



ST. STEPHEN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 am Worship Service  
Coffee Hour  
9:30 am Choir rehearsal & Adult Forum  
10:30 am Worship Service  
& Sunday School

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

Non-Profit Org.  
Postage Paid  
Permit #79  
Soquel, CA 95073

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Jan.24, 2011**


St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



# Sun

Celebrating 55  
Years of Ministry  
February 2011

**Sunday Adult Forums**



***"Living the Questions"***

Join Pastor Jim this month as we take some time to deepen our walk of faith by asking some of the harder questions of life. We will use a critically acclaimed DVD series with some of the leading Biblical scholars and thinkers to stimulate our discussions.

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

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Rev. James P. Lapp, Pastor

Ministers: The Entire Congregation  
Church Council: Pres.—Paul Powers, V.P.- Robin Gloe,  
Sec.— Scott Medling, Treas.— Tom Eagle,  
Bill Schraft, Don Smawley, Marta Bechhoefer,  
Mark Linder, and Jeanette Dawson  
Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval  
& Gary Roberts  
Custodian: John Hopping  
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp  
Children's Minister: Dusty Gipson  
Youth Minister: Lydia Abler  
Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30am—2:30pm



Pastor's Cell Phone: 325-9095 (Call Pastor between 9 am and 5 pm, M-  
Thurs. or anytime for emergencies. Please only give to church members)

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.

(ES Continued)

Gipson's have a picture of Doris Edith's stone wood-burning "stove" that is so typical, the Johnston's know that Jose Alfredo's mother has just finished nursing school, and the McMilin's have pictures of Jose Elias' red-headed siblings, their dog and their pig.

In visiting homes we also learned more about what is needed at school and have some more ideas how scholarship money can be used now that uniforms are provided by the government from K-9. Stay tuned. Many of the parents have dreams of furthering their education also. That is possible with our University/Technical School scholarships.

We were gratified that so many of you who have a prayer child returned your commitment cards with a 'yes, I want to continue'. We hope that the pictures we bring back are a reminder to pray for that child and his/her family. Those of you who do not have a prayer child and want one, please talk to Chris Madsen or Ruth Cruddas. Those of you who are not able to commit to a prayer child, we need your support also.

We already have some fundraisers planned, and there will be more. Those that are planned:

May 7: The Human Race

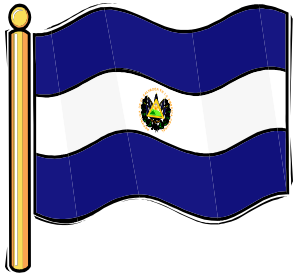
June 25: Wine Tasting at Bargetto's Winery

July 9: Rummage Sale with the Boy Scouts

November: Pupusa Meal TBD

We can always use ideas. Please contact Ruth or Chris if you have any ideas or are willing to help. Thank you for your help, prayers and commitment to Building Relationships for Better Lives.

~ Chris Madsen



## El Salvador Sister Parish News

In last month's newsletter Ruth Cruddas gave a report from the delegation that went to El Salvador in November. Another smaller delegation (7 people) went from Dec. 28 - Jan. 7. Kent and I were the only ones from St. Stephen's on that delegation.

We did participate in the scholarship awards and took pictures, which I have begun to hand out, along with a good number of letters. We held a mini- VBS on two different days, with singing, and 3 different craft projects. Both days were a lot of fun and I thank the two women from Good Shepherd (Kristi Burns & Corinne Barrett) for their wonderful ideas and energy. Besides friendship bracelets and necklaces, we had 2 mini printers and we took pictures of kids with friends or family and printed them. They then glued them on foam rectangles and were able to decorate the foam. LOTS of fun.

We also met with the newly elected scholarship committee. We are changing administrators for the university scholarships so that took up a lot of time. It's a growing process for all of us.

