work" (2 Cor. 9:8).

So, when was the last time you viewed your financial resources as a tool to "support your habit"? Welcome to the joy of the generous habit of advancing the cause of Christ with the resources He has generously poured out to you!

#### YOUR JOURNEY...

• How would you gauge your attitude toward giving? Does it tend to reflect more of a "Jesus-tax" attitude, or are you enjoying the privilege of giving with joy?

• How have you seen God's faithfulness in providing for you and your family during seasons of less financial prosperity?

• Why is it sometimes difficult to focus on advancing the kingdom when we are prospering materially? How can our attitudes better reflect Paul's instruction in <u>2 Corinthians 9:8</u>?

## **Supporting Our Habit / Strength for the Journey**

"God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

A businessman buddy of mine has the proverbial "Midas" touch. It seems like every business venture he touches turns to gold. I'll never forget the day he said to me, "Joe, do you know what really drives me?" Since he's one of those driven, type-A personalities, I was really curious about what his answer would be.

"No, what drives you?" I replied.

"Supporting my habit!"

Now I was really curious! "Whoa . . . tell me about it. What habit is that?"

"Advancing the cause of Jesus Christ!" he said with a grin. "I figure that the more money I make, the more I can give to the work of God."

What a great response! His joy, when it comes to his wealth, is to generously distribute as much as he can to advance the cause of Christ.

That's the kind of attitude Paul is talking about in 2 Corinthians 9:8. As he talks to the Corinthian church about that most delicate subject-giving-he offers an important lesson on biblical economics. The type of giving God is looking for, Paul says, is cheerful, out-of-a-joyful heart kind of giving (2 Corinthians 9:7), not begrudging, gotta-pay-my-Jesus-tax kind of giving. And as we pursue the joy that comes from investing in God's work, Paul reminds us that God will also "supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness" (2 Corinthians 9:10).

We need to be careful here. At this point it would be easy to say to ourselves: "Okay, God, if you give me the Midas touch too, I would be happy to give generously to your work." Our assumption is that it would be much easier for us to give if we just had more money. But the lessons of human nature tell us otherwise.



### **September Birthdays**

9-2	Dillon Houser	9-17	Marta Bechhoefer		
9-4	Lana Schneider	9-18	Connie		
9-7	David Balogh		Cunningham		
9-8	Cabel Dawson	9-19	Philip Spires		
9-9	Jill Adachi	9-20	Brian Awe		
9-9	Becky Cramer	9-24	Peter Larson		
9-10	Wayne Adachi	9-26	Hope Coronado		
9-10	David Larson	9-26	Jan Wagner		
9-12	Nikki Creel	9-29	Joanne Freymuth		
9-12	Collin Travers	9-30	Kristen Silva		
9-12	Hannah Travers				
9-14	Elias McMilin	Bela	<b>Belated Wishes</b>		
9-15	Ashley Volpi	7/25 E	7/25 Eve Roberson		



9-16 Rick Oldfield

9-1 Tom & Jeanette Dawson Bill & Margaret Schraft 9-3 Jim Jones & Shay 9-4 Barsabe Ron & Sheila Buswell 9-6 9-6 Jim & Naomi Florin-Gosciminski Ken & Susan Gross 9-6 Brian & Nancy Houser 9-6 9-6 Kevin & Marla Meek

> 9-17 Paul & Connie Cunningham

Short Term: Orville and Edna Lindquist, Colin, Dustin, Jenna, Isabella, Juliana, Nicole, Turzo Family, Margaret, Briana, Juliana, Renee Rice, Sue Fritts, Amanda, John, Debbie, Bob, Sarah, James, Marge, Mark, Linda, Debbie, Joanne, Jacob, Tyler, Crystal, Jan & Jerry, Pedro, Jondi &

