WORSHIP SCHEDU ST. STEPHEN'S

Adult Forum

Worship Service

Worship Service & Children's Church

NEWSLE

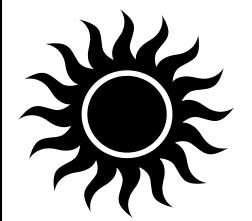
Jan. 30, 2018

WAS SENT ON

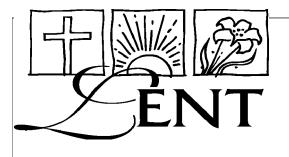
And Coffee Fellowship

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

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Celebrating 62 Years of Ministry February 2018



Please plan ahead for:

Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday 11:30am & 7:15pm Worship

Every Wednesday during Lent Feb. 21 – March 21 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. Please sign up on Sunday to help host a soup supper.

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: 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

(3 "Whys" continued)

has shown a very different church, one that revolutionizes cultures in a way that places infinite value on all people, creates magnificent works of art, and spurs on groundbreaking scientific innovation.

The Church has transcended time and culture in a way that has been completely unique in human history. It tends to get lame when it reflects the cultural values instead of seeking to transform them to the vision and mission of Jesus Christ. For instance, this is more of what the Church is experiencing, especially in Africa where the church is thriving and growing. There the Church is still a Movement with a capital "M."

Once you experience Church that is vital, vibrant, and moving, you begin to see the transformative power of a body of people coming together, unified and spurred on by the sacrificial love of a sacrificial Savior, especially for the "least of these" The question begins to shift from "Why Church?" to "What else could make this sort of an impact?"

Lame: Building for Social Club Now: Family for Mission

If I could snap my fingers and change one perception of "Church," it would be to switch people's mental imagery of church from a building to a people. Even though I had heard that the church is the people my whole life, functionally it operated as a building where people went. The problem with this is manifold, but the biggest detriment is that it conveys: "These people in here are in, and those people out there are out." It becomes little more than a glorified country club.

The dominant biblical image for the people of God is a family. How different would our perception of the Church be if we applied to it the characteristics of a family—unconditional love, self-sacrifice, unwavering commitment, respect, radical grace, valuing each other for who we are instead of what we do, etc. That is how the Church is supposed to act! Not churches but the Church. All Christians. One big family.

There is this beautiful passage in Ephesians (2:12-21) about how the dividing walls have been broken down. There is no separation between God and humanity or people against other people—just an invitation into a family. And here is the clincher: the family itself is not self-serving; they get to take all the above internal characteristics and share them with everyone. That is the mission! It brings meaning, purpose, and direction to all things and every moment. It takes the Good News—there is a fix for what ails the world, you are eternally loved and infinitely valued—and puts it into the hearts of people and into action in the physical world. At that point, there's nothing I'd like to be involved with more.

These are just three things that helped me along in my own journey. What has stopped you from becoming part of a church? What would you need reconciled to make that move? What lingering questions do you have?

3 "Whys" for Church

by Austin Maxheimer — Excerpts from Group Magazine Edited by Pastor Jim

"Why Church when it seems so lame?"

This question forced me to revisit why I believe in the Church so deeply now, when that certainly wasn't always the case. Now I work for a church planting organization and truly believe the Church is the hope of the world.

Why? What changed? Why this drastic shift in viewpoints?

I want to share just three—of many—of the biggest perception busters that helped me move from skepticism of church to a proponent of church.

Lame: Cultural Christianity Now: Living Christianity

While 74% of Americans claim Christianity as their faith, recent research shows that as few as 9% of Americans hold a biblical worldview and are an active part of a church. Why this discrepancy?

A great read by Christian Smith argues that the actual worldview of Americans should rightly be called "Moral Therapeutic Deism." Summed up briefly: God exists and created all this, but doesn't interact with the physical world and has no bearing on my day-to-day life. I just need to live a good life and do good things. But if a crisis happens or if I'm confronted with something I don't understand or fear of death, then I can turn to my "faith in God." To this definition I would add "superior" between moral and therapeutic. My view of what is right or wrong—and life in general—is superior to yours.

