

**ST. STEPHEN'S
FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

8:15 am Worship Service
and Coffee Fellowship
9:30 am Adult Forum
Choir rehearsal
10:30 am Worship & Children's Church
and Coffee Fellowship

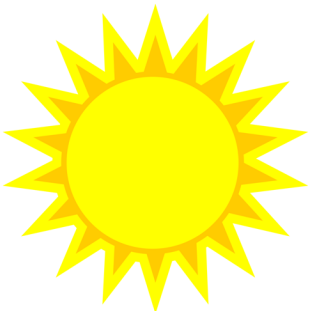
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St Stephen's Lutheran Church
2500 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

November 2019

Celebrating 65 Years of Ministry

Consecration Sunday - November 17

“Celebrating God’s Abundance” bring your commitments
Potluck lunch at Noon

Let’s all respond generously to God’s love and grace for us. Use the materials mailed out to you to honestly reflect on how you will give thanks in the coming year. By faith, as God enables us, let’s strive to:

- Pray regularly for the ministry of our church.
- Attend worship services often to keep our faith first, and seek to interest others in sharing that with us.
- Be available to follow God’s leading by offering your gifts of time and ability through our church.
- Significantly give financially to the work of the Spirit as a reflection of your dedication, through the ministry of our church in 2020.



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. — Renee Rice V.P.— Robert Bartee
Secretary - Treasurer— Kent Madsen
Lydia Abler, David Balogh, Jeanette Dawson,
Jay Johnston, Bill Schraft, and Rebecca Wickham
Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens
Custodian: John Hopping
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
Office Open: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30am—2:30pm
Pastor Jim's Office Hours — Weds. & Thurs. 10 am to 1 pm

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

Planning For the Holidays . . .

ELCA Good Gifts — Order now!

See lwrgifts.org 1-800-597-5972 or Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service LIRS.org 877-291-7061 for meaningful gifts that inspire leadership, nourish the hungry, and heal the sick . Including LWR fair trade coffee.

Gift Tree - Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits

Choose a tag from the tree in the narthex. Sleepers/PJs and hooded sweatshirt/jackets, in specific sizes. More info MMRR pg. 10

SPIN: Socks for People in Need

New socks are a blessing for many reasons, especially health, but also because they provide comfort and a sense of dignity. By assoc. of Faith Communities.

Saint Nick's Day goodies for our Senior Neighbors

We will be collecting candy canes, hershey kisses, and nuts. Our children will be making cards. We will have a stealthy pm delivery on Dec. 5.

Holiday Boutique & Bake Sale — Dec. 15

We will need: breads, cakes, pies, candy, nuts & craft items.

Santa Cruz Chorale — Dec. 21 at 8:00 pm & Dec. 22 at 4pm Holy Cross Church

Children's Christmas Pageant — Dec. 8 @ 10:30 Dress Rehearsal Dec. 7

Christmas Eve Worship — Dec. 24 @ 5:00 & 7:30 pm

- More details in the December Newsletter!



Our mission - Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.

Our vision — A world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and creation.

Our values - are grounded in faith, in our biblical and Lutheran confessional sources and our love of God and neighbor. They speak to the way this church lives and practices our faith, and they will guide how we journey forward in Christ as church together.

Forgiveness and reconciliation – We are reconciled to God by God's forgiving mercy. Forgiveness and reconciliation flow from what God has made us to be in Jesus Christ and what God is doing with us in the world. As a people of God, we embody forgiveness in speech, action and relationships, and our ministry in reconciliation is foundational.

Dignity, compassion and justice – Each person is created in God's image. We respect this God-given right to dignity and, inspired by the life of Jesus, show love and compassion for all people. Through proclamation of the gospel, through worship and as servants of God working for healing and justice in the world, we uphold and seek to protect the dignity and human rights of all people.

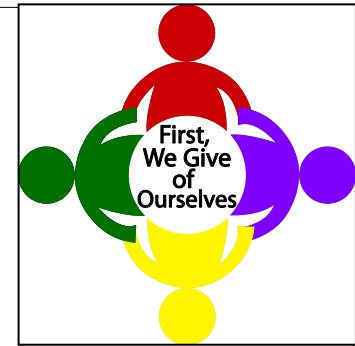
Inclusion and diversity – As Christ's church, we value the richness of God's creation and offer a radical welcome to all people, appreciating our common humanity and our differences. We are a church that does not view diversity as a barrier to unity. We recognize and will challenge dynamics of power and privilege that create barriers to participation and equity in this church and society – for women, people of color, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, people who are marginalized or living in poverty, and the LGBTQ community.

