

## 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)*

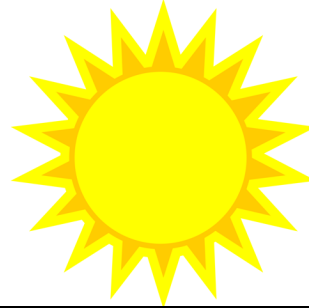
NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON  
October 29, 2021

POST OFFICE:  
DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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

Non-Profit Org.  
Postage Paid  
Permit #7079  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-9998

*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church*



*Sun*

*November 2021*

**In-Person / Indoor Worship  
Every Sunday at 10:00 am**

**Also live-streamed and recorded on our website**

(For indoor worship, please review the health safety guidelines on pg.4)

### Gratitude Sunday! - November 21st

Let's all respond generously to God's love and grace for us. We take this time each year around Thanksgiving and the Fall Harvest to remember that all we have belongs to God. Use the materials mailed out to you to faithfully reflect on how you will give thanks in the coming year. By faith, as God enables us, let's strive to:

- Pray regularly for the ministry of our church.
- Attend worship services often to keep our faith first, and seek to invite others in sharing that with us.
- Be available to follow God's leading by offering your gifts of time and abilities to lift up the witness of our faith and mission as a church. Exercise our faith!
- Significantly give financially to the work of God's Spirit through the ministry of our church in 2022. Dedicate a percentage of your income as you are able.

***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.—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**

11-5 Sandra Eldridge	11-17 Ariela Turzo	11-26 Galahad Hughes
11-7 Dorothy Ronning	11-19 Isaiah Brouse	11-26 Linda Ronning
11-8 Lorie Juhl	11-19 Briana Juhl	
11-10 Amanda	11-19 Jessica Juhl	
Cunningham	11-20 Hilding Ronning	
11-11 Charlotte Judd	11-22 James Jones	
11-13 Colin Boyle	11-22 John Hopping	11- 27 David & Martha
11-14 Barbara Johnston	11-24 Kathy Johnson	Balogh
11-16 Stephen Cappelloni	11-25 Brian Brouse	
11-17 James Abler	11-26 Mathew Garden	



**Short Term:** Family of Edna Lindquist, Barbara Rice, Don Smawley, Family of Ron Buswell, Rachel and Dawit & his family, Dorothy Ronning, Tyler Slay, Chris, Gerardo's family, Family of Rick Oldfield, Chris & Patty, Gaye Cornell, Barbara, Family of Jean Petersen, Lorie Juhl & Family of Betty Kievlan, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Jane Davis, Jo Ann, Healthcare workers, teachers, Marla Meek 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, Sadie, Lorraine Chavez, Lora Schraft Poulson, Don, Lina, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Casey, Cabel, Miller, Kyle, Noah, Esdras, Jenna Blair, Marissa Phillips, Peace in Ethiopia, Immigrant families

**Long Term:** Kyle Lapp, The Sanders Family, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, John B., Michelle, Josh, CJ, Jeff Tarantino, Susan Anderson, Bobbie Erickson, Richard C., Eric VonSchell, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Karin, Will, Chris, Pat Hubbard, Cathy, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Members of Armed Forces, the Youth of today. the Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim and Our Church Family.



## El Salvador Sister Parish News

### **Virtual Fundraiser 2.0:**

A big **Thank You** to all who donated to our Virtual Fundraiser!

As of this writing, we have raised over \$16,000 toward our projects, especially University Scholarships for Guillermo Ungo students and composting latrines for El Pilar.

The drawing for the Monterey Bay excursion on the "Salty Sheep" will be held on November 1, 2021 at the Board of Directors meeting. Items will be available for pick up on Sunday November 7, 2021 at St. Stephen's.

**Prayer Child Sponsorships** - November is the month we will be focusing on renewing the sponsorships of students attending all grades of the Guillermo Ungo school. We will be doing this 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 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.

**January 2022 Delegation** - Due to ongoing health concerns about international travel in this time of Covid-19, we will **not** be sponsoring a delegation in January 2022. There were hopes that time would reduce the health risks, but that has not happened.

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

*from Pastor Jim*



## All Saints Memorial Service

Saturday, November 6th at 11am

In the sanctuary honoring:

**Al Mitchell, Delores Price,  
Jean Petersen, Jean Calvert,  
Ron Buswell & Edna Lindquist**

I invite us all to gather for this worship service the day before All Saints Sunday. We will thank God and remember the lives and faithful witnesses of our church family members that we were unable to gather for, due to the pandemic restrictions.

We will honor those listed above and any others that you would like to include. Please contact Pastor Jim if you would like someone's name added.

