

**ST. STEPHEN'S
WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

8:15 Worship Service

9:30 Adult Forum

10:30 Worship Service & Children's Church

And Coffee Fellowship

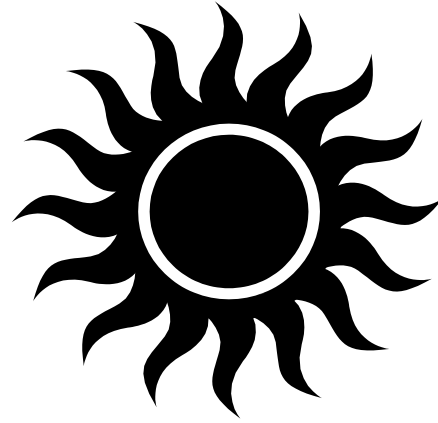
NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
Dec. 21, 2017

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

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St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

*Celebrating 62
Years of Ministry
January 2018*

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, Jan. 28 at 9:30 am

followed by

Annual Congregational Meeting

(Please Request Child Care if needed)

We gather together to elect leadership to council, elect voting members for Synod Assembly, and approve a budget for 2018 that reflects our mission. Please plan on attending to support your church as we continue to seek God's will for our ministry together. Contact the office if you can assist with the coffee hour (set up, clean up, provide finger foods).

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

lists. **PLAN:** Members will let those on their lists know that there are 2 services now (8:15 and 10:30), that they have been missed, Adult Forum at 9:30 . Will get lists every other month.

Future Liturgies to discuss- Bonnie & Barb will be working on an Advent liturgy focusing on Christmas carols for parts of the service. 10/25 group met-- Jim, Bonnie, Barb, Gary created Advent service using Christmas carols. Advent begins on 12/3 and will be used at 8:15 service; will be modified for 10:30 service as it's the Children's program. Advent Wreath & lighting of candles--Barbara Johnston will provide wreath. Barb called & identified members for lighting and reading for the wreath. Any feedback on Advent service--Very nice--carols fit in well to the liturgy. Jan. 13 start a new liturgy for Epiphany--- Not discussed at this meeting. **PLAN:** Dec 10 the Arios singers to do anthem; Dec. 17 at 7 PM is the Blue Christmas. Barb to call & identify members for lighting and reading for the wreath.

Poinsettias - Connie-- update-- She will pick up on 12/22 and bring to church and water 12/28. Altar Guild will set them up. Will monitor for watering before 12/15.

Additions to agenda -

1. Communion at the altar-- Candace shared concerns of members mobility at the railing, & concerns of falling down the stairs. **PLAN:** Tighten the stair railings. Communion invitation at the front pew
2. Advent Lighting and reading-- all services filled except 12/24, 9:30 am-- families very receptive to this part of the service. **PLAN:** Need family for 12/24 9:30 am service

Meeting closed - with prayer and singing of the Lord's Prayer.

For next Agenda— Organ booklet, activities during 500th anniversary of Reformation; update on Bell Tower, Advent liturgy, calling committee. ***Everyone in the congregation is invited to attend these meetings or contact members for input. Minutes and goals are posted in Narthex.***

Dates for next meetings--2017 – 1st Thursdays, 9:30 - 11 AM. 12/7 --- Fireside Room.

Submitted by Barb Rice
 on behalf of the W/M Committee



*making music in your hearts
 TO THE LORD*

Worship and Music Committee

December 7 meeting attendees- Pastor Jim Lapp, Barbara Rice, Gary Roberts, Suzanne Duval , Connie Creel, Candace Anderson, Kent Madsen

Devotions -- Pastor Jim-- from Sundays in Season -- Advent-- a time to slow down & wait, to focus, to see through the darkness. The wreath is from the feast of the Sun and the evergreens are from the German Christians a sign of eternity & hope- the feast of the Son of God - it marks the passage of time as we wait together. (Jim needing to leave at 10:30) PLAN: Next meeting-- Jim

WM Committee GOALS 2017— Group Process

Review 2017--Group--- reviewed goals that were completed and comments made to be included in the annual report. PLAN: No new ones for 2018.

