

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
September 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

October 2018

Celebrating 64 Years of Ministry

Directory Photos & Family Portraits

Photo Sessions:
October 22, 23 & 24



No purchase necessary! Each family receives a FREE 8x10 photo and church directory for participating. You will have the opportunity to purchase additional photos. Plan now for this special event. Pets are welcome! Schedule at church, or on line today: www.ststephenslutheran.org

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

Dine at Shadowbrook on Tuesday, November 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 five squares (\$125) away from funding our first composting latrine. The effort will continue through the fall. Your contribution is welcome at any time.

Pupusa Palace at Oktoberfest 2018

Thanks to everyone who stopped by the Pupusa Palace at the Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 22nd. The pupusas were great as usual and we sold out!

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 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.



New Members

Tony Guerrero, Regina Mendoza,
Gloria Miranda, Lupe Rodriguez,
Ginny Ruble, and Joyce Simpson

Coming Soon . . .

DINNER GROUPS

These are great times of fellowship for us to help build our sense of Christian community by sharing a meal and good conversation together! Groups are 6-10 people, potluck to gourmet feast...host decides! . . . Stay tuned !



Help needed

Altar Guild
Readers & Worship Assistants
Coffee Hosts

No Experience necessary. 476-4700

from Pastor Jim...



God is up to something among us! The signs are popping up all over the place as we move into another ministry year together.

We just celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism for several new families who wanted to make St. Stephen's their new church home and there are a few more who are finding a welcoming faith community here. Many of them are from St. Stephen's Senior Housing, which is something we had not really expected when it was built. Our new folks are eagerly sharing their gifts already, which has really enlivened out church.

Our revived Oktoberfest, after a 2 year hiatus, has once again established us as a church that cares deeply about our community and is a fun place to be! It was especially heartening to see so many of our preschool families attend so we could get to know them even better. As I shared during the sermon on the Sunday following, it also gave people an opportunity to thank St. Stephen's for the Senior Housing. A man I had never met made sure to find me and tell me how grateful he was for his longtime friend to live there. He is an 87 yr. old Korean War Veteran who had spent many years before not knowing where his next meal would come from because so much of his income had to go to rent. He thanked the congregation over and over again for giving his close friend this kind of dignity toward the end of his life.

Thanks to Mark Linder's leadership, we met our goal of sending 35 of us to our COPA Convention where we will celebrate 15 years of significant improvements in the communities of the Central Coast - another sign of how God is calling us to act with our fellow members for even more solutions to the problems many of our families face these days.

Our preschool is full and thriving as families are drawn to the high quality care, staff and curriculum we are able to provide.

Thanks be to God as we welcome the Spirit's work among us! I can hardly wait to see what else God is up to!

October 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
Oct. 5 @ 8:30 am

Aebelskiver Breakfast
Oct. 7 @ 9:00—12:00

Church Council
October 10 @ 6:30pm

MMRR Circle
Oct. 11 @ 10:30 am

Embroider's Guild
Oct. 15 @ 7:00 pm

Women's Café Group
Oct. 17 @ 6:00 pm (new time)

Taize Service
Oct. 21 @ 6:00 pm

Bible Study with Pr. Bonnie
Oct. 23 @ 10:00

Habitat for Humanity Lunches
Oct. 23 @ 10:30

Council Highlights

1.Devotions centered on Ch.5 of "Steeple to Street", which challenged us as a more traditional or "inherited" church, to prepare ourselves to listen to God's Spirit about how we might be church in a new way. The fresh expression of church is begun in partnership with the inherited church, and they serve each other alongside one another. "God is always up to something in our community. The church just has to figure out how to join in."

2. The Special Congregational meeting was held on Sunday, Sept. 23 at 9:45am in the sanctuary, in order to amend out Articles of Incorporation with language that would allow Mid-Pen Housing to receive a property tax exemption. The amendment was unanimously approved by the 38 voting members in attendance. Betsy Wilson from Mid-Pen attended and introduced us to the new on-site supervisor for St. Stephen's Senior Housing, Ms. Espinosa. A new maintenance supervisor has also been hired.

