

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

**9:30 am** Worship Service

And Coffee Fellowship

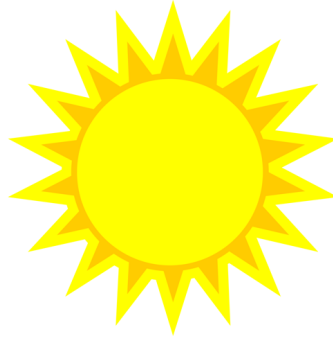
**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON**  
**August 27, 2018**

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

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

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

*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church*



***Sun***

***September 2018***

***Celebrating 64 Years of Ministry***

**Back to Two Services September 9**  
**8:15 & 10:30am (9:30 Adult Forum)**

**OKTOBERFEST**

**"Santa Cruz Style"**

**Saturday, September 22**

**12:00 — 4:00 our parking lot**

A celebration of and for our community. Local beer & wine,  
live music, yummy food, and kids activities .



(See Page 12)

***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 - Lydia Abler 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

### Let's "Fund a Latrine"

As an alternative to previous year's Walk4Water events in September, St. Andrew Presbyterian church proposed "Fund a Latrine" and it was adopted by the Santa Cruz al Salvador board.

This fundraiser will not have a time deadline of September but will go through the second half of 2018. Most of the SCaS churches are participating, and the St. Stephen's Council has approved "Fund a Latrine".

Donors are encouraged to donate checks, payable to Santa Cruz al Salvador, or cash (with full name included) in increments of \$25. Each \$25 donation will represent 1/28<sup>th</sup> of an Ecko latrine (estimated cost/unit=\$700). Donations can also be made on line at the SCaS website: [www.santacruzalsalvador.org](http://www.santacruzalsalvador.org). Donations of \$25 or more will trigger a year-end acknowledgement for tax purposes from SCaS through the organization's accounting software. Donations of any amount paid through the website would also result in a year-end acknowledgment.



There is an 11x17 photo of an Ecko latrine in the narthex. To start, the poster contains 28 post-its,. Each \$25 donation causes one of the post-its to be removed, slowly revealing the side of the latrine. The first photo shows the latrine after \$50 has been donated, the second after \$700 has been donated.

Composting latrines are very beneficial to rural communities with little electricity or plumbing facilities. In addition to the privacy and sanitation aspects, the end result is the production of fertilizer for crops.

Since 2016, SCaS has funded 40+ latrines, or 50% of the final goal of one composting latrine for each of the 83 families in the two communities receiving them. Members of the El Pilar communities have been instrumental in the latrines' construction, operation and upkeep. To the right is a very recent photo of one of the recipients of an Ecko latrine with her son. All this comes with an associated strong sense of purpose, accomplishment and pride. With SCaS funding and local participation by members of the community in El Salvador, this is a "win-win" project, and we appreciate your support.



Thanks to Marian Langdon of St. Andrew for the original draft of this article.

### Let's Go to El Salvador!

The dates have been set: January 9 to 18, 2019. Eight or so people have expressed serious interest in the January 2019 delegation. We will be visiting San Salvador, Guillermo Ungo, Suchitoto, El Pilar and likely one of El Salvador's tropical beaches; the itinerary is still being planned. Please let Kent Madsen know if you are interested. A non-refundable \$100 deposit secures your spot, deadline is 9/15/2018.

## Annual Women's Retreat

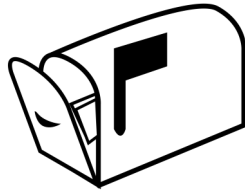
Sept 7—9 (or Saturday only)

The Fall Women's Retreat is a long standing tradition at Mt. Cross that offers women a chance for spiritual renewal, fellowship, learning, and laughing in the beauty of God's creation.

We will look at which practices we most need personally, which questions are burning within us, and which places our God is calling us. Putting those together, we'll begin waling a contemplative path that renews us in God's presence in order to engage and heal this beautiful and weary world.

\$150    Only Saturday: \$110  
Www.mtcross.org

Jill and Wayne Adachi  
1462 La Plaza Drive  
San Marcos, CA 92078



Nancy Graham  
831-435-8788

*Note the new address and phone number*



### Altar Guild Notice...Help Needed

- Weekly communion set up and clean up.
- Volunteers needed for both services.
- No experience needed. We will provide training.
- Flexible scheduling.

