

## ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Ready for your participation each Sunday at 10am.

In-person, Live Streamed on our website, or as a recording.

Go to **[www.stephenslutheran.org](http://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  
March 31, 2022

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



**In  
Person  
Worship!**

**Palm Sunday** — April 10th at 10 am & Livestream

**Maundy Thursday/Good Friday** - April 14 & 15

11:00 am

7:30 pm & Livestream

**Easter Sunday** – April 17

8:30 am — Inside

10:00 am — Outdoors & Livestream

***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. — Shelly Barker V.P.— Steven Hendrickson  
Secretary - Alyssa Burkhardt  
Treasurer— Kent Madsen  
David Balogh, Paul Cunningham, and Jay Johnston  
Director of Music: Gary Roberts  
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp  
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens  
Custodian: John Hopping  
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp  
Office Open: Mon.—Fri. 12:00—5:00 pm  
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

4-1 Joel Hurtgam	4-6 Alex & Kirstin Csik Hughes
4-5 Evey Colclough	
4-8 Robbin Heppe	4-8 Stephen & Kim Cappelloni
4-11 Anne Johnston	
4-13 Tempest Abler	4-13 Nick & Becky Judd
4-13 Gary Roberts	
4-16 Manny Travers	4-24 John & Rebecca Wickham
4-26 Maya Gipson	
4-29 Nelleke Meerman	4-29 Hilding & Dorothy



**SHORT TERM:** Fred Allen, John Spires, Dwight Crow, Jack Morison family (baby Nickie Elizabeth), Gracia Bell Williams & Family, Nancy Madsen (Stephen, Shannon, Matt, Scott, BeeJai & grandchildren), Dale Negro & family, Family of Glenn Johnson, Molly, Kent Madsen, Family of Chris Slay (Tyler, Levi, Alexandria, Dean, Keith & Janet) Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Family of Ryan Barker, Family of Rick Oldfield, Family of Ron Buswell, Family of Edna Lindquist, Amber, Gaye Cornell, Harriet Edsall, Dorothy, Laura, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Jane Davis, Kirsten Skiles, Jane, Nancy, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Rose, Sam, Aaron Johnson, Don, Lina, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Healthcare workers & teachers.

**LONG TERM:** Kyle Lapp, Miller Mouw, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, April, Jan Wagner, The Sanders Family, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Michelle, Josh, CJ, Bobbie Erickson, Lupe, Joyce, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Miller, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.



## Sister Parish News

**Prayer Child Sponsorships** - As I told you last month, the student list for 2022 arrived. The Guillermo Ungo Scholarship

Committee is well organized and took extra time to make scholarship decisions and publish the results. The sponsorship email has been sent by Santa Cruz al Salvador via Constant Contact, with your electronic Commitment Card. If you had a prayer child and did not receive the email, please contact me. We will be collecting your donations as well as a contribution for the locally-sourced gift baskets for the student families. Last year was the first time we did this, replacing the gift bags we collected and took to El Salvador with our January delegations. The gift baskets were very well received, thanks to your extra contributions.

**2022 Delegation?** - Due to ongoing health concerns about international travel in this time of Covid-19, we did not sponsor a delegation in January 2022. We are considering a summer-time or fall trip, but there is nothing firm at this time.

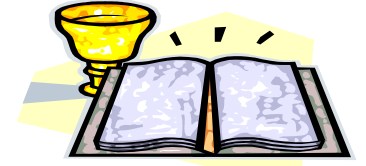
On behalf of the Board of Directors for Santa Cruz al Salvador (SCaS), I wish to thank all members of St. Stephen's who have contributed towards any of our projects such as the latrines in El Pilar, scholarships in Guillermo Ungo, or University Scholarships. Your gifts make a difference!

