

ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Ready for your participation each Sunday morning.
"Together in Spirit"

Worship in the comfort of your own home.

Go to the recording at **www.stephenslutheran.org**

*(Print the bulletin and Celebrate so you can read, sing
and pray with Pastor Jim. Have some bread and
wine/grape juice ready for Holy Communion)*

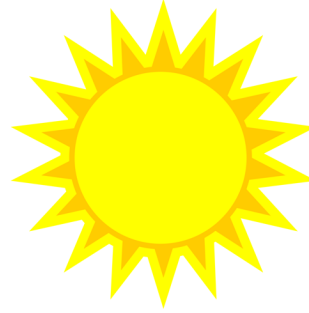
NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
April 29, 2021

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

May 2021

Sunday Worship Schedule for May

May 2nd, 16th, and 30th—Website recording

We join our hearts in spirit as we participate together in worship through a recorded worship service on our website at "www.ststephenslutheran.org". Please be prepared by having the bulletin and Celebrate printed out, and sing along with Gary and Pastor Jim! Have some bread and fruit of the vine ready to take part in Holy Communion.

May 9th & 23rd at 10am- In-person Outdoor & Livestream

Please bring your own chairs and wear a mask or two as we join together in worship. Holy Communion will be celebrated with the pre-sealed cup/wafer. After the service we will gather for fellowship under the awning adjacent to the disabled parking spots. BYO Coffee!

Readers and Prayer Assistants are always welcome.
Please contact the church office if you can help in this way.

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 - Alyssa Burkhardt
 Treasurer— Kent Madsen
 Shelly Barker, Bill Schraft, Jay Johnston,
 Paul Cunningham, and Steven Hendrickson

Director of Music: 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 Contact Hours — Mon.—Thurs. 9am—5pm at 831-325-9095

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

5-3 Margaret Schraft	5-19 Laney Johnson	5-27 Barbara Rice
5-5 Kathleen Allen	5-20 Aria Bartee	5-27 Mary Robe
5-5 Kent Madsen	5-24 Travis Awe	5-28 Mitch Ronning
5-6 Cheryl Curry	5-25 Trent Hopping	5-29 Elke Spires
5-6 Renee Robe	5-26 Andrew Davis	
5-7 Ross Johnston	5-26 Epimenio	5-24 Paul & Leah Powers
5-10 Julie Mouw	Valencia	
5-15 Jesse McMilin	5-27 Mark Brouse	5-26 Epimenio & Emily Valencia
5-18 Jordan Ayers	5-27 Tyleigha Brouse- Jones	



Short Term: Family of Jean Petersen, Family of Betty Kievlan, Lu Sluiter, Leslie Lapp and Family, Betty Kievlan, Healthcare workers, teachers, Marla Meek and family, Kathy Allen and Family, Beth Stiles, Sandi Cane Nancy, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Kent, Family of Al Mitchell, Shelly Barker & family, Sam, George Webber & Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Nancy Hall family, Betty Kievlan, Sadie, Lorraine Chavez, Lora Schraft Poulson, Nelleke, Hendrick, Don, Lina, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Miller, Kyle, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim and Our Church Family. **Long Term:** 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.

Zoom with Pastor Jim

Check your email on Weds.
For the Celebrate & Zoom link

THURSDAYS 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 in community.



Celebrate Music

We all miss in-person worship gatherings, being part of many voices and singing together.

We have a suggestion. Form a VIRTUAL CHOIR. We have all the ingredients: talent, voices, and software. From home or church you can be part of a choir. No weekly meetings. Thanks to Shay Barsabe who has the software program.

Ideas for 2021:

- *Forming our music team.*
- *Building a brass choir*
- *Inviting in-house musicians to sing & play instruments.*
- *Rent or use our space for rehearsals in the future.*
- *Looking for woodwinds (flutes, clarinet and oboe) to join our music program.*
- *Strings are always welcome.*
- *Do you play the piano?*
- *Family singers, and instruments.*

Consider joining the Music Ministry. All ideas and members are welcome!

Contact beachhillgary@comcast.net or church office.

