



ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 am Worship Service

Coffee Hour

9:30 am Adult Forum & Choir Rehearsal

10:30 am Worship Service

& Sunday School

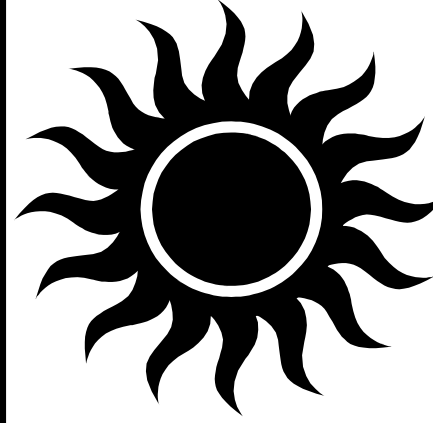
St Stephen's Lutheran Church
2500 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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December 22, 2011**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 57 Years
of Ministry
January 2012

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

**New Years Day—Sunday, Jan. 1 at 10:00
am**
AND

Sunday, Jan. 30 at 9:30 am

Followed by the

Annual Congregational Meeting @ 10:45

(a light brunch will be served & nursery care provided)

We gather together to envision and plan for the long-term future of our church. This is a pivotal point in the history of St. Stephens as we make plans for a preschool, affordable housing and a capital fund campaign. We will also elect leadership, elect two voting members for Synod As-

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. —Robert Bartee, V. P. —Paul Powers,
Treasurer—Tom Eagle, Secretary—Scott Medling,
Property—Don Smawley, Kim Cappelloni, Barbara
Rice, Marta Bechhoefer, and Jeanette Dawson

Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval
& Gary Roberts

Custodian: John Hopping

Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp

Children's Minister: Dusty Gipson

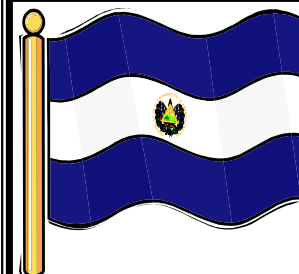
Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30am—2:30pm

Pastor's Cell Phone: 325-9095 (Call Pastor be-
tween 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.



El Salvador Sister Parish News

What is *Santa Cruz al Salvador*? Why is there a non-profit org operating within another non-profit organization? We thought we would take this interlude between delegations to answer those questions and to invite anyone who might be interested to join the board.

Santa Cruz al Salvador is a collection of churches with the mission of helping the people of El Salvador. We formed the non-profit to take some burden from the various church treasurers and make it easier to keep track of where we were in fund-raising. The history and everything you might want to know is on the website www.santacruzalsalvador.org.

The current officers of the board of directors are: Kent Madsen (Pres), Mike Cruddas (VP), Ruth Cruddas (Treas) and Chris Madsen (Sec'ty). The other members of the board are representatives of the churches that are part of *Santa Cruz al Salvador* and 2 members-at-large appointed by the board.

The bylaws of *Santa Cruz al Salvador* stipulate that congregations or other non-profits are the members of *Santa Cruz al Salvador*, and they in turn elect representatives to be on the board. St. Stephen's is a member, so every year at the annual meeting of the congregation you elect 2 people to represent St. Stephen's on the board of directors. Currently those 2 people are Jill Adachi and Lisa Johnson. Since the annual meeting is coming up, we thought this was a good time to see if anyone else in the congregation would like to represent St. Stephen's on the board of *Santa Cruz al Salvador*.

We urge you to take some time to ask any of us questions about our work and to go to the website and gather more information.

We look forward to hearing from you!

News from Lutheran Campus Ministry of Monterey Bay

Greetings and wishes of a blessed and Christ-filled New Year of 2012!

As always, I would like to start with thanking you for your support of Campus Ministry of Monterey Bay serving UCSC and CSUMB Campuses. The longer I am involved in Campus Ministry, the more I see the importance of the Church being present in the lives of young people during the formative years of college and, thanks to your support, we can do that on these two campuses.

