

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

9:30 am Worship Service

And Coffee Fellowship

**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
July 2, 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

Summer 2018

Celebrating 64 Years of Ministry

**COPA
15th Anniversary**



**1000 person
Convention**

**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



Provide Lunches For the volunteers

July 24 & August 28 at 10:30 am

4th Tuesday of each month

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

El Salvador Sister Parish News

Wine Tasting 2018 - Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in, helped with, or contributed to the 2018 Bargetto Wine Tasting. The final receipts have been tallied and we took in a net amount of just over \$3,700 toward scholarships for Salvadoran students. It was a little bit breezy on the patio overlooking Soquel Creek, but with some wine and great music it was a nice afternoon overall.

Fund a Latrine

For several years, Christ Lutheran Church and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, both in Aptos, have organized a Walk 4 Water held at Pinto Lake County Park. This year, in cooperation with the Santa Cruz al Salvador board, there's going to be a different fundraiser for composting latrines in El Pilar. Each of the congregations in Santa Cruz al Salvador will be asked to solicit contributions toward one or more composting latrines; The minimum contribution will be \$25. The working name for this initiative is "Fund a Latrine". The St. Stephen's church council has approved the idea. Watch for details!

January 2019 Delegation

While exact dates have not yet been set, eight or so people have expressed serious interest in a January 2019 delegation. It is in the planning stages, so let Kent Madsen know if you are interested. A non-refundable \$100 deposit secures your spot.





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Reflections on the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly

From Kent Madsen: I've mentioned to a few people that I'm maybe a bit of a rare bird in that I enjoy going to synod assemblies. For the business side of it, I enjoy seeing how people in a group setting come to a conclusion and/or make a decision on sometimes difficult issues.

On the educational side, there are usually powerful speakers for the keynote addresses as well as the Bible Study times that show me a new perspective or urge me out of my comfort zone with stimulating presentations. 2018 did not disappoint in this area.

On the social side, I have been involved in enough Conference- and Synod-level activities that I now see a lot of friends at the synod assemblies I attend. It's a great time to catch up over coffee or lunch.

My spirit is also fed by the the worship opportunities, participating with six hundred other Lutherans in Word, Sacrament, and Song.

The main reason I went this year on my own as a Visitor, though, was to see and hear Bishop Medardo Gomez and his wife Pastor Abelina Centeno Conrrado, who were in attendance. This was truly the highlight of the Assembly for me. Visits with Bp. Gomez have been a frequent part of our delegations over the years, and his words are strong and encouraging. Bp. Gomez had several opportunities to speak, at the AMMPARO Network meeting on Friday morning, the reception in his honor Saturday night, and his sermon during closing worship on Sunday morning. Bishop Gomez presented our Bishop Mark Holmerud with a red stole decorated with an image of Monsignor Oscar Romero, soon to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. Bp. Gomez mentioned the upcoming canonization, but said that Msgr. Romero being a saint was not important. What is important is that he is a prophet. And to that, I say AMEN!

From Cheryl Curry: The themes of this year's assembly were inclusiveness and women's issues. The Church's position on these was very evident in the many speakers' messages. Not only did they speak (movingly) on these topics, but the majority of the speakers were women, many of color. It was heartening to see what the Church at large is doing to address these issues. On a local level, meeting with our conference, all of the churches seem to be facing the same kind of problems that we are, and all are actively involved in their communities. Overall, I came away with a very positive feeling of what our Church is doing to to act as Christ in this world.

from Pastor Jim...



In my 21 years as your pastor, I have never heard such an outpouring of heartfelt prayer from the congregation as I have the last two Sundays since it was announced by the U.S. President's Attorney General that our government would separate children from their parents as a deterrent for immigrants seeking asylum or otherwise entering our country without documentation. This has been a common outcry for people of faith throughout our country, and this immigration policy decision has been denounced by our national Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop Mark Holmerud, and the highly respected and long-standing Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

It is clear that the fear and myth of scarcity has taken a solid hold of at least 40% of the American public. They continue to support the President and his administration using the plight of the poor and suffering who are fleeing life-threatening situations, in order to scapegoat them as the cause of the problems that some face in this country. This may be true for a very small percentage of immigrants who may become gang members and commit crimes, but it is in no way an honest or truthful assessment of the vast majority of those who are showing up at our border or who work so hard in our fields and hotels and construction.

On Sunday July 1 in Salinas, we gathered with other leaders from our relationship with COPA in order to pray for these families and denounce this horrible practice of separating children from their parents. We also announced that we would begin to take action toward more compassionate and fair immigration policies.

