

**ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SERVICE**

Ready for your participation each Sunday at 10am.

In-person, Live Streamed on our website, or as a recording.

Go to **[www.stephenslutheran.org](http://www.stephenslutheran.org)**

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

NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON  
April 28, 2022

POST OFFICE:  
DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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

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

*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church*



**SUN**

**May 2022**

Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!  
Christ Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!



**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**

5-3 Margaret Schraft	5-25 Trent Hopping	
5-5 Kathleen Allen	5-26 Andrew Davis	
5-5 Kent Madsen	5-26 Epimenio	5-24 Paul & Leah Powers
5-6 Cheryl Curry	Valencia	
5-6 Renee Robe	5-27 Mark Brouse	5-26 Epimenio & Emily Valencia
5-7 Ross Johnston	5-27 Tyleigha	
5-10 Julie Mouw	Brouse- Jones	
5-15 Jesse McMilin	5-27 Barbara Rice	
5-18 Jordan Ayers	5-27 Mary Robe	
5-19 Laney Johnson	5-28 Mitch Ronning	
5-20 Aria Bartee	5-29 Elke Spires	
5-24 Travis Awe		



**SHORT TERM:** The People of Ukraine, George, Adrian Cameron, Fred Allen, Kirstin, Carla Brown, The Keegan Family, Emma & Steven, 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, Alexandria, Dean, Keith & Janet) Gracia Bell Williams & Family, 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, Lorie Juhl, 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 send them to:

Marian Langdon  
220 Horizon Way  
Aptos, CA 95003

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

### **2022 Delegation?**

There is news on a 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 Friday, November 17th at 1:15 PM arriving in San Salvador at 8:45 PM with return on Saturday November 26th at 7:45 AM arriving in San Francisco at 11:55 AM. These are non-stop flights. Please let me know if you are interested in going to El Salvador this November. The flight costs \$590 roundtrip and payment is not due until September. Visiting El Salvador is a life-changing experience! Sadly, I will not be able to be on 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 am very excited to announce that I will be able to travel to the Holy Land from May 16-28!! This opportunity only recently became available and I was able to work out the time and details right before Easter.

I will be taking my annual two weeks of Continuing Education time (which I haven't taken for 3 years) to join a Travel Seminar with my seminary—Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. It is entitled:

### **“The Land of the Bible with Ancient Sites & Current Struggles”**

Led by Professors Barbara Rossing and Klaus-Peter Adams

We will visit **Caeserea Maritime**, residence of Pontius Pilate, **Megiddo or “Armageddon”** and its' 25+ layers of civilization, **Tel Dan**—a nature preserve at one of the 4 springs that form the **Jordan River**, **Caeserea Philippi**—site of Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ, **Magdala**—birthplace of Mary Magdalene and site of the Mount of Beatitudes, **Capernaum**—center of Jesus' Galilean ministry with a 1st century fishing boat, **Nazareth** site of the Holy family's residence, **Bethlehem**—Christmas Lutheran Church worship on Sunday, **Hebron**—Tombs of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, **Bethlehem**—Church of the Nativity (oldest church in the Holy Land), **Shepherd's Field**, **Herodium**—Herod's fortress, **Evening with Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb**—an instrumental Palestinian Christian leader for peace, **Masada**—Herod's desert fortress, **Qumram**—where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, **Jerusalem**—August Victoria Hospital, Mount of Olives palm Sunday road, **Garden of Gethsemane**—site of Jesus' arrest, **Via Dolorosa**—the way that Jesus carried the cross, **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**—built over **Gologtha** and the tomb of Christ, **Upper Room**—site commemorating the Lord's Supper, **Temple Mount, Western Wall**—foundation of the Temple destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD, **Pool of Siloam**—place of healing for Jesus, **Yad Vashem**—Holocaust Museum, **Israel Museum** with model of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus.

I was not sure if I would ever be able to make this pilgrimage so central to our Christian faith, but thanks to a generous donation from former members Kirk and Terri Adams, it is going to really happen! I am looking very forward to sharing this experience with you all upon my return!



Ehh,  
What's Up,  
Doc?

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"

### New Ways of Giving

Our *Virtual Offering Plate* has been enhanced. We are now able to receive donations made by: credit card, debit card, PayPal and Venmo.

There are three choices:

- 1) **Vanco**, our regular electronic giving provider;
- 2) **PayPal/Venmo** for single one-time gifts;
- 3) **PayPal** with the possibility of recurring donations and an option to cover the fees.

