

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**

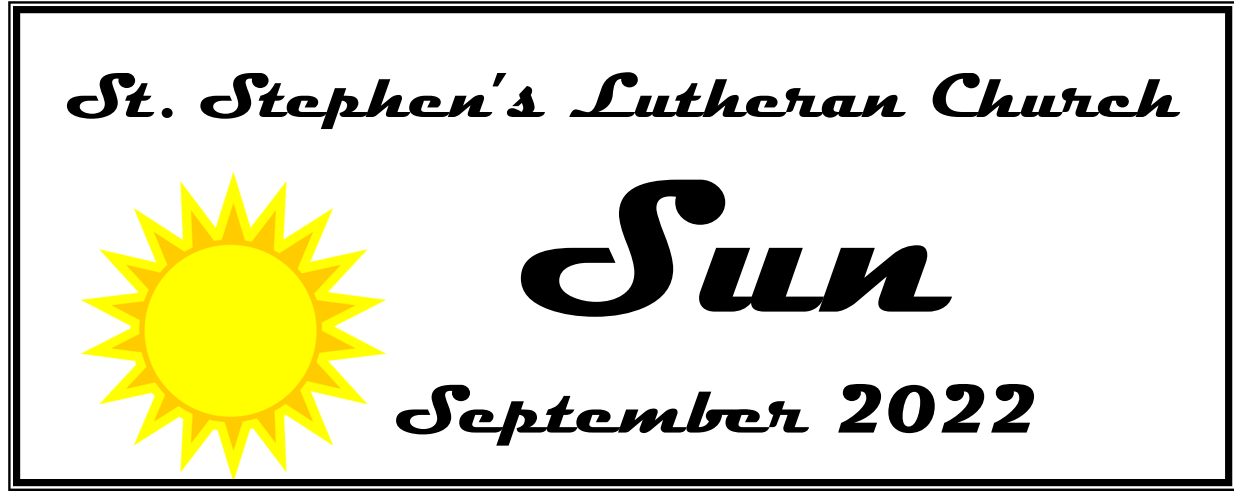
(Print the bulletin and Celebrate so you can read, sing and pray with Pastor Jim. Have some bread and wine/grape juice ready for Holy Communion)

NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
August 25, 2022

**POST OFFICE:
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

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



Pastor Jim's presentation of his
Pilgrimage to the Holy Land!
Thurs. Sept. 8, 15, 22 & Oct. 6, 13, 20
At 11am - Noon and 7:30pm - 8:30pm

**(Why mess with the best attendance we've ever had?
 So this will be in place of Bible Study for 6 weeks.)**

Please join via Zoom or plan to attend in-person at the church at the 11am time (not 7:30pm due to other groups here). Watch for the weekly e-mail for the Zoom invitation.

Exploring the world of the Bible, especially Jesus' ministry, will help us gain a better understanding of it's central messages for us today!

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

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 9-7 David Balogh | 9-24 Alex Csik Hughes | |
| 9-8 Cabel Dawson | 9-26 Hayden Ruble | 9-4 Jim Jones & Shay Barsabe |
| 9-11 Rebecca Wickham | 9-26 Hope Coronado | 9-6 Jim & Naomi Florin-Gosciminski |
| 9-12 Collin Travers | 9-26 Jan Wagner | 9-6 Ken & Susan Gross |
| 9-12 Hannah Travers | 9-29 Joanne Freymuth | 9-6 Kevin & Marla Meek |
| 9-14 Elias McMilin | 9-30 Kristen Silva | 9-17 Paul & Connie Cunningham |
| 9-15 Ashley Volpi | | 9-29 Stephen & Lauren Pond |
| 9-17 Marta Bechhoefer | | |
| 9-18 Connie Cunningham | 9-1 Tom & Jeanette Dawson | |
| 9-19 Philip Spires | 9-3 Bill & Margaret Schraft | |
| 9-20 Brian Awe | | |



SHORT TERM: 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.

