

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

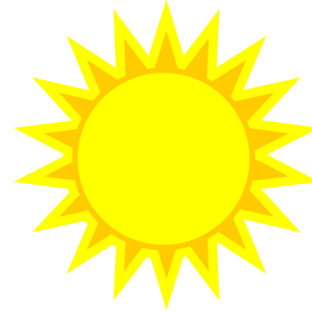
NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
January 28, 2019

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

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St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

February 2020

Celebrating 65 Years of Ministry

COPA Behavioral Health Civic Academy

**Sat., Feb. 8th from 10a-12p - St. Stephens
Led by James Russell and Pastor Jim**

Did you know that nearly 1 in 6 California adults experience a mental illness of some kind? Come find out about the gaps in availability of behavioral health treatment in SC county, and how we can work together to improve access for everyone. James Russell LMFT, a local mental health service provider, and Pr. Jim MSW will lead us through an overview of current services and explore strategies for addressing the gaps. Lets build relationships with each other and learn how we can work together to improve access for everyone.

February 26
Worship
11:30am & 7:15pm


**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

Lent Worship
& Soupers
begin March 4 – April 1

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,
 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

"Building Relationships for Better Lives"

It's a wrap! Santa Cruz al Salvador January 2020 delegation is now history. We had a great group of 11 travelers: three from St. Stephen's, three from Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (Salinas), four from Trinity Presbyterian (Santa Cruz), and one from Peace UCC. For three people, it was their first trip to El Salvador.

Santa Cruz al Salvador is beginning its 26th (!) year of accompaniment, walking with the people of Guillermo Ungo, El Pilar, and other parts of El Salvador.

Two things are perennial highlights for me: the Scholarship Award Ceremony and watching people meet their prayer children for the first time. We had a record number (112) of students attend the ceremony to receive their gift packet from their sponsor as well as their scholarship package of shoes, uniform, and school materials. Barbara Rice is shown here with her prayer child, Ivania, at the craft project. She had met her a day earlier at the scholarship ceremony, and then met her family at dinner.



Jeanette Dawson had a double: she was able to meet Heydi, Stephanie Laufer's long-time prayer child who graduated in 2019, and Elizabeth, her new Kinder prayer child. The tears of joy flowed and there were many hugs.

It was a very good trip; everyone worked well together and kept the whining to a minimum. It is hot after all, and the bathroom facilities are not usually up to North American standards. A new experience was a visit to Cinquera, a national park in El Salvador. We took several of the older prayer children along on the park outing. The trail was too difficult for my physical ability, but reports on the trail, falls and swimming hole were excellent.

Stay tuned for more stories and photos in the coming weeks.

Kent Madsen, for Santa Cruz al Salvador

*"The circles of women around us
Weave invisible nets of love
That carry us when we're weak
& sing with us when we are strong." ~ Sark*

Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca

Thursday, Feb. 13
10:30 am in the Fireside Rm
All women are welcome!

Women's Café Group

Wednesday, Feb. 19 @ 6:00 pm
Discuss 1 Corinthians
Come for Fellowship & Potluck Dinner

More info 476-4700

from Pastor Jim...



For my Pastor's Report at the Annual Meeting we held Sunday, January 26, I talked about where I think God may be calling us to next. I was reminded of the scripture verse I began my service with you as your pastor some 23 years ago - John 15:8 - which says "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples".

We have borne much fruit together as we have sought God's will for our church in our particular community. Most recently we have borne much fruit that will last in the opening of St. Stephen's Senior Housing and the Child Development Center, which is now firmly established in its 8th year. After a very fruitful sabbatical time of "Into the Wilderness to Share the Good News", I am discerning where God may be leading us next as we enter the wilderness of the church/cultural landscape of declining participation and resources.

What has given me hope for breaking down the very solid barrier between our church and people becoming a part of this faith community, is something called Fresh Expressions US. This is a movement that began in the very traditional Anglican Church of England and has made its way across the pond to mostly the East Coast, with a few churches here in the West. I spent a week in Seattle last June visiting one of them and saw how people who normally don't go to church, found the Fresh Expression a very inviting and meaningful church experience. People came to church!

With the commitment of our church at the Annual Meeting to maintain our current level of pastoral and staff compensation, I am feeling called to lead us to begin a Fresh Expression of our own somewhere in our Live Oak neighborhood, away from our facility. The Council will soon finish our study of the seminal book of this movement that some are calling 'The New Reformation', and then I hope we will decide to engage in some contextual training with a leader to begin to plan how it will take shape.

It is important to remember that this movement is alongside our existing traditional church and not in place of it. We will be partners together as we follow God's Spirit "From the Steeple to Street". This may lead to some changes in things like service times for when we gather. We need to offer a better witness from our traditional church, as opposed to two mostly vacant and sad-feeling Sunday morning services.