As always, however, the highlight was going to people's homes for meals and finding out a little more about their lives. On this trip we ate in the homes of the prayer children of Ross & Barbara Johnston, Dusty & Rob Gipson (& Maya & Emma, of course), and Donna Gafforio. It was fun to see Donna & family's picture on their bulletin board! We also visited the home of the McMilin family's prayer child. We told them stories (mostly true) about their Santa Cruz family and brought back pictures to help them know a little more about their Salvadoran family. Now the

## From Pastor Jim

Some of the most compelling arguments I've heard to come out of the recent tragic events in Tuscon, Arizona, surround the expiration of the Assault Weapons Ban in 2004. Saturday Night Live "News Anchor" Seth Meyers agreed that the 2nd Amendment 'Right to Bear Arms' should be protected as the Founding Fathers had intended - in that each citizen should have the right to own a musket or one-shot pistol! After all, those were the kinds of weapons available when the Constitution was written so that was all the Founding Fathers could have imagined when including the 2nd Amendment. It is doubtful they could have ever imagined the vast array of destructive objects we humans have managed to come up with since then. It seems as though the 2nd Amendment should be interpreted in its many contexts and not just literally transposed into today's culture given the many changes that have occurred in science, technology and society in 235 years.

ELCA Christians understand this same concept when it comes to the Bible. We know that we cannot simply transpose, literally, the things we read in the scriptures. (Otherwise I'd spend most of my time as your pastor running around holding cleansing services in your homes whenever you found some mold! -see Leviticus 18) Instead we have to carefully interpret the central themes and truths that were being conveyed by the many authors of the Bible who were attempting to pass on the Word of God. We have to take into consideration the many things we have learned about what life was like in those times in order for the meaning behind the words to be fully appreciated. We have to take into consideration the many wonderful new discoveries God has given us as a human race in the thousands of years since the Bible was written.

Some might react with fear to such thoughts because there have been so many changes and many of them seem destructive and bad and so it becomes easier to hearken back to the good ole days and attempt to live like the changes haven't happened. Our heritage is different than that. Was there anyone more willing to take the risks of confronting the changes taking place in society than Martin Luther? Instead, he chose to see himself as lover of the truths BEHIND the words and help relate them in ways that made sense in his time. That's what we're doing each Sunday at the Adult Forum at 9:30. Join in the journey of faith!



## February Happenings

### Text Study & Sermon Talk

Join Pr Jim Tuesdays @ 11:00

### Youth Group & Confirmation

Sundays from 6-8 pm

### “Felting” Session (w/ knitters)

Saturday, Feb. 5, 9 am Fell. Hall

### Photo Committee

Saturday, Feb. 5, 9 am Fireside

### StoryBook Tea

Sunday, Feb. 6 & 27, 2:30 pm

### Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Tuesday, Feb. 8 @ 10:30 am

### Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca

Thursday, Feb. 10, 10:30 am

### FaithFull Families

Sunday, Feb. 20, 11:45 am

### Church Council

Monday, Feb. 21 7-9 pm

### Choir

Rehearses Sundays at 9:30 am

### Band

Meets every Thurs at 6:30 pm

### Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 pm

### Elementary Retreat Feb. 25-27

## Council Highlights

1. Devotions centered on people in the Bible who were either reluctant or unlikely to be the ones that God chose to work through and speak through. Sometimes it can feel like that being a council member or other leader in the church. Our lives fill up quickly and sometimes church-related tasks can seem like they are just too much for us and we wonder if WE are really the ones to be doing this. The scriptures remind us that we have been CHOSEN by God to do these things and we can serve confidently despite those feelings of reluctance. We were reminded that we are blessed with so many such servants at St. Stephen's!
2. Pastor Jim has been spending some extra time serving Mt. Cross now that he has been elected Treasurer of the Board. He is also re-organizing the Community Safety Team of COPA. That group has been responsible for working to help form the Sheriffs Activity league which began last summer in Live Oak and served 200 under-served children, youth and their families at Shoreline Middle School. Also much progress has been made toward the building of a Youth Center on the Shoreline campus run by the Boys and Girls Club.
3. The Field Task Force will meet with County Planning Director and staff to begin the zoning talks for the building of affordable senior housing on our field. We may have to re-zone from 'Public Facility' to 'Residential' which would take about one year to accomplish.
4. Due to a decrease in financial giving over the past few years, council voted to cut our Assoc. Musicians pay from \$9500 to \$4750. Gary has agreed to the change and will now only serve as musician for the 8:15 service.