Contact Candace 476-9753  
*Please consider this service for the church.*

*from Pastor Jim...*



## **Communities Organized for relational Power in Action 15th Anniversary - COPA Convention Sunday, September 30th from 3-5 pm Sherwood Hall, Salinas**

We will join with 1000 people from our 28 other member institutions in Santa Cruz & Monterey Counties to celebrate 15 years of caring for our families and communities through this important and far-reaching work.

We have committed to bringing 35 people from our church to attend this significant gathering which only happens every 5 years. Please plan ahead and sign up now in church.

This is one of our public Christian witnesses where we seek biblical justice for those in need by working through our democracy and its leaders.

We will be lifting up the work already accomplished, like St. Stephen's Senior Housing, Esperanza health care for migrant farm workers, and the Live Oak Youth Center. 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/Substance Abuse Services, and Immigration.

For more info see: [copa.nationbuilder.com](http://copa.nationbuilder.com)  
Also listen to interview taped 8/25 3:00 at <http://ksco.com>

**September 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

**Church Council**

September 12 @ 6:30pm

**MMRR Circle**

September 13 @ 10:30 am

**Finance Committee**

September 14 @ 8:30 am

**Embroider's Guild**

September 17 @ 7:00 pm

**Women's Café Group**

September 19 @ 6:30 pm

**Property Work Day Sept. 15**

8:00 to noon contact Joel H.

**Bible Study with Pr. Bonnie**

September 25 @ 10:00

**Habitat for Humanity Lunches**

September 25 @10:30

**COPA Convention**

Sept. 30 @ 3:00 Salinas

**Council Highlights**

1.We took a break from our regular book study "Steeple to Street", and spent our devotional time on an excerpt entitled "Kindness" from Measuring the Days by Walter Wangerin. Pastor Jim felt the Spirit leading him to this devotion in light of the UN-kindness of our national public discourse. He reminded us that our involvement in our church is one way we can lift up and be a witness toward treating each other with kindness. Our church is full of people from whom we have learned kindness and gentleness - both Fruits of the Spirit. We remember especially the ones who have gone before us and left us a legacy of kindness.

2. Pastor Jim received a Sabbatical Award Letter from the Clergy Renewal Project (funded by the Lily Foundation). The grant application submitted by Pastor Jim and the Mutual Ministry Committee (Bill Schraft, Jeannette Dawson, and Kent Madsen). back in April was approved! The award amount was close to \$50,000, which is the maximum. Next summer we will all engage in some renewal time as we prepare to go: "Into the Wilderness...to Share the Good News". A sabbatical pastor will help lead the congregation in some renewal activities while Pastor Jim and family enter the wilderness places of Ethiopia (visiting Rachel in the Peace Corps), Holden Village, and a 15 day raft trip on the Grand Canyon. Pastor Jim will also participate in a Fresh Expressions Immersion with a more traditional church like ours, in Seattle, that has ventured into the wilderness of our post-Christian culture to share the good news.

**Greetings from the Choir**



The St. Stephen's choir will start rehearsing again on September 9<sup>th</sup>, the second Sunday in September and will sing for the first time on the following Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 am service.

We are continuing with our plan from last year! The choir will rehearse every Sunday morning at 9:30 am, but only sing every other Sunday. This seems to work well, giving choir members more time to learn the music before singing it for the congregation.

I have selected some music for the choir to sing through Advent. Some of the pieces will be old favorites and some will be new. I would like to encourage anyone who might like to sing to join us at this first rehearsal. It's lots of fun and a great way to support Sunday worship.

Please contact me if you're interested in singing with the choir. No experience is necessary. All are welcome! I hope to see you on September 9 at 9:30 am.

Peace! Suzanne Duval – Music Director



**THANK  
YOU**

**Elias McMilin:** The main thing I discovered through the NYG trip was a strong connection to the church. There were so many different and interesting people there, all with God in common, and working toward the same goals. It's pretty comforting to see all these people doing good in the world. Events like this one can really change a lot about a person. Personally, I now feel more secure in my relationship with others in the church, both through faith and trust. Thank you.

