

# *St. Stephen's Lutheran Church*



# *Sun*

## *February 2024*

### **Ash Wednesday – February 14**

**Worship 7:15 pm**

A recorded service will be offered on our website so you can observe this solemn and reflective beginning of preparation for the Joy of Easter.

### **Wednesdays in Lent —**

**Feb. 21 & 28, March 6, 13 & 20**

**Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm**

**&**

**Worship 7:15 pm**

A recorded Holden Evening Prayer Service will be available on our website.



***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



**Left:** Accountability Session at Green Acres Elementary School.

Our COPA Santa Cruz County Cluster hosted 15 candidates for local elected offices for an Accountability Session. That is the most that we have ever hosted! It demonstrates how seriously our organization is being taken when it comes to the issues that affect the most vulnerable in our community. Our elected officials respect this work and even fought over who would meet with us first if they were elected.

140 people from 10 of our COPA institutions attended in order to hold our elected officials accountable to their promises to work with us on tenant protections and better access to behavioral health and substance abuse treatment services.

There were 14 folks from St. Stephen's: Sofia & Robert Bartee, Tina Gates, Mark Linder, Bill Schraft, Jeanette & Tom Dawson, Kent Madsen, Barbara Rice, Nancy Graham, Jeanne Boudreau, James & Judy Russell and Pastor Jim.

**Below:** Congregation groups from Holy Cross Catholic, Peace United Church, Temple Beth El, Calvary Episcopal, Star of the Sea and Resurrection Catholic, Watsonville United Methodist, having their caucus meetings where we agreed to contact our entire congregation in order to help get out the vote. A half cent sales tax was supported to provide homeless services in our county.







# **SCOUT SUNDAY**

**Sunday, February 4**

**Come enjoy our homemade donuts!**

Scout Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday before February 8 every year and this year the day will be marked on February 4. Since 1910, school pupils have been imbibing good deeds, survival skills, and moral underpinnings via the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts of America are descended from the British Boy Scouts, which were created in 1908 in reaction to the success of Robert Baden-Powell's for Boys. Indonesia's national scouting organization, Gerakan Pramuka Indonesia, has over 17 million members, making it the world's largest scouting organization.

## **History of Scout Sunday**

Lord Baden-Powell founded Scouts after the South African War. In 1907, Baden-Powell gathered 22 boys, some from public schools and others from working-class families, and placed them in a camp under his command. The outcome of that camp is now known to the entire globe.

The book, "Scouting for Boys" was released in six fortnightly installments in 1908 at 4d per copy. The book sold well. Scout Patrols were founded by the boys to test out new ideas. What was meant to be a training manual for existing groups became the guidebook for a new global movement. Powell's deep comprehension of boys clearly hit a nerve. As a result, the book has been translated into a variety of languages and dialects.

During the third World Scout Jamboree in 1929, he was given a new automobile, which happened to be a Rolls-Royce. This automobile was quickly dubbed Jam-Roll. He also acquired an Eccles Caravan, dubbed Eccles Cake, so Scouts attending the occasion were treated to a Jam-Roll towing an Eccles Cake. This combination suited the Baden-Powells well in their subsequent journeys throughout Europe. Baden-Powell also had a significant influence on youth education. The global Scouting movement expanded under his diligent leadership. By 1922, there were over a million Scouts in 32 nations; by 1939, the number of scouts had risen to more than 3.3 million.

# **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 / Annual Meeting Highlights**

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

1. 30 people (in person) and 6 on Zoom attended the Annual Meeting on Sunday January 28 right after the worship service. Thanks to all for the many refreshments we all enjoyed to begin the meeting!
2. Pastor Jim led an Opening Prayer that lifted up some of the words of the songs we sang in worship. “Lead us on. Lead us on, to a morning where the promise shines”. Just like the Magi, we are setting out on an uncertain journey together, in the hope of bringing our best gifts to God.
3. Pastor Jim referred to the Congregational Statistics and noted our new membership number of 249. So a quorum for the Annual Meeting was 25. He also noted the increase in average worship attendance from 39 last year to 66 this year. The increase is mostly due to the work of our tech crew because of the online worshippers being accounted for.
4. President Shelly Barker introduced the 2024 Proposed Budget by referring to written explanation she provided 2 weeks ago when it was made available in worship. The main points were that the Council voted for a 5% COLA raise for our 4 staff, since there had been no raises since 2019. Also, since we have only used \$60,000 of the approved \$125,000 from reserves for 2019-24, we would take an additional \$25,000 this year, if necessary, in order to meet our expenses.
5. The 2024 Proposed Budget was approved.
6. Sofia Bartee and Mark Linder were elected to 3 year terms on the Church Council. Jay Johnston and Kent Madsen were loudly applauded as they completed two consecutive 3yr terms.
7. Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice were elected as Synod Assembly delegates. Kent & Jeanne Boudreau were elected to SC al Salvador board



