

**ST. STEPHEN'S
FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

- 8:15 am** Worship Service
and Coffee Fellowship
- 9:30 am** Adult Forum
Choir rehearsal
- 10:30 am** Worship & Children's Church
and Coffee Fellowship

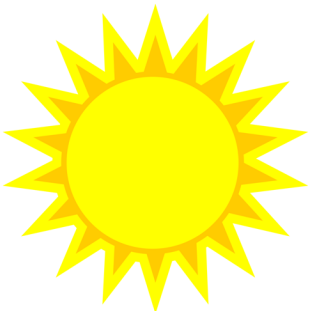
**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
September 25, 2019**

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

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

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

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

October 2019

Celebrating 65 Years of Ministry

"Into the Wilderness, Share the Good News"

Adult Forum Series
Every Sunday in October at 9:30 am

Journey with Pastor Jim through photos and stories of
Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and the depths of the Grand Canyon.

**Annual Aebleskiver (round Danish pancake) Breakfast
and Preschool Fundraiser/Raffle**

Roaring Camp and Boardwalk ticket prizes!!
Sunday, October 6th - 9:30 and 11:30 am seatings

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
Lydia Abler, David Balogh, Jeanette Dawson,
Jay Johnston, 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 Open: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30am—2:30pm
Pastor Jim's Office Hours — Weds. & Thurs. 10 am to 1 pm

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

We adopted a [resolution](#) to establish June 17 as "Emanuel 9 Day of Repentance," commemorating the martyrdom of Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham-Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel L. Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson by a violent white supremacist, Dylann Roof, who grew up in the ELCA. The resolution calls for June 17 as a day of repentance, grounded in prayer; worship resources are currently in development. It also calls for deepening conversations with the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church on matters of racism and white supremacy, and building upon the long-standing relations between our two churches. A letter I received from the senior episcopal leadership of the AME Council of Bishops noted that "Martin Luther was the 'Great Reformer.' Richard Allen started the AME Church to reform the racially divided American Christianity he experienced in his lifetime. It is appropriate that Churches birthed by these two persons who sought more authentic and true expressions of Christianity engage in conversations that will lead to 21st Century reform, justice, and reconciliation." In response, I have acknowledged the significance of their willingness to engage in deeper conversations with us, as an affirmation of our striving to be accountable in and through authentic relationships. I shared my hope that our talks since 2015, as well as previous rounds of dialogue between our two churches, will enable us to develop new models that move us from [dialogue to diapraxis](#), or dialogue in action, for the sake of our witness to our unity in Christ in these divisive and deadly times. As you think about possibilities in your local context, I commend to you the congregational resource we co-published in 1996, "[Understanding One Another](#)."

These recent developments build upon the continuous work we are doing as the ELCA and in ecumenical partnership. Through bilateral work, such as our joint [Statement of Mission](#) with the AME Zion Church, and in councils and coalitions, especially the National Council of Churches and its [A.C.T. Now to End Racism](#) initiative and the cross-racial dialogue of the [Conference of National Black Churches](#), we are doubling down on our work, witness and advocacy with other Christians against racism and white supremacy.

You, in congregations and synods, are identifying new and renewed possibilities for engaging in this difficult but life-giving work and witness. We take the next steps together assured that there is no longer that which divides us, for we are one in Christ Jesus.

In peace, The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, ELCA



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female;
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).*

*"Racism — a mix of power, privilege, and prejudice — is sin,
a violation of God's intention for humanity"
([Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture](#), 1993).*

Dear Church,

Centered in Christ, the 2019 Churchwide Assembly was significant in many ways: worship, thoughtful deliberation and prayer led to the adoption of memorials and resolutions that will shape this church for years to come. Among these decisions, this church was called to address the deadly power of racism and white supremacy. Martin Luther's clear exposition of the gospel — that God justifies, that we are redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus, and that grace is a gift — not only makes it possible to engage in this work but gives us a framework in which to do it. The doctrine of justification is a great leveler. It acknowledges that no one group of people can claim supremacy over others. We are all deeply in need of grace, and God gives this gift to all. Standing equally under the judgement and promise of the gospel, we, as a church, can recognize the overt and covert ways that a culture of white supremacy denies full humanity to all people, and we can work to dismantle it.

