

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

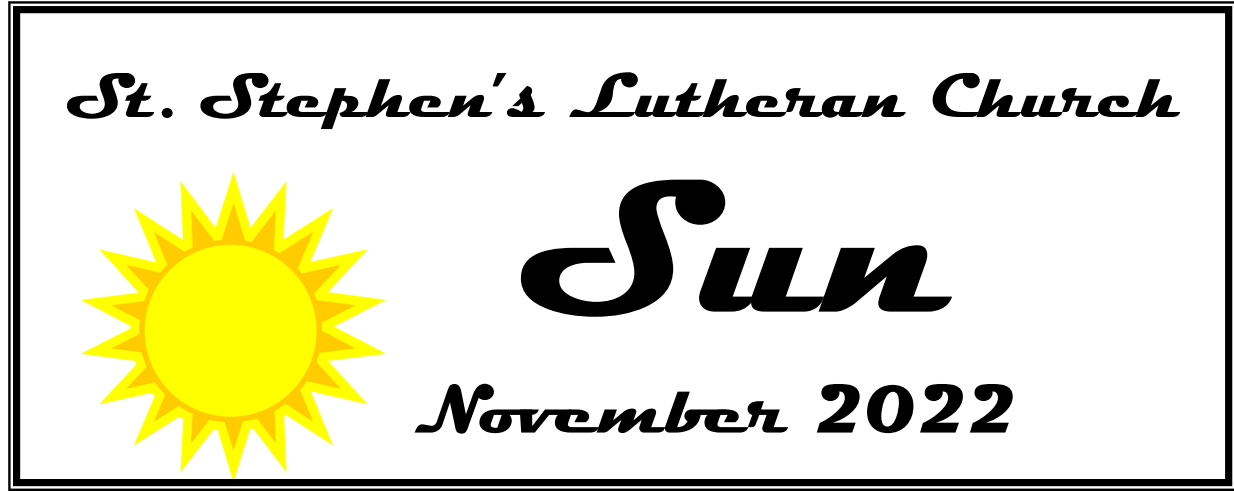
(Print the bulletin and Celebrate so you can read, sing and pray with Pastor Jim. Have some bread and wine/grape juice ready for Holy Communion)

**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
October 27, 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



Grateful for God's Persistent Abundance
Consecration Sunday - November 20

Please bring your commitments to worship or send them in.

Let's all respond to God's love and grace for us generously with gratitude!

Please use the materials mailed out to you recently as we honestly reflect on how we will give back to God through our church in the coming year.

Through faith and persistence, as God enables us, let's strive to:

- Pray persistently for the ministry of our church.
- Attend worship services often to keep our faith first, and seek to interest others in sharing that with us.
- Be available to follow God's leading by offering your gifts of time and ability through our church.
- Significantly give financially to the work of the Spirit as a reflection of your dedication, through the ministry of our church in 2023.



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

11-5 Sandra Eldridge	11-17 James Abler	11-25 Brian Brouse
11-7 Dorothy Ronning	11-17 Ariela Turzo	11-26 Mathew Garden
11-8 Lorie Juhl	11-19 Isaiah Brouse	11-26 Galahad Hughes
11-9 Grace Schmidt	11-19 Briana Juhl	11-26 Linda Ronning
11-10 Amanda Cunningham	11-19 Jessica Juhl	
11-11 Charlotte Judd	11-20 Hilding Ronning	11-26 Sam & Nancy Loya
11-11 Zellie Lapp	11-22 James Jones	
11-13 Colin Boyle	11-22 John Hopping	11- 27 David & Martha Balogh
11-14 Barbara Johnston	11-23 Xavier Brown	
11-16 Stephen Cappelloni	11-24 Kirstin Csik-Hughes	
	11-24 Kathy Johnson	



SHORT TERM: Shiela P., Mary Smith, Tina G., Paul Cunningham, Sandra, Lyla Brown, Barbara Rice, Family of Tom Dunham, Barbara Allen, Family of Audrey Patterson, Beth Stiles, Tara McMilin & family, Anita & Howard, The People of Ukraine, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, Kurt Bell, Will, Deborah Henry, Kathi Chavez, Carla, Ellie, Adrian Cameron, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Kirsten Skiles, Nancy, Marisa & Isaac, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Sam, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.

LONG TERM: Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Jan Wagner, Sandie & Dale, 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.

