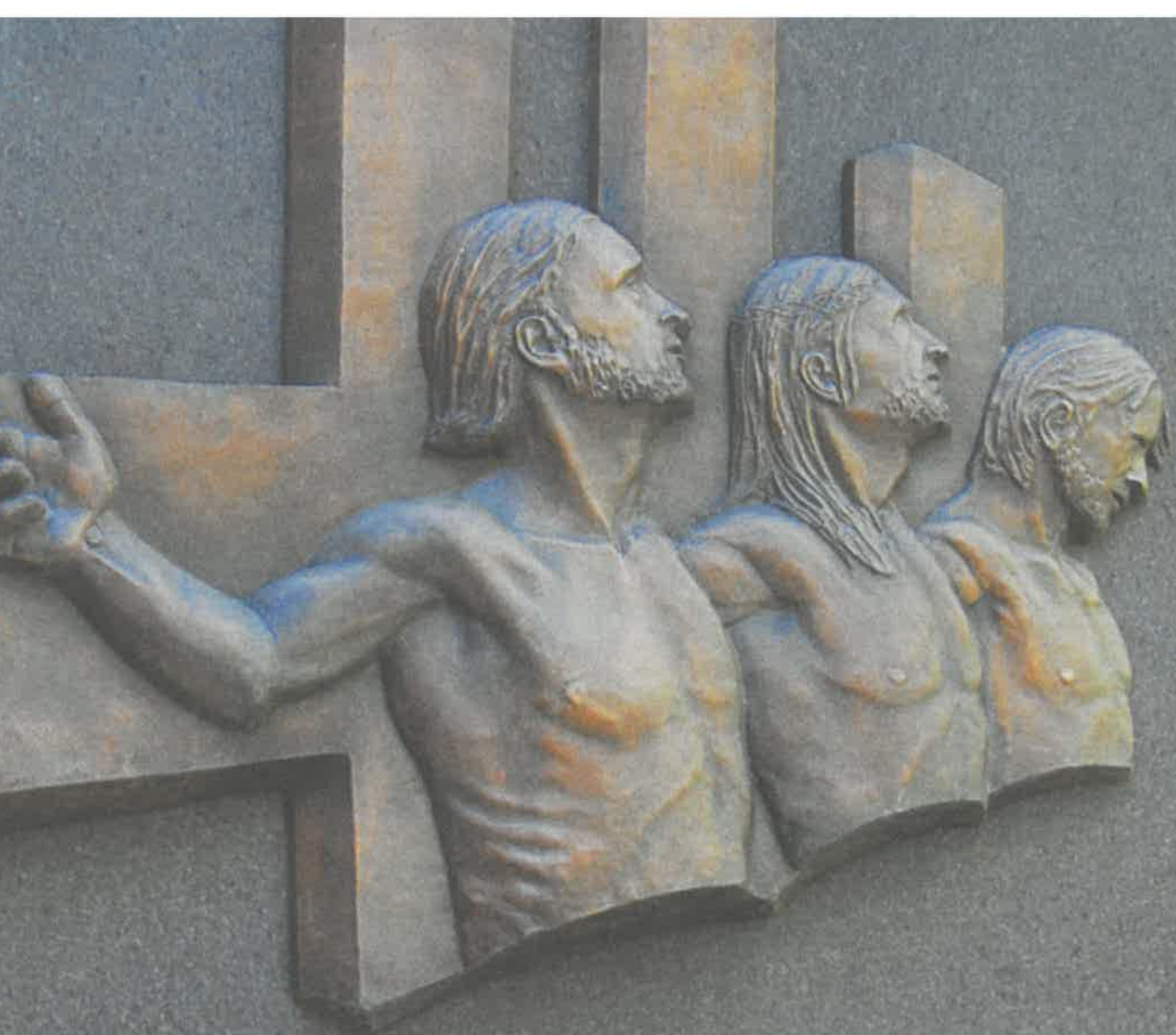




Jesus,
remember
me when
you come into
your kingdom

LUKE 23:42

Christ the King Sunday

Polka Mass

November 23, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day. Please fill out the “Worship Slip” and place it in the offering plate. (*) Asterisk means, “Please stand as you are able.”

