

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

*Celebrating 60
Years of Ministry
June 2014*

SUMMER WORSHIP - ONE SERVICE

AT 9:30 am Now — Aug. 31

Sister Parish Benefit

June 7 @ Bargetto's Winery
3:00 to 5:00

Celebrating 20 Years of Building Relationships
for Better Lives in El Salvador

Music, Munchies, Fellowship & Silent Auction
\$25 at the door



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
Secretary - Robbin Heppe Treasurer— Ron Buswell
Jeanette Dawson, Lisa Johnson, Judy Russell and
Rebecca Wickham

Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts

Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens Associate Musician: Jesse McMillin

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...



Julius Creel had one heckuva handshake. Although he wasn't what he would call a very "religious" person, he sure was something of a fixture around our church. That, of course, was thanks to his spouse Connie and her dedication to being active in church.

So when Connie called to tell me that Julius had suddenly died while resting out on their porch, it came as a surprise to me because it seemed like Julius would always be around waiting to squeeze my hand super tightly and engage me in one of his silly made-up puns. I think he enjoyed making us moan and groan over his puns.

As I closed his eyes before Connie said her last goodbye and the kind gentlemen from the mortuary took Julius' body away, I was struck by how meaningful it is to be a part of a home church. I was struck by how glad I am that we are church that is, first and foremost, focused on worshipping a God of extravagant grace.

Some churches might not have been as patient and gracious with a guy like Julius, especially as he tried to engage any of us in one of his new schemes. But Julius knew, especially in the last few years, that we were his community - that he had a place among God's gathered people even if he wasn't always up to par or totally understood.

Pentecost, the birthday of the church, is June 8th and we will welcome Meredy Wells and the Matt family to be a part of St. Stephen's soon. And I am glad and proud to say that they too will know that they are accepted for who they are here, and that they don't have to have it all together to contribute to the life of this congregation and belong to us all. And maybe someday a pastor of theirs will close their eyes at the end of their life too. And their loved ones will draw comfort from the feeling that their life mattered in some way to their church and certainly to God.

Because once that water falls from heaven and God says "You're mine." we belong to God and God's church no matter what. And if God can be that gracious despite all of our problems and shortcomings, well then, so can we. We can find the ways to see the gifts others bring and we can look past the things that to some might be reasons to reject another. St. Stephen's is not a club - it is the church. And I am so glad we all belong to this place where someone like Julius felt welcome and loved.

June Happenings

Chapel with the Pre-Schoolers

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Knitting Group

Thursdays at 6:45pm

Alcoholics Anonymous

Fridays at 7:00 pm

Alanon

Sundays at 3:30 pm

Parkinson's Support Group

June 4 at 12:30

Finance Committee

June 6 at 9:00 am

Wine Tasting Benefit

June 7 3:00—5:00 at Bargettos

Worship & Music Committee

June 10 @ 7:00 pm

MMRR Women's Luncheon

June 12 at noon @ Schraft's

Blessing of the Graduates

June 15 at 9:30 am

Church Council

June 16 at 7:00 pm

Property Work Day

June 21, 9:00—12

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

June 24 @ 10:30

Rummage Sale

June 28 8:00 —2:00

June Benevolence = World Hunger

Council Highlights

1. Devotions and prayer centered on the "I am" statements of Jesus found exclusively in the Gospel according to John. We acknowledged that some of the images Jesus draws upon in those statements do not touch our context anymore. So we came up with some new ones as ways to open up conversations of welcoming others to embrace faith in God through Jesus Christ.
2. There will be no Council meeting in August because most Council members will not be able to attend.
3. Judy Russell has formed a planning group for an Oktoberfest community outreach event. It may be combined with the Groundbreaking Ceremony for St. Stephen's Senior Housing.
4. A request by an ESL teacher, who used to teach a class here, to teach an ESL class here again, was granted.
5. The Parkinson's Support group will now be meeting in the sanctuary regularly in order to accommodate both their and the preschool's needs in a better way.
6. Rachel Lapp wanted to thank the council for allowing her to send a letter asking for financial help for her Syond-sponsored "Girls Faith Encouter" experience in Rwanda. So far \$1400 has been contributed.
7. Pres. David Balogh will give a short talk related to the shortfall in the church budget, its causes and possible ways to make it up.
8. A proposal about the use of the Mid-Pen lease payment was begun.



