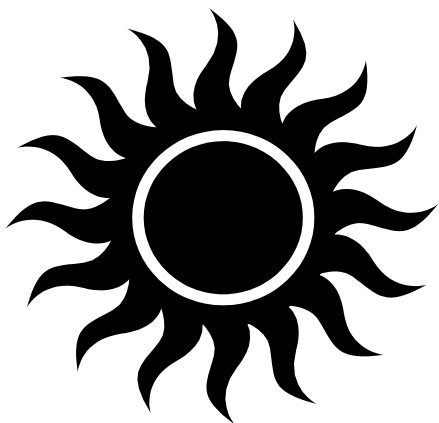


St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 59
Years of Ministry
April 2013

"Animate Faith" Series

Adult Forums led by Pastor Jim

Sundays @ 9:30 am

April 7 - **"Cross: Where God Is"** - Nadia Bolz-Weber reminds us that our understanding of the meaning of the cross tells us as much about ourselves and our view of God, as it does about Jesus & salvation.

April 14 - **"Bible: A Book Like No Other"** - Lauren Winner asks What gets in our way as we read the Bible and try to make sense of it?

April 21 - **"Church: An Imperfect Family"** - Bruce Reyes-Chow shows us that the messiness, the dysfunction, and the joy that comes from complex relationships make the church worth hanging on to. What does it mean to commit ourselves to the church family for better or for worse?

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](http://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 Secretary—Marta Duplantier,
Robert Bartee, Kim Cappelloni, Lisa Johnson,
Barbara Rice, 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



Last month we welcomed a guest speaker from the Philosophy Club that Marshall Bautz leads in our community. He presented on the topic of “Communication” for our Sunday morning adult forum. It was a timely topic and discussion given our struggles recently as we move into a reconciliation process. He offered a very helpful definition of communication as “**The Loving Struggle**”, which he learned from the philosopher Karl Jaspers. I believe that if we lift this image up as our intention as we engage in reconciliation, we will be acting like Jesus in our work together.

Below, I am listing several quotes that he also shared that I think really help give us a better perspective on what the essentials of good communication are.

“We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.” -Epictetus

“The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.” -George Bernard Shaw

“Speak when you are angry and you’ll make the best speech you’ll ever regret.” -Dr. Laurence Peter (‘The Peter Principle’)

“The more elaborate our means of communication, the less we communicate.” -Joseph Priestly (1700’s Chemist, Philosopher)

“First learn the meaning of what you say, and then speak.” - Epictetus

“We shall never be able to remove suspicion and fear as potential causes of war (or conflict), until communication is permitted to flow, free and open. -Harry S. Truman

“When the eyes say one thing and the tongue another, a practiced man relies on the language of the first.” -Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Give sorrow words. The grief that does not speak, whispers the o’er fraught heart and bids it break.” - William Shakespeare

April Happenings

Sunday Adult Forums @ 9:30

#2 Reconciliation Workshop

Saturday, April 6th 9:00—4:00
at church w/ Pr. Cindy Beck

Chapel with the Pre-Schoolers

Wednesdays at 10:00

Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 pm

MM/RR Circle

Thurs. April 11 @ 10:30 Fireside

Church Council

Monday, April 15 at 7:00 pm

Book Club

Sat. April 20 @ 10:30am Fireside

Small Group dialogue sessions

April 21-24

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Thursday, April 25 @ 10:30

Benevolence Offering

Live Oak Family Resource Ctr

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

Council Highlights

1. Devotions focused us on the dance and song of Miriam who celebrated the freedom of her people thanks to God's parting of the Red Sea. As leaders we are encouraged to lift up the acts of God that take place among our people, and do what we can to point people toward giving thanks to God for all of our blessings.

2. There was a water main break on our property near Soquel Ave. George Wilson plumbing spent all day digging it out and repairing it. Joel Hurttgam filled the ditch back in after it dried out some.

3. Barbara Rice proposed starting to use the room next to the sanctuary for parents with babies and toddlers. She will begin equipping the room for this purpose.

4. Chris Madsen has had a heart for victims of domestic violence through her work as a nurse. She proposed using our facility to distribute written information about to get help. It will be available in our restrooms from now on. Chris will set it up and keep us informed through the newsletter.

5. The preschool board submitted an update and long-range plan for the next year and the next 2-5 years, as requested by the council.

6. A letter was sent, at the request of Scott Medling, asking the Boy Scouts of America to reverse their policy of excluding openly gay people from their organization.

