



## ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**8:15** Worship Service

**9:30** Adult Forum

**10:30** Worship Service & Children's Church

And Coffee Fellowship

NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON  
March 28, 2018

POST OFFICE:  
DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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

Non-Profit Org.  
Postage Paid  
Permit #7079  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-9998

*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church*  
***SUN***  
*Celebrating 62 Years of Ministry*



## **El Salvador Sister Parish Benefit**

**Saturday, April 28, 3:00—5:00**

**Bargetto Winery in Soquel**

Come and join us for a relaxing spring afternoon alongside beautiful Soquel Creek. Wine tasting! Delicious Food! Live Music! Prize Drawings! Updates on our work, and great conversation



***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. — Kent Madsen V.P.— Jay Johnston  
 Secretary - Robbin Heppe Treasurer— Ron Buswell  
 Jill Adachi, David Balogh, Jeanette Dawson,  
 Renee Rice, and James Russell.

Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts

Sunday School: Leslie Lapp

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

**California Lutheran**  
**UNIVERSITY**

Dear St. Stephens,

I am currently in my last semester of my Junior year at Cal Lutheran and I am still loving it! I just returned from a semester abroad in New Zealand and had the experience of a lifetime! I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to travel abroad and gain a new perspective on the world and the place that I hold in it. Now that I am adjusting back to life in the States, classes and work are back in full gear. I have a wonderful opportunity to conduct research under a professor here at Cal Lu for the next year and a half, studying ocean acidification and climate change in coral reefs! I will be staying in Thousand Oaks this summer to work on this project and further my career experience in Biology and Environmental Studies, very exciting!

Thank you so much for your support over the years, I truly appreciate all that you do for me and my education!

Best, Hannah Travers

**(Sister Parish Continued)**

der to achieve those dreams. They don't have a hand-out mentality; they are willing to work hard for a better life.

We were all blessed to have a meal at each Prayer Child's modest home where we were welcomed with opened arms and delicious food. The children that we support are clean, nicely dressed, respectful, kind, loving and fun. They are so appreciative of the gift bags and scholarships we provide.

I was overwhelmed by the smiles and hugs I received. I actually OVERDOSED on LOVE!

The main lesson that I came home with from the trip is that we don't need so much STUFF in order to be happy.

(I also learned to never take for granted flushing toilets, running water and hot water!)  
 ~ Kent Madsen



## El Salvador Sister Parish News

This year we have **two** opportunities for wine tasting!

**Wine 2 Water 4 El Salvador** sponsored by the Santa Cruz Sunrise Rotary Club. The event will be [Saturday April 21, 2-5 p.m.](#) at the [Tannery Arts Center](#). Proceeds will go to purchasing more composting toilets

for the communities of El Pilar.

### **Bargetto Wine Tasting sponsored by**

Santa Cruz al Salvador. The event will be [Saturday April 28, 3-5 p.m.](#) on the beautiful [Bargetto Winery](#) patio. Proceeds will benefit the Santa Cruz al Salvador Scholarship Program.

Kent Madsen has tickets for both events. Thank you for your continued support.

And now, an article written by Jane Ann Harper of Trinity Presbyterian Church describing her experiences on the January 2018 trip.

### **First-Timer in El Salvador**

When I first signed up to go on a trip with Santa Cruz al Salvador, I basically knew little about El Salvador other than it had had a horrible civil war in the 1980s, was poor and had major gang violence. I was expecting to find malnourished, dirty, sad, withdrawn children.

Was I ever surprised with reality! Yes, El Salvador IS a poor country economically, but it is SO RICH in its people. I spent quality time with people in four different communities and found the people to be strong, kind, loving, hospitable, generous, positive, resilient, and hardworking. They have their priorities (Sister Parish continued)

straight: family, community, education. They realize the importance that education plays in making changes.

In spite of the atrocities they suffered during their civil war, they can still smile. The testimony we heard from a lady who was 13 when the war began was UNBELIEVABLE! But instead of sitting around feeling sorry for themselves and having a pity-party, they are even MORE MOTIVATED to make positive changes. They don't just DREAM of a better future, they are ACTING in or-

*from Pastor Jim...*



Every year our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop offers something called a "Chrism Mass" for all clergy to attend, in order to help us prepare for Holy Week. The title reflects the fact that sacred oils, or chrisms, are blessed and distributed for healing and baptisms, in the ancient tradition of the Christian Church.