It is so wrong for our government to dishonestly use this issue and these people in order to advance their political agenda and deflect the focus away from real solutions. Not only is it our very clear faith tradition to welcome the stranger and show compassion to those who are afraid for their lives, but we NEED immigrants in this country. Much of the standard of living we have enjoyed for decades has been built on the backs of people from other countries who are willing to work for lower wages. It is so terrible that the message we send to them economically is that we need them, while at the same time we blame them and categorize all of them as violent gang members that must be kicked out.

Many of the stories we are hearing from our neighboring congregations in COPA are heartbreaking ones that we cannot simply ignore. We must hold our government accountable to enact a humane immigration policy that allows some people to be able to work here legally and takes serious consideration of the violent conditions that many are fleeing.

We will announce our course of action on Sun. Sept. 30 at COPA's 15th Anniversary Convention. Make plans to join with our neighbors and start to lead the way for more just immigration policies. This injustice must be stopped and we must show the better way.

Summer 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

Finance Committee

July 13 & August 10 @ 8:30 am

Church Council

July 11 & August 8 @ 6:30pm

Embroider's Guild

July 16 & August 20 @ 7:00 pm

Women's Café Group

July 18 & August 15 @ 6:30 pm

Oktoberfest Planning

July 22 at 11:00

Bible Study with Pr. Bonnie

July 24 & August 28 @ 10:00

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

July 24 & August 28 @10:30

MMRR Circle on hiatus

Thrivent All Church BBQ

Save the Date — August 19

Council Highlights

We received this kind note from former member and Council President, Erik Larsen:

"Just wanted to say hello and let you know the good news. Immanuel Lutheran Church San Jose, and MidPen Housing have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a feasibility study to build affordable housing on church property. This comes after a unanimous congregational vote, and after the St Stephen's tour and a Mid Pen meeting at Immanuel."

Good things are happening in San Jose. Thanks for the help. And please keep our Immanuel community in your prayers. Many thanks to the St Stephen's for lighting the way on how to stay relevant in this confusing world of ours".

Our decision to serve God by caring for some of the most vulnerable in our community by providing quality affordable housing is inspiring other churches to do the same. Theirs was the 4th tour Pastor Jim has been asked to give as word spreads about what is possible when God's people get creative and act on their faith. We were also lifted up by our Bishop Mark Holmerud at the Synod Assembly, as an example of a church that is working hard to fulfill it's mission.

We bid farewell to Council Member Jill Adachi as she moves to San Marcos, CA. Jill was an inspirational leader, especially in her ministry with the homeless. She will be dearly missed.

Lydia Abler has agreed to serve on Council as Secretary. She will complete Robbin Heppe's term.

Youth worker perspective (continued)

From Pastor Scott Hannon, Western New York

"I am excited for many things. I'm looking forward to showing our youth just how big the church is. I'm eager to watch them serve. I'm pumped at the opportunities they will have to deepen their faith and grow in community. But what I am most excited about is watching as God's Spirit opens their minds, hearts, ears, eyes, arms and lives.

I can't wait to see my normally 'too cool for school' teenage boys acting silly and having fun. I can't wait to watch our youths' arms fling open for high-fives and hugs from total strangers. I can't wait to listen to them share thoughts, ideas and insights they normally keep to themselves. I can't wait to catch those "aha moments" that open their lives to God's Spirit. I can't wait until God opens their mouths in song and prayer. I can't wait to witness as they go through an experience that has the potential to change everything. That is what I am most looking forward to. I can't wait."

From Angela Hemphill, Another Level Ministries in Los Angeles:

"In being a Lutheran from birth I have grown to have a special love for Youth Gatherings and conventions! For me these were a major part of my faith formation as a youth.

As we hustle and bustle with crazy deadlines, blood, sweat and, yes, tears to raise the funds to take our youth to Houston, I am driven by the hope that this trip will help them discover who they are in Christ and in the Lutheran church. I pray that they are inspired to be proud of their faith as they join 34,000 other youth worshipping Christ.

Lastly, I hope to give them exposure to people, places and experiences outside of their local context. At the end of it all I just hope they really do realize Jesus really changes thing!"

From Ellen Rothweiler, Minister for Youth and Family, Des Moines, IA:

"I am so looking forward to how that group grows together. I especially enjoy watching the adult leaders grow in their confidence when relating to youth. The Gathering tests and pushes limits and you come back exhausted but also feeling a bit invincible. If you can survive The Gathering, what else can you take on?

One of my favorite thing about The Gathering is that youth get to experience several different manifestations of "church"; their congregation group, their travel group, their synod on synod day, their service day group, all 30,000+ children of God gathered for communion on Sunday. It helps them see church in different ways and themselves as a part of that church as they move through life.



