

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

SUN

October 2023



Confirmation of Faith

For Sofia Bartee, Julia Tracey,

Patrick Tracey & Liz Wingert.

Church 70th Anniversary

Reformation Sunday

OCTOBER 29 at 10:00 am

Church Potluck Following



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



“Make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.”

Phillipians 2: 2—from Sunday, Oct. 1st

It seems like this is a tall order for any group of people, given the many different opinions, values, experiences and ways we think, especially in a culture like ours where freedom of speech and thought are at its center. But here it is right in the beginning of the Christian church—right at the heart of how we are to try and be as a church today.

Despite its apparent difficulty, I still do believe it is our calling as the gathered Body of Christ here at St. Stephen’s to seek how we can reflect Paul’s hope and discern together our mission.

So, as a way to recognize and honor the 7 decades of ministry our church has offered to Santa Cruz County and beyond, I am looking forward to taking some intentional time to talk with one another about how we might be of this “same mind” that was so important to the early church.

It has been a long 3 years struggling with the pandemic and now it is time to take stock of who we are now, and also begin to build a new vision for our ministry in the next few years. Please sign up at church or call the office. You only need to attend one. Please pray for God’s Spirit to guide our conversations.

House Meetings: Sundays Oct. 15 & 22 at 11:30—1p

Weds. Oct. 18 & 25 at 6:30-8p

Pastor Jim and congregational leaders will facilitate some Holy Conversations around the questions: **Who are we as a church to you now?**

What do you hear God calling us to be and where to go in the next few years?

Treasurer Notes ...

Budget Information · August 2023

	August		YTD		
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Net
Contribution Inc.	\$ 6,659	\$ 11,250	\$ 84,640	\$93,050	\$ -8,410
Facility Use Inc. *	947	1,633	13,022	13,067	-45
Investment Income	4,386	5,000	40,403	40,000	403
Total Income	\$ 11,992	\$ 17,883	\$ 138,065	\$146,117	\$ -8,052
Expenses	\$ 19,115	\$ 20,098	\$161,407	\$163,234	\$-1,828
Net	\$ -7,123	\$-2,215	\$ -23,342	\$ -17,117	\$-6,224

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

Contribution income for August was significantly below budget, resulting in a \$23,342 year-to-date deficit. \$22,000 was withdrawn from investments this summer to meet expenses. *Please remember your church if you are traveling. Thank you for this year's contributions!*

Benevolence Donations

(Individual & Church, including proceeds from Easter Lilies & Poinsettias)

2023 through August			
Community Bridges	\$230	Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$122
Assoc. of Faith Communities	\$1,390	SS CDC	\$1,100
SS Scholarships	\$145	El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0
Habitat for Humanity	\$380	Lutheran World Relief	\$0
Mt. Cross	\$477	ELCA Synod	\$500
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$330	COPA	\$1,000
World Hunger	\$265	Lutheran Immigration	\$0
CLU/PLTS	\$155	Grey Bears	\$0
Total		\$ 6,094	
2021 Benevolence Target (10%)		\$14,105	
% of Target		43%	

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

	August	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Musical Instruments	\$ 52	\$143	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$395	
Solar Electric Payback	\$356	4	\$6,264

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 centered on stories of the Bible that remind us that it is God who provides for us. There is enough to accomplish the mission that God gives us, despite it looking like there may not be. Trusting that God is with us and being bold in our mission are at the heart of what it means to be leaders in God’s church.
2. Plans for our 70th Anniversary celebration after worship will be made with Pastor Jim and Beth Stiles meeting to coordinate the details of the feast and the program. There will be memorial dedications involving our Child Development Center right after Oct. 29 Reformation and Confirmation worship.
3. Nominations for Church Council were discussed. Steven Hendrickson agreed to be nominated for a 2nd three-year term. Jay Johnston and Kent Madsen will be leaving after serving 2 consecutive three-year terms. The Treasurer duties will likely need to be split up with someone being elected to the Council position while the bookkeeping done by someone else—perhaps by a paid person or service.
4. Our Resolution to Synod Assembly asking the ELCA Churchwide Assembly and Council to investigate alternatives to our current healthcare system for Rostered Ministers (Pastors), because of the increasing financial burden on smaller congregations—was not brought up at the Assembly due to lack of agenda time caused by the Bishop’s election. Instead, it will be on the Synod Council’s agenda for approval at their next meeting in November. Pastor Jim will speak to the Synod Council for its approval via Zoom.



Child Development Center

October is SSCDC Benevolence Month. The world is changing around us almost everywhere we look. Despite a pandemic and Universal Pre-Kindergarten, the heart and mission of our pre-school ministry has continued to remain the same. This is due to our generous congregation contributing in so many ways over the years. I especially lift up the Glenn Johnson family who gave us a generous donation just a year ago. It turns out that the timing of this gift replaced our rainy-day fund which we have been using to pay our teachers during shifting times of low or less enrollment. God is good!

