

## 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**  
**February 25, 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

*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church*



***Sun***

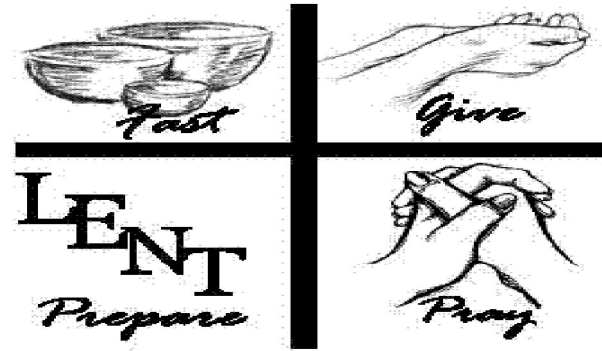
***March 2022***

## **Ash Wednesday – March 2, at 11a. & 7:30p**

An in-person/livestream and recorded service will be offered.

We will impose the ashes on ourselves.

Holy Communion will be celebrated with the pre-sealed wafer/cups.



**Wednesdays in Lent**

**March 9, 16, 23, 30 April 6 at 7:30p**

Holden Evening Prayer Service will be sung in-person/livestream/recording as we observe this season of preparation for Easter by gathering midweek.

***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 (new hours)

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

3-5	Steven Pond	3-20	Peggy Crews	
3-6	Bev Hickman	3-22	Elizabeth Balogh	3-10 Steve & Julie Mouw
3-8	Judy Russell			
3-12	Theresa Loback - Campbell	3-23	Sheila Buswell	
		3-23	Polly Cappelloni	3-16 Bill & Sherilyn Jager
3-18	Keith Slay			
3-18	Shelby Volpi	3-24	Dean Slay	3-19 Brad & Shawn Cramer
3-19	Oliver Spires	3-27	Chuck Davis	



**SHORT TERM:** 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, 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

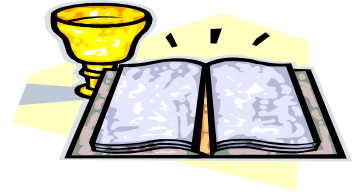
**Prayer Child Sponsorships** - The student list has (finally) arrived. The Guillermo Ungo Scholarship Committee is well organized and took extra time to make scholarship decisions and publish the results. We will be doing the sponsorships by e-mail again this year, so watch for an e-mail from Santa Cruz al Salvador with your electronic Commitment Card. 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

*from Pastor Jim*



## Special Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, March 20th, 2022**

### **Immediately Following 10am Worship**

This Special Congregational Meeting is being called by our newly elected President, Shelly Barker, **for the purpose of ratifying the actions taken at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 30th.**

It is necessary to have this meeting because we were 2 active members short of our 10% required quorum (29 attended—31 needed). Active member is defined as having communed or given financially once in 2021.

This will be the only item of business that can be conducted—per our Constitution.

#### The actions taken at the Annual Meeting were:

1. Approval of the Agenda.
2. Approval of the minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting
3. Approval of the Proposed 2022 Budget.
4. Approval of reducing the number of Church Council members from nine to seven.
5. Approval of electing David Balogh to Church Council.
6. Approval of electing Margaret Schraft and Steven Hendrickson as our June 1-4 Synod Assembly Delegates.
7. Approval of re-electing Kent Madsen as our Santa Cruz al Salvador Board Member.

Because this is the only item of business, it will be a brief meeting right after the worship service. Please make sure that you are able to attend so we can continue to faithfully fulfill our church's mission. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex to help ensure we will have a quorum.

*To Our St. Stephen's Family,*

*We wish to thank all those who have reached out, sent cards, phone calls & condolences of the passing of our father Glenn Johnson.*

*Both he and our mother loved this congregation, had so many life-long friendships and considered St. Stephen's their spiritual home.*

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." I SO MISS HIS BENEDICTION. What a beautiful way to send us out into the world.*

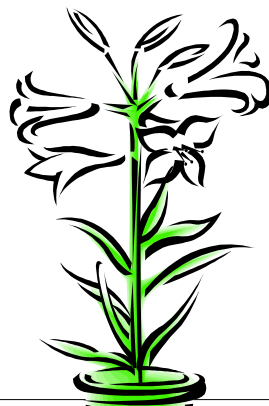
*Thank you -  
Lisa Johnson & the Glenn Johnson Family*

## **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.



## **Do We Really Understand Jesus When He Says: "From Now On You Will Be Catching People".**

### **Will WE Join Him?**

Re-printed from Jan/Feb 2022 Living Lutheran

**By Niveen Ibrahim Sarra** (former Pastoral Intern at Advent Lutheran Morgan Hill, CA and Palestinian Lutheran Christian)

It wasn't easy for peasant fishermen in first-century Palestine to make a living. To begin with, they didn't enjoy free access to the Sea of Galilee because the Roman Empire and its elite controlled the fishing industry.