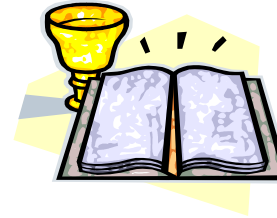
Organ booklet- Gary/Barb---update; Updates completed from last meeting; Barb's brother-in-law reviewed organ ranks after 10:30 service 10/8 and edited final draft of booklet. Copy was emailed to committee for review. Leslie has copy and is working on putting into booklet format. Gary R took more photos when tuners did annual tuning of organ on 12/6. He will write short paragraph on them to be included in the booklet. Concern that insurance needs to cover replacement cost of organ which is estimated at \$300,000 PLAN: Work in progress—project to be completed by end of year.(?) Photo of the pipes to be used for booklet cover. Barb to contact Ron Buswell with insurance information for organ. (done). UPDATE -- Leslie completed booklet format at end of meeting.

Bell tower- Jim--Updates; Bell tower in place; still needs a protective structure around it. Memorial bricks have arrived and laid out around bell--- donation costs not yet determined PLAN: In progress.

500th Anniversary of the Reformation- FEEDBACK on the hymn sing 11/22 and 11/29-- Both were very nice services and well received. PLAN: to do the Reformation service every year as a NEW TRADITION! Thank you Bonnie for all of your planning and hard work and to the committee Kent and Barb.

Hymn sing- 12/31. PLAN: Christmas carols on New Year's Eve.

Attendance figures-- Bonnie & Barb--Bonnie feels we should be contacting those who have not been attending to let them know they have been missed. A copy of list obtained from Leslie at last meeting of those to call. Entire WM committee in attendance volunteered to make calls. New list obtained from Leslie & each member given a page to call. Candace wrote letters, Gary made calls, Connie made calls and sent letters, Barb & Kent still working on



from Pastor Jim...

Last Sunday, December 17, I preached on the First Reading. It was the Old Testament text from the prophet Isaiah, Chapter 61. It is also the text that, out of all of the many thousands of scripture verses available to Jesus in his time, these are the ones he chose to describe who he was and what God was going to do through him:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives,
and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

If you are looking for a concise explanation of what God’s will is for your life, there it is.

On Tuesday, January 23 from 7-8:30pm in Salinas, I invite you to join me and several other leaders from our church at a COPA assembly. Together with our fellow Christians, and others who resonate with this clear mission of Jesus, we will help determine how we can fulfill Christ’s mission in our communities.

We will listen to the stories of people within our Santa Cruz and Monterey county churches and institutions who may feel oppressed, brokenhearted, captive and imprisoned by the way we live as a society. We will also discern some ways in which we can join Jesus and seek to change those ways.

This is the work of justice that our church is engaged in. COPA is a vehicle through which we can follow Jesus’ plan as he quoted from Isaiah and set out on his public ministry. I look forward to seeing God’s will done “on earth, as in heaven” as we act together in Christ’s name.

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
- Worship & Music Committee**
Jan. 4 @ 9:30
- Finance Committee**
Jan. 8 @ 8:30 am
- Church Council**
Jan. 8 @ 6:30pm
- MMRR Circle** Valentine Making
Jan. 11 @ 10:30 am
- Embroider's Guild**
Jan. 15 @ 7:00 pm
- Women's Café Group**
Jan. 17 @ 6:30 pm
- Child Dev. Center Board**
Jan. 22 @ 11:15 am
- Bible Study** Jan. 23 @ 10:00
- Habitat for Humanity Lunches**
Jan.. 23 @ 10:30 am

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

Council Highlights

1. Devotions from “Reclaiming the “L” Word—Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core” - Chapter 6: Everybody has something to offer. We focused on Luther’s understanding of the Priesthood of All Believers, and how the pastor is not to be seen as the one who does “church” for us. Instead, we all offer our gifts and live out our faith by seeing ourselves as “pastors” in our daily lives through our church. The pastor helps guide us and equip us to follow where God is leading us to serve.
2. Dalton Mekis, Eagle Scout candidate from the Boy Scout Troop that meets here, has offered to paint the exterior of the church as his project!!! He and his mother attended the Council meeting to give an update on their progress and plan. Volunteer contractors will be assisting, and he is seeking donations of paint and other equipment. He will attend worship 12/17 and recruit church volunteers as well. Council voted to pay for whatever paint/supplies might need to be purchased after donations. Bob Herman, chief architect for St. Stephen’s Senior Housing, has selected our color scheme and purchased some of the harder to find paint already!
3. Ron Buswell presented the plan for the Memorial Bricks at the church bell, and the council approved the various symbolic possibilities for engraving. Shirley Fuqua and Oroville Lindquist will be added first from their memorial funds. No enclosure will be erected.