School districts are very concerned about many learning and behavioral issues on the heels of these changes. There are good people out there trying to move with these changes while continuing to be dedicated to their passion for teaching. Unfortunately, large class sizes and endless paperwork is creeping into what we call "Floor-time" with children. Our teaching team and our teacher to child ratio allows us to foster the individual development of each child. Many arrive curious and confident. Some are apprehensive and tender. They can have separation anxiety, social anxiety, or do not notice social cues and invade another's space. Some arrive so energetic and challenging that it takes time to foster their empathy for being in the group and caring for their classmates. They do not potty train the same. They bond to teachers in different ways with different approaches. We give them the time and space, or the closeness they need to ready themselves for learning. We are a community extension of home. Certainly, we have routines that we follow, but the wiggle room in between the transitions are the sweet spots of learning. These are the few years that old fashioned play is favored over technology. So many of our activities can be old school, but our curriculum is top notch. We can take the time to do these things because we are small, well educated in Early Childhood Development, and are trained observers who can see each child's path and potential for appropriate, positive, growth.

As our society shifts to integrating young children into public schools, I appreciate so much more what we get to offer children at SSCDC. What a privilege to speak of Jesus and observe their joy in Chapel. I wouldn't want to share my efforts anywhere else. As it is benevolence month for SSCDC, it is more important now than ever to support our ministry, especially since we are unable to have our Aebleskiver fundraiser. Please read about our alternative options for benevolence.

How can I help SSCDC in 2023?

Inflation Donation

While shopping for groceries please consider purchasing the following items for our preschool: Kleenex, Clorox or Lysol Wipes, Costco baby wipes, Ritz, Graham, or goldfish crackers, Cheerios, butter, Frozen Chicken Dino's or Tater Tots. If you prefer to leave the shopping to us, then please consider our new idea:

Kards for Kids

Safeway, Costco, Amazon, Home Depot

(Please put in offering plate or bring to the office)

If you do not want to bother with either, then cash donations are always appreciated to replace the funding we would receive if we were hosting a fundraiser like Aebleskiver. If you cannot afford a monetary donation then **prayers are always appreciated**, the more the better!

October is filled with so much fun, including our very popular Halloween Parade around Senior Housing. October will be our most difficult month as we need to use a significant portion of our rainy-day fund. The good news is we will receive 4 students in November, and 3 students in Jan/Feb of 2024. Then, we will be able to start saving again for the future.

Since we first began our preschool journey, it has never been more important than now to support our preschool and keep it healthy financially. It is never pleasant to request help or report that we need it, but the time is now to humbly reach out for support. So many children will benefit from your generosity, as have the 130+ children whose lives we already have provided a foundation for. How is that for some fantastic news about our ministry!

Warmly, Kathy Berens

= = = = =

Sunday School



Matthew 16:21-28

We cannot do everything. We must make choices, often requiring a sacrifice. We CAN do hard things when we follow Jesus!

Matthew 18:15-20

We all encounter conflict, and we need to be prepared to handle it. Jesus offers practical advice on how we should go about restoring relationships. We are not meant to take out revenge, but to pray for them and "build bridges". Sometimes it takes hard work, but our friends are worth it!

With your hands you formed us . . . with our hands we serve you ~

Faithfully, Miss Leslie



Music at St. Stephen's

MUSIC MINISTRY: If you have a music event to share with us, please do. Thank God, music is always happening—it would be great to gather together at an event, and enjoy a concert in our community.

DESIGN MUSIC BANNER: Make your ideas, artwork & colors come to life with creating a fresh new music banner. Include, seasonal themes, such as Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, Living Spirit, and inspiring quotes. Use symbols of our church. Great for thanksgiving, offering, and a blessing. Put it all together.

MUSICIANS FUND: A huge thank you, to everyone who donated \$1,102.00 to the fund. You are very generous and greatly appreciated. This will help to move forward with musical invitations.