El Salvador Sister Parish News

2022 Virtual Fundraiser - Thank you to everyone who has donated for this "event". The drawing will be held in November and the winners will be contacted individually. The prizes are as follows:



- Three baskets of special craft items from El Salvador
- Sailing adventure for up to six people on the "Salty Sheep" catamaran with Captain Ryan Althouse out of the Santa Cruz harbor
- Gift basket with items for the garden
- Gift basket with nice wine & related items

2022 Delegation - We currently have 11 people signed up for the delegation leaving San Francisco on Monday, November 21st with return from San Salvador on Monday, November 28th. Please pray for the delegation that their travels may be safe, informative and inspiring. Please let me know if you are interested in going to El Salvador on a future delegation. *Visiting El Salvador is a life-changing experience!*

2023 Prayer Children - The timing for our prayer child commitments has changed. As we did last year, we will be contacting you early in 2023 once the scholarship committee in Guillermo Ungo has been able to identify scholarship recipients for the new year.

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 for their contributions. We cannot do our work without help from our donors. Your gifts make a difference!

Peace in Christ,
Kent Madsen, St. Stephen's representative
on the SCaS Board of Directors

From Pastor Jim



I am very honored to announce a very significant and meaningful financial gift to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church from the Glenn (Barbara) E. Johnson Family Trust! Here is the letter we graciously received:

October 13, 2022

Gift to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in the amount of \$54,165 from the Glenn E. Johnson Family Trust.

The Reverend Glenn and Barbara Johnson loved their St. Stephen's church family. They felt very strongly during Glenn's pastoral service and in their retirement years about the mission and the vision of their church, both locally and globally. The Trust would like to respectfully share Glenn and Barbara's intentions and wishes for the use of their gift by St. Stephen's.

- 1) *It is their wish that \$25,000 be used to support the St. Stephen's Child Development Center.*
- 2) *Both Glenn and Barbara sponsored prayer children and supported the mission of Santa Cruz al Salvador. It is their wish that \$10,000 be used to support Santa Cruz al Salvador.*
- 3) *Glenn volunteered as a driver for Grey Bears delivering much needed food to the many elderly and shut-in persons in Santa Cruz. For over 12 years he delivered groceries to seniors who were not able to leave their homes to shop on their own. It is their wish that \$5,000 be used to support Grey Bears.*
- 4) *Both Glenn and Barbara were very concerned about the worldwide rise in poverty, injustice and suffering brought about by climate change, wars and global instability. It is their wish that \$5,000 be used to support the Lutheran World Relief.*
- 5) *Barbara was an ordinary citizen who engaged with neighbors and tirelessly worked for a better and more Just local community. It is their wish that the remaining \$4,165 be used to support COPA... "which strives to develop leadership in ordinary people..."*

The Trust is excited to make this gift. We are excited to see the good and many widespread benefits it will provide to St. Stephen's and our broader community.

Thank you, The Glenn E. Johnson Family Trust



Thankful . . . Grateful . . . Blessed

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our church family members (**Connie, Janet, Jeanette, Kathy, Margaret, Rebecca, and Shelly**) for contributing sandwiches, fruit, cookies and/or chips for the Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay lunches during the past year. The Habitat volunteers are so thankful and appreciative of the support you provide each month. I

hear the appreciation regularly. I also want to thank Leslie and Kathy who provide church onsite support. Habitat volunteers work hard, Monday through Saturday, building homes for deserving families in our county. At present six families have moved into their new homes while work is being done on four more. (Ground has not broken, yet, for the last home on Rodeo Creek site.) Habitat thanks you for your support, and if more would like to donate an item for lunches (the 4th Tuesday of each month), please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church or call the church office. Items can be brought to the church and they will be delivered to the work site.

With appreciation, Sheila B.

Synod "El Camino" Conference 9 Gathering

With Interim Bishop Clare Burkat
And Sierra Pacific Synod V.P. Simon Wong

Saturday, November 12th, Morgan Hill

Pr. Jim and our congregation Synod delegates Steven Hendrickson & Margaret Schraft invite you to join them at this important gathering about the direction of the larger church (190 congregations in N. CA & W. NV.), also know as our Sierra Pacific Synod. This will be a time of conversation about what has happened with the resignation of our former bishop and how we can begin to heal and plan for the future.

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2022 through September	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$400
SS Scholarships	\$200
Live Oak Resource Center	\$275
Habitat for Humanity	\$550
Mt. Cross	\$285
World Hunger	\$640
Housing Matters	\$875
CLU/PLTS	\$270
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$332
SS CDC	\$250
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0
Lutheran World Relief	\$50
ELCA Synod	\$750
COPA	\$1,500
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$6,377
2021 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$14,360
% of Target	44%

**Kent Madsen
Treasurer**



Treasurer Notes ...