Yours in Christ, Gary Roberts

A Message From our Church Administrator

The great news is I've been given permission to ease back into work! My body will be my guide. I am out of the worry zone - except for the fall factor. The old me (pre accident) would charge ahead and think later, I've had to say goodbye to her. Unfortunately I still have issues with sitting for long periods and looking at a computer screen. Hmm, this will be interesting. But ya'll know I'm one to rise to a challenge. As I progress, some are using the word "miracle". Aside from my survival & healing, it is a miracle that I am not angry, or afraid. My apologies if this reference is getting old, but I have not quite moved on!

My return to worship on Easter was an emotional gift. I did not have the courage to sit outside in my wheelchair, so I stayed in the car. Throughout the service I was met with your beautiful faces, distance hugs, and hand hearts. Literally followed by a reception line at my window. I was deeply moved by your love.

I was also blessed to return to the Women's Cafe group. To be surrounded by women of faith whom I have known and trusted for many years was absolutely exhilarating. Their witness as they met without me was inspiring. God is continuing to reveal many blessings through my trauma.

Thankfully, I am now able to read....so I am reading LOTS. Nuggets of inspiration have come from surprising authors. This makes me realize that the old me, was searching for God and my calling in BIG things rather than every day life. But, it's the interactions and stuff of everyday life that God uses. I have gained more truth through my vulnerability. My circumstance has allowed me thoughtful time that I have never allowed myself. I feel that this is something many of us have in common. We convince ourselves that we are too busy to take spiritual time for ourselves. But my reality is that life is too short for us to not take that time!

As I reflect on my faith journey, I'm reminded that I come from beginnings rooted in simple tradition. Sure, we went to a large beautiful church, in a town (Ft. Wayne, IN) and time when every home had a church (either protestant or catholic). But I did not see faith in everyday activities beyond giving God credit for everything good and asking for help when things were rough. It wasn't until my confirmation that I had a "friend" from church. This friendship has been life long, and life changing. Going to Cal Lutheran for college and working at Mt. Cross each summer gave me the insight and permission to grow and showed me how to put my faith into action.

Prayer is everything. There is no perfect script. But finding one that works for you is so important. Inspired by Psalm 23:1 *"The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need."* This one speaks loudly to me:

*God, You have promised to care for us.
We bring You the needs of our hearts,
the needs of our relationships,
the needs of our situations,
and we trust that You will meet them.*

You are our provider, our comforter, and the one who sustains us. Amen.

Remember:: We have EVERYTHING we need for this day, tomorrow, and forever!!!!

IN MEMORIAM

Jean Petersen

February 2, 1931—April 27, 2021

Our beloved sister Jean died unexpectedly of cardiac arrest after receiving a pacemaker and recuperating in the hospital. Pastor Jim was able to visit her 3 days earlier in the hospital, as the first in-person visit in a hospital since February of last year. During our conversation Jean was feeling hopeful and well enough to tell me she was hoping to return as a volunteer in the church office with Leslie as she recovered.

Jean served as Council President and as a regular Reader of the holy scriptures in worship. She and Delores Price (who passed away just last year in July) gave the church our baptismal font, and dedicated it in honor of their husbands who also passed away within a year of each other.

Jean is survived by her son Mark, whom we were fortunate to get to know when they had to stay at the church for a week after being evacuated because of the CZU Complex Fire in the Santa Cruz mountains. Her daughter and other son passed away very close to each other in 2019.

Betty Kievlan

July 29, 1940—April 23, 2021

Betty was a long-time member of St. Stephen's going back to when the church building was located on Pennsylvania Ave in the Seabright neighborhood from 1953—1961. Betty's daughter Lorie Juhl raised her 4 children at St. Stephen's and we were able to be with Betty for a service of Commendation of the Dying as she had been on Hospice Care for some time. She specifically mentioned to the Hospice Chaplain that she already had a pastor whom she wanted to preside at her funeral, but found comfort in praying the Lord's Prayer with her. A private memorial service will be held on May 3 at Pacific Gardens Chapel.

Betty is survived by her husband George, children Lorie, Elizabeth & David, and grandchildren Bradley, Jeffrey and twins Jessica and Briana.

***"Blessed be the memory of these children of God,
And may light perpetual shine upon them."***

El Salvador Sister Parish News



Like many of us, people in El Salvador are still dealing with the pandemic. Fortunately all teachers, both public and private, have been vaccinated and the country is working to get the general public vaccinated, working their way down from oldest to youngest. In-

person school attendance was scheduled to begin the first of April but that was pushed out a week and it will only be for a couple of hours, two to three times a week. This is a very complicated situation and it remains to be seen how everything will be once they start.

