

**ST. STEPHEN'S
SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

9:30 am Worship Service
And Coffee Fellowship

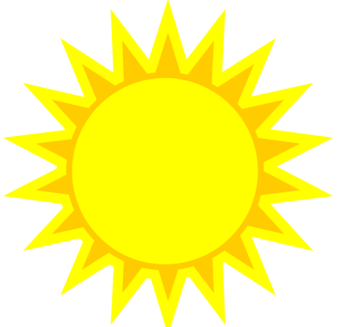
**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
May 30, 2018**

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

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

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St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun
June 2018

Celebrating 62 Years of Ministry

**COPA
15th Anniversary**



**Sun. Sept. 30
3:00—5:00 pm**

**Sherwood Hall
Salinas**

We have committed _____ to bringing 30 people from our church to attend this significant gathering of our 25 member institutions from Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. Please plan ahead and sign up now in church. This is one of our public Christian witnesses where we seek justice for those in need by working through our community and its leaders. We will be lifting up the work already accomplished like St. Stephen's Senior Housing. We will also be announcing our new public agenda for how we want to live together more justly in our communities: Affordable Housing, Health Care Access, Mental Health Services, Immigration and more.

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 - Treasurer— Ron Buswell
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

El Salvador Sister Parish News

January 2019 Delegation - Let's go to El Salvador!

Have you thought about going to El Salvador? You've seen the photos and heard us talk about it -- maybe it's time to experience it for yourself! We're beginning to plan a January, 2019 Delegation and we encourage you to prayerfully consider going on our next trip. It is a life-changing experience like no other; that is why so many delegation members keep returning. It is a great opportunity to see God's work in action in our Salvadoran communities; to meet our sisters and brothers in Christ, have meals with families, play with the children, meet your prayer child and visit historic sites to name just a few of the activities. Please watch this space for more detailed information to come. Please send an e-mail to delegations@santacruzalsalvador.org if you are interested or have questions.

Bargetto Winery Event Report

A glass of wine, a spring afternoon, tempting finger foods, music from the Barbara Lopez Group and convivial conversation -- all added up to a lovely time on the beautiful Bargetto patio. We also received an update by Guillermo Sensente, who is a project manager with ESNA, our partner in the composting toilet project in El Pilar. 90 people attended our fundraiser this year. Ticket sales, basket drawings, and table center pieces of orchids helped us raise over \$4,000. Thank you to all who participated in or supported our event, it was a great success!

To learn more about our sister parish and how to get involved, see www.santacruzalsalvador.org.

