

ST. STEPHEN'S WITNESS

All Are Welcome!

Clergy

- Pastor James Fuller
- Father James Seipel
- Pastor Donella Silveira

Staff

- Office Manager**
Doretta Rapp
- Office Assistant**
Yvonne St. Andrew
- Communications Coordinator**
Thomas Rapp
- Music Coordinator**
Alexandra Caselli

Join Us on Sundays

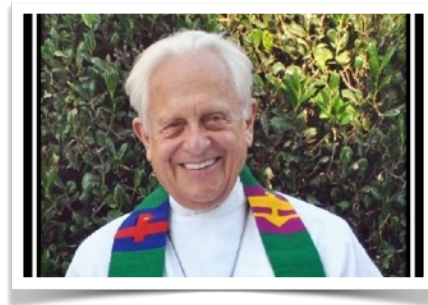
Virtual worship: [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
Live-streaming at 9:30am

In Person Worship:
9:30am with a time for
fellowship afterwards.

Let's Stay in Touch

[ststephenspalmdale.org](https://www.ststephenspalmdale.org)
[/ststephenspalmdale](https://www.facebook.com/ststephenspalmdale)
ststephens1954

A Word from Father Jim



One of my favorite newscasters is only on during the weekends or at holiday times on one of the major networks. He is of Hispanic parents and has a special gentleness and humanity in his voice as he reads the news, but my appreciation for him came out of the very end of his broadcasts: he always ends the program with, "I thank you for the privilege of your time and wish you a good night." It is a tradition, over the many years, for news anchors to have a "sign-off," and I'm sure you can hear in your head the sign-offs of several whom you have listened to; I am so old that I actually remember several who were radio news guys, but we won't get into *THAT*.

Ever since I heard that sign-off for the first time, I have had thoughts and feelings about "the privilege of your time" as a *spiritual* clue that we might easily not really value in the way that we should. The man on TV knows that there are lots of choices for news, *and* that one of those choices is not to listen or pay attention to it at all. From time to time I actually do run into folks who do not read or listen to the news, citing its dishonesty, "spin", select coverage, prejudice, and multiple other faults, or just that there is nothing they can do about it all and it ties them too much to the hatreds and sorrows of the world! Somewhere in the discussion, sooner or later the phrase "being *in* the world, but not *of* the world" comes into play, and that is not without merit, but we'll have to chew on the pros and cons of that some other time. I want to take this "privilege of your time" thing in another direction now, in a God direction.

The concept of *time* is a complex aspect of our reality, and the question of God's experience of time is one of those issues where, since we really do not know what we're talking about, the discussion and debate can go on forever. However, I'm not about to invite you into *that* pit. I just want you to consider the "privilege" or the "gift" of your time and attention—the way you experience it and measure it yourself each and every day—as you spend it or allot it to the various activities and requirements of your life. In

Financials

- 4,901 Deficit

Ministry Giving

May Giving \$14,937

May Expenses \$19,838

6,984 Overage

Ministry Year to Date

Giving \$90,523

Expenses \$83,539

-517 Deficit

Mortgage Income Received

May Giving \$933

Expenses \$1,450



Congratulations!

Kira Kalliomaa graduated from UCLA with a Bachelors of Science degree in Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics. Kira will be pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree at USC!

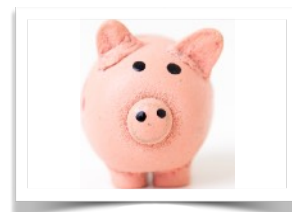
too many ways, our time is like oxygen in the air; its use and presence is so constant and so utterly basic to our *existence* we tend to never think about or consider it (we certainly don't *value* it) until we don't have enough or it starts to run short. Yet we all know (and I mean deeply know!) that spending time, taking time, making time, giving time, all are some of the most important and crucial ways that we measure the level of our interest, concern, or commitment. The importance, value, or love that we have for a person, an accomplishment, a cause, or a skill or talent in our life is often measured by the amount of time we spend on it. Often, getting a "reality" picture of the value of *something* or *someone* in our life is most easily done by simply counting times. So this is not an unfamiliar topic or factor in the way that you and I carry on our lives. Time and attention with a spouse or child, with a project or cause, with a health practice or caring for someone's need, or with a book or computer gathering information, all are very much ways we use *time* to make our lives, or the lives of those around us, better.

So, what about yours and my *time* with God? Time and attention! Note that I am not talking here about prayer time, Bible study time, church time. Maybe this will make it clear. Think about a child or grandchild: time just rocking, time just holding, time that is silent, is not busy. Time that is just *with*, not trying, not doing, not going, just being with, being there, being available. How could there be anything more important—or better—than just *being* spending *time* with God? It is so easy to have every minute allotted to a task or need—talking, asking, confessing, remembering others, praising; what about just silently *waiting*?

