

## 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

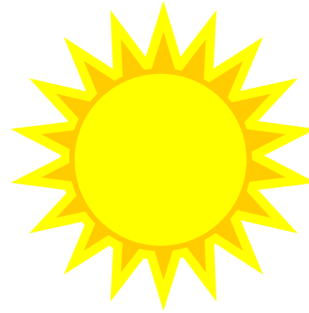
NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON  
April 29, 2019

POST OFFICE:  
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PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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

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Permit #7079  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-9998

*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church*



*Sun*

*May 2019*

*Celebrating 65 Years of Ministry*

## **SUMMER WORSHIP**

**One Service - 9:30am**

**Sundays, May 26 - Sept. 3**

(Memorial Day Weekend - Labor Day Weekend)

## **Sabbatical Send-Off Luncheon**

**Sunday, May 19 at 12 noon. Free! Everything provided!**

Bid Farewell to Pr. Jim as we begin our time of  
congregational and pastoral renewal.

The theme is: "Into the Wilderness to Share the Good News!"

We will also welcome Pastor Joel  
who will be our sabbatical pastor through Sept.3

***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.— Robert Bartee  
 Secretary - Treasurer— Kent Madsen  
 David Balogh, Jeanette Dawson, Lydia Abler  
 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**

Quick Note on the Wine Tasting Fundraiser—  
 Many thanks to all who participated in and  
 helped make the fundraiser at Wargin Wines a  
 success! I'll have a more complete recap next  
 month.

**Notes on the January 2019 Delegation**

One of the fun "extra" activities the delega-  
 tion did as part of the January 2019 trip was  
 to visit the Salvadoran Lutheran Church's Agro-  
 Ecological Park on the shore of Lake Ilopango, a crater lake which fills an 8 by  
 11 km volcanic caldera in central El Salvador (Wikipedia). It's a beautiful set-  
 ting, but somewhat of an adventure to get to the park as it is not accessible by  
 car. One can only get there by foot on a moderately difficult trail, or boat. A  
 few of our group chose the boat (Kent included). It's a small boat and the wind  
 was fairly strong ... but the ride was beautiful and the destination worth it.



The site is a former refugee camp  
 operated by the church. With  
 sponsorship of Eine Welt, a mission  
 of the Lutheran Church in Bavaria,  
 the property is now being restored  
 for agriculture and a hostel-style  
 retreat center is being developed.  
 One of the people in charge told us  
 about the work underway there.  
 Some explored the site while oth-  
 ers soaked in the tranquil lakeside  
 ambiance. We tasted the fruit and

purchased coffee to take home. I'm currently using this coffee for my daily  
 brew and it is delicious!

On the way home, our bus climbed up onto the rim of the volcano and had lunch  
 (at a community called Santa Cruz) with a beautiful view of the lake far below  
 us. It was an inspirational side trip!

*Kent Madsen, for Santa Cruz al Salvador*  
*"Building Relationships for Better Lives"*





## **DINNER GROUPS**

**ON SATURDAYS:**

**JUNE 1, JULY 6, AUGUST 3**

We are seeking to foster deeper fellowship & greater connections within our church community. Join or host a dinner group in your area! Dinner groups will be traditional Lutheran style (as in, POTLUCK!) and hosts are needed to provide seating for 6-10 guests. Sign up to bring food and helpful hands, but all will leave with increased blessings.

Please contact Kirstin Csik-Hughes at [kirstin.csik@gmail.com](mailto:kirstin.csik@gmail.com) if you are willing to host or would like further information. *If you are willing to host, please indicate: your address, dates for hosting between 5-7pm, contact information, the number of guests you can seat, and if your location is child-friendly. The Fellowship Hall is available!*

## **IN MEMORIAM**

**Lois Marie Claire Meeker:** May 8, 1925 - March 1, 2019

A lovely reception and remembrance was hosted Palm Sunday. April 14, by some of Lois' long-time friends from the Mary/Martha - Ruth/Rebecca Circle.

**Doris Frances Ray:** April 16, 1927 - April 1, 2019

A memorial service and reception were held on Sat. April 13 at St. Stephen's. She was interred at Golden Gate National Cemetery on Tuesday, April 16.

