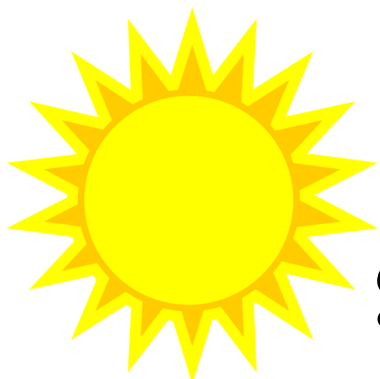


St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

June & July 2023

Communion Celebration

Sunday, June 4 at 10 am

Come, recognize this milestone with our children and their families. They have learned that there is always "A Place for You" at God's table per the *Communion Book* by Daniel Erlander.

*"Whenever you share this bread and cup, I will
be with you, feeding you, loving you, forgiving you."*



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
Jay Johnston, Beth Stiles, and Iva Tracey

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

From Pastor Jim



Right before worship on May 21st, I was greeted by our dear Sandi Crouser with these beautiful words: “Pastor Jim, you must feel like a proud Papa!”

She was referring to her first experience at a COPA Convention, which took place on Sat. May 20th at the Golden State Theater in Monterey. A bus had been reserved for folks from Santa Cruz, so Sandi was able to attend this time.

What she was referring to was that I was honored to be able to tell the COPA story, since I was a founding pastor of the organization. I told about how Rev. Michael Wilker and I applied for small grant from the ELCA and received \$10,000 to begin to explore the possibility of starting a new 2-county Community Organization to address some of the large-scale problems our congregations were facing like the lack of affordable housing and adequate health care for the poorest.

I was joyfully able to proclaim that that initial \$10,000 had turned into tens of millions of dollars of public money that went toward alleviating those very problems (\$18 million for our own St. Stephen’s Senior Housing!), thanks to the work of so many COPA leaders over the years.

What I was even more proud of was the work that COPA leader Maria Elena Manzo from Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Salinas was celebrating through her new organization Mujeres en Accion (Women in Action). For the first time, we had a significant number of Latina women leaders from the towns along the Salinas Valley participating and helping lead the Convention. These are the communities that are really hurting the most and we’ve been working a long time to see this come to fruition.

I was also very proud to carry on the work of our dear brother Rev. Herb Schmidt (who recently resigned) as Vice–Chair of the Board for the Association of Faith Communities homeless shelter programs. It was very heartening to have 13 people from our church attend the May 13th Gala Fundraiser at Holy Cross Catholic Church. We had so much fun that our table got “Church-Ladied” by a neighboring table because we were laughing so loud!

Much more importantly, \$24,000 was raised! And even more importantly, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors just approved \$350,000 for our programs! This stable funding enables us to adequately staff well into the future.

Thanks be to God for all of you as we really have much to be proud of as we fulfill our mission as a deeply biblical church by being partners with God in mending our communities in these ways and many more!

Budget Information · April 2023

	April		YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Net
Contribution In- come	\$ 19,252	\$ 13,583	\$ 53,048	\$48,050	\$4,998
Facility Use Income *	1,980	1,633	9,154	6,533	2,621
Investment Income	5,194	5,000	21,688	20,000	1,688
Total Income	\$ 26,426	\$ 20,217	\$ 83,890	\$74,583	\$9,307
Expenses	\$ 21,016	\$ 21,048	\$81,755	\$82,092	\$ -337
Net	\$ 5,410	\$-831	\$ 2,135	\$ -7,509	\$9,644

** Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month (when paid) + Misc. Income.*

Contribution income for April was very good due to Easter and five Sundays in the month. We are also benefiting from increased facility use as Covid concerns wind down.

Please remember your church if you are traveling. Thank you to those who have contributed!

