

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

*Celebrating 60
Years of Ministry
January 2014*

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 26 at 11:45 am

(A light lunch will be served. Child care provided)

We gather together to elect leadership to council, elect two voting members for Synod Assembly, and approve a budget for 2014 that reflects our mission. Please plan on attending to support your church as we continue to seek God's will for our ministry together. Contact the office if you can assist with food.

Budget Discussion - Sun. Jan. 12th at 11:45am

Our Treasurer, Mark Linder, will be available after church to introduce and answer questions about the proposed 2014 budget. A printed copy of the proposed budget is available on the table in the narthex.

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
Robert Bartee, Kim Cappelloni, Lisa Johnson,
Barbara Rice, 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...

Ministry Over the Long Haul



Something has happened recently that has me appreciating God and the church's faithfulness over time. In an age where so much is expected to happen quickly and immediately, I have been reminded how that doesn't always apply to the church's ministry and work in the world. Having a patient vision for the ways of God to come to the world and continuing to hope, plan and act as if they will, is the work of the church.

On Tuesday morning Dec. 15th at a public meeting, we received County Planning Commission unanimous approval for the building of St. Stephen's Senior Housing! During the public comment portion of the meeting I was able to speak on behalf of our congregation and tell the story of how we arrived at this significant moment in the life of our 60 yr. old church. I recounted how we became closely involved with the movement to provide affordable housing during the "dot.com housing bubble" when one of our own young working families came to the council to ask if they could live in their trailer in the parking lot.

At the same time we were working hard to form a new ministry of justice which we now know as COPA so that we could address and work with "the powers that be" and move our elected officials to meet the affordable housing needs in Santa Cruz County. As our story and COPA's story came together, we began to realize that we could make a difference by being better stewards of the land we had been given 50 years ago.

In June 2008 we voted to use that land for affordable senior housing and to begin work with a non-profit housing corporation. But the seed was planted far before that time, and now, over 5 years later the vision is bearing fruit.

From here the Board of Supervisors will likely vote to approve on the recommendation from the Planning Commission, and then Mid-pen will secure its final funding in March. It is still on track to break ground in the Fall of 2014.

The Kingdom of God is breaking out all around St. Stephen's! Thanks be to God for God's faithfulness through the church over the years and the ages! Thanks be to God when we get to see the patient visions bear fruit!

January Happenings

Chapel with the Pre-Schoolers

Wednesdays at 10:00

Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 pm

PreSchool Open House

Jan. 8 from 11:00—12:30

Book Club

Jan. 18 at 10:00 am

MMRR Women's Circle

Jan. 9 10:30 AM

Women's Café Group

Jan. 8 at 6:30 pm potluck
at Gloria Grotjan's home

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Jan. 11 at 9:00 am

Church Council

Jan. 20 at 7:00 pm

Women's Bible Study

Jan. 21 at 10:30 am

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Jan. 23 at 10:30 am

COPA Retreat

Jan. 25

*Electronic giving options are available
ask Janet Slay for details.*

Council Highlights

1. Devotions and prayer centered on remembering that we have been given the light of world at Christmas and that neither the gloom of the past nor the fear of the future can darken our hope.
2. James Weller from Peace United Church and the Interfaith Satellite Shelter Project visited to encourage us to host a group of homeless folks one night a week and provide a dinner and breakfast. The CDC Board will be consulted and it will be brought up at the Annual Meeting to see if there is enough support to participate.
3. The 2014 budget was presented and approved to be brought to the Annual Meeting. It is now available in the narthex.
4. A motion was approved to recommend to the congregation to invest the Mid-Pen funds (\$1.2 million) and to use only the interest to fund various needs that came out of the 3 idea sessions held this Fall. (See list on pg. 12) In 2014 the council will be focusing on a new 5yr. plan that will engage the congregation in developing a new mission plan that will reflect these recommendations and prioritize them.
5. Members of the Audit Comm attended to respond to questions about their report. A transition will be taking place in 2014 when members with professional experience will be volunteering to keep the books and payroll. A new Treasurer will also be elected. As this transition takes place, certain accounting and other improvements will be made.



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 Emily Valencia
- 1-18 Patricia Travers
- 1-21 Chris Turzo
- 1-25 Neil Crews
- 1-27 Crystal Hintze



Anniversaries

- 1-20 Donald & Doris Ray
- 1-23 Emmanuel Perez
& Juanita Zamarripa
- 1-24 Lindsey & Becky Cramer

Prayer Concerns:

Short Term: Family of Charlie McIntyre, Family of Pr. John Rotto, Jennifer Boroujarott, Lois Meeker, Kathy Allen, Family of Dick Stromme (Jill Adachi's father) Family of Carl Glohm, Shelby & family, Aunt Pat Sargent, Julius Creel, Paul Cunningham, Kathy, Millie & Bob Simmen, Chris, Steve, Anna, Saul Aleja, The St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and The St. Stephen's Church Family.

