

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

*Celebrating 60
Years of Ministry
February 2014*

Benefits the Child Development Ctr.

CRAB DINNER

Saturday, March 1st
5:30 & 7:00pm

In Fellowship Hall



Featuring Live Music

Advanced tickets required \$39 / two for \$70

- Sponsored by Thrivent Financial -

We are hoping to have lots of community participation, so invite your friends. "It takes a village"! We are asking for members to donate baked goods for dessert. Tickets are available Sundays or in the office. Call now to reserve your spot.

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. — David Balogh V. P. — Joel Hurttgam
Treasurer— Mark Linder
Ron Buswell, Jeanette Dawson, Robbin Heppe,
Lisa Johnson, Judy Russell and Rebecca Wickham

Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts

Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens

Custodian: John Hopping

Children's Minister: Dusty Gipson

Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp

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

Pastor's Office Hours—Wed. & Thurs. 10:00 am –1:00 pm

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.

From Pastor Jim...

Let's Fish for People!!!



Last Sunday's Gospel from Matthew Ch. 4 is one of the most memorable stories about Jesus. Remember the Sunday School song? "I will make you fishers of men, if you follow me..."

The problem is that the underlying issue of sharing the good news of a new way of life with others, is so much more complicated and involved than a cheerful children's song, unfortunately.

I remember coming here as your pastor 17 years ago and being so full of enthusiasm and assurance about fishing for people, as I was called specifically to help St. Stephen's grow after many years of membership decline. We got the "new pastor bump" of about 30 new members in the first year or so. They were mostly young families like we were and we had several years of wonderful fellowship before most all of them moved on as it became unaffordable to stay here.

After that time it became more clear that people we knew and interacted with in the school and youth sports community just were not really interested in becoming a part of a church. We naively thought that by being involved in our kids lives and forming new relationships with others in the community, that people would naturally see that church wasn't so weird, and that they would want to be a part of St. Stephen's as their faith community.

When rejection after rejection, however polite, began to pile up, it became very difficult to keep that initial enthusiasm and hope. And add to that the fact that when you have been someplace 17 yrs. there are lots of 'goodbyes' that you have to endure, well... it starts to dampen one's hope about fishing for people.

But this is a lifelong calling that we have been given. It shouldn't be subject to something like how we handle our feelings of rejection. And so it is becoming clear that the folks of St. Stephen's are ready to do some more serious fishing for people as we think about our future as a congregation. And I am looking forward to helping equip and lead you with the same enthusiasm as I had when I first became your pastor. We may not be sure exactly how it's going to happen, but we believe that God is faithful and will show us the way.

February Happenings

Chapel with the Pre-Schoolers

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 pm

Worship & Music committee

Feb. 11 at 7:00 pm

Women's Café Group

Feb. 12 at 6:30 pm potluck
at Terri Adam's home

MMRR Women's Circle

Feb. 13 at 10:30 am

Mutual Ministry

Feb. 13 at 7:00 pm

Church Council

Feb. 17 at 7:00 pm

Elementary Mt. Cross Retreat

Feb. 21-23

Progressive Christian Forum

Feb. 21—23

Women's Bible Study

Feb. 25 at 10:30 am

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Feb. 27 @ 10:30

Ushers needed— will train!

Council Highlights

1. Devotions and prayer centered on the post-Christmas biblical stories of Simeon and Anna who were dedicated servants of God in the temple. We named some of our present-day folks whom we consider our Annas and Simeons. Then we shared our hopes and dreams for ministry in the coming year. Much of it centered on inviting and welcoming new people.
2. Truett and Carol Bobo read letters explaining that they were seeking another worshipping community. We prayed for them and thanked them for sharing their gifts in their 6 yrs. here. There were a lot of tears and hugs.
3. Bill Schraft, CDC board chair asked council to not participate in the ISSP program due to numerous concerns expressed by the Director, Staff and parents. This program would house and feed a group of 15 homeless people one night a week in the Fellowship Hall. It will be brought before the congregation at the Annual Meeting to see if there are any people willing to help.
4. It was clarified that 2 loans to the CDC of \$2500 and \$6000, made in 2012, were forgiven by the church council in August and that this needed to be reported to the Treasurers of the church and school for their records.
5. Nominations for council were finalized: Judy Russell complete 2yr term vacated by Marta Duplantier & Jeanette Dawson, Ron Buswell, Robin Heppe for 3 yr. terms. Kent and Chris Madsen will be nominated as Synod Assembly delegates.



