

**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](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)*

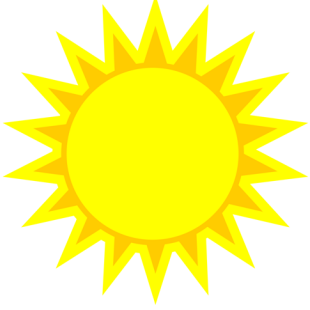
**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON**  
May 27, 2021

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

*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church*



**SUN**

**June 2021**

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

**June 6 and 20th—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.

**June 13 & 22nd 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 10:30 am-**  
**In-person I NDOOR Worship!**

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

6-1 Jim Hanson	6-16 Tara McMilin	
6-4 Anne Davis	6-19 Kim Brouse	6-20 Gary & Diane Hintz
6-5 Lauren Pond	6-20 Abigail Robe	
6-6 Joseph Ronning	6-21 Jenna Mabry	
6-10 Pr. Glenn Johnson	6-26 Mary Kelly	6-22 John & Lorie Coronado
6-12 Madeline Mouw	6-29 Michael Nunes	
6-14 Stephanie Laufer	6-30 Susan Gross	



**Short Term:** Family of Lu Sluiter, Family of Jean Petersen, Family of Betty Kievlan, Leslie Lapp and Family, Healthcare workers, teachers, Marla Meek and family, Kathy Allen and Family, Beth Stiles, Sandi Cane, Robbin, Nancy, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Kent, Family of Al Mitchell, Sam, George Webber & Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Nancy Hall family, The family of Betty Kievlan, 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.

Work has begun on setting up the initial ‘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.

Our annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> 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. We hope to plan an event which is new and different from past years. Watch this space for more information.

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

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### **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](mailto:office@ststephenslutheran.org), 831-476-4700) for an application form and please submit completed forms to the church office by June 30, 2021.

*Kent Madsen, Treasurer*



*from Pastor Jim*

## **“How can these things be?” - John 3:9**

These words said to Jesus by Nicodemus (just a few verses earlier from one of the most famous verses in the Bible), sound like they came from our little church today as we emerge from a pandemic and all the changes it has brought to our lives.

Just in this newsletter alone we are marking the loss of 2 of our “pillars of the church” families. Each of us has changed over this past 15 months, and our church has also changed in ways we never thought would happen. We wonder what our church will look like after all is said and done.

As we move toward gathering in the ways that we were used to for the last 100 years or so, we will see that we are not the same, and we might want to say: “How can these things be?”

We would do well to listen to Jesus’ response to Nicodemus’ question. He does not answer with a quick and easy rational answer – the kind that Nicodemus and most humans want. There is no 5-point plan or long-term strategy outlined for how one lives out one’s life in the best way, or exists as a church family.

Instead Jesus changes the conversation, as he most often does, to seeing things through the eyes of the Spirit of God.

He talks about the wind and how it is unseen, yet we know it so well and experience it daily. He talks about the stories from their holy scriptures and when God was there to lead them through. He talks about love in the greatest possible ways that we can conceive of it.

And this is how we will live too. As God’s children. As God’s little church. We will join in the Spirit of God and find ways to share it with each other and with those who aren’t here just yet.

And God will continue to surprise us and show us the way, as God has always done. Let’s not get in God’s way, then, and let’s always seek to be born of the Spirit of God.

## A Message From our Church Administrator



Always at arms reach is this booklet the preschool children made for me. You never know when you need a pick-me-up or a little inspiration. Rainbows, stars, hearts, a loop-de-loop, ducks, and even a pumpkin monster, make me smile. And that cover, did y'all know that I climbed Half dome? That's inspiration to get my legs working again! But the colorful potato describing each part of my broken body and wishing it strong again makes me cry every time. Who knew this gesture would be so powerful? You teachers did – so thank you!

This piece of art reminds us of our mission. Thank God the children don't know all the gory details of my injuries. THEY don't need them. WE don't need them. When someone is in need, we pray for them. We try to do something that will comfort or help them. But sometimes we get

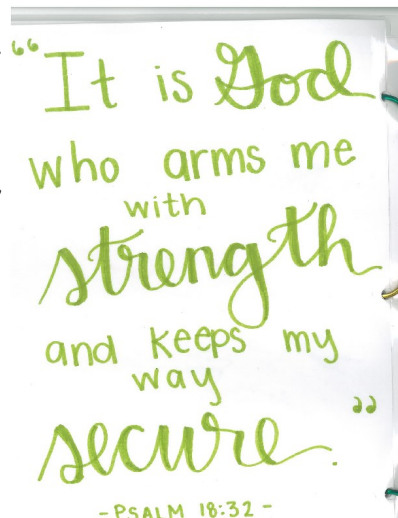
caught up in the "gory details" and totally miss the point.

