

**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

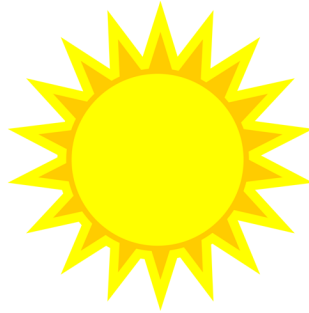
**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON  
December 21, 2018**

**POST OFFICE:  
DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

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

Non-Profit Org.  
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Permit #7079  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-9998

*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church*



***Sun***

***January 2019***

***Celebrating 65 Years of Ministry***

**ONE WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Sunday, Jan. 27 at 9:30 am**

**followed by**

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

(Please Request Child Care if needed)

We gather together to elect leadership to council, elect voting members for Synod Assembly, and approve a budget for 2019 that reflects our mission. Please plan on attending to support your church as we continue to seek God's will for our ministry together. Contact the office if you can assist with the coffee hour (set up, clean up, provide finger foods).

***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**

A small group will be traveling to El Salvador this month. We leave very early in the morning of January 9th and return on the 18th. Included on the itinerary are visits to our two communities of Guillermo Ungo and El Pilar as well as historical sites in San Salvador. The highlight of our time in Guillermo Ungo is always the Scholarship Award Ceremony, where students are given their uniforms, school supplies, and gift bags from you, their sponsors. We will also spend time in Suchitoto, the town nearest to Guillermo Ungo.

Thank you to all recent donors as well as to the prayer child sponsors who have provided gifts for their students. This is an important part of our program -- scholarship recipients in El Salvador are connected with a person or family in the U.S. who cares about them, prays for them, and is interested in their education. If you are interested in connecting with a deserving student, contact Kent Madsen,

[kent@kcmadsen.com](mailto:kent@kcmadsen.com) or [438-1593](tel:438-1593)

**Santa Cruz al Salvador**

***"Building Relationships for Better Lives"***

## 2019 Flower Chart

If you would like to dedicate Altar 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.



## In Memoriam

### **Tony Guerrero Memorial Service January 5 at 11:00 am.**

Our beloved Tony died suddenly of heart failure as he received treatment for liver cancer, which he bravely fought since he became one of the first residents with his wife Rose at St. Stephen's Senior Housing. His funeral and burial were held recently in his childhood hometown of Fresno. He and his daughter Regina became members recently and faithfully attended the early service. Tony was a long-time Santa Cruz resident who opened and ran the small business The Old Volks Home for Volkswagen vehicle repair. He and Rose raised their family one block from St. Stephen's on Capitola Ext., and were so thrilled to be living so near again. Their great-granddaughter Ila has been a student at our preschool for a year.

We were so privileged to know Tony so well this past year and half as he shared his steadfast faith with us.

**Blessed be the memory of this saint of God.  
May light perpetual shine upon him.**

*from Pastor Jim...*

I recently received a very personal and thoughtful note from one of the many groups who meet at our church throughout the week. Did you know that there is barely any time all week long that our church is not being used by our community in some way? We are truly a blessing to many in our community and we fulfill our mission by sharing what God has blessed us with. Here is a sample of how grateful folks are for our ministry:



*Dear Pastor Jim, Thank you for letting us use the fireplace room on Thursday evenings! Over the years we have developed a close community of friends—and improved our crafting skills! Merry Christmas - Gaye*

*We're so happy to be here on Thursday nights! You can join us anytime - Men do knit you know! -Shay*

*I love coming here every Thursday to knit in community. Thanks for your generosity. - Margo*

*We're very appreciative of your generosity in welcoming us into the facility for our knitting group! -Maggie N.*

*Thanks for letting us have community each week. -One handed knitter Beth.*

*Thanks for this clean, well lighted place for us to gather and knit together -Barbara O.*

*We very much appreciate you providing us with a comfortable place to meet, knit and chat. Thank you and Merry Christmas! -Laurel N.*

*Thank you so much for letting our knitting group meet on Thursday nights! -Debrah H.*

Despite the fact that we are small church getting a little smaller each year, our impact in our community is significant and appreciated. This makes each of our support and participation that much more valuable as we begin a new year together. Let's dream anew of how God will use our church to serve God's ways in the world.

