

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

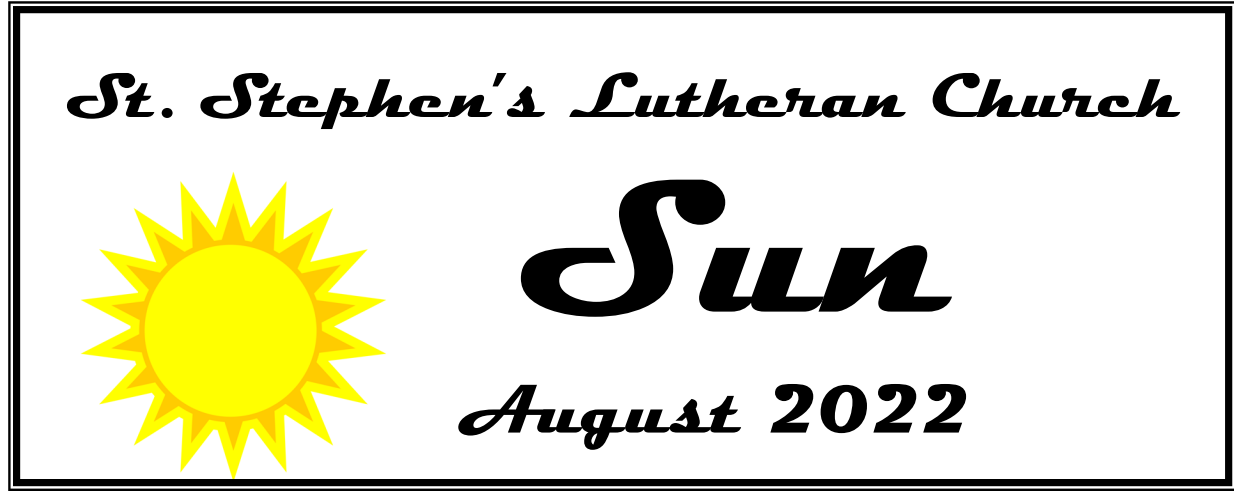
(Print the bulletin and Celebrate so you can read, sing and pray with Pastor Jim. Have some bread and wine/grape juice ready for Holy Communion)

**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
August 25, 2022**

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



Sierra Pacific Synod
committed to being re-formed

**Synod Council Appoints the
Rev. Claire S. Burkat as Interim Bishop**

After consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and per the Sierra Pacific Synod Constitution (S8.54), the Sierra Pacific Synod Council has appointed the Rev. Claire S. Burkat as its interim bishop. She hopes to begin working in the synod the week of July 10.

Burkat joins the Sierra Pacific Synod from the Southeastern Pennsylvania (SEPA) Synod, where she served two terms as bishop (2006-2018). She is a 1978 graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and has served as a congregational pastor, assistant to the bishop, and mission director with the SEPA Synod, New Jersey Synod, and the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Since her retirement as synod bishop in 2018, Burkat most recently served as interim chaplain of Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa., and stepped in as acting bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod during Bishop William Gohl's sabbatical.

The Sierra Pacific Synod Council and staff warmly welcome Burkat and thank the Office of the Presiding Bishop for its support in this time of transition.

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
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

8-3 Robert Gipson	8-23 Kasey Garden	8-3 Steve & Theresa Loback - Campbell
8-7 Pastor Herb Schmidt	8-25 Lea Powers	
8-9 Lydia Abler	8-27 Leslie Lapp	8-6 Mark Linder & Mary Dean
8-14 Renee Rice	8-28 Rachel Lapp	
8-15 Susan Oldfield	8-30 Emma Gipson	8-15 Ross & Barbara Johnston
8-17 Brad Cramer		
8-18 Derek Poetzing		
8-19 Evelien Millang		8-30 Scott Ruble & Leslie Radford
8-20 Imagin Abler		



SHORT TERM: The People of Ukraine, Family of Audrey Peterson, Sydnei Wilbywold, Family of Mary Gilbert, Judi Alvarado, Paul Paustian, Kurt Bell, Mike Payne, Deborah Henry, Carla, Elllie, John Spires, Lisa, Adrian Cameron, Gracia Bell Williams & Family, family of Nancy Madsen (Stephen, Shannon, Matt, Scott, BeeJai & grandchildren), Kent Madsen, Family of Chris Slay (Tyler, Levi, Alexandria, Dean, Keith & Janet) , Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Family of Ryan Barker, Amber, Gaye Cornell, Harriet Edsall, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Kirsten Skiles, Jane, Nancy, Margot Wilson, Rose, Sam, Aaron Johnson, Atlas, Isaac, Mateo, Don, Lina, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Marisa, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Healthcare workers & teachers. **LONG TERM:** Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, 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

Virtual Fundraiser 3.0 - We have held very successful virtual fundraisers for the last two years. There will be another this year, as COVID-19 is still afoot and making mischief. Watch this space

for details on the next fundraiser.