Herod Antipas, a provincial Roman governor, romanized the region and put it under Emperor Tiberias' control, noted Ched Myers in "Let's Catch Some Big Fish! Jesus' Call to Discipleship in a World of Injustice." Antipas wanted to multiply fishing in the waters around Tiberias. He created an industry for commercial export, not local consumption. While the local people depended on fish for their main food, Antipas extracted it for profit. Fishing also was a costly business because each step of the process was taxed. Fishermen had to get a lease from local brokers, and they had no option but to sell to Antipas' factories, which exported fish to the entire Roman Empire. As a result, many fishermen became destitute.

Jesus spent most of his ministry in fishing villages like Capernaum, Gennesar and Magdala because there, wrote John Dominic Crossan in *God and Empire* (Harper One, 2009), "the radicality of Israel's God confronted the normalcy of Rome's civilization under Herod Antipas."

Luke 5:1-11, included in our February lectionary readings, tells of a miraculous catch of fish and of Jesus inviting Peter to fish for people. **Traditionally, we've understood Jesus' statement, "fish for people," to connote the vocation of "saving souls." But in prophetic traditions, Jeremiah (16:6), Amos (4:2) and Ezekiel (29:4), to fish for people implies a divine judgment of God's enemies.**

Why did Jesus use this metaphor?

According to the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus called on Peter; Andrew; James and John, the sons of Zebedee, to follow him after Herod Antipas beheaded John the Baptist, possibly at his royal palace in Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee's shores. These fishermen / disciples were victims of Herod Antipas too.

This story is not about the disciples changing their vocation from fishing for fish to fishing for people. Rather, it's about inviting them to join Jesus in turning over Rome's unjust social order and replacing it with God's kingdom. **Fishing for people is a political and spiritual statement against Roman imperial power. By providing fish, Jesus demonstrates that he, not Antipas, is in control of the lake.**

Jesus called his disciples, who were anticipating God's intervention to end the Romans' oppression. Jesus preached the good news, the coming of God's reign to replace the Roman emperor's and Antipas' reign. In *Binding the Strong Man* (Orbis 1995), Myers wrote: "[Jesus] is inviting common folk to join him in his struggle to overturn the existing order of power and privilege." **Will we join him?**

Budget Information · January 2022

	January	January	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget **	Actual	Budget **	
Contribution Income	\$22,408	\$11,691	\$22,408	\$11,691	\$10,717
Facility Use Income *	\$1,700	\$1,216	\$1,700	\$1,216	\$484
Investment Income	\$8,240	\$5,000	\$8,240	\$5,000	\$3,240
Total Income	\$32,348	\$17,907	\$32,348	\$17,907	\$14,441
Expenses	\$20,089	\$20,242	\$20,089	\$20,242	\$-153
Net	\$12,259	\$-2,335	\$12,259	\$-2,335	\$ 14,594

*\* Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month (when paid) + Misc. Income.*  
Contribution income for January was almost double the budget, thanks to several full-year donations. Facility Use and Investment income were also above the budgeted amounts..  
*Thank you to those who have contributed this year!*

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2022 through January	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$335
SS Scholarships	\$0
Live Oak Resource Center	\$0
Habitat for Humanity	\$0
Mt. Cross	\$0
World Hunger	\$0
Housing Matters	\$0
CLU/PLTS	\$0
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$0
SS CDC	\$0
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0
Lutheran World Relief	\$0
ELCA Synod	\$0
COPA	\$0
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$335
2021 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$14,360
% of Target	2%
	12