It has been a difficult road as a community where we have not been able to gather as we are used to doing. Our gathering and remembering is a very important and necessary aspect of being God's Family at our church. Not being able to do so leaves a kind of emptiness that diminishes our fellowship and purpose as a place for God's children to live out our lives serving God together, and lifting up God's ways in the world.

These are things that are deep within the human spirit—well before the Christian Church ever existed—where we acknowledge our relationships with those who have gone before us and give thanks to God for what they have meant to us.

## Health Safety Protocols for Worship

In order to help everyone feel comfortable and safe upon returning to worshipping together in body and spirit, our Church Council has been planning some ways that will help us be the most welcoming and caring for the most vulnerable who may be worshipping with us. **Please contact Pastor Jim or a Council member if you have more ideas.** Here is how we will try to be safer in a lingering pandemic.

1. Masks will be worn at all times. This way we are able to sing and pray out loud. Pastor Jim will maintain a 25ft. distance as he will be unmasked.
2. Air circulation will be constant. Fans will be placed at open doorways, all doors will remain open and the HVAC system (heat) will be running with the proper filters.
3. Holy Communion will continue to be shared using the pre-sealed cups and wafer. These and the bulletins will be available as people enter. Everyone will be asked to use the hand sanitizers as they are greeted.
4. All will be asked to maintain a 6ft distance from other family groups/ individuals. (Taped off sections will guide this)
5. Offering plates will be at various locations and we will stagger our approach to them.
6. Exchanging of The Peace will be done without moving away from our seats, and only with gestures - no physical contact.
7. We are seeking volunteers to host Coffee Fellowship outdoors only. Inclement weather will cancel this. Sign up after church or contact Leslie. Goodies need to be on individual plates and the host will serve the coffee masked and gloved. You are encouraged to bring your own mug.

## Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2021 through September	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$235
SS Scholarships	\$245
Live Oak Resource Center	\$248
Habitat for Humanity	\$430
Mt. Cross	\$335
World Hunger	\$305
Housing Matters	\$295
CLU/PLTS	\$135
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$238
SS CDC	\$559
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$50
Lutheran World Relief	\$65
ELCA Synod	\$750
COPA	\$1,500
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$5,390
2021 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$14,360
% of Target	38%





Treasurer Notes ...  
 Budget Information · September 2021

	September	September	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution Income	\$9,948	\$11,750	\$101,228	\$107,300	\$-6,072
Facility Use Income *	\$300	\$917	\$43,393	\$8,250	\$35,143
Investment Income	\$4,648	\$3,750	\$31,293	\$33,750	\$-2,457
Total Income	\$14,896	\$16,417	\$175,914	\$149,300	\$26,614
Expenses	\$18,140	\$18,958	\$153,604	\$171,375	\$-17,771
Net	\$-3,244	\$-2,541	\$22,310	\$-22,075	\$ 44,385



\* Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month (when paid) + Misc. Income. Contribution income for September was below budget. Receipts of \$7,500 in Miscellaneous Income as well as the income for the Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness (both in April) were extraordinary income. Expenses were reduced by a Silicon Valley Community Foundation grant for Pastor and Administrator salaries (fully used by the end of April). Please remember your contributions to *your* church.

Thank you to those who have contributed this year!

Special funds: Organ, Piano, Hearing Impaired & Solar Electricity

	September	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$9	\$0	429
Piano	\$0	\$112	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$395	
Solar Electric Payback	\$247		\$12,651

**Church Council Highlights**  
**(meets 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm in the church.)**

1. Devotions from Measuring the Days By Walt Wangerin (who passed away last August) helped us remember the importance of grieving & honoring those who’ve gone before us and caring for their memory in the church family.
2. Pastor Jim announced that he will lead a “All Saints Memorial Service on Sat. Nov. 6th at 11 am at the church. (see pg. 3)
3. We reviewed how worship went on Oct. 3rd, which was led in-person by Steven Hendrickson and in which Pastor Jim’s sermon was projected as a recording on the screen, as well as presiding at Holy Communion. It was received favorably, but will only be done if necessary in the future.
4. We spent a good deal of time talking about how we might begin to offer a Coffee Fellowship time after church and how we might offer Holy Communion differently and why.
5. Dedication of our new “Reconciling In Christ Banners” was set for Sun. Oct. 16

**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.”

**Volunteers Needed**

**The Finance Committee Offering Counters' Group is in need of additional members to assist with this vital weekly endeavor.**

The time commitment for a volunteer is approximately 3-4 x per calendar quarter for about 60-90 minutes. The task is completed in pairs of group members. The only skill required is your desire to volunteer. Knowledge of MS Excel is a plus, but not a necessity. Orientation provided.

