

## 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  
January 30, 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***

***February 2019***

***Celebrating 65 Years of Ministry***



**SENT**

Please plan ahead for:

**March 6 – Ash Wednesday**  
**11:30am & 7:15pm Worship**

Every Wednesday during Lent March 13 – April 10  
We have TWO opportunities to gather:

**Worship – 11:30 am, Soup lunch – 12:30**  
**Soup Supper – 6:30 pm, Worship @ 7:15pm** (No Soup Ash Wed)

These worship gatherings are designed to help us reflect more deeply on our walk of faith with God. The Season of Lent calls all Christians into a time of fasting, prayer and helping those in need. This helps us prepare for the miracle of the Resurrection at Easter. Please sign up on Sunday to help host a soup supper. We need at least two families to sign up for each “Souper”.

***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.—  
 Secretary - Lydia Abler Treasurer—  
 David Balogh, Jeanette Dawson, Robert Barte  
 Renee Rice, 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

(Sister Parish continued)

After the service, everyone processed to the school grounds for the interment of Rev. Larry Morkert's ashes. Rev. Morkert and his wife Kathleen were the founders of Santa Cruz al Salvador.

Next we traveled to Suchitoto where we had a number of activities including discussions with mayor Pedrina Rivera and Sister Peggy O'Neill, the energizing force behind the Center of Art for Peace. Sister Peggy shared some history of the civil war in El Salvador as well as how she came to work there. When she was traveling with people escaping the advancing military, it came time to share their meager supply of food. One of the people poignantly said, "Tonight we share our food, tomorrow we share our hunger."

From Suchitoto we traveled to El Pilar for an action-packed day of crafts with children, inspecting the recent latrine installations, and having lunch in the community. More on the latrines in a future article.

We finished our travels in San Salvador. There was a day trip to the Agri-Ecological Restoration Project of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church (ILS) on the shore of Lake Ilopango. They are growing luscious organic fruit and coffee. We also had presentations by a group helping Salvadoran deportees, a homeless ministry of the ILS (Hope House), and a ministry of the Church to people who have suffered mental or physical trauma.

Now the travelers are back home, energized for our ongoing work.

**SAVE the DATE!**

The Annual Santa Cruz al Salvador Wine Tasting Event

3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 27

at a new location to be announced

Kent Madsen

[kent@kcmadsen.com](mailto:kent@kcmadsen.com)

Santa Cruz al Salvador

*"Building Relationships for Better Lives"*



## El Salvador Sister Parish News

### January 2019 Delegation

A group of eight traveled to El Salvador last month on the annual delegation. There were three first-time members and five veterans, representatives of four member churches. It was a busy, thought-provoking trip.

After the red-eye flight from San Francisco, we spent one day in San Salvador visiting historical sites and hearing about the gang situation from a long-time friend in San Salvador, Jeanne Ridders. Then we were off to Guillermo Ungo for meal times with our scholarship families as well as the annual Scholarship Award Ceremony. We had a record 108 students or family members attend (out of 120). It's always rewarding to see the new travelers meet their prayer child for the first time! We had a morning craft project for kids of all ages and met with our university scholarship students. We heard from them about their studies and goals. Many said they would not be able to go to the university without their scholarship. On Sunday we attended worship with the congregation of Nuevo Fe y Esperanza (New Faith and Hope) in Ungo.



*from Pastor Jim...*



At our annual meeting January 27, I had the opportunity to share my vision for where I believe God's Spirit is leading us in the next few years.

We have enjoyed a very fruitful past year as our income exceeded our budget by a couple thousand dollars, we have about \$1.5 million in our reserves, our preschool continues to grow and thrive in enrollment and financially, we have had a full year getting to know our neighbors at St. Stephens Senior Housing, and we have held our membership and worship attendance steady after a slight decline last year. There is much to be thankful for and to celebrate!

At the same time, it is not the mission of the church to rest on its laurels for too long and bask in the glow of its fruits. Now that so much has been accomplished, what is it that God is calling us to next?

Last March as part of my continuing education, I attended the national conference for Fresh Expressions US - a movement out of the Anglican Church of England which was born out of the decline of those churches that led them to leave their church buildings and hold church out in their communities in different ways.