Music “Christ is the King—Alleluia”

The Gathering

*Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the † holy Trinity,
The one who fashions us,
The one who heals us,
The one who reforms us again and again.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God’s transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: Source of all life,

**C: We confess that we have not allowed
Your grace to set us free.
We fear that we are not good enough.
We hear your word of love freely given to us,
Yet we expect others to earn it.
We turn the church inward,
Rather than moving it outward.
Forgive us. Stir us.
Reform us to be a church powered by love,
Willing to speak for what is right,
Act for what is just,
And seek the healing of your whole creation.
Amen.**

P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
And to empower our lives in the world.
Our sins are forgiven,
† God's love is unconditional,
And we are raised up as God's people
Who will always be made new,
In the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” Red #634 vs. 1~4

All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.

O seed of Israel’s chosen race
now ransomed from the fall,
Hail him who saves you by his grace
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace
and crown him Lord of all. (hymn continued)

Hail him, you heirs of David's line,
whom David Lord did call ~
The God incarnate, man divine—
and crown him Lord of all.
The God incarnate, man divine—
and crown him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
Go spread your trophies at his feet
and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your trophies at his feet
and crown him Lord of all.

*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.

Call To Worship "Come Now and Worship"
(Tune: *Roll Out the Barrel*)

Come Now and worship
Come now and worship the Lord
Come now and worship
Join as we sing and adore
Gather together
Give God the praise that is due
Hear us as we come to worship
Sing praise to you.

We bring our gifts
Gifts of our selves and our lives.
With bread and wine

We offer you our whole lives.
This celebration
Draws us all closer to you.
Hear us as we come to worship.
Singing praise to you.

Jesus our Savior.
Died on the cross just for us.
Rose from the dead
He gives salvation to us.
Gather together
Drawing us closer to you.
Hear us as we come to worship.
Singing praise to you.

*Prayer of the Day

P: May God be with you.
C: And also with you.

P: Let us Pray.

God Stories

The Word of God

First Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God, Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 46

Choir with cong. response
celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

Colossians 1:11-20

Cel. pg. 3

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

Good News Acclamation

(before & after Gospel)

Allelujah. Allelujah. Allelujah. Allelujah.

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Luke the 23rd Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O God.

*Gospel Reading

Luke 23:33-43

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Allelujah. Allelujah. Allelujah. Allelujah.

Sermon

Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

“O God of Every Nation” #713

1 O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.

2 From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower

destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.

3 Lord, strengthen those who labor
that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
your still small voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.

4 Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and justice reign
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.

The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

The Communion Meal

*Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some
of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Music

“Rejoice for Christ is King” #430

Offering Hymn

“At This Sacrifice”

(Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain)

At this sacrifice we gather
Celebrating of your love.
For the sins we have committed,
Grant us pardon Lord of love.
Hearts to grow a little tender,
As the time of life goes by.
Love and kindness for each other,
Much too fast the moments fly.

Jesus we're not worthy ever,
To receive you here today.
Say the word denying never.
Make us pure again we pray.
God is love and God is mighty.
God is ever merciful.
Graces from God's holy bounty,
Sends God's love most wonderful.

Through the ages and forever,
In the heavenly domain.
Show the path for us to enter,
There for always to remain.
Life is like a dying ember,
Only moments do remain.
Increase our feeble faith O Jesus.
Shed thy healing light a gain.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us Pray...

**Blessed are you, O God,
Source of every gift of your creation
By these gifts and with our lives,
Help us to serve one another and all in need,
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every tongue and nation.

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today, our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever. Amen**

P: Jesus welcomes you to this table.
Come, here is your God.