Thanks to Susan Gross, Bill Anderson, Mark Linder, and Rebecca Wickham for your continued support. Kim Frey and Barbara Rice are leaving the group at this time and we thank them for their time and faithfulness.



## Child Development Center

Thank you to all our friends who contributed to the SSCDC Benevolence fund in October. After recovering from Covid-19 closures, we have many projects for upkeep on our playground and appreciate your contributions and prayers. There is general safety, and maintenance projects.

We are fortunate that William from the Scouts wants to do his Eagle Scout project during winter break on our playground. We are in the process of planning his project, then addressing other projects for the future.

In the meantime, Bill Schraft has been so helpful in keeping our playground safe. He single handedly cut out the large roots that stuck up in the play structure area and removed them. He also has helped with some other projects we needed. Thank you, Bill, for that and being our School Board President.

We offer thanks and praise to the Lord for our School Board members and congregation who supports us in planning, prayer, and support.

We are grateful to Ron and Sheila Buswell as we remember all they have done to support our school in so many ways. Ron was so kind and talented, a great friend to our Preschool!

This year we will get to bake our pumpkin pies! Each child mixes up a full pie to take home and share with their family, rather than just having a slice for themselves at school. This way they truly feel the spirit of sharing as this holiday was meant for.

We now have 20 students enrolled. They are a young group, but they are learning the routine quickly. Brenda is so wonderful guiding two-year old's and those beginning their first school experience. Sam has been doing a wonderful job leading the preschool class with fun, new activities. It has been a blessing to have Rachel help us during this time as we search for a new teaching assistant.

I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving and pray that families can enjoy being together this holiday season.

Warmly, Kathy Berens

Lavishing grace is receiving favor, from a plentiful abundance, and a variety of positive outcomes when one does not deserve it. Grace is an endless blessing or outpouring from God. Humanity can point to positivity in life as an expression of lavishing grace and rejoice in its blessings.

Undeniable peace is a reference to God's peace which is beyond human understanding. It is not only the absence of conflict, but a calming of intense feeling into non aggression. Always transformative, undeniable peace opens possibilities for understanding and hearts to be changed.

Unconditional forgiveness is living in a state of God's grace and letting go of hurt feelings and resentment. The encouragement in Scripture is: confess sin, and turn around in heart, mind, soul and extend love as God does. Forgiveness flows from humble submission and a willingness to change. Dedication to repentance and conversion is a sincere gesture which brings great rewards.

Restoration is another word for sanctification in which the image and likeness of God becomes more apparent and is growing. Love, faith, and hope shine forth. The spirit of Christ glows and the eternal journey is lived here and now. These qualities are mysterious, but we receive glimpses and foreshadowings in a life of faith.

All of these qualities are helpful to keep in our hearts and minds when navigating our current realities. Praise and thanks be to God for strength, courage, and most of all great love for all creation. Soli Deo Gloria (To God Alone be the Glory)



**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 Faith Response to Present Realities

When one encounters different ideas, worldviews, and ways of living, a natural question arises. Is this way of being, seeing, and relating true, dependable, and most of all life affirming? Is God's Spirit felt and available as a living reality? Is the idea believable? Where are the redeeming qualities which lovingly answer doubts one may have? What is my personal response? A response needs to be grounded in these **Gospel imperatives: immeasurable love, great mercy, lavishing grace, undeniable peace, unconditional forgiveness, and restoration into God's image and likeness.** These attributes need to be present, felt, and recognized. Granted, this is a very high bar in assessing veracity and truth in another's statement or argument, but the idea is that these attributes need to at least loosely be able to have relevance and meaning in application.

Immeasurable love is openly expansive, transformational, and inclusive. When one senses this quality, a warmth of feeling and heart opening takes place. At the very least, a sense of benevolence, care, and desire for betterment is evident. No diminishment, discrimination or demotion can be found or even noticed. Equality and respect are hallmarks of appreciation. In other words, love is distinctly felt and grows in energy.

Great mercy is a quality that needs much more expression than one sees today. Forbearance, acceptance, and a willingness to start over in a spirit of forgiveness can be an initial definition. Jesus, the Christ has said, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." When great mercy is extended, gratitude from the recipient is a common result. Like forgiveness, mercy is an olive branch of peace that is best extended not once, but many times. One has to let go of repeated infractions. More internal fortitude is needed to have great mercy in that letting go of one's own righteousness and control is needed. Thus, this attribute always invites a new third way of beginning over again.

