

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
February 27, 2019

POST OFFICE:
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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

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Santa Cruz, CA 95060-9998

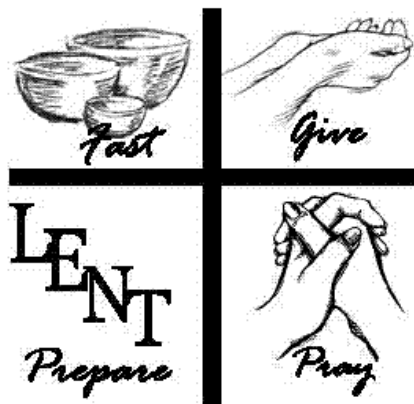
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

March 2019

Celebrating 65 Years of Ministry



Ash Wednesday – March 6

11:30am & 7:15pm Worship (No Soup)

Every Wednesday

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

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 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 Bartee
 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

El Salvador Sister Parish News

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.

More on the January 2019 Delegation

We visited three projects of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church: a home-
 less shelter, an environmental/sustainable agriculture project on the shore of
 Lake Ilopango and a brand new trauma therapy project in a recently completed
 building funded by a German pastor. So far 16 pastors (not all Lutheran) have
 completed a two year training program and will each be donating four hours a
 week of trauma therapy there, as well as using their skills in their own parish.
 This is a much needed project and gives hope that the cycle of violence, which
 has been so prevalent in El Salvador since the civil war, can be stopped.

Another interesting meeting was with a group that was helping depor-
 tees from the US in their transition back to life in El Salvador. Many of these
 people are coming back with little family or social support, neighborhoods that
 have been taken over by the gangs and having left their children that were
 born in the US behind. This group is doing great things including sending teams
 of these returning deportees into high schools to tell the student about what
 it is really like to make the journey to the US and what the reality is for them
 once they get here, often working three jobs and sharing housing with 10 peo-
 ple to get by. It is sad to hear that many of the children left behind in the US
 start to do poorly in school and struggle without the parent's support. Some
 churches in the US are reaching out to these children and offering support
 and community.

The travelers are once again grateful for the opportunity to visit El Sal-
 vador. The people have so much faith, strength and love, despite the many
 challenges. Each of the eight people on this year's trip had a wonderful learning
 experience and a very good time and were greatly moved by their experiences
 and made strong connections with the people of El Salvador.

- Kent Madsen

Memorial Gathering & Reception For Don Fuqua

Saturday, March 30 from 1:00—5:00 pm
Their home 17 Eastridge Drive
Pasatiempo

He and his beloved wife Shirley of 63 years were long-time members of St. Stephen's. Don dedicated the lovely bench under our olive tree out near Soquel Ave. in her honor and memory. He tried very hard to continue his participation in our church after Shirley's death, but found it so very difficult given all the years they had together here. He was a faithful servant of our congregation who will be dearly missed.

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

Attention Thrivent members!

Your Thrivent Choice Dollars are available! If you are a Thrivent Financial benefit member, you have Thrivent Choice Dollars available to designate to your church or charity (on the Thrivent qualifying list) of your choice. St. Stephen's, as well as the St. Stephen's Child Development Center, are on the list. Your Choice Dollars need to be designated by March 31. It doesn't cost you anything and your organization benefits! It is easy to do—just a few clicks on the Thrivent web site, or call Mary Elizabeth Bellizzi at 831-688-1788 for help.

from Pastor Jim...



**Please make your pastor
super-happy and make plans to join
together on each Wednesday during Lent!**

(The front page has all the information.)

Last year was difficult because of the lack of participation for the first time. This year I hope that there will be a renewed effort to make plans to gather Wednesdays to pay attention to our walk of faith, and to share a meal together.

So far we have good sign-ups for hosting the Soup Suppers. Let's honor those who will be preparing well for our nourishment, by showing up and thanking them for sharing their time and gifts. Then we will spend some sacred time together in God's Word and song, as we prepare our hearts for Holy Week and the Easter celebration.

It can be a very meaningful thing to commit to a faith discipline like this during Lent. I believe that you will feel better in many ways by deciding to come to church each Wednesday in Lent.