Prayer Child Sponsorships - *Thank you so much* to those who have committed to support your prayer children for another year and have made the associated donations. As of this writing, we still have several children without sponsors. If you are interested in sponsoring a child in El Salvador, please contact me.

2022 Delegation - Dr. George Bunch of the Santa Cruz al Salvador board has made a temporary group reservation for 12 people leaving San Francisco on Monday, November 21st with return on Monday, November 28th. These are non-stop flights. Please let me know if you are interested in going to El Salvador this November. Visiting El Salvador is a life-changing experience! Sadly, I will not be able to join this delegation.

Thank You - 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



As I reflected on our nation's anniversary, I came across this poem. I liked that it brought us back to remember what our true and ultimate allegiance is in—the light of Christ—which has been from the beginning, and on which everything in life depends.

DEPENDENCE DAY

By John Daniel

It would be a quieter holiday, no fireworks
or loud parades, no speeches, no salutes to any flag,
a day of staying home instead of crowding away,
a day we celebrate nothing gained in war
but what we're given—how the sun's warmth
is democratic, touching everyone,
and the rain is democratic too,
how the strongest branches in the wind
give themselves as they resist, resist
and give themselves, how birds could have no freedom
without the planet's weight to wing against,
how Earth itself could come to be
only when a whirling cloud of dust
pledged allegiance as a world
circling dependently around a star, and the star
blossomed into fire from the ash of other stars,
and once, at the dark zero of our time,
a blaze of revolutionary light
exploded out of nowhere, out of nothing,
because nothing needed the light,
as the brilliance of the light itself needs nothing.

The Church Administrator Returns from “The Camino”



BUEN CAMINO

I had hoped to have a nice summary of my journey and wrap it up with a bow for you. But, alas, my pilgrimage continues to unfold. Detailing my days would not do it justice. There was not one simple lesson. It was a full mind, body & soul experience. I partnered with someone who is very different from me, yet whom I respect and trust with my life. The two of us provided for the other what we could not offer ourselves. Every step was a blessing. How can walking more than 10 miles per day be a blessing? There were giggles and tears. There were fascinating people, and surreal sights. There were questions and answers. There was no wrong doing. There was no fear, anger, or worry. The only discomfort was our poor feet. The focus each day was on the Spirit. We pilgrims were treated with such respect. We were not tourists, we were honored guests. They didn't just trust us, they knew that we were walking with God. I'm getting teary as I think about it, and that simple life. When we allow God's word to wash over us, we cannot help but be transformed. Thank you ALL for this opportunity and for your prayers.

“A Course in Miracles” By Marianne Williamson

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our Light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God.

Your playing small doesn't serve the world.

There's nothing enlightening about shrinking.

So that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We were born to make manifest the Glory of God that is within us.

It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.

And as we let our Light shine,

We unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear,

Our presence automatically liberates others.

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2022 through June	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$400
SS Scholarships	\$200
Live Oak Resource Center	\$275
Habitat for Humanity	\$550
Mt. Cross	\$285
World Hunger	\$265
Housing Matters	\$0
CLU/PLTS	\$0
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$67
SS CDC	\$250
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0
Lutheran World Relief	\$50
ELCA Synod	\$500
COPA	\$750
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$3,042
2021 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$14,360
% of Target	21%

St. Stephen's College/University Scholarships Available

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

Please contact the church office (office@ststephenslutheran.org, 831-476-4700 for an application form; submit completed forms to the church office by August 31, 2022

Treasurer Notes ...
Budget Information · June 2022

	June	June	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution Income	\$7,079	\$11,625	\$72,667	\$72,760	\$-83
Facility Use Income *	\$400	\$1,216	\$6,061	\$7,300	\$-1,249
Investment Income	\$4,385	\$5,000	\$30,760	\$30,000	\$760
Total Income	\$11,864	\$17,841	\$109,478	\$110,050	\$-572
Expenses	\$19,234	\$21,749	\$117,804	\$122,268	\$-4,463
Net	\$-7,370	\$-3,908	\$-8,326	\$-12,218	\$ 3,891

* Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month (when paid) + Misc. Income.
 Contribution income for June was significantly below budget and it was necessary to withdraw an extra \$5,000 from investments. Please remember your church if you are away this summer.

Thank you to those who have contributed this year!

Special funds for the Organ, Piano, Hearing Impaired and Solar Electricity

	June	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$50	\$0	\$419
Piano	\$0	\$120	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$395	
Solar Electric Payback	\$396		\$10,355



Church Council Highlights

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

Church Council had it's summer break and did not meet in July.