This is not a Christian worldview. It is an American cultural phenomenon that when people are pressed to name their faith, they mistakenly call it Christianity. And it is lame.

That was my experience; Christianity was part of the collective culture and the people in churches were just playing an expected part. Early on in my journey, I was exposed to people I loved and trusted and spent intimate time with who lived out their faith in every aspect of life. When their faith rubbed up against cultural expectations, instead of synthesizing, they lived counter-culturally. Above all they were obsessed with Jesus, tried to love others the same way he did, and they absolutely loved their local church!

This lifestyle was so consistent, authentic, credible, and observed over such a long period of time that—despite my skepticism—it forced me to inspect their view and involvement with Church.

Lame: Institution Now: Movement

Institutions are characterized by rules and procedures, quotas, slow decision making, predictability and security, tradition, change is dreaded, etc. If that is your perception of church, then no wonder you think it's lame. However, history



from Pastor Jim...

As you'll see later in this newsletter, Rev. Roy Hoch passed away this month after he had struggled with heart conditions and recently decided to enter hospice care. I was very honored

to have been with him and his family the day before he died as we surrounded him in joined hands and offered the "Commendation of the Dying" prayer service to comfort him as he approached death. He was able to participate with us as we prayed the Lord's Prayer together. At the end of the service he opened his eyes as I began to express to him the church's and my gratitude for having shared his faith and wisdom over his 90 years. He responded by very clearly looking me in the eye and telling me: "Well, the church has given me far more than I have ever given her."

Roy was full of such insights and realizations. It was one of his most endearing qualities. We were drawn to the way he could remember certain quotes from things he had read decades ago. We were impressed that he had so well used God's gift of a sound mind, and that he had dedicated much of who he was to the church.

I wonder how many of us can say the same about what the church has given us? Is that how we view our belonging to St. Stephen's, the ELCA and the whole church? Are we as cognizant of this kind of truth that Roy shared in his last day on earth, and that he lived throughout his life?

If we're not, then we might want to reconsider what the church means to us, because if you knew Roy well, you would want to experience life much the same way he did. And he credited the church for what he had been given in this life. He was able to see through many of its shortcomings and problems, and kept lifting up the truths, joys, hopes and learnings that were always being shown to him anew by God's Spirit and Word. These were the reasons for living and he stuck by them always.

I pray that we will also be able to say that the church has given us much more than we have given her. I pray that we will gather each Sunday, look around at each other, and marvel at the gift God has given us in bringing our lives together for a time, so that we can uncover some of the powerful mysteries of living an abundant life. It is truly an extraordinary gift.(and more and more so as our culture moves away from being a part of a church) to be on this journey, in our church together. Thanks for the beautiful reminder Roy.

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Monthly Meetings

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

Feb. 1 @ 9:30

Finance Committee

Feb. 9 @ 8:30 am

Church Council

Feb. 12 @ 6:30pm

MMRR Circle

Feb. 8 @ 10:30 am

Embroider's Guild

Feb. 19 @ 7:00 pm

Women's Café Group

Not during lent

Child Dev. Center Board

Feb. 26 @ 11:15 am

Bible Study Feb. 27 @ 10:00

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Feb.27 @ 10:30 am

Sign up to help on Sundays. Coffee Hosts and Ushers needed

Council/Annual Meeting Highlights

- 1. Devotions from "Reclaiming the "L" Word—Renewing the Church From It's Lutheran Core by Kelly Fryer, reminded us the importance of remembering that WE ALL are the church and need to offer some part of ourselves to our church's ministry. Luther's idea of the priesthood of all believers is something we need to claim and put into practice if we don't want to see our church decline and become irrelevant in our community.
- Pastor shared that Rev. Herb Schmidt (ret.) had survived a burst appendix and emergency appendectomy. He is at home recovering after over 2 weeks in the hospital.
- 5. Pastor served as a COPA leader for the annual delegates assembly, held on Jan.23. Four people attended and committed to bringing 25 people to a large assembly in Oct. to celebrate our 15th anniversary where we hope to gather 1000 people from our institutions and announce our new agenda for the next few years.
- 4. Our Sustainability Task Force met 6 times with our COPA Organizer to develop leadership skills toward a 3-year emphasis of how we can become a more self-sustaining congregation.
- Church Council members re-elected to 3 yr. terms are Jill Adachi and David Balogh. Kent Madsen was elected to a 3 yr. term. James Russell was elected to fulfill Connie Creel's remaining 1 yr. term.