I especially enjoy the opportunity to sit down with you and share how our day or week has been going, how we have experienced God's presence, and learning of the ways that we can pray for each other and those we know in need. Sharing our lives as Christian family is one of the best benefits of being connected to a church, but we have to be intentional about actually setting the time aside to BE together.

I cherish the idea of spending God-time with each of you. I look forward to how God will speak to us this Lenten season.

March Happenings



**Spring
Forward
March 10**

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

Finance Committee

March 1 @ 8:30 am

Church Council

Mon. March 11 @ 6:30pm

MMRR Circle

March 14 @ 10:30 am

Women's Café Group

On Hiatus during Lent

Embroider's Guild

March 18 @ 7:00 pm

Provide Habitat Lunches

March 26 @ 10:30 am

Council Highlights

1. Devotions were from the Living Lutheran magazine. We read aloud the article written by our national ELCA Bishop, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, entitled "What is God Up To?" She reminded us that as a declining church across the nation, we can too easily get trapped by asking the natural question "What Can WE Do?" as we try to do something to try and change our fortunes. The better question she offers is, "What is God Up To?" She acknowledges that the Western church is in a historical transition time, and that she does not have a clear vision of what the church is becoming, and that is fine because God always does. So our better questions are How is the Spirit re-shaping the church? How will God use us as Christ's living body in the world? We cannot exist to rebuild a memory. God will not bless that kind of effort. Instead, let's be about the work of getting more people to know more about Jesus. Pastor Jim reminded us that is exactly what he is hoping to lead St. Stephen's to do through our involvement with the Fresh Expressions US movement. This effort is helping us to leave our church building and do and be church out in our community.

2. Sundays March 3 and 31, Pastor Joel Miller will be leading worship. He will also serve as St. Stephen's sabbatical pastor May 26-Sept. 1. He is a retired Episcopal pastor having served at Calvary Episcopal in downtown Santa Cruz for 10 years.

3. A memorial service for former member Greg Weber will be held on Sat. March 9 at 11am. Reception will follow.

4. Ron Buswell resigned as Treasurer. Kent Madsen will now serve as Treasurer.

News from a few of our College Kids



Hi St. Stephen's -

Things are going great! I will be graduating in the spring and then going to Physical Therapy school. I have gotten into one school and waiting to hear back from a few others and then I will decide! I am really loving Cal Poly and will be sad to leave but I am excited for what is to come! Looking forward to seeing everyone at Easter or possibly sooner. Thanks ~ Kylie Ronning

California Lutheran

UNIVERSITY

Dear St. Stephen's -

I am looking forward to my last few months at CLU and cherishing all the moments I have left until graduation. I feel incredibly blessed to have found such a wonderful community here in Thousand Oaks! I am finishing up my senior year by keeping myself busy with research for the biology department, working in our campus garden, and figuring out my next steps after commencement. When I complete my degree, I plan to move home and take some time to travel and learn more outside of the classroom. As for career plans, I am looking into lab and field jobs in Marine/ Conservation Biology and Environmental Science in the Monterey Bay while I begin preparing for graduate school. I am looking forward to new experiences in life, while looking back on the last four years that have given me so much. I am very grateful for all of St. Stephen's support throughout the years, especially while pursuing my education at CLU, I could not thank you enough!

I hope all is well! ~ Hannah Travers

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

Live Oak Community Resource Center

This valuable community center serves many in our local neighborhood and is one of our COPA partners as we seek to meet the needs of families by organizing for changes and new opportunities. Below is an excerpt from the 'Thank You Letter' we received. It reminds us about the importance of our partnership with places who are serving the more vulnerable ones in our community.

"Your congregation's gift supports our ten vital programs, across twenty different sites, to meet the needs of children, families and seniors. One of our clients said *This program has been a lifesaver for our family. It brought a sense of relief, a warm smile, and great support.* Thank you for joining us in our mission to serve these families. Your support helps open doors, offer hope, and provide a hand up to the people of SC County. Our community is stronger because of people like you.

