

## 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

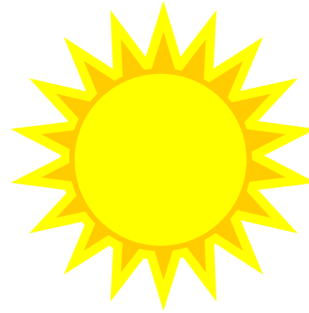
NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON  
October 30, 2018

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*

*November 2018*

*Celebrating 65 Years of Ministry*

### Consecration Sunday - November 18

*"Celebrating God's Abundance" bring your commitments*  
**Potluck lunch at Noon**

Let's all respond generously to God's love and grace for us. Use the materials mailed out to you to honestly reflect on how you will give thanks in the coming year. By faith, as God enables us, let's strive to:

- Pray regularly for the ministry of our church.
- Attend worship services often to keep our faith first, and seek to interest others in sharing that with us.
- Be available to follow God's leading by offering your gifts of time and ability through our church.
- Significantly give financially to the work of the Spirit as a reflection of your dedication, through the ministry of our church in 2019.



***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**

***Do Good and Eat Well: Shadowbrook Tuesday, Nov. 6***

Santa Cruz al Salvador is signed up for Community Tuesday at the Shadowbrook Restaurant on Tuesday, November 6th. Invite friends; have dinner and contribute to Santa Cruz al Salvador at the same time! Shadowbrook donates 30% of your entire bill to our organization - just tell them you are dining for Santa Cruz al Salvador when you order. Reservations are required; make them starting October 9th.

***Fund a Latrine 2018***

Thank you to all who have contributed to our Fund a Latrine project! As of this writing, we are four squares (\$100) away from funding our first composting latrine. The effort will continue through the fall. Your contribution is welcome at any time.

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

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

Again this year we have a Donation Acknowledgement Card 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.

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

This is an important part of our scholarship program -- primary and secondary school scholarship recipients in El Salvador are connected 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 likely be new students who need a sponsor. Please contact either Kent Madsen 408-812-1141 or Jeanne Boudreau 818-6854 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.

# Planning For the Holidays . . .

## **ELCA Good Gifts — Order now!**

See [lwrgifts.org](http://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 . Including LWR fair trade coffee.

## **Children's Coat & Hoodie gifts** - Live Oak Community

Resource Center. Lets help keep these kids warm. Choose a tag from the tree in the narthex with a child's gender and age. 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 assoc. of Faith Communities.

## **Advent Wreath Making** All are welcome! Nov. 25 @ 9:30 am

## **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

## **Blue Christmas** — Dec. 16 TBD

## **Christmas Eve Worship** — Dec. 24 @ 5:00 & 7:30 pm

*from Pastor Jim...*



There have been many Election Days since I have been pastor here. But this one seems very different and more important than any other I have ever known. It is because our present national political situation has never felt so much in opposition to so much of what I believe in as a Christian person, and so much of what I stand for as a Lutheran pastor. Much of the direction our President, Congress and up to 40% of the American public are headed, flies in the face of a great deal of what I have come to know about God's will for humanity through careful study of the Bible and through lessons learned in the history of the Christian church.

Parker Palmer, Protestant author of the book The Company of Strangers: Christians and the Renewal of American Public Life, and founder of The Center for Courage and Renewal, speaks my mind and heart in a recent contribution to The Christian Century magazine:

"Now I pause to sigh, even cry, over the condition of civil society in the United States. The crude, abusive, deceptive, manipulative, wealth-obsessed, egomaniacal, racist, sexist, xenophobic and fear-driven politics we are suffering from can be summed up with ease: it's plug-ugly. As the apostle Paul reminds us, we are members of one another- and we'd do well to work hard to reclaim the well-being of our body politic before it becomes too ugly to be redeemed." (10/24/18 p.24)

In this time when we are celebrating a movement of God's Spirit in history through the Protestant Reformation, it is abundantly clear that something must be done to change course very soon. As we have been praying each Sunday for the past few months to begin our worship service, it is time to "stand up for what is right and act for what is just". What we are seeing played out in our country has gone too far, and a good portion of the Christian church has been co-opted and lost its sense of the essence of Christ's message. We must reclaim our heritage of protest when we see any part of our church going astray and forgetting its calling to side with and serve the "least of these" and live as the Good Samaritan.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the things Palmer lists above, and be lulled into complacency that somehow things will just work out. We must be the Luther-ans - the ones like Martin Luther -who point out deception, falsehood, injustice and motivation by fear. We can be the ones who participate in a new kind of reformation that changes the direction of where some in the Christian church are heading as they follow economic power rather than God's call. We must be the Christ-ians - the ones like Christ who find the ways to defeat fear with a powerful, self-giving love that seeks the well-being of ALL our neighbors.