June Birthdays

6-1	J.J. Anderson	6-16	Donald Daves
6-1	Jim Hanson	6-16	Tara McMilin
6-2	Nancy Daves	6-18	Maria Mata
6-5	Lauren Pond	6-19	Kim Brouse
6-6	Joseph Ronning	6-20	Abigail Robe
6-8	Steve Young	6-21	Jenna Mabry
6-10	Glenn Johnson	6-26	Bonnie Bell
6-10	Kirk McMilin	6-29	Michael
6-10	Enzo Salandro		Nunes
6-12	Ruth Mitchell	6-30	Emmanuel
6-12	Madeline Mouw		Perez
6-14	Kent Orthner	6-30	Susan
6-14	Stephanie Dawson		Gross



Anniversaries

6-3	Roy & Mary Jane Hoch
6-4	Greg & Ruth Weber
6-22	John & Lorie Coronado
6-23	Chris & Tasha Turzo

Prayer Concerns:

Short Term: Family of Julius Creel, Bill, Ralph, Kirk, Crystal, Shane, Bonnie, Daniel, Tupelo, Bradford, baby Ford, Shelby, Doris Louise Daniel, Gary Roberts, Shirley Fuqua, Renie Leaman, Lisa Pawalkat, Jan Sollem-Brotherton, Millie & Bob Simmen, Chris, The St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and The St. Stephen's Church Family.

Long Term: Bonnie Hansen, Lu Walthart, Jennifer Borgardt, Gary, Pat Hubbard, Chris & Kent Madsen, Jan Wagner, Cathy Yost, Beverly Gilladett, Cathy Lorenzo, Dee, Jill Lapp, Mickayla, Pearl Runquist, Jeanne, Ron Buswell, The Robe Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman, For Addicts & those who love them, the Youth of today

~ **SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS ARE LISTED WEEKLY,
LONG TERM WILL BE LISTED AS SPACE ALLOWS** ~



Sunday School News

Thank you for a wonderful year and a beautiful celebration of our program on May 18th. Our potluck was a success and everyone seemed to have a great time. It is always fun to get together and hang out as a family. Thanks to everyone who came and brought something to share, helped set-up or helped clean-up. A special thank you to the McMilin's for organizing our entertainment and performing.

We take a two week break after our end of year celebration and will resume on June 8th with the beginning of our Children's Church summer program. I am exploring some fun ideas right now for a large art project for the children to complete over the next few months. I know that families are busy during the summer so this would allow anyone to drop-in at any time and be able to participate. It will also allow volunteers to easily jump in as well. On any summer Sundays that I am not able to attend and not able to find a volunteer I will provide a prepared lesson-to-go on the back table in the Narthex.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to help out. Sincerely, Dusty Gipson 831-338-3787

Celebrate our Graduates with a Blessing Sunday, June 15

Those
Graduating
In Our
Church



Colin Boyle	Santa Clara Univ.
Caitlin Hopping	San Lorenzo Valley High
Joel & Maryann Hurttgam	Cabrillo College
Rachel Lapp	Harbor High
Stefan Meek	Harbor High
Maddie Mouw	Aptos High
Joe Ronning	Cal Poly Univ.



St. Stephen's Child Development Center

June brings with it a feeling of bittersweet accomplishment as some of our students finish their time here at St. Stephen's ready to embark on new adventures in Kindergarten and summer programs for children in their age group. Some families relocate at this time of year and our time with them is cut short. To commemorate each child's time with us they will depart with a portfolio filled with activities, artwork, and photograph's to enjoy for years to come. Our next few Chapel services will include presentations to wish our friends farewell. We have prepared and practiced the song, "I'll Be Friends With You", that incorporates Sign Language throughout. Sign Language will combine with Italian, French, and Spanish in our multiple language exposure curriculum. Our goal is to create awareness of different cultures through exposure to the sounds and signs of other languages during our Circle Time. Finally, on June 11 we will have 4 children participating in our 2nd annual Graduation ceremony during the Chapel service at 10:15. We thank the Gipson family for donating, "The Beginner's Bible", for each of our graduates to remember the Christian teachings in Chapel. Students will prepare the refreshments for our fellowship time following the service. School will be closed June 20-26 as we transition into our Summer Program.