February—St. Stephen's Scholarship Fund = \$ 407 (as of 2/24)

STEWARD OF THE MONTH

Candace Anderson

She has a way of showing up right when you need her. This time, she has shared her organizational skills and offered many hours to make our filing system more efficient. She offers behind the scenes inspiration & support for Sunday School and continues worship prep. on Altar Guild. What a valuable resource for our church!

Easter Sunday Celebration - April 21

8:15 am Worship

9:30 am Breakfast

10:30 am Worship

- Preschoolers Singing
- Children's Church during the sermon

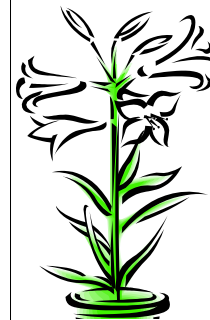
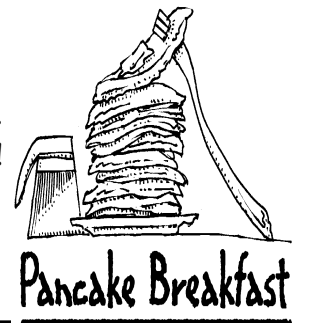


11:30 am
Children's Egg Hunt

11:30 Breakfast

Easter Breakfast to benefit our many ministries. Come celebrate the resurrection with food & friends! Don Smawley will be running the kitchen.

Please sign up to help.



Easter Lilies

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

You may take home your Lily after the second service on Easter.



Sunday School

"Yes, You Can" Jeremiah 1:7-8 "I just can't do it!" How many times have you said that before? The kids shared stories of being afraid to do something and then were so surprised when it turned out they could. With God's help we can succeed. In the days that Jesus lived, many people had a hard time believing some of the things they heard about him. How could the son of a carpenter do such amazing things? Jesus certainly helped his father around the shop when he was young. We set the scene with a tool box, tool belt, saw horse, level, saw, hammer, nails, and a hard hat for good measure. Thanks to Lu Sluiter we had wood squares to work with. The kids went to town on their craft, in the spirit of building God's Kingdom. Before they could use the saw, they had to offer up a Love tool — love is patient, kind, slow to anger etc.

"Go Fish!" Luke 5:10 Why do so many people like to go fishing? Of course some like to eat fish, but for others it's just a chance to get away from their daily routine for some rest and relaxation. Some people say they don't even care if they catch anything. The Bible has a lot to say about fishing. Jesus 1st disciples were fishermen. You better believe they cared if they caught fish or not. We learned about one of their all night fishing trips when they caught nothing. Jesus told them to go back out into deep water and cast your nets. They were so tired, and clearly didn't want to, but they did. And sure enough their nets were so full they had to call for help for fear of sinking. They were stunned, and probably both happy & afraid. But most of all, trusted in God's power. They followed Jesus, and shared God's love. This week our tool box was a fishermans tackle box. We had our fishing net and lucky hat. We lured the fish into the net with one of God's ten commandments.

"Blessed are you" Luke 6:22 Jesus did not say Happy are they who have a lot of money, or Happy are they who have plenty to eat. What he did say was, When you follow me, happiness will come. We need to remember that we can never find happiness by seeking the things this world has to offer.

"Do to others as you would have them do to you" Luke 6:31 What a peaceful world we would have, if everyone followed The Golden Rule. Why should we love our enemies? Jesus said that when we love our enemies, we are acting like children of God. When someone does something hateful, pray for them. It is not easy, but there are good reasons for trying. * It demonstrates the love of God to others. * It sets a good example for others to follow. * It turns enemies into friends.

* Farewell "Alleluia", we will celebrate with you on Easter *

Birthdays & Anniversaries

3-5	Steven Pond	3-20	Peggy Crews	
3-6	Bev Hickman	3-22	Elizabeth Balogh	3-10 Steve & Julie Mouw
3-8	Judy Russell			
3-12	Theresa Loback-Campbell	3-23	Sheila Buswell	3-16 Bill & Sherilyn Jager
		3-23	Polly Cappelloni	
3-18	Keith Slay			3-19 Brad & Shawn Cramer
3-18	Shelby Volpi	3-24	Dean Slay	
3-19	Oliver Spires	3-27	Chuck Davis	



Short Term: The family of Don Fuqua, Jody Biergiel & family, Stephanie Jager, Pr. Herb Schmidt, Doris Ray, Carol Avenmarg, Micky, Dorothy, Phil, Brady, Jeff Simpson, Lois Meeker (hospice care), Meeker Family, 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:** 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.