## **January 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**  
Jan. 4 @ 8:30 am

**Church Council**  
Jan. 9 @ 6:30pm

**MMRR Circle**  
Jan. 10 @ 10:30 am

**Women's Café Group**  
Jan. 16 @ 6:00 pm

**Taize Service**  
Jan. 20 @ 6:00 pm

**Embroider's Guild**  
Jan. 21 @ 7:00 pm

**Provide Habitat Lunches**  
Jan. 22 @ 10:30 am

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

## **Council Highlights**

We continued our study of "From the Steeple to the Street" and discussed Ch. 7, which focused on theology, specifically how our understanding of God as a Trinity of Creator/Parent, God/Human in Jesus Christ, and Spirit/God in us helps us fulfill our mission to share the good news of God's love and ways with others.

We welcomed guests Rev. Herb Schmidt (ret.), who serves as our rep. with the homeless advocacy group Association of Faith Communities, Barbara Johnston & Mary Kelly, CDC Board President and V.P. They each made presentations regarding the proposed Safe Spaces Parking program that AFC is developing so that some screened & supervised homeless families who still are able to live in their vehicles could have a safe place to park overnight. Because there are many unanswered questions and the program is still developing and won't be running until March 2019, the Council decided to postpone further discussion until April. The discussion was very fruitful and respectful with new information shared regarding issues this would raise with our state licensing for the preschool and parents concerns. The CDC Board recommends Council not approve the program as it is currently defined. Herb will take the questions and concerns to the AFC, and Barbara will follow up with other churches who have preschools.

Pastor Jim served as a COPA leader at a recent community meeting about the prospect of Kaiser opening up a new clinic near the church. COPA will seek a Community Benefit Agreement with Kaiser as we look for ways for a new partnership with a new neighbor with significant resources that can help meet some of the needs that are important to our institutions.

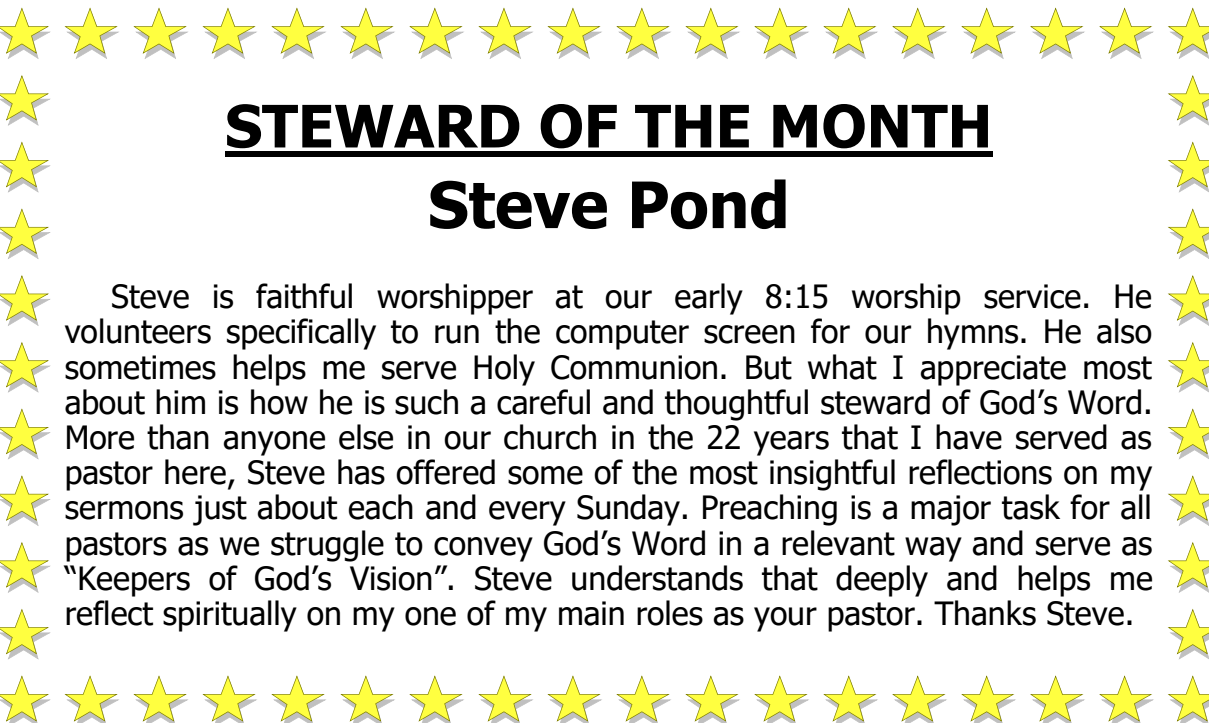
## **Monthly Special Benevolence Offering**