For the Santa Cruz al Salvador Board
Kent Madsen and Jeanne Boudreau



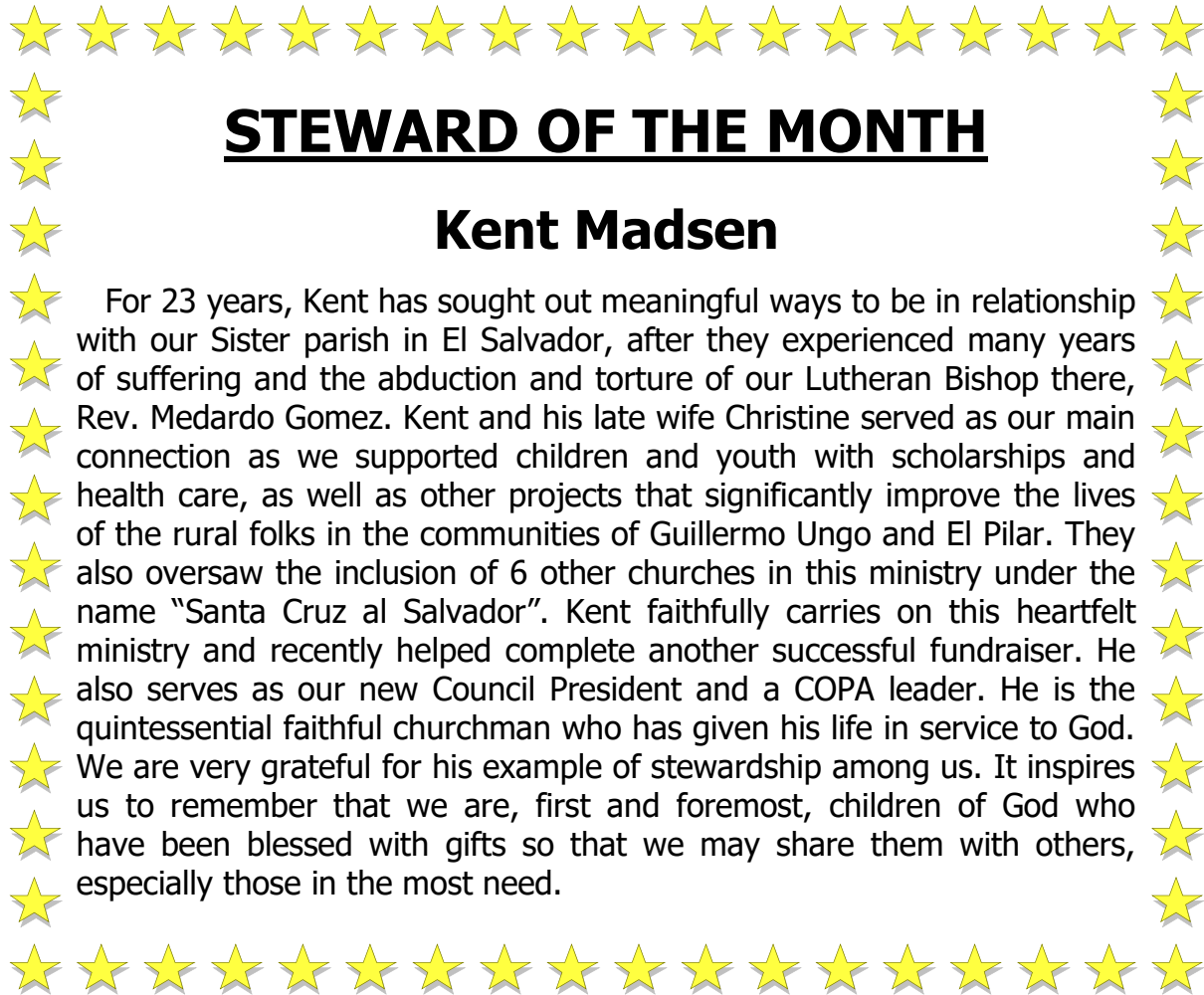


Provide Lunches For the volunteers

4th Tuesday of each month

June 26 at 10:30 am

Sign up for: Sandwiches, Fruit, Cookies, or Drinks



STEWARD OF THE MONTH

Kent Madsen

For 23 years, Kent has sought out meaningful ways to be in relationship with our Sister parish in El Salvador, after they experienced many years of suffering and the abduction and torture of our Lutheran Bishop there, Rev. Medardo Gomez. Kent and his late wife Christine served as our main connection as we supported children and youth with scholarships and health care, as well as other projects that significantly improve the lives of the rural folks in the communities of Guillermo Ungo and El Pilar. They also oversaw the inclusion of 6 other churches in this ministry under the name "Santa Cruz al Salvador". Kent faithfully carries on this heartfelt ministry and recently helped complete another successful fundraiser. He also serves as our new Council President and a COPA leader. He is the quintessential faithful churchman who has given his life in service to God. We are very grateful for his example of stewardship among us. It inspires us to remember that we are, first and foremost, children of God who have been blessed with gifts so that we may share them with others, especially those in the most need.

from Pastor Jim...



This past month my, Leslie's and your daughter, Rachel, graduated from California Lutheran University! It was one of the milestones you really hope you get to experience in life. This was especially true for Leslie and I since we met at CLU and were fortunate enough that Rachel chose to go there. We got to live one of those "full circle" moments as Rachel thrived at our alma mater and really took advantage of the many opportunities CLU provides. She even benefited from one of MY favorite professors 30 years ago, Sig Schwarz, who just retired this year.

At the same time, Rachel's remarkable journey so far, which includes traveling to El Salvador, Rwanda, Costa Rica, Peru, Oxford, Europe and the Holy Land, began as a baptized child of God into God's family right here at St. Stephen's. She has been raised by so many of you here now, and by so many who have gone before us (Grandma Olive Steinstra, Orville & Edna Lindquist, Renie Leaman, Chris Madsen, and Roy Hoch). Her church family has provided her with so many enriching experiences through Sunday School, VBS, Nursery attendant, Mt. Cross, Synod Youth Committee, and 4 years of scholarships at CLU. She truly is a daughter of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. You have fulfilled your baptismal promises to help raise her in God's ways.

This is what it means to be the church, especially a smaller, intergenerational, more traditional one like ours. I can't, for the life of me, figure out why every young parent within 50 miles wouldn't want the same upbringing for their child, but apparently they have some kind of a better idea than the church.

