

## ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 am Worship Service

And Coffee Fellowship

9:30 am Adult Forum & Choir Rehearsal

10:30 am Worship Service & Children's Church

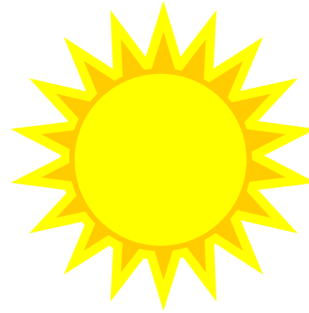
NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON  
November 28, 2018

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

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Santa Cruz, CA 95060-9998

*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church*



*Sun*

*December 2018*

*Celebrating 65 Years of Ministry*

## The Season of Advent

**Dec. 2, Dec. 9** (children's program), **16 & 23**

Advent means "coming". It is a season of preparation. We prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. This is a joyous time when God's people join in the excitement, anticipation, and enthusiasm of the sights and sounds of the holiday season. We will observe the tradition of lighting the Advent Wreath and adorning the tree with the Chrismons (Christian symbols) We will also pray for those who may not have a church home with the intention of inviting them to Christmas Eve Service.

**Mon., Dec. 24 Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Evening Worship**

**5:00 & 7:30 pm**



***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**

***For Those Who Have Everything:***

***A Gift to Santa Cruz al Salvador in Their Honor***

Again this year we have Donation Acknowledgement Cards with a picture greeting from Salvadorian children and notation inside that "A donation has been made in your honor to Santa Cruz al Salvador, mission project of area Presbyterian & Lutheran Churches." On the back is our motto: "Building Relationships for Better Lives" with an explanation that donations provide scholarships, school supplies, pure water and composting toilets in two rural poverty communities.

We hope you will consider making a donation in honor of family & friends on your Holiday gift list this year by making a donation of the amount you would have spent for their gift. Contact Kent Madsen or Jeanne Boudreau to make donations & receive Donation Acknowledgment Card(s). Your gift supports our friends in El Salvador.

***Sponsor a Student in El Salvador***

This is an important part of our scholarship program -- we connect primary and secondary school scholarship recipients in El Salvador with a person or family in the U.S. who cares about them, prays for them, and takes an interest in their education and life.

It's time to think about recommitting to support your Prayer Child for 2019. Or, if you don't have a Prayer Child, there will be new students who need a sponsor. Please contact either Kent Madsen or Jeanne Boudreau with questions about continuing your sponsorship, or starting a new one. We suggest a contribution of at least \$75 for each student sponsored.

Contact either of us if you would like to sponsor a University student. They are handled on a case-by-case basis.

***Prayer Child Sponsors:*** It is time to be assembling your gift bag for your student. We only accept one-gallon clear zip-lock bags. Please bring them to church by December 30th and either give them to Kent Madsen or leave them by the sound board at the back of the church. There will be pages with suggestions for the gift bag on the El Salvador table in the narthex.

# Sharing the Holiday Spirit . . .

**ELCA Good Gifts** — LWRgifts.org 1-800-597-5972 or Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service LIRS.org 877-291-7061 for meaningful gifts that inspire leadership, nourish the hungry, and heal the sick. Continued help for **Fire Victims** Lutheran Social Services, Nor. Cal. and Lutheran Disaster Response. 100% of these monies will be given directly to church ministries and those who have been affected by the fires 925-825-1060

**Children's Coat & Hoodie gifts** - Live Oak Community Resource Center. Lets help keep these kids warm. Contact the church office. Purchase a new Coat or Hooded Sweat shirt. Gift Wrap and return by Dec. 9. These gifts will be given at the community **Las Posadas** event Dec. 15

**SPIN: Socks for People in Need** - New socks are a blessing for many reasons, especially health, but also because they provide comfort and a sense of dignity. By the assoc. of Faith Communities.

**Holiday Boutique & Bake Sale** — Dec. 2  
We will need: breads, cakes, pies, candy, nuts & craft items.

**Santa Cruz Chorale** — Dec. 8 at 8:00 pm & Dec. 9 at 4pm  
Holy Cross Church

**Children's Christmas Pageant** — Dec. 9 @ 10:30  
Dress Rehearsal Dec. 8

**Poinsettias to honor loved ones** — by Dec. 16  
Sign up to help decorate the sanctuary & support our church ministry.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship** — Dec. 24  
Share the joy, Bring a friend! 5:00 & 7:30 pm

*from Pastor Jim...*



A new church year has begun for us, and with it a new hope that God is still coming to our world in surprising and powerful ways.