Most of all, this is going to take a total commitment from every one of us to face up to the fact that if we do not set out in our wilderness and take some risks, we will be resigning ourselves to closure, as so many churches like us have done in the past 20 or so years. We all need to completely get behind our call to share the message of Jesus Christ with those who are not yet a part of this faith community. I, too, am apprehensive, but I only need to remember the stories of Scripture and our own church recently, to know that God is faithful! Amen!

February Happenings

Knitting Group

Thursdays at 6:45pm

Alcoholics Anonymous

Fridays at 7:00 pm

Alanon Family Group

Saturdays at 9:00 am -new time

Finance Committee

Feb. 7 @ 8:30 am

Church Council

Feb. 12 @ 6:30 pm

MMRR Circle

Feb. 13 @ 10:30

Women's Café Group

Feb. 19 @ 6:00 pm

Embroider's Guild

Feb. 17 @ 7 pm

Provide Habitat Lunches

Feb. 25 @ 10:30 am

Newsletter Collating

Feb. 27 @ 10:00 am

Faith Community Shelter

Help Provide meals all winter.
Dates TBD Pr. Herb 277-8476

Ushers, Readers & Coffee needed

Council Highlights

1. For our devotion time we continued studying "From the Steeple to the Street" by Travis Collins of Fresh Expressions US. We are nearing completion of the book as we prepare to engage in beginning our own Fresh Expression of our church somewhere in our surrounding community. We discussed Ch. 25 "Creating a Missional Culture, However, Is Critical (And Hard)"

2. Duncan Plumbing had to use a different repair method for our sewer line that cost \$1000 more than the initial estimate. The CDC contributed \$2950 toward the \$8800 cost.

3. Annual Meeting actions taken on Sun. Jan.26:

- a) Approved 2020 budget to maintain current staffing level, and a 5 year authorization to spend up to \$25,000 per year from our reserves of \$1.4 million. Vote was 31-13.
- b) Approved statement of welcome to become an official Reconciling in Christ congregation. This means that we will publicly offer this statement which specifically designates our church as welcoming and accepting of all LGBTQ persons as beloved children of God as they were created.
- c) Alyssa Burkhardt, Steven Hendrickson, and Paul Cunningham were elected to 3yr. Council terms.
- d) Kent Madsen and Barbara Rice were elected as our Synod Assembly delegates for May 1-3 in Fresno, where a new Bishop will be elected.

In Memoriam

Matthew Barker

December 16, 1984 — December 31, 2019

A Memorial Service was held on Saturday January 11. Matthew died as a result of his illness of depression. The sanctuary was filled to overflowing as many community members joined us in commending Matthew to God. We were just getting to know he and his beloved spouse Shelley and their children Xavier and Liz. He and Xavier were planning to be baptized together very soon. Matthew will be remembered fondly as a loving husband, father, and son. He was a local youth sports coach, poet, musician and avid outdoorsman. He was looking forward to serving St. Stephen's as a much needed handyman and electrician. We look forward to welcoming Shelley, Xavier and Liz as part of this church family for the years to come.

Blessed be the memory of this child of God.

May light perpetual shine upon him.

Attention Thrivent members!

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

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

February—St. Stephen's Scholarship Fund

Over the years we have been blessed to receive several bequests from former members that make up our present scholarship fund. Many of St. Stephen's youth have benefited from this fund as they further their education in college while costs continue to rise. We attempt to use the interest only from this fund, but sometimes we need to dip into the principal in order to fulfill the requests. This month you can give a special offering in addition to your regular offering in order to keep this fund healthy well into the future. Maybe you, too, could think about including the St. Stephen's Scholarship Fund in your will or estate plans as others before us have. This is a multiplying gift as it enables someone else to develop their God-given gifts in service to others.

January — American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
= \$260 (as of Jan. 26)

STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFTS

Jeanette Dawson and Rebecca Wickham

Thank you to these outgoing Council members for their leadership and faithful service on behalf of our congregation. Jeanette has served two consecutive 3 year terms and Rebecca served for one year to fill out a previous Council members term. In these challenging days to be a church, we are inspired by their witness of dedication and commitment to help our church make difficult, mission-focused decisions and thrive. By offering their time and gifts, they have honored the ways that they have been blessed by God throughout their lives.

Winter Shelter Meals Needed

The Association of Faith communities will be hosting meals at the Faith Community Shelter. We have been invited to provide meals for up to 20 people once or twice per week. Follow Jesus call to feed the hungry in our midst.

Sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you would like to participate in this service. You will be paired with another family, and contacted regarding dates and further details.

Contact Pastor Herb 277-8476 for more information.