7. Over 30 people attended the first Conflict Transformation Workshop as we began a reconciliation process.



April

Birthdays

4-1	Joel Hurttgam	4-16	Brian Houser
4-5	John Tury	4-16	Jason Awe
4-8	Robbin Heppe	4-17	Eric Mitchell
4-10	Jeffrey Tuttle	4-21	Jakob Houser
4-11	Barbara Bautz	4-23	Kathy Parker
4-12	Ron Buswell	4-24	Ellen Madsen
4-13	Mary Jane Hoch	4-26	Maya
4-15	Linda Lillehaugen		Gipson
4-16	Doris Ray	4-29	Nelleke
4-16	Manny Travers		Meerman



Anniversaries

4-8	Stephen & Kim Cappelloni
4-10	Donald & Nancy Daves
4-29	Hilding & Dorothy Ronning
4-30	Don & Shirley Fuqua

Prayer Concerns:

Short Term: The Family of Clint Bell, Brian & Nathaniel Brouse, Chase Savant, Danny, Carla & Chris Brown, Marge, Mark, Linda, Kathy, Marsha, Fred & Carol Warner, Brad Hill, Madeline Massa, Tasha Turzo, Cameron, Lucero Evan & Mrs. Milnes, Opa Meerman, Kaitlin Cahill, Jacob, Jan, Tupelo & Brad, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and St. Stephen's Church Family.

Long Term: Chris & Kent Madsen, Jan Wagner, Gail & Nancy, Renie Leaman, Beverly Gilladett, Lisa Pawalkat, Greg Weber, Larry Knapp, Dee, Jill Lapp, Mickayla, Pearl Runquist, Jeanne, Ron Buswell, The Robe Family, The Volpi Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman, Chris Tury, The Youth



Sunday School News

Dear Sunday School Friends and Family,

Thank you to everyone that donated supplies or time to help our children celebrate Easter. This really is one of the highlights of our year. In the midst of the celebrations we have some important and meaningful discussions and activities that really get to the heart of all of our faith. I continue to be blessed by the congregational support of our children and their faith development through this ministry.

I am exploring a new format for our Sunday School classes that will hopefully be more interesting and enriching to the wide range of students that we have here in our program. It incorporates a variety of activities including hands on projects, games, food, media, and discussions. It is a modified version of the basic curriculum that I have been using and the students seem to like it so far. One thing that I love about our smaller program is that we can really change it to accommodate the needs of the individuals we are serving. I will continue to look for ways to improve this program for our kids.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to help in any way.

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



St. Stephen's Child Development Center

March began in the Child Development Center with the Crab Dinner Fundraiser sponsored by Thrivent in which proceeds will be used to enhance our school program. Leslie Lapp and Kirk McMilin did a wonderful job of organizing this fun and tasty event. Thank you to Leslie, Kirk and their team including; Shelia & Ron Buswell, Hannah Forbes, Dusty Gipson, Kathy Berens, Gloria Grotjan, Juanita & Emmanuel Perez Flores, Rachel Lapp, Jesse McMillin, Anne & Scott Medling, Nelleke Meerman, Bill & Margaret Schraft, and Don Smawley. The multi-purpose room was transformed into an experience that was fused with beautiful piano music played by Jesse McMilin. Patrons dined on pasta draped in Don's tasty marinara sauce topped with Stagnaro's Crab legs, accompanied by Juanita's beautiful salad and baked potato bar completed with a glass of wine. Laughter filled the room decorated in newspaper tabletops which displayed balloon centerpieces including snapshots of the CDC students. We had a truly enjoyable experience that will live on to contribute to our school curriculum.

The Crab Dinner evening was the Grand Opening of our Art & Science Classroom decorated in sea foam paint and fishing nets. The new class pet "Krowl" an Albino Leopard Gecko arrived as well as our caterpillars in the process of metamorphosis. Thank you to Bill & Margaret Schraft for the donation of an Apple computer that is sure to enhance this classroom curriculum. Thank you especially to Bill for his efforts in earning us the Warner Trust Grant of \$500.00 which will apply directly to ordering art and science supplies for our program. Well done Bill!

Please enjoy our display board which has transformed from Valentine's Day to St. Patrick's Day, then Easter for representation of the art projects we are creating. Spring curriculum enhances our Sense of Wonder as we move science curriculum out to the new garden area where we will begin to plant after Easter/Spring Break April 1 – 5.

I want to especially recognize and thank our School Board members Bill & Margaret Schraft, Shelia Buswell, Dusty Gipson, Pastor Jim Lapp, Church Office Administrator Leslie Lapp, and marketing volunteer Leanne Salandro for their constant support and efforts in moving forward with this Ministry. Dusty has been invaluable as our treasurer and in the trenches of the classroom volunteering, along with Sheby Volpi our teaching assistant.

Thanks be to God for each of you!

Blessings,
CDC Director, Kathy Berens

WISH LIST: Kleenex, Non-scented baby wipes, Lysol wipes, 2 bus pans, Paper plates sm. & lg, Creamy peanut butter, Jelly



March 2013 Update

Family selection:

Selection committee has conducted home visits for the three final families. A recommendation will go to the Habitat Board of Directors on Thursday, March 14th 2013.

Beach Flats Habitat Home:

Zoning was approved on March 6th. There is a 10-day appeal period. By March 18th working drawings are submitted. Upon approval, which may take 3-4 weeks, construction can begin.

Volunteering:

We cannot build this home without volunteers. No experience is necessary to volunteer on the construction site; training is a part of the experience. Your first day on-site will include a safety talk and site orientation. The volunteer day begins at 8:30 am and ends at 3:00 pm. Lunch is provided. Volunteer lunch providers are also needed. Typically lunch includes a sandwich, chips, fruit/veggies, & a sweet for 12 people.