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2017 through November	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$550
SS Scholarships	\$340
Live Oak Resource Center	\$185
Habitat for Humanity	\$428
Mt. Cross	\$705
World Hunger	\$330
Homeless Service Center	\$655
CLU/PLTS	\$376
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$675
SS CDC	\$549
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$585
Lutheran World Relief	\$195
ELCA Synod	\$4045
COPA	\$1500
Lutheran Immigration	\$45
Total	\$11162
2017 Benevolence Target (5%)	\$8175
% of Target	137%

Ron Buswell
Treasurer

Treasurer Notes ...
Budget Information – November 2017

	November	November	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution Income	\$10671	\$13000	\$134710	\$148000	\$-13290
Facility Use Income	\$440	\$583	\$8310	\$6417	\$1893
Investment Income	\$3197	\$3333	\$37578	\$36667	\$911
Total Income	\$14309	\$16917	\$180736	\$191083	\$-10347
Expenses	\$16869	\$16456	\$188877	\$192176	\$-3300
Net	\$-2560	\$481	\$-8141	\$-1093	\$-7048

Through November, our expenses have exceeded income by \$8.1K. To pay our bills we have had to take this \$8.1K out of our reserves. Please consider giving a little extra at year end so we can cover our expenses and replace the money taken from our reserves.

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

	November	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$0	\$1711	
Piano	\$0	\$252	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$10	\$300	
Solar Electric Payback	\$119		\$23898
Narthex Bathroom	\$345		\$11608

The Progressive Christian Forum of Santa Cruz

Racists Anonymous:
An exploration of our society’s endemic racism,
and how we can overcome it.

Saturday, January 13, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm
Resurrection Catholic Church 7600 Soquel Dr., Aptos

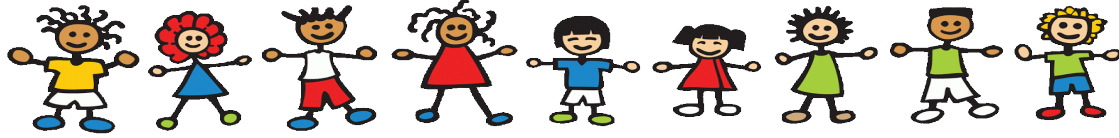
Free of charge. A catered lunch will be provided to all.— free will donation accepted

Led by Rev. Ron Buford, Congregational Community Church of Sunnyvale.

Racists Anonymous, “RA” as Ron refers to it, confronts the ways racism and bias occur in our lives with the intent of working through a broadly spiritual system mirroring the 12-step model used to treat addiction through admittance of a problem, self-reflection, group sharing, mindfulness, and behavior modification.

America’s slave legacy and near annihilation of native peoples, Buford believes, makes racism inescapable in our nation. He believes our goal should be to try and acknowledge that no one is exempt from prejudice and to try to live lives that express it less and less. “As a society, it’s killing us,” Buford says of nationally entrenched racism. “What I hope is that by accepting the fact that it’s ubiquitous, people can say okay, then I’m a racist too. Then a conversation can happen.” Having a place to speak safely and honestly, where everyone is admitting they have prejudice, relieves some of the pressure, Buford believes. It allows for people to realize what others are experiencing and the kind of work that needs to be done. Buford took a cue from the AA group that meets at his church every day, right outside his office, listening to how people approach a problem they were powerless over. He saw the steps as an effective way to look inward for a solution. “I started thinking that racism, and social prejudice generally, is like an addiction. It’s a sickness. If we think of racism like a virus it’s a medical thing we want to treat. We want to quarantine it.”

Buford believes God is still creating the world, that creation and revelation are continuous—and that we need everyone to help that happen. “We are on a path to improving the world. Each person matters. Each person has inherent worth and dignity. We don’t have a person to spare.” While Buford doesn’t think we can be entirely free of racism or prejudice in this lifetime, we can actively work to reduce its expression. “If we can reduce the incidents of it,” he says, “we can eventually raise a generation of young people who are free from it.”