Long Term: Pat Hubbard, Chris & Kent Madsen, Jan Wagner, Renie Leaman, Cathy Yost, Beverly Gilladett, Lisa Pawalkat, Bonnie Hansen, Larry Knapp, Cathy Lorenzo, Dee, Jill Lapp, Mickayla, Jan Sollem-Brotherton, Pearl Runquist, Jeanne, Ron Buswell, The Robe Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman,

Sunday School News



WOW! Our kids did such an amazing job at the Christmas Pageant. We hope that you enjoyed the performance this year as much as we did. We were so happy to have our preschool friends joining us for the first time as well. They were such a wonderful and welcome addition to our cast. Thanks to all of the families and volunteers that made this possible for our kids. We have such an amazingly talented congregation!

Thank you for the goody donations. The students prepared 100 goody bags for the inmates of the SC jail. They really enjoyed getting to decorate the bags with stickers and other festive holiday decorations. This continues to be one of our more meaningful projects as the kids come to the realization that God's love is not bound by human perceptions. He loves everyone! They also learn that we are letting our lights shine by sharing that love with others through this project.

The new year is here and I am looking forward to many more opportunities for our children to grow in faith. We are working on some new and exciting changes for our kids and families this year. I will keep you posted...

SPSYC Elementary Retreat for grades 3 – 6 at Mt. Cross
Theme is "FAITH QUEST: Journey Through the Kingdom of God"
February 21 – 24

We need to register as a group, so let me know if your child can participate. \$140 due Jan. 26 (checks made out to St. Stephen's) Friends are welcome! Rachel Lapp & Jesse McMilin will be there as your counselors. Hope you can all come!

Sincerely,
Dusty Gipson
831-338-3787 dustygipson@yahoo.com

St. Stephen's Child Development Center

December was a special month for our preschool ministry as we came together with the Sunday school children to present a united Christmas Program. The response we have received from congregation members and school families have been very positive and heartwarming. It was a privilege to facilitate this union as we welcomed our school to participate for the first time in our church history. We were very proud of the school family turn out and the presentation the children gave. A special thanks to Dusty Gipson who graciously included us and to Pastor Jim who accompanied the children with his guitar and voice in the Friendly Beast song. We appreciated Candace Anderson so much as she made sure our costumes were just right! We could not do this without you.

Our children were busy last month with their top secret project of candle making. I ordered Knorr's Bees Wax from Rancho Santa Fe and rolled a pair of white, iridescent tapers with each child to give to their parents for a gift. We also took fancy Christmas pictures in hat and scarf to give each family a print and to put in the center of a snowflake ornament. All are treasured keepsakes for families to enjoy and remember their Christmas time with us.

We begin 2014 with an enrollment of 12 full and part time students. Our goal now is to revisit licensing regulations and safety procedures in order to be appropriately supplied and prepared. I have the opportunity to work with Marilyn Moore a Director Mentor from the California Early Childhood Mentor Program which is funded by the state through community college's like Cabrillo. Her decades of experience are a great resource for our school so we are contracted to have state funded meetings in order to improve our services. It is my one year anniversary as Director and it has been a fast paced building project. It is important to slow down and evaluate the quality of our program in safety, regulation, and curriculum so we can continue to offer a service that we can be proud of.

January will bring teachings of winter with stories acted out in the classroom authored by Jan Brett. Evaluations will also be in the works for parent teacher conferences at the end of the month. Our teachers have completed another semester in college bringing more experience and education to our program. We than you so much for your support last year and wish you a very happy New Year.

Kathy Berens (Director) 464-4453 cdc@ststephenslutheran.org
<http://sscpcpreschool.com/>

*"Our mission is to inspire children in their early years
so they may have a sense of self and grow into competent,
well-rounded and spiritual people"*



WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE UPDATE

We met Dec 10 and took time to reflect on this years successes and which will be more thoroughly reviewed in the annual report and set goals for 2014.

Some highlights from 2013:

1. Improve communications by creating the bulletin board in the narthex to post our long and short term goals, minutes, role of committee.
2. Creative and new liturgies, including the service fir the 60th Anniversary celebration.
3. Signage on Soquel indicating hours of worship for both services during the year.
4. The new Lutheran Worship Handbook will be in the pews before Christmas along side of the Children in Church cards.
5. Family Toddler Room has been opened and used since end of November.

We still need a gently used rocker/recliner for the room please contact me if you have one to donate.

If you have any suggestions for the W/M Comm. please contact one of us- Bonnie, Candace, Pastor Jim, Gary, Connie, Suzanne, Kirk, or Ruth M.

Barbara Rice--Chair

2014 Offering Envelopes Are Here

Please pick them up in the narthex.