If you have not had the opportunity to look at our garden please take the time to see our sweet peas blooming, sunflowers growing, corn sprouting, and our carrots flowering. We sing a planting song to describe the growth process therefore allowing vegetables like carrots to flower so the children see the entire process back to seed. Eventually we will harvest the sweet pea seed like last year to save for planting next year at school and at home. We will be adding more plants such as pumpkins and squash soon. A scarecrow will be erected to look over our garden as we actually have crows flying around this area. Summer will transition into themes such as camping, sea life, patriotism, dinosaurs, and pirates. It is sure to be a fun adventure.

Blessings, Kathy Berens 462-4453

Bonnie Bell's Birthday Brunch

Sunday, June 22 @ 10:30

Please circle the 22nd of June on your calendar! I would like to invite you for brunch after St. Stephen's 9:30 AM worship service to celebrate my 85th birthday!

Yes, there is a catch to it, if you are so inclined....instead of cards or gifts it would be very special if you would give an offering of any amount to the ELCA STOP MALARIA CAMPAIGN! (There will be envelopes on hand.) It is such an undeserved gift that you and I live in a place where the water we drink and the occasional mosquito we encounter is not carrying a deadly disease. I do hope that you will come and enjoy brunch together on June 22nd.

Gratefully, Bonnie Bell

Please RVSP to the office 476-4700



STEWARD OF THE MONTH



Dusty Gipson



What a blessing it is to have such a dedicated servant over the years to help us all fulfill the promise we make at every child's



baptism - "to support and pray for them in their new life in Christ."



Dusty's weekly time with our children in Sunday School is Spirit-filled and enables parents to spend time in God's Word in church.



Thanks for your eternally positive attitude and flexibility given our smaller size. Also, thanks to your daughters who do so much to help set-up and prepare for whatever you have planned that Sunday.



Your witness is inspiring to us and gives up hope.



Monthly Special Benevolence Offering - June

ELCA World Hunger

“It takes more than meals to feed the world “. ELCA World Hunger is a comprehensive and sustainable program that uses multiple strategies—**relief**, **development**, **education**, and **advocacy**—to address the root causes of hunger and poverty. ELCA World Hunger responds to neighbors around the corner and around the world. ELCA World Hunger responds to hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world by addressing root causes. People are connected to the resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty. Between 70-75 percent of ELCA World Hunger funds are spent internationally, and 20-25 percent are spent domestically.

Together, in Christ’s name, we experience the transforming power of connection. As individuals, congregations, and synods, our humble offerings and actions are gathered, blessed, and multiplied. Together, we are ELCA World Hunger.

The international work of ELCA World Hunger is carried out through ELCA companion relationships as well as through trusted partners like Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Because of these long-held connections to partners around the world, ELCA World Hunger efforts are efficient and effective.

The domestic work of ELCA World Hunger is carried out primarily through the Domestic Hunger Grants Program (relief, development, and community organizing projects) and Education and Advocacy Grants.

ELCA World Hunger responds to Christ’s call to “Go and do likewise” (Luke 10:37), serving with compassion people who are most vulnerable, paying focused attention to the full participation of women and the needs of children.

May : Mt. Cross - \$5.00 was given (as of 5/22)

The Lutheran Church is GROWING!

The Lutheran World Federation is a global communion of national and regional Lutheran Churches headquartered in the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva, Switzerland. Membership of the 142 churches (plus 10 recognized congregations and two recognized councils) belonging to the LWF stands at 72.3 million as of February 2014.

Since the statistics were last released in 2011, LWF membership increased by 3 percent (600,000 people) in Africa and 19 percent (1.7 million) in Asia, respectively.

Membership continued to decline in North America (down 0.3 percent) and Europe (down 1.6 percent).

Among the 79 countries represented, Germany has the most Lutherans in the LWF (12.2 million).

