

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

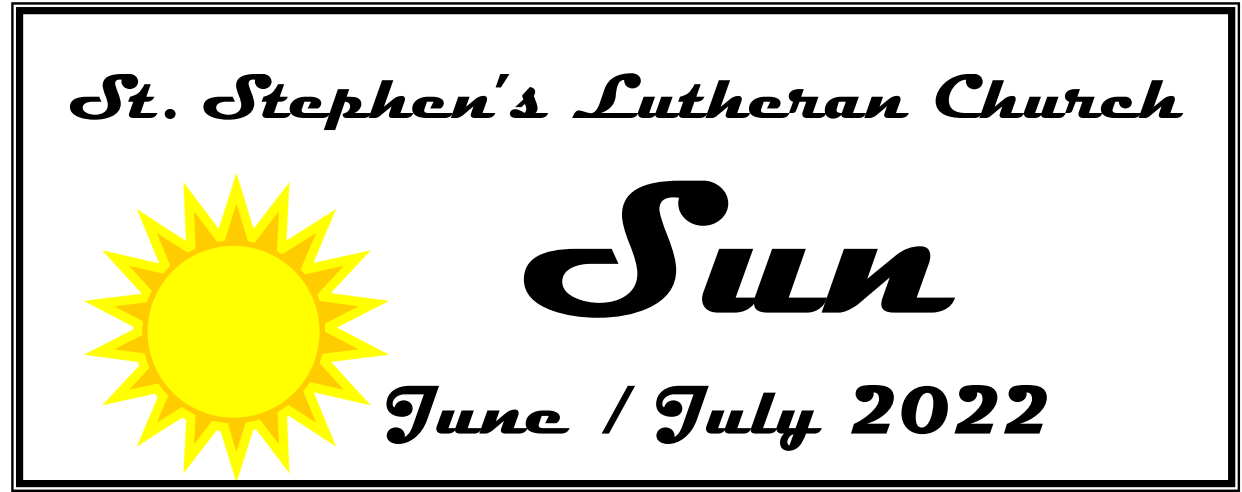
(Print the bulletin and Celebrate so you can read, sing and pray with Pastor Jim. Have some bread and wine/grape juice ready for Holy Communion)

NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
June 2, 2022

POST OFFICE:
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PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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

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Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Dear partner in Ministry,

From the beginning of the Ukraine crisis, the generosity of congregations across the country has been overwhelming. You saw our Ukrainian neighbors fleeing in the harsh winter cold, children and belongings in tow, and you welcomed them with quilts and kits. You saw refugees separated from loved ones, in strange new countries, and you provided them with emergency supplies and support to rebuild their lives after destruction.

Thank you for your compassion, prayers and incredible generosity.

In our latest special edition (at lwr.org/congregations), we're reporting back to you on the ways your love is reaching our neighbors now, both in Ukraine and those in nearby regions who have fled their homes.

The long road ahead:

The needs and the number of refugees continue to grow. What may not be so evident is the long-term impact our neighbors from Ukraine will face. The top three challenges are #1 *Food Security* #2 *Livelihoods* and #3 *Health Care*.

Thank you for being a congregation that extends God's love when and where it's needed most. Because of your care, our staff and partners on the ground will continue to respond to immediate and long-term needs.

In deep gratitude,
Rev. Lisa Kipp, Congregational Engagement

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

6-1 Shelly Barker	6-20 Gary & Diane	7-22 Kevin Meek
6-1 Jim Hanson	Hintz	7-23 Martha Balogh
6-4 Anne Davis	6-22 John & Lorie	7-24 Sherilyn Jager
6-5 Lauren Pond	Coronado	7-24 Ingrid Lanoue
6-6 Joseph Ronning	7-2 Vi Olly	7-24 Julia Poetzing
6-12 Madeline Mouw	7-5 Judith Alvarado	7-25 Eve Roberson
6-14 Stephanie Laufer	7-6 Scott Poetzing	7-27 Mark Linder
6-16 Tara McMillin	7-6 Beckett Ruble	7-29 Kylie Ronning
6-19 Kim Brouse	7-9 Sandi Crouser	7-1 Robert & Dusty Gipson
6-20 Abigail Robe	7-10 Kyle Lapp	7-18 Manny & Patricia Travers
6-26 Mary Kelly	7-12 Arija Buswell	7-28 Charles & Sandra Eldridge
6-29 Michael Nunes	7-17 Don Ray	
6-30 Susan Gross	7-18 Gary Meeker	
	7-21 Cheryl Bartee	



SHORT TERM: The People of Ukraine, Family of Mary Gilbert, Beth Stiles, Judi Alvarado, Mike Payne, Deborah Henry, Carla, Elllie, John Spires, Lisa, Adrian Cameron, Fred Allen, Gracia Bell Williams & Family, family of Nancy Madsen (Stephen, Shannon, Matt, Scott, BeeJai & grandchildren), Family of Glenn Johnson, Kent Madsen, Family of Chris Slay (Tyler, Levi, Alexandra, Dean, Keith & Janet), Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Family of Ryan Barker, 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, 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

Prayer Child Sponsorships - Thank you to those who have committed to support your prayer children for another year and have made the associated donations. As of this writing, donations are still coming in; if you haven't sent yours,

there's still time. We would also like you to write a short letter to your prayer child and include a photo.