(You may be seated)

Holy Communion

Guests: You are welcome to come forward to receive Communion as part of this church family! Children are welcome to come forward and receive a special blessing if they have never communed before. Communion is by intinction, which means that we dip the bread into either the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Please follow the guidance of the ushers as to when and how you are to come forward.

Lamb of God (Tune: Edelweiss)

Lamb of God, Lamb of God,
you take away the world's sin.
Lamb of God, Lamb of God,
you take away the world's sin.
Mercy and peace may you grant to us,
Grant to us forever.
Lamb of God, Lamb of God, grant to us your peace.

Communion Hymn

“Jesus Remember Me” Red #616 (repeat often)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The Sending

*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: **Amen.**

Post Communion Hymn

“Let Us Sing” (Wooden Heart)

Let us sing, let us sing, let us sing to Christ our King.
Sing to Christ our King as we ask for his help this day.
God is good God is kind,
God will give us peace of mind,
Give us peace of mind if we following God's way.
There's no strings upon this love
God gives, God asks only your love in return
God is good, God is kind,
God will give us peace of mind,
Give us peace of mind if we follow in God's way.

*Blessing

P: God all mighty,
 God most merciful
 † bless you, keep you,
 And give you peace.

C: Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“Jesus Shall Reign” Red #434

Jesus shall reign where're the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown his head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where're he reigns:
The pris'ners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen.

*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Do not lose heart.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music “Thanksgiving Postlude” Richard Purvis

Serving Today

Reader: Bill Anderson

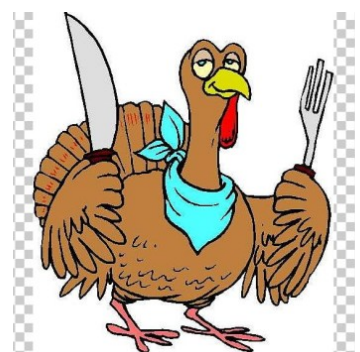
Coffee: Bill Anderson - Potluck Fellowship Hall

Altar Guild: Candace Anderson

Office Support: Sheila Buswell & Sherilyn Jager

== = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = = =

Stay for the Potluck.
There is plenty of food!





SHORT TERM

Margaret Schraft, Don & Taiyo, Chris Wyneken, Gary & Connie Stevenson, Family of Bobbie Erickson, Kevin, Marc Northcott, Cheryl & David Craig, Beth, Liz, Joan Wilson Family,

Sam, Florence, Tom Williams, Charlotte & family, Tim Oldfield, Kathy M., Nancy, Jennifer Linkeon, Corrine & Daniel, Connie Garcia & Family, Tina & family, Ana, Kathybelle Barlow, Family & friends of Rev. Jim Carr, Grey, Levi, Unemployed, Nick, James, Galahad, Debbie, Sam, Nate Barker, Robbin, Keith, Noelle, Ensley, Middle East Peace, Tom Dawson, Marissa, Isaac, Dustin, Father Jack Davis, Sandi Csik, Adolfo, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Gary & Marjie Toops, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Isaac & Marissa, Mateo & Lina,, Atlas, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager.

LONG TERM

Those suffering with Mental Illness, James Sheehan, Biergiel—Colclough family, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Joel Hurtgamm, Dawit and family (Ethiopia), Miller, April, Aaron Johnson, Shelby, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Lisa & Beau, Linda Johnson, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Mike, Susan Anderson, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris & John B., Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, People of Palestine/Israel, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, S.S. Senior Housing, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

** Please notify when to remove **

The Altar Flowers are given
By Robert & Judi Alvarado
To Celebrate
Grandchild Nova Ford's b-day



Music at St. Stephen's



I'm really excited about this morning. Where else, in the tri-county area can you worship and celebrate, so many ways, like we are. I don't think you can!