According to the LWF, the top dozen churches in terms of membership are:

1. The Church of Sweden, 6.5 million.
2. Ethiopian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mekane Yesus, 6.3 million.
3. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, 5.8 million
4. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, 4.4 million.
5. Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, 4.15 million
6. Protestant Christian Batak Church (Indonesia), 4.1 million.
7. ELCA, 3.95 million.
8. (Lutheran) Church of Norway, 3.8 million
9. Malagasy Lutheran Church (Madagascar), 3 million.
10. Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover (Germany) 2.8 million
11. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria (Germany), 2.51 million
12. Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (India), 2.5 million.

Mary - Martha / Ruth -Rebecca Women's Circle

Annual Salad Luncheon

June 12 at Noon

1225 Whispering Pines Dr., Scotts Valley

Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Women's Circle will hold it's annual end of the year potluck salad luncheon at the home of Margaret Schraft. Come, relax in her beautiful back yard garden and enjoy the food and fellowship. Drinks and dessert are provided.

There will be a car pool at the church at 11:30 if you want a ride. We will be on hiatus until Sept. 11 when we resume our meetings in the fireside room at 10:30.

PLEASE JOIN US - ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!!

Worship & Music Committee

- Next meeting will be June 10, 7-8:30.
- The council decided that there will be one service during the summer at 9:30 from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Many members have expressed that it's nice to be one group during the summer and to worship together. The choir may provide some music during this time.
- It was wonderful to watch Jesse McMillin be installed as an Assistant Musician May 11. We are so proud of him - of his accomplishments, talents, and his sharing of his gifts with all of us.

Barbara Rice, on behalf of committee

"Who Knows You Better?" by Pr. Cindy Beck

I ran across an article entitled, "Who Knows You Better?" in which a woman, her best friend and her husband all answered the same questions about her. My sister told me that they had been playing the same game at work. She wanted to test my answers to the three questions she posed to her colleagues.

Her first question was simple, since I had been present at the occasion: With what famous person did she share the elevator in New York City? Lindsay Buckingham of Fleetwood Mac. Her second question: Name a food I dislike. Having lived with her for many years, I confidently answered "Seafood." Her final question: Name a music group that I despise. I answered "Blind Melon" whose only hit song grates her nerves. After a moment of silence she finally said, "Weird. Everything you said was correct. But those were not the answers I had in my head when I asked the questions."

Two things came to mind. The first is how we think our answers on things are the only right answers, when there are actually other answers equally true and right on the issue. The other thought that came to mind returned me to the question of "knowing one best."

I know myself better than anyone, since I am with me all the time. However, there are times when being as close to myself as I am creates a prejudice. I want to believe something about myself when it may or may not be true. I want to believe that I have the solution for something when it turns out that my solution would only cause more problems. And I often hear observations about myself from friends that astound me by its honest assessment about something I had not been able or willing to see about myself.

There is a "me" deep, deep within me that only I can reach, where the depth of my spirit resides. This is the place where I am the most honest "me", but ugly and beautiful and it is too vulnerable to share with others. But even this most vulnerable place is not unknown to God. When I am willing to risk an awesome truth, I acknowledge that God knows me best, even the things from which I hide in myself. It is a risk because it forces me to recognize my vulnerability before God. It is awesome because even knowing me at this depth, God accepts and loves me.

I wonder how honest the woman was with her answers. The differences between her answers and her friends were drastically different at times. If I were writing that article, I would not want God to be one of those answering questions about me. God's answers might not match mine and I'm sure God knows me better than I know myself. I would not want God's answers about me in print. Let's leave them where they belong, deep within me - and in God's abundant mercy.

ELCA's Care of Creation Update

Paving the way toward increased energy efficiency. The widespread adoption of technologies that increase energy efficiency is good stewardship of both financial resources and God's creation. By cutting energy use we can save both money and avoid the environmental consequences that flow from many types of electricity generation, including air and water pollution and climate change. **The US Senate is debating [S. 2262, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act](#).** The bill, sponsored by New Hampshire Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Ohio Senator Rob Portman will push our nation towards increased energy efficiency by providing worker training incentives, updating voluntary building codes and directing the federal government to reduce its energy use, among other provisions. This legislation would create jobs, save consumers and businesses money, make buildings and processes more energy efficient, and reduce our nation's greenhouse gas emissions.

