

ST. STEPHEN'S
SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 am Worship Service

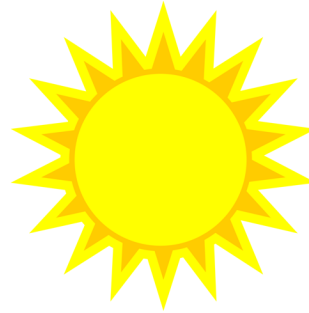
And Coffee Fellowship

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May 28, 2019

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

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St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

June 2019

Celebrating 65 Years of Ministry

SUMMER WORSHIP

One Service - 9:30am

Sundays, May 26 - Sept. 3

(Memorial Day Weekend - Labor Day Weekend)

Celebrating Summer — All Church Events

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Sunday, June 23 | Beach Bonfire
Twin Lakes State Beach 7—10 pm |
| Sunday, July 14 | Henry Cowell "Big Trees" Loop Hike & Picnic
after Church |
| Saturday, Aug. 10 | Outdoor Movie Night at church 8—10:30 pm |

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 Joel's Office Hours—Wed. & Thurs. 10:00 am –1:00 pm

Pastor Joel's Cell Phone: 831-419-8290 (Call 9 am - 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
Wine Tasting recap

It was not the sunny day we hoped for, but our first wine tasting at Wargin Wines in Watsonville was a success!

Approximately 75 people tasted Wargin's wares and enjoyed the delicious snacks donated by Santa Cruz al Salvador board members and friends. As he has for several years, Don Smawley coordinated and arranged the food in tempting style. Music by Barbara Lopez and friends accompanied the conversation at the tables.

The St. Stephen's wine-themed basket drew the second highest number of tickets in the basket drawing. All together the event raised nearly \$2,700 for Santa Cruz al Salvador scholarships. **Thank you!**

Watch this space: Next month there will be an article highlighting Santa Cruz al Salvador's fund-raising focus for 2019: the University Scholarship Program.

~ Kent Madsen

IT'S PARTY TIME



WHAT: **Pastor Bonnie's 90th Birthday**

WHEN: **Sunday, June 23 at 10:45 am**

WHERE: **Fellowship Hall**

HOST: **Bonnie's Family**

Thank you for National Day of Prayer

I wish to thank the people who helped to celebrate and support National Day of Prayer on May 2nd. Those who came appreciated and enjoyed the time of reflection and music with a nature slide show. Some of the visitors had not been to our church and stated a wish to return. One individual said afterwards, "it just feels right here".



My hope for National Day of Prayer is to provide a place and time for people to take a moment in their busy day to reflect, and St. Stephen's was able to do this on May 2nd.

Thank you,
Candace

from Pastor Joel...



Dear Fellow Travelers,

I wasn't sure how best to address you all in this my first written communication to St. Stephen's. "Dear Friends" is my go-to salutation, but I thought it best that we get to know one another first before I risk the occasion of being too familiar. So, in good Anglican decorum (as most of you know I am an Episcopal priest learning the rich traditions of the Lutheran Church), I choose to not be too "chummy" in this our first "newsletter" encounter. "Dear Beloved" is also a salutation that I hope to be able to use before I leave and have used sincerely and enthusiastically while I was rector at Calvary Episcopal Church here in Santa Cruz. For similar reasons I thought "Beloved" might be too maudlin for such an initial communication. So, I settled on "Dear Fellow Travelers." I think it works because I like to think of their Christian life as a journey, and I like to think that we are on this journey together. It also seemed appropriate as Pastor Jim will be taking a sabbatical journey for the next three months that we would be able to imagine that we are also journeying with him as a community of faith. Some may prefer to think of the Christian life as a tree planted in green pastures, or as a community settled along still waters – hardly a journey. Trees and grass generally don't like being uprooted, transplanted, or traveling. Who wants to leave a wonderful at beach or exit the verdant banks of a river? But even trees and grass grow and change. Rivers move on. So, I thought it best to look at our itinerary for the next three months when I will be with you as interim pastor while Pastor Jim is on his sabbatical journey.

