

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

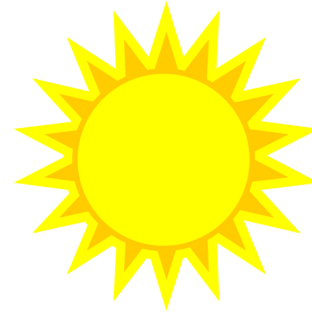
NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
August 28, 2019

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

September 2019

Celebrating 65 Years of Ministry

RESUME TWO SERVICES

Sept. 8 @ 8:15 & 10:30 am

End of Sabbatical BRUNCH

September 1st @ 11:00 am

Celebrate Pastor Jim's return
& Bid Farewell and thanks to Pr. Joel
(All food provided)

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



El Salvador Sister Parish

Have you ever been on a delegation to El Salvador? If not, do you want to go? It is a wonderful and life-changing experience! We practice the principle of accompaniment - that is, walking with our siblings in El Salvador. We visit them as partners, listening to their needs and concerns. We don't necessarily have the answer(s), but we listen.

Those of us who have traveled to El Salvador are often asked, "What do you **do** when you go there?" Well, we meet the people in our Salvadoran communities, spend time hearing their incredible stories, and experience their love and hospitality. We travel in the beautiful and often rugged countryside of El Salvador. We talk with community leaders and learn what they are planning and doing to make a better life for the people. The love and hospitality shared can really touch your heart and help you step outside of your everyday life, and your comfort zone.

We encourage you to listen to what God is asking of you and to consider joining our next delegation:

January 3rd to the 11th, 2020

A non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 is due and payable by September 30th, 2019. Make checks payable to 'Santa Cruz al Salvador' and include '2020 ES Delegation' in the memo line. Estimated cost: \$1,200 to \$1,500, including airfare and in-country expenses.

For more information, please talk with Kent Madsen, 438-1593 or kent@kcmadsen.com.

"Building Relationships for Better Lives"



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Comment by Sept 23 on new SNAP rule

The USDA has proposed a [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) rule](#) that would eliminate an estimated 3.1 million children, families, disabled and older adults from access to SNAP benefits. This blockage of nutrition support for vulnerable and hungry people ignores the will of Congress when it [considered this very issue](#) in the 2018 Farm Bill. SNAP serves about 36 million people. The rule eliminates [broad based categorical eligibility](#) ("Cat EI"), which is a mechanism used to reduce bureaucratic red tape and ensure that vulnerable populations receive the support they need. By eliminating Cat EI, states are forced to follow procedures that add to the cost of providing SNAP to low-income populations in areas of wide-spread poverty. People in serious need of healthy, life-sustaining food are qualifying for SNAP by Cat EI yet would be denied access if the proposed rule is adopted.

ELCA social teaching urges Lutherans to engage in service and advocacy for our neighbor in need of daily bread. These faith practices express our relationship with Jesus Christ, rooted in baptism that sends us out for the sake of the world.

"When we pray in the Lord's Prayer, 'Give us this day our daily bread,' we place ourselves in tension with economic assumptions of our society. Rather than being self-sufficient, we need and depend on what God gives or provides through people, practices, and systems. 'Daily bread' is not earned by efforts of individuals alone, but is made possible through a variety of relationships and institutions [note to Martin Luther's 'The Large Catechism']. God gives in ways that expand our notions of who 'us' includes, from people close at hand to those around the globe. In stark contrast to those who seek unchecked accumulation and profit, our attention is drawn to those who are desperate for what will sustain their lives for just this day." – From ELCA social statement [Sufficient, Sustainable Living for All](#).

ELCA World Hunger works to change the systems that perpetuate poverty based on extensive ministry with our membership, congregations and communities, knowing we can't do it alone. Elected officials must carry out the essential role government plays to help people who need nutritious food.

Time is short, and your voice is essential now before Sept. 23! The proposed rule is harmful because it:

- Increases hunger for families by eliminating access to SNAP for 3.1 million vulnerable people.
- Ignores the will of Congress when it addressed this issue in the 2018 Farm Bill
- Harms grocery retailers and agricultural producers by reducing the amount of SNAP dollars available to spur local economic activity
- Threatens the health outcomes and learning potential of children

How you can help — [Submit a comment](#) to elca.org/advocacy that shows your opposition to this rule.

from Pastor Joel...