The baskets that were provided by our student sponsors were very well received by all 120 students. In fact, this new approach worked so well, our Board is considering doing this again in January 2022 and focusing on other, non-essential items for the student to make the baskets more exciting. Stay tuned for more updates as we get closer to sponsorship time in the fall.

Our Board is also working with the school to setup what we are calling an 'Internet Café'. The internet signal at the school is very weak and this created problems when students were required to do distance learning. Establishing a stronger signal at the school and making it more available would certainly help and it is a step in the right direction for improvements at the school. Currently have \$1,200 in 'seed' money for the 'Internet Café'.

Our annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 25th at Bargetto Winery in Soquel. Last year, again because of COVID-19, we held our first ever 'Virtual Wine Tasting Event' which was very successful. More to come on this later.

We are also considering sending a delegation in January 2022 depending on the situation with the pandemic. If anyone is interested in participating on a delegation, please contact Kent Madsen. We are not asking for commitments at this time, but would like to know what the level of interest is at St. Stephen's.

On behalf of the Board of Directors for Santa Cruz al Salvador (SCaS), I wish to thank all members of St. Stephen's who contributed towards sponsoring a child in El Salvador. Your gifts make a difference! Peace In Christ—Kent Madsen, St. Stephen's representative on SCaS Board of Directors.



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

Bishop Eaton issues statement on Gun Violence

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed (1 Peter 2:24).

Dear church,

As a nation we have lived through a very difficult two weeks following the mass shootings in Atlanta on March 16 and again in Boulder, Colo., on March 22. The shooting in Colorado was only the most recent of [104 mass shootings](#) already in 2021. Colorado has a painful history of mass shootings. Since 1993 the deadliest incidents have been the 1999 Columbine High School massacre, the mass shooting in a movie theater in Aurora and now the 10 lives taken, including the life of a responding police officer, at a supermarket in Boulder.

Together with God, we grieve with the families and communities impacted by gun violence — especially in communities where it is an everyday occurrence. These shootings are not isolated but rather a pattern of the gun violence crisis in the United States. The numbers of victims tell only a part of the pain — the trauma caused by gun violence ripples across family members, friends, neighborhoods, communities and this country.

As we near the Sunday of the Passion, we enter into the suffering of Christ and into solidarity with the sufferings of the world. As we look to the healing power of the cross, we celebrate the gift of peace through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As followers of Jesus, we are empowered to take up the challenge to prevent violence and grapple with the complex causes that make violence so pervasive.

The ELCA is a church in society [striving for peace](#) in all the world. Let us join with others in calling for greater gun safety, including preventing easy access to assault-style weapons and strengthening our federal system of background checks for all gun sales. We call for support and protection for those living out their vocations to protect and defend society, enforce the law and work toward restorative justice. We pray for rostered ministers who provide support and counseling services to those affected by gun-violence-related crimes even as we pray for the perpetrators of violent acts. We call upon congregations to hold safe space for those dealing with the fears and threats related to violence in all its manifestations.

In Christ,

***Do you not know that you are God's temple and that
God's Spirit dwells in you?" 1 Cor. 3:16***



Child Development Center

As many schools in our community are just re-opening, our attention looks towards our graduation ceremony on May 27th for children who will attend Kindergarten in August. We have seven children graduating who have been with us since they were two years old. Six will continue in our summer program and one we bid farewell. This has been the most flexible and resilient class. We were so impressed with their willingness to follow all of the new guidelines of mask wearing, hand washing, changing schedules, and classroom changes. They made it easy for us and we have appreciated them and the efforts their parents made to make this all work! We will miss them very much. The good news is several have siblings who will continue with us so we can enjoy a relationship with their families. What fun it is when graduates come to visit while picking up their younger siblings.

We have started to tour several families from our waiting list. Some have waited a year! When we do have an opening in August we don't have to delay their enrollment any longer. Our resting room is limited, so full time spots are hard to come by. We already have 3 for 2022/23. We have met wonderful people through this process and look forward to knowing many of them better!!