SCOUT SUNDAY

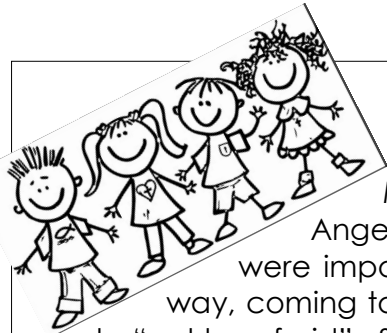
Sunday, February 2

Come enjoy our homemade donuts!



This year commemorates the 110th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. To celebrate, scout troops across the nation are taking part in "Scout Sunday," a day in which the contributions of youth and adult scouts are recognized. Troop 633 celebrates this day every year at St. Stephen's Church, their headquarters for meetings and overnight activities since the early '60s. For the past 37 years, they have been led by devoted Scoutmaster Scott Caldwell.

The troop has assisted St. Stephen's with many projects over the years, including replacing the mulch in the children's playground, repainting the church, and building the fence. Per tradition, the Scouts will serve coffee and handmade donuts after both services on the 2nd.. We thank St. Stephen's for their long-lasting support.



Sunday School

Matthew 1:23 **An Angel Appears to Joseph**

Angels were pretty key players in the Christmas story. They were important even before Jesus was born. They prepared the way, coming to both Mary and Joseph with huge news. Helping them to “not be afraid”. Sometimes we may find ourselves in a situation where we do not know what to do. If we listen, God will give us the answer. Who knows what form our angel might take?

So, the Sunday after Christmas is a low Sunday right? Well, excuse me, but we had A LOT of kids come to Sunday school. Thank goodness Margaret Schraft & Renny Colclough stayed to help. After our star scavenger hunt we got messy making edible Nativity scenes with frosting and extra large sour patch kids,

John 1:12-13 **The Gift that Keeps on Giving**

There is one thing I have learned about Christmas gifts. No matter how much you enjoy receiving them, they do not last. We look so nice in our new clothes, but eventually they wear out or they go out of style. Eventually our toys break, or we get tired of them. But, like the Energizer Bunny — Jesus is the gift that keeps on giving. We pulled out the candy canes once again. They remind us of the shepherds rook, that protects and guides their flocks. Upside down they look like a “J” as in Jesus is the greatest gift of all!

Matthew 3:17 **The Baptism of the Lord**

A voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” I picture a parent cheering for their child on the sidelines. We are all God's children & how he loves us! Our baptism is the sign that we belong to God and to the whole family of Christians everywhere. God's gift to us is the Holy Spirit which helps us grow and learn and love. Each child made a small banner to take home and remember their baptism. Thank you Aria & Sofia for taking charge of the fine tuning and the glue gun!

John 1:29-42 **God's Eyewitnesses**

We have all heard that “Actions speak louder than words”. When the people heard John's eyewitness report, it helped them understand and believe that Jesus was truly the Son of God. What do others see us do that reflects our faith? It is like dominoes when we share the gifts of the spirit (Love, Joy, Peace, Faithfulness, Gentleness & Self Control).

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2-1	Lu Sluiter	2-17	Liana Mabry	
2-2	Jean Petersen	2-18	Kathy Hopping	2—6 Pastor Jim & Leslie
2-4	Kyle Travers	2-18	Jay Johnston	
2-7	Marla Meek	2-19	Connie Creel	2—24 Richard & Susan Oldfield
2-8	James Russell	2-19	Charles Eldridge	
2-9	Edna Lindquist	2-21	Caitlin Hopping	
2-10	Al Mitchell	2-24	Miller Mouw	
2-10	Paul Powers	2-29	Beth Stiles	
2-12	Beverly Giladett			



Short Term: Shelly Barker & family, Scott Ruble & family, Family of Pr. Bonnie Bell, George Webber & Family, Suzanne Duval, Trippel family, Mary Kelly, Grandma Joyce, Don Simmen, Lily Williams, Duke, Michael, Kimberly & Danny, Lora Schraft Poulson, Marge, George, Augie, Stefan, Kevin, Caitlin, John, Kathy, Debbie, Julie, Nana, Kelly, Barbara Allen, Doug Hahn, Jay, Kirstin, Michael, Kayla, Nancy, Don, Lina, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel,

Kyle, Esdras, Jackson, Joe, Pat, Riley, Shelby, Frank, Kaitlyn, Daniel, Ryder, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim and Our Church Family.

Long Term: people & wildlife of Australia, people of the Bahamas, The Sanders Family, Sue Gibson, Ernestine Bartee, Barbara & John Bartee, Paul Compese, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Susan Anderson, Rick, Bobbie Erickson, Edna Lindquist, Richard C., Eric VonSchell, 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

Wings Homeless Advocacy Training
Saturday Feb. 22nd from 9:30—2:30 pm
Lunch provided

Community Covenant Church — 2700 El Rancho Drive SC
RSVP Caroline.mann@wingsadvocacy.org 291-5096



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

2020 ELCA Advocacy Federal Policy Priorities

Looking ahead, 2020 is likely to be an eventful year. In the midst of societal shifts and opportunities, ELCA Advocacy has identified areas of priority for our work together on the federal level. "These priorities reflect ELCA Advocacy commitments for faithful and timely attention to pressing concerns that affect our neighbor's well-being and the wholeness of creation," says the Rev. Amy E. Reumann, Director of ELCA Advocacy.