3. We will offer a Taize worship service to the Santa Cruz community the 3rd Sunday evening of the month. The first one will be Oct. 21, from 6-7p, with leadership provided by Shay Barsabe, Gary Roberts and Pastor Jim. This is happening at the request of several people outside of our congregation and is not meant to substitute for our regular worship. It is quiet and contemplative with chant-like singing. It will be publicized throughout the Santa Cruz community.

STEWARDS OF THE MONTH James Russell

This is pretty much a no-brainer this month! Thanks, James, for helping us to be good stewards of the mission of the church and do something fun to break down the barriers between church and community. So much time and effort went into pulling off our Santa Cruz Style Oktoberfest, and you led us all in a spiritual way. You reminded us to celebrate things that were lost that have been found, and you pulled us together to offer a wonderful day filled with powerful stories of how God is up to something in our neighborhood. Your leadership on our Church Council is an example of how we all can offer our gifts in some way to strengthen the Body of Christ here at St. Stephens!

Oktoberfest THANK YOUs

Community Organizations & Donors: Boyscout Troop # 633, Cabel's Game Palace, CASA, SC Foster / Adopt, C.O.P.A., Habitat for Humanity, Live Oak Community Resource Center, Lu Sluiter's famous cookies, Mt. Cross, PAMF, Safeway, Santa Cruz al Salvador, Santa Cruz Public Libraries, Soquel High School Band & Boys Basketball Team, Staff of Life, Laufer RV Shuttle Service, Thriven Financial, Woodworm Party Store.

Kudos to Our Faithful Crew of **40 +** Volunteers!
Being "generous" is pretty awesome! (Donna Gafforio)

Oktoberfest Thoughts

It was great to see everyone working so hard together to bring the different communities that St. Stephen's is a part of together for a day of celebration and laughter. Young and old, everyone was relaxed and having fun!

- James Russell

It was a true community event. Wonderful to have so many people helping. I was excited to have so many big kids helping with games for the wee ones.

- Barbara Johnston

It was incredible to have 13 families (15 students) join us from the preschool. I've never had such a big turn out for any event! Some brought Grandparents. One parent has already volunteered to help at next year's event! This was also the first time for our staff to get their families together.

- Kathy Berens

The giant Jenga Tower was a blast!

I enjoyed the Oktoberfest but more importantly I heard from our neighbors that they to enjoyed it. I was getting complements on the sound mix from the band members which as a sound guy you always want to hear especially if you want them to come back. I also was getting random non-band people come up to me and complement the sound and the event. They don't know me from Adam but they were generous with complements. One lady went so far as wanting to get connected so we got her contact info and added her to our email list. This was a community building event with the locals and with the Senior Center. A lot of work but a Win, Win. Praise God. - Kirk McMilin

Greatest shuttle service EVER! ~ Everyone Who Used It.— Pastor Jim

Coincidence? Unbeknownst to me, my son's friend's mother's boyfriend (that's a mouthful) was in one of the bands! I've been wanting to meet this woman for months. She gave me an enthusiastic hug & was as happy to meet me as I was to meet her. — Leslie Lapp

First, We Give of Ourselves



Exciting events and grace filled days are happening at St. Stephen's! Because of you, your family, and our congregational family, the gospel is being boldly proclaimed and the joy of God's grace in Christ is celebrated in marvelous ways. Listen on any given Sunday to learn of the many ways we are an active congregation or read about this in the newsletter. Indeed, though our ministry together, countless lives are being touched with the love of Christ.

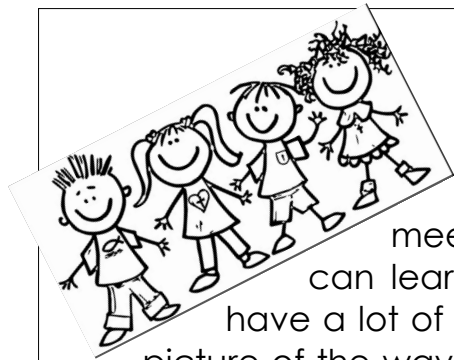
As we look ahead to ministry as a family of faith at St. Stephen's, we are embarking on an initiative that will help us grow in ministry and ways we can bring connections with people and Christ. This initiative is a three-year discipleship and generosity growing opportunity for the whole congregation. Our ministry initiative is called **"First, We Give Of Ourselves"**. This emphasis will be a celebration of our ministry and growing in the delight of God's grace. As we consider the gift of grace in Christ, we will also explore the joy of our giving in grace.