I am so grateful for our School Board. They each have unique gifts to share. This month I want to lift Bill & Margaret Schraft. From the beginning they have supported our school in many ways. Bill has helped with many projects for our facility both inside and out. Margaret shares all her materials and ideas that help with our curriculum. Plus, they always helped with our fundraising meals when we did them. In the past few years, they have been donating so many great items for the children to enjoy. Now we have two play structures that are new on the lawn for the children to play with. The recent structure was noticed by their daughter Lora in her neighborhood for free and Bill delivered and assembled it for us. They are passionate about our school and forever great friends and supporters. Thank you!

We grew beautiful broccoli & cauliflower which we harvested in January. Most of the children enjoyed eating it. They especially like to eat it right when we pick it. Adults were just as excited to see the produce.

We are reviewing the first half of the alphabet, then we will continue with letter of the week. The children are really getting it now and enjoy coming up with words that go with the letter with Sam during Circletime.

We are looking forward to honoring William Bulfin on Scout Sunday with a plaque in honor of his Eagle Scout Project of renovating our playground.

This is when we act out Jan Brett's, "The Mitten," with the children. They each wear an animal hat and crawl into the big mitten (A sheet the teachers holds), and the bear sneezes, the sheet goes flying and they all tumble out. Children love to bring books to life.

It sure has been cold around here! The heaters that the Lapp family donated are working and we are keeping our classrooms warm. They work so much better than the original heating system in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

We are very busy as we have 22 students now. This is a nice time of year to do activities with them as they really grow over Christmas Break, and the excitement is behind us. Now we look forward to Valentines Day!

Warmly, Kathy Berens

## Sunday School

How interesting that Lent begins on Valentines Day. Hmmmm. Love & Forgiveness coincide.

You can't have  
Valentine's  
Without Lent!



We start with ashes... and have 40 days to make our hearts sparkle! One of the kids asked why we give things up for Lent? Good question. We adults think we know the answer, but often our choices / reasons are not spiritual. Lent is an opportunity to be more focused on God. To draw near & right some of our wrongs. To be intentional about our praying / worship, our actions, and our consumption. Only you know if giving up your favorite thing makes you remember & rely on God. May we be renewed as we reflect & re-focus and share your love on this path to Easter.

~ Faithfully, Miss Leslie

**No Class March 3**

**Mt. Cross**



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## WORK DAY at Camp Saturday, February 10

Projects include (weather permitting): painting, trail maintenance, bunk bed construction, and more! Lunch will be provided.

Email us [mtcross@mtcross.org](mailto:mtcross@mtcross.org) for more information or let us know to expect you!

**Registration is now open for summer camp!**



## Music at St. Stephen's

~ Happy New Year ~

Think about joining the music team this year. We need more singers and instrumentalists to be part of our musical family, and celebrate together, during worship.

We are approaching Lent and Easter. The Good News Singers will be with us, all the way to Easter Sunday. I'm very interested in forming an Easter Chorus — Sign up in the Lobby. If it works, we will sing two new Easter songs, with some Brass. Still waiting for interested folks to learn handbell tone bars. Want to take out some aggression? I can help you. Let's bang some bars together!

Please donate to the Musicians fund.

Thank you,  
Yours in Christ , and mission, Gary

P.S. Music is so influential on the brain, that the type you listen to actually has the ability to change the way you think & look at the world.



## MaryMartha / Ruth Rebecca Circle

Thursday, February 8th ~ 10:30 Fireside Room

All women are welcome.  
Contact Tina Gates 760)992-4804 or  
[gateschristina84@gmail.com](mailto:gateschristina84@gmail.com)



Several enthusiastic women of St Stephen's joined the morning "Coffee & Chat" gathering at Senior Housing on January 11th. We displayed the colorful handcrafted pillowcases for the residents to choose one that spoke to them. For people who were unable to attend, their friends picked out a design and color scheme to brighten their homes. Amid lively conversation, everyone enjoyed baked goods brought by the Circle women. All who attended were very grateful for both our generous and thoughtful gift of the pillowcase and our spending time with them.



