

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)

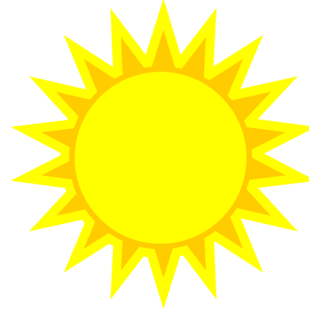
NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
June 28, 2021

POST OFFICE:
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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
July 2021

Sunday Worship Schedule

July 4 and 18—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.

July 11 & 25 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!

Beginning September 12 at 10:00 am- In-person INDOOR Worship Every Sunday!

Readers and Prayer Assistants are always welcome.

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

7-2 Vi Olly	7-22 Kevin Meek	7-1 Robert & Dusty Gipson
7-5 Judith Alvarado	7-23 Martha Balogh	
7-6 Scott Poetzing	7-24 Sherilyn Jager	
7-6 Beckett Ruble	7-24 Ingrid Lanoue	7-18 Manny & Patricia Travers
7-9 Sandi Crouser	7-24 Julia Poetzing	
7-10 Kyle Lapp	7-25 Terri Adams	
7-12 Arija Buswell	7-25 Eve Roberson	7-28 Charles & Sandra Eldridge
7-17 Don Ray	7-27 Mark Linder	
7-18 Gary Meeker	7-29 Kylie Ronning	
7-21 Cheryl Bartee		



Short Term: Family of Lu Sluiter, Family of Jean Petersen, Lorie Juhl & Family of Betty Kievlan, Rachel Lapp and Dawit Yerda, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Jo Ann, Leslie Lapp and Family, Healthcare workers, teachers, Marla Meek and family, Kathy Allen and Family, Beth Stiles, Sandi Cane, Robin, Nancy, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Kent, Family of Al Mitchell, Sam, George Webber & Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Nancy Hall family, Sadie, Lorraine Chavez, Lora Schraft Poulson, Nelleke, Hendrick, Don, Lina, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Casey, Cabel, Miller, Kyle, Noah, Esdras, Jenna Blair, Marissa Phillips, Hannah Mullen Family, 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.



El Salvador Sister Parish News

The "reopening" in El Salvador is going slowly, perhaps slower than here in the United States. We haven't received word yet whether in-person school has actually restarted yet. However,

the crew in El Pilar has begun work on the next group of ten latrines - Phase 5!

Save the Date! We are planning a new event for this fall -- the *Family Fun(d) Fest!* It will be held October 9, 2021 from 2-4 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Aptos. There will be activities, food, and beverages for all ages. Adult beverages will include local wine and beer. Last year, because of COVID-19, we held our first ever 'Virtual Wine Tasting Event' which was very successful, but we're all anxious to get out and socialize in person. Watch this space for more details as October draws closer.

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

St. Stephen's Scholarships Available

There are scholarships available from the Tippin Scholarship Fund. These scholarships are for undergraduate college-level education. The potential scholarship amount is determined by the funds available, the type of educational institution, and the number of applicants.

Please contact the church office (office@ststephenslutheran.org, 831-476-4700) for an application form and please submit completed forms to the church office by July 30, 2021.

Kent Madsen, Treasurer

from Pastor Jim



“Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace...” - Mark 5:34

After struggling for 12 years with a medical condition that meant she was a ritually and spiritually unclean being, cursed by God, and which also meant that she was cast out of her family because they would not want to be cursed by God either, and which also meant that her faith community would have rejected her too, because, after all, she must have done something pretty terrible to deserve such a curse from God, and after being turned away by her healthcare system because she was unable to pay because it had already taken her life's savings, and, in fact, her pre-condition had now become even worse, and after working her way through a stifling crowd of mostly larger and more powerful and influential men, and by taking such a big risk to try and touch the clothes of a man, let alone the man at the center of all the attention and acclaim, which also would have made him a ritually and spiritually unclean being, and then to be found out and called out, knowing you had just more deeply disgraced yourself and him, And then to hear God call you, “Daughter” Peace and healing are truly known, Indeed.

A Message From our Church Administrator

It is a pleasure hearing your feedback on this newsletter space. Someone actually called this my "blog". Ha-ha. I wouldn't even know how to blog.

This space is both precious and intimidating to me. Never did I think I would reveal so much, and be so vulnerable. But, our truth is powerful. I'm old school in the hope that the church newsletter provides food for thought and is shared.

After all my drama, stuff continues to happen that is disappointing, and frustrating. Just because I've been through a surreal experience doesn't make me immune to further distress. But dang, that would have been awesome! Now I'm of the mindset where I can look at the missed opportunities, and discouragement in a new light. Since the event couldn't take place, perhaps a space is now provided for something better? In other words, perhaps the path I expected was not the best path.