**January — American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)** is the leader in the fight against suicide. We fund research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss. Headquartered in New York, AFSP has 75 local chapters with programs and events nationwide.

To fully achieve its mission, AFSP engages in Five Core Strategies:

- Fund scientific research
- Offer educational programs for professionals
- Educate the public about mood disorders and suicide prevention
- Promote policies and legislation that impact suicide and prevention
- Provide programs and resources for survivors of suicide loss and people at risk, and involve them in the work of the Foundation.

**December—Lutheran World Relief = \$138** (as of 12/ 17)



## **STEWARD OF THE MONTH**

### **Steve Pond**

Steve is faithful worshipper at our early 8:15 worship service. He volunteers specifically to run the computer screen for our hymns. He also sometimes helps me serve Holy Communion. But what I appreciate most about him is how he is such a careful and thoughtful steward of God's Word. More than anyone else in our church in the 22 years that I have served as pastor here, Steve has offered some of the most insightful reflections on my sermons just about each and every Sunday. Preaching is a major task for all pastors as we struggle to convey God's Word in a relevant way and serve as "Keepers of God's Vision". Steve understands that deeply and helps me reflect spiritually on my one of my main roles as your pastor. Thanks Steve.





- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1-1 Nathan Lapp   | 1-12 Linda Hix      |
| 1-8 Katie Silva   | 1-13 Jennifer Robe  |
| 1-9 Esdras Garden | 1-14 Sofia Bartee   |
| 1-10 Colby Hanson | 1-16 Ellie Russell  |
| 1-11 Mitch Crews  | 1-17 Emily Valencia |
|                   | 1-18 Patty Travers  |
|                   | 1-21 Chris Turzo    |
|                   | 1-23 Diane Hintz    |
|                   | 1-25 Neil Crews     |
|                   | 1-26 Iris Colclough |
|                   | 1-26 John Wickham   |
|                   | 1-27 Crystal Hintze |



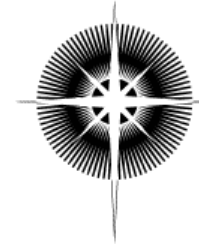
- 1-20 Donald & Doris  
Ray
- 1-24 Lindsey & Becky  
Cramer



**Short Term:** Family of Tony Guerrero, Bonnie Bell, Lois Meeker (hospice care), Meeker Family, Sophie & Mia, Debbie Harrison, Diane Dewy, Rosie & sons, Tim, Ed Drews, Taeyo, John Simas, Gwen & Steven, the McHenery Family, Ruth Stiles, Hal & Lorena, Eric

Catalan, Carla Brown, Cabel, Bonnie, Lorenzo, Kelly, Keith, Kyle, Esdras, Xavier, Don Fuqua, Jean Petersen, The Trippel family, John Morgado, Sandra Eldridge, Polk Family, Barbara, Alex, Paul, Julie, Kevin, Kathy, John, Joanne, Marge, Frank, Rick, Jackson, Joe, Pat, Riley, Shelby, Kaitlyn, Daniel, Ryder, Immigrant families, Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and Our Church Family.