All are available at <https://ststephenslutheran.org>  
(click on the **Donate Now** button)  
or by scanning this QR code.



Questions: Call Kent Madsen or Janet Slay

### Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2022 through March	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$400
SS Scholarships	\$175
Live Oak Resource Center	\$250
Habitat for Humanity	\$0
Mt. Cross	\$0
World Hunger	\$0
Housing Matters	\$0
CLU/PLTS	\$0
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$22
SS CDC	\$0
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0
Lutheran World Relief	\$50
ELCA Synod	\$250
COPA	\$500
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,647</b>
<b>2021 Benevolence Target (10%)</b>	<b>\$14,360</b>
<b>% of Target</b>	<b>11%</b>



### A Note about the 2022 Budget

First of all, thank you congregation for reaffirming the January 30th vote on March 20th! After the budget was tentatively approved on January 30th, I noticed some issues with the budget as presented at the meeting. The issues were:

1. There was a mathematical error in the "Internet Access and TV" section – the Child Development Center (CDC) contribution was not included in the subtotal for Admin. Expense. This overstated expenses by \$480. I also increased the CDC contribution to telephone expenses by \$400 since telephone costs have gone up. When corrected, these reduced the total budget exp. by \$880.
2. The salary amounts for Pastor Jim, Leslie, and Gary needed to be adjusted so the annual amounts, when divided into individual payments, were relatively round numbers. This reduced total expenses by \$17.

I had omitted the cost of living increase for John Hopping, our independent contractor custodian. This increased expenses by a net \$734. Altogether, the total expenses of the budget were reduced by \$163.

## Budget Information · March 2022

	March	March	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
<b>Contribution</b>	\$9,689	\$12,225	\$40,842	\$35,575	\$5,267
<b>Facility Use Income *</b>	\$1,375	\$1,218	\$3,426	\$3,650	\$-224
<b>Investment Income</b>	\$4,385	\$5,000	17,010	\$15,000	\$2,010
<b>Total Income</b>	\$15,449	\$18,443	\$61,278	\$54,225	\$7,053
<b>Expenses</b>	\$18,245	\$21,421	\$57,647	\$60,135	\$-2,488
<b>Net</b>	\$-2,796	\$-2,978	\$3,631	\$-5,910	\$ 9,541

\* Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month (when paid) + Misc. Income.  
Contribution income for March was again below budget, but the year-to-date totals are still positive, 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

	March	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
<b>Organ</b>	\$200	\$0	\$719
<b>Piano</b>	\$8	\$120	
<b>Hearing Impaired Equip</b>	\$0	\$395	
<b>Solar Electric Payback</b>	\$293		\$11,512

**Kent Madsen, Treasurer**

## Church Council Highlights

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

1. We met in person in the sanctuary. All other meeting spaces are in use by our Boy Scout Troop on Tuesday evenings. In attendance were President - Shelly Barker, Vice President—Steven Hendrickson, Treasurer—Kent Madsen, Paul Cunningham, Jay Johnston, and David Balogh via Zoom. Alyssa Burkhardt—Secretary had alerted us that she would be unable to attend this meeting. Shelly took the minutes.
2. After devotions, Pastor Jim announced that he would be taking a pilgrimage to the Holy Land May 16-28 with a Travel Seminar from his seminary—Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. This trip will be led by Dr. Barbara Rossing—Professor of New Testament Studies and Dr. Klaus-Peter Adams. Pastor Jim knows Dr. Rossing from when they both (and Leslie) volunteered at Holden Village for the summer of 1990. In particular, he shared a story about a time when he led the Holden Evening Prayer service and proceeded to lead the Lord's Prayer as it was written in the bulletin at that time: "Abba/Imma in heaven, hallowed be thy name." Abba means father in Hebrew, while Imma means mother. After the service a very green, first year seminary student, Pastor Jim, was immediately charged by a fuming Seminary professor from Ohio and lambasted for leading the Lord's Prayer that way! Dr. Rossing, the Program Director, thankfully intercepted the situation as Pastor Jim quietly exited to the ice cream parlor!
3. The roof still leaks on both ends of the low point, but not where it was repaired. Knox roofing has been called back to do further repairs.
4. We agreed to continue the current worship practices outlined in the weekly email, despite the prospect of a new surge. This will be reevaluated at each Council meeting.