Church Council Highlights

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

1. We met via Zoom as Secretary Alyssa Burkhardt began the meeting as the President and V.P. positions were vacant. She led the elections of Shelly Barker as President and Steven Hendrickson as V.P. David Balogh was welcomed as the newly elected Council member from the annual meeting.
2. Pastor Jim contacted the Synod Secretary Jeff Pennington about our having not had a quorum (29 present—31 needed). We were advised to hold a special congregational meeting with a quorum “to ratify the actions taken at the January 30th annual meeting.” This would be the only item of business.
3. Our El Camino Conference Assembly took place on Saturday, February 12th via Zoom. Steven Hendrickson and Shelly Barker attended with Pastor Jim. Nominations for Synod Council were offered and Bishop Meghan Rohrer announced a new \$3 million fundraising campaign to renovate Mt. Cross and to buy land and build a new retreat center in Western Nevada. \$2 million has already been raised and the rest will come from Synod congregations that have recently closed and from existing congregations.
4. The bid for sanctuary roof repair from Knox Roofing for \$2100.00 was approved and work began on Feb. 23rd. It was to come from our Reserve Fund, but Alyssa Burkhardt has generously donated the amount and is excitedly looking forward to not having to see the drip buckets in the pews anymore!
5. Next meeting is March 8th at 6:30pm via Zoom.

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

As we approach our 10<sup>th</sup> year of being licensed under St. Stephen's name, we remember those who helped us be successful over the years. I mentioned some last month. I had so hoped we could have a celebration to mark this accomplishment. Unfortunately, we are still not able to plan ahead for large gatherings.

Before we shut down in March 2020, we were about to start playground improvement projects, but were unable to do any, until now! The celebration will be for the children who will enjoy many improvements on the playground. The discussion began at our February School Board meeting to get this going. Before I share, please know that **Bill & Margaret Schraft, Kathy Allen, Sandra Eldridge, Mary Kelly**, and Pastor Jim faithfully serve this ministry on our school board. They are very much appreciated! Sandra Eldridge really got us started in a positive direction. At her suggestion, our School Board treated us to lunch from Gayle's in appreciation of our pivoting through Covid, including Pastor Jim, Leslie and John along with **teachers Kathy, Brenda, Sam and Rosio**. We enjoyed the food, and unity was fostered. THANK YOU!

**Additionally, we thank Sandra Eldridge, for donating funding for wood chips to upgrade our playground and make it safer.** The playground has a special place in her heart as **her young grandson Max Fairon** enjoyed playing there. He is now a **successful Stanford student heading towards a promising future**. He came to stay with his Ola (Grandpa), and Morning (Grandma) during some difficult times in his young life. **Max connected with and loved coming to church, especially the children's program.** Sandra is "Paying forward" the joy **Max experienced to our young preschool children with gratitude** and in honor of Pastor James Lapp, and in remembrance of **Pastor Glenn Johnson** for their kindness and stability shared with her grandson. How beautiful!

This got the good vibes going as I met with an arborist recommended by a longtime family of our preschool. Turns out 30 years ago the arborist benefited in a life changing way by attending one of our facility use groups. It changed his life. **He told me that St. Stephen's has been serving the community for decades and he would like to give back** by giving us a very low estimate to have 6 large trees serviced on the playground. **This saved us at least \$2000.** Then, when I thanked the parent, Zach Smith from Smiths Gopher Service (Who has been giving us free gopher and pest removal services for the church and

## ***IAF Orgs in Oklahoma, California, Arizona and Texas Protect Families from Displacement***

As the pandemic and its economic impacts persisted into a second year, organizations from Oklahoma to Texas to California worked furiously to keep low-income families housed.

Catholic press cites organizing efforts to keep people housed across West & Southwest US.

**TMO** secured \$11.3 Million in federal funding for rental assistance in Brazoria County.

**Marin Organizing Committee** enacted moratoriums on rent increases (rent freezes) in the seven census tracts most affected by the pandemic in wealthy Marin County.

**One LA-IAF** leaders protected 12 units of affordable housing near a Central LA synagogue.

After state tenant protections changed, COPA leaders in Central California quickly mobilized to ensure renters accessed expanded support.

## **PANDEMIC RESPONSE**

### ***West/Southwest IAF Orgs Lead Vaccine Equity Efforts in California, Arizona, Texas & Louisiana***

### ***COPA-Powered Community Health Workers Reach 10,000+ Laborers Impacted by COVID-19***

After **COPA** leveraged nearly \$5 million of public funds for a pilot program, 100 trusted community health workers (mostly immigrant woman) were hired by Monterey County to support low-income workers. These women reached tens of thousands of laborers with prevention education, PPE and support during quarantines.