We celebrate Christ the King Sunday, with special songs, then a Polka Mass. Right here, under the Skies of Blue, with Wooden Hearts, Edelweiss with the Lamb of God, while Rolling Out A Barrel, and singing Praises to God. Wow! Only in America. We celebrate a positive message, that is always God centered, our spirited Choir singing. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing, giving thanks to God, for family, life, happiness, church family, our friends, and a turkey in the oven. You can't beat this, it's just the way we are—Thank God!

I'm looking forward to Advent, weeks of Hope, Peace, Joy & Love, and Christmas. May we also remember those sister, and brothers who have little or nothing. May they find the Lord, and walk with Jesus.

Yours in Christ, and Mission

Gary

=====

Virtual Giving Options

- 1) **Vanco**, our regular electronic giving provider;
- 2) **PayPal** / **Venmo** / **Zelle** for one-time gifts;
- 3) **PayPal** with the possibility of recurring donations and an option to cover the fees.

<https://ststephenslutheran.org>



Sharing Christmas Joy

ANGEL TREE in the narthex is ready for you to pick an angel or two; sign the list; buy a gift and return to the tree. Gifts benefit the "Adopt a Family" program of the Volunteer Center of S.C. County.

SAINT NICK FOR SENIORS! Who isn't a child at Christmas? Residents at the senior apartments will have the opportunity to be kids again by placing a pair of shoes by their front doors on the evening of December 5th. St. Nick's elves will place small trinkets and goodies in their shoes to surprise them the next morning! We are asking you for some little gifts. Suggestions are: Slipper sox, tea bags, note pads, post-it notes, pens, chap-stick, small toiletries, festive wrapped chocolates, and inspirational stuff. Your donations can be placed in the marked bag in the narthex. Tina @ gateschristina84@gmail.com

ELCA Good Gifts & God's Global Barnyard These Gifts are a creative, meaningful way to support the ministries that mean the most to you and your loved ones. These items lift up examples of work being done in different projects and programs supported by our parent church. ELCA.org or 1-800-638-3522

Our Preschool is enrolling NOW.

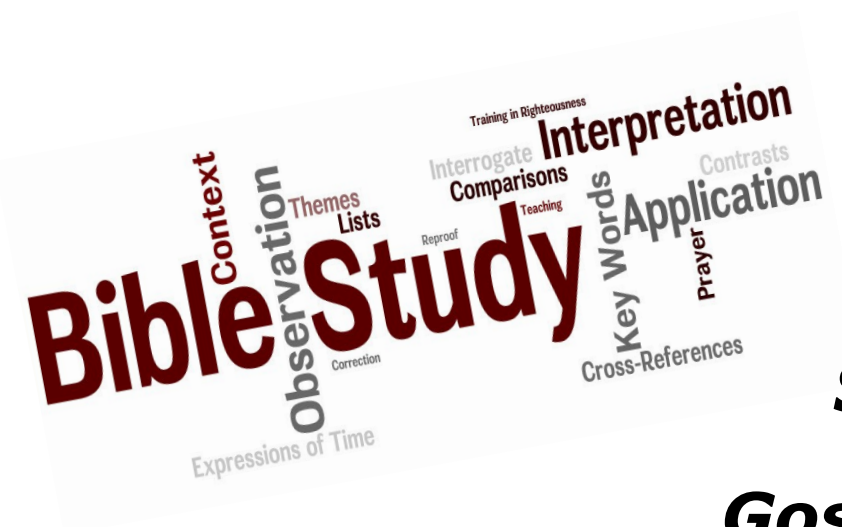
Ages 2-4

Full & Part Time openings.

Tell your friends!

Contact Kathy 462-4453





NEW

Six Week Study

Gospel of Matthew

Join us as we explore the tenderness and tensions in the teachings of Jesus through *Matthew: "The Gospel of Promised Blessings"* by Dr. Matthew Skinner. The six-week Bible study **November 5—December 17**. We'll meet each Wednesday, except for Thanksgiving Eve, November 26. [See a short promo video for this study here](#) on Youtube!