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

St. Stephen's Scholarship Fund Over the years we have been blessed to receive several bequests from former members that make up our present scholarship fund. Many of St. Stephen's youth have benefited from this fund as they further their education in college while costs continue to rise. We attempt to use the interest only from this fund, but sometimes we need to dip into the principal in order to fulfill the requests. This month you can give a special offering in addition to your regular offering in order to keep this fund healthy well into the future. Maybe you, too, could think about including the St. Stephen's Scholarship Fund in your will or estate plans as others before us have. This is a multiplying gift as it enables someone else to develop their God-given gifts in service to others.

We currently are assisting students at Cabrillo College, Cal Lutheran University, Cal Poly University, and University of the Pacific

January — American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)

= \$ 575 (as of 1/21)



Dear St. Stephen's,

I am doing well. I am in my second year at Cal Lutheran and loving it! I am majoring in Psychology with a minor in Christian theology and leadership. We will see where life takes me in terms of

my career, but as of right now I am planning on going to grad school and becoming a therapist. I am taking lots of classes this semester and definitely keeping myself busy! I am also starting a chapter of "Delight Ministries" at CLU, which is a nationwide ministry for college women where you meet once a week and have a bible study and grow in community! I am starting it with the help of some of my best friends and my roommate Maggie. I would love prayer for delight and for perseverance through the many things I have on my plate.

Thank you for your support! Nelleke Meerman

In Memoriam The Rev. Roy C. Hoch

August 2, 1927 - January 18, 2018

He was born in Butler, Penn., and graduated from Butler High. He entered the Navy near the end of WWII, sang with the Navy Blue Jacket Choir and later became a swim instructor and springboard diver for the Great Lakes Naval Training Center. He was honorably discharged and then attended Capital U., Columbus, Ohio, where he met his wife to be, Mary Jane Koehler. He was active in drama, choir, and athletics, was voted All Ohio Conference guard in football in 1949, and inducted into the university's Football Hall of Fame. He and Mary Jane were married June 3, 1950 and had three children.

Roy entered Chicago Luth. Theo. Seminary and graduated in 1953. He was ordained 6/28/1953. In 1979 he received a Master's Degree from Santa Clara U., in Pastoral Counseling.

Pastor Roy was called to St. Mark Lutheran, Ada, Ohio, where he served from 1953 to 1955. In Ada, he became acquainted with campus ministry and served as Lutheran contact pastor for Ohio Northern U. In 1955 he accepted a call to Glenwood Lutheran, Toledo, OH, and Zion Lutheran, Indiana, PA, from 1960 to 1964. In addition to parish duties, he helped establish a Lutheran campus center near Indiana State University, Indiana, PA.

In 1964, he was called to be the Campus Minister at San Jose State, where he served until 1979. During this time, he and other clergy at the campus were instrumental in establishing the Religious Studies Program. He, along with other campus pastors, taught as a "dollar-a-year" man, until the program was firmly established. During that time Pastor Roy and his colleagues established a coffee house named Jonah's Wail at the Campus Christian Center; a gathering place for discussion of religion, music, poetry, and issues of war and peace.

In 1979, Pastor Roy was called to Reformation Lutheran Church, Milpitas, CA, where he served until his retirement in 1988.

He and his wife were members of St. Stephen's, but Pastor Roy continued to serve congregations as supply pastor, teacher, and worship leader. He served on the council of the Lutheran Campus Ministry and met regularly with local pastors for text study. He volunteered for Friends Outside for many years and in 2004 and 2012 received the Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Santa Cruz Volunteer Center. He served on the Bioethics Committee and on the Institutional Review Board of Dominican Hospital.