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2023 through April			
Community Bridges	\$230	Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$75
Association of Faith Communi- ties	\$1,280	SS CDC	\$1,050
SS Scholarships	\$145	El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0
Habitat for Humanity	\$380	Lutheran World Relief	\$0
Mt. Cross	\$0	ELCA Synod	\$250
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$175	COPA	\$500
World Hunger	\$0	Lutheran Immigration	\$0
CLU/PLTS	\$0	Grey Bears	\$0
Total	\$ 4,085		
2021 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$14,105		
% of Target	29%		

Special funds for the Musical Instruments (Organ & Piano), Hearing Impaired and Solar Electricity

	April	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Musical Instruments	\$ 70		\$214
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$395	
Solar Electric Payback	\$401		\$7,819

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.”

Church Council Highlights

(meets 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm in the church or/and Zoom.)

1. Devotions led by Pastor Jim centered on several scripture passages of examples of how God’s leaders were often unlikely folks and reluctant to serve. Moses, Jeremiah, and the disciples remind us that God is more interested in the heart and soul, rather than credentials and experience. The willingness to serve is all God needs for us to be chosen as leaders for God’s church.
2. In attendance were Shelly Barker, Steven Hendrickson, Alyssa Burkhardt, Kent Madsen, Beth Stiles and Iva Tracey. Jay Johnston was out of town.
3. Pastor Jim reported that he will be on vacation/ continuing education from June 12—July 7. He will be visiting some of the important Luther and Reformation sites in Worms and Augsburg Germany. He will also visit his family heritage Lutheran Church in Rhodt, Bavaria, where he has been able to trace his Great-Grandmother’s family back to 1620. The original church is gone, but the baptismal font is still used in the present church—the same one his ancestors were baptized in. The church became Lutheran in 1570—about 50 years after Luther’s trial and famous proclamation of “Here I stand. I can do no other” when he was excommunicated for not recanting the 95 Theses he had posted on his church door in Wittenberg.
4. Rev. Carol Been will preside at worship on June 18th. Rev. Gary Stevenson will preside on June 25th and July 2nd.
5. Barbara Johnston was approved to serve on the CDC Board as Mary Kelley faithfully completes her 2nd three yr. term.
6. Pastor Jim will be calling a Mutual Ministry meeting (Kent Madsen, Jeanette Dawson, Bill Schraft) to discuss replacing our Treasurer and begin to plan for our 70th Anniversary on Reformation Sunday Oct. 29th.



Child Development Center

Our regular school year ended in May with celebrating our graduates. **In total, Tanner, Waylon, Selene, Elsie, Everett, Jack, and Beau. Waylon and Selene's families have been with us for 5 years;** they are the younger siblings of Elio and Amelia. Four of the seven students will be moving to Universal Pre-kindergarten (UPK). Pre-Kindergarten is now provided for families at public schools. This marks an era of change for childcare and preschools like ours. We are licensed for children ages 2-6. Now we will serve children 2-4. **This means we will generally tailor our curriculum for a younger group.** We are currently working on enrollment for September 2023 while providing our summer program.

Our School Board thanks and celebrates Mary Kelly. She has completed 6 years as a volunteer, supporting our program. Mary generously has helped our school with planning. She contributed to making our playground a safer and more usable place by donating to improve it. It has been a pleasure to work with Mary! Thank you for all your support!

I want to thank Kent, Barbara, and Jay for their service in recording the Worship services. My grandson played little league this year which has been a joy. I appreciate getting to view the service when away. Now that summer is here I will be taking some time to enjoy my family. It has been a year since I have been to Montana. I look forward to returning.

This summer we will be providing water play and fun outdoor activities. None more rewarding than our garden this year. The chicken manure really did the trick. It is in full growth. We sent home bouquets of sweet pea flowers to all the families to enjoy. **I invite you to take a peek if you're on campus it is sure to make you smile. The children LOVE going into the garden. Our new item is a greenhouse.** Now we can grow seeds. John arranged the redwood stumps to be a balancing course, a new activity. **Thank you John!** Everything is finally cleared out and taking on the vision we have had for our playground.