I certainly need this hope after a difficult past year in some ways. It did not help that at end of our church year we received the news that our President authorized the use of force against some impoverished and desperate people who have arrived at our border, fleeing horrifying violent crime in countries of Central America. We know the level of violence has gotten extremely bad because of our relationship with so many in El Salvador who share their stories with us - including the brutal murder of our delegation bus driver who took such good care of those who traveled there each year.

And now that force is actually being used. As I write this, we are learning that the our government fired tear gas at these refugees including women and children.

Things have just gone too far. It is unconscionable (done without any moral conscience) that the land of the free and the home of the brave is firing tear gas at defenseless women and children who are trying to seek asylum as they are legally allowed to. Our President is behaving very badly as he has intentionally drummed up the completely and factually unwarranted scape-goating of these refugees as some kind of threat to our nation. It is wrong, wrong, wrong to do this. No excuse.

Something this bad happening at this time, when we are called to take on a spirit of hopeful anticipation in the season of Advent, is very challenging to our faith. How can we have hope in God's promises to come and love among us, when we are creating the exact opposite kind of situation for the ones that Jesus would call 'the little ones' - the ones that he said the kingdom of God belongs to?

The hope we are called to have is one that leads us to resist the kind of evil that we are seeing perpetuated by our President. This is not an empty hope that sits on its hands and offers thoughts and prayers that are not accompanied by our speaking out against this kind of brutality. This is a hope that follows in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - the God who came among us as refugee baby and went on to call such people in power "white-washed tombs" and "a brood of vipers". We too are called to speak out against such abuse of power and then to do what we can to offer our lives on behalf of those who are being persecuted.

**December  
Happenings**

**Sunday Adult Forums 9:30**

**Chapel with 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**  
Dec. 7 @ 8:30 am

**MMRR Circle**  
Dec. 13 @ 10:30 am

**Church Council**  
Dec. 12 @ 6:30pm

**Taize Service**  
Dec. 16 @ 6:00 pm

**Embroider's Guild**  
Dec. 17 @ 7:00 pm

**Women's Café Group**  
Dec. 19 @ 6:00 pm

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

**Council Highlights**

We continued our study of “From the Steeple to the Street” and discussed 2 chapters about the theology of beginning a Fresh Expression of our church. Each person offered what they thought was distinct about our church theology (way that we practice our faith and belief), that lends itself to being a Fresh Expression.

Herb Schmidt offered a new proposal as our representative for the Association of Faith Communities, which serves homeless members of our community. They have begun a Safe Spaces Parking program and are asking churches to provide 2-3 spaces per night for homeless families to live out of their car. It would be a staff supervised program with screened participants. Council referred it to our CDC Board since the pre-school would be impacted the most. Their recommendation will be received at the Dec, 12 Council meeting, and further action will be taken.

Two facility use requests were approved: A Sat. morning Al-Anon meeting and a Sat. afternoon organic food distribution in our parking lot. The latter is organized by a resident of St. Stephen's Senior Housing and is limited to cancer patients who are referred by health professionals.

Pastor Jim has identified a possible sabbatical pastor for next summer. Retired Episcopal pastor Joel Miller, who served 9 yrs. at Calvary Episcopal in downtown Santa Cruz, has indicated he would be interested in serving St. Stephens. This would solve a big issue for us because Pastor Joel already lives in the area, and our compensation for this position is only able to provide for someone who already lives here. Two other pastors who were approached are not able to help out. Pastor Joel has contacted his bishop and our bishop is aware and is seeking a “Letter of Good Standing” from the Episcopal bishop.



**The Season of Giving**

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported St. Stephen's this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead.

If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Janet Slay 475-5668. Your 2019 Offering envelopes are in the Narthex.

**Pipe Organ Booklet Now Available**

The Committee wants to thank Leslie Lapp, Church Administrator, who provided the technical skill to compile the brochure. Members of the Worship and Music Committee: Barbara Rice, Candace Anderson, Pastor Bonnie Bell, Connie Creel, Suzanne Duval, Pastor James Lapp, Kent Madsen, and Gary Roberts.



## Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

### **December—Lutheran World Relief**

This is a ministry of U.S. Lutherans serving communities living in poverty overseas. It is perhaps best known for the way it responds to the suffering induced by natural disasters. But day in and out, LWR works far beyond emergency operations. Their vision is a world in which each person, every community, and all generations live in justice, dignity and peace. Over the past few years, Lutheran World Relief has responded to food crises in West Africa several times. Our goal is to help communities find sustainable ways to grow food, earn income and support their families.