Peace in Christ,

Kent Madsen, St. Stephen's representative on the SCaS Board of Directors

*"Building Relationships for Better Lives"*

*from Pastor Jim*



As Easter approaches I am reminded of the Contrast between the our two previous gatherings on this highlight of the Christian year and worship. Two years ago on Palm Sunday, we essentially said Goodbye to our dear sister and worship musician, Suzanne Duval. This was the last time we would be together as the illness she battled in her brain took her life. It made it especially hard to celebrate Easter, as if it wasn't bad enough to not be able to gather in-person and instead record worship in an empty church.

Then, last year, we celebrated what might be one of the most memorable stories of my ministry as a pastor, when little Ila was baptized at our outdoor service! Easter has always been the time that church has baptized people into God's love and God's family forever. So this Easter I would like to lift up a poem about water—the essential element in baptism. May these verses draw us all closer to the One who has created us and everything else, and may this reminder draw all of us to deeply and intensely act quickly to care for God's creation.

## declaration of intent by Rita Wong

let the colonial borders be seen for the inaccurate fabrications that they are  
i hereby honour what the flow of water teaches us  
hydrology is a sacred bond, embedded in our plump, moist cells,  
in our breaths that transpire to return to clouds that gave us life through rain  
in the rivers and aquifers that we and our neighbours drink from  
in the oceans that our foremothers came from  
a watershed teaches not only humbleness but climate literacy  
he languages we need to interpret the sea's rising voice  
its currents bearing the plastic from our fridges and closets  
a gyre of karma recirculates in the form of body burden  
i hereby invoke watershed wisdom to guide us through the toxic muck  
i will apprentice myself to creeks and tributaries, groundwater and glaciers  
listen for the salty pulse within, the blood that recognizes marine ancestry  
in its chemical composition and intuitive pull  
i will learn through immersion, flotation, and transformation  
as water expands & contracts, i will fit myself to its ever-changing dimensions molecular and spectacular, water will return what we give it, be that  
arrogance and poison, reverence and light, ambivalence and respect  
let our societies be revived as watersheds

Parents Kirstin & Alex Csik-Hughes

And big brother Galahad

Welcome baby 3/17/2022:

Aedan O'Dea Hughes

What a lucky St. Paddy's Day!!

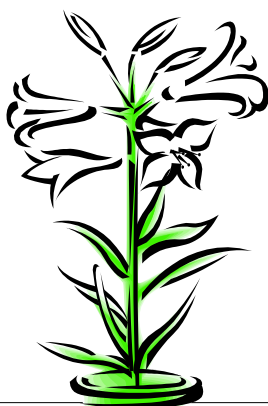


## Easter Lilies

**Help decorate our sanctuary & honor loved ones**

- ~ Make \$15 checks payable to St. Stephen's, Memo line "Lily"
- ~ List your dedication on the sign up sheet
- ~ Take home your flower after the Easter service.

The Easter lily has traditional and spiritual meaning. Mentioned in the Bible, the white lily symbolizes purity, rebirth, new beginnings and hope and is most often associated with the resurrection of Jesus. In Pagan traditions, the Easter lily is associated with motherhood and is gifted to mothers as a symbol of gratitude.



## **Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)**

2022 through February	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$360
SS Scholarships	\$115
Live Oak Resource Center	\$100
Habitat for Humanity	\$0
Mt. Cross	\$0
World Hunger	\$0
Housing Matters	\$0
CLU/PLTS	\$0
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$12
SS CDC	\$0
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0
Lutheran World Relief	\$0
ELCA Synod	\$0
COPA	\$0
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$587
2021 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$14,360
% of Target	4%

*Thank you to those who have contributed this year!*



Treasurer Notes ...  
 Budget Information · February 2022

	February	February	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget **	Actual	Budget **	
Contribution	\$8,735	\$11,659	\$31,153	\$23,350	\$7,804
Facility Use Income *	\$350	\$1,216	\$2,050	\$2,432	\$-382
Investment Income	\$4,385	\$5,000	12,625	\$10,000	\$2,625
Total Income	\$13,470	\$17,875	\$45,829	\$35,782	\$10,047
Expenses	\$19,745	\$19,042	\$39,402	\$38,713	\$688
Net	\$-6,275	\$-1,167	\$6,427	\$-2,931	\$ 9,358

\* Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month (when paid) + Misc. Income.  
 \*\* Proposed budget for 2022. Contribution income for February was considerably below budget, but the year-to-date totals are still positive, thanks to several full-year donations.