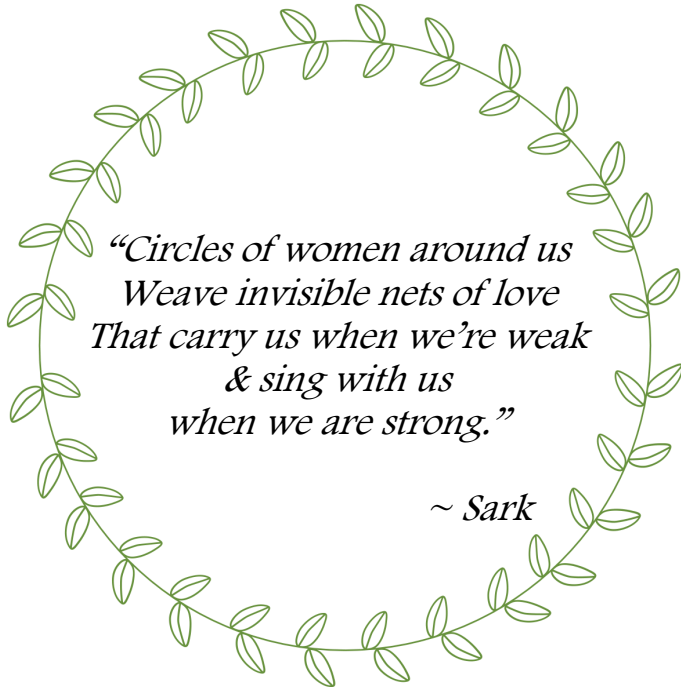
WHAT IS A TUNED PERCUSSION INSTRUMENT? If you have time, and want to learn to play one, I need 2-4 Lutherans for some 4-part harmony. Donate a little time after church, it's good for the spirit.

ALL THAT BRASS: Thanks very much guys, for your talents, and spirit. We will see them again on November 19 & December 17.

MUSIC QUOTE:

“Music is a moral law, it gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and charm & gaiety to life and to everything.” ~ Plato

Yours in Christ, and mission, Gary



Women's Café Group

Wednesdays, October 4 & 18

@ 6:00 pm

Devotions , Potluck Dinner
& Fellowship 476-4700

MaryMartha / Ruth Rebecca

Thursday, October 12th

10:30 Fireside Room

We will be working on making pillowcases to go to our neighbors in the Senior Housing next door. Materials will be provided.

If any of you sewers out there would like to help, contact Tina Gates at 760-992-4804 or gateschristina84@gmail.com.

PROPERTY WORK DAY

Saturday, Oct. 21 st 9:00 to 11:00 am

Paint sand box, Weed, Clean . . .



Canticle of Brother Sun. And Sister Moon.

By St. Francis of Assisi

Most High, all powerful, all good Lord,
All praise is Yours, all honor and all blessings.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your Name.
Praised be You my Lord with all your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day through whom You give us light,
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor,
Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in the heavens You have made them bright, precious and fair.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
and fair and stormy, all weather's moods,
by which You cherish all that You have made.

Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water,
so useful, precious, and pure.

Praised be You my Lord through our Sister, Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
producing varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs,
Praise be You, my Lord, through those who grant pardon
for love of You and bear sickness and trial.
Blessed are those who endure in peace.
By You, Most High, they will be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death,
from whom no one living can escape.
Blessed are they She finds doing your Will.
No second death can do them harm.
Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks,
And serve Him with great humility.

May God's grace and peace be with you,
Steven Hendrickson



Provide Lunches for Volunteers October 24

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)

Habitat "Cars for Homes" Program. Donate your vehicle and 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.



Zoom with Pastor Jim

check email on
Weds. for link

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

NO class Oct.5

*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.



C.O.P.A. Reps. Meet with Pope Francis!

Our delegation of West/Southwest IAF representatives met September 14, with Pope Francis in the Vatican. It was a moving encounter with substan-

tive conversation, filled with insight and humor.

The Pope first met with us last October, and yesterday, without missing a beat, he reiterated his understanding of our organizing as the conversation began.

"Your work is atomic," he said. "You go atom by atom, little by little, moving forward. Like water moves forward, which becomes a river & soon pervades everything it touches."

Our leaders shared our recent work around **immigration, housing, and fighting inequitable tax breaks for multi-national corporations that are some of the world's major polluters**, and Pope Francis interacted with us throughout.

He will be issuing a companion to his encyclical *Laudato Si*, which will serve as an "examination of conscience" of our stewardship for the environment since the release of the original encyclical. **He applauded efforts to reign in destructive corporate behavior and to promote efforts like Community Lighthouse to protect our communities from the effects of climate change.**

He seemed in no rush to end the hour-long conversation. As before, we found him to be an intent listener, fond of spontaneous back and forth engagement in Spanish. Throughout, the Pope shared his thoughts on a number of themes—the Global Synod, short meaningful homilies, work with seminaries, formation of leaders and clergy (**"clergy should be shepherds not functionaries"**), efforts at dialogue between the church in North and Latin America, even book recommendations to read—from him.

As we ended, he led us in praying the Lord's Prayer together while holding hands, and he reminded us about the real essence of our work.

"What you're doing is creating a culture. You're not looking to resolve things from one day to the next. Your resolve is to the idea of creating a culture. That's what I would emphasize. You're creating a culture of solidarity." *"Me hace bien a mí escucharlos a ustedes,"* he said. **"It does me good to listen to you."**

Rev. Jeff
Johnson

Elected
Bishop of
Sierra
Pacific
Synod!