## Friends of SSCDC: Remembrance of Ron Buswell

Sheila Buswell had a dream to create our own preschool here at church. She was on the original task force and served many years on our Board as recorder. Sheila continued by helping with Aebleskiver Fundraisers, Dinner Fundraisers, and many other tasks including reading to our children and recommending books. They donated snacks and tissues throughout the year during our lean years.

Ron was a good friend to our preschool. He never turned down doing a task for us! He was helpful in bookkeeping and payroll as we grew. He also was helpful in getting technology installed and servicing the preschool office when technology was not working correctly. Ron always came when I called. As we dreamed of improving our playground, Ron built a magnificent sandbox. Ron also led volunteers in 107-degrees to reduce the height of the fence for better sight supervision of the children. He also retrieved all the pavers from the front sidewalk to our playground. Along with volunteers he installed pavers to create a sitting area between our sandbox and sinks, reducing the mud and dirt, creating a great place for snacks and play.

Our Toddler program was put on hold due to bathroom access. Ron looked at the plans, improved them, and moved full steam ahead to remodel the women's bathroom. He removed the shower and a toilet to install a child sized toilet and sink. This included retiling and installing a pocket door to the Toddler classroom. This enabled us to reopen providing childcare and education to children, along with offering potty training. This effort created the feeder program to our preschool allowing us to have students for a three-year span.

Ron was on the front line when Senior Housing was built. He made sure that the needs of the preschool were not overlooked. He always came over when there were problems to be solved. He also spearheaded the building of the Narthex bathroom to replace the space we took from the women's bathroom, creating a convenient bathroom for worshipers. That is only one task of many he made sure got accomplished for us. He also made sure funding was restored to bathroom project and many others.

Personally, Ron brought comfort and wisdom to my life as my grandfather was a master carpenter and could do anything, just like Ron. I enjoyed every moment we got to share through these projects and have a deep respect for Ron's generosity, talent, and kindness.

Ron and Sheila are at the root of our success as a preschool ministry, and we are so grateful for their generosity & love that enables us to touch so many lives. You cannot walk around without seeing them everywhere in what they shared with us! Thanks Be to God for all our faithful servants shared with us, especially as we remember our dear friend Ron Buswell. Warmly, Kathy Berens



## **In Memoriam—Rick Oldfield**

September 16, 1946—September 30, 2021

A Memorial Service was held on October 23 where his wife Susan (Knapp) and her family were able to gather with many friends throughout the community. Susan had faithfully served as St. Stephen's Office Manager for several years and her son Tim and niece and nephews Kim, Mark and Brian were raised in our church.

Rick was a lifelong resident of Santa Cruz, born at Sister's Hospital. His mother Lynette Long was also a member. He was a US Postal Service Letter Carrier for over 38 years. Rick had a passion for classic cars (his '65 Chevy Nova was parked at the church entrance), the 49er's and baseball. The latter was shared with many children and families as a Little League Manager for 18 years in the Capitola/Soquel league. We pray for the Oldfield & Brouse families in their sorrow. Blessed be the memory of this child of God, and may light perpetual shine upon him.

## **Monthly Special Benevolence Offering**

### **November—Santa Cruz al Salvador / Sister Parish**

"Building Relationships for Better Lives" (see pg. 15)

Santa Cruz al Salvador is a non-profit made up of 6 local churches. The churches include a Presbyterian church in Santa Cruz, as well as Lutheran churches in Morgan Hill and Salinas. Funds raised pay for scholarships and school supplies for students attending the the school in Guillermo Ungo, El Salvador.

In addition, we support scholarships for university and vocational schooling (including housing assistance), health care supplies for the local clinic, and support for the Lutheran and Presbyterian churches in El Salvador.

**October — Child Development Center = \$917** (as of Oct. 27)

## **In Memoriam— Edna Lindquist**

February 9, 1930—October 21, 2021

We mourn the loss and give thanks to God for the life and witness of Edna Lindquist, who was such an integral part of our church family for so long. She had been living in Idaho near her son since 2017 and was 91 years old.

Moving here from North Dakota, where she and Orville met and married, the Lindquists were beloved fixtures at St. Stephen's. Edna's extraordinary gifts of hospitality were shared with us and throughout our community in so many ways. She was well-known for her pies and other goodies! Pastor Jim & Leslie are forever grateful for the annual tradition she and Orville began at Christmastime, when they would have our kids over to help create elaborate candy houses, followed by a delicious and hearty wild game dinner.

We pray for God's Peace and Loving Arms to surround her children and their families. Blessed be the memory of this child of God, and may light perpetual shine upon her.



### **Provide Lunches for Volunteers Tuesday, November 23**

(4th Tuesday of each month)

Contact church office if you can provide sandwiches, Fruit or Cookies.

### **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