Bill, Daniel, Ray, DeMaria, Richard, Lois Jensen, Bella Rodoni, Tristan, Nydia, Katrina, Lina, Mateo, Kasa Family, Harden Family, Taiyo, Noriko, Katrina, Sandra Eldridge, Margot Wilson, Gretchan, Vi Olly, Marc, Susan Anderson, Jan, Ross Poulson, Carla & Chris Brown, Carmen Harper, Adrienne, Kathy, Chad & Claire Haman, Dawn, Margarita, Stephanie Jager, Darrell, Patricia Ness, Sherry, Leslie, Ryan, Joe, Pat, Justin, Riley, Shelby, Kaitlyn, Daniel, Ryder, Linda Phillips, Shirley Fugua, Mt. Cross Staff, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and Our Church Family. Long Term: Ed Drews, Jenny Rebecca Phillips, Bobbie Erickson, Becky, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Lance Elliott, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Nathan, Barry & Barbara, Dee, Emma Peterson, Margaret Elkins, Mike Jugan, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Bonnie Hansen, Karin, Lu Walthart, Pat Hubbard, Beverly Gilladett, Cathy Lorenzo, Mickayla, Pearl Runguist, Volpi Family, Robe Family, C.J. Muchanic Jr., men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.





## St. Stephen's Child Development Center

It is the beginning of an exciting new year for our preschool! Summer wrapped up with some bittersweet farewells. Cora, Mackenzie, Lucas, Isabell, Vincent, Matthew and Vivienne, some have been with us for 3 years have left for their Kindergarten adventure. It was hard to put on a brave face as tears flowed. I told each child, "You should be proud of all you have learned here as I am proud of you. Although it is sad to part I will always be with you inside your heart and will love you always. I felt it was better to show them support and affection to minimize their fear and sadness. During our last Yoga, our butterfly flew over all of the elementary schools as we named who was to attend where. During circle time Lucas said, Yes, it is sad but it is also kind of nice." Well put!

Our staff enjoyed our first retreat meeting in August at the Crowsnest. Each received the book, "How to Talk so Children Will Listen and How to Listen so children will talk." This book was instrumental to me as a preschool teacher, and mother in implementing appropriate child guidance. I highly recommend this book to anyone who needs help communicating with children in a respectful yet effective way while guiding the desired outcome.

So here we are in September. Our Toddler program is very full with 8 students, and 6 in the preschool. We have a few openings in the preschool but we need to leave space for several toddlers as they turn 3. This will make room for more toddlers which seems to be the majority of our inquiries. Events coming up in September are: 18-Teacher Installation at worship services and, 21-Back to School night. Please save the date for October 16 for our annual Aebleskiver fundraiser breakfast.

Our latest project is to install the recycled pavers from the front sidewalk to create a patio on the playground for a creative art center to enhance our outdoor classroom. Thank you Ron for spearheading this.

Miss Caryn and Miss Brenda and their excellence are here to start us off along Miss Kim who will be an official Master Teacher in December. Miss Rebecca and Miss Nicole will be continuing as our support staff which is essential to address our daily needs. I am so grateful to have this team to work with!!

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

#### **Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)**

2016 Through July	Donations
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$425.00
SS Scholarships	\$472.00
Live Oak Resource Center	\$410.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$501.00
Mt. Cross	\$320.00
World Hunger	\$238.00
Homeless Service Center	\$603.00
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$258.00
SS CDC	\$145.00
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$50.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$20.00
СОРА	\$1,000.00
ELCA Synod	\$2,125.00
Poinsettias/Easter Lillies to LCM	\$167.77
Total	\$6,734.77
2016 Benevolence Target	\$7,637.00

% of Target 88.2%

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

	July	2016	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$0	\$500	\$1,639	
Piano	\$170	\$3,363		\$1,026
Hearing Impaired Equipment	\$10	\$120	\$120	
Solar Electric Payback	\$317	\$1,546		\$27,204
Narthex Bathroom	\$170	\$170		\$14,830
Landscaping	\$15		\$15	

# **Treasurer Notes...**

Unfortunately our income continues to be less than our expenses this year. We are falling further behind each month. So far this year we have had to take about \$5000 out of our reserves to cover our expenses. Please read the article titled "Supporting Our Habit" in the Newsletter this month and think about how you can advance the cause of Christ.

Budget Information		July—16				
		July Actual	July Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Net
	Contrib Inc	\$12,032	\$12,353	\$84,999	\$89,723	-\$4,724
	Facility Use Inc	\$400	\$958	\$5,081	\$6,708	-\$1,627
	Invest Inc	\$3,045	\$3,600	\$23,712	\$25,200	-\$1,488
	Misc Inc Total Income	\$0.28 \$15,477	\$0 \$16,912	\$703 \$114,496	\$0 \$121,632	\$703 -\$7,136
	Expenses	\$16,028	\$17,724	\$122,694	\$126,672	-\$3,978
	Net	-\$551	-\$812	-\$8,198	-\$5,040	-\$3,158

Contribution income was 93% of budget in July and is only 93% year to date and 92% compared to 2015. Investment income was only 85% of budget in July but is 94% year to date. Expenses were below budget in July and are \$4.0K below budget year to date. Overall expenses are exceeding our income by \$8.2K year to date. Thanks to everyone for your support. Please consider giving a little more each week to get back on budget

**Narthex Restroom Update** – Plans for the new narthex restroom have been completed and submitted to the county in order to obtain a building permit. In addition the sewer lateral has been installed.