By 2030 this bill could...

- **create more than 190,000 jobs through increased investment in new energy efficiency technologies**
- **save families, governments and businesses nearly \$100 billion in lower electricity bills**
- **avoid approximately 650 million metric tons in carbon dioxide emissions (according to a study by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy).**

In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increased energy efficiency will reduce other types of harmful air pollutants including sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide and mercury. This will have additional economic benefits in avoided health care costs to people suffering from asthma and other respiratory and pulmonary ailments. Co-sponsored by 7 Republicans and 6 Democrats, S. 2262 is an encouraging example of bipartisan collaboration that takes on our nation's energy and environmental challenges. However, a vote on the bill has been delayed several times as some legislators sought to attach unrelated and potentially controversial amendments to the bill. By filing for cloture on debate over the bill last week, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid hopes to finally move this important legislation a step closer to becoming law.

Learn more about ELCA's commitment to advocating for public policy that creates opportunities to overcome poverty, promotes peace and justice, and supports the care for creation. Visit www.elca.org.



Thank you for those who contributed to World Malaria Day, and took advantage of matching funds. \$200 was matched by the ELCA, and \$100 (from our congregation) was matched by St. Mark's in San Francisco. The full \$10,000 was matched by other congregations in the Sierra Pacific Synod.

Hallelujah ~ Chris Madsen

Property Work Day

June 21 - 9 am to noon

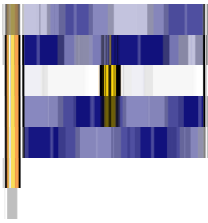
Let's get together to make our church shine! Tis the season for gardening, bring your sun hat gloves, and weeding tools. Other projects include: sanding, painting, electric work, and roof tile repair. Contact Council member Joel Hurttgam 425-0964 for info.

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Sat., June 28

8:00 am to 2:00

Save your stuff: toys, sporting goods, kitchen items, tools, clothes, books, etc. No TV's or mattresses. For pick up call Ruth 768-1580. Shift workers needed, please sign up at church. Benefits Sister Parish & the Boy Scouts.



El Salvador Sister Parish News

With church services going from two to one for the summer, we need opportunities for fellowship! Santa Cruz al Salvador is happy to provide those opportunities.

First, there is the wine tasting with silent auction at Bargetto's Winery on Saturday, June 7th from 3:00 to 5:00. Tickets will be on sale after church and at the door. Put it on your calendar! Besides food, fellowship and music, we are starting the celebration of 20 years of involvement with El Salvador. The first delegation was in 1994 by four members of Light of Life Lutheran, with the first delegation involving members of St. Stephen's in 1998. Rachel and Jesse will give brief talks about their experience on the last delegation, and Lisa Johnson is already collecting historical material.

Second is the Rummage Sale on June 28th , from 8:00 to 1:00 PM. We can always use help setting up on Friday, June 27th and working a short shift on Saturday. "Fellowship" has many definitions! Mostly we need donations (and purchasing) of "stuff".

We will be working on other fundraisers, so stay tuned. A reminder that if you are interested in going on a delegation, please contact Ruth Cruddas at cruddasruth@gmail.com or call 831.768.1580. The tentative dates are Nov. 21-29, 2014 and/or Jan. 1-10, 2015. There will be 2 delegations, only if there is enough interest (among the 6 churches). The dates are somewhat flexible, which is why it is important that Ruth hears from you if you are interested.

One worship service allows for us to give a presentation on the previous delegations. So watch out for that also. As you know, we love sharing!

Wishing you Blessings and Peace for a restful summer. We are so grateful for your support.

The board of Santa Cruz al Salvador
Kent & Chris Madsen, Ruth Cruddas, Jill Adachi, Lisa Johnson (alternate)

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

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

**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
May 27 2014**

Coffee Hour

9:30 am Worship Service

8:30 am Choir Rehearsal

ST. STEPHEN'S SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Non-Profit Org.
Postage Paid
Permit #79
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