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.”



In Memoriam

Mary Elizabeth Gilbert

June 16, 1927— May 6, 2022

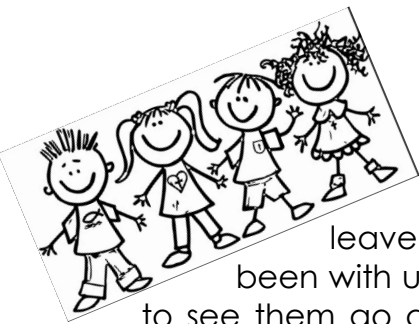
We will dearly miss Mary’s cheerful and consistent presence in worship. She lived a beautiful life as a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, 1st-3rd gr. Teacher, world traveler and local volunteer at Good Shepherd Catholic School and for Lift Line (which she did until 90yrs old and then only stopped when she noticed everyone she was driving around was younger than her!) She also loved roller coasters and rode the Giant Dipper at age 90!

Audrey Patterson

D. July 25, 2022

We were just getting to know dear, sweet Audrey as she would come to church with her good friend Beth Stiles from La Posada. She was returning to her Lutheran roots and had planned to join the church on July 10 when she was hospitalized and did not recover. Like Beth, she was a knitter and also enjoyed making clothes for dolls. She often mentioned how much she appreciated the warm welcome she received here.

**“God bless the memory of these children of God.
 May light perpetual shine upon them.”**



Child Development Center

In summer we say farewell to families as children leave for kindergarten, through August 11th. Many have been with us for 5-6 years as their second child departs. It is hard to see them go after being involved with their daily lives for so long. They leave with a solid developmentally appropriate foundation, and know the love of Jesus, which helps us as we say farewell. In August we have a smaller group to work with as we arrange supplies and storage for fall. This year we postponed enrollment for new students until September 6th rather than mixing very young two's beginning school with seasoned three's in the Toddler class. We close the last week of August through Labor Day. A fresh start begins in September for all!

Now that we have reached most of the goals of 10 years, I was able to take a month off. Our excellent teachers were able to efficiently run our preschool. I am deeply grateful to them for covering. During that time, our garden was producing carrots, sugar snap peas, and cherry tomatoes. I delighted in seeing pictures of children eating the carrots on the playground. The teachers are treating the children to plenty of outdoor water play and other fun experiences of summer.

I extend a special thank you to Kathy Allen who has volunteers as our treasurer, above and beyond towards helping us reach our goals. Thank you for all you have done to support our preschool, and helping me learn business financing, and agreeing to continue as a contractor for payroll in such an organized fashion!

Now I will share my personal adventure of summer. Memorial weekend I traveled to Carson City to celebrate my father's eightieth birthday. During this visit I spent a day in Virginia City. My father donated some furniture, including a giant wooden poetry cabinet that was in his home that was previously filled with our family pictures, to Mackay Mansion. John William Mackay immigrated from Ireland before the potato famine to New York and lived in the Irish slums. At the age nine he was a newspaper boy so he could help feed his family. He attended one year of education, then his fa-



For Mission of St. Clare From our member, Shay Barsabe

Looking for an iOS and Android programmer to update the apps for the Daily Office at The Mission of St. Clare. Not asking for a redesign, just some needed updates.

Neither is this a request for pro bono work: there will be payment.

For 30 years (yup, 360 months), The Mission of St. Clare has offered the Daily Office online in English and in Spanish. It is read by more than 2000 people daily. Take a look, if you haven't, at <https://www.missionstclare.com/>.

So, if you can help, please contact Shay at postmaster@missionstclare.com. Thanks for your time and attention!

Sunday School



We are meeting EVERY SUNDAY in August.

Luke 11:9-10

Knock Knock—whose there? God is there and he answers prayer!

ASK—and it will be given to you

SEEK—and you will find

KNOCK—and the door will be opened for you

How much more simple could it be? Jesus taught us how to pray.

Now we just have to be intentional, persistent, patient, and aware.

See you soon!

Faithfully, Miss Leslie

Encountering God in the Book Of Creation: Nature

By Steven Hendrickson

Dear Beloved Community,

How is your daily practice of reading Scripture and quiet reflection going? Hopefully, your pattern of hearing God speak and silent listening are blessing you with a closer relationship with Christ. Our sensitivity and intimate experience is growing deeper.

Walking meditation and sitting quietly in nature reveals our Lord's beautiful handiwork. The Book of Creation, Martin Luther teaches, that there are two books of Scripture. The first is the Book of Creation, then the Scriptures we are familiar with in the Old and New Testament. Now, we are learning to appreciate God's Being in all of Creation.

