

ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 Worship Service

9:30 Adult Forum

10:30 Worship Service & Children's Church

And Coffee Fellowship

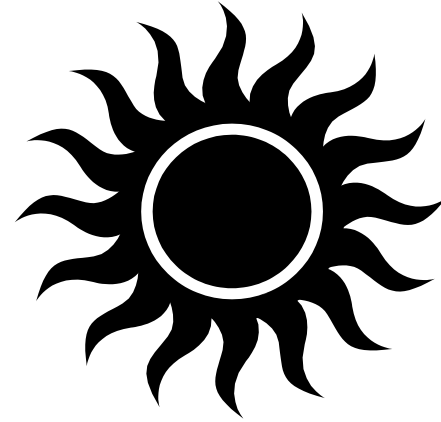
NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
Feb. 26, 2018

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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 63
Years of Ministry
March 2018*

Holy Week & Easter Worship

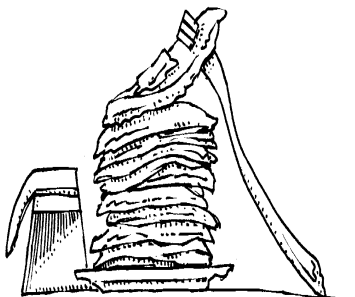
Palm Sunday March 25 — 8:15 & 10:30 am Dramatic Worship

Maundy Thursday March 29 - 11:30 am & 7:30 pm Worship
"The Last Supper"

Good Friday March 30 - 7:30 pm Worship
"The Seven Last Words"

Easter Sunday April 1 - 8:15 am Worship
10:30 am Worship
with Children's Egg Hunt

Easter Breakfast to benefit our many ministries.
Celebrate the resurrection with food & friends!



Pancake Breakfast

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



My third year at Cal Poly is going great! I am working towards a degree in Biological Sciences with a concentration in Anatomy and Physiology. After I graduate, I want to go to Physical Therapy school.

Besides spending a lot of time studying, I am a board member for the American Medical Women's Association and the Physical and Occupational Therapy Club. For both of these clubs, I work on organizing volunteer events, getting guest speakers to come talk, and recruiting new members. In addition to this, I just started volunteering at a physical therapy clinic in San Luis Obispo two days a week. I am really enjoying learning more about the profession and working with patients. Although all of these things keep me very busy, I am loving spending time with my roommates and friends and exploring San Luis Obispo.

I appreciate the support from the church and look forward to seeing everyone the next time I am back!

Thanks ~ Kylie Ronning

~ Save the Date ~

Sister Parish Benefit

Saturday, April 28, 3:00—5:00

Bargetto Winery in Soquel

Come and join us for a relaxing spring afternoon.

Wine tasting

Food

Music

Drawings

Updates on our work, and great conversation





El Salvador Sister Parish News

Pedrina Rivera has been a long time friend and co-worker in our community of Guillermo Ungo. We first met Pedrina as a young woman in the village of Los Henriquez. The next time we visited it seemed that Los Henriquez was struggling as a community with a number of problems. However, on our visit the following year, it was apparent that a strong, well-spoken young woman had taken charge and Los Henriquez was on solid footing.

Pedrina was also a Health Promoter in Los Henriquez. Health Promoters in El Salvador are informally trained people, usually women, that make themselves available to help their nearby community members with first aid and preventative health care.

Later, Pedrina became a nursing student, a natural progression from Health Promoter. She was heartily encouraged by Christine Madsen, my late wife. Pedrina still refers to her as "Mama Cristy". Pedrina progressed in her studies, but was called to a political career before she graduated.

Pedrina was first elected as an Assistant Deputy of the National Assembly. Later, she was elected *Alcaldessa* (mayor) of Suchitoto in 2012. (Poster photo) Under her leadership Suchitoto has blossomed. The town has many assets, but leadership is needed to keep it (relatively) safe, clean, and welcoming.

The delegation met with Mayor Rivera in her office at the *Alcaldia*, or city hall. It's a beautiful colonial Spanish building with a traditional square courtyard. We talked about current and upcoming initiatives, our organization's work with Guillermo Ungo, and her remaining time in office (three years). Later, Pedrina joined us for lunch at the Museo Cafe in the Centro de Arte para La Paz.

It is very gratifying to watch a young woman mature into a strong, effective leader. Santa Cruz al Salvador is blessed to have Pedrina as a special friend.

Santa Cruz al Salvador
Building Relationships for Better Lives



from Pastor Jim...

I am reprinting this article from our Synod newsletter because it really spoke to and for me. May we always seek racial justice.