Sister Parish News

2022 Virtual Fundraiser - The Board of Directors has scheduled the third annual virtual fundraiser for September, since COVID-19 is still making mischief. We will be sending out letters describing the fundraiser and the drawing items offered. From the letter:

"You've been a big part of our organization's fabric over the years. We can't thank you enough for your support as a donor. Each year, with your help, we have been able to continue our efforts in El Salvador by supporting university and school scholarships and providing materials needed to build composting latrines."

A drawing entry will be awarded for every donation of \$100 or more.



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 from San Salvador 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. 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



If we will have the wisdom to survive,
To stand like slow-growing trees
On a ruined place, renewing, enriching it,
If we will make our seasons welcome here,
Asking not too much of earth or heaven,
Then a long time after we are dead
The lives our lives prepare will live...
On the steeps where greed and ignorance cut down
The old forest, an old forest will stand,
Its rich leaf-fall drifting on its roots.
The veins of forgotten springs will have opened...
Memory, native to this valley, will spread over it
Like a grove, and memory will grow
Into legend, legend into song, song
Into sacrament. The abundance of this place,
The songs of its people and its birds,
Will be the health and wisdom and indwelling
Light. This is no paradisaal dream.
Its hardship is its possibility.

From "A Vision" by Wendell Berry

I came across this as I began to try and grasp what it means to be the "Keeper of the Vision" as your pastor, and as we emerge from the consequences of the pandemic. What is God calling us to do next? Wendell Berry's vision is helpful to me. I like the image of our church as the old forest. We use the photograph of the walk at Henry Cowell Redwoods for our Memorial Services so it reminds me of those who have gone before us, and how we are to continue to pass on the faith. We, like the old-growth forests, are in decline, but are needed and valuable to the larger ecosystem/community. I look forward to discerning with you, where God is calling us so that God's grace may abound.

Pilgrim's Prayer Franciscans of Santiago

Although I may have traveled all the roads,
Crossed mountains and valleys from East to West,
If I have not discovered the freedom to be myself,
I have arrived nowhere.

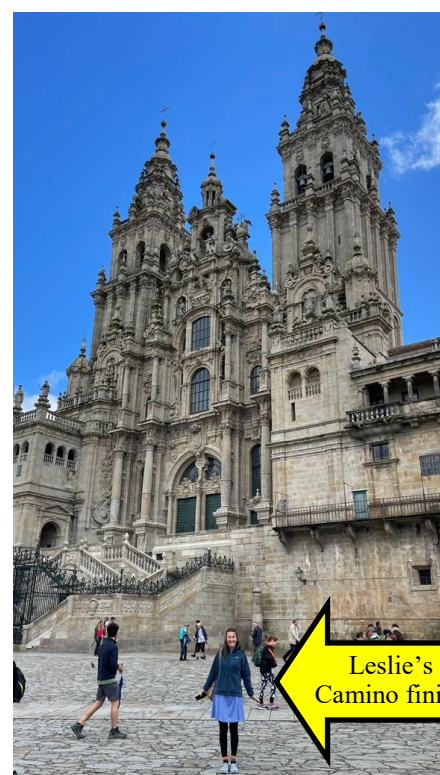
Although I may have shared all my possessions
with people of other languages and cultures;
Made friends with Pilgrims of a thousand paths,
Or shared albergue with saints and princes,
If I am not capable of forgiving my neighbor tomorrow,
I have arrived nowhere.

Although I may have carried my pack
from beginning to end
And waited for every Pilgrim
in need of encouragement,
Or given my bed to one who arrived later than I,
Given my bottle of water in exchange for nothing;
If upon returning to my home and work,
I am not able to create brotherhood Or to make happiness,
peace and unity, I have arrived nowhere.

Although I may have had food and water each day,
And enjoyed a roof and shower every night;
Or may have had my injuries well attended,
If I have not discovered in all that love of God, I have arrived nowhere.

Although I may have seen all the monuments And contemplated the best sunsets;
Although I may have learned a greeting in every language
Or tasted the clean water from every fountain;
If I have not discovered who is the author
Of so much free beauty and so much peace,
I have arrived nowhere.

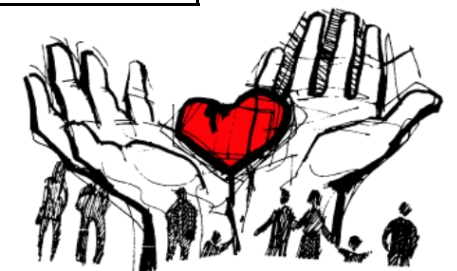
If from today I do not continue walking on your path,
Searching and living according to what I have learned;
If from today I do not see in every person, friend or foe
A companion on the Camino;
If from today I cannot recognize God,
The God of Jesus of Nazareth As the one God of my life,
I have arrived nowhere.



Leslie's
Camino finish

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2022 through July | |
| Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention | \$400 |
| SS Scholarships | \$200 |
| Live Oak Resource Center | \$275 |
| Habitat for Humanity | \$550 |
| Mt. Cross | \$285 |
| World Hunger | \$275 |
| Housing Matters | \$875 |
| CLU/PLTS | \$10 |
| Lutheran Campus Ministry | \$82 |
| SS CDC | \$250 |
| El Salvador Sister Parish | \$0 |
| Lutheran World Relief | \$50 |
| ELCA Synod | \$500 |
| COPA | \$750 |
| Lutheran Immigration | \$0 |
| Total | \$4,502 |
| 2021 Benevolence Target (10%) | \$14,360 |
| % of Target | 31% |



Kent Madsen
Treasurer

Treasurer Notes ...
Budget Information · July 2022

| | July | July | YTD | YTD | Net |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget | |
| Contribution Income | \$10,031 | \$11,625 | \$82,698 | \$84,375 | \$-1,677 |
| Facility Use Income * | \$2,865 | \$1,216 | \$8,916 | \$8,516 | \$400 |
| Investment Income | \$4,385 | \$5,000 | \$35,144 | \$35,000 | \$145 |
| Total Income | \$17,281 | \$17,841 | \$126,759 | \$127,891 | \$-1,132 |
| Expenses | \$18,005 | \$19,371 | \$135,809 | \$141,639 | \$-5,830 |
| Net | \$-724 | \$-1,530 | \$-9,050 | \$-13,748 | \$ 4,698 |

* Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month (when paid) + Misc. Income.
Contribution income for July was just below budget aided by Facility Use Income; year-to-date it was necessary to withdraw an extra \$5,000 from investments. 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**

| | July | Reserve | Needed to Pay-off |
|------------------------|-------|---------|-------------------|
| Organ | \$75 | \$0 | \$344 |
| Piano | \$0 | \$120 | |
| Hearing Impaired Equip | \$0 | \$395 | |
| Solar Electric Payback | \$370 | | \$9,984 |

Church Council Highlights

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

1. Pastor Jim led devotions centered around us seeking God’s voice and call for how to lead our congregation into the next few years. He introduced the song “O God, We Call” from our new hymnal supplement—All Creation Sings.
2. Pastor Jim gave an update on the Synod: Simon Wong began as new Synod Council VP. He and Interim Bishop Claire Burkat will be meeting with our 9 Conferences Sept-Dec to listen and gather a vision for healing. Ours will be meeting in early Dec. on a Sat. Pr. Tita Valeriano, Asst. to the Bishop for Outreach has taken a call to serve at the Churchwide office in Chicago, and will be greatly missed.
3. The Mt. Cross Exec. Dirs. Adam & Rev. Sara Erickson have resigned as of Aug. 15. Retired Bishop of Greater Milwaukee Synod Jay Burrow will serve as Interim. Mt. Cross has received \$250,000 from the Synod.
4. Amelia “Lia” Tracey will be attending Cal Lutheran Univ. this Fall in the University Honors Program as a Theatre Arts and Education student. Congrats!
5. Our Child Development Center requires water testing for lead this Fall. The Church and School will split the appx. \$650 cost.
6. Council approved the purchase of 60 new All Creation Sings hymnal supplements using appx. \$1,100 from the Memorial Funds from the following saints triumphant: **Jean Calvert, Suzanne Duval, Rev. Glenn Johnson, Jean Petersen & Lu Sluiter**. They will be acknowledged on the inside cover of the books.
7. The Memorial Bricks Program will be offered again soon. Contact Pastor Jim

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

It is a milestone year with some new beginnings here at St. Stephen's Child Development Center. Now that we have reached ten years of operation under our own license, we are moving forward on this foundation, rather than building, and worrying about everything we had hoped to build. Short- and long-term goals have been achieved through the support of our teachers and the SSCDC School Board Members, along with generous volunteers, and your prayers.

