

Our 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,
invite people to share the joy of the spirit.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.

2500 Soquel Avenue

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

831/476-4700 FAX 831/476-3918

email: office@ststephenslutheran.org

Web Address: www.ststephenslutheran.org

Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30 am—2:30 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's

Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp

Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp

Music Directors: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts

Sunday School: Leslie Lapp

Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens

Custodian: John Hopping

St. Stephen's Worship Band

Esdras Garden, Nancy Graham, Jay Johnston,
Eli & Kirk McMilin, and Vi Olly

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

Easter Sunday!

April 4, 2021

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians and faiths from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners & questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate & sorrow, rejoice & recover. This is a place where lives are made new.

Welcome on this GLORIOUS day!

Instructions: Please fill out the enclosed orange "Worship Slip" and place it in the offering plate with your offering, as a sign of thanksgiving for all of God's blessings.

Prelude

The Gathering

*Call to Worship

P: Alleluia! Christ has risen!

C: **Christ has risen indeed, Alleluia!**

P: Welcome to God's new day!

C: **Everywhere we look we see new life!**

P: Alleluia! Today is a new day!

C: **Alleluia! New life is within and among us!**

P: Today we are challenged to live fully in God's love!

C: **So we will greet one another in love, and praise the God who lifts us up in grace!**

P: Alleluia! Today is a new day!

C: **We come with the past behind us, and the future open!**

P: This is the day that the Lord has made!

C: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Outdoor Worship Dates

(Inclement weather cancels)

**Sunday April 18th at 10am.
2nd and 4th Sundays.**

Please remember to wear a mask or two, bring your own chair, or remain in your car.

Holy Communion will be offered with pre-sealed cups and wafer.

**Recorded Services on our Website
for all other Sundays at:
www.ststephenslutheran.org**

Thursday Bible Studies

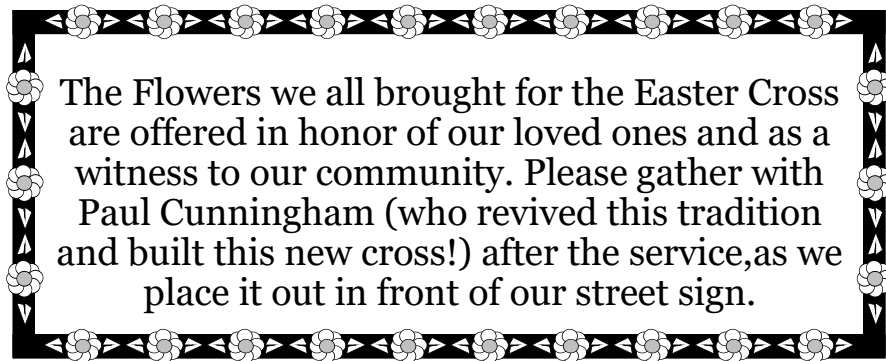
Zoom with Pastor Jim

(check email on Weds. for link)

11am -12noon and 7:30 pm—8:30 pm

We will be looking at the upcoming scripture readings for Sunday, to enrich our worship experience and uncover some of the deeper truths of our faith. As we grow in our faith, we grow together in spirit and community.





The Flowers we all brought for the Easter Cross are offered in honor of our loved ones and as a witness to our community. Please gather with Paul Cunningham (who revived this tradition and built this new cross!) after the service, as we place it out in front of our street sign.

Prayer Concerns

Short Term: Lu Sluiter, Leslie Lapp and Family, Healthcare workers, teachers, Marla Meek and family, Kathy Allen and Family, Beth Stiles, Nancy and Sam, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Corinne, The Wickham Family, Kent, Donna, Betsy, Tom, Anna, Krispa, Patsy, Zachary, Family of Al Mitchell, Jean Patterson, Frank Giammona, Heather, Kevin, Vanessa, Rose, Shelly Barker & family, Sam, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Lorraine Chavez, Lora Schraft Poulson, Nelleke, Hendrick, Kayla, Don, Lina, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Miller, Kyle, Noah, Esdras, Jackson, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim and Our Church Family. **Long Term:** Leslie Lapp, The Sanders Family, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, John B., Michelle, Josh, CJ, Jeff Tarantino, 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, and the Youth of today.