# COPA 2021: A Year of Achievements and Progress

The following is a summary of the work of **COPA** (Communities Organized for relational Power in Action, and other similar community organizations throughout the Western US, that also partner with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) in drawing our professional lead organizers and leadership development strategies for civic engagement . **Full articles at [www.swiaf.org](http://www.swiaf.org).**

First, these are some reasons why our congregation and all the other member institutions of **COPA** have chosen to partner with the IAF to help us fulfill our baptismal mission **“to strive for justice and peace in all the earth”**:

- 1. Founded in 1940, it is the nation's largest and longest-standing network of local faith and community-based organizations.
- 2. The IAF partners with religious congregations and civic organizations at the local level to build broad-based organizing projects, which create new capacity in a community for leadership development, citizen-led action and relationships across the lines that often divide our communities.
- 3. The IAF created the modern model of faith- and broad-based organizing and is widely recognized as having the strongest track record in the nation for citizen leadership development and for helping congregations and other civic organizations act on their missions to achieve lasting change in the world.
- 4. The IAF, which includes the West / Southwest IAF and Metro IAF, currently works with thousands of religious congregations, non-profits, civic organizations and unions, in more than sixty-five cities across the United States and in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom and Germany.

## HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

### *California IAF Revamps State Tenant Protections to Keep Low-Income Families Housed*

This summer, over 600 **California IAF** leaders convened on Zoom to call for the extension of the state eviction moratorium and expansion of protections to allow greater flexibility with rental aid. Catholic Bishop Oscar Cantú , Episcopal Bishop Lucinda Ashby and two state legislators joined the call. After hundreds of leaders contacted their elected officials, protections for renters were expanded.

school for 3 years) for the referral, he offered to additionally service the trees for free to remove the yellow jacket problem, which is about \$1000. Wow!

I met with **future Eagle Scout William**, and he is organizing the Troop to shovel in the woodchips, along with Bill Schraft who will supervise. We also discussed the possibility of William refurbishing our entire gardening area for his Eagle Scout project! **The scouts always tell me how grateful they are to meet here and they like to give back by helping us out.**

A few days ago, I was unloading my rabbit from the car and a lady and her dog, who I recognized stopped to look at the rabbit. She loves animals. We chatted for about 10 minutes as she shared how much she loves living in the senior housing. Due to past experiences, she is fearful at night, and having the security, beautiful grounds, and nice people around **has changed her life and she truly is grateful.** She also loves it when the children walk around the gardens from our school. I have the good fortune to have these conversations with people of so many generations as I am here so much of the time.

The message I received from all these encounters filled my heart. As we plan for the future of our church and school during times of great challenges, **we need to be reminded that seeds we have planted over the decades are still blooming and flourishing.** There are people all through the community that have benefited by the different activities, groups, worship, senior housing, and now our preschool. They talk to each other about what St. Stephen’s has meant to them and their families. **On some days it is hard to see how we continue to come full circle as the seeds we planted are scattered everywhere in big ways and small.** My experience, having only been here for 11 years, those before me touched many lives, and those I have been active with continue to contribute. **The small seeds grow, travel, return, and plant more for the next generation.**

As our 10-year anniversary approaches, the celebration should be in all of our hearts. **Jesus is still working through our ministries even when they look different, even when it is hard, even through a pandemic, and especially in the children.** I see their loving eyes and hearts each day. They experience happiness because we are here. Their parents feel secure. Our congregation remains ever faithful.

-Kathryn Berens, Director



## Provide Lunches for Volunteers Tuesday, March 22

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

### March—Live Oak Community Resource Center

This valuable community center serves many in our local neighborhood and is one of our COPA partners as we seek to meet the needs of families by organizing for changes and new opportunities. Below is an excerpt from the 'Thank You Letter' we received last year. It reminds us about the importance of our partnership with places who are serving the more vulnerable ones in our community.

"Thank you so much for your generous donations. Your contribution has already gone to work providing vital services for the Live Oak Families, including connecting them with health insurance and providing free summer sports leagues for kids."

### February—St. Stephen's Scholarship Fund

= \$55 ( as of Feb. 20)



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

## THURSDAYS 11a -12noon & 7:30 p—8:30 p

*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.*

### Try this Fast for this Lent

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
- Fast from worries and have trust in God



**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"