As UCSC Campus is entering winter quarter, I would like to share some highlights from the fall quarter. I am always amazed at students' willingness to serve and be involved in the community around them. Fall Quarter was filled with service opportunities and students committed to make a difference in this world. We helped with Habitat for Humanity Builds. Through Trick or Treat event, we collected canned food for Santa Cruz AIDS Project. And we were blessed to re-start an After-school Program at the Homeless Center this year. Although this program had existed in the past, the Homeless Center did not have volunteers to continue it this year before our students took the initiative on themselves. As a result, students are there two days a week helping kids from the Homeless Center with their home-work, doing crafts, playing games, and just providing positive and meaningful interaction.

Besides that, we have seen an increase in student attendance of worship, our monthly lunches, and the special Pre-Thanksgiving dinner at the home of one of Messiah Lutheran Church members. As a Campus Minister, I have had a privilege to have hours of personal interaction with students, be it helping them move, praying with them for up-coming father's surgery or discussing dating issues. Through all of these interactions, be it big events or a cup of coffee with a small group of students, Christ is present and active changing lives and revealing Himself.

Thank you again for your support for this ministry through prayers, volunteering and financial contributions. Please know that it is touching and changing lives.

Inese Dahl
Campus Minister, UCSC
Tel. [831 241 3367](tel:8312413367)

The Lord is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made...Ps.145:9

From Pastor Jim

As it says on the front page of this newsletter, we are at a pivotal point in the history of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. After almost 60 years of ministry in Santa Cruz County we are about to engage in some decisions and actions that may very well be the reasons our church will still be around 60 years from now.



It is these next few years that folks will look back on one day and say, "Some really important things happened in that time that made a big difference for the long-term health of St. Stephen's and its ongoing ministry."

At our next annual meeting we will decide to take some serious steps to avoid going down the path that so many other churches like ours are heading: a steady decline toward closing our doors.

It is time to invest in our future by working with a ministry like Kairos who has the tools and experience to help us leverage the exciting opportunities ahead of us. By helping us focus on our mission and vision for what kind of church we want to be, we will set ourselves up to continue being a vital, thriving congregation well into the future.

Kairos will also help us to meet some long-held facility renovation goals by helping us raise the funds to do it. When we all decide to give more toward caring for our church, our dedication produces the good fruit God calls us to do.

It is our hope that by expanding our ministry to include a preschool that is run and taught by members of our church, that we will open new doors into the lives of people with whom we can share God's love as we help them raise their children in a faith community. Sometimes I feel like what we have is too much of a well-kept secret. The preschool and affordable housing will help us break that secret open and show our community what an amazing thing it is to be a part of our church. I hope everyone will catch this excitement and be a part of the fun at our annual meeting, Jan.29th!

January Happenings

Epiphany Service

Jan. 6 @ 7pm at Mt. Calvary Luth.
in Soquel

Sunday Adult Forums @ 9:30

Jan. 8 Human Trafficking
with Truett Bobo
Jan. 15 & 22 Immigration
with JoeBarndt

Text Study & Sermon Talk

Join Pr Jim Tuesdays @ 11:00

Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 PM

MM/RR Women's Circle

Jan 12 - 10:30 AM Fireside Rm

Church Council

Monday, Jan. 16, 7-9 PM

Youth Group

Sun. Jan. 22 @ 12:30
Lunch & activities

Provide Habitat Lunch

Jan. 26 @ 10:30

Benevolence Offering

Ending Human Trafficking
"Free the Slaves"
& "The Polaris Project"