Sunday School

I am so proud of our children and how well they told the Christmas Story. They held their heads high and truly "owned" their parts in the pageant. We talked about God giving each of us talent, and us using that as our gift back to God. We did a little heart hunt game to illustrate that It is our heart that God wants! Our new student Angel will tell you that God wants our soul as well.

It was a wonder watching the kids paint their prayer (blessing) boxes. They were thoughtful with what tiny treasure they might keep in their special box. Each brush stroke was intentional, and they were so kind to each other as they shared colors and chose jewels. I think we will need more paint projects in the near future!

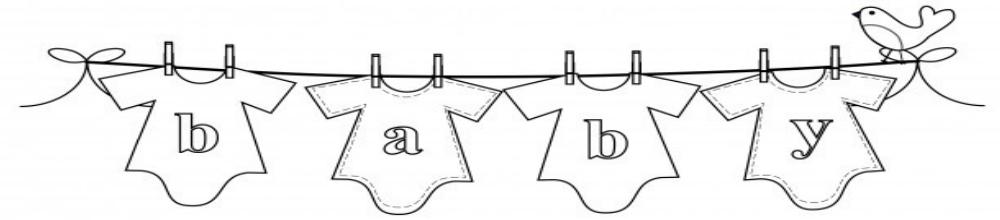
Since we were "preparing the way" I couldn't resist sharing the opening act of the musical Godspell. That tune has stuck with me throughout Advent. I smile at the vision of young adults dropping what they were doing, merrily following John the Baptist, and dancing in the fountain for baptism. I could feel the joy as they let go of their troubles, and looked to God for repentance. We will spend more time on the topic of baptism.

Every year we adults try to simplify and focus on Jesus, but inevitably our preparation usually ends up stressful, and tedious. For the children it's all about anticipation. Though their focus is on Santa and the exciting gifts, their spirit is magical. As we enter the new year, I'd like to lift up the gifts that you parents said your kids give you:

"Love, Questions, Laughter, New experiences,
Patience, Understanding, Happiness,
Never a dull moment, Love & Cuddles"

May our hearts feel that magic and dance
in celebration as His light has come!

Faithfully, Leslie Lapp



Welcome to the St. Stephen's family

Galahad Cameron Hughes

November 26

Proud parents Kirsten & Alex Csik-Hughes

If you'd like to combine a visit and support, or just want to offer help, please consider signing up for our Meal train; we could really use meal assistance as Alex transitions back to work. Here's the link to our Meal Train: <https://mealtrain.com/z9mgny>.



California Lutheran University has provided many opportunities for myself and other students that are looking to use their gifts. Last semester I studied abroad in Europe. I was studying at Oxford with

an Ecologist focusing on the modern extinction and gained a wealth of knowledge to come back and advance in my field of interest. I also participated in a politics and the arts travel seminar around Europe. I am engaging in important conversation about worldly issues and have the Church and C. L. U. to thank for it. I am becoming stronger and continuing to grow into myself. I am very grateful for your support and love.

Rachel Lapp

Bachelor of Science - Environmental Sciences - Class of 2018

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

January — The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) is the leader in the fight against suicide. We fund research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss. Headquartered in New York, AFSP has 75 local chapters with programs and events nationwide.

To fully achieve its mission, AFSP engages in Five Core Strategies:

- Fund scientific research
- Offer educational programs for professionals
- Educate the public about mood disorders and suicide prevention
- Promote policies and legislation that impact suicide and prevention
- Provide programs and resources for survivors of suicide loss and people at risk, and involve them in the work of the Foundation

December—Lutheran World Relief = \$302 (as of 12/ 19)

STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

Our Preschool Board: Bill Schraft, Barbara Johnston, Sheila Buswell, Mary Kelley & Robbin Heppe

Our preschool ministry is growing and flourishing into a well-respected, sought after experience for families in our community. Full-enrollment (wait-list status), qualified staff (with health benefits provided), a stimulating curriculum and environment, and just an overall sense that we are really achieving our vision and goals, are some of the things these faithful stewards have brought by offering their gifts of time and abilities. We are very blessed by their witness of faith on behalf of these little ones!