**November 4**

**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**

Nov. 2 @ 8:30 am

**MMRR Circle**

Nov. 8 @ 10:30 am

**Church Council**

November 14 @ 6:30pm

**All Church Potluck**

Nov. 18 @ 12:00

**Taize Service**

Nov. 18 @ 6:00 pm

**Embroider's Guild**

Nov. 19 @ 7:00 pm

**Women's Café Group**

Nov. 28 @ 6:00 pm (new time)

**Bible Study with Pr. Bonnie**

Nov. 27 @ 10:00

**Habitat for Humanity Lunches**

Nov. 27 @10:30

**Council Highlights**

We continued our study of "From the Steeple to the Street" with Ch.5 entitled: "The Mixed Economy: Inherited Churches and Fresh Expressions of the Church." We learned about some of the dynamics that exist when a church like ours (more traditional) decide to begin a fresh expression of church out in the community. It is often "Mecessary" (messy, but necessary) when starting out, but both expressions must find the strengths and ways to support one another.

Sandra Eldridge was appointed to fill a vacancy on our Child Development Center Board. She comes from an extensive education background and is a long-time member of both St. Stephens and Light of Life. Welcome Sandra!

Our 65th Anniversary picture directory is being completed. Thanks to all who have participated.

Pastor Jim, Leslie and Kathy Berens met with St. Stephen's Senior Housing staff members in order to address issues mostly related to parking during the week. Several solutions were agreed to, including a new "Visitor Tag" system for housing visitors, possible leasing of some spaces for MidPen staff, and temporary barricades during preschool hours to keep residents guests and deliveries from driving past the church offices. Some additional permanent signage may also be added on the playground fence and on the trash enclosure.

**Brand New Pipe Organ Booklet Now Available**

"St. Stephen's Celebrate Music With the Abbot & Sieker Pipe Organ" booklet is now completed and available for all to enjoy! Copies will be located at the end of each pew, and of course we hope you enjoy the music from this lovely and unique organ. This brochure will provide its history and an introduction about pipe organs, which enhances our music and worship services.

This lovely brochure about St. Stephen's pipe organ has been the project of the Worship and Music Committee and has taken several years to complete. The idea originated with our organist, Gary Roberts, who wanted to show case this spectacular organ with photos and some history to share with church and community members. In 2017 Barbara Rice, enlisted the help of her brother-in-law, Gary Toops, a master organist and college music instructor. With information available in the church office files, they further researched and identified additional history. He also clarified terminology and concepts of music specific to the organ and wrote much of the brochure with edits by Barbara. Thank you all!

Gary Roberts took the beautiful photos that enhance this brochure and included information about Hupalo and Repasky, the "team" who maintains this beautiful and unique pipe organ, one of only 3 in the entire county.

The entire Worship and Music Committee provided edits and did research to identify those who have played as the church organist since it's installation. This brochure has been a work of love, dedication, and shows the great pride we have in our Pipe Organ. We hope you enjoy reading this brochure and listening to the organ's beautiful and amazing sound.

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, Chair  
Candace Anderson, Pastor Bonnie Bell, Connie Creel,



NEW MEMBER

SAMUEL LOYA





Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

In this month of Thanksgiving, the Habitat volunteers thank Connie, Rebecca, Becky, Mary, Janet, Barbara, MaryAnn, Joanne, Candace and Bill for providing lunches once a month over the past year. The nourishment helped them get through the day as they built homes for deserving families in our county.

Thank you also to our faithful lunch delivery person, and Leslie in the office who often "pulls it all together" on delivery day. Your help is very much appreciated.

Others in the congregation are always welcome to contribute sandwiches, fruit, cookies or chips. Sign up on the chart at the back of the church any Sunday. You will get a reminder email/text/phone call before the assigned day.

Thanks again, faithful contributors.

Sheila Buswell  
St. Stephen's Habitat lunch coordinator



## **Advent Wreath Making** for all ages **November 25 @ 9:30 am**

Advent is the season when Christians make spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Celebrating with an Advent wreath is a meaningful custom in many Christian traditions. The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. On that wreath, four or five candles are typically arranged. During the season of Advent, one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord. Set on the branches of the Advent wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world.