Electronic giving options are available

Council Highlights

1. Devotions were in the form of a time of silent prayer. During the Blue Christmas worship service Sun. evening, Dec. 18, Pastor Jim invited everyone into a time of silent prayer after some music and reflections had been shared. It was then that the power of the Holy Spirit was felt as the sighs and tears and the unburdening of grief and loss took place. Sometimes we need to be silent in the presence of God to prepare the way for God to speak to us and come into our lives.
2. The Annual Meeting agenda was formed and will include motions to begin our own preschool, allow Mid-Pen to pay for an attorney of our choice as we move into the ground lease, and engage the services of Kairos Inc. to assist us in a capital fund campaign in the coming year to complete our 5 year plan.
3. The 3 people nominated for church council are: Leanne Salandro, Kathy Allen and Mark Linder. We thank Paul Powers, Don Smawley and Scott Medling for their faithful service as they leave the council.
4. Tom Eagle presented a budget for 2012 for everything except the pastor's compensation. The Synod has a new formula for salary guidelines that is more accurately reflective of the cost-of-living in the area that a pastor may be serving in. This formula points out that we have been significantly underpaying our pastor whom we have had for 15 years. The Executive Comm. is meeting to address the discrepancy and make a proposal to the congregation.

So today, centuries later, just as Jesus said, we still remember Mary's devotion and generous giving.

What will people remember you for? Will it be for your accomplishments in life? Will it be for your talents and abilities? Will it be for your work with the poor and needy? Will it be for the ministry you have had for Christ here at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church? Will it be for your efforts to share the gospel with people along life's way? Will it be for your generous giving?

Or stated another way, what do you *want* people to remember you for? You see, your answer to that question to a significant degree becomes a "self-fulfilling prophecy." Do you *want* to be remembered for your generous giving? Then start now where you are. . . .

2012 Offering Envelopes Are Here

Please pick them up in the narthex.

Also, remember to bring your
"Giving Card" and "Time & Abilities"
sheet and place it in the offering plate
any Sunday during worship.



TAKING OUR OFFERING SERIOUSLY

Applying Bible Principles

As we saw recently, our giving is to be done in secret. That kind of giving causes our Heavenly Father, who sees in secret, to reward us openly. If we draw attention to ourselves and to our giving, we will receive the praise of other people, but unfortunately, that praise then becomes all the reward we will receive.

But the Apostle Paul describes generous giving in 2 Corinthians 9:6-14 as something that will cause other people to praise God for our generosity. They will thank Him for our obedience that causes us to give in such a manner that the gospel is shared with them.

What a difference. On the one hand, if we attract attention to ourselves and our giving, people will praise us, and that's the end of it. On the other, if we give quietly and generously, any attention that action gains will cause people to praise God for us!

The Lord Jesus described a situation like that. Mary anointed Him with a costly perfume. Some criticized her because it seemed like a waste. After all, the perfume could have been sold and the money used for the poor. Was Mary crazy or what?

One writer summed up her actions this way:

Generous giving to the Lord may be labeled fanatical by others. But Jesus labeled it "love." In fact, He was so moved by the woman's giving that he vowed "wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."

So today, centuries later, just as Jesus said, we still remember Mary's devotion and generous giving.

What will people remember you for? Will it be for your accomplishments in life? Will it be for your talents and abilities? Will it be for your work with the poor and needy? Will it be for the ministry you have had for Christ here at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church? Will it be for your efforts to share the gospel with people along life's way? Will it be for your generous giving?

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January Birthdays

- 1-1 Nathan Lapp
- 1-8 Katie Silva
- 1-10 Colby Hanson
- 1-11 Mitch Crews
- 1-12 Linda Hix
- 1-13 Jennifer Robe
- 1-14 Sofia Bartee
- 1-17 Laura Hayes
- 1-17 Emily Valencia
- 1-18 Patricia Travers
- 1-21 Chris Turzo
- 1-25 Neil Crews
- 1-27 Crystal Hintze



- 1-20 Donald & Doris Ray
- 1-24 Lindsey & Becky Cramer

Prayer Concerns: Short Term: Lisa Pawalkat, Friends and Family of John Hathaway, Lorie Juhl, Debra Aguirre, Pat Kress, Jean Hart & Gail Evans, John Hathaway, Cpl. Stephen Hayes, Corrina Kant, William, Christine, Stefan, Kevin, Marge, Marino, Leah, Joe, Marsha, Artie, Babe, Victims of flooding in El Salvador, Henrietta Howard, Marty Picco & family, Kaitlin Cahill, Evan and Mrs. Milnes.

