



**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**  
September 24, 2021

**POST OFFICE:  
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St Stephen's Lutheran Church  
2500 Soquel Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church*



***SUN***

***October 2021***

WELCOME  BACK!!!!!!!

IN-PERSON / INDOOR WORSHIP  
EVERY SUNDAY!

(With safety protocols in place. See page 3 for details)

AT 10:00 AM

Also Live-streamed and recorded on our website

Greeters and Scripture Readers are needed. Please email  
"office@ststephenslutheran.org" or call the church office at 476-4700  
with the Sunday that you can help. Thanks!

**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**

10-3 Pastor Lapp	10-21 Kathy Berens	
10-3 Becky Judd	10-22 Abigail Davis	
10-8 Amelia Davis	10-24 Tom Eagle	10-2 Joel & Maryann Hurttgam
10-13 Toby Abler	10-24 Noelia Monteagudo	10-11 Darwin & Patrice Awe
10-13 Janet Slay	10-25 Bill Schraft	10-30 Robert & Cheryl Bartee
10-14 Thomas Dawson	10-27 Kim Frey	
10-18 Naomi Florin- Gosciminski	10-29 Michael Cappelloni	



**Short Term:** Family of Ron Buswell, Dorothy Ronning, Gerardo's family & the Aptos Community, Rick & Susan Oldfield, Chris & Patty, Gaye Cornell, Family of Lu Sluiter, Family of Jean Petersen, Lorie Juhl & Family of Betty Kievlan, Rachel Lapp and Dawit Yerda, 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, 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, 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

**Family Fun(d) Fest Pivots to Virtual Event** - Due to health and safety precautions, we are postponing our annual in-person fundraiser this year. We greatly appreciate your past support providing University & School Scholarships, Building Latrines and water projects.

Each year we send over \$20,000 in order for the students to pursue their education. The cost to build one latrine is now over \$900. The need is great, please help.

We welcome donations of any amount; every donation of \$50 or more will be entered in a drawing for a trip "for 6 people" with Ryan Althaus, Captain on the "Salty Sheep" catamaran which sails out of the Santa Cruz Harbor.

We will also offer a selection of craft beer, non-alcoholic sparkling cider and wine. You should have received a letter by now, either in church or via USPS with the options for premiums based on your donation. If you didn't receive a letter and want to participate, please contact Kent Madsen.

***Please send in the form by October 9, 2021 with your donation.***

Drawing winner will be announced on November 1, 2021. Items will be available for pick up on Sunday November 7, 2021 at St. Stephen's.

**January 2022 Delegation** - We are planning a delegation in January 2022 depending on the situation with the pandemic here and there. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact Kent Madsen. At least nine people from other churches have expressed interest in going.

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 or scholarships in Guillermo Ungo. Your gifts make a difference!

Peace in Christ,  
Kent Madsen,

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

*from Pastor Jim*



Well...We Did It! After 18 months of a mix of worshipping remotely and outdoors, we made the leap of faith (balanced with measured reason) to return to worship in our sanctuary. It was a very special day as we reunited with so many that we had not seen in-person for so long. Thank you to Kent Madsen and Barbara Rice especially for their bringing our congregation together through their video livestream and recording work. We are incredibly blessed by their sharing their gifts in this way on behalf of all of us.

**We were especially privileged to welcome a new family into St. Stephen's on our first Sunday! Judy and Robert Alvarado had been worshipping with us and attending Thursday Bible Studies from their home all the way in Livingston, CA in the Sierra Foothills.** The wonders of technology can indeed be used to strengthen God's Church! They plan on coming to church in-person once a month.

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. Please contact me or a Council member if you have more ideas. Here is what has been planned:

### Health Safety Protocols for Worship

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 and the HVAC system 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 on tables at various locations and we will stagger our approach to them.
6. Exchanging of The Peace will be done only with gestures - no physical contact.
7. Coffee Fellowship will not be offered for the time being, but we are encouraged to greet one another outside after worship.

## A Message From our Church Administrator

Here are some more of God's promises. As always in our church, if you read more of the passage, and put things in context you will get a better perspective. God's word can transform us especially during these CRAZY times.

When you Lose Hope and Stray Away:

*"You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you..."* John 15:3-4

When You Need a Calling:

*"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."* Mathew 5:14

When You Lose Focus on Your Priority:

*"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* Matthew 6:33

When You Don't Feel Your Worth:

*"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"* Mattthew 6:26

When You Think it's Impossible:

*"Everything is possible for one who believes."* Matthew 9:23

Finally, Remember All the Times Jesus has Been There for You in the Past:

*"Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, even after I have been among you such a long time?'"* John 14:9

Lets pray:

God of gracious wisdom, help us to know and treasure your words of guidance and regard them as a blessing and sign of your presence and the depth of your love for all your people. ~ Amen

## Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2021 through August	
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	\$125
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$46
SS CDC	\$542
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$50
Lutheran World Relief	\$65
ELCA Synod	\$500
COPA	\$1,000
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$4,421
2021 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$14,360
% of Target	31%