TROUBLE IN PARADISE Just when I thought I lived in the ideal diverse community, with no racial majority, hopes were shattered by hateful words painted all over the windows of a beauty salon owned by an African American woman I knew. A few years before, two Sikh men were killed as they walked peacefully in the community, shot by a sniper who likely saw their white headdresses and out of hate for "the other" gunned them down. And, then I remembered several times as I was walking my dog in the community park, persons driving large pickups with confederate flags hanging on the back, aggressively through the park, showing off the power they felt. But, I thought this was in the past. Then, as the community began meetings to address the racism these and other incidents, it became clear we had to deal together with prejudice that came with the diversity we were so proud of.

Since that time, additional evidences of prejudice in my paradise community have made it crystal clear that we've got a problem we cannot dismiss as just a few bad actors. Sadly, it is now clear that our schools also need to face racism within their student body as racist videos have surfaced that speaks painfully that generations have not learned how sinful our actions towards each other are.

Then as I sadly observed that racism continues generationally in diverse communities, and not simply from communities where other races have faced opposition to their presence, more events have taken place. Sadly, it was evident in the highest office of our land and reflected among the defenders of race based politics in our nation's debate over immigration and the diverse presence of people from countries predominately of persons of color.

Even if you think we can dismiss these events as not really reflective of our communities and nation, as persons of faith we are called to a greater examination based upon our understanding of sin and it's denial of the gift God has given all people as made in God's image.

The bottom line of all this is a reminder that I have to face the places in my heart where I often have hidden attitudes of racism that prevent me from totally embracing my sister or brother. And, we must together find a new path that brings our local communities and our nation together for the sake of the world God has given us to share as One people.

When we hear the word, "Racism", more and more there seems to be a denial of its presence in our world, our country, our inner selves. Perhaps we may defend ourselves from the label, defend our country and it's leaders, or even blame the newcomer as "taking something from us". But, let's look at this from our faith life that helps us face the fact that as the story of Adam and Eve remind us while we have been given a paradise from God, our sin is that we want to possess it for ourselves. And when that happens, like Adam and Eve we turn on the other, for the sake of keeping it "pure". We have been given a wonderful world to live in by God, together, so that all people be blessed as children of the parent of us all.

March Happenings



**March 11
Spring
forward**

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

Finance Committee
Mar. 9 @ 8:30 am

Church Council
Mar. 12 @ 6:30pm

MMRR Circle
Mar. 8 @ 10:30 am

Embroider's Guild
Mar. 19 @ 7:00 pm

Women's Café Group
Not during lent

Child Dev. Center Board
Mar. 26 @ 11:15 am

Bible Study Mar. 27 @ 10:00

Habitat Lunches Mar. 27 @ 10:30

Council Highlights

1. We decided to use the book "Steeple to Street" as our devotions for the next year. This is in conjunction with the conference that Pastor Jim will be attending in March that seeks to equip more traditional churches like ours in reaching out to our local community in creative ways.
2. We welcomed and thanked Eagle Scout-to-be, Dalton Mekis and his mother Cindy for the fantastic job they did in organizing the painting of the exterior of the church. They gave us a final financial report and were able to finish ahead of schedule thanks to the warm, clear weather of February. The church only ended up having to pay \$5000 of a more than \$20,000 project. \$900 of that was donated by the Bob Herman, the head architect of the Senior Housing, which covered the metallic gold paint on the steeple and around the inside of the entrance.
3. Outgoing President Mark Linder presided over the election of the following officers: President - Kent Madsen, V.P.- Jay Johnston, Secretary-Robbin Heppe, Treasurer -Ron Buswell.
4. Pastor Jim proposed seeking a Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Grant for his sabbatical in the summer of 2019, and that the Mutual Ministry Comm. assist him. Council approved unanimously.
5. Council approved the Easter Breakfast funds go to the Organ Fund.

been attending to let them know they have been missed. Entire WM committee volunteered to make calls. **PLAN:** Table to next meeting for further discussion.

Time and Talent Sheets for 2017- -- Barb-- not completed. **PLAN:** Barb to complete.

Additions to agenda -

Gary raised question about publicity of services and special events being posted on the new sign on Soquel. Barb referred this activity back to the Council as it's their responsibility not WM Comm. **PLAN** - Jim will take this back to the Council.

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

For next Agenda— Organ booklet, attendance calls, time and talent sheets summary, recommendations sent to Council-insurance for organ, publicity for services and events.