February

2-1 Frank Millang
 2-1 Lu Sluiter
 2-2 Ed Drews
 2-2 Jean Petersen
 2-4 Kyle Travers
 2-7 Marla Meek
 2-9 Edna Lindquist
 2-10 Al Mitchell
 2-10 Paul Powers
 2-12 Beverly Giladett

Birthdays

2-12 Randy Johnson
 2-17 Liana Mabry
 2-18 Kathy Hopping
 2-18 Jay Johnston
 2-19 Connie Creel
 2-21 Caitlin
 Hopping
 2-24 Miller
 Mouw
 2-29 Charles
 Eldridge



Anniversaries

2-6 Pastor & Leslie Lapp
 2-14 Con & Bette Coonrad
 2-24 Rick & Susan Oldfield

Prayer Concerns:

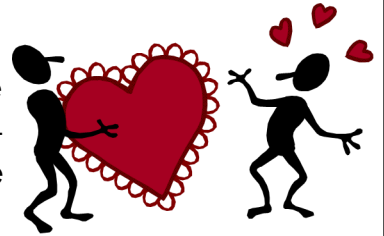
Short Term: Becky Cramer & family, Barbara Rice, Adrienne, Natalie, Joseph, Crystal, Jeffrey, David & Daniel Jr., Heyzel, Maicon, Tasha, Evan, Cameron, Opa, Sadie's family, Claire, Family of Ken Keighley, Shelby, Robe family, Aunt Pat Sargent, Kathy, Millie & Bob Simmen, Chris, The St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and The St. Stephen's Church Family.

Long Term: Jan & Jer, Aunt Elsie, Gary, Pat Hubbard, Chris & Kent Madsen, Jan Wagner, Renie Leaman, Cathy Yost, Beverly Gilladett, Lisa Pawalkat, Bonnie Hansen, Cathy Lorenzo, Dee, Jill Lapp, Mickayla, Pearl Runquist, Jeanne, Ron Buswell, The Robe Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman, Youth of today.

Sunday School News

Dear Sunday School Friends and Families,

February brings one of my favorite projects. We have been busy making Valentine's for the residents of the Driftwood Healthcare Center here in Santa Cruz.



Thank you to Sara Anderson and Anne Davis for helping us kick off this project in January. The children create the cards and then we get together and pass them out to the residents. It is unique from our other service projects in that after creating more than 100 cards the children get to see the recipients and their responses to them. Our kids are such a light shining in this community. I will pass along the distribution details once they are finalized.

February also brings the **SPSYC Elementary Retreat** for students in grades 3-6. @ **Mt. Cross**. The weather at Mt. Cross will be "**Cloudy with 100% Chance of Being Changed by God**" **February 21 – 23**. You can find more information at www.spsyc.org. Please contact Leslie in the church office to register or for more information.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to help out with this fun ministry.



Sincerely,

Dusty Gipson
831-338-3787 home
dustygipson@yahoo.com

St. Stephen's Child Development Center

The New Year continues to bring growth to our student enrollment. We welcome Samuel our 13th student to our full time program. We are delighted to be moving in a positive direction.

Although we have been enjoying summer weather in January we have moved along with the winter curriculum. Jan Brett authored the story, "The Mitten", which is a story about a grandmother who knits white mittens for her grandson. She cautions him to keep track of them in the white snow. He loses his mitten in the snow. Along comes several forest animals to crawl in the mitten to keep warm. Eventually the mitten is stretched to capacity when the bear enters followed by a mouse who sits on his nose. The bear lets out a big sneeze and all of the animals tumble out as the mitten flies through the air and lands next to the boy. He returns home with a stretched mitten. We provide a headband of each animal and use a white sheet as the mitten so our children can act out the story. They truly enjoy bringing this story to life.

We are conducting parent teacher conferences this month. Each family is provided a written report of their child's progress. Additionally, goals are listed to meet individual developmental needs of each child and collaborated on with the family to foster working in partnership. We also provide a portfolio of art work, dictation, and photos of their experiences through the year.

Thank you for participating in the Poinsettia fundraiser which yielded us \$227.00 for our budget. Thank you Leslie Lapp for organizing this for us. Bill & Margaret Schraft along with the School Board are gathering volunteers for the upcoming Crab Dinner fundraiser. Please save the date of March 1, 5:30/7:30 seating's. Tickets are on sale now.; \$39.00 per person, and \$70.00 per couple. This event was very much enjoyed by all who attended last year and the proceeds all go towards enhancing our pre-school curriculum. We hope you can attend!