You can [order the book for \\$10 on Kindle, ~\\$12.50 for paperback](#), or \$14 through Christa if you'd like her to order one for you. Scholarships are available!

If you don't have time to read between sessions or need to skip a week, that's perfectly fine. Come for the scripture and conversation whenever you can. Friends are always welcome. Submit any inquiries to [Christa Garcia](#) at christawynekengarcia@gmail.com

On ZOOM
with our Seminarian Christa

Check email on Tues. for link

WEDNESDAYS

7:30 – 8:30 pm

As we grow in our faith, we grow in community.



AFC Shelter Dinners

Saturday, November 29

5:45–7:15 pm

St. John's - 125 Canterbury Drive Aptos

Sign up in the Narthex:

Volunteer your time

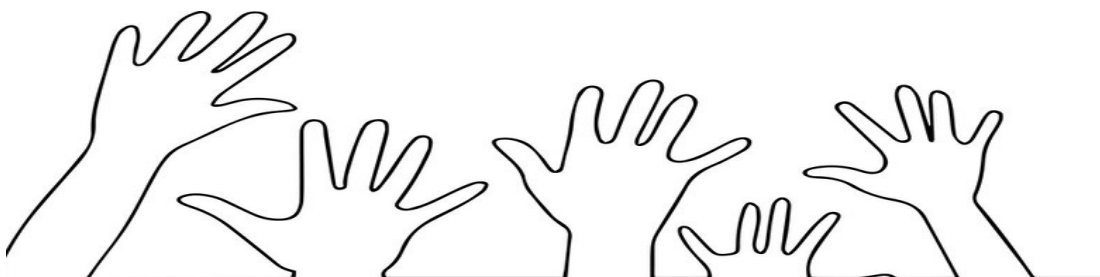
AND / OR provide

*Main Course, Salad, dessert, milk & breakfast items
(one of these)*

Come offer your resources to our neighbors without housing. Along the way, we find a deeper understanding that we are all worthy of dignity and connection. You can assist those without homes to a better life.

Since 2012, the AFC has been sponsoring a nightly transitional shelter for 15 participants at faith communities from Santa Cruz to Aptos. We rotate daily from site to site. St. Stephen's has committed to dinners the 5th Saturday of each month (Jan. 31, May 30, Aug. 29, and Oct. 31).

Call office for more info 476-4700



Upcoming Events:

November Benevolence Offering -
Santa Cruz al Salvador Sister Parish

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Nov. 24—Dec. 3 | El Salvador Delegation |
| Nov. 25 | Scouts 6:00 pm |
| Nov. 26 | Newsletter Collating 2:00 (helpers needed) |
| Nov. 26 | Bible Study Weds. 7:30 pm |
| Dec. 4 & 18 | Women's Café Group 6:00 pm Thursdays
Dinner and devotions (Bring your "hopes") |
| Nov. 27 | Mens beginner A.A. Thursdays 7:00 pm Fireside |
| Nov. 28 | A.A. Fridays 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall |
| Nov. 29 | AFC Shelter Dinner—see sign up sheet
Need main course, salad and 2 servers |
| Dec. 2 | Trinity Tuesday 6:30 pm - Discretion Brew 41st |
| Dec. 7 | Christmas Pageant |
| Dec. 9 | Church Council 6:30 pm |
| Dec. 11 | MMRR Circle 10:30 am |
| Dec. 14 | MMRR Bake Sale |

Pastor's Office Hours Wed & Thurs. 10:00 to 1:00

Our 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, invite people to share the joy of the Spirit.

Reconciling in Christ

*"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."*

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.
2500 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
831/476-4700 FAX 831/476-3918
email: office@ststephenslutheran.org
Web Address: www.ststephenslutheran.org
Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. Noon—5:00 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
Music Director: Gary Roberts
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp
Custodian: John Hopping
Powerpoint: Jay Johnston, Kent Madsen & Barbara Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539