Highlights in the classroom this month are making Mothers Day gifts and sharing family culture and traditions. I get the opportunity to share my favorite hobby with our graduates, sewing. We make sachets. First they sew buttons on the fabric of their choosing. They catch on quick!! Then they learn to sew on the sewing machine creating little pillows to stuff with dried lavender. The younger children paint mini birdhouses. Teacher Caryn introduced a family culture project. This can be food, or any traditions in a simple way that their child can share as parents are still not in the classroom due to Covid. The most recent was Eva sharing pictures of El Salvador where her father is from. We ate pupusas! Particularly special as we have a connection through our church ministry with El Salvador! Another child will bring a pinata for her birthday, just to name a few. We appreciate Caryn's efforts in sharing with our community this way especially when we have been limited in what we can do. We are slowly tending to our garden and planting flowers. We have had many monarch caterpillars and we are trying not to disturb this very exciting metamorphosis in our own garden, especially since we want to encourage the population!

The very best part of this month is the return of my dear partner on campus, Leslie! I have missed her so much, however I have also had the opportunity to visit with many of you who stopped by and enjoyed getting to know you better! It will be so nice to see her each day again, my rock!! Warmly, Kathy Berens

COPA Helps With Rental & Utility Financial Assistance

The Federal and State Governments are providing rental assistance for landlords and tenants. There is also a moratorium on evictions for those unable to pay all their rent because the pandemic may have impacted their job. The moratorium is through June. If you know someone who might benefit, please contact: Mark Linder Co-chair, Sustainability Task Force 408-891-8912.



Church Council Highlights

A perfectly attended, short retreat was held in the sanctuary on Sunday morning, April 25. Devotions were centered around the “Good Shepherd” Gospel reading. We remembered our baptism and renewed our commitment to serve as leaders of our congregation, by approaching the font and choosing a smoothed stone from the water and then making the sign of the cross on our own forehead. We spent time telling stories about our faith and talking about we grieve, celebrate and hope for the church. From these conversations we will identify some of the ways we think God is calling us to be church in 2021!

Next meeting: Tues. May 11 at 6:30p on Zoom

Reconciled In Christ Welcome Statement

(Approved at January 2020 Congregational Meeting)

“We welcome all who are seeking God’s love and grace.

We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status.

We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us.

Provide Lunches for Volunteers Tuesday, May 25

(4th Tuesday of each month)

Contact church office if you can provide 5 Sandwiches or 10 Fruit. (Everything else is covered)



Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2021 through March	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$235
SS Scholarships	\$195
Live Oak Resource Center	\$198
Habitat for Humanity	\$0
Mt. Cross	\$0
World Hunger	\$0
Housing Matters	\$0
CLU/PLTS	\$0
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$0
SS CDC	\$130
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$50
Lutheran World Relief	\$65
ELCA Synod	\$250
COPA	\$500
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$1,623
2021 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$14,360
% of Target	11%

Kent Madsen Treasurer



Treasurer Notes ...
 Budget Information · March 2021

	March	March	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution In- come	\$13,427	\$12,512	\$38,354	\$36,038	\$2,316
Facility Use In- come *	\$738	\$917	\$1,864	\$2,750	\$-886
Investment In- come	\$2,126	\$3,750	\$7,255	\$11,250	\$3,995
Total Income	\$16,291	\$17,179	\$47,474	\$50,038	\$-2,564
Expenses	\$17,109	\$18,958	\$41,853	\$56,850	\$-14,997
Net	\$-818	\$1,779	\$5,621	\$-6,812	\$12,433

* Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month (currently sspnd) + Misc. Income. Contribution income for March was above budget but we continue to fall behind with Facility Use Income. Expenses were helped by the grant from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation for Pastor and Administrator salaries. A Paycheck Protection Program loan in the amount of \$59,300 was granted to St. Stephen’s and the Child Development Center in 2020.

While the church has changed activities to fight the coronavirus pandemic, our expenses continue. *Thank you to those who have mailed contributions or made them online on our website.*

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

	March	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$0	\$260	
Piano	\$27	\$112	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$395	
Solar Electric Pay-back	\$286		\$14,621

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

May—Mt. Cross Lutheran Outdoor Ministry

“Providing Profound Experiences in God’s Creation”.

Mt Cross has brought so much joy to our young campers for over 65 years. Many of our children at St Stephen’s have grown in their faith enjoying this outdoor ministry right in our backyard. Many of those children are grown adults who are leading our church right now, including Renee Rice, Jay Johnston and Nathan Lapp!