**Long Term:** Joan Abler, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly & CJ Muchanic Jr., Jenny Rebecca Hodge, Susan Anderson, Rick, Lina, Katrina, Mateo, Bobbie Erickson, Edna Lindquist, Stephanie Jager, Richard C., Becky, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Barry & Barbara, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Karin, Will, Chris, Pat Hubbard, Cathy, Pearl Runquist, Volpi Family, Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, the President, and the Youth of today.



## Epiphany

. . . Means "to show" or "to make known." It was first observed in the East as a feast commemorating Jesus' baptism as an adult. Later it became a celebration of Christ being made known to the Gentiles, beginning with the Wisemen (Magi) who came from the East to worship the Christ child. Another theme of Epiphany is God's light overcoming the darkness of evil and sin.

The color of Epiphany Day is white for light and purity. The Baptism and the Transfiguration of Jesus are celebrated during this season, so white is a reminder of Baptism robes and the gleaming white color of Jesus' clothes when he went up the mountain of transfiguration. On other Sundays in Epiphany the color is green.

The star that guided the wisemen to Bethlehem is a symbol of Epiphany.

## Song & Silence: Taize Service

**January 20 @ 6:00 pm** (Third Sunday of each month)

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

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



## Sunday School

We remember **Kasey & Mattie Garden's** baptismal birthdays. Pray for them to be a faithful followers and SHINE!

We lived Advent as we prepared for the pageant. The kids made the stars for the cold dark night and we used the olive trees that they painted last year. Each child got to choose what role they wanted. They could speak or not speak, run / twirl / jingle, even lay down and pretend to sleep. The wolf made a repeat appearance. Glitter or no glitter, each child shined! These are a few of our December lessons:

### **You are a king . . . John 18:37**

Made me think of the song from Lion King "I just cant wait to be King". Simba was anxious to become king because he didn't want anyone telling him what to do. He didn't want to hear anyone saying "do this" or "stop that". He wanted to be free to run around all day doing everything his way. He also was looking forward to telling everyone else what to do.

*"I'm gonna be a mighty king so enemies beware! I'm gonna be the mane event like no king was before. I'm brushing up on looking down. I'm working on my ROAR! Oh, I just can't wait to be king!"*

Simba had a very poor idea of what it means to be a king. The real role of a king is to look after the needs of his people. A good king is more concerned with caring for his people than he is in being served. (Pause for emphasis) Jesus was born to be King. Do you thing Jesus ever thought about what he was going to be when he grew up? He could have become a carpenter like his father. Perhaps he might have chosen to be a wine maker (turned water into wine) or a Doctor (gift of healing) or even a fisherman like the disciples. Those are all good choices, but He was only interested in doing the will of his Father. He was born to be our King.

### **What should we do . . . Luke 3:10-11**

"If you have two coats, give one of them to the one who has none. If you have food, share it with those who have none." That is the same message we need to hear today. If we want to experience the real joy that Jesus wants for us, then we must learn to share! By sharing what God has so generously given to us, we will receive an even great gift - - - the gift of joy. As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, help us to remember those who are in need.

**No Sunday School January 27**

## 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.

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

Grab your glue and scissors, Ladies, as we are making Valentines. These get sent out to our congregation's homebound and they look forward to getting them every year. Bring sitckers, lace doilies and other pretty adornments to glue on pre-cut out cards. It's a lot of fun and a good excuse to do crafting!

We have a whole new line up of speakers ready for 2019. Come and join us for desserts and some business too.

A big thank you to all who helped make our bake / craft sale a success, including those who donated and those who purchased. We will be giving to our church projects and community programs.