Every minute you spend just being with God, God is spending with you! Many places in the Bible, and many hymns speak of the *presence*, of being in the presence of God. Perhaps that's another way of saying spending time. No rule, outline, purpose, or request. Just being there, beyond words, simply knowing you are loved! Showing God, He is at the very, very top of everything! How does that sound to you. Something to try? Give it some thought, please. And for now, I "thank you for the privilege of your time" in reading this!

Financial Outlook

When you look over the monthly finance data you will notice that over the last two months the mortgage donations have been declining. That's because some long-time contributors have either moved away and will no longer be financially supporting SSOV, or because some contributors have changed their giving patterns or amounts.





Scholarships

Congratulations to Alexandria Kalliomaa, Kira Kalliomaa and William (Billy) Keeling all of whom received a \$500 St. Stephen's of the Valley Scholarship. They received their scholarships during worship on Sunday, June 23rd. We pray God's blessings on them as they continue their academic journey.



Thank you!

Thank you to all those who donated to the Little Free Library to purchase books. We have been able to purchase 55 books for our kids and tweens that use our Little Library!

If we don't receive adequate donations to cover the monthly mortgage of \$1450, general operating funds will be used to cover the gap.

The regular offering has also declined in May for the same reasons, and in addition, the preschool has not been able to enter into a contract with us at this time. Currently, SSOV is receiving about \$19,500 per month in offerings and the expenses are averaging \$18,200 per month (based on the January-May finance reports). This is leaving a slight overage of \$1300/mo.

SSOV does have some reserve funds that can be used to cover shortfalls, but there's always the concern that it will be depleted before the general offerings pick up again. And declining offerings without the additional support from Faith Hall rental income leaves us with an unsteady financial picture for the future.

If you haven't reviewed your giving in a few years, perhaps this is a good time to reexamine your financial support. Are you able to increase your offering by 1% or 2% or more? Proportional Giving is the New Testament concept in which you pledge or give in proportion to what you have or make. Setting aside a percentage of your income as an offering and then, perhaps, increasing that percentage annually by 1% or more. Please pray with a grateful heart for all that God has given you and ask with God's help and guidance how you can support our church through your tithes and offerings and also how you can give energetically to bless others and meet the needs of the church and its ministry through volunteering your time.

Many thanks for all the ways that each of you contribute to keep the ministry of St. Stephen's going.

Regards,

Finance Team

President's Corner

Congratulations to this year's Scholarship Award recipients: Alexandria Kalliomaa, Kira Kalliomaa, and William (Billy) Keeling.

I was honored to be able to present each of them with a \$500 award at the June 23rd Sunday worship service. Thanks to all who contribute to make the scholarship fund available to our young adults.

The Fireworks Booth fundraiser is in full swing from June 28-July 4th, so stop by the corner of 10th St. West and Palmdale Blvd. to say



Worship in July

In July we have the words of Jesus giving hope and support in the midst of resistance and opposition to the Good News.

7/7 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalms 123

Mark 6:1-13

7/14 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15

Psalms 85:8-13

Mark 6:14-29

7/21 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalms 23

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

7/28 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalms 145:10-18

John 6:1-21

Sunday, July 14th is the
Deadline for the
August Newsletter

hello. Our TNT booth is in the Albertson's shopping center. It's always nice to see friendly faces and visit together.

We currently sponsor a Cub Scout troop on our campus, and the Scout representatives have reached out and asked we could also sponsor a Scout Troop, which council has agreed to do. They will also be holding their annual Day Camp for Cub Scouts on our campus in mid-July.

As you may know, the Sunday service is recorded on an iPad and broadcast later in the afternoon. However, we are in the final testing stages with the new camera and recording system and should be able to live-stream the service very soon.

Chuck Lebo

Thank You!

- ...to all our wonderful volunteers who manned the fireworks booth!
- ...to our Garden Crew who continues to work hard keeping our campus beautiful, even in the heat!
- ...to our clergy who are shepherding us through this season at SSOV. We appreciate your love and dedication to us.
- ...to all those who faithfully donate to St. Stephen's. Your donations help keep the lights on! We also appreciate the donations of time and talents that we don't see, you too are contributing to the mission of SSOV.

Council Highlights

- We will be contracting with Vivint for new security cameras and alarm system.
- New Mac mini computers were purchased for the office as the current ones are very old and slowly failing.
- The Cub Scouts will be holding their annual summer day camp on campus on July 17-18th for about 30 kids.