In walking meditation, one proceeds in silence, opening to all of the senses, absorbing all of the sights, smells, and observing everything around us. Taking it all in, we are immensely grateful, thanking God for the beauty and connectedness. Five to ten minutes of walking is a good beginning, but you decide the duration of the walk. Prayer naturally arises as an ending response. Sitting quietly outside, preferably in a very quiet location, will reveal sounds and sights not normally experienced. The area around you may come alive with activity. Observation and gratitude surfaces within. As in all of our quiet times, we are open and receptive to God's Holy Spirit.

These are suggestions, if you feel led to practice them. Enjoy the beautiful weather outside as we expand our awareness and move our bodies as well. Please remember to bring your Bible with you.....

May God's grace and peace be with you.....

God speaks; In the silence of the heart.

Listening; Is the beginning of prayer.

Mother Teresa

ther passed and he worked the shipyard for years to feed his mother and sister. At age nineteen, he traveled to the Sierra Nevada to mine gold. After eight years, making little to nothing, he walked with his friend 100 miles to Virginia City to mine there. No matter his circumstance he was always grateful for work, no matter the work he had to do. He honored all working people no matter their socio-economic level, and was an honest man (So the story goes). In his early forties, he struck the largest silver mine in the Comstock load and became the richest man in the world at that time. I got to tour his mansion/mining office (Which is the size of a two-story family home in our time). I knocked on the door, was sent away. Then, the museum docent ran to my car and invited me in to see all of the antiques. Mackay went on to live a good life as a respected man. The history, especially California, and San Francisco, was very interesting to me. A month later, after visiting my grandchildren when my mom got to spend time with her great-grandson's, my mother and I went to Montana for my annual summer visit. I began reading "The Bonanza King," the story of John William Mackay and the entire process of mining the Comstock Lode in Virginia City. Also rich with California history, the Civil War, and the building of the trans-continental railroad in the mid-eighteen hundreds. This book included information about where my daughter lives in Plumas Lake which was flooded in 1863 with 49 inches of rain before the installation of levees. Now I understand the name of her town.

Today at church in Trout Creek Montana, a lady new to the church sat next to me at the Fellowship luncheon who is moving from Reno. Her husband and son are miners in Virginia City where they previously lived. What are the odds of that!? My book and travels came to life as we shared stories of the area. She will be my parent's new neighbor. How invigorating that my interest in historical reading came to life.

Next, we celebrated my grandson Levi's 4th birthday at the Sacramento State Fair. I had never been. It was really fun. Please keep Levi and his family in your prayers as they continue to help him with his development. There is so much room for hope through prayer. I am blessed to have two beautiful grandsons. God is good, all the time. - Kathy Berens

August Special Benevolence Offering

California Lutheran University

The ELCA social statement on education calls us to remember our roots: "From the time of the Reformation, the Lutheran church has been a teaching and learning church...With his teaching on vocation, Lutheran understood the Christian life to be one of service to God and neighbor in one's every day places of responsibility; education equipped Christians for this vocation. He taught that education served the common good of Church and society: In a move unusual for his day, he taught that schools for all –both those who were wealthy and those who were poor, both boys and girls..."

For 50 years the congregations of the ELCA in the West, and its predecessor bodies have been committed to this idea of educating young people for lives of leadership and service in the world, and the establishment of CLU is the lasting mark of that commitment. By sending your people to CLU and supporting it with offerings and prayers, our congregations have continued in the rich tradition of a Lutheran understanding of education. As CLU President Dr. Chris Kimball writes, "CLU has emerged as a remarkable place where students, faculty, alumni and friends come together in a dynamic environment of academic excellence in the arts and sciences with a focus of service as well as vocational and spiritual exploration."

And

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

We provide theological education for the training of clergy and lay leaders through ordination, non-ordination, and research level degrees and certificates.

PLTS is one of eight seminaries of the ELCA, a founding member of the [Graduate Theological Union](#), and a graduate school of CLU.

Theological education is done in the context of people who are rich and poor, liberal and conservative, and a wide array of human race, religion, sexuality, education, experience, and background. If our theology did not take all people into account, it would be deficient. PLTS develops leaders for the church by: deepening faith in Christ; challenging the mind; expanding the heart; and energizing for mission.

June: World Hunger—\$65

July: Housing Matters - \$140 (as of 7/24)

Provide Lunches for Volunteers Tuesday, August 23

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. [.habitatmontereybay.com/donate-a-car](http://habitatmontereybay.com/donate-a-car) or (877)277-4344



Zoom
with Pastor Jim

check email on
Weds. for link

**THURSDAYS 11a -12noon
& 7:30 – 8:30 pm**

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.