Pastor Roy's athletics continued. He participated in the Sentinel Triathlon and the Santa Cruz Masters. In 2009 he was a U.S. Masters Swimming All American, nationally ranked number one in his age group in the One Hour Postal Swim.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Jane, in March of 2017. He is survived by their three children: Dana of Saratoga, Beth of Alameda, and Hans of San Francisco.

Funeral services will be held: Sunday, February 18 - 3:00 pm Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran 1550 Meridian Ave. San Jose

May the God of hope bless and keep him in perpetual light and eternal peace.

Mark Linder & Connie Creel

Thank you to both of these faithful long-time leaders in our church! They are stepping down from their roles on our Church Council this year as Mark has completed two consecutive 3-yr. terms, and Connie completes 5 yrs. Connie will now be spending more time as a new grandmother where her daughter Nikki lives in Santa Barbara. Their dedication to the health and direction of our church has helped us all in so many ways, and been a meaningful witness in our community. They both helped form our Sustainability Task Force of church leaders in order to help us look ahead and think about how we can remain a viable congregation in the future. Connie has also shared her gifts for many years in the worship life of our church. Mark has shared his gifts as a COPA leader for many years as we seek to do justice

for those in need in our local community. You both have been faithful stewards of God's gifts by the way you have selflessly offered yourselves.





Sunday School

Corresponding with Jesus baptism, we celebrated the anniversary of Abigail Davis baptism 1/20. We learned about the symbols of the shell, water, and light. May your light shine in the darkness Little Miss.

Another "Godspell" opportunity presented itself. As our lesson was calling us to "Follow" Jesus, the video clip "Day by Day" just had to be shared. The children were transfixed with the 70's funky garb, and silly ways to express kindness and love: Three things I pray ~

To See thee more clearly, Love thee more dearly, FOLLOW thee more nearly, day by day...

Have you ever tasted something so good that you just had to tell your friend about it? Usually they want to taste it as well. We Lutherans aren't so good at "telling" others, but we are good at showing others. We played the old school telephone game to build our confidence in sharing the good news.

Little did Kasey know that our lesson would involve fish when he requested Swedish fish for a snack. As you probably know, the first disciples were fishermen. Jesus told them I'll make you fishers for men. Well, the mere mention of "Fish" set the scene. The kids made glitter fish to remember the first disciples. To learn HOW to fish for men, they had to put on the fishermans hat, boots, and vest. Before they could pick up the fishing pole or net, they had to find pocketed scripture verses explaining how to share the good news: LOVE one another, Love is Patient, Love does not dishonor others, Love always Hopes etc. Let the fishing begin! Giggles and shrieks filled the class as different sea creatures were reeled in. The photo op I had envisioned didn't quite pan out — who would have thought the preteen girls would be squirmish? Chaotic fun ensued.



The people Jesus calls are "ordinary" people like you and me. But through each of us God uses our talents to do "extraordinary" things.

Faithfully, Miss Leslie

* NO CLASS Feb. 25 *



	<u>February</u>	<u>Birt</u>	<u>hdays</u>	C	
2-1	Lu Sluiter	2-12	Beverly Giladett	K	NO TO THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE
2-2	Ed Drews	2-17	Liana Mabry		Happy Anniversary
2-2	Jean Petersen	2-18	Kathy Hopping	4	CON C
2-4	Kyle Travers	2-18	Jay Johnston		
2-7	Marla Meek	2-19	Connie Creel	2-6	Pastor Jim
2-8	James Russell	2-21	Caitlin Hopping		& Leslie Lapp
2-9	Edna Lindquist	2-24	Miller Mouw	2-24	Rick & Susan
2-10	Al Mitchell	2-29	Charles Eldridge		Oldfield
2-10	Paul Powers		C		



Short Term: Family of Roy Hoch, Family of Linda Ronning, Joanne F., Jeanette, Janet, Natalia Erickson, David, Candace's Father, Helene W., Elizabeth, Milt, Joyce, Melissa, Rod Burchell, Carla Brown, David, Colin, Tim & Family, Hagerman Family, Debbie, Rossi Family, Dan,

Alec, Barbara, Hopping Family, Anita, Doug, Austin, Sydney, Lori Daly, Jesse, Linda Johnson, Yvonne, Don Fuqua, Jean Petersen, Lois, The Trippel family, Xavier, Chris, John Morgado, Debbie, Marge, Kathy, Mark, Linda, Sandra Eldridge, Carmen Harper, Stephanie Jager, Ryan, Joe, Pat & brothers, Justin, Riley, Shelby, Kaitlyn, Daniel, Ryder, Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and Our Church Family.