I'm awake now, so what mountains need to be moved? The ones I'm thinking of are no where near my skill set. So I pray ... and wait. We do not have to understand the HOW, WHY, or WHEN. We just need to go to God and open up our ears. And keep hope alive!

I went to my first in person party in 18 months. A fun celebration of a lovely man. How fantastic it was to actually be with people. But BLAM, I quickly realized that I was "that woman we all have been praying for". That shouldn't be a "but". What a blessing to have people in my life who have their friends (who don't even know me) pray for me. Obviously I got emotional, and was quickly comforted. I present myself well, and look pretty normal, but I still have a lot of healing to do. This journey is a long one. I'm reminded that my life was spared for a reason ... I have mountains to deal with!

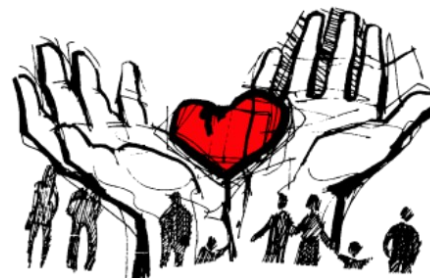
Let's pray:

All Powerful God, you reign over all things and speak to us in the midst of all life's storms. Give us ears to hear and hearts that are open to the hope that comes only from you. Amen!



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

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



**Treasurer Notes ...**  
**Budget Information · April 2021**

	April	April	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
<b>Contribution Income</b>	\$11,042	\$12,512	\$49,396	\$48,550	\$846
<b>Facility Use Income *</b>	\$37,688	\$917	\$39,552	\$3,667	\$35,885
<b>Investment Income</b>	\$1,985	\$3,750	\$9,240	\$15,000	\$5,760
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$50,715</b>	<b>\$17,179</b>	<b>\$98,188</b>	<b>\$67,217</b>	<b>\$30,971</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	\$16,600	\$19,033	\$58,453	\$75,883	\$-17,430
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$34,115</b>	<b>\$-1,854</b>	<b>\$39,735</b>	<b>\$-8,666</b>	<b>\$-48,401</b>

\* Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month (when paid) + Misc. Income.

Contribution income for April was under budget but we were blessed with \$7,500 in Miscellaneous Income. We also recognized the income for the Paycheck Protection Program loan which was forgiven in April. Expenses were reduced by the grant from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation for Pastor and Administrator salaries (the last month for funds from this grant).

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
<b>Organ</b>	\$0	\$260	
<b>Piano</b>	\$27	\$112	
<b>Hearing Impaired Equip</b>	\$0	\$395	
<b>Solar Electric Payback</b>	\$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)**

Pastor Jim announced the results of the election of a new Bishop for our Sierra Pacific Synod: Rev. Dr. Megan Rohrer from Grace Lutheran Church, San Francisco. The vote was 209 to 207 for Rev. Jeff Johnson from University Lutheran Chapel, Berkeley. Megan is the first transgendered person to be elected a Bishop.

A motion was approved to begin our regular, in-person, indoor worship service on Sunday, September 12th at 10am. The service will be continue to be recorded and available livestream through our website. A Task Force of Paul Cunningham, Jay Johnston, Bill Schraft and Pastor Jim will meet to bring back guidelines we will use and follow, as we adapt to the circumstances in the wake of the pandemic.

On Sun. May 9th, David Balogh discovered that the clapper (ringer) for the church bell had been stolen. The bell was made in 1860. A police report was filed and estimates are being gathered for a replacement. A Task Force of Robert Bartee, Paul Cunningham, Kathy Berens, Leslie Lapp and Pastor Jim was formed to install a security camera/light system to prevent further vandalism on the church property. An undesignated financial gift made recently will make this possible.

Next meeting: Tues. June 8 at 6:30p in-person Fireside Room

**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.

Our unity is in Christ.”

## Child Development Center

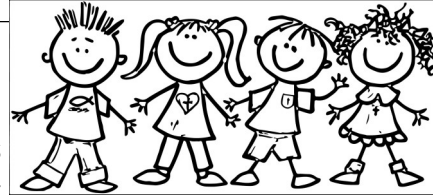
This month we transition to summer activities after celebrating our seven students who have graduates from our preschool. Please enjoy the words I shared with them and the deep caring for community we experienced together during some of our most challenging times.