*from Pastor Jim...*

**Please let me introduce to you our sabbatical pastor:  
Rev. Joel Miller**



Pastor Joel is a retired Episcopalian minister who recently served as the Rector for Calvary Episcopal Church in downtown Santa Cruz (the wooden red church across from the Nickelodeon movie theater). He served there for about 10 years and was known for his compassionate outreach to the homeless population. He is presently serving on the Board for the Safe Spaces homeless parking program. He just completed an Interim Pastor ministry in Idaho, and has spent time serving a congregation in Geneva, Switzerland and in Tunisia before his arrival in Santa Cruz.

I got to know Pastor Joel through our involvement in COPA and out on the Monterey Bay as a fishing buddy. One of my most memorable experiences with him was when he and his son Joseph came fishing with me and we found ourselves in the midst of a large pod of a few hundred Risso's dolphins (twice as large as regular dolphins), and then a few Northern Right Whale Dolphins (black and white with no dorsal fins). The latter are smaller and rode our bow wake while Joseph reached down to touch their backs when they surfaced. They are so rare that I may never see them again. We also caught our limits of Ling Cod that day!

It is a great opportunity to welcome a pastor from the Episcopal church. The ELCA has been in Full Communion with the Episcopal Church since 2000. One of the results is that pastors from each denomination may serve in each others congregations.

Pastor Joel will be working around 20 hrs./ week planning and leading worship, bringing Holy Communion to the homebound, visiting those in the hospital, and attending to other pastoral care needs.

Pastor Joel can be reached on his cell phone at 419-8290 for any pastoral emergencies. He will be working with our Church Administrator, Leslie, so he can also be reached at church for anything other than emergencies. Leslie will be gone July 11 - Aug.2.

## May 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

### National Day of Prayer

May 2 from 8am—4pm

### MMRR Circle

Annual Salad Luncheon

May 9 @ 10:30 am

### Women's Café Group

May 15 @ 6:00 pm

### Embroider's Guild

May 20 @ 7:00 pm

### Provide Habitat Lunches

May 28 @ 10:30 am

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

## Council Highlights

1. The Council retreat was held on Sat. April 13 from 10a-2p in the Fireside Rm. We began with a spiritual focus on the foundations of why we may embark on beginning a Dinner Church somewhere other than our facility at some point in the near future. We read a story about a church similar to ours, with far fewer resources, that was probably going to close within 10 years. Now they have 11 different Dinner Church sites in the Seattle area that serve people who have never been a part of a church before. Pastor Jim will spending 4 days with Rev. Verlon Fosner who helped lead his congregation in this effort.

2. We spent time in 2 one-one meetings talking about "What do you envision for the future of St. Stephen's?"

3. Follow-up on the Annual Meeting amendment to the budget regarding the task force that will assemble several financial scenarios regarding future pastoral leadership, was assigned to the Finance Comm. Additional people will be asked to help them with this task.

4. Council voted to not meet in July.

5. Discussion happened around the planning of 3 summer activities to coincide with the sabbatical theme of "Into the Wilderness to Chare the Good News". The congregation will be encouraged to participate in 3 outdoor related activities planned by Mutual Ministry Comm. and our sabbatical pastor, Pastor Joel.

6. There will be renewed efforts to engage with the "Reconciled in Christ" and "Amparro" programs, which help congregations be more welcoming of the LGBT community and Central American refugees, respectively.

## **Gala Celebration and Fundraiser at Holy Cross Hall May 18 from 6:00—9:00 pm**

The Association of Faith Communities of Santa Cruz County (AFCSC) announces a benefit for the Association's programs that include the Faith Community Shelter (FCS), the Emergency Winter Shelter and a newly launched Safe Parking Program.

Dinner will be served along with a live and silent auction, and a 50/50 Raffle. Our keynote speaker Gary Patton will speak on the Challenge that Homelessness Puts to Politics. Dessert and wine is included and spirits will be available for purchase. Cost is \$75.00 per person or \$750 for a table of ten.

Please go to [afcsantacruz.org](http://afcsantacruz.org) for ticket information and reservations.

*Come Celebrate*



*National Day of Prayer*

*Thursday, May 2*

*8:00 am to 4:00 pm*

Held on the first Thursday of May, this has been observed annually since 1952 and invites people of all faiths to prayer.