We begin this journey together on May 26 with the last 12 days of Easter and continue to explore what it means to be a resurrection people. Easter, as you know, is 50 days long. In my own spirituality, I find it no more difficult to believe in resurrection and physical re-creation than to marvel and believe in creation – however this wonderful life ever happened or began. Soon thereafter we will journey on to celebrate Pentecost Sunday on June 9, and Trinity Sunday, June 16. These two pivotal days in our Christian calendar are days when we attempt to understand the dynamic tension between the spiritual and cognitive dimensions of faith. Pentecost Sunday is a day when we look through a glass dimly and enter into what the Christian mystics have called the "cloud of unknowing." We will then sojourn in our cognitive left brains on Trinity Sunday, June 16, for a short excursion into our discreet attempts to understand and define God in terms our minds long to understand. Soon thereafter we depart for many weeks and many layovers on the Sundays after Pentecost for the remainder of our travels together until my last Sunday with you on September 29.

My goal, dear fellow travelers, will be to better understand the mystery of faith and the hope of glory within and among us.

In the beauty of the Lord, Pastor Joel
Perejoel67@gmail.com

June Happenings

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

MMRR Circle

On summer hiatus

Dinner Groups

June 1 @ 5:00 pm

Embroider's Guild

June 17 @ 7:00 pm

Newsletter Deadline

for July / August Combo

June 17 @ Noon

Women's Café Group

June 19 @ 6:00 pm — off site

Child Dev. Center Board

June 24 @ 11:15 am

Provide Habitat Lunches

June 25 @ 10:30 am

Newsletter Collating

June 26 @ 10:00 am

Please sign up to help on Sundays

Council Highlights

1. Our devotions from "From the Steeple to the Street", centered on the question "What Is the Church?" Our word 'church' comes from the biblical Greek word 'ekklesia', which literally means: 'the called-out ones'. At our heart is a mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. We are called out of the worship gathering and called out of our regular lives to help serve others and in so doing show them God's way for our lives. The sabbatical time is meant to help us get ready to do this, given our context of church decline and the larger Santa Cruz community. Pastor Jim will spend some time with a church in Seattle that took its role as the 'called-out ones' to heart as they faced certain closure several years ago. They started a Fresh Expression of their church away from their facility and now host 11 Dinner Churches, while also growing their traditional church participation. We look forward to seeking God's will by fulfilling our purpose as the 'called-out ones' in the Santa Cruz area.

2. Sabbatical Interim Pastor, Rev. Joel Miller (retired Episcopal) met with Pastor Jim and finalized his job description for Sun. May 26-Sun. Sept. 1. Council reviewed and approved the document.

3. A motion was approved to grant MidPen a special power of attorney for only the filing of the annual 'welfare tax exemption'. This was done because otherwise, as property owners, the church would have to initiate and follow through on that process every year. Our former attorney was consulted and advised approval.



Provide Lunches For the volunteers

4th Tuesday of each month

June 25 at 10:30 am

Sign up for: Sandwiches, Fruit, Cookies, or Drinks

More info: Sheila Buswell 438-9397

STEWARD OF THE MONTH

Don Smawley

So many reasons to lift up this faithful steward of God's gifts - Thanks for preparing us, in such a visually stunning way, for our Holy Week observances with the installation of the huge palm branches. Thanks for your gifts in the kitchen so we could celebrate Easter in such a enjoyable way around a delicious breakfast with family, friends and newcomers. And thanks for helping us with my sabbatical send-off celebration lunch. It really was a meaningful time to mark this time of renewal that we are embarking together on. Your example of giving back to God always keeps us grateful for all God has given our church!

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

World Hunger

"It takes more than meals to feed the world ". ELCA World Hunger is a comprehensive and sustainable program that uses multiple strategies—[relief](#), [development](#), [education](#), and [advocacy](#)—to address the root causes of hunger and poverty. ELCA World Hunger responds to neighbors around the corner and around the world. ELCA World Hunger responds to hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world by addressing root causes. People are connected to the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty. Between 70-75 percent of ELCA World Hunger funds are spent internationally, and 20-25 percent are spent domestically.