Long Term: PJ Flynn, Howard Mason, Jan Wagner, Molly Salter, Gail & Nancy, Renie Leaman, Beverly Gilladett, Greg Weber, Josh & Michelle, Suzanne, CJ, Jill Lapp, Mickayla, Pearl Runquist, Jeanne, Lester Thompson, Bonnie Hansen, Jane Flammang, Ron Buswell, Bob Heppe, The Robe Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman, Chris Tury, Clint Bell, The Youth

Youth Corner

A youth gathering—in New Orleans! Sounds like a party to me. I love parties. I love youth. “I wanna’ go,” I thought aloud. Someone heard. I was invited. Suddenly and delightfully, I was, officially, on the guest list as a chaperone for our youth: a participant in the “Citizen with the Saints” celebration, bound for the July 2012 flight to New Orleans.

I was asked to write “something from the heart, about *preparing* for New Orleans”. Preparing? The truth of the matter is, I had been too busy preparing for the classes I teach each day to spend any time preparing my heart for what blessings may be in store at the “Citizens with the Saints” youth gathering this summer. So, with this prompting, I began to pray as I read the passage of scripture from the text around which the youth gathering is being built (Ephesians 2: 14–20). What should I do? How could I prepare? Have I been preparing without knowing it? Here are a few of the answers that came to me through introspection and prayer:

1) God started preparations for my attendance long before the event was on our calendar. Ephesians 2:10 says, “We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” It is God who has prepared this opportunity for rejoicing with our youth in this particular step of their faith journey. Just as God prepares my heart for worship every Sunday, I trust God is working to prepare my heart for this privilege of building affirming relationships with our youth as they grow in their faith. As I make myself available as a spiritual support and a mentor to our youth, I know God will be working in our midst to unite us all as disciples of Christ.

2) In preparation for our shared New Orleans travels and “training ground”, we chaperones will be meeting with the entire youth group (at least) once monthly for devotions and games. I trust the Holy Spirit will work in and through these gatherings toward the nurturing of our faith and our relationships---relative to each other and to God. Please keep our times together in your prayers as well.

3) The Gathering theme for 2012, "Citizens With the Saints," comes from Ephesians 2:14–20. I have been invited to participate as a citizen with the saints. As a citizen with the saints, I have simply responded to the invitation to gather together in peace. Through my acceptance of this invitation, and the privilege of accompanying our youth, God is preparing my heart and mind to rejoice, to dine, to play, to plan, to pray, and to celebrate in the goodness of God. As I acknowledge our young people as servants of God called to reflect the gospel of grace, I will simultaneously learn with them about pursuing peace with justice, as "citizens with the saints," here and across the world.

~ Tara McMilin

STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

Janet Slay and our Counters

We are thankful for the witness of stewardship that Janet and her crew of volunteers offer each week in the office. By giving their time to make sure that our offerings are well accounted for and handled discreetly and responsibly, these folks remind us that each of us are a part of the Body Of Christ through our church. Janet in particular, has served as Financial Secretary for many years and her commitment inspires us.

<u>Financials</u>					
<u>Income</u>	<u>Nov '11</u>	<u>Nov '10</u>	<u>Jan-Nov '11</u>	<u>Jan-Nov '10</u>	<u>Jan—Nov Budget</u>
Contrib.	\$17,132	\$15,976	\$192,793	\$196,251	\$195,666
Misc.	\$351	\$368	\$7,038	\$7,766	\$5,060
Total	\$17,483	\$16,343	\$199,830	\$204,016	\$200,726
<u>Expenses</u>					
Total	\$20,047	\$16,191	\$205,561	\$208,623	\$206,372
<u>Net Income</u>	-\$2,564	\$152	-\$5,730	-\$4,607	-\$5,646



On behalf of Child and Family Institute I would like to say "thank you" for your donation from the benevolence fund. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Blessings, Christine Cantando, Director

Thank you for your recent gift of \$170 to ELCA World Hunger. Your faithful generosity makes a life-changing difference for people in need around the corner and around the world. Your gift is appreciated now more than ever.