Please donations to:

Marian Langdon
220 Horizon Way
Aptos, CA 95003

Please send letters to:

Gwen May
779 Branciforte Ave
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Or, you may give them to me on Sundays. Thank you!

2022 Delegation?

There is an update on the 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. 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



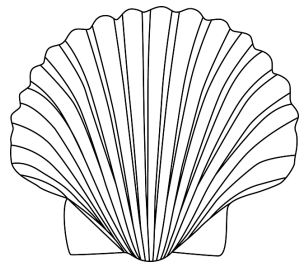
My Pilgrimage to the Holy Land!

I was extremely blessed to be able to travel with my seminary in Chicago to Palestine/Israel May 16-28, thanks to the generous gift of former members Kirk and Terri Adams. The Travel Seminar was entitled "Ancient Sites and Current Struggles", and it was an amazing experience that I will be sharing with you in much greater detail soon. It both confirmed and challenged many aspects of what I know about our faith and the holy scriptures.

As good Lutheran Christians, we focused both on the historical / archaeological stories from the Bible, as well as the places and acts of faith that took place in that tiny part of the world. Indeed, it is so small that it has spawned centuries of conflict and devotion that continue in stark ways today. It is the nexus of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, with each one falling prey to the more tribalistic instincts human beings have, as we all struggle with how to get to heaven and whose way is the best / right one.

There were very moving encounters with people who are keeping the light of peace alive in a very contentious environment. In fact, just after we left 70,000 ultra-orthodox young Israeli men stoked the ancient pain of Jerusalem by parading through the Moslem quarter of that divided city, shouting nationalistic slogans and demeaning those of the Muslim faith and ethnic heritage. I even witnessed a group of about 100 of them doing the same thing 2 days before as they prepared for the bigger demonstration.

So the "current struggles" were front and center most of the time as we also drove and walked past miles and miles of giant walls built in the middle of Palestinian land by illegal Israeli settlements. But the "ancient sites" drew us back to the origins of these conflicts and the emergence of an unlikely leader born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, taught and preached all around the Sea of Galilee, and finally shared the pain of humanity by going to the heart of it all in Jerusalem and laying down his life for peace on earth. I can't wait to tell you more!



The Church Administrator Embarks on a Spiritual Journey

This Pilgrimage was not of my doing. In fact, it was nowhere on my radar. Sure I was excited for our Hannah Travers to do it, but I never thought it might be my path as well. The invitation from my long time friend was both inspiring and impossible to decline. I was included in Pastor Anita's (Advent Lutheran Morgan Hill) sabbatical journey to walk the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

I couldn't accept . . . or could I? Before I committed, I had a thorough work up from my doc and both physical therapists. They, all along have been inspired by my recovery, and gave me the green light for this once in a life time opportunity.

I have had an adventurous life, but this one is like no other. Though it will be beautiful, historic, and strenuous, the impact goes much deeper. Since my accident, I have been more able to listen to God. Not that I have a lot of clarity, but I have peace and spiritual confidence. This Pilgrimage will lead me to a place my soul has not been. I'm certain to return a *transformed* Leslie.

The call of the Camino is being heard all around the world—the call to move beyond that which separates us and to find that common bond, that spiritual thread which binds us together and, connects us to the *Source of all that is*.

If I've already lost your interest, just watch the Martin Sheen movie "The Way". It is both entertaining, and thought provoking as you following his walk. Rick Steves, a fellow Lutheran, has also made an interesting video you can find on line.

May YOUR journey along YOUR chosen path be blessed—rough or smooth, long or short—whichever route you take, know that YOU are loved and your destination is assured. My trek from Villafranca del Bierzo June 14—28 will be a prayer filled 120 miles. In His Peace, Leslie

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2022 through April	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$400
SS Scholarships	\$200
Live Oak Resource Center	\$250
Habitat for Humanity	\$525
Mt. Cross	\$0
World Hunger	\$0
Housing Matters	\$0
CLU/PLTS	\$0
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$32
SS CDC	\$0
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0
Lutheran World Relief	\$50
ELCA Synod	\$250
COPA	\$500
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$2,207
2021 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$14,360
% of Target	15%



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; please submit completed forms to the church office by July 31, 2021.