We offered a [public apology](#) titled "Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent." In the context of the quadricentennial remembrance of American slavery in this country, we acknowledge that racism and white supremacy are deeply rooted in that history, and that the church is complicit. This apology "means working toward a deeper understanding of slavery and its legacy, of institutional and structural racism, of white privilege, and of attitudes and foundations of white supremacy." It was accepted by the African Descent Lutheran Association with a call to accountability. You can watch the video [here](#) and utilize this [explanation](#) as a resource. In June the Council of the Lutheran World Federation, our global communion, also adopted a [resolution](#) commemorating the quadricentennial.

from Pastor Jim...



"Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!" as Leslie's mother, Millie, used to say when she delighted in a particular Christmas or birthday gift. And now, it is how *I* feel having returned from my sabbatical renewal time. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for such an amazing opportunity to have had three exciting wilderness experiences that refreshed my mind, heart and soul. I was so far removed from my usual daily life that now that I've returned, I am having trouble even remembering some people's names!

There were so many outstanding and spectacular things that happened, that I am going to take about 3 months worth of Sundays (using photos at our Adult Forums) to try and share it with you. I want to tell you how I sensed God's voice and learned what it might mean to enter our own wilderness time as a church.

Some have wondered how I am now going to "report back" and produce something from all these experiences. But this was not a study sabbatical that requires that. Instead all of the "reporting" and "paper-writing" happened leading up to receiving the sabbatical award funds. After receiving the award, the only requirement is to be accountable for the finances and to just enjoy the sabbatical activities in anticipation of the healing and renewal that will come for the pastor and congregation. This is especially important as we seek God's will and direction for what we are being called to do and be next as a more traditional church in Santa Cruz.

My time away has given me new eyes to see my role as your pastor and how I may help lead us into a future that sometimes feels like a wilderness of its own. So much has changed in just the 23 years that I have served with you here, that being church today feels like entering a new and uncharted wilderness. The church that I and so many of you were raised with has unfortunately not connected with the culture-at-large, and we see fewer and fewer of us at worship. And there are even fewer available to participate in keeping alive so many of our beloved traditions and ways of living out our faith.

So what will it mean for us to continue on in our mission as God's people here, given the circumstances we are living in these days where most people are not inclined to be a part of a church anymore? It is not entirely clear, and there are certainly no easy answers or quick fixes. But we have faced this kind of thing before when we took a risk to use our land for affordable housing and our building for a Child Development Center. And look at all the wonderful fruit that has come from them!

October Happenings

Knitting Group

Thursdays at 6:45pm

Alcoholics Anonymous

Fridays at 7:00 pm

Alanon Family Group

Saturdays at 10:00 am

Finance Committee

Oct. 4 @ 8:30 am

Church Council

Oct. 9 @ 6:30 pm

MMRR Circle

Oct. 10 @ 10:30

Dinner Groups

TBA

Embroider's Guild

Oct. 21 @ 7 pm

Women's Café Group

Oct. 16 @ 6:00 pm

Provide Habitat Lunches

Oct. 22 @ 10:30 am

Newsletter Collating

October 30 @ 10:00 am

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

Council Highlights

1. Devotions from Steeple to Street, focused on how beginning a Fresh Expression of the church does not come at the expense of the existing traditional church. Instead, the two exist alongside one another and complement each other. The existing church will continue to meet many spiritual needs that the Fresh Expression cannot, but the Fresh Expression brings a much-needed renewal and avenue for people who have not been part of a church.

2. Pastor Jim outlined a possible way forward for starting a Fresh Expression church that includes forming a task force that has a passion for this new endeavor. The Fresh Expression movement will host a Vision Day and assist us in getting a start. A big part will be connecting with some "people of peace" in the immediate community who are not a part of the church, but share the vision. His visit to several Dinner Churches in Seattle has given hope, because so many people who don't normally go church have responded.

3. COPA is in talks with Kaiser as they seek to build a new facility here in Live Oak. We are telling the stories of the people's needs in our institutions around affordable housing and behavioral health/substance abuse. Kaiser has vast financial resources and a tradition of entering in "Community Benefit Agreements" when they enter a new community. We hope to encourage development in those areas.