# Sister Parish - El Salvador News

Time to put on your running/walking shoes - the Second Annual Walk/Run 4 Water is September 10th!

According to inhabitat.com, 40% of the people in the world do not have access to toilets; this includes the 81 families of the El Pilar region of the Department of La Libertad in El Salvador. This year we want to raise \$15,000 to build composting toilets for as many of these families as possible and train the people in their use and maintenance.

Website: walk4waterscas.com to register, donate or for more information When: September 10, 2016, Registration at 8:00am Where: Pinto Lake County Park, Watsonville Goals: 100 walkers/runners · \$15,000 raised for clean water in El Salvador Bring a friend! Sponsored by: Thrivent Financial, Christ Lutheran Church and St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Pupusa Lunch at Trinity Presbyterian Church - Sunday, September 18th Pupusa Lunch: 11:30 - 12:30 Guest Speakers: 12:00 - 1:00 Sean Larkin, Attorney for Immigration and Nationalization Law Rev. Deborah Lee, Senior Program Director of Immigration for the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity Suggested Donation: \$15 Adult, \$5 Child Trinity Presbyterian Church 420 Melrose Ave Santa Cruz 831.423.8995 Questions? Please contact George Bunch at geobunch@gmail.com or 831.600.8338

**January 2017 Delegation:** Interested in going to El Salvador and meeting the loving people of our communities? This is our 22<sup>nd</sup> year of traveling to El Salvador to walk with the communities we support and from whom we learn a great deal. The date for our upcoming delegation have been set: January 9-19th, 2017. The **deadline to register is September 20th** with a non-refundable \$100 deposit. Please contact Kent Madsen, <u>kent@kcmadsen.com</u>, or Rev. Karla Norton, karla\_norton@yahoo.com, if you are interested. We'd be happy to answer your questions and tell you more about the experience. Be warned: it will change your life!

Watch this space for updates on ways you can participate in and support this mission of love for the people of El Salvador.

# Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca Circle

Thursday, Sept. 8 at 10:30 am - Fireside Room

First meeting of the new year. Lots of organizing. DVD on Life of Katie Luther

## **Bible Study continues with Rev. Bonnie Bell**

Tuesday, Sept. 27at 10:00am Men are welcome too!



# Women's Café Group

# Wednesday, Sept. 21 6:30 pm Offsite

Come, share a meal, devotions & fellowship

New folks are always welcome! More info. Leslie at 476-4700

## **GREETINGS FROM THE CHOIR MUSIC TEAM!**

The St. Stephen's choir will start rehearsing again on September 11<sup>th</sup>, the second Sunday in September and will sing for the first time on the following Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 am service.

We are trying something new this year! The choir will continue to rehearse every Sunday morning at 9:30 am, but will only sing every other Sunday. Why? We want to give choir members more time to learn the music before singing it for the congregation and, we are hoping to encourage more people to join the choir.

Connie and I have selected some great music for the choir to sing through Christmas-time. Some of the pieces will be old favorites and some will be new. I would like to encourage anyone who might like to sing to join us at this first rehearsal. It's lots of fun and a great way to support Sunday worship.

Please contact me Suzanne Duval, or Connie Creel, if you're interested in singing with the choir. No experience is necessary. All are welcome!

We hope to see you on Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 9:30 am.



Suzanne Duval – Music Director Connie Creel – Choir Consultant

Peace!

# **STEWARD OF THE MONTH: Eli McMilin**

 $\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar$ 

What a faithful witness Eli has been to all of the worshipping community here and in the larger community too. You are using your gifts so well as you follow Jesus and show us the meaning of the 4th Commandment! This summer especially we have been moved by your playing with Nathan, Kanaan and your brother as you help lead our liturgy and children's song. Keep up the good work in the theatre too. May we all use our talents as well as you!

 $\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar$