

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

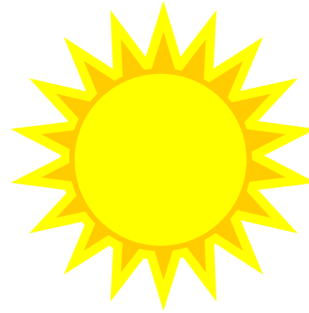
NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
March 27, 2019

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
April 2019

Celebrating 65 Years of Ministry

Holy Week & Easter Worship

Palm Sunday April 14 — 8:15 & 10:30 am Dramatic Worship

Maundy Thursday April 18 - 11:30 am & 7:30 pm Worship
"The Last Supper"

Good Friday April 19 - 7:30 pm Worship
"The Seven Last Words"

Easter Sunday April 21 with Brass Ensemble
8:15 am Worship
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Egg Hunt



Easter Breakfast 9:30 and 11:30 am
Celebrate the Resurrection with food & friends!

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. — Renee Rice V.P.—
 Secretary - Lydia Abler Treasurer— Kent Madsen
 David Balogh, Jeanette Dawson, Robert Bartee
 Bill Schraft, and Rebecca Wickham

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

(Earth Day)

continue efforts through stewardship, education and advocacy. I am reminded of the 2016 Church-wide Assembly resolution "Towards a Responsible Energy Future," among others, that urges members of the ELCA and its related institutions to exemplify personal and institutional responsibility. Such efforts could include practicing energy conservation, congregational energy audits, purchasing more energy efficient appliances and vehicles, and investing in renewable energy systems. These resolutions also urge advocating at all levels of government for public policies that support clean, renewable energy sources.

The present moment is a critical and urgent one, filled with both challenge and opportunity to act as individuals, citizens, leaders and communities of faith in solidarity with God's good creation and in hope for our shared future. We claim God's promise in Revelation 21 for "a new heaven and a new earth" as we pray together: "Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us coworkers in your creation. Give us wisdom and reverence to use the resources of nature so that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

El Salvador Sister Parish

The Annual Wine Tasting Event
3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 27
Wargin Wines
11 Hangar Way, Watsonville

Come and enjoy fine wines and yummy finger foods at our annual fundraiser. There will be music and updates on our communities in El Salvador. **Note that this year we're at a new venue.** Tickets: \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door See Kent Madsen for tickets. kent@kcmadsen.com

Santa Cruz al Salvador
"Building Relationships for Better Lives"



Earth Day Action & Advocacy

By ELCA Bishop Eaton 2018

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we share a deep love for all of God's creation and a profound responsibility for it. Made in the image of God, we are called to continue what God is already doing for the earth (Psalm 104), enabling it to flourish. God assigns humans to care for the earth as God does, in loving servanthood. (Philippians 2:7, Genesis 2:15).

Daily we witness the evidence of a rapidly changing climate. At the same time, we also witness in too many instances how the earth's natural beauty, a sign of God's wonderful creativity, is defiled by pollutants and waste, resulting in ecological crisis. As a member church of The Lutheran World Federation, we affirm "that the global ecological crisis, including climate change is, human-induced. This is a spiritual matter. As people of faith, we are called to live in right relationship with creation and to not exhaust it."

The effects of the warming climate are felt in nearly every corner of the globe. These include increased migration, food insecurity due to changing agricultural landscapes, national security issues and health problems. As bad as it is for all creation, the most vulnerable people around the world are suffering the most. Yet they have contributed the least and, as noted in the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, are ill equipped to adapt to or mitigate the effects of a changing climate to build resilient communities.

An honest and credible look at the increasing environmental degradation and climate change names the neglect, carelessness and wrongs of industry, civil society and global governmental leadership. It also recognizes how human beings individually and collectively worsen the attacks on God's creation. As a church, we must confess our frequent lack of urgency in addressing environmental degradation and slow action to address a changing climate. We also must pledge to acknowledge the intersections of racial and environmental injustices and strive to involve the voices of those most affected in the process.