As the ELCA, we do more together than any one of us could ever do alone. We are a church that rolls up it's sleeves and solves problems—doing God's work in the world. Thanks for your support.

Rev. Daniel Rift, Director

Thank you for your most recent contribution in the amount of \$198 to the Paul Lee Loft Shelter. Your generosity makes it possible to continue providing emergency and transitional services to homeless individuals and families in our community, and makes a real impact on the lives of those struggling below the poverty level in Santa Cruz. Thank you for your compassion and support.

Monica Martinez, Executive Director

Sunday School News



I continue to be amazed at how wonderful our children are! It has been such a blessing to be involved with our Sunday School program here at St. Stephen's. I look forward to another year of faith-building fun!

In December, the students performed the annual Christmas Pageant for our congregation. We hope that you enjoyed it as much as they did. They also created and decorated 50 bags for inmates of the Santa Cruz County Jail. This was so appreciated by the inmates and those who minister to them. Our November soap collection was also greatly appreciated by the residents of the Rebele Family Shelter. 1,500 showers are taken each month at the shelter and soap is of great need. I am so proud of our kids!

This month we will be exploring the childhood of Jesus and on our last Sunday of the month will begin making valentine cards that we will distribute to the residents of a local convalescent home in February.

Make sure that you register for the SPSYC sponsored 3rd-6th grade weekend camp at Mt. Cross February 24-26th. This will be such a fun way for our kids to make friends with kids from other churches in our Synod.

Please let me know if you have any questions about our program.

Thanks,
Dusty Gipson
338-3787 home



The Progressive Christian Forum of
SC:

Jesus, Poverty, and Empire *Then & Now*

Featuring Theologians Ched Myers & Elaine Enns from
Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries

**Friday, March 9 and Saturday, March
10**

At First Congregational Church on High St.
(Co-sponsored by St. Stephen's)

Workshops include:

“Jesus, Jubilee & Sabbath Economics”

“Economics and Empire, Bible & Radical”

“Discipleship, Christian Faith & Social Analysis,
How Shall We Describe the Great Econ-
omy?”

Our churches—conservative and liberal alike—are often inhospita-
ble to the gospel's invitation to the cross, to solidarity with the least,
and to Sabbath Economics. Our task is, then, to rebuild a literacy in
which the Word and the world are brought to bear on each other at

Bold Café . . . “Stirring the Spirit Within”

[Café](#) is an award-winning Web-based magazine for women who want to
build **Community**, participate in **Advocacy**, strengthen **Faith**, and strive to-
ward **Enlightenment (CAFE!)**. It incorporates a Lutheran perspective for
women of Christian faith or simply for any woman who is interested in how
faith can relate to the issues that women face today.

Many use *Café* to learn more about what the Lutheran church has to say
about certain issues and to start discussions with friends or classmates.

Visit *Café* and sign up to receive e-mail alerts when new issues are
posted. The monthly *Café* podcast is available at www.boldcafe.org and
through iTunes.

If you are a BOLD woman interested in participating in this type of dis-
cussion / devotion group, please contact Leslie 476-4700.

Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca
Thursday, January 12
10:30 am in the Fireside Room

Join us for an informative presentation by Ms. Dorene Dawson, who will speak
about her role with iSanctuary. iSanctuary, an international organization, is dedicated
to educating the public about human trafficking. iSanctuary provides jobs and skills
training for young girls and women, who have been the victims of human trafficking.

Ms. Dawson will sell hand made jewelry, made by young ladies who have been
rescued from human trafficking. The proceeds of the jewelry will help fund iSanctu-
ary's efforts to provide healing with dignity to rescued young girls and women.

Please bring a sandwich. Coffee and dessert will be provided.

Hostesses: Becky Cramer and Barbara Bautz

All women are welcome!