Courage and openness to change – Because we trust in God's promise and understand faith to be a living, daring confidence in God's grace, we are emboldened to embrace learning and change in our spiritual and institutional journey as church. This means we are open to new ways and willing to take risks to discover God's plan for this church.

Faithful stewardship of God's creation and gifts – As church together, faithful stewardship is about holding to God's purpose and ensuring the responsibilities and resources that God has entrusted to us are used with great care and with accountability to God, to each other and those served by this church.

from Pastor Jim...

“First, We Give of Ourselves: Giving in Gratitude”



Dear Friends in Christ,

How do you live and give in gratitude? It is a topic of discipleship and stewardship. It is a question that implores us to pause amidst our busy lives and consider how richly God has blessed, how we receive these gifts, and to what extent gratitude guides our living and giving.

As we receive and share the gifts of God in gratitude, we do so in the spirit of our theme verse from 2nd Corinthians 8:5 where the Apostle Paul describes the grateful giving of the Macedonian Christians as “giving of themselves”. “Giving in Gratitude” is the delight of sharing what God has first given us.

There are two principles that lie at the core of our giving. The first is that our giving in gratitude is a joyful and faithful response to God's giving of Jesus Christ and the grace filled life that comes through Him. The other reason for our giving in gratitude is that the ministries of our congregation can remain bold and vibrant in sharing God's grace by what we do in Christ's name for our members and community.

This Fall, each one of our members is being asked to prayerfully consider how one can give in gratitude. In your prayerful contemplation, you are invited to consider sharing a tithe (10% of one's income) as your grateful response to God's giving. If this response will involve growing over time, prayerfully consider growing your present giving by 20%. In other words, if you are presently giving \$50 per week, a 20% growth would be \$60 per week. We are praying that the overall growth in giving this fall would be an increase between 15-20%. Just think of what we could do if we were blessed in this way!

Please put on your calendar, this important date “**Celebration and Commitment Sunday**” on Sunday November 17. Over these next few weeks, please enter into a time of prayer considering how you can give of yourself, give in gratitude, and grow in sharing your gifts in response to God's own giving, especially God's Son, Jesus Christ and the life-giving love for each of us.

November Happenings



Nov. 3

Knitting Group
Thursdays at
6:45pm

Alcoholics Anonymous
Fridays at 7:00 pm

Alanon Family Group
Saturdays at 10:00 am

Finance Committee
Nov. 1 @ 8:30 am

Church Council
Nov. 13 @ 6:30 pm

MMRR Circle
Nov. 14 @ 10:30

Embroider's Guild
Nov. 18 @ 7 pm

Women's Café Group
Nov. 20 @ 6:00 pm off site

Provide Habitat Lunches
Nov. 26 @ 10:30 am

Newsletter Collating
Nov. 26 @ 10:00 am

*Please sign up to help on Sundays
Coffee Hosts*

Council Highlights

1. Devotions were from the book From the Steeple to the Street and the Chapter entitled: "Existing Churches are not Obsolete". This reflects one of the principles of the Fresh Expressions movement, that values the traditional existing church as a necessary partner of any new expression of the church. Other church growth efforts usually advocate for doing away with the previous manifestation of the church, instead of seeing it as a resource. This chapter raises the real possibility that the Christian church is on the cusp of a new Reformation time as it faces an increasing decline in participation. Acts Ch. 10 reminds us that just like in the vision of Peter, we too need to open our hearts and minds to new ways that God's message of love and grace can be offered to the world.

2. Our President Renee Rice participated in a training for how we can become known as a "Reconciled In Christ" congregation. This is a national Lutheran program where churches intentionally identify as a place where LGBTQ folks are specifically welcomed. This is a way that people know that we are a safe place in a culture that isn't always accepting of people with diverse sexual identities. Given the Christian church's persecution of LGBTQ folks at times, and still today, it is important to make a public witness about our specific welcome. We will take an official vote at our Annual Meeting to make this declaration.