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

	August	August	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
<b>Contribution Income</b>	\$7,565	\$11,750	\$91,281	\$95,550	\$-4,269
<b>Facility Use Income *</b>	\$788	\$917	\$43,093	\$7,333	\$35,760
<b>Investment Income</b>	\$5,625	\$3,750	\$26,645	\$30,000	\$-3,355
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$13,978</b>	<b>\$16,417</b>	<b>\$161,018</b>	<b>\$132,883</b>	<b>\$28,136</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$20,322</b>	<b>\$19,683</b>	<b>\$135,464</b>	<b>\$152,417</b>	<b>\$-17,591</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$-6,344</b>	<b>\$-3,266</b>	<b>\$25,554</b>	<b>\$-19,533</b>	<b>\$ 45,087</b>

\* Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month (when paid) + Misc. Income.  
 Contribution income for August was well 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 for the Organ, Piano,  
 Hearing Impaired and Solar Electricity**

	August	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
<b>Organ</b>	\$8	\$0	438
<b>Piano</b>	\$0	\$112	
<b>Hearing Impaired Equip</b>	\$0	\$395	
<b>Solar Electric Payback</b>	\$289		\$12,898

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



1. Devotions centered on the Second Reading for Sunday Sept. 19 from the Book of James Ch. 3-4, which calls us to seek after God’s wisdom and to beware of how the world’s wisdom may undermine or compromise that. We remembered the truth of the last verse: “Draw near to God and God will draw near to you”.
2. Pastor Jim reported that Ron Buswell had passed away on Sun. Sept 12, a few hours before we had gathered for worship in the sanctuary for the first time since March 8, 2020. Ron and Sheila and their children, Scott, Mark & Arija were with him in Seattle where he was receiving an experimental treatment for a condition he had been living with for some time. See pg.9 for more about Ron’s life and witness among us.
3. Pastor Jim also reported that he was able to visit and provide Holy Communion to Rick and Susan Oldfield as Rick entered hospice care at home.
4. We reviewed how our first indoor worship went and decided to help people keep a physical distance of 6ft by taping off sections of the pews.
5. Sanctuary Banners, a Welcome Mat, and an Outdoor Sign indicating that our church is a “Reconciling In Christ” congregation, were donated by Renee Rice, Council President, in order to celebrate and publicly proclaim our Welcome Statement which is printed below.
6. The Sustainability Task Force has contacted most of our membership as we return to indoor Sunday worship and re-gather our church family. Some have decided to continue worshipping from their homes, which, of course, is perfectly understandable and will remain available.
7. Mark Linder will be hosting a new community group on Thursday evenings in the Fireside Rm. It is a County of Santa Cruz pilot program where lower level incidents/conflicts are attempted to be resolved without engaging with the regular County Court system.

**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

I was so glad to see so many friends return to worship on our first Sunday back inside. I was a joyous day indeed!

Our first month required a bit of adjustment as we wished our teacher Caryn farewell. Caryn came when I had no one else other than Pastor Jim and Dusty stop by to give me a quick break. She was such a blessing and instrumental in the success of our school thus far. It was a privilege to mentor her. She will be attending Washington University online for two years. Due to that she chose another part time experience for work to concentrate on her studies. I have known and loved Caryn her entire life. We all wish her the very best!

Samantha DeCoster has taken the role of lead teacher in the pre-school classroom. I am having so much fun as she makes it her own and tailors the activities to the group we have now. She has added more movement to Circletime to engage them further. While I begin the search for another lead teacher, Rachel Lapp will be returning to us for about 2 months, part time, as a teaching assistant. We are so grateful for this timing and her help!

Senior Housing reached out and want us to do our Halloween Parade around their building. We will parade at 9:45 on Friday October 29. This is always a very fun event. The children are already thinking about Halloween and clamoring for our Halloween stories. Some of the best literature in children's books are available in October about fall and Halloween.

We have begun our parent teacher conferences to set goals for our students. It is so important to know where they are at now so we can teach to each individual and their unique development.

Unfortunately, we are unable to have our Aebleskiver Fundraiser again this year due to Covid-19. October is benevolence month for the Child Development Center. We appreciate anything you can donate to our school as we continue to recover our finances from the Covid-19 closures. Our goal is to make improvements to the playground, and to add to our rainy-day fund. We thank you all for supporting us, especially in prayer.

Warmly, Kathy Berens



Congratulations  
Don Smawley.  
Your Cheesecake  
is famous again!  
This time it was  
butternut squash.  
YUM!  
We're all looking  
forward to the days  
when we can lift  
up your wonderful  
gifts here at  
church.



**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"**

## Sunday School

I couldn't have chosen a better bulletin cover for our first day of Sunday School.

Questions for all of us:

- How do you know that you are welcome when you go someplace?
- What are some ways that you could be welcoming to others?

We looked at the poster of our older Sunday School kids enjoying their time at church (Christmas Pageant, and adventurous activities). It brought curiosity and a smiles.