Budget Information · September 2022

	September	September	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution In- come	\$10,468	\$11,625	\$101,223	\$107,625	\$-6,402
Facility Use In- come *	\$838	\$1,216	\$10,254	\$10,950	\$-696
Investment In- come	\$4,385	\$5,000	\$44,724	\$45,000	\$-276
Total Income	\$15,691	\$17,843	\$156,201	\$163,575	\$-7,374
Expenses	\$19,736	\$19,792	\$172,379	\$182,023	\$-9,644
Net	\$-4,045	\$-1,949	\$-16,178	\$-18,448	\$ 2,270

* Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month (when paid) + Misc. Income.
Contribution income for September was short of the budget by \$1,157; year-to-date expenses have exceeded income by \$16,178. In early September an additional \$12,000 was withdrawn from investments, making the year-to-date total \$17,000.

*Please remember your church if you are away this fall.
Thank you to those who have contributed this year!*

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

	September	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$80	\$0	\$179
Piano	\$0	\$120	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$395	
Solar Electric Payback	\$282		\$9,351

Church Council Highlights

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

1. Devotions centered on trying to reframe some of the discouraging feelings that have come with the negative effects on our church as we emerge from the worst of the pandemic. Seeing fewer people in church, as we've said goodbye to so many who have either moved or passed on God's Glory, while not welcoming many new folks, can bring on some understood sadness about the future of our church. We talked about always being a people of God's hope, while remaining grounded in our reality. This means that we look for the possible new ways that God's Spirit is leading us, trusting that as long as we are here, there will always be a mission as Christ's Body gathered.
2. We sent off David Balogh with prayer and thanksgiving as he moves to CO. He will continue to serve on Council to fulfill his last term through January, since we are able to include him via Zoom meetings and email. After that he will be joining a congregation near to his home.
3. The Treasurer's Report reminded us that we are \$16,178 in the red for the year so far. This is under the \$25,000 that the Council was authorized to use from our \$1.5 million Reserve Fund for each year through 2024. However, it is hoped that regular giving will be able to make up much of that deficit for Oct.-Dec.
4. Pr. Jim reported that the Confirmation Class continues to grow spiritually with the 4 dedicated youth, as they study the overall themes and messages of the Bible for our daily lives.
5. Pr. Jim Co-Chaired the Sept. 20 COPA Delegates Assembly and the Oct. 24th Supervisor Candidate Accountability Session. The latter resulted in affirmative responses from all 5 cand. for all of COPA's agenda re: more affordable housing, renters protections and better access to healthcare for undocumented workers and mental health care for all.

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

Thank you to our St. Stephen's friends for donating to "Inflation Donation" and the benevolence fund. At the time of this writing, I do not know the total of what we received, but I do feel the hope that it gives me when our community comes together in mutual support of our preschool ministry. Through our changing times we have been pivoting through highs and lows. The school year beginning is a high as we are implementing regular, yet safe practices, in the activities for the children. Never have I been so grateful for a regular routine and curriculum. It feels so grounding! The children who do have some learning loss are rising each week in their abilities as we provide the tried and true routines and activities that they enjoy. We have also been giving them the time to just play with their friends and develop their social emotional skills and confidence. This group is wiggly at Circletime so we have to be more dramatic and capture their attention rather than expect them to sit still and listen. We are a little low in enrollment due to a few changes, but it is allowing for the extra attention for each of these children. While we wait until the new year to enroll a few more friends, people like you make a difference in supporting us in clever ways until we get there. In this experience I have some God stories.

Last week I was told we only have one package of baby wipes left. I buy them by the case which is expensive. Well, a few days later there was a whole case of the kind we use in our donation basket! It wasn't even on the list! I am so appreciative!

That same Sunday a member handed me a donation envelope and asked me to do the shopping with the donation. I went to buy a few items but when I opened the envelop, I was astonished at the generosity of this donation as it paid for this trip and a few more as we fill in groceries between what has already been donated! Again, so appreciative! Folks are helping us stock up on essentials and we are all so thankful, this November and always!

My mother always says, "God wants your little school to succeed." Teacher Brenda always tells me things will work out, they always do. They

Sunday School



• Luke 17:11–19 "The Thankful Leper"
 • We have lots to be thankful for everyday,
 • but sometimes we forget to say those two
 • little words. Sometimes called magic
 • words. Our moms used to remind us by saying "now what do you say?"
 • This Bible story told of Ten Lepers coming to ask Jesus to heal them.
 • Obviously they knew the power of Jesus so they asked very nicely.
 • But Jesus told them to go to their priest. Curious right? Obediently
 • they went. But on the way they looked at their skin and the sores
 • were gone. Jesus had healed them! They were so happy that they
 • ran up and down the streets singing and dancing. **One** of them
 • stopped and went back to Praise (and thank) God. Hmmm, what about
 • the other **9**? Only One out of Ten said thank you. May we remember
 • that all Good Gifts come from God, and honor Him!