## Women's Café Group

Wednesdays, Feb.7 @ 6:00 pm  
Dinner, Devotions & Fellowship  
476-4700



## Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

**February** — Association of Faith Communities  
Rotating Shelter & Safe Spaces

January — Community Bridges \$130 (as of Jan. 25)

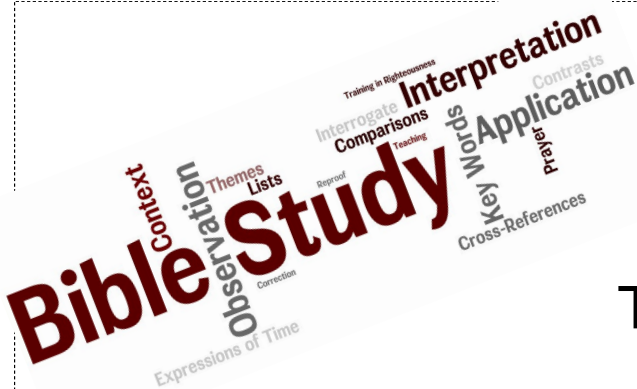
Correction: Prevention of Suicide is our June benevolence

### Provide Lunches for Volunteers February 20 at 10:30 am

4th Tuesday of each month

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



## ZOOM with Pr. Jim

check email on Weds. for link

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

*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.*

## Discerning the Body by Steven Hendrickson



*you are the  
BODY of CHRIST  
and individually  
members of it*

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

A Blessed New Year to each one of you! As a family of believers or the Body of Christ in this time and place, we are embarking upon a new chapter of our life together. The era of the COVID pandemic and other cultural, political, and economic changes have created a new reality. Our task here and now is to discern the present state of our Body and to humbly chart a course of action for the next five years. Pastor Jim has given us a biblical perspective and rationale of discerning our Body of Christ from a Gospel reading recently in a sermon. Because we love Christ and one another, we will rise to the occasion with God's help. At our annual meeting in late January, a suggestion of forming a Task Force to discern and identify initiatives and actions for our congregation will be created.

Prophecy and creativity are pregnant possibilities as we turn to our Triune God for inspiration. Two earlier initiatives borne of the Spirit have produced much fruit.

Our preschool and St. Stephen's Housing have been a real blessing not only for our local Body of Christ, but for our larger community. Indeed, our Task Force will dream and suggest something new which is larger than any of us and animates the power of Christ through us. Please prayerfully consider what you can bring to this holy endeavor. Your suggestions, talents, and volunteering can make all the difference.

Since we are all living temples of the Body of Christ, it is possible to discern our emotional, physical, and spiritual state personally. As you reflect upon scripture, close your eyes and do a body scan noting your emotional and physical sensations. Is there pain, tension or aliveness and harmony within? Being aware of what is occurring in our bodies is an encouragement to being more in touch with our feelings and emotions. Use this as a springboard for prayer. Please try this if you feel led to do so. I am looking forward to this time of discernment with all of you.....

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



## **"Serving our Unhoused Neighbors"**

In a year where housing resources were slim, AFC's staff, volunteers, and participants worked hard to find stable housing for 30 individuals! More than just housing, AFC's network of congregations offered them support and belonging. 2023 in Review:

137 People received shelter or safe parking

30 people found permanent housing

36% of participants left to permanent housing

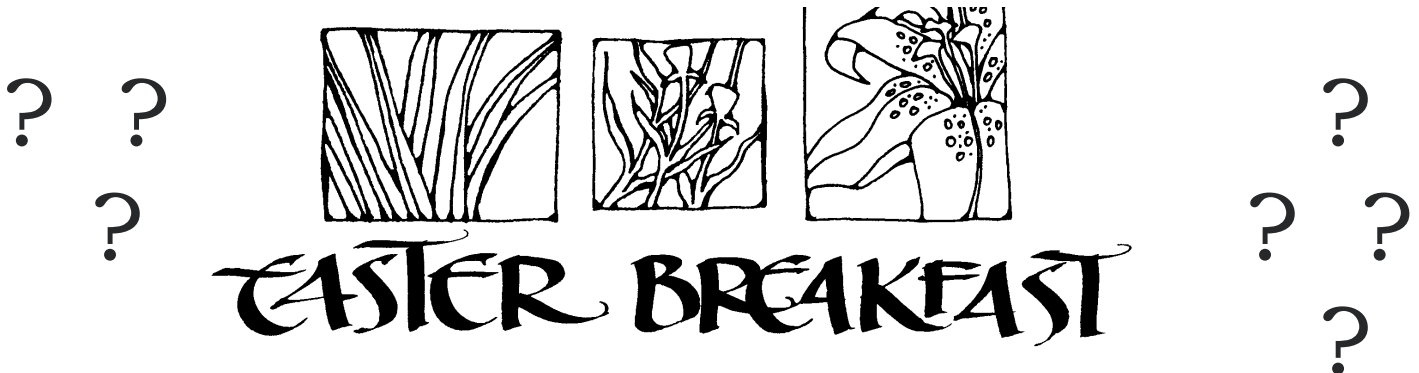
5000+ home cooked meals served by volunteers

AFC will be hosting a Faith Leader Gathering on **Wednesday, March 13 from 10am-11:30am at Twin Lakes Church**. In addition to providing a space to connect with other faith leaders, the gathering will feature information about how faith communities can help with Santa Cruz's housing crisis, regardless of size and property.