(continued)

habit. Nor does God want us to give to impress someone else. God wants us to give out of hearts motivated by love in response to God's love for us. God wants us to give as part of our worship and praise. God wants us to give because giving is part of the way Christians grow.

There's an old Indian fable about a mouse who, like all mice, was afraid of cats. A wizard felt sorry for him and offered to help him lose his fear. With the mouse's approval, the wizard turned him into a cat. The cat, however, was afraid of dogs, so the wizard turned the cat into a dog. But the dog was afraid of tigers, so the wizard turned the dog into a tiger. When the wizard discovered the tiger was afraid of hunters, he exclaimed in frustration, "You're hopeless. What you need is a change of heart. And that I cannot give you."

If our giving is motivated by anything other than a heart of love for God, we need a change of heart. We need to realize afresh that God owns everything and that we are just managers and stewards. We need to realize that when we give, we are only giving back to God. And we need to understand that when we give out of love for God and not out of habit or duty or obligation, we are giving in a way that truly honors and glorifies our Creator.



## WHY OUR OFFERINGS ARE IMPORTANT

### “Faithful Stewards of God’s Infinite Grace”

When Samuel was seeking someone to succeed Saul as King of Israel, he examined the sons of Jesse. In that process, he considered their stature and physical characteristics in great detail, only to be told by God that people “. . . look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

That *modus operandi* on God’s part has not changed over the centuries of time. God still looks at the hearts of men and women. God is not as interested in how things appear on the outside, but what they are really like on the inside. And God’s scrutiny extends to every area of our lives, including our giving.

Specifically, God wants to know not just what or when we are giving, but **why**. God is not so concerned about the amount or the percentage but with the reason or motive why we give. It’s not that amounts or percentages are not important, for they certainly are. But what is of greater importance is **why** we give.

If we only give out of a sense of duty, to impress someone, to keep a commitment we made, or to “do our part,” we’ve missed the point. If we only give a certain amount or percentage because we’ve always given that way, we’ve missed the point. If we parcel out money to help “poor ol’ God pay the bills,” we’ve missed the point.

God owns it all! God doesn’t need our money to pay the bills. God doesn’t want us to give out of a sense of obligation or duty or habit. Nor does He want us to give to impress someone else. He wants us to give out of hearts motivated by love for Him in response to His love for us. He wants us to give as part of our worship and praise to Him. He wants us to give because giving is part of His way of growing Christians.

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## February Birthdays

2-1	Frank Millang	2-12	Randy Johnson
2-1	Lu Sluiter	2-13	Andrew Boe
2-2	Ed Drews	2-13	Anne Medling
2-2	Jean Petersen	2-17	Liana Mabry
2-4	Karen Lippe	2-18	Kathy Hopping
2-4	Kyle Travers	2-18	Jay Johnston
2-6	Susan vonSchmacht	2-19	Connie Creel
2-7	Marla Meek	2-20	Fern Bentz
2-9	Edna Lindquist	2-21	Bob Heppe
2-10	Alfred Mitchell	2-21	Caitlin Hopping
2-10	Paul Powers	2-24	Miller Mouw
2-11	Erick Sorensen	2-29	Charles Eldridge
2-12	Bev Giladett		



2-5	Don & Donna Sorensen
2-6	Pastor Jim & Leslie Lapp
2-13	Truett & Carol Bobo
2-18	Andrew Boe & Karen Lippe
2-24	Rick & Susan Oldfield