• Luke 18:1-8 "Pray and Don't Give Up"
 • After Jesus finished the story about a persistent woman, he said,
 • "Learn a lesson from the judge. God's people cry to him night and day.
 • God will always give them what is right, and he will not be slow to an-
 • swer them. I tell you, God will help his people quickly!" God likes to
 • hear us ask, not just once, but again and again. He doesn't want us to
 • give up.

The 5 Finger Prayer (helper for all ages)

Thumb: Those closest to you, your family.

Pointer: Those that point you in the right direction (teachers, doctors, pastors) ask for wisdom & support.

Index (tallest): Those that lead us, (Government) ask for guidance & wisdom.

Ring (weakest): those that are weak, in trouble, or in pain. We cannot pray too much for them.

Pinkie (smallest): Our prayers for ourselves & our own needs.

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Begin the Process of Emptying Yourself

By Steven Hendrickson

How is your daily time with God going? Reflection upon scripture and sitting quietly can yield marvelous treasures in a reciprocal relationship with God. Here is a prayer that touches me deeply (by Thomas Keating):

*Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!
I welcome everything that comes to me today
Because I know it is for my healing.
I welcome all thoughts, emotions, situations,
conditions, and persons.
I let go of my desire for power and control.
I let go of my desire for survival and safety.
I let go of my desire for affection, esteem,
approval, or pleasure.
I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition,
person, or myself.
I open myself to the love and presence of God
and God's action within.
Amen*

You may be thinking, "Wow, who can do this?" Yes, this prayer asks a lot from us. But, this is a lifelong process of letting go, and letting Christ fill your heart, mind, and soul. Each one of the petitions from lines 3-6 are behaviors that are connected to the human ego or small self. Jesus asks us to deny ourselves and carry our cross. Along with scripture and meditation, the practice of this prayer provides the inner journey of transformation in Christ. What better time than the next two and one half months to begin this process. Instead of endless activities, copious amounts of food, and insatiable demands, perhaps simplification can provide some joy and peace. Please do this in your own way and pace, if you choose to do this at all. These are just some thoughts to ponder before Advent.

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

are correct. We are enjoying these times, such as the Halloween Parade around senior housing, and pie baking coming up this month with the children. I want to thank Rose and Gina, along with any other friends who helped us make goodie bags for the children's parade/Trick or Treating.

All these blessings along with knowing that when we return from Christmas break, we used our time wisely with the children we have, and we will welcome 3-4 more students in winter to round out our enrollment. With this enrollment and the waiting list for next school year, our school is going to remain on a good foundation where children can thrive. We just needed a little push up the hill during transition in fall.

In November, we have parent teacher conferences with our pre-school class. They receive a written report that includes pictures of some activities and a report on the developmental areas; Fall Interview about what the child likes and enjoys at school and at home, Language and Literacy, Cognitive, Fine Motor, and Social Emotional learning. We set goals from this baseline with the parents. Then, in late spring, we compare the development. This shows the parents we really saw their child and it keeps us accountable to each child. I love the screening activities with each child. They blossom right before me and love the individual attention they are given when we do these activities. For example, this time of year we are playing one-on-one Spider Math, and Leaf math. Fun ways to learn numbers count and add.

The St. Stephen's children, Sunday school and Preschool will be making cards to share with our senior neighbors this year. Leslie is always so thoughtful to spearhead these connections between us.

So many people contribute to our Preschool. Thank you to John who keeps us cleaned up, Janet who tends to the beautiful flowers. Thanks to our board members Pastor Jim, Bill, Margaret, Mary, Sandra, and Kathy Allen. We appreciate our partnership and support from Leslie. A special thanks to our talented teachers Brenda, Sam, and Rosio. Thanks to our congregation!

May your Thanksgiving be blessed!

Kathy Berens

Farewell & Godspeed

David Balogh— After faithfully serving our congregation in so many ways over 50 yrs. (Council Pres./Member, Christian Ed., Usher and Resident Scientist!), he and Martha will be moving to Fort Collins, CO to be near their family.

Gary Meeker— Although Gary will remain a church member, he has moved over the hill into assisted living to be near his family. So Pastor Jim will be visiting him from time to time to bring our love and good tidings and vice versa.

We are all incredibly grateful for the ways both of these brothers have served with us over the years!

November - Special Benevolence Offering

Santa Cruz al Salvador / Sister Parish

“Building Relationships for Better Lives” See page 15

October — Child Development Center = \$30
(as of Oct. 22)

Communities Organized for relational Power in Action

3. Leadership Training Events—November and December TBA

We will continue raising up new leaders to help us work toward more just and equitable communities that serve those in need.

4. 20th Anniversary Convention—April/May/June 2023

We gather with 1,000—1,500 members in Santa Cruz & Monterey Counties to celebrate and announce our new initiatives.

Provide Lunches for Volunteers Tuesday, November 22

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.