We read two stories to help us see how we can be welcoming ("Rainbow Fish" and "If Jesus Came to Visit Me"). Sharing, playing together, being kind, hugging to name a few.

We ended with some elaborate chalk art on the sidewalk. Dinosaurs, hop scotch, hearts and sunshine. All of which bring smiles to passers by.

Miss Polly Cappelloni will be helping out this year—bringing a fresh perspective. Class will be weekly during the 10:00 service in the "family room".

No class October 3 or October 24

God's Blessings,  
Miss Leslie

## *Living our Theology, Demanding Justice*

### *ELCA Stories of Faith in Action*

The first time Angela !Khabeb attended an ELCA church service, she and a friend, prepared for an "evangelical" experience, brought their tambourines and Bibles. "We didn't use either, and before we knew it, we were done with church!" !Khabeb recalled.

Curious to learn more, she visited ELCA.org and found social statements explaining the church's commitment to diversity, gender equality and racial equity. ELCA social statements, developed through the ELCA churchwide office and funded by Mission Support, are a frequent starting point for potential members in learning how Lutheran theology applies to pressing issues.

After years of searching for a place in Pentecostal congregations that limited her leadership because of her gender, !Khabeb hoped the ELCA was where she belonged.

She continued her faith journey as an ELCA missionary serving the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia and a seminary student at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. After calls in Ohio and Wisconsin, she became pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis in 2018. Holy Trinity's building is located less than three blocks from the Minneapolis Police Department's Third Precinct, where Officer Derek Chauvin worked. After Chauvin murdered George Floyd on May 25, 2020, protests broke out in the precinct.

Holy Trinity served as a first aid station and a food distribution center during the uprising. !Khabeb preached in the streets and later appeared on ABC's Good Morning America to discuss faith and racial justice.

The simultaneous reckoning with racial inequity and the COVID-19 pandemic forced Holy Trinity to grow in its vocation, she said. "We've made strides in our congregation, moving from the toxic theology of scarcity to the breadth and joy of abundance." The response also amplified her voice.

!Khabeb thinks the ELCA needs strong leadership if it wants to practice the same theology it espouses in social statements. "A lot of times we look to [pastors and deacons] to do the things that all of us are called to do as baptized members of the body of Christ," she said. "If we see violence and division in our society, we find it also in our pews. Lay leaders are key to reminding the church of what we said we would do. God is like a mirror. Just keep holding it up and asking ourselves, 'Are we there yet?'"

## Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

### **St. Stephen's Child Development Center**

We welcome families of all faiths and cultural backgrounds. We provide developmentally appropriate individualized curriculum, teaching to each child's learning style. We offer teacher-directed and emergent child-centered activities through play and discovery. As trained observers, we teach to each child's individual needs and interests. Our small class sizes, 1:6 teacher-child ratio, provide for a nurturing environment while building a solid academic foundation that is well-rounded and fosters love for learning. Social-emotional skills are developed through redirection and teaching problem-solving skills with an emphasis on kindness to self, others.

Each Thursday Children's Chapel service is hosted by Pastor Jim who helps the children light the altar candles, leads songs accompanied by his guitar, followed by a story from "The Beginners Bible."

September - Lutheran Campus Ministry = \$30 (as of Sept. 26)

## 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.

Please contact Janet Slay (475-5668) or the church office if you would like to volunteer.

## **In Memoriam—Ron Buswell**

**April 12, 1948– Sept. 12, 2021**

We remember well our dear and faithful brother in Christ whose quiet faith and life of service to the Church and those in need was a tremendous gift to us all. He and Sheila became a part of St. Stephen's 50 yrs ago. Ron served as Treasurer for many years, faithfully stewarding our financial gifts, especially the establishment of S.S.Reserve Acct. after the building of S.S Sr. Housing. He was our construction consultant on our Affordable Housing Task Force, as we entered into the partnership with Mid-Pen Housing, and helped negotiate the Ground Lease. He spearheaded the drive to add a much-needed restroom in our Narthex, oversaw the installation of our solar panels, built the much more welcoming Family Room, installed beautiful cabinetry in the Organ/Choir Loft area, built the preschool "stray cat-proof" sandbox (among many other projects), oversaw the renovation and installation of our church bell, initiated a Memorial Brick program around the bell so that loved ones could be remembered, and also helped construct the present day church offices and Fireside Rm.

There is much more that is not included here. Indeed, his handprint and handiwork offered to the glory of God is felt throughout our church building and people.

Ron also had a "2nd Career" as his family calls it, with the local Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, where he served as Interim Director once, and Chair of Board of Directors for many years. He will be greatly missed. Our lives of faith have been deeply enriched by his witness.

Services will be private, with an All Saints Saturday (Nov. 6) Church Memorial Service for Ron and those we lost during the pandemic time.



## **Provide Lunches for Volunteers**

**Tuesday, October 26**

(4th Tuesday of each month)

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

## **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