In Memoriam **Edward Drews**

Ed and his wife Aliene (Odegaard) met at California Lutheran College and were part of the first graduating class. He served in the Navy briefly. Ed was a Lutheran pastor in the Los Angeles area for two congregations in the 80's. While he lived in Santa Cruz he worked for both Amtrak and for Roaring Camp as a conductor. Aliene died tragically of liver cancer in 2004. She served on staff at Del Mar Elementary School here in Live Oak, and was a beloved Sunday School teacher at St. Stephen's. One of her class's ocean murals still graces our hallway. Ed served as a Eucharistic Minister for several years at St. Stephen's, bringing Holy Communion to some of our members who were homebound. He lived valiantly with Parkinson's Disease for over 10 years. He was 75 yrs. old and was looking very forward to a new life reunited with his beloved Aliene.

Blessed be the memory of this child of God.

Upcoming Mt. Cross Retreats

**October 5 — "Fall Fest & Homecoming"
Reconnect, Participate, Learn**

**Nov. 15-17 — UFO (Unfinished Objects)
Bring your projects and enjoy the
fellowship & space**

Info & Register at: www.mtcross.org 336-5179



Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

October — Child Development Center

We welcome families of all faiths and cultural backgrounds. We provide developmentally appropriate individualized curriculum, teaching to each child's learning style. We offer teacher-directed and emergent child-centered activities through play and discovery. As trained observers, we teach to each child's individual needs and interests. Our small class sizes, 1:6 teacher-child ratio, provide for a nurturing environment while building a solid academic foundation that is well-rounded and fosters love for learning. Social-emotional skills are developed through redirection and teaching problem-solving skills with an emphasis on kindness to self, others.

Each Thursday Children's Chapel service is hosted by Pastor Jim who leads songs accompanied by his guitar, followed by a story from "The Beginners Bible."

September — Lutheran Campus Ministry = \$828



El Salvador Sister Parish

"Building Relationships for Better Lives"

NEW DATES for the January Delegation

The dates for our January, 2020 delegation to El Salvador have changed due to excessive airfare. The new dates are: **January 10–18, 2020**. Contact **Kent Madsen** if you are interested 438-1593 or kent@kcmadsen.com.

Scholarships

Santa Cruz al Salvador has been running a campaign for university scholarships called "Step by Step to Success". A question came up at one of our member churches: would these students stay in El Salvador or end up trying to come to the US? Our in-country scholarship coordinator, Robert Broz, visited Santa Cruz in July and told us that a survey had been done of 25 students sponsored by a church in Palo Alto; one of the questions was, "What would you do if you did not have this scholarship?" Surprisingly, only five students mentioned heading north as an option they would consider and only one listed it as their only option. Most of the students would try to figure out another way to stick to their scholastic goals such as working and saving money, or asking family members for more help. I guess we should not be that surprised since these students are some of the top students from their high school and are doing relatively well. My impression from meeting them is that they are very close with their families and love them and their communities and they would have to be desperate to leave El Salvador.

It is a blessing to help these young people achieve their educational and professional dreams in El Salvador and help their communities and families as well. Thank God they now have opportunities to advance their lives and become educated professionals, which is something many of their parents could not have dreamed of. Yes, El Salvador is a country with many problems, but the people are strong and faithful and these students have great hope for their future.

This applies to our 'primary school' scholarships as well. That is where students prepare for their university education. Please consider giving to "Step by Step to Success" and renewing or beginning your sponsorship for a Guillermo Ungo student this fall. We'll receive the student list for 2020 soon and there will be opportunities for new prayer sponsorships. Contact **Kent Madsen** for more information.

STEWARD OF GOD'S GIFTS

Kirk McMilin

Thank you, dear brother, especially for your example of faithfulness in worship. You rarely missed a Sunday, and you made sure your sons understood how much it meant to you to connect with God's family each week. You helped steward their gifts in ways that nurtured our faith and opened our eyes to God's love and peace. You shared your gifts of music and love of percussion with so many children, and we all rejoiced in the smile and pure joy that emanated from you when you played for God. We are especially grateful for the last few months when you were able to overcome things that every one of us struggles with in one way or another, and be our resurrection story in the flesh. Thank you Kirk, for reminding us that each of us has been given a gift by God to share and build up the Body of Christ. We will miss your long hair and tie-dye shirts and rhythm instruments and sunglasses and much more. Thanks for all you shared in our church. **Blessed be the memory of this child of God.**