This sentiment is scattered throughout the Bible. Some days, I don't know which word to emphasize:

***YOU** are here for such a time as this*

*You are **HERE** for such a time as this*

*You are here for such a time as **THIS**.*

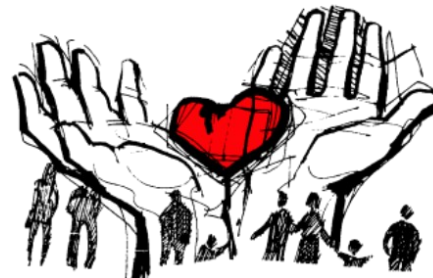
All have different, but significant meanings. Each of which does apply to **US**.

Let's pray:

God, You are Lord of the past, present, and future. You hold all of history and what will yet be in Your hands. You have placed us right here, right now, for such a time as this. Our lives are not accidents but divinely created appointments. Give us the courage to serve You faithfully in this generation and leave a legacy that will last for many more to come. Amen!

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2021 through April	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$235
SS Scholarships	\$195
Live Oak Resource Center	\$198
Habitat for Humanity	\$140
Mt. Cross	\$0
World Hunger	\$0
Housing Matters	\$0
CLU/PLTS	\$0
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$0
SS CDC	\$145
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$50
Lutheran World Relief	\$65
ELCA Synod	\$250
COPA	\$500
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$1,778
2021 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$14,360
% of Target	12%



Treasurer Notes ...
Budget Information · May 2021

	May	May	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution Income	\$15,586	\$11,750	\$64,982	\$60,300	\$4,682
Facility Use Income *	\$1,428	\$917	\$40,980	\$4,583	\$36,396
Investment Income	\$2,793	\$3,750	\$12,034	\$18,750	\$-6,716
Total Income	\$19,807	\$16,417	\$117,995	\$83,633	\$34,362
Expenses	\$20,745	\$19,683	\$79,289	\$95,567	\$-16,278
Net	\$-938	\$-3,266	\$38,706	\$-11,934	\$ 50,640

* Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month (when paid) + Misc. Income.
 Contribution income for May was above budget. We were blessed with \$7,500 in Miscellaneous Income in April as well as the income for the Paycheck Protection Program loan which was forgiven in April. Expenses have been reduced by the grant from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation for Pastor and Administrator salaries (those funds were fully used by the end of April).
 While the church has restricted activities, 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 Payback	\$286		\$14,621

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

The June Council meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum and the lack of any action items. Normally the Council does not meet once during the summer.

The July and August meetings will be important given our return to public, in-person worship Sept. 12. A “Re-Opening” Task Force of Paul Cunningham, Bill Schraft, Jay Johnston & Pastor Jim have met and will present a list of recommended new practices for in-person, indoor worship. All of this is contingent upon no significant increases in new Covid-19 cases and County Health Dept. recommendations. There is some concern about a resurgence this Fall due to the virus’ new and more virulent variant, which may spread more quickly within the unvaccinated population.

Other items on the agenda are a report from the Facility Security Task Force, update on replacing the bell clapper, and a report on new street signage indicating our Reconciling In Christ status.

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.

Our unity is in Christ.”



Child Development Center

After all the excitement and celebration of our graduates we have settled into the playful days of summer! The heat has brought out waterplay, bubbles, and watering the garden. Each summer month our enrollment is a little different as some leave for kindergarten and new children begin. August 6th will be the last day for those leaving and most new students will begin August 9th.

After the June 15th Covid-19 opening of California our regulations and procedures are remaining the same. We are all still masked and following cleaning protocols and health screenings. It has worked well for us, and until policies are fully confirmed for preschools it is better to keep doing what the children are already comfortable with rather than cutting back, then implementing again. Once public school opens in August, we will likely have improved guidance on what is appropriate for children.

Universal TK has been in the news lately, but not a new topic. For now, we are not impacted. We are carefully watching the process as we may have a reduction in 4-year-old enrollment impacting our Pre-K program once it is offered. We are told that will be at least one year. We are hopeful when the time comes there will be families who want to continue private, Christian preschool, and we do remain the most affordable. We are mindful that we may have to shift to concentrating on a younger program which continues to be in high demand. Most inquiries are from children turning two. I have toured many over the last few weeks.

On a personal note, I finally get to travel to Montana and see my mother after 13 months of missing her. I have never been away from her this long! After all this time trying to figure out how to do business with Covid-19 shifting it will be nice to know the school is doing well, is safe, in very good hands with our three teachers. I can clear my mind in peace and beauty with my best friend, mom. I will be gone for the month of July. Mom and I will return for a visit mid-month so she can finally meet her great grandson Luke 7 months, and attend Levi's 3rd birthday, then we return to Montana.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer with your families as the state opens and we can do this again.

Warmly, Kathy Berens

Love

Seeds dropped into our souls, sown by the Creator
blossoming beyond original sin
me into you,
we-bonded, tethered and scented with transcendence
together strolling in the sun's certain shine
and the moon's danceable, bright grin.