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 -- 1st Thursdays, 9:30 - 11 AM -- 4/5, 6/7, 8/2, 10/4, 12/6 Fireside Rm
Submitted by Barb Rice on behalf of the W/M Committee

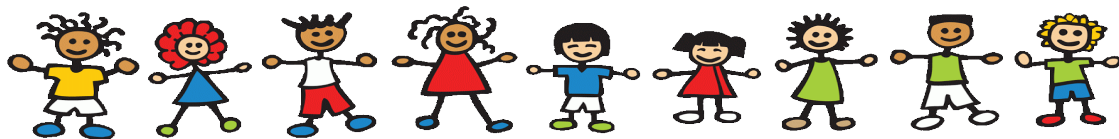
Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

Live Oak Family Resource Center

This valuable community center serves many in our local neighborhood and is one of our COPA partners as we seek to meet the needs of families by organizing for changes and new opportunities. Below is an excerpt from the 'Thank You Letter' we received. It reminds us about the importance of our partnership with places who are serving the more vulnerable ones in our community.

"Thank you so much for your generous donations. Your contribution has already gone to work providing vital services for the Live Oak Families, including connecting them with health insurance and providing free summer sports leagues for kids." Kate Hinnenkamp, Director

February—St. Stephen's Scholarship Fund = \$ 402.50 (as of 2/22)



Sunday School

Child of God, Sofia Bartee, you are loved. We remember your 2/5 baptism and give thanks for your gifts.

"Who's in Control?" This lesson was on Jesus authority and power. We played some control games that reinforced who is in charge. The favorite was walking the entire length of the building with rulers on their heads without making a peep. We watched an upbeat video of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands". Says it all, doesn't it?

"Looking for Jesus." Doesn't this scream hide and seek & Where's Waldo? Again, I'm dated — they had no idea who Waldo was! I had them search for their names in various spots around the church. Then we searched for Jesus name. Some can see Jesus easily, others have to look more carefully. He is there, always for us. The other part of this lesson was where Jesus went when everyone was looking for him. He got up early to find a quiet place to pray. He needed to recharge His battery. Spending time with God will do that for YOU. That's why prayer and coming to church is so important.

"On the Mountain Top." Last week Jesus went alone to pray. This week he took his friends with him and God spoke to them all. By know you know I adore props. Rugged boots, camel pack for H2O, huge backpack loaded with necessities for life outback, including a bear canister (which caused pause). This type of get away, is what charges my battery. No hustle and bustle of every day life. Just magnificent scenery, dirt, and natural fun. Never have I felt closer to God than during these times out galavanting in creation. Is there really a question as to why God chose this stage to transform Jesus, proclaim his love and command his friends to listen to Him?

"Into the Wilderness with Jesus." Back to nature again? Perhaps it's just easier to hear the Good News when we are out in creation. For Jesus this wasn't a walk in the park. Jesus endured this time and was strengthened by God to call his disciples. The kids recreated the story & added a little drama with the felt board. We worked on puzzles (Daniel / Lions and David / Goliath) that remind us that our faith is a powerful tool that can overcome scary things.

May you find your mountaintop experience and renew your strength for your daily walk with Jesus.

~ Faithfully, Miss Leslie

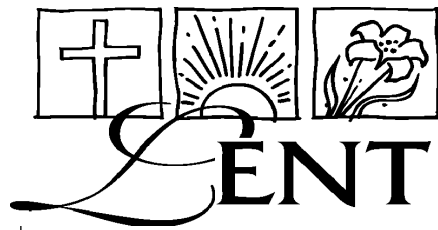
Birthdays & Anniversaries

3-5	Steven Pond	3-20	Peggy Crews	3-10	Steve & Julie Mouw
3-6	Bev Hickman	3-22	Elizabeth Balogh	3-16	Bill & Sherilyn Jager
3-8	Judy Russell	3-23	Sheila Buswell	3-19	Brad & Shawn Cramer
3-12	Theresa Loback-Campbell	3-23	Polly Cappelloni		
3-18	Keith Slay	3-24	Dean Slay		
3-18	Shelby Volpi	3-27	Chuck Davis		
3-19	Oliver Spires				



Short Term: the Hoch Family, Linda Ronning Family, Beverly Hickman, Family of Milt, Conrad, Jeanette, Emil Hayler, Natalia Erickson, David, Candace's Father, Betty

Kievlan, Helene W., Elizabeth, Joyce, Melissa, Rod Burchell, Carla Brown, Kirk Hull, Colin, Henry, Hagerman Family, Hopping Family, Rossi Family, Yvonne, Don Fuqua, Jean Petersen, Lois, The Trippel family, Xavier, John Morgado, Sandra Eldridge, Susan Anderson, 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, Richard C. Becky, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Barry & Barbara, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Kyle, 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.



Wednesdays through March 21
We have TWO opportunities to gather:

Worship – 11:30 am, Soup lunch – 12:30
and
Soup Supper – 6:30 pm, Worship @ 7:15pm

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.

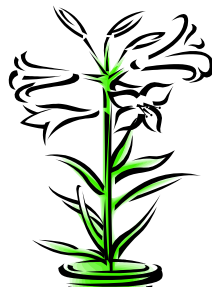
Attention Thrivent members!