Sunday School

We use the same Gospel lessons the adults do, though our takeaway might not be as challenging. Here is a glimpse into last month:

“Carry the cross and follow me” Luke 14:27

Leaving the sanctuary, the children literally carried their crosses to class. Each wore a decorative Salvadoran cross around their neck. We carried the large heavy wooden crosses we use for Lent. We also carried the decorative anniversary crosses, and the tall acolyte cross. Then they had to negotiate an obstacle course while carrying them. Following Christ requires us to take that cross EVERYWHERE. Our crosses come in all sizes. Jesus tells us that following him can be costly. The lesson related cost to playing the piano or dancing — it costs money for lessons & equipment, it costs time to practice, it costs taking care of your body etc. Is it worth making these difficult choices in order to be successful? Following Jesus is not always easy, but it is ALWAYS worth it!

“Rejoice with me, I have found my sheep that was lost” Luke 15:1-7

Of course we did a sheep hunt. Then, we talked about all the terrible things that can happen if a sheep strays from the protection of his shepherd. What dangers do lost people experience when they are far from Jesus? That list can be equally frightening. Jesus told this story to show what he felt like when he found someone who was far from him. Jesus never gives up on us. When we are lost, afraid, lonely, or in danger . . . Jesus always finds us, because we are precious to Him! What a comfort that is.

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much” Luke 16:1-13

If people know that they can trust us in small things, they will know that they can trust us in the big things too. We play acted several situations with lost items, and money. Of course the first response was to keep the item or money and enjoy it. Though it might be exciting, it would be dishonest. So many consequences can hurt the person on the other end of your dishonesty. We had fun with each other doing a group knot and blindfolded trust walks. Trust is like the roots of a tree, without that firm foundation the tree will die. No one wants to be around people they cannot trust.

~ Faithfully, Miss Leslie

Upcoming:

Nov. 10 Teacher needed (lesson provided)

Dec. 8 Christmas Pageant 10:30 am 6

Birthdays & Anniversaries

10-3 Pastor Lapp

10-3 Becky Judd

10-8 Amelia Davis

10-13 Halcyon Abler

10-13 Janet Slay

10-14 Thomas Dawson

10-18 Naomi Florin-

Gosciminski

10-21 Kathy Berens

10-22 Abigail Davis

10-22 Kazunori Orthner

10-24 Tom Eagle

10-24 Noelia Monteagudo

10-25 Bill Schraft

10-27 Kim Frey

10-29 Michael Cappelloni

10-2 Joel & Maryann Hurttgam

10-11 Darwin & Patrice Awe

10-30 Robert & Cheryl Barte



Short Term: Beth, Eric VonSchell, Maggie, Michael, Doug & Mary, Kayla, Jim Chester, Bonnie, Tom Dawson, Amy, Keaton, Gaye, Shelby & Katie, De Grassi Family, Jacqueline, Family of Ellen Klinck, Nancy, Jean P., Alan Modena, Tim, Athena, Don, Stacy Mauzey, Stephanie Jager, Francis, Cabel, Kyle, Esdras, Jackson, Joe, Pat, Riley, Shelby, Kaitlyn, Daniel, Ryder, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation’s leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen’s Child Development Ctr, Our Church Family.

Long Term: people of the Bahamas, Jean Calvert, Ed Drews, Sue Gibson, Ernestine Barte, Barbara & John Barte, Paul Compese, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Susan Anderson, Rick, Lina, Katrina, Taiyo, 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

Thursday, Oct. 10
10:30 am in the Fireside Room

Speaker: Kathy Allen
Society for the Prevention of Suicide

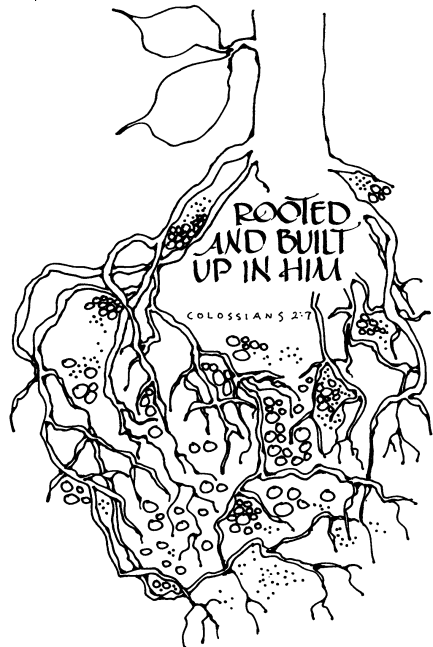
We are a small group of caring christian ladies who try to serve our church and community in small but meaningful ways.