Mt. Cross thanks you for your continued prayers and support, especially as they emerge from the consequences of the pandemic which caused them to cancel the summer program for only the second time since the 1940’s.

This Summer—All Family Camp, All the Time

Summer Camp this year is fully-customizable for your family! You can pick the dates you are at camp, the place you stay, and whether or not you want to do "all the things" or just some of them. Visit www.mtcross.org/summercamp for all the details and to get registered!

Volunteers Needed!

To get ready for summer camp, we have LOTS of projects that need to be done - everything from picking up sticks and chopping wood to cleaning cabins to sewing curtains. There's something for everyone and all abilities. If you can come spend a day or more helping out, please contact Adam Erickson at adam@mtcross.org.

We're Hiring Year-Round and Seasonal Staff

Mt. Cross is hiring a year-round Maintenance Director, seasonal kitchen staff (with the possibility of these positions becoming year-round), as well as Summer Camp Counselors. Visit www.mtcross.org/employment for job descriptions and to apply.

April - Habitat for Humanity total = \$25.00

A Note from Nelleke Meerman

(Recipient of a \$1000 scholarship from the
Lois Meeker Memorial Fund)

It is officially my favorite season. Spring is upon us- Easter, warm weather and flowers blooming, YAY!

MARCH SUMMARY-

Spent some time at Arizona State and in Phoenix with the ASU Team Director! She showed me around, we spent time with her cat Chickpea and did watercolor with her leadership team in the on-campus secret garden.

I also spent some time with leaders at Chapman University, outdoor picnics are one of my favorite ways to spend time with leaders. Finally, one of my delight leaders at SDSU, has become the girl I mentor! We spent two hours chatting over coffee last week, it may have been the week's highlight. Luckily I live close by and will continue to spend time with her even after my job with Delight is over.

WORDS THAT HAVE BEEN INSPIRING ME-

"Oh to think where I would be if not for you"- from a worship song "Remembrance" by Hillsong Worship.

WHAT IS TO COME-

Wow it is so crazy that this job is coming to an end! I am so grateful to you for making this journey possible and for following along and cheering me on- it has meant the world to me!

PRAYER REQUESTS-

- *that all my girls feel so proud of themselves and accomplished after making it through this school year and leading other women on their campuses!
- *rest and rejuvenation for all of my leaders who are feeling tired and burnt out
- *bright and safe apartment to live in with my friend Rachel come September
- *safe travels for the rest of the trips I have planned
- *joy and clarity in next steps!

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!

DELIGHT MINISTRIES
West Coast Regional Director 831-421-2645

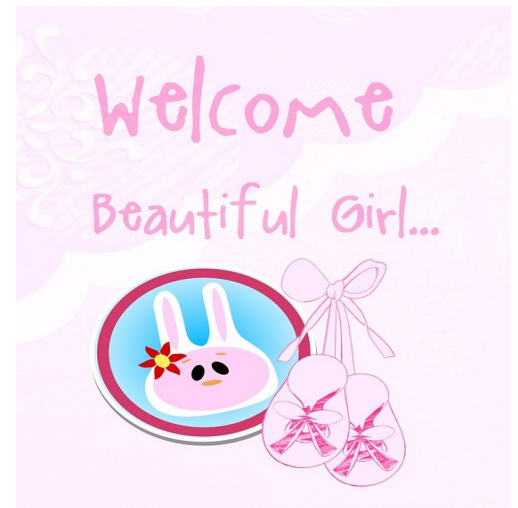


Evelyn Kathleen Colclough

Born April 5

Congratulations to parents Jody &
Renny, and big sister Iris!

Little Evelyn was born the very day
after we all saw Jody and Iris on
Easter Sunday!



***We Bid Farewell & Godspeed
To Kirk & Terri Adams***



They have moved to Washougal, WA, which is right across the Columbia River from Portland, OR. Daughter Noelia Monteagudo, who was confirmed at St. Stephen's, has also relocated nearby. They all will be dearly missed! We give thanks for the many gifts they shared here. We look forward to the visits they promised.



**We all miss each other!
Let us know what's been happening
in your life.
Your notes help keep everyone
hopeful and joyful.
Email it to church:
"office@ststephenslutheran.org"**