As part of my sabbatical this summer I will spend time with a church in Seattle (a similar context to Santa Cruz), that has been transformed by their going out into their community as a Fresh Expression of church for people who just would never find their way to go to a traditional church.

Based on my learnings and interaction with that church and its leaders (which has its roots as a more traditional church like ours), I will begin to engage us in the Fresh Expressions movement next Fall.

This will take place through holding a Vision Day and working with a Fresh Expressions leader to help us determine how this will make the most sense for our context.

I feel led by God's Spirit in this way because otherwise we risk becoming too inwardly focused and we will tend to forget and ignore Jesus' last words to his disciples and us to "GO!" and share this amazing and life-sustaining message that he brought to us through his life, death and resurrection.

As my sabbatical gets closer, it is time to make sure that we are all getting ready for this new adventure about where God is leading us next. It will take all of our prayers and support as we take one of the biggest risks since our church began!



## **February 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**  
Feb. 1 @ 8:30 am

**Church Council**  
Feb. 4 @ 6:30pm

**MMRR Circle**  
Feb. 14 @ 10:30 am

**Women's Café Group**  
Feb. 20 @ 6:00 pm

**Embroider's Guild**  
Feb. 18 @ 7:00 pm

**Provide Habitat Lunches**  
Feb. 26 @ 10:30 am

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

## **Council Highlights**

1. Devotions from our study book "From the Steeple to the Street" challenged us to think of ourselves as pioneers of a new way of being church - a contextualized church. This is a church that recognizes that God is already working in our community beyond our church walls, and we need to go out there and bring people together to share that experience. Pastor Jim hopes to engage us with the Fresh Expressions US resources after his sabbatical. He will spend time with a church in Seattle who has experienced a transformation from a church dying a slow death into a thriving community ministry through their Dinner Church context.

2. COPA is organizing around the proposed new Kaiser Medical Center which will be built just a couple miles from our church. Although this is a welcome development because of the lack of certain health and behavioral services in SC County, we want to be proactive about how such a large new service provider will become a part of our community. Accepting Medicare, funding MediCal patients to be treated at local low-income clinics, providing robust behavioral health services, and working on a Community Benefit Agreement that helps fund the needs we know exist in our community, are all aspects of this organizing work.

3. Ron Buswell and Bill Anderson from the Finance Committee presented the 2019 budget for approval. They recommended a 2.8 COLA raise for all staff and the elimination of the Mutual Ministry Comm. request to increase the pastor's salary by \$10,000 in order to bring that compensation closer to the Synod Guidelines. Currently pastor's compensation is \$40,000 less than Synod Guidelines. The recommended budget was approved to bring to the congregation by a vote of 4-3 with one abstention.



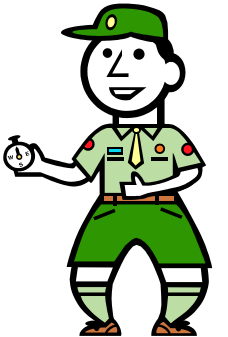
**2019 Altar Flowers** If you would like to dedicate flowers, please see the chart in the narthex. Choose a date to honor a loved one, list the dedication, and note whether you will use our florist (Jacki's) or bring your own.

## **SCOUT SUNDAY**

**Sunday, February 3**

**Come enjoy our homemade donuts!**

A Message from Troop 633



The week of February 3<sup>rd</sup> commemorates the 109<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. To celebrate, scout troops across the nation are taking part in "Scout Sunday," a day in which the contributions of youth and adult scouts are recognized. Troop 633 celebrates this day every year at St. Stephen's Church, their headquarters for meetings and overnight activities since the early '60s. For the past 36 years, they have been led by devoted Scoutmaster Scott Caldwell.

Recently, the troop has assisted St. Stephen's by replacing the mulch in the children's playground, repainting the church, building the fence that now separates the playground from the cement-floored play place, and many other things. Coffee and handmade donuts will be served after both services on the 3<sup>rd</sup> by the scouts for Scout Sunday. We thank St. Stephen's for their long-lasting support.