In grateful response to God's grace in Jesus Christ, this church carries out its responsibility for the well-being of society and the environment. Our "concern for the environment is shaped by the Word of God spoken in creation, the Love of God hanging on a cross, the Breath of God daily renewing the face of the earth." Our concern is, then, propelled by hope and guided by principles of justice. We find our hope in the promise of God's own faithfulness to everything God has made. We seek justice for all of creation in concert with God's creative and renewing power. We do so understanding that we have the ability and responsibility to act together for the common good, especially for those who are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

As presiding bishop, I give thanks for all the ways this church embraces our common responsibility to care for all of God's creation. I call on us as individuals and congregations to



from Pastor Jim...

At our last Annual Meeting, some of you heard me begin to lay out where I believe and think that God is calling us to next. Our preschool ministry and St. Stephen's Senior Housing have both come to fruition and serve as important witnesses of what our church is all about. It has been so wonderful to enjoy the fruits of following God's call for our church the last 7 years in this way.

However, this has still not led to much change in participation around the core aspect of who we are or any church is: the worshipping community. Instead, we continue to see a slow but steady decline in participation in many aspects of our church. This is a common phenomenon in more traditional churches like ours, and in some ways we are doing quite well in that our church, though in some decline, is still here, active in our community, and is financially sound.

For the first part of my sabbatical, I will be joining with a more traditional church that found itself asking similar questions about its future as it began to decline. As they sought God's will for their faith community, they were led to draw upon some of the original ways Christians gathered and started holding "Dinner Church".

To do so, they asked themselves a difficult question: Do we insist on continuing to do church the way we like, or are we willing to do a church for those who aren't here and one that helps our hurting neighbors?

It is very hard to let go of how church was for us at key points in our lives. We can't imagine why others would not want to enjoy the same ways of being church that meant so much to us. But the truth is that there are now at least 2 generations of Americans who will just not understand church the way that has meant so much to us.

This is where Dinner Church comes in. It was so well received as a way for being church in their Seattle neighborhoods that they now host 11 separate Dinner Churches. Something happened within their declining, traditional church when they decided to leave their facility and bring the message of God in Jesus Christ out in their neighborhoods around a dinner table. I intend to find out what happened there and see how we can learn from their experience as we faithfully seek God's will for what is next for our church.



April Happenings

Sunday Adult Forums 9:30

Chapel with Pre-Schoolers

Thursdays at 10:15 am

Knitting Group

Thursdays at 6:45pm

Alcoholics Anonymous

Fridays at 7:00 pm

Saturdays at 8:00 pm

Alanon Family Group

Saturdays at 10:00 am

Church Council Retreat

Sat. April 13 from 10—2

MMRR Circle

April 11 @ 10:30 am

Women's Café Group

On Hiatus during Lent

Embroider's Guild

April 15 @ 7:00 pm

Provide Habitat Lunches

April 23 @ 10:30 am

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

Council Highlights

1. Devotions centered on Ch.9 of "From the Steeple to the Street". We were reminded about how central to the church the idea of mission is: that we are sent each Sunday out into the world to cross whatever boundaries exist in our community so that the message of Jesus Christ can be shared more fully. This is what Pastor Jim will be helping us engage in after his sabbatical, through the Fresh Expressions movement. and model. We will look for the best way for us to begin also having church somewhere away from our church facility as we cross the boundary of our church doors, which so many seem to find as too great a barrier.

2. Retired Episcopal pastor, Rev. Joel Miller (who led worship on March 3) was approved to serve as the sabbatical pastor. Our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop Mark Holmerud received a "Letter of Good Standing" from the Episcopal Bishop last month, which was their requirement for us to name Joel as Sabbatical Pastor. He will join us May 19 for our last two-service Sunday and send -off lunch for Pastor Jim. His last Sunday with us will be Sept. 1, when we welcome back Pastor Jim with an Ethiopian lunch after worship.

3. A Habitat For Humanity sign about donating old vehicles to them was approved to be placed somewhere out on Soquel Ave. This is another way that they are able to raise the necessary funds to keep providing affordable housing in one of the top 5 most unaffordable counties in the entire nation.

4. Renee Rice was elected President, Robert Bartee VP and Kent Madsen Treasurer. Lydia Abler is no longer able to serve as Secretary. Bill Schraft was approved to serve on the CDC Board.

California Lutheran
UNIVERSITY

Dear St. Stephen's ~

I am studying abroad! I am doing well. I really love London! It has always been my dream to come here and it has definitely lived up to my expectations. It has been super cold here (even some snow) for most of my

time but the past two days it has been sunny which has reminded me of home! Classes are very manageable and interesting. I am learning about London History in one of my classes which is fun!

I think the biggest prayer request is that when I am having times where I feel homesick or far away from all things familiar that I will be filled with God's peace and love. It can be hard studying abroad sometimes but overall my experience thus far has been quite lovely!

Thank you ~ Nelleke Meerman

In Memoriam **The Rev. Niels Christian Carlsen** June 23, 1927 – February 23, 2019

(Pr. Carlsen served as Interim Pastor at St. Stephen's in 1995)

Pastor Niels Christian Carlsen, 91, of Summerfield, FL was born to parents Niels Christian Carlsen and Caroline Martine Neve, on June 23, 1927, in Royal, Iowa. He graduated from Blair High School, Blair, Nebraska in 1944. He went on to study at Dana College and Trinity Lutheran Seminary. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He retired as a Chaplain (Colonel) in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

Pastor Niels spent over 40 years in ministry. He served at Bethany Lutheran Church, Pasadena and **was the founding pastor of Christ Lutheran in Aptos from 1965 until his retirement in 1990.** He also served the men and women in the U.S. Air Force throughout his military career.

Niels met Natalie L. Peterson in 1948. They were married on June 27, 1950 in Scarborough, Maine. Together they raised three children: Paul Carlsen, Susan Carlsen Churchill, JoAnne Carlsen.

He was passionate about the Gospel ministry to the communities where he served including Christ Lutheran in Summerfield, FL. He loved playing golf and singing in the choir. He invested greatly in his grandchildren; leaving a godly legacy. Niels is survived by Paul Carlsen, Son, Susan Carlsen Churchill and JoAnne Carlsen, daughters, 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by Natalie (Peterson) Carlsen, Wife

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay

Our Mission: Seeking to put God’s love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Our Vision: A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

We build decent, affordable homes and provide home ownership opportunities to qualified families who live and work in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. Families purchase our homes with a down payment, sweat equity, and an affordable mortgage. Together, our volunteers and families have built 48 homes, with further plans extending through the foreseeable future. Every home we build helps keep Santa Cruz a place where working class people can continue to raise their families.

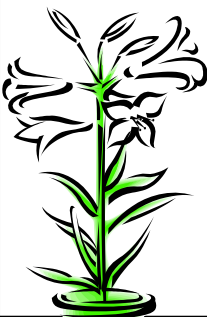
We rely on your generous donations to keep our organization funded and operational. Every little bit has a real and lasting effect

March — Live Oak Community Resource Center = \$ 106 (as of 3/25)

STEWARD OF THE MONTH

Janet Slay

Janet serves in many ways at St. Stephen’s: Financial Secretary (organizes counters, income reports, and giving statements), and as a Worship Assistant. She also serves as our “Outdoor Beautification Gardener”. In other words, we have her to thank for all the new plants that you see growing in our many planter areas and pots. It makes a huge difference to everyone who gathers at St. Stephens every day of the week! Thank you for brightening our ministry with your personal and heartfelt touch. It helps us all remember to use our gifts for the glory of God.



Easter Lilies — deadline April 11

- Help decorate our sanctuary & honor loved ones
- ~ Make \$15 checks payable to St. Stephen’s
- ~ Memo line “Lily”
- ~ List your dedication on the sign up sheet
- ~ Deadline April 11





Sunday School

Lent has been filled with difficult lessons. Most adults have a hard time with all the talk of sin, the devil, temptation, and suffering. Good verses evil, and how quickly the tide turns. I for one, take comfort in knowing how the story ends . . . Jesus wins!!!

“Jesus was led by the Spirit in the wilderness” Luke 4:1
We entered the wilderness by following an obstacle course. Some kids had to give it a few tries before completion. They were rewarded at the end by retrieving their treat on top of a mountain. We got out the fishing lures and discussed how the fish are lured to our hooks with flash & color. They were amazed at how many different shapes, sizes, and colors there are. Different fish are tempted by different lures. Fish aren't the only ones that are sometimes tempted by something that isn't good for them. Things may lure us away from God, but He is always awaiting our return.

Upcoming:

April 14 Palm Sunday — There will be no class today. This special service sets us up for Holy Week. Beginning with joy and celebration ending in sorrow. The children wanted to participate in the “drama” again this year. So, we will welcome everyone to worship with our home made palms. We will lead the procession into worship, then circle back to sit with our families.

April 21 Easter Celebration— the children will also have a greeters role at this Holiday service. Please arrive by 10:20 to greet families and pass out the beautiful Alleluia streamers they made. Every time we hear the word Alleluia, we can wave our streamers. Plan to stay after worship for an egg hunt. We will decorate the Easter egg collection bags during the sermon.

~ Faithfully, Miss Leslie

Birthdays & Anniversaries

4-1 Joel Hurttgam	4-15 Linda	4-6 Alex & Kirstin
4-8 Robbin Heppe	Lillehaugen	Csik Hughes
4-11 Lorie Coronado	4-16 Jason Awe	4-8 Stephen & Kim
4-11 Anne Johnston	4-16 Manny Travers	Cappelloni
4-12 Ron Buswell	4-16 Doris Ray	4-13 Nick & Becky Judd
4-13 Tempest Abler	4-26 Maya Gipson	4-24 John & Rebecca
4-13 Gary Roberts	4-29 Nelleke Meerman	Wickham
		4-29 Hilding & Dorothy
		Ronning



Short Term: The family of Lois Meeker, The family of Don Fuqua, Jody Biergiel & family, Family of Ellen Klinck, Stephanie Jager, Pr. Herb Schmidt, Doris Ray, Marta B., Margot Wilson, Taiyo, Carla Brown, Carol & Micky, Tibbort Csik & family, Colin Boyle, Ed Drews, Sophy, George, Francis, Beth Stiles, Cabel, Kyle, Esdras, Jean Petersen, The Trippel family, John Morgado, Sandra Eldridge, 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:** Ernestine Bartee, Barbara & John Bartee, Paul Compese, 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, Richard C., 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 & Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, the President, and the Youth of today.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

March 15, 2019

Dear Church,

Today we awoke to the devastating news of the mass shootings at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. We join in mourning for the people who were killed and wounded, for their families, for the first responders and grief counselors, and for all whose lives have been shattered today. We know that God is present in the midst of their suffering.

We know that our own Muslim neighbors here in the U.S. are also experiencing grief and fear. Many will wonder whether it is safe to attend Friday prayers today. These are not the kinds of questions that any of us should have to ask ourselves as we seek to live out our religious commitments. Yet, devastatingly, this is also a reality that binds us together as people of faith. As I wrote last November in the wake of the Tree of Life shooting: "Hate-filled violence knows no bounds – whether a Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, a Christian church in Charleston, a Jewish synagogue in Pittsburgh" – and now these mosques in New Zealand.

Together with our ecumenical and inter-religious partners, we stand shoulder to shoulder in condemning hatred, bigotry, racism and violence whenever and wherever it occurs. We do so because all people are made in the image of God. Therefore, as an act of neighborly love, I urge you to reach out to your Muslim neighbors today and in the days to come to ask how you might offer solidarity and support – joining whenever possible with other ecumenical and inter-religious neighbors.

I leave you with the words of Psalm 16:1: "Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge." This is my prayer – for our Muslim neighbors, for the people of Christchurch, and for all who mourn and are afraid. May we see in this devastation the possibility to be Christ's presence with our neighbors in this world – to be present in their suffering and to be partners in God's justice and peace.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Child Development Center



You probably noticed the tape on the Fellowship Hall carpet last month. Miss Caryn created an elaborate obstacle course to get through the rainy days of March. Once we could finally get back on the playground we were greeted by beautiful, large daffodil blooms. The children planted them in winter. We took each child's picture next to the flowers to use for their Mother's Day cards. Speaking of Mother's Day our seven Pre-Kindergarten students have selected their fabric for the sewing project. They will sew buttons on the fabric by hand. Then, they will use the sewing machine to create a pocket to put dried lavender. They are excited to get started.

Back outside, we planted Red Clover seed and it is beginning to sprout. We will till it under in May spreading nutrients in the soil for our pumpkins and other select plants. We planted the strawberries and onions. We are cleaning up that area with the help of John hauling off my tree trimmings and weed whacking the area around the boxes. We just love to spend time in our garden.

Families that were here when I started are beginning to return after a few years with younger siblings ready for preschool. We are enjoying the return of their families, the people we started to build our foundation with. We continue to have a waiting list for fall 2019 and beyond.

We welcome Bill Schraft back to our School Board. It will be nice to work with him again. Kathy Allen has been a true friend to our school by helping me sort out the nuts and bolts of providing medical insurance. I could not see it through without her help. We are also grateful to Ross Johnston who is providing the way to maximize our benefits through Aflac. This will enable us to offer additional health-based benefits to all our staff while making sure we are operating properly in this area. We are grateful for the time and talents that friends from the congregation share with us.

Warmly, Kathy Berens

HELP US HELP Lutheran World Relief

MMRR is starting a year- long service project to provide Lutheran World Relief with BABY CARE KITS. Keeping a new baby healthy, clean and comfortable takes a lot of resources. The items in a “Baby Care Kit” provide the basics to care for a newborn.

Each Baby care Kit provides:

- Two light weight cotton t-shirts,
- Two long or short sleeved gowns, or sleepers (no feet)
- Two medium weight receiving blankets, cotton or flannel
or crocheted or knitted with light weight yarn 36” to 52”square,
- Four cloth flat fold diapers,
- One jacket, sweatshirt, or sweater with a hood or include a baby cap.
- Two pair of socks
- One hand towel (preferably a dark color)
- Two or three bath-size bars of gentle soap in the original wrapping
- Two diaper pins

To make sure the kits contain all the proper items, the Circle is asking you to sponsor a baby care kit by contributing \$20 for each kit. We will purchase the items in bulk, assemble the kits and ship them off. We will be placing envelopes on a table in the Narthex. You can help sponsor a baby kit by donating \$20 to purchase items for the kit. MMRR has provided seed money to get the project started and we will be applying for a Thrivent Action Team card of \$250 giving us \$300 dollars for seed money. We are hoping that members of the congregation will donate matching funds. Let’s see how many baby care kits St. Stephens can ship to LRW in one year. Look for the envelopes.

Thank you all for your generous help with this project.

Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Women’s Circle Thursday, April 11 at 10:30 am Fireside Room

Pack your sleeping bag - we are going armchair camping with Rev. Sarah Erickson, director from Mt. Cross, our Lutheran Camp in the beautiful redwoods of Felton. She will regale us with stories and adventures from the camp and also give information about it’s summer programs coming up.

The MM/RR women’s circle is open to all women. Bring a bag lunch if youlike and dessert and coffee will be served by our monthly hostess after our business meeting.

Help us decide how we can be the most effective to our church congregation and our community.

More info call Gwyn: 831-419-0783

What Is Justice for Palestine Today?

Please join us at the Palestine Justice Coalition **Annual Celebration Fundraiser** featuring Dr. Hatem Bazian, **Friday, April 26**, 7pm at RCNV, 612 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz. Proceeds provide scholarships for young people to participate in Israel/ Palestine delegations. Dr. Bazian is a Palestinian who is a senior lecturer in Near Eastern/ Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley. General admission \$25; Students free.

Dr. Bazian will offer his perspective on the current situation in Israel/Palestine. Following Dr. Bazian’s presentation, commentary will be provided by two well-informed community members, David Grishaw-Jones, former pastor of Peace United Church and Lisa Rofel, UCSC professor.

Desserts and beverages will be served at a reception following the program.