If you have (or haven't) thought about giving this friendly group a try we hope you will do so now. We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month.

At our September meeting we planned our contributions, speakers etc. for the year. Our Christmas Bake and Craft sale will be on December 15 this year so please MARK YOUR CALENDAR now - it promises to be a good one!

If you have a conflict because of work we invite you to bring your lunch if you wish to eat right after the meeting. Dessert and coffee will be available.

Hope to see you then!



Women's Café Group

Wednesday, Oct. 16 @ 6 pm

Come for Devotions, Fellowship
& Potluck Dinner
More info 476-4700

Child Development Center



Please Join us for the **Aebleskiver
Fundraiser Breakfast**

Sunday October 6, 9:30 & 11:30

Last year was our most successful fundraiser to date. Please help us again this year by coming to enjoy a fellowship breakfast with us. This year we will be raffling tickets for some fun community events for families. Thanks to Barbara Johnston for managing most of this event, and our dedicated volunteers who return every year to help us.

We are planning our annual Halloween Parade on October 31st at 10:00. It is so much fun to parade around the Senior Housing unit and share our joy and celebration with the neighbors.

Our students are settling in with their new classmates and teachers. Our Room 2 Toddlers are getting used to the routine. This is a busy exploration time. They are learning their schedule which helps them feel more secure away from home. Brenda and Aliana have designed appropriate curriculum to expose them to letters, numbers, stories, music, and calendar. The main curriculum of this classroom is socialization and play. There are 8 students in this class with 2 moving up in January.

In Room 4 our activities are getting started again. Chapel is on Thursday at 10:15 where 19 students attend including both classes. In literacy we have started the Raising A Reader book bag rotation. This is provided by First 5 of California. Each red bag has 4 books to take home for a week, then return for a different bag. This encourages parents to read to their children. The Santa Cruz library volunteers have returned to read on Tuesdays at 10:15. We are fortunate to be part of this program. Students receive a blue library bag and SC library application when they graduate from SSCDC. We offer Yoga on Wednesday or Friday each week. Caryn along with Nicole and Rebecca offer individualized, appropriate curriculum for each student. Kathy joins in to offer activities throughout the year.

We continue to email families and church members each week with pictures and information about our activities.

Kathy Berens

Treasurer Notes ...
Budget Information – August 2019

	August	August	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution Income	\$8,718	\$11,745	\$98,117	\$98,720	\$-543
Facility Use Income *	\$2,079	\$792	\$14,310	\$6,333	\$7,977
Investment Income	\$3,185	\$3,583	\$27,722	\$28,667	\$945
Total Income	\$13,982	\$16,120	\$140,219	\$133,720	6,499
Expenses	\$20,599	\$20,061	\$153,281	\$154,126	\$-644
Net	\$-6,617	\$-3,941	\$-13,062	\$-20,406	\$7,344

* Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month for 11 months + Misc. Income. Contribution income was down a lot in August and that contributed to the year-to-date deficit of \$-13K. We had to withdraw an extra \$10,000 from investments to shore up our reserves. If you have been traveling, please consider making up your giving!

Special funds for the Organ, Piano, Hearing Impaired, Solar Electricity and Narthex Bathroom

	August	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$0	\$20	
Piano	\$0	\$95	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$395	
Solar Electric Payback	\$344		\$18,191
Narthex Bathroom	\$280		\$2,303

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2019 through August	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$615
SS Scholarships	\$497
Live Oak Resource Center	\$191
Habitat for Humanity	\$396
Mt. Cross	\$500
World Hunger	\$0
Homeless Service Center	\$189
CLU/PLTS	\$181
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$103
SS CDC	\$300
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0
Lutheran World Relief	\$0
ELCA Synod	\$700
COPA	\$1,000
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$4,672
2019 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$14,800
% of Target	32%