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

	February	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$315	\$0	\$919
Piano	\$8	\$120	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$395	
Solar Electric Payback	\$209		\$11,804

Church Council Highlights

(meets 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm in the church.)

1. The Special Congregational Meeting to ratify the actions taken at our January 30th Annual Meeting (due to the lack of a quorum at the Annual Meeting), was held on Sunday March 20th right after worship. After the surprise lack of a Postlude from our Church Musician :) our President Shelly Barker offered an introduction about what those actions were and received a motion and second to ratify the actions at the Jan. 30th Annual Meeting. It was unanimously approved.
2. Our Child Development Director, Kathy Berens, attended the Church Council as a guest. She introduced a proposal to hire a new bookkeeper for both the CDC And church staff payroll services. Our Treasurer, Kent Madsen, had been consulted and supported the proposal. Council approved the proposal and expressed gratitude to Kathy for taking on this task. This decision was necessary due to our previous payroll bookkeeper, Kathy Allen, deciding that she could no longer serve in that capacity. She will remain CDC Treasurer. Kent Madsen’s recovery from surgery has progressed well and he is now able to resume the rest of the Treasurer’s duties of paying the church’s bills and producing the monthly financial reports.
3. The sanctuary roof repair was completed and Sherilyn Jager was able to secure a “church discount” of \$1000 from Knox Roofing! The total to repair the roof was \$1100. The balance of the Burkhardt donation for the roof repair was designated to the General Fund.
4. An Advisory Listening Panel has been formed by our ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to investigate the actions taken recently by our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop Megan Rohrer regarding the removal of the pastor (Rev. Nelson Rabell-Gonzalez) of Mision Latina Luterana of Stockton—a new mission start congregation. This panel will be listening to all parties involved and report to Bishop Eaton, who will make a determination about what actions will be taken next. This is a complicated situation that calls for much prayer for our witness as an ELCA. For more info from all sides you will need to do your own internet search if interested.

Reconciling 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.





## Child Development Center

HAPPY 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY to St. Stephen's  
Child Development Center!

SSCDC gives a special thank you to **Mary Kelly** for her generous donation which will pay for the tree trimming we need on the playground. What a thoughtful gift!

I cannot believe it has been over ten years that we started this journey together. We began as a task force to establish our preschool, the dream of many, but **especially Sheila Buswell to build our own preschool ministry**. It took so many people over the years to pitch in and help. You have supported, offered time and talent, prayed for, and donated to our school. **We are on the map now, and people know us and recommend us to others. Our enrollment is full and waiting list is increasing.** Our community blends young families who meet new people in the area and reunite many who grew up here together only to meet at our school again with their children. The intertwining of community gives me goosebumps as I write this today.

There were many challenges to face along the way, but the team you hired to do this work, made it work. Our teacher turnover has been low. Some came without credential but were mentored and educated to become excellent teachers for us. I think about Caryn coming in the beginning and helping me have the courage to build the school. She could read my mind and keep me on task while I was learning so many new things. **Brenda** created and built our Toddler program. I begged her to join us and consider her the angel among us. There is no one better and we are so blessed that she is celebrating her 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary with us. **Both teachers are incredibly talented and truly know the hearts of children.** We were blessed to have Rebecca, Nicole, Frieda, Rachel, and Aliana for the time they spent with us. We really scored when **Samantha De-Coster** joined us and has stayed longer than planned. She is a well educated natural with children and a delight to work with. Just when we were so discouraged in replacing Caryn, **Rosio Adame** showed up here looking for a teaching job. She was an answer to our prayers, as if we ordered specifically the qualities and qualifications we were looking for. **She and Sam make a very talented teaching team.**

After years of building and Covid-19 closures, I have finally arrived at my ultimate dream job description. I get to do the administrating of the business,



Two weeks of intensive organizing by COPA wins a nine-month, \$1.59M extension of the VIDA community health worker (CHW) program in Monterey County.