Pastor Jim shared at our board meeting, after the beautiful day when he baptized Ila, that his connection with this graduating group for over three years has been deeply meaningful to him. He learned so much from the children sharing what they knew about God during Chapel. He was invited into their homes via Zoom Chapel, weekly during the pandemic shut down. During Leslie's recovery he shared a joyful message of her singing to the children. They have celebrated many occasions together with our church through the Preschool. They probably do not remember a time when Pastor Jim was not in their weekly lives. They love "Chapel Jim!" We welcome Pastor Jim's opportunity to share his experiences and extend an invitation to continue our/his fellowship with the children and their families for Sunday Worship/children's activities after they leave for Kindergarten.

Miss Kathy's message to the parents included a history of our connections over the years through living in the Santa Cruz community and then reuniting with their children at SSCDC...Some came on a recommendation, and some unknowingly. The reunions were fun to watch. Several students have been in childcare together for up to 5 years. I have watched this community grow together as pieces of life's puzzle and got to share in their reunions while uniting as parents at our Preschool.

The backbones of our union here are Caryn and Brenda. They are both so gifted at what they do with the age group they were destined to love and teach. We could not have this special toddler program if not for Brenda's devotion to this group. Misses Nicole, Rebecca, Rachel, Aliana, and Sam all had a hand in nurturing this graduating class of 2021. We agree this group of children was one of our very best in their love for learning, friendships, and resilience through the pandemic. This is more than a Preschool to me; it is a culmination of our SSEL Ministry, Santa Cruz histories, and personal connections.

This class shares pandemic memories and connections no other class will. They are resilient, compliant when needed, and were willing to do what was necessary to remain safe while getting to play with friends again. Rather than asking what I can do for me, they acted on what they could do for each other. In addition, our families live at a time where we have been experiencing and witnessing strong cultural division.



## In Memoriam **Luetta "Lu" Marie (Qualm) Sluiter**

**Born: February 1, 1931– Platte, SD.**

**Baptized: Trinity Lutheran Church, Platte, SD.**

And so it is with a very heavy heart that I share the news that our dear sister Lu Sluiter passed away on Monday, May 17 after electing to have hospice care upon learning she had stage 4 cancer.

Thank you for your love and prayers from the time she had the emergency surgery about 2 months ago until now. I was able to have prayers with her and about a 30 min conversation about a week ago. It was during one of the times that she was especially herself as we all knew her to be. She was ready to claim her baptismal promises most fully, and I was able to convey all of your love to her. We also talked about her beloved cat Koko, some church news, what our kids were up to, her favorite sports team, the Golden State Warriors basketball team and her favorite player Steph Curry.

Lu was surrounded by the love of God through this church as she lost both her husband Floyd and daughter Kay to untimely deaths in 1983 and 1987. She is survived by her son, Kent, daughter-in-law Karen, and granddaughters Adrienne and Hannah.

Lu's faithful witness serving God through our church is very strong and meaningful and will be remembered well. She served on our Altar Guild and as Sunday School & Circle Treasurer for many years. She also was a steadfast and detailed organizer of the assembling of our monthly newsletter – right up until her surgery. For many years, Lu hosted the church Christmas Party in her lovely home. She had an extraordinary gift for gardening (gladiolas, irises, dahlias and more) and decorating, as her home attested to.

**A Memorial Service will be held at St. Stephen's June 5 at 11am**, where we will be able to lift up the many ways that we celebrate her life and commend her to God's eternal care. There will be an obituary in the Santa Cruz Sentinel on Sunday, May 30th.

Blessed be the memory of this child of God. May light perpetual shine upon her.



## A Note from Nelleke Meerman

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

I can't believe my time with Delight Ministries is over! Let's take a walk down memory lane...With your help, we reached girls on campuses in Arizona, California, Colorado, Oregon, Montana, South Dakota and Washington. I got to visit and pour into girls in person in 4 of those states!

This was much harder than anticipated, and I think many of you reading this feel the same. As we navigated through the uncertainty, pain and resistance of the past 10 months, I learned about surrender and resilience. I also learned a lot about myself- my limits, what I am truly passionate about and so on. I have much more to learn and much more to reflect upon but for now that is the main thing that stands out to me about my time in this job.

*The verse that I always turned to- "He has told you, O man, what is good and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)*

Seriously this would not have been possible without you and your generosity. Thank you for supporting me, believing in the mission and impact of Delight and for all of your encouragement along the way.