Together, in Christ's name, we experience the transforming power of connection. As individuals, congregations, and synods, our humble offerings and actions are gathered, blessed, and multiplied. Together, we are ELCA World Hunger.

The international work of ELCA World Hunger is carried out through ELCA companion relationships as well as through trusted partners like Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Because of these long-held connections to partners around the world, ELCA World Hunger efforts are efficient and effective.

The domestic work of ELCA World Hunger is carried out primarily through the Domestic Hunger Grants Program (relief, development, and community organizing projects) and Education and Advocacy Grants.

ELCA World Hunger responds to Christ's call to "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37), serving with compassion people who are most vulnerable, paying focused attention to the full participation of women and the needs of children.

May—Mt. Cross Lutheran Outdoor Ministries = \$ 205 (as of 5/20)

Sustainability Task Force

The Sustainability Task Force focuses on efforts to strengthen the St. Stephen's community by building solid relationships within the congregation and in the larger regional community. Internally, the Task Force is organizing dinner groups and house/small group meetings. The dinner groups develop relationships. House/Small group meetings are opportunities for congregational members to offer insights on issues facing the congregation and the community. House/small group meetings are being developed. When known dates and locations will be announced to the congregation so people can sign up to participate.

This fall the task force will guide the annual stewardship effort. The theme is Giving with Gratitude. More information on that as we approach the fall.

Within the region and through COPA St. Stephen's members are working on affordable housing and health care. A developing issue is what community benefit will happen as a result of Kaiser's expansion in Live Oak, Watsonville, Santa Cruz, and Scotts Valley.

If you are interested in becoming a member of this task force let Mark Linder or Kirstin Csik Hughes know. We would follow up with an individual meeting and if you continue to be interested you are welcome to join us.

Mark Linder and Kirstin Csik Hughes



DINNER GROUPS

**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 if you are willing to host or would like further information.



Sunday School

John 21:9-19 "Do you love me? . . . Feed my sheep" Why did Jesus ask Peter this same question three times? Perhaps

He wanted Peter to understand. Just like He wants you and me to understand, that it isn't enough just to say, I love you. We must show our love for Him by showing our love for one another and caring for each other. The ten commandments remind us just how to do that.

John 10:22-30 "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. . . .No one can snatch them out of my hand" We played tug-o-war. Teacher versus child. You can guess the outcome. It was fun, but no match. I was much bigger, and much stronger than each of them. The Bible teaches us that evil is out there trying to destroy good, but if we put our trust in God, we will be cared for and held in the safety of His hand. Just like the shepherd cares for his flock. Next time you see a sheep, may you remember that we are a part of God the shepherd's flock. There is no wolf fierce enough to be His match.

John 13:31-35 "Love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples" We took an imaginary trip to the zoo. It was easy to identify spectacular animals such as Lions, Elephants, and Giraffes. The question of the day is how would someone identify YOU as a follower of Jesus just by looking at you? We don't have the obvious unique distinctions as the animals. We don't get to choose what we look like, but we can choose how we treat others. Sing it with me: 🎵... and they'll know we are Christians by our love" 🎵

Ever hear of "Maycember"? Evidently, it's a thing. Rushing from one event to the next, hurry up and get it done before summer. Come mid June, we will all sigh with relief! I hope Summer brings you the breath of fresh air you need. There is no Children's Church, but Pastor Joel will have a Children's Sermon for the kids at the 9:30 service. There will also be 3 summer fellowship events that your family will enjoy. Here is a vacation / travel prayer for y'all:

Keep us kind to each other.

Keep us safe on the road.

Keep us open to seeing you wherever we may go. Amen!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

6-1	Jim Hanson	6-18	Kaleb Orthner	
6-4	Anne Davis	6-19	Kim Brouse	
6-5	Lauren Pond	6-20	Abigail Robe	6-20 Gary & Diane
6-6	Joseph Ronning	6-21	Jenna Mabry	Hintz
6-10	Pr. Glenn Johnson	6-26	Pr. Bonnie Bell	6-22 John & Lorie
6-10	Kirk McMilin	6-26	Mary Kelly	Coronado
6-12	Ruth Mitchell	6-29	Michael Nunes	6-28 Kirk & Terri
6-12	Madeline Mouw	6-30	Emmanuel	Adams
6-14	Kent Orthner		Perez	
6-14	Stephanie Laufer	6-30	Susan Gross	
6-16	Tara McMilin			



Short Term: Kirk McMilin, Tom Dawson, Keaton, Gaye, Galahad Csik Hughes, The family of Karen, The family of Doris Ray, The family of Lois Meeker, De Grassi Family, John Simas, Bob Foster & Family, Family of Ellen Klinck, Yvonne Stephens, Nancy, Residents of LaPosada, Alan Modena,

Marisa, Taiyo, Kayla, Stacy Mauzey, Marta B., Margo Wilson, Stephanie Jager, Carmen Harper, Ed Drews, Francis, Beth Stiles, Cabel, Kyle, Esdras, Jean Petersen, 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, Pastor Jim 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

Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca Circle

We had a wonderful turn-out at our delicious salad and fruit bar luncheon organized by Connie in May which concluded our meetings for this school year.

As always, we take a break during the summer months and meet up again in September with a new slate of officers and Cheryl remaining as President.

Update on baby care kits: As of end of May we have shipped 18 kits to Lutheran World Relief. We will continue to collect money for the kits so please check the bulletin board in the Narthex. You can help so many families in need. We thank all of you who have contributed already and who have been a support to our women's circle, donating to our Christmas Tree projects and contributing and buying at our bake/craft sale. And a special thanks to all our members who are faithful in attendance and service. Without them, there would not be a MM/RR circle.

Women's Café Group

Wednesday, June 19
6:00 pm— off site

Devotions & Dinner
More info 476-4700

Child Development Center



As Pastor Jim leaves on Sabbatical I reflect on the past seven years that we have worked as a team to build our preschool. First as a Task Force with Sheila Buswell and others, followed by my internship that Pastor Jim supervised. Finally, the sudden decision in December 2012 that involved my accepting the Preschool Director position. As I prayed for him with our congregation, giving thanks and praise for his ministry to our Preschool children I felt emotional. Not because I can't do this without him while he is gone but reflecting on what we accomplished together and that I feel confident that I can do it while he is gone. He has been a mainstay of support as we built this ministry and taught me that the world isn't always pretty, but we do our best to forge ahead through sociological challenges. By the grace of God, we have arrived at a time where he can go out into the wilderness and we can keep the home fires burning. So now I use my wings while he uses his. I feel confident in what he has taught me and ready for this summer. I am especially grateful for his beautiful Chapel services that teach our children that church is a fun and loving place. As they graduate from our school their hearts carry the foundation of the love of Jesus, and "Chapel Jim!"

The preschool has been busy working on improvements to our facility. This building takes good care of us and we want to keep in good repair some areas that were cost prohibitive until now. We began painting work in Fellowship Hall which looks lovely. Now we are concentrating on painting many items on the playground such as the fence, doors, table, and outdoor chalkboard. Tristen Hensley replace the rotting beam on the shed overhang and replaced the plywood on our chalkboard as a volunteer! I realized that while we work on improvements, I can elicit volunteer jobs from parents on their time schedule rather than trying to co-ordinate property workdays. Once we complete the playground, we will save to have the kitchen painted in fresh gloss white. I will continue to work on scheduling and financing of this project.