The vote was 4 to 1 at the Board of Supervisors' meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>, extending the VIDA program at current levels to the end of 2022. Had the board failed to act, VIDA would have been reduced from 48 to 18 CHWs as of March 31<sup>st</sup>.

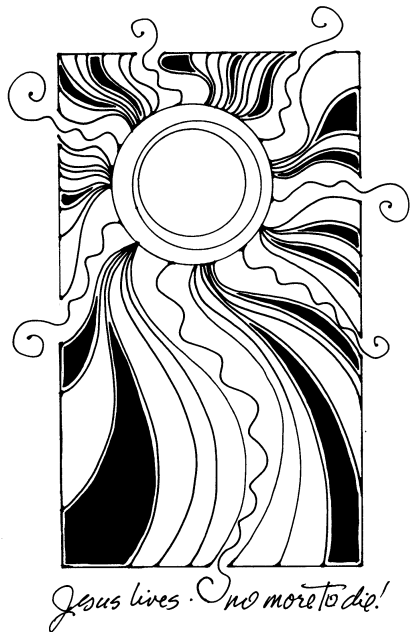
This victory was the result of two weeks of intense effort by COPA and its allies to organize support for the extension. Teams of COPA leaders each met with their district supervisor, telling stories about the impact of VIDA and asking their supervisor to support extension. COPA hosted an online event attended by over 100 COPA leaders, as well as Dan Baldwin, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Monterey County, Supervisor Luis Alejo, Supervisor Wendy Root Askew and Kim Stemler, Director of the Grape Growers and Vintners Association.

Speakers told stories of how the CHWs have been effective in limiting the spread of COVID. One woman who speaks only Mixteco, an indigenous language of Mexico, was able to get her questions about vaccination answered, because Claudia, one of the CHWs, speaks both Mixteco and Spanish. Claudia then helped this woman register for a vaccination appointment. Weeks later the woman contacted Claudia because some of the people in her household had COVID symptoms. Claudia came to the house, administered rapid tests, and helped the infected family members to quarantine.

Fr. Lucas, a priest from King City told of how he had narrowly avoided infecting 200 parishioners at a weekend retreat. Maricela Acevedo, one of the CHWs, and a member of his parish persuaded him that everyone should be tested for COVID, before spending so much time indoors together. Maricela administered the rapid tests, and when one of the women on the kitchen crew was found to be positive, Maricela went with her, to her house, to test other family members.

The Monterey County Hospitality Association, and Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce spoke at the supervisors' meeting in support of the extension.

COPA first proposed the VIDA program to the Monterey County Supervisors, who voted unanimously in December of 2020 to allocate \$4.9M to hire 100 CHWs. The VIDA program is administered by the Community Foundation of Monterey County.



## Catechesis of Spiritual Formation

by Steven Hendrickson

Like many of you, I was raised in a Lutheran family and congregation. As a child, I faithfully went to Worship and Sunday School for years. At home we said table grace and that was pretty much the extent of our spiritual practice. No scripture reading, very little if any conversation about God's presence in our daily lives. Our conscious faith practice was relegated to the church setting. Thanks be to God; remarkably, I caught faith as a result of weekly participation in the life of the parish. That's where the Spirit touched my heart and guided my soul to truly

believe in God. Also, a memorable week at a Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Camp in the mountains of Virginia as a teenager was a profound experience which still informs my faith today. Even though this description is an over simplification, my point is this: *We seem to "know about God" instead of "experiencing God," here and now. Experience along with doctrine is what emboldens a vitally alive relationship with the Divine.*

I want to humbly and gently offer possible ways of deepening our faith life together. Sacred Reading, short meditation, and focused intentional ways of encountering Christ will be encouraged and modeled in gentle ways.

Through the Holy Spirit, I am sensing a call to be a Catechist of Spiritual Formation for our congregation and all who are called to a deeper two way relationship with Christ. With your love, support, and feedback, let's embark on this journey together. My promise to you is that this is a ministry of gentleness, encouragement, and quiet help from our Triune God.