But what I really want to share with you are the results of your faithfulness in helping to raise her well. Rachel initially was going to give back to the church by serving the ELCA for 1 yr. as a Young Adult in Global Mission in Madagascar. However, she was recently invited 3 mos. early to serve for 2 yrs. in the Peace Corps as an Agriculture & Nutrition Specialist in Ethiopia! She will supervise/coordinate other Peace Corps volunteers as they teach smallholder farmers new and improved techniques in home gardening, poultry, beekeeping, and nutrition, which will help build food security. She will still be giving back to the church by offering her gifts to some of the world's "least of these" in a country that has often suffered from famine. Her work will be with 3 indigenous groups who are often left out of the meager resources of that country. You can Google "Peace Corps Agriculture and Nutrition Development Worker". We can all give thanks to God that seed of faith that was planted in her baptism here is growing and producing much fruit!

June 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

June 7 @ 9:30 am

Finance Committee

June 8 @ 8:30 am

Church Council

June 13 @ 6:30pm

Embroider's Guild

June 18 @ 7:00 pm

Women's Café Group

June 20 @ 6:30 pm

Bible Study June 26 @ 10:00

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

June 26 @10:30

MMRR Circle on hiatus

Thrivent All Church Picnic

Save the Date — August 19

*Please sign up to help on Sundays
Coffee Hosts and Ushers needed*

Council Highlights

1. Devotions centered around Steeple to Street's Ch.2 "When a Contemporary Service, a Vision Statement and a Strategy Team Aren't Enough". We learned that just 10% of those who describe their religion as "None" are seeking a church. So how do we reach out to people who don't even want to be reached out to?
2. MidPen is asking the church to add a clause to it's Articles of Incorporation in order to qualify for a Welfare Property Tax Exemption, which allows them to build high quality housing for low-income residents. The County Assesor is requiring this change and our Bishop and legal counsel have advised us to implement the change, as it presents no issues to us or the Synod. It requires a congregational vote. Council is deciding how to proceed.
3. Thanks to Ron Buswell and James Russell for designing and installing a new banner displaying worship times!
4. Robbin Heppe resigned from the Council due to personal reasons. Jill Adachi will be moving out of the area and will be resigning August 1. We thank them both for their faithful leadership. They will be missed dearly. Two new members will be appointed by the Council this summer.
5. Cheryl Curry and Lydia Abler will serve as our Synod Assembly delegates in Sacramento w/ Pastor Jim, June 1-3.

This Changes Everything!

What is the "This"? The Gathering theme offers a great opportunity for everyone involved to reflect on Ephesians 2:8 – "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

One day I was in a store and was wearing my grey pullover that has the Gathering logo, "This Changes Everything," on it. As I checked out, the clerk asked me, "What does that mean? What changes everything?" For a moment, I was shocked to be asked. There was a line of people behind me. I felt some pressure. Did she have an answer in mind? Was she testing me? Was she really curious? Was this an opportunity? Would she understand if I told her or call me crazy or ask questions? How do you answer that question?

In response, I said, "God – God's love, grace and the gift of faith because of Christ." She said, "I was hoping that was the answer." It felt a little like I had passed a test, but it also felt like she was hoping for that good news.

I don't know her story but we know God's story and the gift of faith and grace God has given us through Christ. This gift of grace does have the power to change perspectives and help each of us realize we are enough, through the grace of God. May we keep that in mind as we support adult leaders and congregations for the Gathering and as we continue our journey of life and faith.

Let us pray: Gracious God, we thank you for this incredible opportunity to serve with the Gathering. As we share in this time together and continue to prepare for the Gathering, may we keep this theme and verse at the center of what we do – acting with faith, love and grace. Give us wisdom and patience, listening ears and compassionate hearts to all we encounter. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

– Kathy Hunstad, Minnesota Youth Leader



**“Blast off for Books”
Houston Literacy Campaign**

Join Elias McMilin & Nathan Lapp in supporting this ministry and connect with their host city. The ELCA has recognized the need to lift up literacy. 74% of the students in the Houston School district come from families who struggle to provide books for their children. By putting books in the hands of the disadvantaged students, you can help change lives. Bring your donations to church by **Sunday June 10.**

Specific books are requested. These are to name a few:

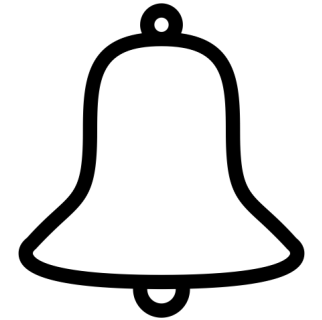
- *Frog & Toad (Series)* by Arnold Lobel
- *Bad Kitty (Series)* by Nick Bruel
- *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson
- *Matilda* by Ronald Dahl
- *Origami Yoda (Series)* by Tom Angelberger
- *Some Kind of Courage* by Dan Gemeinhart
- *The Lions of Little Rock* by Kristin Levine
- *Wonder* by Raquel Palacio
- *Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin
- *Mango Abuela and Me* by Meg Medina
- *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt
- *Why Am I Me* by Paige Britt

For the full book list, see flyer in narthex
For lots of exciting info see www.elca.org/youthgathering

Remembering Our Pastors- Memorial Brick Project

Your Church Council voted at our May meeting to dedicate Memorial Bricks for the Bell to honor our previous pastors who served our membership. We are asking current members to sponsor these bricks with donations in honor of our past leaders. They are:

- Rev. Charles Endter (Founding Pastor) 1953—1955
- Rev. Jack Zoellner 1956—1959
- Rev. George Flora 1960—1976
- Rev. Tim Hillerman 1972—1976
- Rev. Glenn Johnson 1976—1990
- Rev. Philip Hult 1991—1995
- Rev. James P. Lapp 1996—



Each brick costs \$60 and one Title brick on top of the column will denote their contributions to St. Stephens. The total is \$480 for the eight bricks. There will be place holder bricks for future pastors also.

Contributions can be made in any Pastor’s memory or to support the entire group. We hope that this tribute will meet with your support. You may wish to take a pew envelope or write a memo on a check and list “Pastor’s Memorial” for our counters information.

Dave Balogh, Council Member



When was the last Property Work Day????
Exactly . . . We can’t remember either!

The two main tasks are:

- Cleaning ALL windows
- Weeding the play ground



Sunday School

We remember Aria Barte's June baptismal birthday. Help her to be a faithful follower and produce much fruit!

"I am the vine, you are the branches" John 15:1-8 As the Vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us. We are sent out to bear fruit for the world. If we stay connected to Jesus, we will grow. Our life will produce beautiful leaves and delicious fruit. But if we are separated from Jesus our leaves will wither and die and we will never bear fruit. Fruits of the Spirit: to be kind, gentle, generous, and loving.

"Filled with the Holy Spirit" Acts 2:1-21 Each child was given a colorful balloon. As they breathed life into it, I asked them to remember that just as the balloon needs to be filled to be what it was intended to be, you and I need the Holy Spirit to fill us so that we can be all that God wants us to be. On Pentecost God sent His Spirit to breath life into the church. The church became alive and was doing the things that God had commanded.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom — to value the things of God

Understanding — to grasp faith's mysteries

Counsel — to make wise decisions

Fortitude — to strengthen your will

Knowledge — to enlighten your mind

Piety — to love and serve God

Fear of the Lord — to respect God's majesty

The Spirit lives in our hearts. The Spirit guides us in the decisions we make each day. He is the comforter who calms our fears and fills us with hope. Thank you Holy Spirit for helping us!

Sunday School is now on Summer Recess. However, AFTER the children's sermon, they can come sit together in our "Faith-Full Friends" summertime pew. I'll provide activity packets and GIANT coloring books. Special thank you to Joel & Maryann for taking over class May 13. ~ Faithfully, Miss Leslie

Birthdays & Anniversaries

6-1	Jim Hanson	6-16	Tara McMilin	
6-4	Anne Davis	6-18	Kaleb Orthner	
6-5	Lauren Pond	6-19	Kim Brouse	6-20 Gary & Diane Hintz
6-6	Joseph Ronning	6-20	Abigail Robe	
6-8	Steve Young	6-21	Jenna Mabry	6-22 John & Lorie Coronado
6-10	Pr. Glenn Johnson	6-26	Pr. Bonnie Bell	
6-10	Kirk McMilin	6-26	Mary Kelly	6-28 Kirk & Terri Adams
6-12	Ruth Mitchell	6-29	Michael Nunes	
6-12	Madeline Mouw	6-30	Emmanuel Perez	
6-14	Kent Orthner			
6-14	Stephanie Laufer	6-30	Susan Gross	



Short Term: Candace Anderson Family, Kike's Family, Tony Guerrero, Rose, Lina, Bob & Sandi, Beverly Hickman, Sam & Nancy, Tom Fitzhenry, Jeanette, Tony Mendoza, The Childer's Family,

Keith, Chad, Lou, Tera Threewit, Emil Hayler, Carmen Harper, Betty Kievlan, Helene W., Elizabeth, Melissa, Rod Burchell, Colin, Henry, Annetta, Dorothy, Yvonne, Don, Jack, 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, Kyle, Artists, 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, Pat Hubbard, Cathy Lorenzo, Pearl Runquist, Volpi Family, Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, the President, and the Youth of today.