Catholic tradition states that the four candles, representing the four weeks of Advent, each stand for one thousand years, to total the 4,000 years from the time of Adam and Eve until the birth of the Savior.

Celebrating with an Advent wreath during the weeks before Christmas is an excellent way for us to keep Christ at the center of Christmas, and for parents to teach their children the true meaning of Christmas. Join the fun with Barbara Johnston & Ruth Mitchell as our craft leaders.

## **STEWARDS OF THE MONTH**

**Barbara Johnston & Mary Kelley**

These Child Development Center board members recently gave their time and abilities in order for our preschool ministry to continue to thrive, by producing a wonderful, traditional aebleskiver breakfast fundraiser. They faithfully meet once a month to provide leadership and support for staff and the families we serve, by acting as an extension of our Church Council on behalf of the congregation. They both have extensive backgrounds working with children and care deeply about helping families get off to a good start with their little ones. They help our church fulfill its mission to serve the community by taking good care of the finances and working with our Director.

## ***Song & Silence: Taize Service***

**November 18 @ 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. (Example: <https://youtu.be/t4Svh-9ohg4>, or search YouTube.com for "Taize.")

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. The Community has a website at <https://www.taize.fr/en>.



# Sunday School

## “Pass the Salt Please”

Everyone knows about salt— we use it every day to make our food taste better. Can you imagine eating a hamburger and fries without salt? They would be pretty tasteless, wouldn't they? Well salt is not just used for food. It is used in making over 14,000 different products. Salt is used in fixing the dye in fabrics. Without salt, the bright colors that we wear would quickly wash out. What a dull place the world would be. Salt is also used in making leather. Without salt we would not have leather belts & shoes. Salt is used in the chemical industry to make plastics. Without salt, we might not have the toys we play with. At one time, salt was so important that people were paid with salt. Is it any wonder that Jesus told us that we were to be like salt to the world? We pray for God, to help us flavor our world with love and to use us in making the world a better place!

## “Let the Children Come”

Thank you parents and grandparents for getting these kids to church. We talked about our busy lives and just how much you must care to make this happen. To my joy, one of the girls said she was first up and ready for church before anyone else at home. For this lesson, I brought in two very different portraits of Jesus. The first one showed a content man surrounded by colorful, happy children. The second was dark. It showed a visibly sad man, left all alone to his own thoughts and pain. Though I appreciate them both, I am especially drawn to the dark one. Without us (God's children) at his feet, there is despair and darkness.

## “The God of the Impossible”

We learned a lot of fun facts about Camels, even had a snack that required spitting (I do try to keep it interesting). How ridiculous it would be for a gigantic camel to fit through the tiny eye of a needle. It's hard enough to thread a needle with thread, although the kids showed me just how capable they are. In the lesson, it was not because he was rich that the young man could not enter the Kingdom of God. It was because his love for money was greater than his love for God. If anyone wants to enter the Kingdom, he must give God first place in their life. “With God, all things are possible”. That is the God we serve. The God of the impossible. Amen!

~ Faithfully, Miss Leslie



- 11-5 Sandra Eldridge
- 11-6 Kaitlyn McKinney
- 11-7 Dorothy Ronning
- 11-8 Suzanne Duval
- 11-8 Lorie Juhl
- 11-10 Amanda Cunningham
- 11-12 Gwyn Larson

- 11-13 Colin Boyle
- 11-14 Barbara Johnston
- 11-16 Stephen Cappelloni
- 11-17 James Abler
- 11-17 Ariela Turzo
- 11-18 Linda Ronning
- 11-19 Isaiah Brouse
- 11-19 Briana Juhl
- 11-19 Jessica Juhl
- 11-20 Hilding Ronning
- 11-22 James Jones
- 11-22 John Hopping
- 11-24 Lindsey Cramer
- 11-23 Xavier Brown
- 11-24 Bill Anderson

- 11-24 Kathy Johnson
- 11-25 Brian Brouse
- 11-26 Mathew Garden
- 11-26 Galahad Hughes



- 11-26 Mitch & Linda Ronning
- 11- 27 David & Martha Balogh



## ~ Prayer Concerns ~

**Short Term:** Lois Meeker (hospice care), Meeker Family, Ed Drews, Gwyn Larson, Patricia Ness, Lisa & Chris, Gwen & Steven, Tony Guerrero, Rose, Hal & Lorena, Carla Brown, Cabel, Bonnie, Lorenzo, Verlene, John Gill, Margot Wilson, Laura, Kelly, Roger, Emil Heyler, Kirk Hull, Tony Mendoza, Keith, Kyle, Esdras, Xavier, Don Fuqua, Jean Petersen, The Trippel family, John Morgado, Sandra Eldridge, Susan Anderson, 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, 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**  
**Thursday, Nov. 8 at 10:30 am**  
**Fireside Room**

Our very own Kent Madsen will take us on an arm chair tour of Santa Cruz al Salvador. He will speak about our Sister Parish; the people that we help with our donations, including the prayer children that we support with our scholarships and gifts at the holidays.