In the ELCA we believe that, through baptism, God is calling us into the world to serve together. We are a church that views governments as helpful ways God is active in our world and that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and public life. When we, as ELCA members, lift our voices together to influence policies that advance the common good, we further God's work in our world.

Shaped by the ELCA's social teaching documents and the experiences of its congregations, ministries and partners, we advocate to end world hunger and stands up for policies that create opportunities to overcome poverty, promote peace and dignity, preserve God's creation and promote racial justice.

You will find ELCA faith-based advocates meeting with policy makers, taking joint action with values-sharing issue partners, writing letters, making public comments, talking with neighbors, asking questions in town hall meetings — listening, learning, educating and visibly and skillfully asserting policy considerations guided by faith foundations.

In addition to faith-based advocacy organized by local congregations and synods, by Lutheran state public policy offices and by Lutheran Office for World Community representation to the United Nations, ELCA Advocacy is active in Washington, D.C.

See Policy Priorities at [ELCA.org/resources/advocacy](https://www.elca.org/resources/advocacy). ELCA Advocacy is a resource in our church to help bring our faith based voices into public policy dialogue as God calls us into the world to serve together.

Child Development Center



It is the month to celebrate LOVE. We are fortunate to share plenty of love at our preschool. The children are joyful with each other and give their teachers plenty of hugs. It is a blessing to experience the innocence of true regard for one another, and to observe the children's love for Jesus each week at Chapel.

The parent teacher conferences and holidays are behind us. In January, we began to apply the teacher's goals to individualized curriculum for our students. We discovered we had three students who are still trying to visually identify letters and numbers. They are excelling in the other areas but need extra support and observation in learning the visual component of letter and number identification. Visual discrimination continuum begins with objects, colors, shapes, letters, numbers, then letters and sounds. Currently we have a full staff so one teacher can take these three students into a private classroom and play games like numbers and letters Bingo, along with other games. The goal is to have them learn with children who are where they are in the learning process. They can notice they are not alone in their need and desire to learn, in this case to visually identify letters and numbers. Nor do they have children who know the answer and sharing the answer with the group before they get a chance to try and answer. Small group learning is beneficial in individualizing and showing the children that they are important and noticed. If improvement is observed, then we continue this process along with the regular group curriculum. If we do not notice progress, then the parents have a chance to pursue support through their local school district in preparation for their child's transition to Kindergarten.

Our overall goal is to foster a love for learning in a developmentally appropriate environment. You cannot force what naturally needs to emerge in each child. Whether it is hearing and speech, fine motor development and writing, social emotional support, or visual identification, we can seek problem solving skills from professionals paired with mainstream learning. Early Childhood Education is the opportunity to fill up their toolbox so they can confidently move to Kindergarten.

Warmly, Kathy Berens

Treasurer Notes ...

Budget Information – December 2019

	December	December	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution Income	\$14,592	\$14,045	\$145,405	\$148,000	\$-2,595
Facility Use Income *	\$2,237	\$792	\$21,503	\$9,500	\$12,003
Investment Income	\$7,117	\$3,583	\$46,078	\$43,000	\$3,078
Total Income	\$23,946	\$18,420	\$212,986	\$200,500	\$12,486
Expenses	\$21,609	\$20,949	\$230,208	\$231,432	\$-1,224
Net	\$2,337	\$-2,529	\$-17,222	\$-30,932	\$13,710

** Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month for 11 months + Miscellaneous Income. Total income for December was strong, but we still ended the year with a deficit of about \$17k. This was better than the forecasted \$31k deficit. We have withdrawn \$10k from investments to meet expenses.*

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

	December	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$5	\$30	
Piano	\$0	\$95	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$395	
Solar Electric Payback	\$107		\$17,394
Narthex Bathroom	\$199		\$1,547

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2019 through December	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$615
SS Scholarships	\$497
Live Oak Resource Center	\$191
Habitat for Humanity	\$396
Mt. Cross	\$500
World Hunger	\$80
Homeless Service Center	\$189
CLU/PLTS	\$181
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$1,072
SS CDC	\$580
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$401
Lutheran World Relief	\$0
ELCA Synod	\$1,220
COPA	\$2,000
Lutheran Immigration	\$341
Total	\$8,263
2019 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$14,800
% of Target	56%

Kent Madsen
Treasurer