May God's grace and peace be with you.....

keep portfolios for the children to keep forever which includes progress reports, and visit with you when you stop by. **I love working in partnership with parents as life offers challenges and celebrations.** I especially love being able to enjoy the children in the classroom with several special activities that are important to me. I love to read to the children as many voices and my inner actress takes over. **I love to share old tradition with the children of this modern world.** We create beautiful silhouettes for gifts, make keepsake Christmas projects for parent gifts, pinecone turkeys, wrap the Maypole, and my favorite, teaching them how to sew. We sew buttons onto fabric and then learn how to sew on the sewing machine. I love to sing with the children and do fun dramatic play by acting out stories. **I would say the children love doing yoga and gardening the most, which I love to share with them.** It isn't always easy but always rewarding!

**We have served 100 students (I just counted the files) along with the 21 we currently have enrolled. Think about these 121 children who know that Jesus loves them!** Amazing! While we served these children, I have had the privilege to have **faithful School Board members, Bill & Margaret Schraff, Barbara Johnston, Robbin Heppe, Sheila Buswell, Dusty Gipson, Diane Hintz, Mary Kelly, Sandra Eldridge, and Kathy Allen,** to support and guide our processes.

I am especially proud that Pastor Jim and I have worked together as a team during this whole process. **My #1 priority was to have thoughtful communication and support between the Pastor and Preschool Director.** This is not always the case in other places but in my mind a necessity. He has been so supportive of me which kept me going all this time. He is so excellent in leading Chapel and the children dearly love him. **Leslie is the backbone for all of us.** No matter what, she is always here to help, support, solve problems, lend a hand, and smile when we need a smile. Speaking of smile, **John Hopping** makes me smile. His devotion to our school, his kindness, and how he protects us when we need help is a gift, which is appreciated from our entire teaching team.

**So, we celebrate quietly on April 12, 2022, our ten years together.** I have met so many and learned so much! In these times we are unable to have a party or gathering so please, give a prayer of "thanks be to God" on this day, because he guided us all here. As we have unmasked the children outdoors, we are gifted their joyful smiles and the ability to hear them clearly again. The children walk lighter and smile more as we share our faces and expressions. **I am grateful.**

-Kathryn Berens, Director





## Provide Lunches for Volunteers Tuesday, April 26

4th Tuesday of each month

Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office if you can provide a lunch item: sandwiches, fruit, chips, or cookies. Bring your item to church and someone will deliver the lunch for you. Easy! Presently Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay is building eleven homes at Rodeo Creek Court (cross street Harper). These are homes for low income families, though they must have an income and provide 500 hours of sweat equity before they can take ownership of their new home.

### Habitat "Cars for Homes" Program

Donate your vehicle & help build strength & stability for families in our communities. 100% of net proceeds from the sale of your vehicle will fund our work helping local families. Start your car donation today at <https://www.habitatmontereybay.com/donate-a-car> or (877)277-4344

## Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

### April - Habitat for Humanity

Currently the group is working on their latest development—Rodeo Creek Court. It is very inspiring to drive by the completed development on Rodriguez Ave, just past the County Animal Shelter and then past Koopmans Ave. Affordable housing can be done very well and contribute to the overall improvement of the neighborhood.

The dream of homeownership, which really helps people out of poverty and all the difficulties that come with it, becomes possible for hardworking families who help build their own home, because of financial assistance that we give.

**March—Live Oak Community Resource Center** = \$40  
( as of March 20)



**Zoom  
with Pastor Jim**  
**check email on  
Weds. for link**

**THURSDAYS 11a -12noon (no April 6th)**  
(7:30 pm resumes after Easter)

*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.*

People always ask us "how is so in so?" If you haven't seen them and are thinking of them, I'm sure they would appreciate a call. And guess what, if they don't want to talk, they won't answer.



Why don't we call each other? Worried it's a bad time to call? Too busy? Go ahead and reach out. What have you got to loose?!?



**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"**