Beginning this month, SSCDC has an annual budget that will serve the scope of what we can offer here. It took ten years to be informed well enough to create this budget in which Kathy Allen was instrumental in completing with your director. This includes fair compensation for our teachers. The school can serve 20-22 children configured by full and half day attendance. To navigate the building, and due to location of the bathroom, potty training, educating, and making sure each child is in constant site supervision while individually cared for, we need 4 full time teachers, including me as Director/Teacher. This allows us to make sure each child gets the individual attention that we market ourselves on. It also ensures that if a teacher must miss work, 3 teachers can cover the load as there are no substitutes available. The fourth teacher is insurance that we can weather illness or what else might happen. It also allows for everyone to get their breaks. A short staffed school is very hectic and leads to burn out rather quickly.

So, we move forward to this exciting new year! Our teachers are excited as we just had a "regular" curriculum meeting. Meaning NOT all about Covid, rather, what experiences can we create. As our team pulls together our talents, we each have unique activities to facilitate for the children. This is the best, most cohesive teaching team I have ever worked with. We are a peaceful group and honor and appreciate each other. I do not have to manage personalities as we all manage our own. This again, is unique.

We are creating activities in our existing environments keeping what is tried and true while creating new experiences. Putting everything away for Covid gave us a new lens on what is best to provide now, while cleaning out what we have not used and donating so our storage system is efficient.

While all of this is in place and the beginning is here, we have had some families

Sunday School



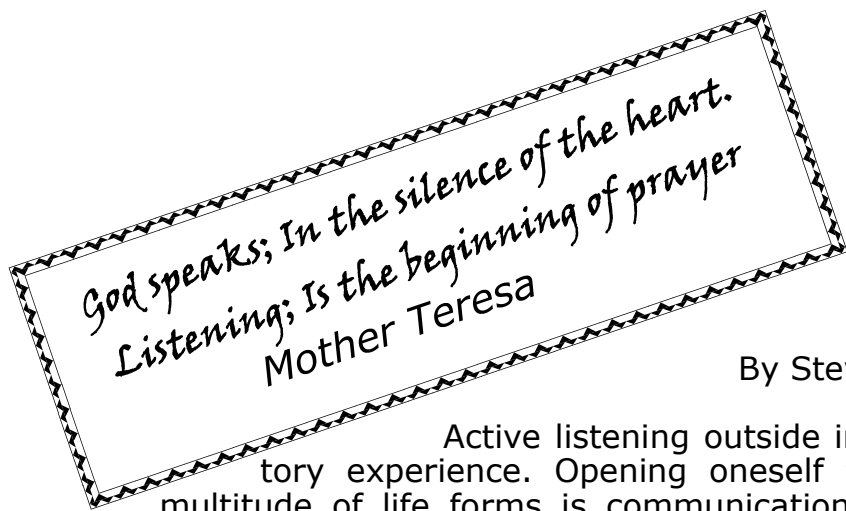
Luke 12:32-40 "Treasures in Heaven"
This was a difficult title for our little ones. But, the concept was understood: Love God MORE than your stuff! Sure, it's a good idea to save for emergencies, or for something special. But we have to be careful that saving or making money doesn't become the most important thing in our life. Our treasures are our gifts to each other: listening, helping with chores, being thankful, praying, saying sorry, and being a good friend.

Hebrews 12:1-2 "Run the Race"
It feels good to have people cheering for us as we run the race or play the game. Even better when they celebrate the win at the end. To be in the race or game, we have to train otherwise we surely will fail. To the same point, we must avoid obstacles that get in our way. Our "game" is life. There are both wins and losses. Fixing our eyes on Jesus helps with both. Did you know that oranges float? The orange experiment taught us that we have to peel off the bad obstacles (selfishness, anger, fear, greed, dishonestly etc.) in order to get to the finish line at the bottom of the bowl of water.