We welcome all women, as always, devotions and dessert with coffee will be provided and socializing along with discussion of business items are on our agenda. B.Y.O.L. (Lunch that is!)

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. Also, we will be putting up the tree in the Narthex with tags for children's coats / hoodies for the children served by the Live Oak Community Resource Center.

**Women's Café**  
**Group**

**Wednesday, Nov. 28**  
**6:00 pm (new time)**

Devotions & Dinner  
Fellowship  
More info 476-4700

**Bible Study**

**Tuesday, Nov. 27**  
**10:00 am**  
**Fireside Room**

with Rev. Bonnie Bell  
All are welcome!

**Child Development Center**



November is the month to count our blessings and acknowledge what we are thankful for. Thanks to the leadership of Barbara Johnston our SSCDC School Board President we had our most successful Aebleskiver Fundraiser bringing in \$1,375.00. We used the proceeds to purchase new woodchips, improve our playground, and purchase class supplies. We are so grateful to: Lindsey Cramer, Becky Cramer, Connie Cunningham, Mary Kelly, Sheila Buswell, Janet Slay, Robbin Heppe, Joel Hurtgam, Bill Schraft, Margaret Schraft, Jim Lapp, and Sandra Trippel, who generously gave of their time in preparation for this event and the day of. Several school families attended. Board member Mary Kelly sold 22 tickets to her Embroiders Guild friends, and a few families came after reading about us in Good Times. We thank Mary for the donation of a warmer to keep our sausage moist and hot for the plates. We also had kind people give us additional donations. The most fun for me was to watch Barbara and Sheila having fun working in partnership to get the preparations in order. They are a well oiled machine.

Our Preschoolers will be working on making Thanksgiving cards for our senior neighbors to be delivered to them at the St. Stephen's potluck on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving the children will be baking pies before the break. We teach them the meaning of the meal by having them share a full-sized pumpkin pie with their family.

Speaking of being thankful, we are so grateful for the work John Hopping does around here to make us look good and keep clean. John is a true friend of our Preschool and always willing to help us in any way he can. Thanks John! Have a blessed holiday with family and friends.

Warmly, Kathy Berens  
kathy@sscdcpreschool.com

*"Our mission is to inspire children in their early years so they may have a sense of self and grow into competent, well -rounded and spiritual people"*

Treasurer Notes ...

Budget Information – September 2018

	September	September	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution Income	\$14165	\$12383	\$112078	\$114306	\$-2228
Facility Use In-come	\$ 927	\$715	\$6263	\$6435	\$-172
Investment In-come	\$3734	\$3585	\$32032	\$32265	\$-233
Bricks	\$520	\$717	\$5777	\$6450	\$-673
Total Income	\$20132	\$17411	\$158155	\$159560	\$-1405
Expenses	\$18086	\$17684	\$159532	\$159698	\$-166
Net	\$2047	\$-273	\$-1377	\$-138	\$-1240

Income was ahead of budget thanks to higher contributions and a \$2K donation from a non-member. Expenses were just slightly below budget so for the year our expenses exceed our income by only \$1.4K at the end of Sept. The Oktoberfest income was \$3.1K and expenses are estimated at \$4.6K.

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

	September	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$0	\$1310	
Piano	\$0	\$-103	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$320	
Solar Electric Payback	\$741*		\$20917
Narthex Bathroom	\$163		\$5909

\* includes referral payment of \$500 from Allterra.

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2018 through September	
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	\$262
SS CDC	\$160
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$10
Lutheran World Relief	\$0
ELCA Synod	\$1510
COPA	\$1500
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$7033
2018 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$15317
% of Target	46%

Church Bell Bricks

The first round of bricks ordered have all been installed. The Pastor’s bricks are on order and scheduled for delivery in mid October. We plan to install these toward the end of the month.