Get Involved

Usher: Ushers give a warm welcome to visitors, welcome the congregation, pass out bulletins, collect offering, direct communion, and take attendance. Contact the office.

Scripture Reader: Readers share two Bible lessons with the congregation. Contact the office.

Communion Setup/Clean up: Do you like working behind the scenes? Contact Doretta Rapp at stadmin@sbcglobal.net if this sounds like the right job for you!

Praise Band: Love to share your gift of music with others? Do you play an instrument? Contact Alexandra Caselli at aacjazz@gmail.com.

Soundboard: Make sure our choir and band sound great every Sunday! Contact Wayne Kallioma if you are interested.

Tuesdays

Choir and Band Practice

If you like to sing, join us!! We are always looking for singers. We meet at 4 pm for band practice and 5 pm for choir rehearsal in the Worship Center. Call Alexandra (818-631-2237) for more details.

Monthly

At the end of the month food sacks are assembled for our "Feeding Others" program. For more information, contact Barbara Counts, 661-816-4352.

Easy Ways to Donate!

Are you looking for an easy, convenient way to contribute to our church? St. Stephen's offers two eGiving options that allow you to give anytime, anywhere – even on the road! It takes just



seconds to use your smartphone to give by text or through Vanco's mobile app. For text giving, simply send a text message to 888-979-6933 with the amount you would like to contribute (for example, \$25). Just follow the prompts.

To give through the mobile app, download the free VancoMobile app from the Apple Store or Google Play and search for our church by name. (St Stephens Church) Or you can scan this QR Code with your phone's camera and go directly to our Simply Giving site! We appreciate your



generosity, whether you're donating from the pew or going to the beach!



**St. Stephen's of the Valley
Lutheran Church**

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Palmdale, CA 93550**

Phone: 661-947- 6451

Fax: 661-947-7108

E-mail:
stadim@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours:

9am - 1pm

Mon - Thu.

July 2024

- Birthdays
- Facility Use
- AVER Calendar
- Worship and On Campus Events
- Calendar
- Birthdays
- Off Campus Events
- stadmin@sbcglobal.net
- Staff Calendar
- Holidays in United States
- Siri Suggestions
- US Holidays

June 2024

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July 2024

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Fireworks Booth</p> <p>Virtual Worship: YouTube.com</p> <p>9:30AM In Person Worship!</p> <p>12:00PM Restauration</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:30AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>10:30AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>4:30PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Counters</p> <p>9:00AM Blue Livin' Supports</p> <p>7:00PM Restauration</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00AM Blue Livin' Supports</p> <p>6:30PM Restauration</p> <p>Independence Day</p> <p>Independence Day</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30PM Restauration</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00PM Restauration</p> <p>8:00PM NA</p>	
<p>7</p> <p>Virtual Worship: YouTube.com</p> <p>9:30AM In Person Worship!</p> <p>12:00PM Restauration</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:30AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>10:30AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>4:30PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Counters</p> <p>9:00AM Blue Livin' Supports</p> <p>7:00PM Restauration</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Bookkeeping and Time Sheets Due</p> <p>9:00AM Blue Livin' Supports</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30PM Restauration</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30PM Restauration</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00PM NA</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Virtual Worship: YouTube.com</p> <p>9:30AM In Person Worship!</p> <p>12:00PM Restauration</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:30AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>10:30AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>4:30PM Cub Scouts</p> <p>6:30PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Counters</p> <p>9:00AM Blue Livin' Supports</p> <p>7:00PM Restauration</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Ashura</p> <p>9:00AM Blue Livin' Supports</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00PM Via de Cristo</p> <p>6:30PM Restauration</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:00PM Restauration</p> <p>8:00PM NA</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1:00PM Restauration</p> <p>8:00PM NA</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Virtual Worship: YouTube.com</p> <p>9:30AM In Person Worship!</p> <p>12:00PM Restauration</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:30AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>10:30AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>4:30PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Counters</p> <p>9:00AM Blue Livin' Supports</p> <p>10:30AM WELCA @ LCM</p> <p>7:00PM Restauration</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Bookkeeping and Time Sheets Due</p> <p>9:00AM Blue Livin' Supports</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30PM Restauration</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30PM Restauration</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00PM NA</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Virtual Worship: YouTube.com</p> <p>9:30AM In Person Worship!</p> <p>12:00PM Restauration</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:30AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>10:30AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>4:30PM Cub Scouts</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Counters</p> <p>9:00AM Blue Livin' Supports</p> <p>7:00PM Restauration</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:00AM Blue Livin' Supports</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:30PM Restauration</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1:00PM Restauration</p> <p>8:00PM NA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:00PM Restauration</p> <p>8:00PM NA</p>