Blessings, Kathy Berens





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Publicly Engaged Church

We are a publicly engaged church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. We do God's work in the world, the work of restoring and reconciling communities. We pursue justice and seek peace no matter how long the journey or wide the chasm. Because we are grounded in God's love and forgiveness, we are well equipped to live and serve here and now, in the world, with all its complexities, tensions and ambiguities.

There is no aspect of life in which God is not active, no place where God is not present. And this is exactly where we are called to participate in God's work, in the thick of life, embracing individuals, families and communities that are hungry for hope and healing, justice and peace, advocates and partners.

Our faith and our call to boldly serve and love our neighbor take us into some interesting and challenging aspects of life: advocacy, corporate social responsibility, racial justice, science and ethics, peacemaking, justice for women, social issues, and community organizing. We are drawn into every corner of life, society and its institutions to bring the good news of Jesus Christ and to work for lasting, positive change that upholds human dignity.

You have a place in the ELCA and an important role in God's work in the world — Learn more about our greater church and how we are engaged. www.elca.org

Adult Forums — Every Sunday @ 9:30

Feb. 2 - 'Celebrate' Readings

Feb. 9 - Engaging in ministry with the poor

Feb. 16 - Engaging in ministry with the poor

Feb. 23 - Engaging in ministry with the poor

Stewards of the Month - Outgoing Council

Robert Bartee, Kim Cappelloni, Barbara Rice

Thank you all for giving your time and unique gifts as leaders of our congregation for the past three years. Your faithfulness and dedication to the mission of Christ's church is an example for us of how we all can respond to God's grace in our lives. As leaders you have especially cared for the ministry of St. Stephen's as you sought the best way to make decisions and help move us in ways you saw and heard God calling us to go. It is not always easy or perfectly clear, but you offered yourself to God in this significant way and God worked through you on our behalf. May God continue to bless the ways in which you serve God through our church.



Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca Circle
Valentine's Potluck
Thursday, February 13 at 10:30 am

Speaker: Inge Palmer on Hinduism

Please bring a sandwich. Coffee and dessert will be provided. All women are welcome!

“Women of the Bible” study continues with Rev. Bonnie Bell
Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 10:30 (4th Tues of each month Fireside room)

Mid-Week Lenten Worship
and
“Soupers”



Wednesdays, March 12 - April 9th

Worship—11:30 am, Soup lunch—12:30
Soup Supper—6:30 pm, Worship @ 7:15pm

These gatherings are designed to help us reflect more deeply on our walk of faith with God. The Season of Lent calls all Christians into a time of fasting, prayer and additional giving in order to help us prepare for the miracle of the Resurrection.

Ash Wednesday (March 5) is worship only, NO Souper.

Please sign up to help host a soup lunch or supper.

Women's Café Group Potluck
Wed. Feb. 12 @ 6:30 pm
Terri Adam's home



Our small group spends time in fellowship, discussion & prayer.
Come together as women of faith....new folks welcome!
Bring a dish to share. More info call Leslie 476-4700.

SCOUT SUNDAY

Sunday, February 2

Come enjoy our homemade donuts!

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".

The Boy Scouts of America annually celebrate it's founding on February 8 (1910) based on the program started by Lord Baden Powell in England on August 1, 1907. Scout Sunday was added to the Scout celebration in the middle 1940's. Scout Sunday is always the Sunday preceding February 8. The Saturday following February 8th is Scout Sabbath.

This is the scribe of troop 633. We have been meeting here since the church was built in 1961. We have had a fun time going to the church. We plan our meetings and our camp-outs for the whole year.



Book Club

Saturday, March 15 @ 10:30 am Fireside Rm

Book: “Bitter Grounds” by Sandra Benitez

Come for lively discussion and fellowship

Questions: Call Candace 476-9753

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering - February

St. Stephen’s Scholarship Fund

Over the years we have been blessed to receive some bequests from former members that make up our present scholarship fund. Many of St. Stephen’s youth have benefited from this fund as they further their education in college while costs continue to rise. We attempt to use the interest only from this fund, but sometimes we need to dip into the principal in order to fulfill the requests. This month you can give a special offering in addition to your regular offering in order to keep this fund healthy well into the future. Maybe you, too, could think about including the St. Stephen’s Scholarship Fund in your will or estate plans as others before us have. This is a multiplying gift as it enables someone else to develop their God-given gifts in service to others.