Summer is a time to reflect and implement some new ways of doing things as we flex with the changing times. **I completed incident command training in May and will be putting best practices into a plan to provide for, and respond appropriately should we ever have a dangerous situation during school hours.** I am appreciative of the County Office of Education (COE) for including Preschool Directors in the training and partnership with our public schools.

As I contemplate and plan for our school year, I share this with you. Last month we had a student return to us who had been with us briefly when he turned two, as was his older sister. They left during Covid. He did not return to any preschool until now at age four back to us. Separation can be a big deal in this kind of situation. This child arrived and it felt a bit familiar to him. **Within his first hour he was playing and smiling. In his first week I watched him melt into the fabric of childhood while enjoying all that was around him as he discovered his place.** His family is so relieved and grateful. We do this for these moments when children find their place and thrive.

In my next writing we will be sharing our new chapter with you: school year 2023/2024. **We thank you for your donations for “Inflation Donation.”** Should you decide to continue to contribute there is a list in the narthex. We appreciate the donations!!

I want to give a shout out to Gary! Thank you for singing a few weeks ago at worship. It was a really beautiful performance and I enjoyed it immensely!

Enjoy the first half of summer and all of its glory after the rain. May the peace of the Lord be with you, our preschool families, and teachers.

Warmly, Kathy Berens



20th Anniversary Convention 2023

By Beth Stiles

6 weeks ago Pastor Jim, Kent Madsen, Bill Schraft and I attended a COPA Convention planning meeting. I did not know much about COPA. After each week I was trying to get at least 30 members from St Stephen's. We had around 15 sign up from our church.

On May 20th I took my knitting, some treats and a small water bottle to have Para-Cruz take me to St. Stephen's by 3:30 when the bus would leave the parking lot. The bus arrived and everyone started boarding. Where is Pastor Jim? He not here yet! He was going to drive two people with disabilities to the Convention. I texted Pastor Jim he is 5 min away. I announced that the bus is here to board.

Pastor Jim said the other person has not committed so I had to board the charter bus that I haven't been on since 35 yrs ago. Pastor Jim assisted me getting on the bus. I watched the bus travel through the fields of many different kinds of foods.

We arrived to Monterey, CA to the COPA Convention center. We departed the Santa Cruz bus. We signed in and found our seats at the back right section. We were given translation head sets. Mine did not work. We had both Spanish and English speakers. Our own Pastor Lapp gave a speech on the beginning of COPA. Thank goodness for my knitting so I could keep my mind on the Convention. We had the Mayor of Santa Cruz give his promise to work with COPA. We heard each official to acknowledge that the city of Santa Cruz will work on the issues along side COPA!

They wanted 1000 participants. I think we had about 750 attendees. As we walked back to the bus I felt good to walk a bit before we had chips and subs as we drove back to Santa Cruz. It was fun to watch the sunset over the ocean.