This fall, the focus of **"First, We Give Of Ourselves"** will be **"Giving in Grace"**. We will explore together, the wonderful gift of God's grace in Christ and how it is the foundation of our discipleship and giving. Then in the fall of 2018, our focus will center around the second facet of our ministry initiative, **"Giving in Gratitude"**. We will explore the spiritual nature of gratitude and how it encourages us to give of ourselves in response to God's grace in Christ. Then, in the fall of 2020, we will follow through with focus of **"Giving in Generosity"**. What does it mean to experience God's generosity and to give with generous hearts? These are questions that will engage our sense of discipleship and invite us to grow in the sharing of gifts for ministry. We are looking forward to this three-year period being a time of intentional growth in discipleship and generosity.

Our Kick-Off Sunday for **"First, We Give Of Ourselves: Giving in Grace"** will be Sunday, October 7. Our fall emphasis will culminate with a celebration of ministry and the sharing of commitments of how we can "give of ourselves" in ministry on Sunday, November 18.

"Giving in Grace" All Congregation Bible Study

Another important element of this emphasis is an "all congregation" Bible Study entitled **"Giving in Grace"**. The bible studies will begin Sunday, October 14 and will continue, October 21, October 28, and November 4. All bible studies will be between services at 9:30 a.m.



Sunday School

“Playing Favorites”

It's an exciting time of year. Back to school, meeting new kids and learning new things. We can learn a lot from kids crayons. Even though they have a lot of differences, they are all useful. That is a good picture of the way the church should be. The people that make up the church come in all sizes and colors and some have strange-sounding names. Some are old and some are young. Some are pretty sharp and some may be a little dull (Ha Ha). Some are dressed in very nice clothes while others are not. We ask God to help us love one another regardless of our differences. We are all special!

“Who am I?”

When asked, the all female class replied: *I am a girl, a student, a daughter, a friend, a dancer, a trouble maker, etc. creative silliness followed. We talked about their given names and meaning. Does your name fit you? It's special to be reminded of how we were named. Names are important in the Bible. The name Jesus means the one who will save his people from their sins. That's exactly what he did. So Jesus' name really fits him, doesn't it? We know who Jesus is. He is God's only son, Messiah, the Savior of the world.*

- Nov. 11 Thanksgiving card making for seniors
- Nov. 18 Pageant Prep — roles assigned
- Nov. 18 Thanksgiving Potluck 11:30 (give our cards to seniors)
- Nov. 25 Advent Wreath Making & Pageant Prep
- Nov. 25 Live Oak Community Children's Gifts due (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



- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 10-3 Pastor Lapp | 10-18 Naomi Florin-Gosciminski |
| 10-3 Becky Judd | 10-21 Kathy Berens |
| 10-8 Amelia Davis | 10-22 Abigail Davis |
| 10-9 Stephanie Bonnett | 10-22 Kazunori |
| 10-13 Halcyon Abler | Orthner |
| 10-13 Janet Slay | 10-24 Tom Eagle |
| 10-14 Thomas Dawson | 10-24 Noelia |
| 10-16 Jaunita Zamarripa | Monteagudo |
| | 10-25 Bill Schraft |
| | 10-27 Kim Frey |
| | 10-29 Michael Cappelloni |



- 10-2 Joel & Maryann Hurttgam
- 10-11 Darwin & Patrice Awe
- 10-21 Gary & Lois Meeker
- 10-30 Robert & Cheryl Bartee



~ Prayer Concerns ~

Short Term: Lois Meeker (hospice care), Meeker Family, Ed Drews, Gwen & Steven, Lotte, Tony Guerrero, Rose, Hal & Lorena, Lisa, Cabel, Mark, Lisa, Tim & Family, Bonnie, Lorenzo, Verlene, John Gill, Margot Wilson, Roger, Emil Heyler, Kirk Hull, Tony Mendoza, Keith, Kyle, Esdras, Xavier, Andrew, Helene W., Elizabeth, Rod Burchell, Dorothy, Don Fuqua, Jean Petersen, The Trippel family, John Morgado, Sandra Eldridge, Susan Anderson, Carmen & Linda Harper, Stephanie Jager, 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, 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, Oct. 11 at 10:30 am
Fireside Room

Pack up your backpacks with pencils and lunch as we are taking a trip around California Lutheran University via Rachel Lapp.