Dear Friends,

Time flies when you're having fun. Seems like an appropriate aphorism to explain and understand my three months with you at St. Stephen's. As I scratched the back of my cerebral cortex to figure out where the time went, it was the only explanation that I could come up with. Indeed, it has been fun. Moreover, it has been inspirational. I loved experiencing your love and commitment to the formation of young lives in the St. Stephen's preschool. What a joy it was to see your motivation to embrace and reach out to the residents at our Senior Housing. What an inspiration to hear the passion of weekly prayers for the homeless, the Palestinian people, and St Stephen's mission in El Salvador. You are to be commended for your decision to provide parking spaces for the Safe Spaces shelter program (albeit vehicular parking only). Wednesdays have been a pivotal day of the week for me when a mighty few faithfully gathered for prayer and Bible Study. Those weekly times of prayer were a midweek anchor that grounded me and empowered me for the rest of my week. I thoroughly enjoyed getting reacquainted with Marcus Borg in his video curriculum "Embracing an Adult Faith" and will be blessed to hear in the months to come that a core group of people continues to gather for Centering Prayer and theological conversation at St. Stephen's. In my view prayer is a transformational component for St. Stephen's in being a change agent in our wonderful Santa Cruz culture. Aren't we all so glad that we can live in such a wonderful community?

Worshipping with you has been my greatest joy these past three months. It has taken some time find music that we both can sing, but I think we've done quite well. The reverends Herb Schmidt and Bonnie Bell have been more than helpful in giving me a list of hymns that we both might know. Thank you all as well for indulging me in some of my preferred hymns. I promise not to suggest St. Patrick's Breastplate again - unless there is a ground swell demand from the congregation. However, I will say that it has been delightful to hear you sing "Jubilate Deo" set to a Pretorius canon for the Gospel acclamation these past several Sundays. You have simply been angelic to listen to before the reading of the Gospel. Sam and Nancy Loya and the praise band have been marvelous in bringing our St. Stephen energy up a notch. Many thanks to those who have been so well prepared as lectors, acolytes and Communion assistants.

I now count St. Stephen's as my newest best friends (NBFs) and would love to safeguard and maintain our friendship as we venture into the future. I am excited for you all as you and Pastor Jim enter a new time of discernment. Avail yourselves of my contact coordinates and let me know how I can be of service. It has been a joy to be with you.

In the beauty of the Lord,

Pastor Joel

September Happenings

Knitting Group

Thursdays at 6:45pm

Alcoholics Anonymous

Fridays at 7:00 pm

Alanon Family Group

Saturdays at 10:00 am

Finance Committee

Sept. 6 @ 8:30 am

Church Council

Sept. 11 @ 6:30 pm

MMRR Circle

Resumes Sept. 12 @ 10:30

Dinner Groups

Sept. TBA

Embroider's Guild

Sept. 16 @ 7 pm

Women's Café Group

Sept. 18 @ 6:00 pm

Provide Habitat Lunches

Sept. 24 @ 10:30 am

Newsletter Collating

September 25 @ 10:00 am

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

Council Highlights

Our devotion focused on the theme that both our life and Church life are messy, and the meaning of Words with the same root can often be in opposition.

The Pastors report reflected on his time with us and noted how consistently our church is willing to serve. Special notice was also given to our consistent prayers for El Salvador and Palestine.

Discussion occur concerning the July and August financial reports. As anticipate, the typical summer revenue drop has occurred.

Committee meetings are on hold for the summer. So there was nothing to report.

We are continuing our active involvement with COPA.

A discussion regarding committees vs. task forces occurred. And we discussed how to get more church members involved in either endeavor.

Our support of the AFC truck parking was discussed. We decided to table voting for this issue until after Pastor Lapp returns.

The council voted to update the signatories on our checking accounts.

Submitted by Robert Bartee, V.P.