Women's Café Group

Wednesdays, June 7 & 21

July 5 & 19 @ 6:00 pm

Devotions , Potluck Dinner & Fellowship

More info 476-4700



MaryMartha / Ruth Rebecca

Break for Summer ~ Next meet Thursday, September 14

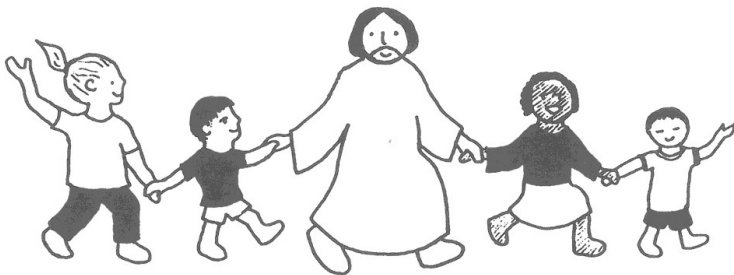
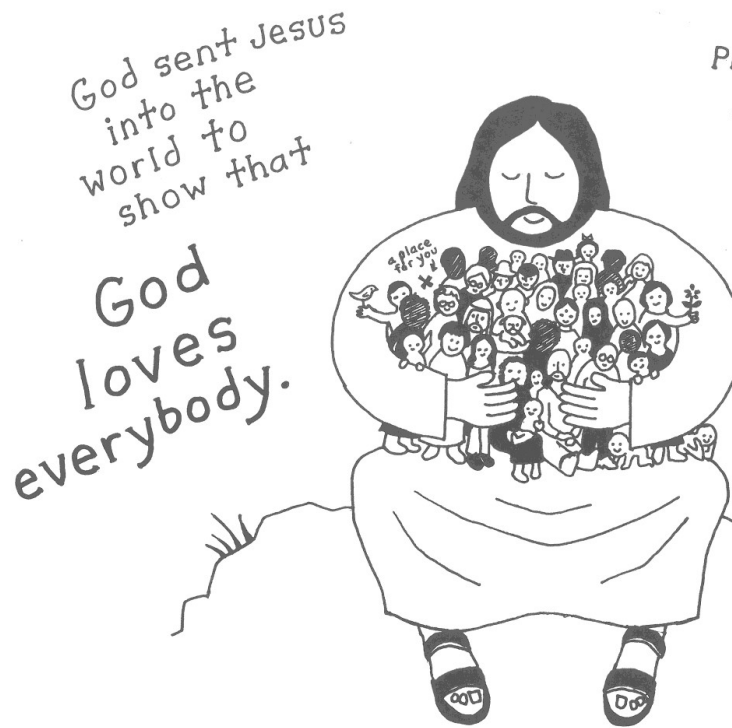
Update on the Pillowcase Project: Over 20 pillowcases have been completed. Members will be working from home during the summer to complete the rest of the 37 total to be presented later in the summer to the 11 households that make up the Habitat for Humanity's Rodeo Creek Ct. project.

If any of you sewers out there would like to help,
contact Tina Gates at 760-992-4804

Sunday School

"A Place for You"

This book was a gift to all of us, a beautiful reminder . . .



After the meal Jesus will go with you. He will help you to love all people, even when it is hard.

Your church family will also help you by praying for you, loving you, and forgiving you.

Kids are *perplexed* by the term "church family", but turned to *impressed* that you all pray for them without really knowing them.

Thank you to Don Smawley for the immediate "YES how many" when asked to host coffee hour to celebrate communion milestones.

No Sunday School June 18 or 25

Miss Leslie will be trekking "the Dingle Way" in Ireland aka "The Kerry Camino". Dia uit (God go with you).

Provide Lunches for Volunteers June 27 & July 25

4th Tuesday of each month @ 10:30

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.

Habitat 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. [Www.habitatmontereybay.org](http://www.habitatmontereybay.org)



**Zoom
with Pastor Jim**
**check email on
Weds. for link**

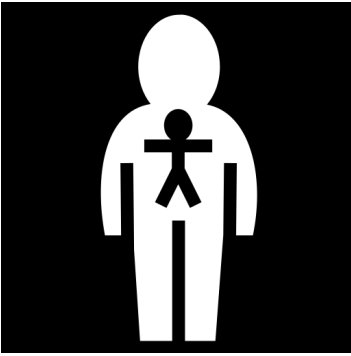
**THURSDAYS 11a -12noon
& 7:30 – 8:30 pm**

No Bible Study—June 14, 21, 28, July 5th

*For the next several months, we will be using the biblical resource:
"Manna and Mercy"*

A brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe by Rev. Daniel Erlander (the same author as "The Tales of the Pointless People", which we used in Lent).

Anyone can join in at any point. Each chapter stands alone, but is also connected as part of the whole story of the Bible. Copies are available at church for \$10 each. Or it can be mailed to you.