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



El Salvador Sister Parish News

January 2018 Delegation

A small, committed group of six travelled to El Salvador last month. Once again, it was a great trip! We spent one day in San Salvador visiting historical sites and then we were off to El Pilar for an action-packed day of crafts

with children, applying fluoride to children's teeth, inspecting the pilot Eco Toilet, and having lunch in the community. The Eco Toilet is a manufactured composting toilet with several features not in the standard cement block construction. The pilot has been very successful and we will likely move forward with a project incorporating them.

From El Pilar we traveled to Suchitoto where we had a number of activities including discussions with mayor Pedrina Rivera and Sister Peggy, the energizing force behind the Center of Art for Peace.

Next, we traveled to Guillermo Ungo for time with our scholarship families as well as the annual Scholarship Award Ceremony. We had a record 106 students or family members attend (out of 120).

We finished our travels in the communities of El Zapote and Santa Marta in the eastern part of the country. We heard moving testimonies of harrowing times during the war and visited historical sites. We enjoyed staying at the home of our long-time translator and in-country coordinator Brenda Hubbard. We were treated to presentations by CoCoSi (Committee Against AIDS). Brenda is the executive director of CoCoSi. Now the travelers are back home, energized for our work here.

Save the Date! The Santa Cruz al Salvador Wine Tasting Event will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, 2018.

Santa Cruz al Salvador

Building Relationships for Better Lives

Child Development Center

2018 is our most promising year to date. Each of you, our wonderful teachers and pastor, school board, and congregational members are the foundation and inspiration that has us in waitlist status. The love our teachers share with the children and positive regard for each other is why parents can trust SSCDC with their most precious being, their children. We are the nurturers and predictors of how our students will approach the world. Being a teacher is not an easy job. At any given moment personal space and boundaries are invaded with bodies, hands, germs, words, noise, attitude, disagreements, and bodily fluids. On the other hand, these space invaders will yield you incredible joy of innocent love. The dichotomy is rewarding and challenging many times a day. Teachers need support and inspiration, and times of respite to impart a healthy imprint on the rapidly developing minds of youth. We need to consider each other's diverse lens in which we see the world and offer grace, a blessed gift to one another in our rapidly changing cultural views. Each of us arrive at the SSCDC doorstep with a different view of the day depending on what transpired at home or even on the drive in. Being a teacher requires us to learn how to deal with frustration and/or failure and mistakes and figure out how to recover quickly.

Jack Kornfield said, "Turn your heart towards what is good by cultivating for-giveness and compassion and mindful presence. See the good in one another. Nelson Mandela said, "It never hurts to see the good in someone. They often act the better because of it." If you're a schoolteacher and you see the beauty in those kids, they love you as a teacher, and it gets reflected, and they feel, "I'm gonna do my best because this teacher sees me and gets me." (Oprah Winfrey, The Wisdom of Sundays, 2017)

Early Childhood education provides a framework and guideline to be respectful and effective with children. This is a great improvement from how in some cases, generations of children before having been scolded, shamed, and punished rather than taught how to redirect and problem solve. At SSCDC we strive to use our teachings and combine them with old fashioned common sense, cause and effect consequences. It is like the conversation of product art (looks like something recognizable) verses process art (experimentation with materials). I believe both are valuable and have a place in our curriculum when we balance it appropriately.

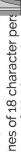
SSCDC is a challenging yet rewarding ministry. Our love and guidance in early childhood education supports mainstream, and developmentally challenged children to direct their journey towards a positive path. Joy rather than feelings of inadequacy radiates from the children as they develop here. We strive to do this for every child. What can be more important.

Blessings, Kathy Berens

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