## 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

In April, we had an Easter Egg Hunt on Good Friday for the school with 23 children. My grandsons got to participate which was thrilling for me. Levi our oldest who is 3, was the first out there but didn't know what to do until his grandpa said, "Levi pick up the eggs and put them in your bucket!" He did not have to be told again! This was his first Easter Egg hunt due to Covid over the last two years. We had so many food treats for our party and the children gave a prayer of thanks and were reminded that this is the day we celebrate that Jesus loves us all. They all went home with their Easter buckets and a smile.

Another highlight for me was watching our Sunday school children in their butterfly wings made with great care. I had fun watching Leslie and Sheila create the wings and how happy it made them. Thank you, parents, for sharing your children with us in this way it made Easter extra special. Of course, "All That Brass" lead by Gary was magnificent, we are fortunate to enjoy their talent. It was meaningful to see Pastor Jim preach to a full church of many folks I hadn't seen in a very long time, his joy shined.

I came to Easter alone and figured out how to make that enjoyable. Being the Greeter is the best way to not feel alone, rather getting the opportunity see each person and give a greeting and big smile. Seeing old friends, and making new friends brought such warmth to me.

I met the nicest women who attended ELCA churches in the Bay Area. She was enjoyed being with us as a visitor. It turns out she was visiting from Missoula, Montana where I fly in and out of to go to Trout Creek. We shared some Montana stories. She is third generation from Santa Cruz, and we shared local stories as I grew up around here and the Bay Area too, as a fifth generation. She even attended First Baptist Church in Los Altos where I was Baptized in sixth grade by the twin brother Pastor of Twin lakes decades ago. She attended Twin Lakes and knew who they were. Our experiences were along some of the same paths and we both consider ourselves ELCA Lutherans. She would like to be a snowbird, being near her daughter in Montana (Where she moved one year ago) and here where she is from. I invited her to join us when she is in town, and I truly hope she does. Another gift in the day, as I was thinking of Montana where my mother is and

## Sunday School & Our Fruity kids!!!

We chanted "Hosanna" on Palm Sunday. Meaning *Praise God!* But did you know it also means *God help us????*

During Lent we talked about growing "good fruit". God has planted us here on this earth and he expects us to produce good fruit in our lives. You can't plant a tree in the middle of the street and expect delicious fruit to grow. When God sees the way we live our life, he wants to see things like LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, and GENTLENESS. There are times when he is disappointed in what he sees, but he is willing to give us another chance....again and again! What can we do to help produce the kind of fruit that God expects? We can turn away from bad choices, and focus on God's love. We can worship regularly, read God's Word, share and pray.

Easter brings good things! We celebrate the good fruit. God gives us these gifts and we share them with others. These gifts help us to deal with bad things when they happen. And they do happen regardless of how "good" we are!!!

The transforming of our cocoons to butterflies was a great illustration of growing into our potential. Until we creep out of the dark, drab cocoon, our life is not fulfilled. With God's help, we emerge colorful creatures! Each of us are unique, with a beauty of our own.



*THANKYOU to our extra helpers:*

*Sheila Buswell for her master crafting guidance & supplies*

*Kim Frey for her artistic flare and support*

*Barbara Johnston for craft donations*

Please note that these ladies do NOT have young children. They simply offer their gifts because they can. I believe that God's Spirit is flourishing, and each of us can touch another through this type of generosity.

Faithfully,  
Miss Leslie

Be still  
& know  
THAT I AM  
god

PSALM 46:10

## Encountering God Through Reflection Upon Scripture

by Steven Hendrickson

Here is a suggestion to enhance your experience of meeting God through Scripture and quiet, receptive sitting in God's presence. Gently, and prayerfully, this is offered if you feel called to try this practice. If not, that is fine too, because our Lord has many ways to reach us, if we but listen and respond in faith.

Find a quiet place where you will not be disturbed for fifteen minutes. Locate a reading from the Bible. Good sources are: the devotional, Christ In Our Home, the Celebrate Insert in the Sunday Church Bulletin, underneath the Prayers of the Church are the readings under the heading, Preparing For Next Week. An app that the ELCA Publishing House, Augsburg Fortress, has is entitled Daily Lectio, is a wonderful source of readings.

As you begin, pray and ask for awareness of God's presence. "I am here, open and receptive, speak to me." Read the passage out loud, softly or in a whisper two times. Then sit quietly for five minutes. The idea is to quiet the mind, like a flower turning to the sun to absorb its rays. Silently, follow your breath flowing in and out, or selecting a sacred word to focus on can be very helpful. This is a very personal choice, but a one or two syllable word works well. Some examples are: *Jesus, love, peace, truth, Holy Spirit, Amen*, or whatever word you choose. Return to following your breath, or your sacred word when other thoughts intrude.

After five minutes in silence, a personal prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or both, are fine ways to conclude your private time with our Triune God.

Try this everyday for a month, and then assess your own personal experience. If you miss a day, return to this rhythm when you think of it. "Has something shifted in my awareness of God's presence? Do I sense closeness with God more than I did a month ago?"

In gentleness, quietness, and peace, we behold our heart's gathered in prayer. Please feel free to speak with me if you have any questions or responses.

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

wore a necklace her friend from church had made me. Therefore, I wasn't alone at all, Jesus saw to that!

I was delighted to arrive and see the lovely flowers that Janet Slay planted outside my office. I always have appreciated that she does this for us, Thank you Janet!

The rain in April has been a big help to our playground renovation. By mid-May our Eagle Scout William should be done with his project and our garden will be growing. I look forward to gardening with the children. As I write this, we are observing caterpillars go through metamorphosis and will be released in the garden when completed.

May is a reflective month as we observe how much the children have grown here. I am sewing with 8 children right now, making sachets for their mothers. It is so important to show them this hobby I have loved, taught to me by several generations. We sew buttons on the fabric held by an embroidery hoop. Then, they get to use my sewing machine as we put them together and stuff them with lavender. They are good at it and love the opportunity.

Children are practicing name writing with Miss Rosio. At this time, we help them refine their grip on the pen in preparation for kindergarten. Rosio helped them make some beautiful crafts. I hope you got to see our Easter display. Sam continues to come up with fun ways to incorporate movement into the curriculum. We opened our "Flower Shop" for dramatic play in the classroom. Brenda keeps our toddlers wrangled and steers them in the right direction each day. Our school is full with around 16-18 students each day, a total of 23, which is as full as we have ever been. We have children waiting to start here in September, it is so hard to keep them waiting!

Our May Graduation Chapel has been scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>. This is the month I reflect on each of our 8 graduates and highlight their strengths for a presentation honoring each individual. Just like we teach to each individual meeting them developmentally where they are. They leave here ready for the next step knowing that Jesus loves them. A great foundation as their world gets larger. Most will be staying for Summer School where we lighten up the curriculum and have fun together, especially outside.

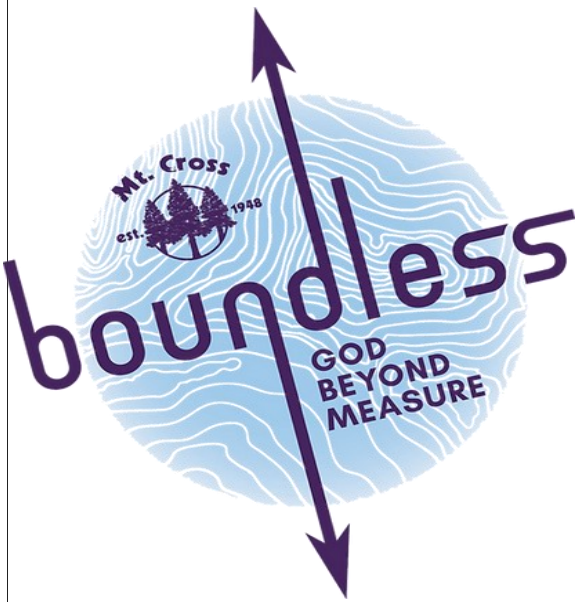
Warmly, Kathy Berens

## Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

**May—Mt. Cross Lutheran  
Outdoor Ministry**

*"Profound Experiences  
in God's Creation"*

Mt Cross has brought so much joy to our young campers for over 65 years. Many of our children at St Stephen's have grown in their faith enjoying this outdoor ministry right in our backyard. Many of those children are grown adults who are leading our church right now, including Renee Rice, Jay Johnston and Nathan Lapp!



Mt. Cross thanks you for your continued prayers and support, especially as they emerge from the consequences of the pandemic which caused them to cancel the summer program for only the second time since the 1940's.

**This Summer—Regular summer camp is back!**

Programs:  
Explorers, Trailblazers, Voyagers, Pathfinders & Surf-n-Turf

Register now!  
[www.mtcross.org/summercamp](http://www.mtcross.org/summercamp)

**There are also employment opportunities**

April - Habitat for Humanity total = \$415.00

## **Provide Lunches for Volunteers Tuesday, May 24**

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**

*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.*