Interiority in Liturgical Worship

By Steven Hendrickson

Being in touch with your inner self in liturgical worship can be meaningful and even life changing! We pray for God's presence in a way which invites dialogue of communication and response. As Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, "But the hour is coming, and is now here, the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship God. God is spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24 NRSV) **So Christ is inviting us to bring our whole selves in worship. Especially what dwells within us as our interior expression.**

Some inner intentions we may bring to a liturgical setting are: praise and thanks for God's presence and help, a longing for God, "As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for the living God." (Psalm 42:1-2) **We also bring our brokenness, sin, and need for forgiveness. We bring our joys, hope, and most of all our issues over what separates us from God.** Our relationships with others, and our desire for peace and healing in Creation that surrounds and is within us. We have our own messages, pleas, and wishes to express in a way that no one else may know. **When one knows the liturgy well through constant worship, another track opens that provides space to "pray in the spirit" simultaneously while speaking the words.** Also, the verbal expressions themselves, open new vistas for revelation through the Holy Spirit. And to top it off, singing hymns can become a full body experience which teaches and expresses our inner intentions and wishes. All these radiant events take place in community which bring us into oneness with God.

In conclusion, our daily quiet time with scripture and reflection enables one to experience the inner self in relationship with Abba, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. **Reading the Bible while following the Lectionary, prepares us for the upcoming liturgical service and encourages revelation into our daily lives.** I pray and trust that you are continuing this practice of silence and reflecting on God's Word. May we all grow in the spirit together....

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

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 =
\$80 plus \$350 from Easter Lily fundraiser (as of 5/24)



Church ladies with computers can produce some giggles... sometimes we need just that. These actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday. Music will follow.

The sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

This evening there will be a hymn singing in the park. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

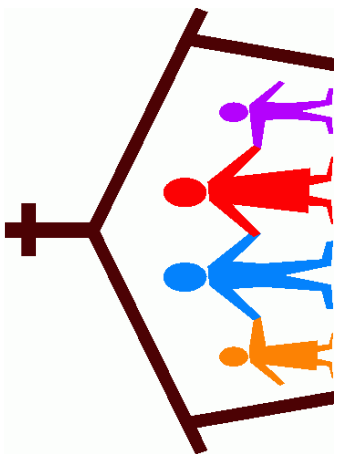
6-1	Shelly Barker	7-2	Vi Olly	7-24	Julia Poetzing
6-1	Jim Hanson	7-5	Judith Alvarado	7-25	Eve Roberson
6-4	Anne Davis	7-6	Scott Poetzing	7-27	Mark Linder
6-5	Lauren Pond	7-6	Beckett Ruble	7-29	Kylie Ronning
6-6	Joseph Ronning	7-9	Sandi Crouser		
6-12	Madeline Mouw	7-10	Kyle Lapp	7-1	Robert & Dusty Gipson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



SHORT TERM: Sandi Csik, Amy Wimmer, Janiea Paustian, Hailey, Gray, Jesse, Joshua, James, Barbara Rowe, George & Scott, Darlene Woodburn, Jacob & Family, Family of Marj Young, Barbara Hansen, Tom Harris, Barbara Allen, Marshall Bautz Family, Rena Brown, Carla Brown, Kathy, Family of Gwyn Larson, Joel Hurtgam, Jacob & Family, Judith Alvarado, Family of Kirsten Skiles, Carla Brown & children, Keith, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Norman's Fa-

ther, friends in Bakersfield, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Family of Kurt Bell, Genell Csik, Barbara Bartee, Mike Homa, Mateo, Family of Mark Cronquist, Barbara Stiles, Family of Connor Kowalski, Paul Cunningham, Anita & Howard, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, Deborah Henry, Ellie, Adrian Cameron, Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Marisa & Isaac, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Sam, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager.

LONG TERM: April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Michelle, Josh, CJ, 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, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, 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.



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
May 26, 2023**

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

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

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