Remember to bring your “Giving Card” and “Time & Abilities” sheet and place it in the offering plate any Sunday during worship.

Adult Forums—Every Sunday @ 9:30

Dec. 29 No Adult Forum

Jan. 5 “Epiphany Overview” - Pr. Jim

Jan. 12 “Questioning Skills” - Marshall Bautz

Jan. 19 “Celebrate Readings” - Pr. Jim



Stewards of the Month - Audit Committee

Mark Linder, Tom Eagle, Ruth Cruddas, Kathy Allen & Don Fuqua

After several months of hard work, this dedicated group completed a very faithful account of the churches finances and record-keeping. Jesus talked a great deal about people’s relationship with money and how it is the main thing that gets in the way of our relationship with God, and how it should be used solely for God’s purposes and glory. These folks have taken that to heart and spent a great deal of time being good stewards of what St. Stephen’s has been blessed with. We have an extensive responsibility that is in very good hands thanks to their efforts and recommendations. It is a strong witness of faith to know that our finances are in very caring and capable hands. Thank you all for demonstrating what good stewardship is all about.



Women's Café Group Potluck

Wed. Jan. 8 @ 6:30 pm
Gloria Grotjan's home



Our small group spends time in fellowship, discussion & prayer. Come together as women of faith. This month we are mixing it up. Gloria has invited us to have dinner in her new home. Bring a dish to share .
More info call Leslie 476-4700.

Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca Thursday, January 9 10:30 am

Speaker: David Balogh on his travels to Madagascar

Come join us for our first meeting of the new year.
Please bring a sandwich. Coffee and dessert will be provided.
All women are welcome!

Also in January, we will be making valentines for our congregation's shut-ins on January 16 at 9:30 am. Contact Lu with questions 475-8418.

THANKS to all of you who contributed happiness by way of mitten tree gifts to the children of the Davenport Resource Center. This year 87 gifts were presented at their La Posada celebration. Your thoughtfulness and support means so much to those kids - your gift may be the only one some of them receive for Christmas and you will make them smile with joy! Also we want to thank the knitting group from St. Stephen's for making such cool fingerless mittens for these families

"Women of the Bible" study continues with Rev. Bonnie Bell on Tuesday, January 28 at 10:30 (4th Tues of each month Fireside room)

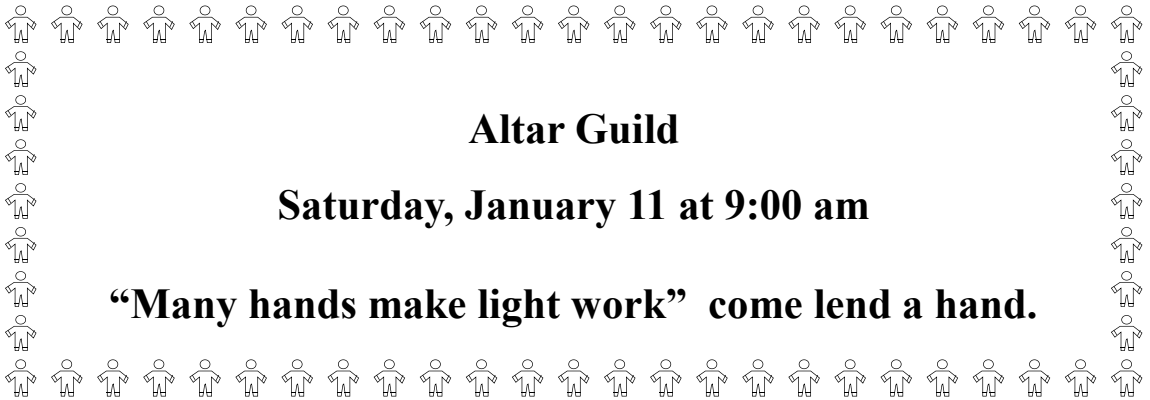
Results of "Use of Mid-Pen Funds" Idea Sessions

- Endowment for future Pastor's housing
 - Support for Campus Ministry
 - Support for Lutheran Comm. Church
 - Scholarships for Holden Village
 - Install Rose window from Light of Life
 - Programming with Sr. Housing tenants
 - Outreach pilot projects
 - CDC support & scholarships
 - Sanctuary improvements
 - Kitchen and Fellowship Hall renovation
 - Outdoor amphitheater on Soquel side
 - Trips for youth & children
 - Tithe to the ELCA
 - Help fund a park
 - Oktoberfest & other outreach events
 - Re-work 5 year plan before spending
- * Take more time to determine how to use
 - * Complete reconciliation
 - * Give to other ministries and organizations
 - * Transform to more missional purpose
 - * Discipleship focus
 - * How long do we want funds to last?
 - * Supplement budget short-term



Thank you to Cody Fransler
(Candace Anderson's nephew)

In an effort to help guests and new members feel welcome, the Altar guild has provided a guide of sorts that can be found in the pews. Cody (a college student) took their ideas and created the wonderful tri-folds with a church glossary, an explanation of symbols, volunteer positions, and church maps. It is impressive to see his willingness to volunteer his time to his Aunt's church.