But another reason we gather is to worship and participate in the Renewal of Ordination Vows, and to receive the laying on of hands and personal blessing from our pastor, Bishop Mark Holmerud. This is a very moving ritual as we call to mind and heart our original calling and promises to serve, while being spiritually cared for and encouraged by our bishop.

Serving St. Stephen's as your pastor in our ELCA, for as long as I have (22 years -July 1) has been a very interesting, sometimes trying, sometimes amazing, but overall life-enriching experience for me. I remember resisting becoming a parish pastor for some time because I did not think I had the gifts necessary for what I knew it would take. Truthfully, sometimes I still wonder, as I know some others have over the years I've been here.

But... here I am. And reciting those vows again reminded me of the many wonderful ways that I have been able to share life with you - the good and the bad and the ugly - and for that I am very grateful. It is a privilege to walk with you throughout the various milestones of life - from the cradle to the grave - as we strive to live life with integrity and purpose through our shared faith in Jesus Christ. I know of no other way that I would rather live, even when things don't go well and aren't clear. And I am really looking forward to what God has in store for us next as we engage with the principles of becoming more of a "Steeple to Street" kind of church. A church where we look for ways to be church out in our community and meet the challenges of our culture.

**April 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  
Saturdays at 8:00 pm

**Worship & Music Committee**  
April 5 @ 9:30 am

**Church Council**  
April 11 @ 6:30pm (now Weds)

**MMRR Circle**  
April 12 @ 10:30 am

**Finance Committee**  
April 13 @ 8:30 am

**Embroider's Guild**  
April 16 @ 7:00 pm

**Women's Café Group**  
April 18 @ 6:30 pm

**Child Dev. Center Board**  
April 23 @ 11:15 am

**Bible Study** April 24 @ 10:00

**Habitat for Humanity Lunches**  
April 24 @10:30

*Please sign up to help on Sundays*

**Council Highlights**

We gathered on Sunday March 18 from 12-4 for a visioning/planning retreat at church. Jeannette and Jill provided a delicious lunch for us.

We began with an individual meeting to build our relationships within our Council and reviewed our Council Covenant based on Colossians 3:12-14. This document sets the best tone as leaders engaging in discerning God's will and calling for our congregation. A copy is posted on the standing bulletin board in the narthex.

Pastor Jim had just returned from his continuing education conference put on by Fresh Expressions U.S. He was able to purchase our devotion books by the same title, "Steeple to Street" by Travis Collins, at a slight discount. We will use them for the next year as a guide in seeking ways in which we can fulfill every church's mission to GO! and share the good news of Jesus Christ. Pastor Jim led us in a discussion of the Introduction and first chapter. It was felt that this will be a fruitful way to prepare for what is next for St. Stephen's after some significant accomplishments related to St. Stephen's Senior Housing and our Child Development Center. We became acquainted with some of the reasons why we and many other churches like ours are experiencing decline in this "Post-Christian Era" of American religious history.

We listed some goals for the year including becoming a Reconciled In Christ and AAMPARO church, engage in Anti-Racism and Immigration issue training, seek needs of local families for church home, and hold another community Oktoberfest!

The family feeds my soul each week, and starts my week off on the right foot.  
Value the intergenerational connections & might be missing being around elder & children!!!  
Much of my life has been spent here. It's like my original home. The weddings really stand out, such good times.

Having been a long-term member; seeing the church from a young member's perspective, and now as an older member's perspective.

Having grown up in the church and watching it grow over the years. Being a youth in the church; serving the youth of the church; now seeing those youth take their places in the church and help guide the next generation. It's an amazing progression to be a part of.

Opportunities for kids to participate

Building outreach through fun

\* Using our instruments for God. / Different talents / Use our gifts

El Salvador connections & experience

We're punctual

**Theological Practices**

The pastors we've had

Getting perspective on God's word from another source, outside myself.

Bring the sermon's into your daily life

Sermons guide us and have us thinking during the week

We have the opportunity to question; question our faith, the text, the elders. I don't have to have the right question, I can just ask.

Lean & able to ask questions

Newcomers (young, old) able to learn about Jesus & God's word in safe environment

The role that women play

Word of God

Learn scriptures

Critical thinking

A thinking church community / Independent thinking, "ditto" "we are not a cult"

**Worship**

Music. Using our instruments for God.