SAVE THE DATE: AFC's Annual Gala

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 18!** Holy Cross will host our Annual Gala: a time to celebrate our work together and raise funds for the year to come.

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Only if YOU help: Lead, Cook, Thrivent Grant  
12 Call asap 476-4700



**Saturdays  
February 24  
&  
March 23  
(palm cutting)**



For those of you who remember, we used to have a committee who faithfully & proudly took care of our property. Now, we have you. Yes, YOU. Please sign up for an hour or two.

**Rain or Shine, there is plenty of work to do . . . inside & out!**

Standard: Weeding, Windows and Cleaning. Sometimes: Mopping the church floor, Tree-trimming, Painting and Re-organizing.

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### **St. Stephen's is Now Accepting Zelle®**

A new giving option has been added! You may now contribute to St. Stephen's using Zelle®. Zelle® is a bank-to-bank money transfer method. To use it, you must first sign up on your bank's website or app. Then, follow these steps:

1. Log into your bank's website or app.
  2. Select the "Transfers" or "Move Money" functions.
- The first time, you will need to select "New Contact". Find St. Stephen's with the e-mail address "[giving@ststephenslutheran.org](mailto:giving@ststephenslutheran.org)".
1. Enter the amount you wish to send.
  2. Please add a Reason or Purpose for your donation.
  3. Review and click or touch Send.



## Sister Parish News

**Prayer Children for 2024** - The scholarship committee in Guillermo Ungo has been hard at work selecting students for 2024 scholarships. We expect to receive the new list very soon. Once that happens, we will communicate with you to confirm your commitment to your prayer child for the new year. Some students have graduated and others may have moved or left the program for another reason. In that case, we will ask you if you want to choose another prayer child and what your preferences are as to gender and age. Watch for email from Santa Cruz al Salvador for your update.

**2024 Delegation** - It is likely there will be a delegation to our communities in 2024. It's never too soon to tell us about your interest in traveling to El Salvador with our group.

*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 everyone at St. Stephen's who have contributed toward the latrines in El Pilar, scholarships in Guillermo Ungo, or University Scholarships. ***Your gifts make a difference!***



Peace in Christ, Kent Madsen

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

2-4 Kyle Travers

2-7 Marla Meek

2-8 James Russell

2- 10 Paul Powers

2-12 Beverly Giladett

2-18 Kathy Hopping

2-18 Jay Johnston

2-19 Connie Creel

2-19 Charles Eldridge

2-21 Caitlin Hopping

2-24 Miller Mouw

2-29 Beth Stiles

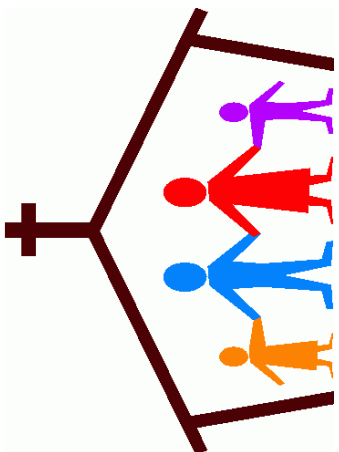
2—6 Pastor Jim & Leslie



**SHORT TERM:** Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Jan, Jessie V., Margaret, Bill Gile, Tim Oldfield, Sierra, Beth's mom, Julie R., James, Anne Rice, Cheryl Davis, Rosie, The Webber Family, Janet, Sue, Lindsay Rosenberg, Middle East Peace, Maria, Cody Turner, Jan, Jacque N. Diane Strong, San Diego families of Nancy & Sam, Renee, Brandon, Tom Dawson, Rena Brown, James, Tina, Lurline Moore, Keith, Tai-

yo, Marissa, Isaac, James Boudreau, Alvarado family, Dustin, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, Corcoran family, Mike Homer, Sam, Atlas, Tony, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, Amy Wimmer, Gray, Hailey, Jesse, Joyce, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Kathy, Joel Hurttgam, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Genell Csik, Paul Cunningham, Paul Paustian, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, 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, 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 & 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  
January 30, 2024**

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

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

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