**Prayer Concerns:** **Short Term:** Sonja Peterson & family, Renie Leaman, Beverly Gilladett, Kathybell, Greg Weber, Bill Schraft, Sherilyn, Mike Brag, Harold Vaughn, Olivia, Bob, Viline, Cardine, Hildegard & Robert Grotjan, The Giffords Family, Opa Meerman, Dan Meck family, Kaitlyn Cahill, Jill Lapp, Richard Wedemeyer, Madaline Massa, Pastor Martir, Steve Hintze, Bruce, Lorena & Saul, Doreen & family, Elena, Steve, Daniel, Dylan Foster. **Long Term:** Dorothy & Gary, Robe Family, Kaitlyn McKinney, Clint & Bonnie, Maya & Emma, Chrissy DeStefano, Nicco Hall DeStefano, Betty, Faith Conrad, Paul Hayes family, Allison Bolin, JoAnn, Eric Hedsrom, Jim Boone, George Trippel, Jean Weiland, Carla Spain, Mildred Belle, Linda Taylor, Ron Buswell, Dorothy Ronning, Bonnie Hansen, Jon & Judy, Peggy, Ned R., Devin Barlow, Alison Barlow, Dorothy Anderson, Shirley Fuqua, Greg & Allison Pate, Aravella, Michelle & CJ Muchanic, Suzanne Podolski, Wayne Jackson, Martha Beito, Chelsea Rocha Famly, Brooks & Glenn Leaman, Bob Heppe, Jeffery Patterson, Mark Gregory, Chiris Tury, Cheryl Bayne, Vince Catalano, Jeanette Howe, Ron Waltrip, Jo Wishart, Cathy Yost, the jobless, Sister Parish, the youth, our troops, Pres. Obama & family, Peace & Healing for the earth.

## Youth Corner

With the new year comes the start of many new things. Youth Group and Confirmation Class are no exception! We are starting up again, so it's time to get back into the swing of things! PLEASE KEEP YOUR SUNDAYS FREE FOR US FROM 6 TO 8PM!

We will be planning events and gatherings further in the coming weeks, but here are a few things to mark on your calendars:

### April

- Easter Breakfast & Easter Lily sales
- Senior High Youth Retreat at PLTS (tentative)

### July

- West Coast Youth Gathering at CLU ([www.wsyg.com](http://www.wsyg.com))

Once again, I would like to ask the Youth to think of activities or gatherings they would like to go to this Spring, and bring these ideas with them to our meetings. I'm looking forward to a busy and fun-filled Spring, so keep those ideas coming!

Peace, Lydia Abler c: 408.319.1413

"Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12



## LWR News: Haiti Earthquake Anniversary

For many of us, today is an ordinary day. We'll all wake up to our day's work — caring for our children, practicing our vocations, living our busy lives.

For the people of Haiti, this was the anniversary of a different sort of day — a day that began like any other, but ended in devastation. On January 12, 2010 a 7.0 magnitude earthquake, the worst in more than 200 years, struck the small island nation, claiming approximately 230,000 lives, leaving more than one million people displaced and countless homes destroyed.

Unfortunately, the earthquake was just the beginning of Haiti's struggles in 2010. But thanks to generous supporters, LWR has been in Haiti through it all — the earthquake and its aftermath, the subsequent cholera outbreak and Hurricane Tomas.

"Our work is our means to fighting poverty", says handcraft artisan Jhonson Augustin. He specializes in metal art made from recycled oil drums. He's been practicing his craft since he was 15 years old. He works with CAH (Haitian Committee of Artisans) which helps export their crafts. CAH sells the artisans' work through Lutheran World Relief's Fair Trade partner [SERRV](#). CAH also provides fair wages and advances on orders, and help artisans acquire marketing and other business skills.

Fair Trade has helped producers and artisans recover more easily after the earthquake. They have long-term relationships with buyers who work with them to get back on their feet and continue to provide orders. They are linked with customers who care about their lives and not just about their products.

Fair Trade helps artisans help themselves. Every day, all over the world, artisans labor to create works that we consumers will eventually buy. Many of these people live in abject poverty, not because they don't work hard, but because they don't have the luxury of finding dignified work. See [www.lwr.com](http://www.lwr.com) and learn how you can be a part of the economic recovery in Haiti.



# Dinner Groups

## Sat, February 5

These are great times of fellowship for us to help build our sense of Christian community by sharing a meal and good conversation together! Groups are 6-10 people, potluck to gourmet feast...host decides!