Your Thrivent Choice Dollars are available! If you are a Thrivent Financial benefit member, you have Thrivent Choice Dollars available to designate to your church or charity (on the Thrivent qualifying list) of your choice. St. Stephen's, as well as the St. Stephen's Child Development Center, are on the list. Your Choice Dollars need to be designated by March 31. It doesn't cost you anything and your organization benefits! It is easy to do — just a few clicks on the Thrivent web site, or call Mary Elizabeth Bellizzi at 831-688-1788 for help.

Easter Lilies

- ~ Make \$15 checks payable to St. Stephen's
- ~ Memo line "Lily"
- ~ List your dedication on the sign up sheet

You may take home your Lily after the second service on Easter.



Child Development Center - A Tribute to Sheila and Bill

In 2012, our Child Development Center was officially Licensed by the state for operation. Previously St. Stephen's rented the space to Growing Years. Irene Freiburg closed her school and left most of the supplies behind, inspiring a few pioneers to aspire to opening our preschool ministry. This month we honor and thank Sheila Buswell, and Bill Schraft who will be retiring from the Board this March.

Our original pioneer, Sheila was our most enthusiastic volunteer and served on the original Task Force. She made a motion at the 2012 Annual meeting for the church to open their own Child Development Center. For over 6 years she faithfully attended meetings and volunteered to be the School Board Recorder. This required many hours of research and providing up to date minutes, along with organizing our Evangelical Lutheran Ed. Assoc. School Board Manual. Her love for children and God (including saying the Lord's Prayer after each meeting) kept us ever faithful as we created this preschool. Sheila mentored me as we partnered with each other along with other board members, to create an atmosphere of learning through play while offering strong curriculum. Her love for books and reading to children was shared as she volunteered often as a guest reader. She also took me to Book Fairs and generously donated a sum to purchase books. Sheila has been a trusted editor to the many documents I have written. Sheila Buswell's true love for inspiring children and adults is no better felt than in the weekly hug she gives me. It has been a privilege and an honor to have worked with her since 2011 when this all began!

Bill Schraft was generous enough to take over the position of Board President and partnered with Kathy as Director after the previous president and director departed suddenly. He attended small business meetings to help that aspect of our ministry get up and running smoothly. We were shorthanded, short funded, and short on elbow grease. Bill advised me on so many occasions and accompanied me during difficult Human Resource issues. He was ever strong and ever wise using his skills as an elementary school psychologist to keep me steady when times were challenging. He painted our classrooms and bathroom and ran to the rescue to help with repairs. He taught me to be strong in my interactions and to focus on my own instincts.

So many stories of support and wisdom to tell in such a small space. We built this ministry together along with other faithful volunteers. Bill and Sheila have been ever faithful in planning and implementation of all our fundraisers. In their last months of service, Sheila, Bill, and Barbara Johnston partnered to create appropriate Bylaws by researching other Lutheran Schools, and organizations to provide a framework of clarity as we move forward to work with future School Boards.

In closing, I find myself feeling that my professional parents are sending me out in the world to stretch my wings. With their gifts I can soar, but bittersweet as I will truly miss our steadfast partnership in creating our thriving and loving preschool.

Thanks Be to God! Kathy Berens



Treasurer Notes ...
Budget Information – January 2018

	January	January	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution Income	\$18491	\$11903	\$18491	\$11903	\$6588
Facility Use Income	\$330	\$715	\$330	\$715	\$-385
Investment Income	\$3899	\$3585	\$3899	\$3585	\$314
Total Income	\$24910	\$17490	\$24910	\$17490	\$7420
Expenses	\$16770	\$17386	\$16770	\$17386	\$-616
Net	\$8140	\$104	\$8140	\$104	\$8035

We received the full year’s pledge from two families and also a significant donation from a non-member for January. Expenses were also below budget. So overall we are \$8K ahead year to date. Thanks for your support. Ron Buswell

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

	January	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$50	\$789	
Piano	\$0	\$252	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$310	
Solar Electric Payback	\$140		\$23615
Narthex Bathroom	\$540		\$8373

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2018 through January	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$813
SS Scholarships	\$0
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	\$13
SS CDC	\$8
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0
Lutheran World Relief	\$0
ELCA Synod	\$300
COPA	\$0
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$1133
2018 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$15317
% of Target	7.4%

Church Bell Bricks

Create a unique dedication to your loved one to be placed around Our historic bell. We have received orders for 9 bricks* so far toward our goal of 200. Ordering is open until March 31. Please consider purchasing your brick(s) soon. Order Forms are available in the narthex or online at thatsmybrick.com/stepluchurch