Everyone Woman Welcome! More info. Call Gwyn 476-8239

The Christmas Tree gift drive was a wonderful success. Thirty-two coats / sweatshirts were delivered to the Live Oak Resource Center. They distributed them at Las Posadas celebration. They were very thankful. With the congregation's help, kids in need will be warm for these chilly days and nights. Thank you to all who participated and donated from their hearts.



## **Women's Café Group**

**Wednesday, Jan. 16**  
**6:00 pm**

**Devotions & Dinner**  
**More info 476-4700**

## **Child Development Center**



We are delighted to begin another year in our Preschool. This marks the beginning of my 7<sup>th</sup> year as your Director. Our school ministry is healthy. We are in wait-list status filled with wonderful children. Overall our most peaceful group yet.

As a church Preschool ministry we realize that our congregation must make some difficult decisions about who we can reach out and help. The decisions are influenced by Community Care Licensing Laws that we must follow. One unexpected violation can greatly create a lasting negative impact on our school. We are working hard to keep our campus safe in keeping children out of harms way. Sometimes our commitment to the children can impact other very important ministries and their ability to be implemented. We appreciate all who have a heart for helping others. Thank you for supporting our Preschool and church.

January is a month for reflection as we prepare for our Congregation Meeting. This has been a big growth and stability year for our Preschool and I look forward reflecting on 2018 as I prepare the letter for the meeting.

We are very blessed to have Barbara Johnston, Mary Kelly, Sandra Eldridge, Rebecca Russell, and Pastor Jim serving on our School Board. Thank you for your commitment to the children!

The Christmas Pageant was our biggest to date with 19 children and their parents, and many grandparents in attendance. What a beautiful sight. This was my vision to bring the Preschool and Sunday School ministries together and feel joy. It is our prayer that we might touch the hearts of some families and have them return to our church for worship. Fewer young families are taking the time to do this because work and lifestyles have become too busy. Therefore, it is our goal to provide rich experiences through play where children can learn in a slower paced environment until they leave for Kindergarten. The gift of fostering a sense of wonder and a kind heart in each child is so important to create a foundation for learning. The joy and love of Jesus is ever present in our Chapel services with Pastor Jim which has moved to Thursday's at 10:15. You are welcome to come join us!

Warmly, Kathy Berens

Treasurer Notes ...

Budget Information – November 2018

	November	November	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution Income	\$12083	\$12398	\$132671	\$139087	\$-6415
Facility Use Income	\$2728	\$715	\$9475	\$7865	\$1610
Investment Income	\$3231	\$3585	\$39189	\$39435	\$-246
Bricks	\$0	\$717	\$5777	\$7883	\$-2106
Total Income	\$18043	\$17426	\$189119	\$194397	\$-5278
Expenses	\$16632	\$16846	\$192682	\$193905	\$-1223
Net	\$1411	\$580	\$-3562	\$492	\$-4055

Income was above budget in November thanks to a delinquent payment for parking (facility usage) of \$2K. Contribution income was just about on budget and expenses were slightly below budget. For the year our expenses exceed our income by \$3.6K. Hopefully we will be able to bring our income back up by yearend.

Special funds for the Organ, Piano, Hearing Impaired,

Solar Electricity and Narthex Bathroom

	November	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$0	\$1310	
Piano	\$0	\$-103	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$320	
Solar Electric Payback	\$126		\$20591
Narthex Bathroom	\$165		\$5609

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2018 through November	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$818
SS Scholarships	\$429
Live Oak Resource Center	\$305
Habitat for Humanity	\$400
Mt. Cross	\$799
World Hunger	\$241
Homeless Service Center	\$306
CLU/PLTS	\$300
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$293
SS CDC	\$315
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$315
Lutheran World Relief	\$0
ELCA Synod	\$1560
COPA	\$1500
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$7579
2018 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$15317
% of Target	49%

Ron Buswell

Treasurer