Sign up in church for which date(s) you are available and if you can host!

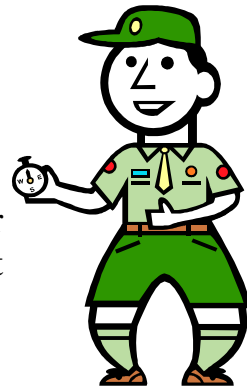
For more info call Jill Adachi 426-5950

# Scout Sunday

## February 13

This is the day each year when Scouts focus on their promise of Duty to God and on the 12th point of the Scout Law -

“A Scout is reverent”.



Scott Caldwell remains the ever faithful Scoutmaster. This troop has met continuously at St. Stephen's since the church was built here in 1961. We are so thankful for their dedication and hard work. We always look forward to seeing their projects, and partaking in their goodies after church!

# Sunday School News



February is always full of love and excitement in Sunday School! Our students have already begun creating beautiful and creative handmade cards for local residents of convalescent homes.

We welcome ALL to join us for our Annual Sunday School Valentine Delivery Meet at St. Stephen's at 1pm, Sunday February 13th We will carpool to convalescent facilities.

In January we explored some of the activities and foods that Jesus probably experienced as a child. In February, after our Valentine preparations and deliveries are complete we will continue our study of what life might have been like for Jesus.

Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee (SPSYC) invites students and their friends who are in 3rd-6th grade to join them for a fun weekend camp.

Mission Outer Space: "Reach for the Stars"!  
February 25-27  
at Mt. Cross

Early registration deadline is February 7 for \$115. Chaperones needed. Contact Leslie ASAP for more info.

Please let me know if you have any questions or ideas.

## Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca Circle

**Thursday, February 10 @ 10:30 am Fireside Room**

Please join us for an interesting presentation by Ms. Christine Cantando, Director, The Child and Family Institute. Christine will speak about two programs: Faith-Full Families and Story Book Tea.

Bring your own sandwich. Coffee and dessert provided.  
Hostesses: Carol Bobo and Bev Hickman.

All women are welcome!



## STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

Ron Buswell and David Balogh

Recently, Pastor Jim preached on the difference between "chronos - time" (clock & calendar) and "kairos -time" (God's timing). It's been more than a few years that we have talked about removing the old partition in our sanctuary and replacing with it with a wall and windows to better serve as an office or "cry room". Thank you Ron and David for being open to *kairos* and offering to complete that project. Both also work for the *Habitat for Humanity* sites in our county. By giving of their time and abilities they remind us that we were created to serve God and others.



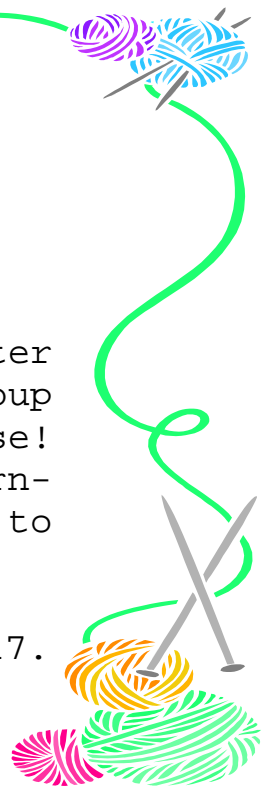
## **Felting Session**

**Sat. Feb. 5**

**9 am to 2 pm**

Did you ever shrink a sweater accidentally? The knitting group plans to shrink wool on purpose! Please join us for some fun learning various methods by which to make felt.

Contact Shay for details 429-6917.



## Financials

	Dec '10	Dec '09	Jan-Dec '10	Jan-Dec Budget
<u>Income</u>				
Contrib.	\$23,230	\$25,394	\$219,481	\$227,960
Misc.	\$367	\$316	\$8,132	\$5,500
Total	\$23,597	\$25,710	\$227,613	\$233,460
<u>Expenses</u>				
Total	\$20,486	\$22,016	\$229,108	\$234,031
<u>Net Income</u>	\$3,111	\$3,694	-\$1,495	-\$571