**WHAT'S UP NEXT FOR ME?** I am working as a Bridal Stylist at BHLDN/ Anthropologie Weddings and pursuing Wedding & Fashion photography. I am humbled & excited to be doing something I love so much and expectant for the ways God is going to move. Tomorrow I am flying to Seaside, Florida to spend a few days with my awesome Delight coworkers to reflect, rest and spend quality time with one another.

Thank you thank you thank you!



**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"**

I want to take this time to acknowledge Caryn and her Family Culture share project she facilitated in our classroom. This project turned our focus from what has been negative scenarios in our country and world and turned the focus into what positive sharing can produce. This timely family culture share showed us that each family is unique in what they share together as tradition, which is relatable to all others. This is evident in the rich discussions between the children's discoveries of each other, and recognized activities that are the same in more than just one family. It inspired some to go home and try something new because they liked the experience so much at school. This project represents how community, however diverse, can be brought together on common ground to share what may not be common at all, yet celebrated as relevant and fun! We had one child share Papusas as her father is from El Salvador!

Teaching Assistant Nicole joined us in March of 2016. I received a phone call from her a year or two after we met at Jury Duty. We had connected immediately in conversation and same interests. She was looking to work with children and remembered from our conversation that our school was where she was interested in being. Nicole took very seriously continuing her education beyond the business world she left to understand and nurture young children and to cultivate her love for writing books. Nicole's enthusiasm and care for the children shone in her smile while she worked with the children, and she always enjoyed a good "belly laugh" with the group! Nicole also brought her husband Pete into the action as he made us many items to enhance our school such as a light table, ball organizers for our shed, just to name a few. Her niece Racheal accompanied her to our Aebleskiver breakfasts where we had the opportunity to know her and see the love they share together. Nicole is a steadfast, loyal, and compassionate person. She enjoyed knowing everyone who was part of St. Stephen's. We feel so blessed that she spent her time sharing with us! Hopefully, she will visit in the future to share a little time together with the children. We wish you the absolute best Nicole, because you are the very best, and loved!

As we conclude, I must mention that kindness was the main word used to describe this class. We do not say this lightly, rather have been so blessed to receive kindness from your children. This reflects directly on all the parents we celebrate here today. You have taught your children this quality and how to share it. Your kindness, generosity, compromise, and understanding with us as we navigated uncertain times such as the pandemic, wildfires, and Leslie's accident, kept us going and gave us the drive to return and continue to be with this very special class! Not to mention the joy you brought to The St. Stephen's congregation. Thank you for sharing yourselves, and your precious children with us!

## Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

### World Hunger

"It takes more than meals to feed the world ". ELCA World Hunger is a comprehensive and sustainable program that uses multiple strategies—[relief](#), [development](#), [education](#), and [advocacy](#)—to address the root causes of hunger and poverty. ELCA World Hunger responds to neighbors around the corner and around the world. ELCA World Hunger responds to hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world by addressing root causes. People are connected to the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty. Between 70-75 percent of ELCA World Hunger funds are spent internationally, and 20-25 percent are spent domestically.

Together, in Christ's name, we experience the transforming power of connection. As individuals, congregations, and synods, our humble offerings and actions are gathered, blessed, and multiplied. Together, we are ELCA World Hunger.

The international work of ELCA World Hunger is carried out through ELCA companion relationships as well as through trusted partners like Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Because of these long-held connections to partners around the world, ELCA World Hunger efforts are efficient and effective.

The domestic work of ELCA World Hunger is carried out primarily through the Domestic Hunger Grants Program (relief, development, and community organizing projects) and Education and Advocacy Grants.

ELCA World Hunger responds to Christ's call to "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37), serving with compassion people who are most vulnerable, paying focused attention to the full participation of women and the needs of children.

May — Mt. Cross Lutheran Outdoor Ministry = \$50 (as of 5/25)

## Farewell and Godspeed

### Lindsey & Becky Cramer

They are moving to Corvallis, Oregon to be nearer to their daughter and help raise their grandchildren. They are looking forward to participating in the church family of Grace Lutheran—ELCA.

The Cramers have been a very active part of St. Stephen's since the mid '60's and raised their two children, Stephanie and Brad in our church. Sometimes when the children are Confirmed as youth, the parents become inactive and their children move on with their lives. Becky and Lindsey continued their active participation by volunteering in many ways for various ministries in our congregation. They will be dearly missed. Lindsey promises to send a picture of the first steelhead he catches on the river they live near!



### Provide Lunches for Volunteers Tuesday, June 22

(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