Music / uplifting

Band

Music, use & organization

Variety of worship experience / Advent / Interest of new ways

The intellectualism with in the worship

Different talents

**Shared Faith Practices & Upbringing**

Part of ELCA

Familiarity with Lutheran upbringing

Much of my life has been spent here

Having been a long-term member

Having grown up in the church

Speakers at MMRR

\* = Multiple statements

## A summary of answers to the question posed at congregational meeting : What do we value about our shared experiences here at St. Stephen's?

Thank you to **Kirstin Csik-Hughes** for compiling these!

### Community & Family

- \* Community  
The Community, and coming to be with individuals who have a light inside of them, to help replenish the light in me.  
Comfort of being here & in God's house  
Being with congregation
- \* Church is the people. Welcomed / Accepted / We are the church
- \* Friends / Family / Personal Relationships  
Fellowship / Dinner groups  
Extended family; love and emotional support.  
It's never a chore to be here. The church family has no expectations.  
Everyone has been so friendly and welcoming. A real family.  
Being accepted & Feel welcomed for me (regardless of my disabilities)  
Value the intergenerational connections  
Pastor welcomed me to the church circle & made me feel welcome  
People that we bring to the congregation. The congregation / church raises our awareness  
All are welcome

### Serving Others

- Volunteer opportunities.
- \* Using our instruments & different talents / gifts for God.  
That the church is so involved in social services. We don't just "reach to ourselves" but go out and serve our community
- \* Sr. Housing / Preschool / Feeding Homeless  
Kathy hearing God guide her to build the Preschool  
Working for Christian community
- \* Conscious about social justice act locally & globally  
El Salvador  
Grounded in the community around us – connections to community group (scouts, sr. housing, arios choral  
The ways the church reaches out into the community – habitat, feeding the homeless etc.  
The members here usually desiring to make a difference in the world – social justice awareness, COPA / diversity  
How active & generous in service we are to others  
All the people who give service outside of the church proper  
Outreach to the community

### Personal Experiences & Applications

- Everyone encourages me to be better.

## Earth Day Action & Advocacy

By ELCA Bishop Mark Hanson  
Written in 2005, still inspiring today



The liturgical celebration of Earth Day is not a romantic rite of spring. It is a matter of life and death.

Our celebration of Easter Sunday has passed, but the power and promise of Easter continues to reverberate throughout the world -- the whole world. According to Scripture, the Resurrection of Jesus is the first fruits of the day when all things will be made new (Revelation 21:5). Easter is God's promise to all humanity of new life in Christ, but Easter is for the Earth, too.

I also would like to urge each of you to translate your celebrations of Earth's Easter hope into concrete acts of public witness and advocacy. Reclaiming the Earth for Christ includes reclaiming it for the "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40), where brothers and sisters in Christ can live in health and safety and enjoy the blessings of God's good creation.

One specific example is the ELCA's northernmost congregation, Shishmaref Lutheran Church, located 20 miles south of the Arctic Circle on the Chukchi Sea, Alaska. The forces unleashed by global climate change are literally washing away the earth on which these 600 Inupiat Eskimos live. Due to increased storms, melting sea ice, thawing permafrost and rising sea levels, their island home will soon be under water. They must uproot themselves and their 4,000-year-old culture and find a new, yet-to-be-determined, place to live.

In the ELCA's 1993 social statement, "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice," the church recognized the threat of "dangerous global warming, caused by the buildup of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide" and announced that the idea of the Earth as a boundless warehouse, which lies behind such developments, has proven both false and dangerous.

Theologians recently called together by the National Council of Churches USA "called all Americans to acknowledge our sinful complicity in producing one-quarter of the world's carbon emissions which exacerbate global warming, even though we are only five percent of the planet's human population.

Easter celebrations of the Earth are quite different from secular celebrations of Earth Day. We know that we are complicit in the evil we decry. We are committed to repent of our own sinful misuse and abuse of the Earth, direct and indirect, when we confess our sins.

But we also are bold in our faith and hope, knowing that God calls and empowers us to confront these issues of life and death. We do this especially for the sake of the poor of the Earth, working on their behalf, even as we contend with entrenched political, economic and social forces.

God's people of Shishmaref Lutheran Church in Alaska, and all who suffer from our wasteful ways upon this graced and gifted Earth, should expect nothing less of us.

The complete text of Presiding Bishop Hanson's Earth Day statement is at [http://www.elca.org/bishop/m\\_earthdayletter.html](http://www.elca.org/bishop/m_earthdayletter.html) on the ELCA Web site.