**November —El Salvador Sister Parish = \$220**  
(as of Nov. 26)

## STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

ALL THOSE who helped welcome our neighbors at SS Senior Housing for our Thanksgiving potluck! People baked goodies & wrapped them festively, so that every resident was thought of and given something from our church to begin the holiday season. This annual event and ministry of hospitality, strengthens our relationship with our neighbors and reminds us of the gift that SS Senior Housing is for so many. Once again, the good use of the land that was given to us is helping us fulfill our mission as a church and nurturing the kind of beloved community we seek to be. Thanks especially to Connie Cunningham for serving as our organizer.



... is a time for active waiting and preparing, a period for making our homes, our hearts, and our world ready for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

It is a time of *HOPE*...

Thinking about what kind of world we hope for, and how we can help to bring it about.

It is a time to pray for *PEACE*...

Thinking about those places in our homes, neighborhoods, and world where we so desperately need the Prince of Peace.

It is a time of *LOVE*...

Receiving, expressions of love from others and demonstrating love ourselves.

It is a time of *JOY*...

Being with family and friends, finding concrete ways to make our joy real through music, dance, and creative activities.

## *Song & Silence: Taizé Service*

**December 16 @ 6:00 pm** (Third Sunday of each month)

This evening service offers an opportunity for reflection on whatever subject occupies you at this time. The service is made up of the repetitive singing of simple harmonized tunes interspersed with periods of silence. The tunes are contemporary and were composed by the Taizé Community. Everyone is invited. Bring friends: the more voices, the better the sound.

Sunday morning music at St. Stephen's often includes Taizé music, especially hymn 472, "Eat this bread, drink this cup" and hymn 616, "Jesus, remember me."

The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian monastic fraternity in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France. It is composed of more than one hundred brothers, from Catholic and Protestant traditions, who originate from about thirty countries across the world. It is, according to Wikipedia, an important site for Catholic–Lutheran ecumenism.

## Sunday School

### *"Let your requests be known to God"*

Babies are not shy when it comes to letting you know when they want something. The baby doesn't care if you are in church, at a movie, or eating dinner. If a baby wants or needs something, you are going to hear about it! As we get older, we learn to be more reserved about making our wants and wishes known. Or do we? The Bible says "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done". Phil 4:6 We heard a real life story about a blind woman named Fanny Crosby. She was never bitter or complaining. Instead she made the most of her life by using the other gifts that God has given her. She had a wonderful gift for writing poetry. Some of her poems were set to music and many of them are still in our hymnals today! Most of us couldn't imagine life without color, but this story reminds us that God does provide everything we need!

### *"Giving thanks to God for His blessings"*

The Bible tells us that every good and perfect thing comes from God. When someone gives you a gift, we say "thank you". When do we say "Thank you" to God? Should we have one day each year that we give thanks? Should we have one day each week that we give thanks? I think EVERY DAY should be a day of thanksgiving. Don't you agree? There is a certain song I remember from our Gospel Choir in Chicago, that says exactly this!

**Advent Wreaths** Thank you to our special guest Barbara Johnston. We are grateful for her creativity and love of tradition. We each made a beautiful wreath with hand cut greens to take home. This tradition helps us prepare our hearts for the true gifts of Christmas.

**Pageant** Thank you Candace for your fantastic script writing & adaptability. Inspiration was gathered from the book "Little Angel" by McCaughrean & Beck, and "The Christmas Star" by M. Pfister. We look forward to bringing the story to life.

- Dec. 2 Pageant Prep & star making
- Dec. 8 Dress Rehearsal 10:00 am
- Dec. 9 Pageant 10:30 am
- Dec. 15 Live Oak Las Posadas & gift delivery
- Dec. 23 & 30 Lesson & Holiday Crafts

FOR A CHILD HAS  
BEEN BORN FOR US.



A SON GIVEN FOR US.



- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 12-2 Ken Gross         | 12-15 Robert Bartee    |
| 12-6 Don Smawley       | 12-20 Stefan Meek      |
| 12-7 Donald Daves      | 12-20 Greg Weber       |
| 12-8 Kirk Adams        | 12-22 Vern Lillehaugen |
| 12-8 Maryann Hurttgam  | 12-26 Shay Barsabe     |
| 12-11 Julie Gilbertson | 12-28 Brad Tuttle      |
| 12-14 Sheryl Brouse    | 12-31 Paul Cunningham  |
|                        | 12-31 Jeanette Dawson  |
|                        | 12-31 Dusty Gipson     |



- 12-04 Peggy & Phil Crews
- 12-04 John & Kathy Hopping
- 12-05 Wayne & Jill Adachi
- 12-17 Alfred & Ruth Mitchell
- 12-22 Chris & Lorie Juhl