RE – LENT

REMEMBER, REDEVELOP, REFINE, REKINDLE, REBIRTH,
REWARD, REVIVE, RESTART, REFORM, REUNITE, REFRESH,
REBUILD, RECYCLE, REDEEM, RELIEVE, REBOUND,
REFLECT, REMIND, REOPEN, REDRAW, RENEW, REINVENT,
RECLAIM, RECREATE, REBOOT, R E L A X !

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

What to Give up . . .

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Give up complaining | - | Focus on Gratitude |
| Give up pessimism | - | Become an Optimist |
| Give up worry | - | Trust Divine Providence |
| Give up bitterness | - | Turn to Forgiveness |
| Give up hatred | - | Return Good for evil |
| Give up negativism | - | Be Positive |
| Give up anger | - | Be More Patient |
| Give up pettiness | - | Become Mature |
| Give up gloom | - | Enjoy the Beauty all around |
| Give up jealousy | - | Pray for Trust |
| Give up gossiping | - | Control your Tongue |
| Give up sin | - | Turn to Virtue |
| Give up giving up | - | Hang in there! |



Child Development Center



At SSCDC we made the most out of Valentine celebrations! Our mini Post Office made from a wine box was open for business. The children were given paper, envelopes, stickers, heart cut-outs, dollies, and markers to create mail for their friends. A couple of children helped me make 40 Valentines for our Senior Housing neighbors. They looked old-fashioned with dollies, construction paper, sparkly paint on the edges using their fingers to create dots, and Alexandra wrote LOVE in the middle. After our class party, four of our students, Leslie, Pastor Jim and I delivered the Valentines at each door. The children had so much fun. It was very heart-warming! At our party we had an abundance of special foods created by the parents. The children decorated white paper bags and exchanged Valentine's.

Easter is waiting until April this year. This way we can mix in some non-holiday themed activities. You can look for them on our display in March. We are planning our next Senior event for St. Patrick's Day. Last years Treasure Hunt was very fun.

Currently, we are evaluating our curriculum and creating appropriate Pre-Kindergarten activities for the 7 students who have turned five and will leave for Kindergarten in August. This will include a "Help yourself writing center." We will also begin our Mother's Day sewing project early so the children are not rushed to complete it.

Literacy will include our annual acting out of Jan Brett's, "The Mitten." This is always a favorite each year. The Santa Cruz Library who chose our school for a visiting library reader pilot program has been a success! They will be adding two more schools to the program and we will be a mentoring school for the volunteers as they come to observe the process with us.

March and April are a time for celebration as our teacher Caryn who has been with us for almost 6 years, will be getting married. It is sure to be a wonderful time in Yosemite (My first time there) where they will be wed during Spring Break! It is also a wonderful celebration for my family as I knew Caryn's parents before she was born. I feel very blessed to have her here by my side to build and teach at our school.

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, March 14 at 10:30 am Fireside Room

MM/RR will be meeting to assemble the baby layette kits for Lutheran World Relief. It is a specific need with items listed that they are looking for, so Barbara J. has been gathering them from various places. Come and join us - it will be fun to think of all the babies around the world we are helping get a good start in life!

The monetary donations that have been made by the congregation are greatly appreciated and will go a long way in providing what’s needed. Also Thrivent has been generous with their donation. Hopefully, we will be able to keep this as an on going project and will be able to mail out boxes as we fill them. Think of all the mothers and babies who will be so happy to receive the kits.

And as always, we will have devotions, our business meeting and a yummy homemade dessert with coffee.

Our circle is open to ALL WOMEN.

Church Directory update

- The directories should be in hand March 5th!!!
- 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.