Luke 13:10-17 "Jesus Heals on the Sabbath"
We rejoice in the wonderful things God is doing. We hope to follow the example that Jesus has set for us AND place the needs of others ahead of any rules we may have.

NO CLASS SEPT. 4

See you soon!
Faithfully, Miss Leslie



Listening Through Creation: Three Questions

By Steven Hendrickson

Active listening outside in nature can be a revelatory experience. Opening oneself to sensory input from a multitude of life forms is communication with God's energy in a fresh way. We yearn to know God and ourselves in a state of primal image, likeness, and most importantly, oneness.

Psalm 19

1. The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
2. Day to day pours forth speech
and night to night declares knowledge.

Reflection: Take a walk in creation. Use all of your senses to take in and be attentive to all that is around you. Notice that which is beautiful and that which is ordinary. Pick things up that your eyes are drawn to. When you feel led, stop and spend some time using your senses to explore what you have collected. Please leave these behind when you are done.

- ~ Lord, how do you want to reveal yourself to me through your creation?
- ~ What do you want me to know about you right now?
- ~ What do you want me to know about me?

In silence, ask, ponder, and recollect in tranquility over these questions. We thank our Creator, rest, and take our place among our equally blessed and endowed creatures.

Reflection taken from: Mt. Hermon Reflective Retreat, 2013

This is a wonderful spiral notebook with many suggestions and quotations for a communal / private retreat in nature.

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

that have changed their plans and we need to find two full time students to ultimately keep our budget on track. Usually August – mid October can be lean and then a few more children come, and the new year provides for the budget to remain balanced. I always must remind myself of this each year and try not to worry. God wants our school to thrive and through many unknowns, he has provided just what we have needed to keep us in business, in his time.

Our preschool class is already together and all but two of our Toddlers will be new children who have been waiting to attend. Our Toddler waitlist is already full for next year as people reserve their spot at least a year ahead, and we have several siblings turning two then.

Please keep us in prayer, especially all I have mentioned in this newsletter. I am now ten years older than I was when I began this adventure, so my abilities are changing with age. I am excited to create an environment where I can run this place efficiently with out the stress and muscle it took to build it. I feel very blessed. I also believe in this often burn-out occupation, especially after Covid, that keeping my own balance is so important to being the leader I need to be for all who I care for in this process.

So where is all the news about exciting plans? This month we are learning ABC, and 123, through different activities. We are going to do yoga, act out stories, cook, continue to garden, and make wonderful art, to name a few. Since it is "All about me" this month we will do body tracings and hang them in the hallway. We will do apple activities and make homemade tortillas for quesadillas. We also focus on different feelings through stories including reading big brother/Little sister stories, etc. for those who have that role at home. This is our traditional curriculum for September.

We are especially excited for our new year with "Chapel Jim!" It is always fun to introduced children to the Chapel experience that they all grow to love! Today in Chapel our quietest boy raised his hand to help Pastor Jim sing a song in front of everyone and you could see his confidence build. The next boy who is usually a follower, volunteered to help too. He sung his heart out in front of us using all the hand motions (This little light of mine). In that space he got to be a leader! That is why we are here; a safe place for children to appropriately develop in their own way.

Thanks Be to God! Kathy Berens

September Special Benevolence Offering **Lutheran Campus Ministry**

Reaching out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the students, faculty and staff of UC Santa Cruz and CSU Monterey Bay, Lutheran Campus Ministry of the Monterey Bay supports students on their faith journey by providing opportunities for Bible study, prayer, worship, service and fellowship.

August: Cal. Lutheran University AND
Lutheran Theological Seminary - \$150 (as of 8/24)

Communities Organized for relational Power in Action

1. Delegates Assembly—Tuesday, Sept.20 at 7pm on Zoom

We will hear about our recent accomplishments and set our agenda for what we want to work on in the coming year. Affordable housing, access to better behavioral health care, improving immigrant worker conditions. We begin to Re-Organize!

2. Supervisor Candidates Assembly—October TBA

We will invite our potential elected leaders to commit to working with us to accomplish our agenda to improve the lives of our communities

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—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, September 27

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.