**Short Term:** Lois Meeker (hospice care), Meeker Family, Diane Dewy, Rosie & sons, Tim, Ed Drews, Taeyo, John Simas, Gwen & Steven, Tony Guerrero, Rose, the McHenery Family, Ruth Stiles, Hal & Lorena, Eric Catalan, Carla Brown, Cabel, Bonnie, Lorenzo, Kelly, Tony Mendoza, Keith, Kyle, Esdras, Xavier, Don Fuqua, Jean Petersen, The Trippel family, John Morgado, Sandra Eldridge, Polk Family, Barbara, Alex, Paul, Julie, Kevin, Kathy, John, Joanne, Marge, Frank, Rick, Jackson, Joe, Pat, 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:** Joan Abler, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly & CJ Muchanic Jr., Jenny Rebecca Hodge, Susan Anderson, Rick, Lina, Katrina, Mateo, Bobbie Erickson, Edna Lindquist, Stephanie Jager, Richard C., Becky, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Barry & Barbara, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Karin, Will, Chris, Pat Hubbard, Cathy, Pearl Runquist, Volpi Family, Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, the President, and the Youth of today.

**Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Women's Circle  
Holiday Fellowship  
Thursday, Dec. 13 at 10:30 am  
Fireside Room**

- Devotions & Business
- Christmas Cookie Exchange
- \$10 Gift Exchange

Our Annual Christmas Craft / Bake Sale will be held on Dec. 2 from 8:00 am to noon. Please help us out by donating items and/or buying from our circle. We will have a variety of homemade goodies to treat your family and friends to. We are also accepting gently used house and Christmas items for the sale. Set up & Drop off items Saturday, Dec. 1st from 1:00 to 3:00.

**Women's Café  
Group**

**Wednesday, Dec. 19  
6:00 pm**

Devotions & Dinner  
Fellowship  
More info 476-4700

**Bible Study**

**On Hiatus  
for the Holidays**

**Stay tuned...**

**Child Development Center**



Thanksgiving pie baking was a great success! Each child enjoyed sharing a whole pie with their family. We also enjoyed preparing 40 Thanksgiving cards for our senior neighbors to present at the November potluck. We will be joining the seniors on December 13<sup>th</sup> for an Intergenerational activity with a Christmas theme.

Although the numbers are not in, we had a very successful pizza night at **Pizza My Heart** last month. So many families, including the Lapp family came out to support SSCDC and to enjoy fellowship over pizza. Many ordered take out as well. The proceeds will be 30% of the total sales. Thank you if you were able to participate.

We are currently conducting Parent Teacher Conferences. The first conference offers baseline data including cognitive and social emotional development. Each child has an individual report for the parent to keep including a picture of their child and the child's self portrait and shape drawings as age appropriate. We compare the drawings over the year to see the progression of fine motor and cognitive development. Each child has a set of individual goals to focus on for the school year.

We have enjoyed having Rachel Lapp work with us for the past few months. December is her last with us and we will miss her very much. She has been so much help and a joy to share time with.

The children are preparing for the Christmas Pageant. We are looking forward to joining with our church congregation and Sunday school children to share the story of Christmas together on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30.

We have partnered again with UCSC Psychology Department for another study.

For a change of pace this holiday season we will have our fire safety presentation for the children by one of our dads, Tristen Hensley, and we get to have a fire engine come visit for the first time as part of the presentation! SSCDC wishes you all a blessed Christmas and are so thankful for your support to our ministry. Merry Christmas!

Warmly, Kathy Berens  
kathy@sscdcpreschool.com

# Treasurer Notes ...

## Budget Information – October 2018

	Octo-ber	October	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution In-come	\$8511	\$12383	\$120589	\$126689	\$-6100
Facility Use In-come	\$ 483	\$715	\$6747	\$7150	\$-403
Investment In-come	\$3926	\$3585	\$35958	\$35850	\$108
Bricks	\$0	\$717	\$5777	\$7167	\$-1389
Total Income	\$12922	\$17411	\$171077	\$176971	\$-5894
Expenses	\$16518	\$17361	\$176050	\$177058	\$-1009
Net	\$-3596	\$50	\$-4973	\$-87	\$-4886

Income was very low in October, only 74% of budget, but expenses were 95% of budget. We have fallen well behind for the year and now expenses exceed our income by 3.6K. Hopefully we will be able to bring our income back up by yearend.

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

	October	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$0	\$1310	
Piano	\$0	\$-103	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$320	
Solar Electric Payback	\$201*		\$20716
Narthex Bathroom	\$135		\$5774

## Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2018 through October	
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	\$306
CLU/PLTS	\$300
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$284
SS CDC	\$290
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$10
Lutheran World Relief	\$0
ELCA Synod	\$1560
COPA	\$1500
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$7235
2018 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$15317
% of Target	47%

Ron Buswell  
Treasurer