3. Kent Madsen, Robert Bartee and Herb Schmidt will attend our El Camino Conference meeting, as we prepare to elect a new Synod Bishop in May

4



El Salvador Sister Parish

"Building Relationships for Better Lives"

Have a Nice Dinner: Shadowbrook Tues, Nov. 19

Santa Cruz al Salvador is signed up for Community Tuesday at the Shadowbrook Restaurant on Tuesday, November 19th. Invite friends; have dinner and contribute to Santa Cruz al Salvador at the same time! Shadowbrook donates 30% of your entire bill to our organization - just tell them you are dining for Santa Cruz al Salvador when you order. Reservations are required; make them starting October 22nd.

***For Those Who Have Everything:
A Gift to Santa Cruz al Salvador in Their Honor***

Again this year we have a Donation Acknowledgement Card with a picture greeting from Salvadoran children and notation inside that "A donation has been made in your honor to Santa Cruz al Salvador, mission project of area Presbyterian & Lutheran Churches." On the back is our motto: "Building Relationships for Better Lives" with an explanation that donations provide scholarships, school supplies, pure water and composting toilets in two rural poverty communities.

Sponsor a Student in El Salvador

This is an important part of our scholarship program -- primary and secondary school scholarship recipients in El Salvador are connected with a person or family in the U.S. who cares about them, prays for them, and takes an interest in their education and life.

It's time to think about recommitting to support your Prayer Child for 2020. Or, if you don't have a Prayer Child, there will be new students who need a sponsor. Please contact either Kent Madsen 408-812-1141 with questions about continuing your sponsorship, or starting a new one. We suggest a contribution of at least \$75 for each student sponsored. Contact Kent if you would like to sponsor a University student. They are handled on a case-by-case basis.

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

November—Santa Cruz al Salvador / Sister Parish

October — Child Development Center = \$ 120
(as of Oct. 24)

(plus \$1,230.00 raised from the Aebleskiver Breakfast)

STEWARD OF GOD'S GIFTS

Steven Hendrickson

Our church is blessed to welcome back the gifts of our friend Steven! In particular, he has immediately engaged with our Sustainability Group and provided leadership for our Fall Stewardship Emphasis as we reflect on "Giving in Gratitude". It is abundantly clear that Steven lives his life out of heartfelt gratitude for God's blessings in his life! It is inspiring to see someone who strives to truly live his life as a thankful response to God's grace and love. We'll never forget his powerful story that he shared with us on the Sunday he renewed his baptism with us! God truly does love us just the way we are, and we are grateful for your moving witness of faith and dedication to God's church over the years. We look forward to seeing how God's Spirit will work through you at St. Stephen's.

Adult Forum Series

Every Sunday in November at 9:30 am

"Into the Wilderness . . .

Share the Good News"

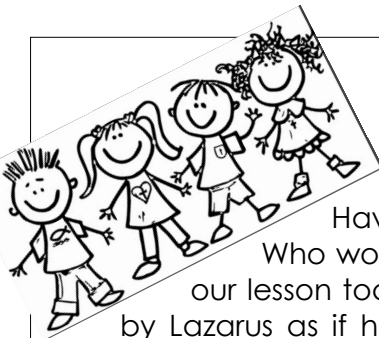
Journey with Pastor Jim through photos and stories. Hear how he refreshed his mind, heart & soul through the wilderness places in Kenya & Tanzania, and rafting the Colorado River for two weeks with Nathan in the depths of Grand Canyon National Park.

"All That Brass"

Nathan & Julian from Soquel High Jazz Band are back for Christ the King Sunday

November 24
8:15 am & 10:30 am





Sunday School

Luke 16:19-21 The rich man & Lazarus

Have you ever wished you could trade places with someone? Who would dream of changing places with a homeless person? In our lesson today that is exactly what happened. The rich man passed by Lazarus as if he wasn't even there. Only the dogs (Man's best friend) cared for him. When Lazarus died, he was carried by the Angels to heaven. But when the rich man died, he did not. His entire life was spent on himself rather than trusting God. We did NOT focus on the terrible flames, we looked at the instinctual behavior of the dog. God's love was shared through the unlikely character of a dirty mutt. I dodged a bullet with the eternal damnation, but the slope remained slippery when one bright child claimed that dog saliva is loaded with bacteria and not good for us! There are many debatable issues here that we did not get into. I felt the children need symbols of hope, not fear & guilt. We talked about different ways our church is helping those in need. We made the connection between our church benevolence offerings and connections to Lutheran World Relief etc.