The following is what some youth leaders are excited to experience, and what they are looking forward to most for this year's Gathering, which is being attended by our very own **Elias McMilin and Nathan Lapp!!!**

From Elizabeth Hood, director of youth and family ministries, Grace Palo Alto:
 "I think my answer can best be summed up in one word: community. In a world more connected than ever but also more alone and isolated, at the Gathering we find community.
 We have youth who are active weekly participants and youth who are brand new to the program. I always overthink rooming assignments, plane seats and car placements, being intentional and hoping for a spark of friendship or connection for those new youth.

The night before we leave for the Youth Gathering, when I have thought and over-planned and prepared for anything and everything, I lie in bed thinking... will they all get along? Will we bond as a group and work well together for the next week? And sure enough, like clockwork, within the first 24-48 hours there is this magic moment that happens. It is hard to describe and it always happens when I least expect it to, that moment when we become a community. My heart swells to even think about it.

I have a picture in my head of each time it has happened on a trip. But, at the Youth Gathering it doesn't just happen once, it happens over and over again. The first night we walk into the Mass Gathering and the youth see the thousands gathering and they realize that this is part of their community. When they are singing, arm over shoulder, swaying on the floor of the stadium with new friends: community. When they walk through the streets of an unfamiliar city and high five a youth from another state far far away from their own: community.

They are impacted by the mass expansion of their circle of community and that word takes on a whole new meaning. They make new friends in an instant and connections that change the course of their lives.

As a youth minister, these connections to each other and the larger community are priceless. The way this new community changes my group is profound. When we return home, we aren't just people in a group, we are a community, and we are connected to a much larger community than most of them had realized. They belong, whether this was

OKTOBERFEST

"Santa Cruz Style"

Saturday, September 22

12:00 — 4:00 at St. Stephen's

A celebration of and for our community.

Local beer, live music, ethnic food, kids activities.

The whole church body is needed to make this community-oriented church event a spiritual success. Your talents, and hands are what God will use to do what God loves most, reaching and connecting to the Church and all of creation. Sign up to help. Committee meets 7/22.



Thrivent Churches BBQ

"Connecting Faithful Friends"

Sunday, August 19 from 1 to 4 pm

Harvey West Park - Evergreen Picnic Area

"Everyone is Welcome, Lots of Fun for all Ages, Music, Games and Food. No Cost, just RSVP (Sign up at church)"

More information: call Mary Elizabeth Bellezzi: 688-1788



Sunday School

Faith-full friends pew...

What a joy it has been sitting with your kids during worship. As they lose themselves in their doodling they no doubt are absorbing

the music and liturgy that fills the sanctuary. Hope you are having some wonderful family time. Cant wait to hear all about it.

Class resumes September 9 during 10:30 worship.

Mark you calendars for the Fall Retreats at Mt. Cross. We will register as a group. Sign up with Leslie now. \$140 per camper due September 10. Scholarships are available through www.SPSYC.org. Chaperones needed!

Elementary (3rd—6th grade) October 12 — 14
Middle School November 9 — 11

STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

James Russell & Perfect Pergola Painting Crew!

Undaunted by perhaps the worst design ever conceived of for repainting, James and his crew (Barb Rice, Jeannette Dawson, Joel Hurttgam, Nathan Lapp, Don Smawley, Kim Frey & Ellie) set out to paint our patio cover (aka The Pergola) on 6/24. It was a beast and it won the first battle after two paint sprayers malfunctioned and one small pail of paint spilled (on the drop cloth!) These faithful caretakers show us that we needn't get discouraged by our tasks as God's hands and feet in the world, especially when it looks impossible.



July Birthdays

7-2 Vi Olly
7-6 Scott Poetzinger
7-9 Sandi Crouser
7-10 Kyle Lapp
7-12 Arija Buswell
7-15 Nancy Houser
7-17 Don Ray
7-18 Gary Meeker
7-19 Darvin Awe
7-20 Michael Lyons, Jr
7-21 Cheryl Bartee
7-22 Kevin Meek
7-23 Martha Balogh
7-24 Sherilyn Jager
7-24 Ingrid Lanoue
7-24 Julia Poetzinger
7-25 Terri Adams
7-25 Eve Roberson
7-27 Mark Linder
7-29 Kylie Ronning
7-29 Beckett Ruble
7-30 Scott Lorenz
7-31 Barbie Grow

August Birthdays

8-1 Noah Lorenz
8-3 Robert Gipson
8-7 Pastor Herb Schmidt
8-9 Lydia Abler
8-10 Daniel Grow
8-14 Renee Rice
8-15 Susan Oldfield
8-17 Brad Cramer
8-18 Derek Poetzinger
8-19 Evelien Millang
8-20 Imagin Abler
8-23 Kasey Garden
8-25 Lea Powers
8-27 Leslie Lapp
8-27 Delores Price
8-28 Rachel Lapp
8-30 Emma Gipson

July Anniversaries

7-1 Robert & Dusty Gipson
7-10 Zack & Kristen Silva
7-18 Manny & Patricia Travers
7-28 Charles & Sandra Eldridge

August Anniversaries

8-3 Steve & Theresa Loback - Campbell
8-6 Mark Linder & Mary Dean
8-15 Ross & Barbara Johnston
8-18 Vern & Linda Lillehaugen
8-28 Dan & Barbie Grow
8-30 Scott Ruble & Leslie Radford
8-31 John & Lana Schneider



Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Women's Circle

MMRR is on hiatus for the summer but will start back up on Thursday, Sept. 13 at 10:30 am.