If you are interested in volunteering on the construction site (Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday) or providing lunch to the volunteers, please let us know! Contact Ginger Haggerty at 469-4663 or volunteer@habitatssc.org.

Fundraising (Total-to-date: \$9,105!)

CASH: \$1,705 (Mark thermometers in solid red!)

Pledges: \$7,400 \$100 in cash, \$7,300 in-kind (Add red lines to show pledged amount.)

Celebrations and Fundraisers:

April 3rd, 4 pm – 9pm: Dine-in, take-out or delivery at **Pizza My Heart in Down-**

(Thriven Builds continued)

April 13th: “Groundbreaking” to present the family and invite everyone to the site.

May 11th: Human Race. Get a group together to run/walk in the Human Race to benefit Habitat for Humanity. 75% of the money generated by those who register to run/walk for Habitat will be donated to the Thrivent Builds Homes project.

May 26th: Save the date for the **Mt. Cross Annual Memorial Day BBQ.** All proceeds will benefit the Thrivent Builds Homes project. In addition to a BBQ lunch, each congregation will host a “construction or shelter” themed carnival booth. Beth Bowman will coordinate with each congregation and Mt Cross. Habitat will have a birdhouse building booth.

If you have any additional fundraising ideas please contact Beth Bowman at Habitat for Humanity Santa Cruz County: (831) 469-4663 or development@habitatssc.org.

Mary - Martha / Ruth -Rebecca Women’s Circle

APRIL 11 - in the Fireside Rm at 10:30. Speaker will be Ruth Cruddas on our El Salvador project. Hostesses are Rebecca Wickham and Doris Ray with devotions by Ruth Cruddas. Bring a sandwich. Coffee and dessert will be provided.

MAY 5 - SPECIAL EVENT - Cinco De Mayo celebration at the Davenport Resource Center

MAY 9 - in the Fireside Room at 10:30. Speaker will be Truett Bobo on Human Trafficking of Women. Hostesses are Connie Cunningham and Candace Anderson. ELECTION of new officers for the fall of 2013 and 2014. Please bring a sandwich and coffee and dessert will be provided.

JUNE 13 - NOON at Margaret Schraft’s home in Scotts Valley Potluck luncheon in her beautiful garden. Car pools will be formed from the church.

PLEASE JOIN US - ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!!

Dear St. Stephen's Family -

We are settling in our new home in Golden Valley (Reno). When I go outside in my backyard, I really feel God with me — the trees, animals, and air I breathe. **Our Ranch's name is "2 by 2" for Noah's Ark.** We have two of each animal.

I look forward to reading the "Sun" every month. Please keep me on the long-term prayer list. My injuries from the Reno Air Show crash has left me in permanent pain. It takes a lot of strength to get through the days.

With God's Love, Lorie Juhl



BOOK CLUB

Saturday, April 20 at 10:30 am
in the Fireside Room

Book: "Pillars of the Earth" by Ken Follet

Questions: Contact Candace 476-9753 or Kathy 430-6359



Steward of the Month - Donna Gafforio

In preparation for the Easter pancake breakfast, Donna cheerfully took the list of food items needed, a list of stores that have helped in the past, and spent a LOT of time going to these stores asking for donations. Of course, every dollar donated means more profit for our Sister Parish.

Look in next month's newsletter for a list of these establishments, and know that it would not have happened if Donna had not taken on this task. Thank You Donna!!





El Salvador Sister Parish News

As I (Chris Madsen) write this, we are still on our Lenten journey. But Holy Week is coming up. I cannot enter Holy Week without remembering the 1998 delegation to El Salvador; the first one that involved people from St. Stephens. We were there during Holy Week, and for Palm Sunday.

April is not the best time to visit El Salvador. It is the end of the dry season, and everything is brown and, well, dry. It is also VERY hot and humid. And the cicadas come every year during Holy Week. If you have not had the pleasure, cicadas are some of the ugliest bugs alive, and they are noisy. The noise rises and falls, but at its height you can barely hear the person next to you talking.

So on this Palm Sunday, we gathered with folks from the communities in Huerta Enana, and we processed, singing, down the dusty path to the church in Monsieñor Romero. The most vivid memory for us is that there was a double amputee on crutches who led the procession. We would not go any faster than he would go.

Back to the present. Things are quiet at the moment. We hope many of you were able to enjoy the pancake breakfast, and thank you for purchasing Easter Lilies as part of our fundraising activities.

The tentative dates for the next delegations(s) are November 22-29 and January 2-11, 2014. These are tentative, so please let Ruth Cruddas know if you are interested, and what dates work best for you. Depending on interest, there might be only one delegation.

Other events coming up:

June 1: 9th Annual Wine Tasting at Bargettos Winery

July 27: **Rummage Sale at St. Stephen's**

There will, of course, be more. We are humbled by and grateful for your support as we continue *"Building Relationships for Better Lives"*.

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

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**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
March 25, 2013**

ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 am Worship Service

9:30 am Adult Forum & Choir Rehearsal

10:30 am Worship Service

Children's Church

Coffee Hour