Luke 17:6 "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed..."

What is something you could use a little more of? More money? More talent? More time? More friends? More faith? What would having *more* enable you to do that you can't do now? In this lesson, the disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith. Maybe with just a little more faith, they could really be good disciples. Maybe with just a little more faith, they could forgive others over and over again. Maybe with just a little more faith they could heal sickness like Jesus. But Jesus replies "You've got everything you need". Perhaps the question is not whether or not we have enough faith. Perhaps our concern should instead be about how our faith, even if it is so very *tiny*, is shaping our lives. Do we trust God to walk with us through the storms and trials in our lives? Are we allowing our faith to shape our actions on a daily basis? What ever challenge we face, when we walk with God, our faith is *enough* to do the most impossible things.

Luke 18:1 "Pray always"

We heard a story of a lost little girl who just kept praying the alphabet. When she was found, she said she wasn't scared because she knew help would come. Even though she only prayed the "ABCs" she knew God would understand. Sometimes we just do not know what to say. God always knows our hearts, and is listening. May we trust in that, and keep on praying!

Upcoming:

Nov. 10 No class

Dec. 8 Christmas Pageant 10:30 am

~ Faithfully, Miss Leslie

Birthdays & Anniversaries

11-5 Sandra Eldridge	11-18 Linda Ronning	
11-7 Dorothy Ronning	11-19 Isaiah Brouse	
11-8 Suzanne Duval	11-19 Briana Juhl	11-26 Sam & Nancy
11-8 Lorie Juhl	11-19 Jessica Juhl	Loya
11-10 Amanda	11-20 Hilding Ronning	
Cunningham	11-22 James Jones	11-26 Mitch & Linda
11-11 Charlotte Judd	11-22 John Hopping	Ronning
11-12 Gwyn Larson	11-24 Lindsey Cramer	
11-13 Colin Boyle	11-23 Xavier Brown	11- 27 David & Martha
11-14 Barbara Johnston	11-24 Kathy Johnson	Balogh
11-16 Stephen Cappelloni	11-25 Brian Brouse	
11-17 James Abler	11-26 Mathew Garden	
11-17 Ariela Turzo	11-26 Galahad Hughes	



Short Term: Iris, Stephanie Barker, Jenny Taylor George, Kirstin, Steven, Beth, Michael, Doug & Mary, Kayla, Jim Chester, Bonnie, Amy, Keaton, Shelby & Katie, De Grassi Family, Jacqueline, Family of Ellen Klinck, Yvonne Stephens, Nancy, Joyce, Eric, Sasha, Naomi, Sophie, Alan Modena, Don, Lina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stacy Mauzey, Stephanie Jager, Ed Drews, Francis, Cabel, Kyle, Esdras, Jackson, Joe, Pat, Riley, Shelby, Kaitlyn, Daniel, Ryder, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim and Our Church Family. **Long Term:** people of the Bahamas, Sue Gibson, Ernestine Bartee, Barbara & John Bartee, Paul Compese, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Susan Anderson, Rick, Lina, Katrina, Mateo, Bobbie Erickson, Edna Lindquist, Richard C., Eric VonSchell, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Barry & Barbara, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Karin, Will, Chris, Pat Hubbard, Cathy, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, the President, and the Youth of today

Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca Circle

Thursday, Nov. 14
10:30 am in the Fireside Room

We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month. All women are welcome!
Dessert and coffee are always available.

Lutheran World Relief - Baby Care Kit Report

Lutheran World Relief is tackling Global Poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten lives. Helping the worlds poorest communities and building resilience needed to thrive.

Bringing a baby into the world can be a difficult and scary thing for a mother living in poverty. These kits provide the basics a family needs to care for their new members. Worry will always be present for all parents, but having some essentials allows them to enjoy their little ones and introduce them with pride to the world.

This past summer we shipped 20 baby care kits to Lutheran World Relief. We had received \$650 in contributions from the congregation and had a Thrivent "matching funds" gift card for \$250 for a total of \$900. The cost of the items, including shipping, was \$902.75.