## Sunday School

We honor Haley's baptism anniversary. May you be a faithful follower of God's light!

"Cleaning House" Mops, brooms, sponges ... what do we use these for? We use them when we clean our house. How do we know when it's time to clean up?

- ~ It is time to clean when your feet stick to the floor.
- ~ It is time to clean when there are more dishes in the sink than there are in the cabinets.
- ~ It is time to clean when you have enough dust bunnies under your bed to start a bunny farm.

Ha—Ha, you get the idea. I'm sure your house never gets THAT dirty, but the truth is we all need to do a little cleaning at times. As we learned about Jesus cleaning the temple, we are reminded that WE are God's temple. The season of Lent was a good time to look inside ourselves and see what needs to be cleansed.

As we played a clean up / trash game, we related dirt to our sin, and the sponges to Jesus love. We threw *lying, hurting, cheating, disrespecting, stealing, and jealousy* in the trash can. Those bad things, are not in keeping God's commandments. They dirty our hearts. Our messy paint project was a fun way to see how we start off beautiful with each color, then as time passes, the colors mix and become brown like dirt. We need forgiveness. God, help us to keep our lives clean and useful for service to you.

"The Power of His Love" What happens when you hold a magnet over a bunch of metal objects? The kids had entirely too much fun with this experiment. The drawing power of the magnet is very strong, but it is nothing compared to the drawing power of Jesus. When we see his great love, we are drawn to him. There are times we stray from his teaching, but his love pulls us back.

"A Joyful Celebration" With our hand made palms and bells, we welcomed everyone to church on Palm Sunday and led the procession in. Of course we got a little carried away with the twirling and bopping of each other. But, the sense of awe was in the air. They knew it was a special day. Spontaneously, we ended up sitting together. We listened to parents and grandparents in the drama. Though much went over their heads, it clearly was a sacred time. Praise be to God.

I will be out of town 4/22 & 5/13...Can you Sub?

6

~ Faithfully, Miss Leslie

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

4-1	Joel Hurttgam		Lillehaugen	4-8	Stephen & Kim Cappelloni
4-8	Robbin Heppe	4-16	Jason Awe		
4-11	Lorie Coronado	4-16	Manny Travers	4-13	Nick & Becky Judd
4-11	Anne Johnston	4-16	Doris Ray		
4-12	Ron Buswell	4-17	Brian Houser	4-24	John & Rebecca Wickham
4-12	Joshua Lorenz	4-21	Jakob		
4-13	Tempest Abler		Houser		
4-13	Gary Roberts	4-26	Maya Gipson	4-29	Hilding & Dorothy Ronning
4-15	Linda	4-29	Nelleke Meerman		



**Short Term:** Terri Adams & family, Pr. Bonnie, Beverly Hickman, Jeanette, Tony Mendoza, Emil Hayler, Natalia Erickson, David, Betty Kievlan, Helene W., Elizabeth, Melissa, Rod Burchell, Colin, Henry, Tim,

Mary, Marta, Bryan, Dustin, River, Carole, Annetta, Dorothy, Yvonne, Elida, Don Fuqua, Jean Petersen, Lois, The Trippel family, Xavier, John Morgado, Sandra Eldridge, Susan Anderson, Carmen Harper, Stephanie Jager, Ryan, Joe, Pat & brothers, Riley, Shelby, Kaitlyn, Daniel, Ryder, Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and Our Church Family. **Long**

**Term:** Lorenzo, Jan Shadle, Ed Drews, Vi Olly & CJ Muchanic Jr., Jenny Rebecca Hodge, Rick, Bobbie Erickson, Edna Lindquist, Richard C. Becky, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Barry & Barbara, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Karin, Chris, Kyle, Pat Hubbard, Cathy Lorenzo, Pearl Runquist, Volpi Family, Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, the President, and the Youth of today.

11

IF you want to worship God on a Thursday a.m.  
 IF you like to socialize with women of your church  
 IF you want to provide service to your church and community  
 IF you like to hear speakers on local issues and how you can help  
 IF you like to have fun  
 IF you want to taste yummy desserts made by someone else . . .

THEN

you should join the Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Women's Circle!

We meet the second Thursday of months Sept. - May at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Check us out on April 12 to hear Pastor Jim talk about his European trip to Luther's Germany, and come to our May 10 salad luncheon party to end the year. Good coffee and dessert always provided.