Annual Women's Retreat

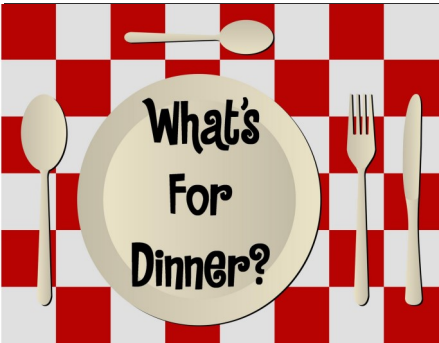
Sept 20-22 (or Saturday only)

The Fall Women's Retreat is a long standing tradition at Mt. Cross that offers women a chance for spiritual renewal, fellowship, learning, and laughing in the beauty of God's creation.

This years theme is "The Bible in 3 Days". Whether you've never read the entire Bible, need a refresher, or are a pro ... join us for a weekend when Pr. Sharon Amundson will lead us in diving into the full biblical story!

Register at: www.mtcross.org 336-5179

Upcoming retreats: Oct. 5 — Fall Fest
Nov. 15-17 — UFO (Unfinished Objects)



DINNER GROUPS

SATURDAYS - SEPTEMBER TBA

We are seeking to foster deeper fellowship & greater connections within our church community. Dinner groups will be traditional Lutheran style (as in, POT-LUCK!) and hosts are needed to provide seating for 6-10 guests. Guests 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.

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!

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Reaching out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the students, faculty and staff of UC Santa Cruz and CSU Monterey Bay, Lutheran Campus Ministry of the Monterey Bay supports students on their faith journey by providing opportunities for Bible study, prayer, worship, service and fellowship.

July — Homeless Service Center = \$142

August — CLU & PLTS = \$100 (as of 8/19)

In Memoriam: Kirk Dale McMilin

June 10, 1958 - August 12, 2019

A music filled memorial service was held August 17 to celebrate his life. He was a faithful servant of our congregation who will be dearly missed. From tye dye to drum sticks. Blessed be the memory of this saint of God. May light perpetual shine upon him.

STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

These two ladies held the office down while Leslie was away. A true testament to their faithfulness. Business continued as usual without so much as a hiccup! Heartfelt Thank you!

Grammy nominated Tammi Brown Sunday, September 1 @ 9:30 worship

Her beautiful, hair-raising voice has woven itself into the cultural backdrop of the Monterey Bay area. Infused with the raw power of her gospel upbringing, her voice is rich with tone and six-octave range, from sultry tenor to the high peels of soprano. But it's the goosebumps on the back-of-the-neck affect she has that makes her presence so unforgettable.

Born into the musically fertile atmosphere of the Pentecostal Movement her parents belonged to in Oakland, she started singing her heart out in the kids choir. By the time she was four, she was standing up to play the Hammond organ.

"Within that kind of Christian environment music is everything," said Brown "Music drives the entire service. Music is so powerful it can work up the entire congregation into a frenzy."

Hence the goosebumps, which cross the threshold from the Christian environment into the human experience, period. When Brown opened for Joan Baez at the Esalen Institute, Native American Chief Little Bear came up to tell her how profoundly her performance of "Power of Prayer" had affected him. It "opened up a window to my ancestors that had long been closed" he said.

These are all emotions that come out of me from my heart," Brown said. "when I'm singing, I'm telling a story. It has a lot to do with how you live your life, how you treat other people, the love you show, or the hate you show. All of that comes out as who you are through your voice. You're turning yourself inside out and showing the world who you are."

She appears regularly at the Kuumbwa Jazz Center, sang with the white Album Ensemble, and opened for Maya Angelou at the Civic Auditorium. She performs at the Monterey Jazz and Blues festivals, and received the 2013 Gail Rich Award for lifetime contribution to the arts and entertainment scene in SC.

There is no doubt that Brown, who calls the Soquel Hills home, is loved and embraced by her community, but it's critical that we get one thing clear: Tami Brown in no small town singer.

She has performed all over the world, from the storied Apollo Theater in NYC to the Mumbai Stadium in India. She has collaborated with an extensive list of acclaimed artists. Her work with Stanly Jordan on the 2008 tune "Steppin' Out" received a Grammy nomination.

Through the pain of losing her mother at an early age, and the challenges of life itself, Tammi found peace in God and the healing power of music. "I found my joy through music ... When I'm singing, I'm telling a story."