Child Development Center



Happy New Year! December was a lively month for our preschool. Children were far more energetic and emotional as the Holidays approach. Imagine the mystery of it all to children ages 2-4 as they do not remember much from the previous year due to their ages. Our goal was to finish the few projects we had planned early in the month, so we could provide the children a predictable and easy going routine to balance the busy holiday pace.

Thank you to our School Board members for providing us with a tasty holiday luncheon the day before we started our Christmas break. It was very thoughtful and much appreciated.

In January we offer winter themed activities but as I write this I wonder if our days will feel like winter? Children generally return after the Christmas break calmer, settled, and seemingly more mature. After all the festivities and varying schedules there is a sense of calm as they return to our predictable routine, missed friends, and tried and true activities.

SSCDC has reached the long-term goal of providing our full-time employees medical insurance coverage. We have been in waitlist status for many months while building our reserve. Our School Board voted to raise tuition 12% to the greater community and 6% to our current students. We postponed this increase to February to avoid the financial impact during the holidays. Our tuition remains one of the most affordable in the Santa Cruz community, while offering one of the most enriching programs. As you can imagine, providing health care insurance is a daunting task in the current economical and political climate. Our ministry to our preschool teaching team is the foundation on which we thrive, and we are thrilled to have reached this milestone as a small business.

We have a truly remarkable group of children and look forward to sharing their experiences in 2018!

Blessings, Kathy Berens
kathy@sscdcpreschool.com

El Salvador Sister Parish News

A small group will be traveling to El Salvador this month. We leave very early in the morning of January 8th and return on the 18th. Included on the itinerary are visits to our two communities of Guillermo Ungo and El Pilar as well as historical sites in San Salvador. We will also spend a day in Suchitoto, the town nearest to Guillermo Ungo.

Thank you to all recent donors as well as to the prayer child sponsors who have provided gifts for their students, which will be given to the students at the Scholarship Award Ceremony in Guillermo Ungo. This is an important part of our program -- scholarship recipients in El Salvador are connected with a person or family in the U.S. who cares about them, prays for them, and is interested in their education. If you are interested in connecting with a deserving student, contact Kent Madsen, kent@kcmadsen.com or 438-1593.



Santa Cruz al Salvador
"Building Relationships for Better Lives"

2018 Flower Chart

If you would like to dedicate Altar flowers, please see the chart in the narthex. Chose a date to honor a loved one, list the dedication, and note whether you will use our florist (Jacki's) or bring your own.



January Birthday

1-1 Nathan Lapp	1-16 Ellie Russell	
1-8 Katie Silva	1-17 Emily Valencia	
1-9 Esdras Garden	1-18 Patty Travers	
1-10 Colby Hanson	1-21 Chris Turzo	1-20 Donald & Doris Ray
1-11 Mitch Crews	1-23 Diane Hintz	1-23 Emmanuel Perez & Juanita Zamarripa
1-12 Linda Hix	1-25 Neil Crews	1-24 Lindsey & Becky Cramer
1-13 Jennifer Robe	1-26 Iris Colclough	
1-14 Sofia Bartee	1-26 John Wickham	
	1-27 Crystal Hintze	



Short Term: Jeanette, Don, Helene W., Elizabeth, Milt, Joyce, Rod Burchell, Melissa, Carla Brown, David, Colin, Tim & Family, Hagerman Family, Hopping Family, Rossi Family, Anita, Doug, Austin, Sydney, Lori

Daly, Jesse, Linda Johnson, Rachel Moris Medley & family, Stacey Delmar, Yvonne, Don Fuqua, Jean Petersen, Lois, The Trippel family, Xavier, Chris, John Morgado, Sandra Eldridge, Susan Anderson, Carmen Harper, Stephanie Jager, Bryden, 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: Lu Walthart, Anne Teboe, Lorenzo, Jan Shadle, Ed Drews, Vi Olly & CJ Muchanic Jr., Mike Jugan, 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, Emma Peterson, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Bonnie Hansen, Karin, Pat Hubbard, Beverly Gilladett, Cathy Lorenzo, Pearl Runquist, Volpi Family, Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, the President, and the Youth of today.