**Nathan Lapp:** I'm thankful to you (my church) for sending me to witness the Lutheran youth of America gather in one area. This was a great experience and I got a taste of how many other kids there are out there like me. The speakers really were touching and up front about their past. The kids were all kind and compassionate towards others while we were in some long lines. I hope that other kids my age will be able to go on this some time.





Wow, St. Stephen's Oktoberfest "Santa Cruz Style" 2018, is just around the corner. What started out with Robert Barte saying to my wife Judy, "Hey we used to do an Oktoberfest here, you should organize one" is now going into its' third celebration. This year will look different, as it will be held in a newly surfaced parking lot instead of the old field with a bunch of gopher holes! But

the spirit is the same, an opportunity for our church family to invite our surrounding community to a big celebration to see who & what the St. Stephen's community is all about. For you Oktoberfest purists, this is a spoiler alert, our celebration will be more reflective of Santa Cruz than Munich...thus the "Santa Cruz Style" in the name.

Our theme scripture this year is Luke 15:31-32, which I ask you all to take a look at prior to the Oktoberfest. What does it mean to be the Prodigal? What does it mean to be the Faithful Son? What is your attitude as we hold this celebration? Who will you invite to this celebration? How are you feeling led to help out?

BTW, have you ever been to a party where hardly anyone showed up? Not much of a party! Let's invite our neighbors, friends, co-workers, etc. to this event, the more the merrier. If you are on Facebook, please go the St. Stephen's page (have you "liked" your church? You really should "like" your church) and share the Oktoberfest event on your Facebook feed.

Our next planning meeting will be Sunday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 service, I invite you to come and be part of it.

During our first planning meeting, I asked everyone to share what the felt the Oktoberfest was about. Being a diverse community, there were a lot of answers, and I combined them together. This is what we came up with for what we want this Oktoberfest to be about:

"The Oktoberfest is a time for the fellowship of believers to get out in the community, bringing church to people, inviting the prodigals, building relationships. It is a time that magic happens: where we drink together-developing community, friendship, love, & fun. Simply said it is a good activity that says Lutherans (Christians) can have fun, Amen!"

If you have any questions (like "what can I do to help?"), feel free to send me an email at [jamesru38@gmail.com](mailto:jamesru38@gmail.com). - James Russell

## Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 23 at 9:30 a.m.

The stated purpose of this meeting is to authorize the Church Council to 1) Amend the Articles of Incorporation; and 2) Apply for an Organizational Clearance Certificate (OCC) from the state Board of Equalization (BOE). The OCC is required in order to secure a tax exemption for the land parcel on which the St. Stephen's Senior Housing (SSSH) structure sits, owned by St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (SSLC).

The Santa Cruz County Assessor's office requires SSLC to apply for and receive an Organizational Clearance Certificate from the state Board of Equalization. However, the BOE requires additional language to be included in the organization's Articles of Incorporation to ensure that any property that receives property tax exemption is used for and "dedicated to" exempt purposes. That additional language consists of two statements as follows:

*"The property located in California owned by this organization is irrevocably dedicated to charitable or religious purposes."*

*"Upon the liquidation, dissolution or abandonment of this organization, it's assets, remaining after payment or provision of payment of all debts and liabilities of this organization, shall be distributed to an organization organized and operated for a charitable or religious purpose meeting the requirements of Revenue and Taxation Code section 214."*

This is simply putting into writing the way the church would most likely proceed should it ever cease to exist. We have consulted with our Synod Bishop Mark Holmerud and the Synod attorney, and they wholeheartedly endorse this proposed change. This is something that they have had experience with other congregations.

Attorneys for MidPen Housing also commented on the additions to the Articles of Incorporation, "The dedication of the property for exempt purposes does not mean that the organization cannot sell the property for a non-exempt use, but it does require that the proceeds from the sale be dedicated to exempt (religious or charitable) purposes."

Members, please mark your calendars and plan to attend this Special Congregational Meeting between services on September 23. Contact Kent Madsen with any questions.

St. Stephen's Church Council



## Sunday School

Wishing you all a smooth transition as you kiss summer good by and head back to school.