April Special Offering

Habitat For Humanity

*Opening Hymn

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" Red #365 (organ)

**Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

Women only:

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

Men only:

**But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

*Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen
C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
P: The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you

*Prayer of the Day

P: God of the empty tomb and abundant surprises, who announces new life in the face of death, dry our tears of grief and calm the anguish of our losses as we listen for amazing good news. Help us to find our identity in the person of Jesus Christ. Be to us a living presence, that the story of Easter may become our story, and we can embody its hope for the whole world.
C: Amen.

The Word of God

Children's Message

Pastor Lapp

First Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Celebrate pg. 1

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Celebrate pg. 2

*Gospel Reading

Mark 16:1-8

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 16th chapter.

(The Gospel is read)

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Easter Message

Rev. James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"

Red #364

Christ has arisen, alleluia.

Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.

For our redeemer burst from the tomb,

Even from death, dispelling its gloom.

REFRAIN

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.

Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.

Our sin forgiving, alleluia!

Jesus is living, alleluia!

For three long days the grave did its worst

Until its strength by God was dispersed.

He who gives life did death under go,

And in its conquest his might did show.

REFRAIN

*Closing Hymn "Now All the Vault ..."

Red #367

**Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
In praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Women only:

**Eternal is the gift he brings,
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Now still he comes to give us life
and by his presence stills all strife.
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Men only:

**Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through your triumph;
Grant grace sufficient for life's day
That by our lives we truly say:
Christ has triumphed! He is living!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Adoring praises now we bring
And with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Dismissal

P: Go in the power of the Spirit.
Proclaim the risen Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Gary Roberts & "All That Jazz"

The Sending

*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of the risen Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace now and forever.

C: Amen

*Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray:

O God, you have brought us together in love through this meal. You have strengthened us by the risen life of Jesus Christ. Send us by your Spirit to live in peace with one another and to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

*Benediction

P: God, who raised Jesus from the dead,
Make you stand strong in faith.

C: Amen. Alleluia!

P: Jesus Christ, triumphant over the grave,
Make you bold to tell the good news.

C: Amen. Alleluia!

P: The Spirit of truth abide with you
And guide you into paths of service.

C: Amen. Alleluia!

The angel said to them. "Do not fear.
You look for Jesus who is not here.
See for yourselves the tomb is all bare.
Only the grave clothes are lying there."

REFRAIN

*The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

The Communion Meal

* Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Offertory Prayer

P: Giver of life,

**C: We bring to your table what we have,
gifts from you, the one who makes all things new.
With these signs we bring ourselves,
that we may carry to the world
the love of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to God

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*Prayer of Preparation

P: We prepare our hearts to receive God's grace by
confessing our sin and need of forgiveness:

**C: Creator of the heavens, Maker of each small thing,
what a wondrous universe
you have spread before us.**

**Each day overflows with the richness of life:
with growing green and bursting blossom,
with relationships which nurture and challenge,
with missions accomplished
and justice to be done.**

**Each day is full of your meaning,
and yet many times we do not see this.**

**With much around us to be done,
we complain of boredom,
or we are so busy
we lose track of your presence and calling.**

**Too often we hurry around
without appreciation, delight,
or much sense of purpose.**

**Call us, O God, out of apathy and spiritual poverty
and into the richness of life lived in love.**

**Move us toward you and one another
as we receive your grace together now. Amen.**

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today, our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever.
Amen**

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come for all is ready!

Holy Communion

We have changed our practice in order to reflect our concern for the most vulnerable among us. Jesus often lifted up those who were most at risk in life as ones that we all need to care for lovingly. May this way of receiving draw us nearer to God's ways.

Please have your prepared elements ready to receive Holy Communion. There is both wine and grape juice available at the tables near where you are sitting. Commune yourself or a loved one with you with the words: "The Body of Christ given." and "The Blood of Christ shed."

For the wine, turn the cup upside down first and open the seal for the bread. Then turn the cup right side up and open the seal for the wine. For the grape juice, open the clear seal for the bread, and then the foil seal for the cup.

Communion Hymn

"Be Not Afraid" Red #388 (Sing 4 times)

**Be not afraid, sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid, sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!**