The church will be open to offer a place for people to come to pray, to meditate, or to have a moment for silent reflection. Please stop by during your busy day. **All are welcome.**

Volunteers will serve two hour shifts throughout the day to greet guests to the church. Coffee and cookies will be offered in the narthex. The volunteer signup sheet for the two-hour shifts can be found in the narthex.

If you have any questions, please contact the church at (831) 476-4700



**Monthly Special Benevolence Offering**

**Mt. Cross Lutheran Outdoor Ministries**

*"Providing profound experiences in God’s creation”.*

- Memorial Day Work Weekend: May 24-26
- Summer Camp: June 16—Aug. 2
- Women’s Retreat: September 27-29
- Homecoming: Sat. Oct. 5
- Elementary Retreat: Oct. 11-13
- Middle School Retreat: Nov. 8-10
- UFO (UnFinished Objects) Retreat: Nov. 15-17
- Advent Retreat: Dec. 6-8

April — Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay = \$ 128 (as of 4/22)

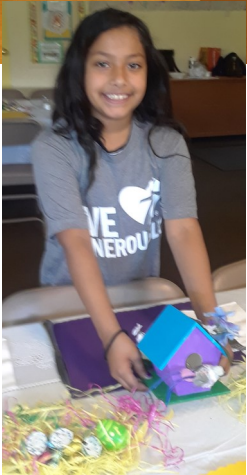
**STEWARD OF THE MONTH**

**Connie Cunningham & Lupe Rodriguez**

Holy Week is a time when we rely on the efforts of some who give extra help so our worship time goes well. Connie was that person for us this year as she prepared us for the Three Days worship service. At the same time, we wanted to spend special time celebrating the lives of two of our dear, long-time church family members, Doris Ray and Lois Meeker. So Connie helped organize both receptions. Then the Easter breakfast came and Connie was there again! This time she had lots of help from Lupe, who also came back on Monday to finish up in the kitchen!



Thanks to the many who helped make our Easter celebration so special. We are grateful for the fantastic music offered by “All That Brass” from Soquel High Jazz band (Marcelino Plaza, Nathan Lapp, Inti Roque & Julian Sudano) and the beautiful solo by Suzanne Duval.



What a joy!

We wish we had photos of all of you in action!



## Sunday School

John 12:1-8 “Mary anointed Jesus feet” This was a fun lesson - we used a diffuser to fill the room with incense, and played scent detectives with blind-folds and random aromatics. Our lesson was two fold.

#1 Mary gave the very best she could. Her most prized possession and her time in a very humble way. Regardless of Judas scolding. What can we give to show our love for Jesus?

#2 Like the aroma of perfume, joy and kindness spread their effect to everyone in the area. So do bitterness and anger. In this story, the line about the fragrance filling the house strikes a deep chord. Love, devotion, generosity—the impact of these things spreads. Both good and ill can infect the people close to the action, but the power of good can be so much greater if we'll just choose it.

Palm Sunday — the children impressed me with their willingness to participate, to pass out palms and lead the congregation into worship and then back out into the world. Hopefully the hands on experience will stay with them, and provide deeper meaning to their faith.

Easter Celebration — Sunday Schoolers were happy Holiday greeters. They met people on the sidewalk and passed out their beautiful Alleluia streamers to other children. We especially wanted to make our guest families feel welcome. Just when we were ready to go into the church, another car pulled up with 2 class mates we haven't seen for a while. The greeters rushed the car to be sure their friends were welcomed properly. Be still my heart.

Special thanks to Candace Anderson & Kirstin Csik Hughes for stuffing eggs and helping with the festivities. Stickers remain a favorite (thank you Elke Spires), the kids really enjoyed decorating their Easter bags. A tasty thank you to Rose Guerrero for the cupcakes. The big surprise was preschool bunny Shanti, thanks Miss Kathy. Even the adults became children again as they pet her.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

5-3 Margaret Schraft	5-24 Travis Awe	5-29 Elke Spires
5-5 Kathleen Allen	5-25 Trent Hopping	
5-5 Kent Madsen	5-26 Andrew Davis	
5-6 Cheryl Curry	5-26 Epimenio	
5-6 Renee Robe	Valencia	5-24 Paul & Leah Powers
5-7 Ross Johnston	5-27 Mark Brouse	
5-10 Julie Mouw	5-27 Tyleigha	5-26 Epimenio & Emily Valencia
5-15 Jesse McMilin	Brouse- Jones	5-27 David & Gwyn Larson
5-18 Jordan Ayers	5-27 Barbara Rice	
5-19 Laney Johnson	5-27 Mary Robe	
5-20 Aria Bartee	5-28 Mitch Ronning	