Significant dates to make note of:

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Sept. 9    | Class resumes EVERY SUNDAY at 10:30 am                           |
| Sept. 16   | No Leslie, can you sub?  |
| Sept. 23   | No Leslie, can you sub?  |
| Oct. 12-14 | Elementary Retreat (sign up NOW, chaperone needed)               |
| Nov. 9-11  | Middle School Retreat  |
| Nov. 11    | Thanksgiving card making for seniors                             |
| Nov. 18    | Pageant Prep   |
| Nov. 18    | Thanksgiving Potluck 11:30 (give cards to seniors)               |
| Nov. 25    | Advent Wreath Making & Pageant Prep                              |
| Nov. 25    | Live Oak Community Children's Gifts due<br>(New hoodies & coats) |
| Dec. 1     | Live Oak Las Posadas TBA gift delivery                           |
| Dec. 2     | Pageant Prep   |
| Dec. 8     | Dress Rehearsal 10:00 am   |
| Dec. 9     | Christmas Pageant 10:30 am                                       |

We will be writing a new script for the Christmas Pageant, with each of you in mind. It is crazy to think about the holidays when we are still in summer mode, but we need to know who will be participating as soon as possible. Creative juices take a while to flow you know. Your input is welcome!

We are also partnering with MMRR and the Live Oak Community Resource Center on a holiday coat drive for their kids. This is their big need, not toys. See you soon, Miss Leslie



- |      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| 9-7  | David Balogh    |
| 9-8  | Cabel Dawson    |
| 9-9  | Jill Adachi     |
| 9-9  | Becky Cramer    |
| 9-10 | Wayne Adachi    |
| 9-10 | David Larson    |
| 9-11 | Rebecca Wickham |
| 9-12 | Nikki Creel     |
| 9-12 | Collin Travers  |
| 9-12 | Hannah Travers  |



- |      |                   |      |                                |
|------|-------------------|------|--------------------------------|
| 9-14 | Elias McMilin     | 9-29 | Joanne Freymuth                |
| 9-15 | Ashley Volpi      | 9-30 | Kristen Silva                  |
| 9-16 | Rick Oldfield     | 9-1  | Tom & Jeanette Dawson          |
| 9-17 | Marta Bechhoefer  | 9-3  | Bill & Margaret Schraft        |
| 9-18 | Connie Cunningham | 9-4  | Jim Jones & Shay Barsabe       |
| 9-19 | Philip Spires     | 9-6  | Ron & Sheila Buswell           |
| 9-20 | Brian Awe         | 9-6  | Jim & Naomi Florin-Gosciminski |
| 9-26 | Hope Coronado     | 9-6  | Ken & Susan Gross              |
| 9-26 | Jan Wagner        | 9-6  | Kevin & Marla Meek             |
|      |                   | 9-17 | Paul & Connie Cunningham       |
|      |                   | 9-29 | Stephen & Lauren Pond          |

### **Belated Wishes**

7/1 Herb & Grace Schmidt



**Short Term:** Lois Meeker (hospice care), Meeker Family, Layla Thibault, Ed Drews, Luke Harrisen, Roger & Family, Marsha & Bob, Gwen & Steven, Lotte, Tony Guerrero, Rose, Bob Foster, Carmen Gill, Carol Avenmarg, Esdras, Pat Jones, Nancy, Yvonne, Melissa, Aaron, Lorenzo, Verlone, John Gill, Roger, Emil Heyler, Kirk Hull, Tony Mendoza, Keith, Kyle, Helene W., Elizabeth, Rod Burchell, Dorothy, Don Fuqua, Jean Petersen, Lois, The Trippel family, Xavier, John Morgado, Sandra Eldridge, Susan Anderson, Carmen & Linda Harper, Stephanie Jager, Frank, Rick, Jackson, Joe, Pat & brothers, Riley, Shelby, Kaitlyn, Daniel, Ryder, Immigrant families, Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and Our Church Family. **Long Term:** Jan Shadle, Vi Olly & CJ Muchanic Jr., Jenny Rebecca Hodge, Rick, Lina, Katrina, Mateo, 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, Pearl Runquist, Volpi Family, Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, the President, and the Youth of today.