January: Ending Human Trafficking - \$230 was given (as of 1/28)

The Progressive Christian Forum of Santa Cruz presents:

“Christianity After Religion”

A Two-day Workshop Exploring the Intersection of
Religion, Belief, Faith and Society

Featuring: Diana Butler Bass, Ph.D.

Former UC Santa Barbara Prof. of Religion

Nationally known author, speaker, blogger on the subject of
American Christianity and contemporary culture.

Fri., Feb. 21 at 7:30 pm

Sat., Feb. 22 from 9am to 3pm

Peace United Church - 900 High Street

- ~ Move from status quo religion to creative spirituality
- ~ Gain a new sense of significant purpose
- ~ Attract young adults into meaningful service
- ~ Speak truth to power & engage in mission

Cost: \$55 includes lunch

(Above is a \$10 off rate if we register as a group for the whole workshop)

\$25 Friday only \$50 Saturday only incl. lunch

For more info call: Connie Creel at 458-1492 or frenchhometutor@gmail.



El Salvador Sister Parish News

Being part of a delegation to El Salvador has always been a life-changing experience. I guess that is why so many of us continue to go. However, for first time participants, it is very insightful with what they come away with. Here are a couple of reflections we want to share with you.

From Rachel Lapp ~

Going to another country and experiencing another culture is something everyone needs to do at some point or another in their life. No matter how busy or intimidated you might be, this experience is one that deepens you as a person.

Coming from a materialistic culture it's hard to picture living any other way. The Salvadoran people may appear to be poor but what they lacked in material things, they make up for in spirit and strong relationships. They showed me how essential it is to make the time to stop and reflect on life and to remember what is truly important and what is not. They shared with me a culture of meaning. Through all their struggles and pain they understand the gift of life and take full advantage of it. This is something everyone can learn from.

The people there may not have floors or stable jobs but their values are solid and everything they do reflects that. Family and Faith come first.

What separates Santa Cruz al Salvador from other "mission trips" is that we build relationships in place of houses. We show the people that we understand their history and share their pain. We strengthen ourselves and raise awareness to create a better tomorrow.

From Joey Amrhein, former member of Christ Lutheran in Aptos ~

The January 2014 Delegation is my third trip to El Salvador with Santa Cruz al Salvador. Each delegation is unique and meets a different set of challenges. On this delegation, those of us that had been in country be-

(Sister Parish Continued)

before took the opportunity to visit the community of El Pilar, a rural community badly in need of water storage and sanitation as well as education for their youth. We were warmly welcomed. I had the opportunity to help work with the children while others of our delegation met with the local leadership to find a way to help. Such bright and beautiful young faces. I can only hope we can do for them what we've been able to accomplish in Guillermo Ungo. While in Guillermo Ungo this trip, after awarding 120 scholarships to the local school children we met with 10 of our scholarship students attending college. Doctors, Lawyers, Linguists, Business Administration majors, Psychologists, Computer Scientists, Environmental Researchers... it was impressive and heartwarming. I'm very proud to be a part of an organization that has been able to bring about as much positive change as Santa Cruz al Salvador.

From Chris Madsen ~

I'm not a first-time visitor to El Salvador, but this trip I have an unusual perspective. I took a "virtual trip" (is that the correct term?) to El Salvador. I did not physically travel, but used technology to send and receive greetings. Ruth brought her trusty iPad to the hospital and I recorded greetings to "my family", a good friend, and the new worshipping community that meets in Guillermo Ungo. My prayer child Walter graduated last November, and his sister Nancy is now a scholarship recipient. They made a video of greetings to me. It isn't the same as being there, but it was so fun to see and hear them. I also received a video from Pedrina, who Ruth and I first met in 1998, when she was a health promoter and a leader of the community of Los Henriquez. Since then, she has been an alternate member of the legislative Assembly, and is now mayor of Suchitoto. These are two examples of 'Building Relationships' that we keep talking about that are so rewarding, and why I continue to be involved in this ministry.



ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 am Worship Service & Coffee Hour

9:30 am Adult Forum & Choir

10:30 am Worship Service

Children's Church

Coffee Hour

NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
January 29, 2014

**POST OFFICE:
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

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