Our hearts' unfurled sails, spirit-powered
and blown by sacrifice's pursed lips,
taut with yearning, longing, reaching,
revealing
absolution over abandonment
blessing over burden
caress over callous
delight over dread
ecstasy over exile
and like the tingled cheek from a gentle, soft kiss
glimmering tenderness,
our incarnational bliss.

Pr. Eric Utto-Galarneau—5/20/2021 St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Lacey WA



**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"**

A Note regarding Nelleke Meerman

(recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship from the Lois Meeker Memorial Fund)

I have had the honor and privilege of being Nelleke's supervisor this year.

I have watched Nelleke grow in so many ways as she's stepped into the calling on her life. God has truly used her to reach 100's of college women with the Gospel. None of that would be possible without your support.

Thank you for choosing to sow into Delight; we cannot wait to keep reaching college women together!

- Bryson (Supervisor, Delight Ministries)



Juneteenth: 'Beautiful Are the Feet of Those Who Bring Good News'

Jayne Marie Smith (Sojourners magazine)

Though I'm the daughter of a Marine and great-great-granddaughter of once-enslaved people, I still get chills when I see photos of Black men in Union uniforms from the Civil War, the way I imagine my ancestors did in the 1860s.

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news," the Apostle Paul quotes the prophet Isaiah after asking, "How can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:14-15).

If you've been taught about Juneteenth at all, the common telling is that President Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation pronounced freedom for all enslaved people in states that had seceded from the Union, but that Black Texans weren't informed until June 19, 1865 — two and a half years later. The delay is sometimes blamed on distance and limited communication or the idea that enslavers weren't inclined to comply with the law. While these may have been contributing factors, these explanations obscure why the Black residents of Galveston, TX, actually celebrated the first Juneteenth — and obscures how that celebration still speaks to us today. Full article available at sojo.net.



June 2, 2021

COMMUNITY BRIDGES PUENTES DE LA COMUNIDAD

Dear St. Stephens Lutheran Church,

Thank you for bringing strength and hope to the people of Santa Cruz County.

Your donation of \$197.50 to Live Oak Community Resources ensures children continue to receive healthy food and early care and education; and families can access food and safety net services.

By supporting these front line services, you improve the health of our community by maintaining services for high risk populations struggling with circumstances beyond their control.

Your gift allows us to carry on services for more than 17,000 residents in our county who are in need. Your gift creates a stronger, healthier community that helps everyone to succeed.

Our neighbors are experiencing an increased need for the help our services provide. This need cannot be met without the partnership of friends like you.

Through one gift to Community Bridges, you empower lasting change across the entire spectrum of life and throughout all of Santa Cruz County. We are deeply grateful that you have joined us.

Together we make a difference.

In community,

Raymond Cancino
Chief Executive Officer

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

Homeless Service Center

Every day we are reminded of how much people can accomplish with a little support and a chance to be connected with the services they need. Larry found that support here at Homeless Services Center, and wanted to share with you; "My time at HSC helped re-focus my energy...I am thankful every day for the beauty of the ocean, my job, and the help that got me out of a situation so that I don't have to be that 'homeless guy' anymore." Thanks to our amazing donors and supporters, we are able to help more people get back on their feet and share their success stories. Your donations provide emergency and transitional services to hundreds of children and thousands of adults every year through our programs: Rebele Family Shelter, Paul Lee Loft & Winter Shelter, Page Smith Community House, Daytime Essential Services Center, 180/180 Initiative, and the Recuperative Care Center.

June — World Hunger = \$25 (as of 6/21)



From our Former Pastor, Jack Zoellner, in Scottsdale AZ

Dear Jim and members,

I just turned 95 years old!

Hi, how are you all? What a dedicated time I had in Santa Cruz. Our girls were born there too! I miss the ocean and our church building there. I always thought in my old age I would stay in Santa Cruz. I guess I won't.

Our Susan Phillips has two boys and Gretchen has son Dane T. Nielsen who lives in the house with me.

My love to all ~

NEW ADDRESS for LINDSEY & BECKY CRAMER

They have moved to Oregon to be nearer to their daughter and help raise their grandchildren.

"We will miss everyone so much. But, Covid has kind of weaned us away from everyone this past year and that has made it less painful to leave. We look forward to receiving the church newsletter and hearing from you."

Keep in touch: 703 Deer Creek Way
Philomath, OR 97370



Provide Lunches for Volunteers Tuesday, July 27

(4th Tuesday of each month)

Contact church office if you can provide Sandwiches or Fruit, (everything else covered)

Habitat Cars for Homes program

Donate your vehicle to Habitat for Humanity's car donation program, "Cars for Homes", and help build strength and stability for families in our communities. 100% of net proceeds from the sale of your vehicle will fund our work helping local families here in the Monterey Bay area. Start your car donation to Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay today online <https://www.habitatmontereybay.com/donate-a-car> or call (877) 277-4344