Kent Madsen, Treasurer

Treasurer Notes ...
 Budget Information · April 2022

	April	April	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution Income	\$9,759	\$13,925	\$50,601	\$49,500	\$1,101
Facility Use Income *	\$300	\$1,216	\$3,726	\$4,866	\$-1,140
Investment Income	\$4,385	\$5,000	\$21,395	\$20,000	\$1,395
Total Income	\$14,444	\$20,141	\$75,722	\$74,366	\$1,356
Expenses	\$21,140	\$20,292	\$78,787	\$80,427	\$-1,640
Net	\$-6,696	\$-151	\$-3,065	\$-6,061	\$ 2,996

* Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month (when paid) + Misc. Income.
 Contribution income for April was again below budget, but the year-to-date totals are on target, thanks to several full-year donations.

Thank you to those who have contributed this year!

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

	April	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$100	\$0	\$619
Piano	\$0	\$120	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$395	
Solar Electric Payback	\$350		\$11,162

Church Council Highlights

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

1. We met in-person in the sanctuary with Vice President Steven Hendrickson leading the meeting as President Shelly Barker was unable to attend at the last minute.
2. Pastor Jim reported on the update to our Sierra Pacific Synod’s troubles regarding the actions of our Bishop Megan Rohrer removing Rev. Nelson -Rabell Gonzalez from the roster of the ELCA. Our Churchwide Bishop Elizabeth Eaton had appointed a Listening Team to advise her on the very contentious matter that led a thriving new Latine Church to leave the ELCA because of the way that Bishop Rohrer had acted—especially that it left a racial minority community feeling betrayed and dismissed. Subsequently, several other churches in our Synod called for Bishop Rohrer’s removal and will leave the ELCA if Bishop Rohrer is not removed or does not resign. Bishop Eaton has asked for Bishop Rohrer to resign due to the loss of trust as several other matters have come to light regarding Bishop Rohrer’s actions as the pastor of the now closed Grace Lutheran Church—SF, but is not going to bring any disciplinary charges for removal. The Synod Council has also been asked to resign by several churches, but issued a statement of support for Bishop Rohrer instead.
3. The Synod Assembly will take place June 2-4 in Sparks, NV and there will be much more that will unfold regarding whether or not Bishop Rohrer will continue. Pastor Jim, Margaret Schraft and Steven Hendrickson will attend. Please keep the whole matter in your prayers as our church struggles mightily with what our witness of God’s grace will look like in this difficult situation.

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

Here we are looking straight into summer! As we recovered from the delays and pivots of Covid-19, we managed to complete many projects. So many took longer than predicted but as I write this, I am beginning to feel the peace of completion.

All our teachers have been sufficiently compensated in salary, medical insurance coverage, and 403(b) retirement plan. The School Board included your director in this, and I am feeling very appreciative of the overall progress of fair compensation for myself and our team. I look forward to the coming school year knowing these goals which almost took a year to put in place are settled. Kathy Allen (SSCDC Treasurer) has been especially helpful in the decision process and helped us become established with a payroll person. The very best news is that Kathy and I have created our first annual budget. This has been a long-term goal. We know that we need 4 teachers (Including me) and can serve on average 20 students per year. This gives us an amount to work with. We arrived at this right before the pandemic but could not move forward. We have now recovered so this budget can be put in place along with saving our rainy-day fund, which has also recovered. The office business for now feels neat and complete!

Our wonderful Eagle Scout William and his team have completed the renovation of our playground. I look forward to planting a garden and putting creative touches on the playground now that the big jobs are finished. In the distant future we will revisit the lawn, but this is certainly not the right time of year for that. I want to thank again School Board members Mary Kelly and Sandra Eldridge for funding a large portion of these projects for us. I also want to thank Bill & Margaret Schraft for serving as our President and Recorder who keep us organized. The School Board Members all mentioned here along with Pastor Jim are a very important part of our ministry and caring advocates for all of us involved, especially the children we serve! The student's especially love weekly Chapel with Pastor Jim!

We found a new photographer and I can't wait to see the school portraits taken in May. We used the rhododendron in front of Fellowship Hall as the backdrop. Janet Slay has nursed that back to health as it is many years old. The flowers all around our campus are so lovely, thank you

Sunday School & Our *Fishy* kids!!!

Whaat?!? Oh yes, fish are mentioned many times in the Bible. We are to be fishers of men aren't we? When God tells us to cast our nets on the "other" side of the boat, we better do it!

John 21:1-19 Peter's Second Chance

We all mess things up from time to time, sometimes in bigger ways than others. Then what? Do you just give up? Do you pretend it didn't happen? Or do you own up and try again? It's important to be persistent. You never know what will happen when you give something (or someone) another shot. There are actually a lot of amazing things that we have and use every day that were invented almost by mistake: potato chips, chocolate chip cookies, safety pins, dynamite, Silly Putty, and Coca-Cola to name a few. Google them to see! What is truly amazing, is that God often takes our mistakes and turns them into something meaningful. Let God turn your mess into success!