**St. Stephen's
Applications due
by June 30**

Scholarships are offered yearly for members attending seminaries, universities, colleges, junior colleges, or trade schools. They are funded through prior investments designated for scholarships and benevolence giving. We would like to request that if you are interested in applying for a scholarship that you complete an application by the end of June. The application form used last year is still valid or you can get a new application form through the church office.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.
Ron Buswell, Treasurer

Women's Café Group

Wednesday, June 20
6:30 pm

Devotions & Dinner
Fellowship
More info 476-4700

Bible Study

Tuesday, June 26
10:00 am

Fireside Room

with Rev. Bonnie Bell
All are welcome!

Child Development Center



This month we switch gears to summer activities. First, we celebrate our graduates Dylan, Eli, Sadie, and Alex on June 6th at our graduation Chapel at 10:15. It is a special time where they are given a signed Beginners Bible (the one Pastor Jim has read to them during Chapel), special individual tributes, a preschool certificate, portfolio of pictures and art they have created, and a blue denim bag to use at the public library.

Our literacy program each year includes "Raising A Reader" where the cigarette taxes pay for red bags with 4 books each that we rotate weekly for the children to take home and enjoy with their family. Usually a field trip is planned for the end of the year to the library however we do not go on field trips, so we will present them with the bag and encouragement to visit the library. Additionally, in literacy teaching we have enjoyed being in the Santa Cruz Public Library Pilot Program of Volunteers who have come each Tuesday morning to share stories and songs with us. It has been an enriching and fun experience for us. We thank Judy Russell for making this possible and look forward to another year of this program after a summer break. SSCDC is a SEEDS literacy school where 2 of the lead teachers took 10 months of training to ensure that literacy activities are imbedded in the many activities we offer. Our graduates understand book and print rules after experiencing our program.

Most of our garden is planted and the children delight in tending to and enjoying the harvest. In summer we enjoy watering the plants, water play in water tables and running through hose spray. We get wet and dirty... what could be more fun!

We will be closed June 11-15 for respite and transition. We have full enrollment this summer including 3 new 2-year-old students starting this month. I will be going to Montana in June this year, rather than July as I am expecting my first grandchild end of July. Fortunately, we have an excellent staff, so I can have these adventures. While in Montana I plan the budget for the next year at SSCDC where it is nice and quiet, and I can think things through without interruption. Thanks be to God that I have that opportunity each year.

Blessings, Kathy Berens

Treasurer Notes ...
Budget Information – April 2018

	April	April	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution In- come	\$15247	\$13787	\$55584	\$52392	\$3192
Facility Use In- come	\$ 573	\$715	\$2997	\$2860	\$137
Investment In- come	\$4019	\$3585	\$14421	\$14340	\$81
Total Income	\$19840	\$18815	\$75004	\$72505	\$2499
Expenses	\$17082	\$17271	\$71103	\$70362	\$741
Net	\$2757	\$1544	\$3901	\$2143	\$1758

Contribution income for April was 105% of budget. We are ahead of budget because of larger than anticipated Easter donations, \$4.5K, and \$2.9K received earlier than anticipated for memorial bricks. Actual income is 103% ahead of budget. Expenses for April were on budget. So overall income is ahead of expenses by \$3.9K year to date.

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

	April	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$10	\$908	
Piano	\$0	\$252	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$320	
Solar Electric Payback	\$291		\$22935
Narthex Bathroom	\$290		\$7534
Sunday School Projects	\$100	\$90	

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2018 through April	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$818
SS Scholarships	\$429
Live Oak Resource Center	\$305
Habitat for Humanity	\$395
Mt. Cross	\$0
World Hunger	\$0
Homeless Service Center	\$0
CLU/PLTS	\$0
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$32
SS CDC	\$138
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0
Lutheran World Relief	\$0
ELCA Synod	\$650
COPA	\$500
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$3265
2018 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$15317
% of Target	24%

Church Bell Bricks

We have received orders for 113 bricks* as of 5/9/18 toward our goal 200. The order for the bricks has been placed with That's My Brick and we should receive the engraved bricks sometime in early June.