EVERY WOMAN IS INVITED! WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!

### **Sunday Adult Forums at 9:30 am**

April 1 - Easter Breakfast

April 8 - "Time For Burning" - Civil Rights and the Church-  
 Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of  
 the Assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

April 15 - May 20 - A Study of the Church in the Book of Acts by  
 Rev. Raymond Pickett, President of PLTS

### **Child Development Center**



On March 14 we had our second Intergenerational activity with Senior Housing. Although it rained, we had fun following the colors of the rainbow marked by balloons to find treasure. After, we made bracelets in the dining room and ate snack.

This month we share with you how SSCDC works with children and families when handling behavioral challenges. Teacher parent communication is key, so guidance is consistent at home and school. The trend in education is focus on self-esteem of the child, and constant adult mediation. Although we honor each child, our philosophy blends in good old-fashioned cause and effect consequences. For instance, "If you keep hitting Johnny, he isn't going to choose to play with you any more. If you want to play with him, you need to stop hitting."

Our one rule is to show kindness to self, others, and materials. We ask, "Was that kind, yes or no?" Young children mature to empathy. We model empathy, so children can see it represented. Learned socialization skills begin to build the empathy foundation within. Empathy learning is facilitated by helping the child you just hurt with an ice pack or waiting with them until they feel better before returning to play.

Redirection is the key. Blame or shame are not necessary to stop the action, rather guide the child back to kindness practices. If we all stop hitting, then no one will get hit. Our school will be safe for everyone. Blame leads to saying, "I'm sorry" then go do it again. Quick concise directives are essential to keeping a child's attention. They glaze over during long explanations. "You need to stop taking Johnny's toy, can you do that?" "Now it is your job to practice not taking Johnny's toy." It takes a lot of practice for children to mediate impulses of wanting everything to be their own way and to take turns with others. Balancing turn taking with allowing a child to finish their own idea with the materials rather than being rushed is patience in practice.

We replace "Time-out with time in." If a child is distraught, aggravated, or unruly they may just need 5-10 minutes in a kind embracing lap to cry it out or sit quietly without having to explain. Sometimes they cannot put their distress in words. Our experience is when you put the time in, they have unrushed time to feel better. If a child continues to be unkind to others they are simply invited to sit in the library until they are ready to return and be kind.

At SSCDC we teach to the individual child honoring that they process socialization differently. If several attempts to redirect are not working, we stop and observe the natural consequence between children as they learn there are times in life when actions speak louder than words! We want our children to be able to practice problem solving and look for solutions rather than always reliant on parent's, teacher's, and later employers. We want our children to practice kindness when we are not looking!

Blessings, Kathy Berens

**Treasurer Notes ...**  
**Budget Information – February 2018**

	February	February	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution Income	\$9807	\$12842	\$28487	\$25304	\$3183
Facility Use Income	\$1500	\$715	\$1830	\$1430	\$400
Investment Income	\$3287	\$3585	\$7186	\$7170	\$16
Total Income	\$14594	\$17870	\$39504	\$35360	\$4143
Expenses	\$17969	\$18046	\$34739	\$35407	\$-669
Net	\$-3375	\$-176	\$4765	\$-47	\$4812

Contribution income for February was only 76% of budget. We received the full year’s pledge from two families and also a significant donation from a non-member in January so we are still ahead of budget year to date. Expenses were also below budget. So overall we are \$4.8K ahead year to date. Thanks for your support.

**Special funds for the Organ, Piano, Hearing Impaired, Solar Electricity and Narthex Bathroom**

	February	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$100	\$898	
Piano	\$0	\$252	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$310	
Solar Electric Payback	\$176		\$23439
Narthex Bathroom	\$123		\$8250

**Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)**

2018 through February	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$813
SS Scholarships	\$429
Live Oak Resource Center	\$0
Habitat for Humanity	\$0
Mt. Cross	\$0
World Hunger	\$0
Homeless Service Center	\$0
CLU/PLTS	\$0
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$17
SS CDC	\$18
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0
Lutheran World Relief	\$0
ELCA Synod	\$300
COPA	\$0
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$1576
2018 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$15317
% of Target	10%

**Church Bell Bricks**

We have received orders for 45 bricks\* as of 3/12/18 toward our goal of 200. Ordering is open until March 31. Please consider purchasing your brick(s) soon.