John 10:22-30 Nothing can take us out of Jesus hand

"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me". The children / sheep were blindfolded as I / the Shepherd led them about. The shepherd's job is to guide, feed & protect the flock. The sheep just have to follow. Simple right? Right! We tend to make life more difficult than it should be. As Christians, we believe that God loves us. But the trust part is our problem! If we truly listen & look, God provides the answers.

John 13:31-35 Love one another as Jesus loved you.

Most of us don't wear uniforms, or signs that say we are Christians. Cross necklaces are everywhere, and may or may not mean anything to the wearer. So, exactly how are we to show that we are Jesus lovers? Following the 10 Commandments is a good answer. Love is not only the hugs & niceties, but more so the honesty, fairness, generosity & peace. Listen to the song "We are one in the Spirit" to hear how they will know we are Christians by our love. It talks about praying for unity, walking with each other, and guarding each mans dignity. Powerful!

No class June 12—July 10. Unless YOU want to teach. LMK.

Faithfully, Miss Leslie

be still
& know
THAT I AM
god

PSALM 46:10

Develop Patterns of Quiet "Listening"

By Steven Hendrickson

For those of you who have joined in our daily prayer practice, how are you doing? Hopefully, you are experiencing a little more peace. Also, sitting with God's Word can bring a sense of optimism and joy which can be a break from a very stressful and fractured world. This change in attitude and an open heart and mind can make all the difference.

So, my gentle suggestion for this month is to listen for God speaking to you daily. If this practice is healing for you, try to increase something that speaks to you, just a little bit. Easy does it, this practice is meant to be relaxing and restorative. Examples of increasing include: two more minutes of quiet time, perhaps two Bible readings instead of one, or have two times of reflection and quiet instead of one. It's all up to you to decide. If what you are doing now works well, then continue. Of course, everything I am saying is a suggestion, we are open to the Holy Spirit who speaks to us.

May this coming month bring a deepening sense of relationship with Christ, through the Father and Holy Spirit. Be well, beloved community.....

May God's grace and peace be with you.

Janet! We also appreciate John and how well he cares for us and keeping our campus clean.

So now the teachers and I are going to organize our closets and rooms during the summer. We should be in fine shape come September when our new students arrive. Elementary School begins August 10th this year so our 8 graduates will be trickling out until then. Graduation Chapel will be on June 9th at 10:15. Each child receives a copy of the Beginners Bible signed by Pastor Jim and me, a diploma, portfolio of pictures and crafts, and a library bag from our Raising-A-Reader (Sponsored by First 5) book rotation program along with a library card application. Each child is separately honored by highlighting their accomplishments and the great memories we shared here. What a remarkable group of resilient children and families who pivoted along with us through the pandemic. Some families began here in 2016, 2017 with their first child! Some found us for just this year providing much wanted socialization for their child. These children especially loved coming to school.

So now that things are settled and manageable, I am ready to take a much-needed break. I look forward to seeing my family and spending some very quiet days in Montana. I look forward to clearing my head and contemplating the next school year with all we have accomplished and put in place. During the last two years my mind has been focused on keeping people healthy, pivoting as they become ill, and managing projects that took so much more time than should have. So yes, I cannot wait to clear that out and look towards the future. I will be gone for a month.

I also want to reflect and share how much I value working with Leslie each day and how blessed I am that she is here! I still feel the miracle of her recovery. The Lapp's and I became a very strong team through so many events. This along with my gracious and talented teachers fills my heart with gratitude. I appreciate so many of you, each showing kindness and support. I am fortunate to be in your company and fellowship life. I may not see you much this summer, but you are all in my heart.

Peace be with you; Peace be with our school!

Warmly, Kathy Berens

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

JUNE = World Hunger

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

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

JULY = Housing Matters

Housing Matters is the largest nonprofit in S.C. County working exclusively on the issue of homelessness. We connect unhoused community members with housing. While we offer things like public showers and a mailroom, our ultimate goal is to end homelessness for everyone in Santa Cruz County living without a home. And we do that, one person or family at a time.

We run nine different programs carefully designed to connect people with housing. We end or prevent homelessness for over 300 people each year. And again, we're just one organization working on the issue in our county.

People are getting out of homelessness and into housing every. single. day. It takes a tremendous amount of work and support. And yet they're doing it. WE — as a community — are doing it. It's beautiful and inspiring and transformational.

May — Mt. Cross Lutheran Outdoor Ministry = \$160 (as of 5/31)

Provide Lunches for Volunteers Tuesday, June 28 & July 26

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](https://www.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.