## Child Development Center

**SAVE THE DATE:  
AEBLESKIVER BREAKFAST OCTOBER 7th**

As your preschool director of almost 6 years I have never been more excited about the beginning of a school year until now. The culmination of everyone's contributions to building our school settled in this summer. A solid foundation is set as we had dreamed it could be. Of course, we have ideas for the future, but for now it is with gratitude to our Lord that we have arrived at this place. Our enrollment is full at twenty-two. We have 3 new students joining us this month, and the rest returning. We have a waitlist, but we must be mindful of several siblings turning 2 in the spring.

Our staff is complete which is a huge milestone to have enough teachers who all contribute their special gifts to our children. All staff is educated in the CORE classes of child development at minimum. We are challenged to offer fair wage by recognizing preschool pay rates verses cost of living. The SSCDC School Board and I reviewed our budget and were able to move closer this goal. This includes providing healthcare for our full-time teachers. Our staff is grateful to be cared for in this way. Our congregation should be very proud of their ministry!

We send many thanks to Troop 633 for volunteering to install new woodchips on the playground and are so grateful to their wiliness to help us with projects!

While writing this article, a grandmother of a student whose last day is today stopped by my office with a card for our staff and Pastor Jim. Her card read, *"Pastor Jim thank you for your presence and enthusiasm with the preschoolers. To the teachers thank you for all your tender care, fun projects, guidance and all-around excellence in making your lovely school a second home for the children. My granddaughter felt embraced and encouraged every day by you."* She told me she wished we could continue to be a small village together rather than say goodbye. Before I read her card, I told her that my goal has been to create a place where students, families, and staff consider this to be their second home. A home in which everyone is valued and cared for. She started to cry and said we have done just that. It is in moments like this one that I hear the voice of Jesus. How wonderful that I get to work among Christians and share love and kindness each day.

Thanks be to God! Kathy Berens

## **Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca - Women's Circle Thursday, Sept. 13 at 10:30 am**

**"YEE-HAW, Y'ALL!"**

MMRR Women's Circle is getting back in the saddle and riding into the new year of meetings, service, socializing and worshipping God.

Our monthly meetings in the Fireside Rm. begin on Sept. 13 and this year, we are coordinating our speakers with St. Stephen's monthly benevolence offerings to the community that we strive to serve. On Sept. 13, the Director of the Homeless Services Center will speak about their mission and how they achieve it. We should know where our giving goes, and be aware of how we can help to our fullest extent. As Christians, we strive, like Jesus, to help those in need.

So get on your horse and ride to our first round-up to enroll your current information for our new roster, meet like minded members of our congregation and pass the hat.

## **Women's Café Group**

**Wednesday, Sept. 19  
6:30 pm  
Devotions & Dinner  
Fellowship  
More info 476-4700**

## **Bible Study**

**Tuesday, Sept. 25  
10:00 am  
Fireside Room  
  
with Rev. Bonnie Bell**

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

	July	July	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution Income	\$11774	\$12383	\$89187	\$89541	\$-353
Facility Use Income	\$ 997	\$715	\$5157	\$5005	\$152
Investment Income	\$4115	\$3585	\$25070	\$25095	\$-25
Bricks	\$0	\$717	\$5257	\$5017	\$241
Total Income	\$16885	\$17411	\$126674	\$124738	\$1937
Expenses	\$16108	\$17361	\$123229	\$123967	\$-739
Net	\$374	\$50	\$3042	\$770	\$2272

Income is ahead of expenses by \$3K from earlier contribution income and \$5K income from the church bell bricks in May. Expenses are essentially on budget through July.

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

	April	Reserve	Needed to Pay-off
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 July	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$818
SS Scholarships	\$429
Live Oak Resource Center	\$305
Habitat for Humanity	\$395
Mt. Cross	\$799
World Hunger	\$241
Homeless Service Center	\$305
CLU/PLTS	\$0
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$54
SS CDC	\$148
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$10
Lutheran World Relief	\$0
ELCA Synod	\$1035
COPA	\$1000
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$5537
2018 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$15317
% of Target	36%

**Church Bell Bricks**

All the bricks have arrived and we plan to install them in September. The pastors’ brick will be ordered in September as well.  
\*A 4x8 brick counts as one, 8x8 counts as two.

- Ron Buswell