Jackson Kachman, Scribe

Troop 633

## Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

### **February—St. Stephen's Scholarship Fund**

Over the years we have been blessed to receive several bequests from former members that make up our present scholarship fund. Many of St. Stephen's youth have benefited from this fund as they further their education in college while costs continue to rise. We attempt to use the interest only from this fund, but sometimes we need to dip into the principal in order to fulfill the requests. This month you can give a special offering in addition to your regular offering in order to keep this fund healthy well into the future. Maybe you, too, could think about including the St. Stephen's Scholarship Fund in your will or estate plans as others before us have. This is a multiplying gift as it enables someone else to develop their God-given gifts in service to others. We currently are assisting students at Cabrillo College, Cal Lutheran University, and Cal Poly University

**January — American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**  
= **\$205** (as of 1/27)

## **STEWARDS OF THE MONTH**

### **OFFICE VOLUNTEERS**

These folks have been serving in this way for many years. Thank you for your commitment. Your labor is invaluable and is a witness to all about how offer our time and abilities to God. It is a pleasure working with you all! - Leslie

### **Weekly Helpers: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager**

Monthly Newsletter Team: Lu Sluiter (lead),  
Bill & Candace Anderson, Lindsey & Becky Cramer,  
Paul & Connie Cunningham, Kim Frey & Ginny Ruble

The **Progressive Christian Forum of Santa Cruz** presents:

## **“Re-Imagining God and Nature In the Face of Extinction”**

Peace United Church of Christ , 900 High Street

**Fri. Feb. 22 —Sat. Feb. 23**

We dare to boldly go where none have gone before. Do you think you know how Christian thinkers think? Or you think that's an oxymoron? Better think again. Join two renowned scholars / Fellows of the Westar Institute, Professor Karen Bray and Professor Whitney Bauman. Their provocative seminars are titled:

- *The Death of Nature and  
the Theological Problem of Human Domination*
- *New Materialism in Response to Climate Apocalypse*
- *Developing a Non-Reductive Religious Naturalism*
- *Pantheological Opportunities and  
Challenges for Climate Justice*

There will be opportunities for in-depth reflection on the moral imperatives and ethical challenges facing us all as we encounter the reality of catastrophic climate change. Together, we will explore our increasingly urgent common concerns for the integrity of earth's living systems, in religious and spiritual contexts.

P.U.C.C. will once again demonstrate radical hospitality and extravagant welcome by providing a catered sit-down luncheon on Saturday, and the aesthetic ministrations of singer/songwriter/painter Russell Brutsche.

Register online before February 8 for an early bird discount \$60  
at [events@westarinstitute.org](mailto:events@westarinstitute.org). Or register at the door \$75.

Jim Weller, Convener  
510-325-1361



## Sunday School

Last month, we welcomed two new friends — Beckett and little brother Hayden.

**“We saw the star in the East and have come to worship him”**

Matthew 2:1-2 When we go on a trip, we just use google maps. There is even a voice that tells us when to turn. If we stray, it recalculates for us. Google maps equivalent, back in Biblical times, was the star. God literally spotlighted baby Jesus. He made it so easy to find the new King. Today, wise men, women, boys, and girls are still searching for Jesus. Some folks are pretty lost. The Bible is our map and star that will lead us to Jesus. Read it to make sure we are headed in the right direction.

**“You are my son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased”** Luke 3:22

*The Baptism of Jesus marked the beginning of his ministry. Up until that time, he had not performed any miracles, but with God's stamp of approval and with the spirit of God (the Dove) upon him Jesus began to perform great miracles. Our own baptism represents a new beginning for us as well. God may not always be “well pleased” with us, but I think He looks down with an approving smile when he sees us trying to walk with Jesus..*

**“Do what he tells you to do”** John 2:5 Some of our kids have not been to a wedding before. We talked about all the planning and expense that goes into making the festivities special. We reenacted the wedding at Cana — a feast (toy food), table linens, candles, and stemware. I'll be honest, they were pretty focused on eating the real cake. But their ears perked up when they realized that Jesus was a guest, having fun with his friends just like an average person. It was mother Mary who was worried when the wine ran out, she didn't want her friends to look like bad hosts. She mentioned it to Jesus, and he said it wasn't his time yet. Well, his Mother wasn't having it, and she insisted. She told the servants to do whatever Jesus asks. Because the servants did what Jesus told them to do, a good thing happened. The first miracle / sign — turning water into wine, and his disciples believed in him. For effect, I turned the water pitcher into purple Koolaid, and there was a collective “oooooooooh”. Remember, Jesus wants good things to happen in our life too!