So here we are finishing off a wonderful school year with an amazing group of children. We celebrate seven graduates: Alexandra, Jaxon, Avagail, Chase, Grayson, Nolan and Tatum. These students started with us when they were two, most spending three years with us. What a beautiful time we have had together and with their families. Thanks be to God! Kathy Berens





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Synod Assembly Recap by Pastor Tita Valeriano, Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop

To write to you today is hard – we just finished our first ever one-day Assembly. Together with Bishop Mark, we had our adrenalin already up for three days leading to the day of the Assembly as we welcomed, hosted and shared stories with the leaders of Taiwan Lutheran Church. Thank God we had our leaders from St. Andrew's (San Mateo), Christ (El Cerrito), St. Luke (Sunnyvale), Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and Graduate Theological Union who showed hospitality and eagerness to learn from them and share their stories. I had them in my mind when we entered into deep reflection, celebration, and fellowship “in the vineyard” of God during the Assembly. The “soil in my heart” was cultivated more there. The three advocates for farm workers who shared about the pains and joys of walking with those who harvest the food we eat everyday stirred my soul, knowing that the fight of Filipino farm worker immigrants, just like their ancestors, is not yet over. They reminded me of Philip Vera Cruz and Larry Itliong, the first two Filipino leaders to sit in protests among farm workers, who worked with the Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. This is our inheritance.

Bishop Mark's report got me believing that he wrote those passionate words about the challenges of racism our synod faces – but those words were written 20 years ago by Bishop Mattheis, as Bishop Mark revealed. It reminded me of an experience of discrimination which happened to me that year, 1999. Bishop Mattheis and a few other fellow pastors were there to give pastoral care to me. I would say that I was naïve then about racism, yet that year was not a year of grief, but a time of transformation for me. For I know that many have given their lives to eradicate racism in this country, my second home, even with the immigrants working in the vineyards. This is also our inheritance.

Kathleen Norris wrote, “Converting a painful inheritance into something good requires all the discernment we can muster, both from what is within us, and what we can glean from mentors. The worst of the curses that people inflict on us, the real abuse and terror, can't be forgotten or undone, but they can be put to good use in the new life that one has taken up. It is kind of death; the lid closes on what went before. But the past is not denied. And we are still here, with all of our talents, gifts, and failings, our strengths and weaknesses. All baggage comes along; nothing wasted, nothing lost. Perhaps the greatest blessing that the religious inheritance can bestow is an open mind, one that

can listen without judging. It is rare enough that we recognize it in another when we encounter it. Such people do not have a closed-off air, nor a boastful demeanor. In them, it is clear, their wounds have opened the way to compassion for others. And compassion is the strength and soul of a religion.”

The stories of the three advocates/activists teach us to not look into their family stories and our challenge of racism as defeat, but as inspirations for empowerment. This could also be our response to our church's inheritance of racism, as in Bishop Mark's passionate summoning. We may be tired of hearing it. We may be overwhelmed by our grief and guilt. We may be feeling not equipped at all to address these challenges. But there is power in drawing from our stories.

I have to dig deeper through the stories of my Asian ancestors in this country and this church. This is also my inheritance. I have to open myself to deep relationship and partnership with others, for many more have done this before, so together we can address this common sin. Their life's work in mission and justice will never be in vain. This is also our inheritance.

For their work continues in our midst. The stories of partnership and mutual respect among the leaders of Esperanza (Fresno, hosted by Our Saviour's), Christ Lahu Ministry (Christ in Visalia) and Latinx Ministry at St. Paul in Lodi are testimonies that we cannot only overcome our “painful inheritance” but that through God's forgiveness and call to serve another, we can “convert” them to something good and healing.

I'm sure you have more take aways from the Assembly, including those things we can still improve in preparing for gathering God's people. But this is one – an opportunity to be both challenged and inspired so that we can convert those painful stories to stories of power and healing and stories of transformation – be it in relationship building, our Christian witness, stewardship of the creation and our financial resources, and in celebrating and selecting our leaders. Our work today will be our inheritance to the next generation.

So what are your take aways from the recent Synod Assembly? How can they impact the community and neighborhoods you serve for the months and years to come? What are “our talents, gifts, and failings, our strengths and weaknesses” that we have been blessed with, and can we draw from them to “convert painful inheritance to something good?” How could we as a church together be able to respond to the work we are called to do in God's vineyard in the towns and cities where we are planted?