Rachel will enlighten us with her college experiences at a Lutheran University and what she got out of it for her future.

As always, devotions and yummy desserts with coffee will be provided. New members welcome at any time.

C .L. U. is St. Stephen's benevolence for the month of October.

We will be doing a children's coat drive for Christmas so please keep this in mind when you are out shopping and see a bargain!
YEE-HAW, Y'ALL!

Women's Café
Group

Wednesday, Oct. 17
6:00 pm (new time)

Devotions & Dinner
Fellowship
More info 476-4700

Bible Study

Tuesday, Oct. 25
10:00 am
Fireside Room

with Rev. Bonnie Bell
All are welcome!

Child Development Center



Please join us at the
AEBLESKIVER BREAKFAST
OCTOBER 7th

Literacy is an important component to our curriculum at the Child Development Center. We have a wide collection of books that we read at our daily Circle time meeting that are seasonal, teach a social emotional concept, or make us laugh. Mostly, books are here to explore and enjoy in each classroom and outdoors.

Raising A Reader funded by First 5 of California provide red canvas bags with 4 books in each to rotate home on a weekly basis. Families enjoy having additional choices at home. At graduation they receive a blue bag and application to use at the Santa Cruz Public library. Each Tuesday the **Santa Cruz Public Library Volunteers** come to read their stories and sing songs. The children missed them over summer and surprised them with a big hug and "We missed you!"

SEEDS Literacy Training imbeds literacy in activities. Daily, each child "**Signs in**" when they arrive by recognizing their name card and placing it in the basket. As they get older and fine motor muscles develop along with interest they experiment with writing their name at their own pace. By the time they leave for Kindergarten most children can write their first and last name, and they can read all the classmates names too. **Question of the Day** gets each child to think about a common idea and add their opinion or thought to it by putting their name next to a yes or no, or multiple choice answer such as which is your favorite snack? Activities like these give each child some individual time with the teacher and an opportunity to have their ideas valued. Singing songs is another literacy rich activity full of fun ideas.

On Wednesday at Chapel Pastor Jim shares a story from the **Children Beginning Bible**, sharing God's love. They each receive a bible when they graduate.

Our classroom is literacy rich correlating items to the written word on each shelf. We Journal with the children, writing their words on the picture they have drawn. Sharing at Circletime is a literacy activity. Paw Pal goes home with a book to read and a journal for the child to dictate words of the experience to their parent who writes them down and then is shared. The Surprise Bag we put an item to share with 3 written down clues so to try and guess what is in the bag at! At SSCDC we learn through play especially when sharing literacy.
Warmly, Kathy Berens

Treasurer Notes ... Budget Information – August

	August	August	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution Income	\$8726	\$12383	\$97913	\$101923	\$-4010
Facility Use Income	\$ 180	\$715	\$5337	\$5720	\$-383
Investment Income	\$3228	\$3585	\$28298	\$28680	\$--382
Bricks	\$0	\$717	\$5257	\$5733	\$-476
Total Income	\$12384	\$17411	\$139059	\$142149	\$-3090
Expenses	\$18218	\$18046	\$141446	\$142014	\$--568
Net	\$-6466	\$-635	\$-3424	\$135	\$-3559

Contributions were very low in August so our income has slipped to being \$3K behind budget after being ahead from January through July. Expenses were just slightly below budget so for the year our expenses exceed our income by \$3.4K at the end of August.

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

	August	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$50	\$1310	
Piano	\$0	\$-103	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$320	
Solar Electric Payback	\$294		\$21658
Narthex Bathroom	\$105		\$6072

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2018 through August	
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	\$60
SS CDC	\$153
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$10
Lutheran World Relief	\$0
ELCA Synod	\$1035
COPA	\$1000
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$5849
2018 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$15317
% of Target	38%

Church Bell Bricks

All the bricks have arrived and we plan to install them in September. The pastors’ bricks have been ordered.

*A 4x8 brick counts as one, 8x8 counts as two.

- Ron Buswell, Treasurer