Altar Guild

Saturday, January 11 at 9:00 am

“Many hands make light work” come lend a hand.

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering - January

Ending Human Trafficking

“Free the Slaves and the Polaris Project”

A majority of human trafficking victims are transported across national boundaries in order to isolate them and to increase their vulnerability. It is therefore appropriate that human trafficking is one of the ministries of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (lirs.org), a service that began in 1939. Part of LIRS is the End Human Trafficking Campaign with news, resources for involvement, stories of trafficking victims, and a blog that provides weekly headlines on the subject each Friday.- **Your gift of \$876 given to the End Human Trafficking fund is so appreciated! Your support is critical to our mission:** Witnessing to God’s love for all people, we stand with and advocate for migrants and refugees, transforming communities through ministries of service and justice.

Thank you for all you do to welcome newcomers to the US and for your support of LIRS! - In Faith, Tara Mulder

Director for Marketing and Communications

December: COPA - \$110 was given (as of Dec. 20)

Dear Pastor Jim, Leslie & St. Stephens Family,

We've been busy getting sorted and having fun. We want to mention to you two how hard it was to find a church that measures up to St. Stephen's. Thank you for everything you both do. As you all know, we moved to Canberra, Australia, three months ago to start research positions at the Australian National University. We're settling in well here down under; we've found an apartment and have unpacked most of our shipment. We've joined the local Anglican church and they're already asking about when Anne can play her violin! Work is going well; Anne drives up the mountain to the observatory each day amidst a mob (that's the technical term) of kangaroos and Scott uses the lovely bike paths to get to the main campus.

Though we're thrilled to start our new adventure, we miss you all. Thanks for all your love and support throughout the years! We'd love to hear from you and wish you all the best.

Love & Cheers,
Anne & Scott Medling

12/19 Aspinall St.
Watson, ACT 2602, Australia

medlings@gmail.com

+61 0422 918 751 (Anne)

+61 0422 918 761 (Scott)

Book club

Saturday, Jan. 18
10:30 am Fireside Room



Book: "He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado

Come for lively discussion and fellowship

Questions: Call Candace 476-9753



El Salvador Sister Parish News

The Santa Cruz al Salvador Board wishes to extend a great big thank you to all of you for your continued support and your willingness to help build relationships with your prayer child. The Pupusa meal was a great success, not only in funds raised but in the fellowship. There was a lot of energy in that room!

We also thank you for the support of the Partners with Pastors in El Salvador campaign, which supports an Endowment fund to pay salaries. The endowment is administered through the ELCA Foundation. We will take another offering during coffee hour on December 29, and will let you know the total amount received in January. Pastor Martir Vigil is a pastor with 3 or 4 different congregations in the Guillermo Ungo area. Having a presence from the Lutheran church is important, but that is difficult if the pastor does not receive a salary. Your support is greatly appreciated.

January Delegation: The excitement is building. They leave early on January 2, and will be present at the scholarship ceremony. This is when we help distribute the school supplies, and will give the children your gift bag, letter & picture that you promised to send when you signed your commitment card. (Remember that promise?) Please get your gift bag to Ruth in a 1 gal storage bag. (no larger than that - please) by Dec. 29 - the Sunday after Christmas. The agenda also includes a craft project and, of course, meals with scholarship recipients. The delegation will also be visiting historical sites in and around

(Sister Parish Continued)

San Salvador. The Peace Accords were signed in 1992, but the pain of the war lingers on. People are still looking for "disappeared" children, and an organization named Comadres is still working with the United Nations on Human Rights. Another very exciting part of the agenda is a visit to the new Sister Community of Watsonville-San Pedro Masahuat. Stay tuned for pictures!

I, Chris Madsen, would like to end this article on a personal note. Kent & I were part of the very first delegation in 1994, and I participated in each delegation through January 2012. It is with great sadness that I will not be able to go on any more delegations for medical reasons. That does not mean I will not participate in other ways. However, I want to let you know how much your support means to me, and to the people of the communities of Guillermo Ungo. I have watched the children grow, along with the school and infrastructure. I have built relationships, not only with the people of Ungo, but with the people who have gone on delegations. The ELCA "model" for our delegations has been accompaniment. Accompaniment has been part of my faith journey, meaning that I have supported and been supported by the people I have met. I hope and pray that 'Building Relationships for Better Lives' has in some way accompanied you on your faith journey.

Thank you again for your continued support of our work in El Salvador.

Feliz Ano Nuevo, from
Your El Salvador representatives



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
December 23, 2013

POST OFFICE:
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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

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