**Short Term:** Kirk McMilin, Tara, Jesse and Eli, Gaye, Ellie Russell, The family of Doris Ray, The family of Lois Meeker, Jody Biergiel & family, Bob Foster & Family, Family of Ellen Klinck, Taiyo, Kayla, Stacy Mauzey, Marta B., Margo Wilson, Stephanie Jager, Pr. Herb Schmidt, Susan

Oldfield, Gerry Allen, Carmen Harper, Carol & Micky, Tibbort Csik & family, Colin Boyle, Ed Drews, Timmy & Athena, 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, 11 and the Youth of today





No experience needed. We provide training.

### OFFERING COUNTERS

Janet 475-5668

&

### ALTAR GUILD

Candace 476-9753

- Weekly communion set up and clean up.
- Volunteers needed for both services.
- Flexible scheduling.

### ***The Ariose Singers Present:***

### **The Hope We Choose**

Through music that delves into the full range of human emotions, including innocence, love, fear, despair and finally hope, This is a powerful reminder that we must seek peace always. *Featuring: William Coulter, guitar*

*Sara Safari, soprano*

**Saturday, May 18th, 8:00pm**

**Sunday, May 19th, 4:00pm**

Both performances will be held St. Stephens

Ticket are \$10 for 18/under, and \$20/general

Tickets online at [Papertickets.com/event/4226266](http://Papertickets.com/event/4226266)

Or Tickets will be available at the door (*Cash/check only*)

If you would like to Usher (free entry) call Suzanne 423-4023

## **Child Development Center**



Mayday is May 1<sup>st</sup> and each year we bring out the Maypole so the children can celebrate spring thaw. We also do more planting in our garden. Just think our students know about a tradition that many their age has not experienced. We like to keep our traditions old fashioned and our curriculum current and cutting edge!

Speaking of old fashioned, we are busy hand sewing buttons on fabric chosen special for each mom by our pre-Kindergarten children. They are sewing buttons on the fabric and then they will learn to use the sewing machine to complete the sachet filled with dried lavender. This is a great fine motor activity and a life lesson that could come in handy.

We were thrilled to debut the new paint at the Easter Breakfast to the congregation and guests in Fellowship Hall. The doors are painted a medium green to match the leaves on the wall, along with a fresh coat on the cabinets that often get stained. This way they are easy to clean. We also had all the door frames painted with a perfectly matched existing wall color, using gloss for easier cleaning. We even had the windows washed right before Easter. The next projects will be to paint the doors, picnic table, fence and chalkboard on the playground this month.

We welcome back Bill Schraft to our School Board. It is wonderful to have him back on the team! He is the liaison to Church Council so they can be better informed about the Preschool and teaming up for mutual projects.

May is when we prepare for Parent Teacher conferences which requires spending time with each child individually so we can write a comprehensive report that includes pictures to present to the parents of each student. It keeps us accountable to making sure we know each child and teach to their individual needs.

This month we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week May 6-10. We also celebrate the arrival of Teacher Brenda's second grandchild expected the second week of May. She will be away for two weeks to enjoy her new loved one, and care for her grandson Declan while mom and dad recover. Congratulations Brenda!!

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 Annual Salad Bar Luncheon Thursday, May 9 at 10:30 am Firestone Room**

May is a time for Spring flowers after April showers - beautiful and refreshing! So come and help us celebrate God’s love for the earth and us as we celebrate the end of another circle year of friendship, worship and giving back to our church and community locally and globally.

If you are new, don’t bring a thing as lunch, dessert and coffee will be provided. Our friend, Kathy Allen, will be speaking to us about Suicide Prevention and the organization she works with. It’s an important issue in many families and communities. Come and learn more.

As always, MM/RR women’s circle will not meet during the summer months of June, July and August but will resume again the second Thursday in Sept. - same time, same place!



### **Women’s Café Group**

Wednesday, May 15  
6:00 pm

Devotions & Dinner  
More info 476-4700