**Feb. 10** — Valentine making for the senior residents

**March 3, 14 & 31** — I will be out of town and hope to not cancel class.

Can YOU lead a class / 20 minute activity during sermon?



2-1 Lu Sluiter

2-2 Ed Drews

2-2 Jean Petersen

2-4 Kyle Travers

2-7 Marla Meek

2-8 James Russell

2-9 Edna Lindquist

2-10 Al Mitchell

2-10 Paul Powers

2-12 Beverly Giladett

2-17 Liana Mabry

2-18 Kathy Hopping

2-18 Jay Johnston

2-19 Connie Creel

2-19 Charles Eldridge

2-21 Caitlin Hopping

2-24 Miller Mouw

2-29 Beth Stiles



2—6 Pastor Jim & Leslie

2—24 Richard & Susan  
Oldfield



**Short Term:** Jody Biergiel & family, Stephanie Jager, Family of Tony Guerrero, Peggy & Tricia, Kirk Hull, Tricia Petty, Laurel, Jeff Simpson, Lois Meeker (hospice care), Meeker Family, Ed Drews, Sophy, the Massa & Hurttgam Family, George, Francis, Beth,

Elke Spires, Prl Steve Sabin, Tim, Cabel, Kyle, Esdras, Xavier, Don Fuqua, 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:** 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.



## 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 beginning in January.

Thank you all for your generous help with this project.

## Child Development Center



January was a busy month as when we returned some students wanted to increase hours of attendance. We have four siblings turning two and wanting to get started. These siblings have never known a time when they have not brought their older sibling here and they want to stay and play! It may take a few months as we are full. We cannot even increase hours to existing students at this time. Projected enrollment has us in waitlist status until September 2020, unless someone moves away. It is nice that we are a trusted place for families. It is also bittersweet because it is hard to turn people away.

As winter continues thoughts of preparing for our garden are beginning. The rain has our soil softened so we are tilling it up and adding chicken manure compost to the raised beds. In one month, we will plant red clover seed. In spring we will till in the clover to the soil. We are also experimenting with our own composting with the children. Hopefully this will all add up to a healthy garden come summer!

Another project is to get our sheds cleaned up and reduce the items in Room 5 chair storage. I installed four large stepping stones in front of the outdoor shed so we can maneuver in the rainy months when the soil is saturated. This way we can put stuff away in the winter. These months provide opportunity for getting organized after the holidays and prepared for Spring activities.

In February we read stories of winter, penguins, and Valentine's Day. We set up a Post Office so children can mail notes to each other. On the holiday we will do a valentine exchange.

Music this month includes playing rhythm sticks to multicultural music. We discussed the world map and named each continent. As we either play to, or listen to the songs we identify which country, on which continent it comes from. The purpose is to introduce the children to our larger world and the different sounds of diverse people.

In Yoga the children are getting the opportunity to demonstrate the moves to each other using flashcards that we place near their Yoga mat. They get to be part of the story as we make up a narrative adventure to the movements we make.

Warmly, Kathy Berens

## *Come join the Finance Committee*

Are you interested in caring for the finances of our church including the current expenses, investment portfolio and scholarship awards? Then you are invited to join the Finance Committee. We meet once a month on the first Friday at 8:30AM.

Members of our committee include Kathy Allen our bookkeeper, Janet Slay our Financial Secretary, and Bill Anderson

Please contact Council President Kent Madsen, if you are interested.



### **Church Directory update**

- We hope to have them ready for distribution at the end of February.
- Did you pick up your complementary 8x11 from church? If yours was not here, please call Lifetouch customer care 888-313-1746 we are acct. #291105.

## **Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Women's Circle Thursday, Feb. 14 at 10:30 am Fireside Room**

All Women are invited to join in our meeting.

Our very own David Balogh will be speaking on our church benevolence "St. Stephen's Scholarship Fund" program. Dave is a regular of ours and has spoken on a variety of topics in the past at our circle meetings. He is very knowledgeable on the scholarships and can shed insight into what the program entails.

Since it is Valentines Day, come to celebrate the joy and love of giving to our younger generation, to help them grow in education and spiritually in God. There may even be chocolate to help celebrate!!

More info call Gwyn: 831-419-0783

### **Women's Café Group**

Wednesday, Feb. 20  
6:00 pm

(last meeting before Easter)

Devotions & Dinner  
More info 476-4700