**Pictured above with Interim Bishop Claire Burkat and
Synod Vice President Simon Wong at Closing Worship**

At our Synod Assembly in Burlingame Sept. 15-17, Pastor Jim, Margaret Schraft and Steven Hendrickson offered their gifts to God on behalf of our church as we elected a new Bishop. Rev. Johnson was the runner-up in the last election and only lost by one vote. He is a graduate of California Lutheran University and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. He was 2 years ahead of Pastor Jim at CLU and they had a few classes together. He has most recently served as the pastor of University Lutheran Chapel on the campus of UC Berkeley.

Bishop Johnson is most well-known for his inspiring prophetic ministry in the late 80's and early 90's during the AIDS epidemic in San Francisco. He also came out as an openly gay man as the pastor of an ELCA congregation in SF. In 1990, he and his church were brought up on disciplinary charges by Bishop Lyle Miller and they were subsequently removed from the roster of the ELCA—kicked out of the church for violating the official policy that one could not be a pastor and be LGBT .

His prophetic stance was a leading cause for the ELCA to eventually change it's policy in 2009, allowing LGBT persons to be ordained pastors. His election is a long-term and powerful story of the church's main message of forgiveness and reconciliation! All Are WELCOME!



Sister Parish News

2023 Fundraiser - Thank you for your contributions to our 2023 fundraiser! Our focus of this year's fundraiser is to honor three people who have been

key to Santa Cruz al Salvador's success. First is Don Fito, a founder of Guillermo Ungo and its school with whom we've worked closely for nearly 30 years. Ruth Cruddas recently retired from the Board of Directors. She was a guiding light to our project for most of those 30 years and very active leading delegations. Lisa Johnson also retired from the Board of Directors recently. Lisa has been a frequent traveler to El Salvador as well as the coordinator for Peace United Church of Christ's involvement with Santa Cruz al Salvador.

2023 Delegation - There will be a delegation to our communities in El Salvador in November this year. Planning of the itinerary is underway. Regular activities include a craft project for the children, fluoride treatment for their teeth, and visiting some of the country's historical sites. Visiting El Salvador is a life-changing experience!

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

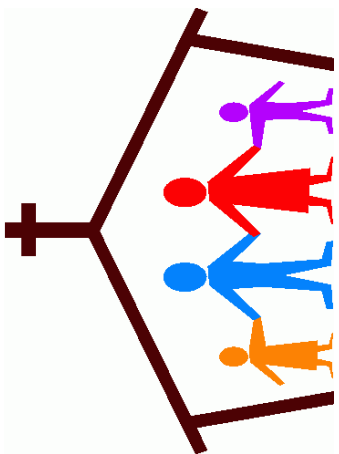
10-3 Pastor Lapp	10-18 Naomi Florin-	10-2 Joel & Maryann
10-3 Becky Judd	Gosciminski	Hurttgam
10-4 Liz Wingert	10-21 Kathy Berens	10-11 Darwin & Patrice
10-8 Amelia Davis	10-22 Asher Davis	Awe
10-13 Toby Abler	10-24 Tom Eagle	10-30 Robert & Cheryl
10-13 Janet Slay	10-25 Bill Schraft	Bartee
10-14 Tom Dawson	10-27 Kim Frey	9/23 Belated wishes
10-16 Sam Loya	10-29 Michael Cappelloni	to Steven Hendrickson

Prayers Please

SHORT TERM: George Webber, Dustin, James Boudreau, Frank, Dustin, Caitlin S., Family of Lupe Rodriguez, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, Keith, Frank, Susan, Mike Homer, Charlie & Tracy, Andre, Joshua & Andrea, Irma, Family of Deane Strong & M. Hudi, Sam, Family of Jim Schafer, Jamie Sheehan, Ralph, Aria Brown, Karin Zaun, Family of Marshall Bautz, Bou-

dreau family, Chelsea, John, Tim, Charmaine, Linda, Atlas, Tony, Sandi Csik, Janiea Paustian, Amy Wimmer, Gray, Hailey, Jesse, Joyce, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Rowe, George & Scott, Darlene Woodburn, Jacob & Family, Barbara Hansen, Tom Harris, Barbara Allen, Rena Brown, Carla Brown, Kathy, Joel Hurttgam, Jacob & Family, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Norman's Father, friends in Bakersfield, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Genell Csik, Barbara Bartee, Family of Mark Cronquist, Barbara Stiles, Paul Cunningham, Anita & Howard, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Marisa & Isaac, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers.

LONG TERM: Biergiel—Colclough family, 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, Bobbie Erickson, 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
September 27, 2023**

**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