From SC Style magazine, Maria Grusauskas



Attending Sunday School Benefits Kids

“Train up a child in the way he should go / Even when he is old he will not depart from it.” The aim of Proverbs 22:6 isn't to force worship upon our children. You wouldn't expect a child to fall in love with math after a couple of multiplication tables. By exposing your child to Sunday School, you're laying a groundwork for them to reap all the benefits of your community of worship.

Building a Moral Compass If they don't have standards upon which to make decisions, how does anybody know what's right? Our values are guided by our parents and communities, but as your children's curiosity develops, they are sure to wonder upon what those values are based. For generations, parents have answered this question by pointing to the Word. This is fundamental to worship: each verse's wisdom has stood the test of millennia and has the power to answer any questions about what is right. Herein lies the value of early-age Bible study: by making the Word relevant to children's lives, they internalize valuable lessons for use throughout the rest of their lives.

Community The Church should be a place of peace, contemplation, and forgiveness. Through regular Sunday school and worship, your child will nurture tighter connections to their faith . They'll come to see church as a place of positivity and growth — as it should be!

Relationship with God It takes a long time to build a relationship with God — it's crucial to get started early so your child will be comfortable asking the Lord for guidance and forgiveness later in life. Like any other good habit, nightly prayer and humility toward God is something you must train. If your children don't grow up with the Church, when will they learn these good habits?

Setting your child forward on the right foot is a service you can't value in dollars. Everyone needs a platform to stand on, a road to walk: that's the essence of Solomon's wisdom in Proverbs 22:6. With the Lord's guidance, it's never too early for your child to start living the right life.

Snippets taken from “Ministry to Children” & Barna research.

Hope to see you Sunday, **September 8 at 10:30**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September Birthdays

9-7 David Balogh
9-8 Cabel Dawson
9-9 Becky Cramer
9-10 David Larson
9-11 Rebecca Wickham
9-12 Collin Travers
9-12 Hannah Travers
9-14 Elias McMilin
9-15 Ashley Volpi
9-16 Rick Oldfield
9-17 Marta Bechhoefer
9-18 Connie Cunningham
9-19 Philip Spires
9-20 Brian Awe

9/24 Alex Csik-Hughes
9-26 Hope Coronado
9/26 Hayden Ruble
9-26 Jan Wagner
9-29 Joanne Freymuth

September Anniversaries

9-1 Tom & Jeanette Dawson
9-3 Bill & Margaret Schraft
9-4 Jim Jones & Shay Barsabe
9-6 Ron & Sheila Buswell
9-6 Jim & Naomi Florin-Gosciminski
9-6 Ken & Susan Gross
9-6 Kevin & Marla Meek
9-17 Paul & Connie Cunningham
9-29 Stephen & Lauren Pond

PRAYER CONCERNS

Short Term: Family of Kirk McMilin, Family of Rebecca Sargeant, Jean Petersen family, Maggie, Doug & Mary, Kayla, Jim Chester, Bonnie, Tom Dawson, Amy, Keaton, Gaye, Shelby & Katie, De Grassi Family, Family of Ellen Klinck, Yvonne Stephens, Nancy, Alan Modena, Tim, Athena, Don, Lina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stacy Mauzey, Marta B., Margo Wilson, Stephanie Jager, Ed Drews, Francis, Cabel, Kyle, Esdras, 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:** Sue Gibson, 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

We have a new Florist:

Tamy's Flower Connection
1720 Commercial Way
462-9271



They support local growers. They have been hand-delivering premium floral arrangements to help strengthen relationships, give love and support, and celebrate life's special moments since 1987.

Update on former florist: Eric Von Shell had a terrible fall this summer, which resulted in leg surgery and a pace maker. He is staying with family in Sacramento while he heals.

Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca Circle

Thursday, Sept. 12
10:30 am in the Fireside Room

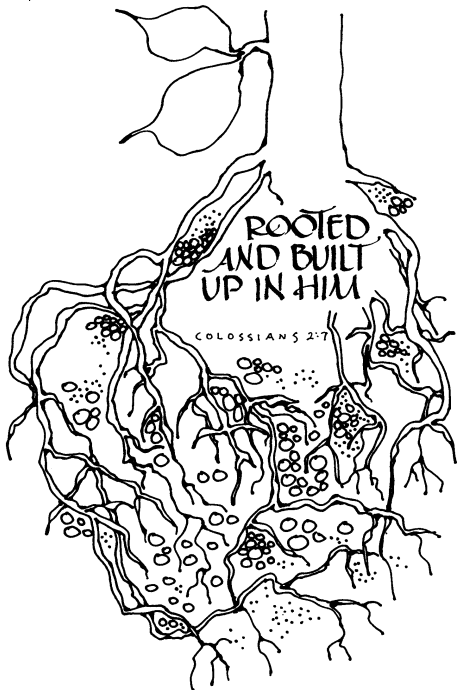
We're Back! We welcome all women who want to worship, socialize and do service.

Bring your lunch and coffee and dessert will be provided. We will spend this meeting organizing the rest of the year so bring your new ideas for speakers and projects. Hope to see you then!

Women's Café Group

Wednesday, September 18 @ 6 pm

Come for Devotions & Potluck Dinner
More info 476-4700



Child Development Center



It is welcome back to school month! The teachers have done a wonderful job providing summer activities including water play and gardening while I had the ability to take most of July off. My weeks in Montana provide the quiet atmosphere to plan for the school year ahead, and restoration to my mind and soul. On my return the teachers and I met and agreed on the plans we have for 2019 and 2020. We look forward to working with our School Board this year. Barbara Johnston will serve as President, Kathy Allen is replacing Rebecca Russell as Treasurer (Thanks Rebecca!), Bill Schraft is the Church Council Liaison, our other members include, Mary Kelly, Sandra Eldridge, and Pastor Jim. I am the Preschool Director and Recorder for the meetings. Thank you to all who serve!

SSCDC is in waitlist status until September 2021. September 2020 brings in 6 siblings to the Toddler room. Unless we have folks move away, we are totally full!

August is a great month to clean out the closets! Teacher Caryn is sorting through hundreds of books, so we have separate rotations. Circletime, classroom choice, resting room, and outside libraries are provided. After that we can sort through the rest. Over the years, during the building process, we tried to organize and this year I think we will master it!

Today one of our students who happens to be a scholarship student, read an entire book including full paragraphs on each page to his fellow students at Circletime. He even had voice inflection! He is Kindergarten bound. Our scholarship donors have been very generous over the years and have changed lives as children who could not afford to attend got to receive our foundation of God's love and kindness before entering the Elementary School world. We are so grateful to our donors. We are down to one donor for this school year from three. If you are looking for a cause to support and this sounds interesting to you, please call Kathy at 462-4453 if you would like to participate. Tuitions in Santa Cruz County continue to rise. Thanks to our Congregation and their support we are still the most affordable, yet one of the best academic schools in town with a 1:6 Teacher Child Ratio! We learn through play and our children leave here prepared.

We start the year with a terrific, tried and true teaching team.
Thanks be to God! Kathy Berens

Treasurer Notes ... Budget Information – July 2019

	July	July	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution Income	\$9,149	\$11,745	\$89,459	\$86,975	\$2,484
Facility Use Income *	\$2,278	\$792	\$12,241	\$5,542	\$6,699
Investment Income	\$4,047	\$3,583	\$24,537	\$25,083	\$-546
Total Income	\$15,474	\$16,120	\$126,237	\$117,600	\$8,637
Expenses	\$17,619	\$20,061	\$132,682	\$134,627	\$-1,945
Net	\$-2,145	\$-3,941	\$-6,445	\$-17,027	\$10,582

** Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month for 11 months + Miscellaneous Income.*

Income is showing continued weakness in July, but YTD continues strong due to one-time gifts earlier in the year and above-budget receipts in Contribution Income and Facilities Use Income. The year-to-date deficit is \$6.4K. *If you have been traveling, please consider making up your giving!*

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

	July	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$0	\$20	
Piano	\$0	\$95	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$395	
Solar Electric Payback	\$383		\$18,535
Narthex Bathroom	\$120		\$2,583

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2019 through July	
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	\$187
CLU/PLTS	\$0
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$73
SS CDC	\$300
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0
Lutheran World Relief	\$0
ELCA Synod	\$450
COPA	\$500
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$3,709
2019 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$14,800
% of Target	25%

Kent Madsen
Treasurer