For our Christmas project this year, we voted to set a goal of sending 30 more baby care kits to LWR. To this end, our Christmas tree this year will have tags for sleepers/PJs and hooded sweatshirt/jackets, in specific sizes. These are the most expensive items and can't be bought in bulk, We still graciously appreciate monetary donations in any amount. Those donations and proceeds from the Christmas Boutique/Bake Sale will go toward buying the items we can buy in bulk (T-shirts, socks, diapers, receiving blankets, towels, soap and diaper pins). These items and shipping cost approximately \$20/kit. Collection will run through Dec. for purchasing, assembly and shipping by the circle members in Jan/ Feb.

Child Development Center



I love the timing that Thanksgiving follows our Aebleskiver event because we are already in the mind-set to focus on being thankful. We are always so thankful for the congregation support of our preschool ministry. We are especially grateful for our tried and true friends who showed up to facilitate our Aebleskiver Fundraiser. Thank you School Board President Barbara Johnston, for Chairing and streamlining this event. We also thank, Don Smawley, Bill & Margaret Schraft, Becky & Lindsay Crammer, Janet Slay, Connie Cunningham, Robbin Heppe, Sandra Eldridge, Mary Kelly, Sheila Buswell (Homemade Applesauce), Leslie Lapp for publicity, and **all Attendees & Donors!** Congratulations to Sandra Eldridge who won our first raffle (spearheaded by Barbara Johnston). We raised \$1,230.00 for our preschool.

Thank you for contributing to October benevolence in support of our preschool!

We enjoyed our third-year parading around Senior Housing for Halloween. It is a beautiful path to parade on and the residents enjoy experiencing the fun.

Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving break the teaching team supports me while I bake pies with each student. We do not bake and eat a slice rather; each child makes a full pie to take home and share with their family. This way they experience the true meaning of Thanksgiving through sharing.

As we are a Child Development Center we work to evaluate and interview each student to compile information for their parents. In November we share the report, and portfolio at a Parent Teacher Conference so we can create a baseline for learning and create individual goals for the school year. In June, we will follow up with another meeting with the parents to observe and discuss how each child developed. It is important to know each child individually and teach to the learning style of each child. It is also important to guide families to services (speech, hearing, vision, etc.) should that be necessary. The conferencing process ensures that as teachers we are accomplishing these goals and seeing each child.

Please save the date for our Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 8th at the 10:30 worship service to enjoy this celebration of Jesus!

Warmly, Kathy Berens

Treasurer Notes ...
Budget Information – September 2019

	September	September	YTD	YTD	Net
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
Contribution In- come	\$11,714	\$11,745	\$109,891	\$110,465	\$-574
Facility Use In- come *	\$734	\$792	\$15,054	\$7,125	\$7,939
Investment In- come	\$3,613	\$3,583	\$31,335	\$32,250	\$-915
Total Income	\$16,061	\$16,120	\$156,280	\$149,840	6,440
Expenses	\$17,690	\$19,099	\$170,,971	\$173,224	\$-2,253
Net	\$-1,629	\$-2,979	\$-14,691	\$-23,384	\$8,693

* Includes Child Development Center facility use @ \$300/month for 11 months + Miscellaneous Income. Contribution income met budget in September, but we're still recovering from lower summer contributions so the year-to-date deficit is still \$-14.7K. We have withdrawn funds from investments to meet expenses. Please consider giving more to support your congregation.

**Special funds for the Organ, Piano, Hearing Impaired,
Solar Electricity and Narthex Bathroom**

	September	Reserve	Needed to Payoff
Organ	\$0	\$20	
Piano	\$0	\$95	
Hearing Impaired Equip	\$0	\$395	
Solar Electric Payback	\$298		\$17,893
Narthex Bathroom	\$202		\$2,101

Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

2019 through September	
Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention	\$615
SS Scholarships	\$497
Live Oak Resource Center	\$191
Habitat for Humanity	\$396
Mt. Cross	\$500
World Hunger	\$0
Homeless Service Center	\$189
CLU/PLTS	\$181
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$1,035
SS CDC	\$300
El Salvador Sister Parish	\$0
Lutheran World Relief	\$0
ELCA Synod	\$970
COPA	\$1,500
Lutheran Immigration	\$0
Total	\$6,374
2019 Benevolence Target (10%)	\$14,800
% of Target	43%

Kent Madsen
Treasure