Come and join us for fellowship in God's name and new speakers relevant to our congregation. And there is always a delicious dessert to try!

If you are cleaning out closets this summer, please set aside gently used house and Christmas items to donate to our Holiday Bake and Craft sale in early December.

More info. Call Gwyn 476-8239

Women's Café Group

Wednesday, July 18
& August 15
6:30 pm

Devotions & Dinner
Fellowship

Bible Study

Tuesday, July 24
& August 28
10:00 am
Fireside Room

with Rev. Bonnie Bell
All are welcome!

Child Development Center



Greetings from Trout Creek Montana. Each summer I am blessed to visit my parents here for respite, and to work on plans for the 2018/2019 school year.

Currently, I am working on our budget in glorious peace as I look out the kitchen window gazing on rolling grass, tall trees, and wildlife in the back yard. I do my best thinking here. In my office I must always be prepared to stop what I am doing to assist children and teachers. Therefore, I have found that working from Montana allows me a clearer thought process.

It is exciting to plan for next year as we are at full enrollment at 23 students, possibly 24. We continue to get many inquiries. My goal this year is to make progress towards getting closer to providing a living wage for our staff. This task is daunting as we know Santa Cruz cost of living is one of the highest, especially housing. It is easier to project the bottom line now that we can define what capacity is. The SSCDC School Board and I are mindful of the enormous expense that families must pay for Preschool/Childcare as we decide what is appropriate to charge regarding annual tuition increases. We continue to be one of the most affordable, offering high quality Child Development teaching and nurturing in our area.

The teachers and I are blessed to have the SSCDC School Board members behind us as we continue this ministry. We are a small but mighty group: Pastor Jim, President Barbara Johnston, Member Mary Kelly, Treasurer Rebecca Russell, and Preschool Director Kathy Berens. We meet 4th Monday of each month on campus 11:15-12:45. If you are interested in joining our team please contact Barbara Johnston.

SSCDC Stewardship Recognition

Barbara Johnston has been a delight to work with on the SSCDC School Board. She meets with Kathy each month to discuss current events and future plans, in preparation for our meetings. Her gracious support of Kathy is a treasure as she really notices when she is taking on too much and helps put it all back in perspective. Barbara inspires new ideas. She spearheads our Aebleskiver fundraiser, Teacher Appreciation and Christmas luncheons, along with planning each meeting. She is also our meeting recorder in absence of recruiting a new one to date. This spring she facilitated our first order of SSCDC T-shirts and hats displaying our logo. They are bright and cheerful, and our students wear them with pride! Barbara is wise, practical, and loving. Thanks be to God!

Blessings, Kathy Berens

Treasurer Notes ...
Budget Information – May 2018

	May	May	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution In- come	\$11265	\$12383	\$66849	\$64775	\$2074
Facility Use In- come	\$ 983	\$715	\$3980	\$3575	\$405
Investment In- come	\$3315	\$3585	\$17736	\$17925	\$-189
Bricks	\$5247	\$717	\$5247	\$3583	\$1674
Total Income	\$20821	\$17411	\$95825	\$89916	\$5909
Expenses	\$18644	\$18561	\$89747	\$88923	\$824
Net	\$2177	\$-1150	\$6078	\$993	\$5085

Income is ahead of expenses by \$6K from earlier contribution income and \$5K in-
come from the church bell bricks in May. Expenses are slightly above budget due to
earlier plumbing problems and the increased cost of garbage collection.

**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 May	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$818
SS Scholarships	\$429
Live Oak Resource Center	\$305
Habitat for Humanity	\$395
Mt. Cross	\$799
World Hunger	\$0
Homeless Service Center	\$0
CLU/PLTS	\$0
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$35
SS CDC	\$138
	\$10
El Salvador Sister Parish	
Lutheran World Relief	\$0
ELCA Synod	\$700
COPA	\$500
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$4127
2018 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$15317
% of Target	27%

Church Bell Bricks We purchased 113 bricks*and earned \$5247. This
was short of our goal to purchase 200 bricks and earn \$8600. The engraved
bricks arrived but the packaging was damaged so we did not get all the bricks
that we ordered. We are working to get the missing bricks replaced.