



ST. STEPHEN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 am Worship Service
Coffee Hour
9:30 am Choir rehearsal
10:30 am Worship Service
& Sunday School

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

Non-Profit Org.
Postage Paid
Permit #79
Soquel, CA 95073

**POST OFFICE:
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**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
March 25, 2010**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 55
Years of Ministry
April 2010

Easter Sunday, April 4

8:15 am Worship
10:30 am Worship with
Children's Egg Hunt

Breakfast served from 9:30 to 12:00
by the Youth Group



Mark your calendars
Vacation Bible School
June 14—18

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.—Paul Powers, V.P.- Robin Gloe,
Sec.— Scott Medling, Treas.— Mark Linder,
Bill Schraft, Don Smawley, Marta Bechhoefer,
and Jeanette Dawson
Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts
Custodian: John Hopping
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
Children's Minister: Dusty Gipson
Youth Minister: Lydia Abler

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

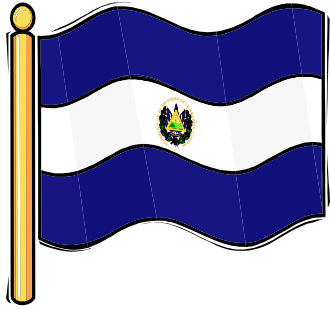
St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community
who worship God in Christ,
nurture people growing in faith,
serve others with acceptance and love,
and invite people to share the joy of the Spirit.

- HS Youth Dance June 26 (date tentative) at Vintage Faith Church hall in Santa Cruz; 8-11. Contact Lisa Johnson for more information.
- Woodstock Pizza - will donate a percentage of proceeds for all pizzas purchased on the given date with a ticket. Date TBD.
- Family Billiard Night at Surf City Billiards - will donate a percentage of the proceeds. This is still in the planning stages, but a weekday in July or Aug is the target. Please contact Jill Adachi for information or if you have suggestions and want to help.
- Pancake Breakfast - Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Salinas. Date TBD in June, July, or Aug.
- Pupusa Meal - Trinity Presbyterian in Santa Cruz.
- Pupusa Meal - Nov. 7 at St. Stephen's, 9:00-1:00. Contact Ruth Cruddas.
- Fair Trade coffee, ongoing - Kent will be selling Fair Trade coffee one Sunday/month at St. Stephen's.

So, as you can see a lot is happening. At the heart of it is, of course, your Prayer Child. Please keep praying for him/her and their families.

Peace to you and your loved ones

The board members of *Santa Cruz al Salvador*



El Salvador Sister Parish News

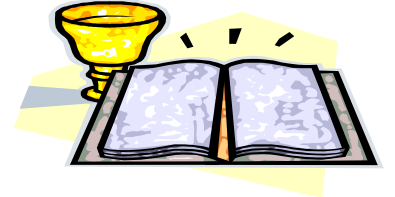
The Santa Cruz al Salvador Board wishes to thank all of you for your continued support and to let you know that the See's Candy fund raiser sale for Easter made a little over \$400.

Last month we shared a few stories of the people of El Salvador, specifically our Sister Parish - the communities of Guillermo Ungo. The newsletter piece ended with talking about fundraising - so that is where we will pick up the story. Fundraising for our Sister Parish is building up steam - there is at least one thing planned for every month. Here are the plans, although some of them are still tentative, with dates to be determined (TBD):

- Human Race May 8 - The youth will be walking, and sharing the proceeds with Santa Cruz al Salvador. Lydia has plans for youth from several churches to join in, and will possibly incorporate a sleepover.
- 7th Annual Wine Tasting Event May 22 - at Bargetto Winery in Soquel, 2:00-5:00, tickets will go on sale mid-April.
- Rummage sale - with the Boy Scouts (if they invite us). Date TBD, usually in June.

From Pastor Jim...

Sabbatical Journeys



This seemed like the right title for my article this month as a way to thank the congregation and share with you some of my ideas for this gift of a summer off.

I do mainly see this sabbatical as a gift of time to refresh and reflect on my time as your pastor and what that might mean for our future together. As you may have heard at our Annual Meeting, a sabbatical for the pastor is recommended by the ELCA every seven years as a benefit for years of service and as a way help the pastor stay healthy as a leader. (This really helped me after our first seven years) The pastor, in turn, agrees to stay with the congregation at least two more years to serve as the refreshed spiritual leader.

The word "sabbatical" has its roots in the word "Sabbath" which means "rest", as in God rested on the seventh day in the creation story of Genesis. I plan on resting by taking some long journeys "away from it all" and spending 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness. I have always wondered what it was like for Jesus to do that, and I have spent a lot time over the years, dreaming about some of the places I would like to explore in God's beautiful creation. It is important to me to do this "backpacking" style because I think things of the Spirit become clearer when there are fewer man-made things between me and God's natural creation. When I return in Sept., I'll be sharing some of my reflections from a daily journal I'll keep on the journey.

Retired pastor Herb Schmidt has agreed to serve in my absence, as he did seven years ago. Leslie will still be at church, except for her regular vacation time. Thanks again, church! It means a great deal to me and my family.

April Happenings

Church Council

Next meeting: Apr 19 @ 7-9 PM

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Tuesday, Apr 13 @ 10:30 AM

Story Book Tea

Apr 18 @ 2:30 St Stephen's

Faith-full Families

Apr 25 @ 11:45 AM Christ Luth.

Knitting

Meets every Thurs. at 6:45 PM

Scotts Valley Bible Study

Meets the 1st & 3rd Fridays,

Apr 2 & 16 ~ at 10 AM

Spring Lakes Park Party Room

Contact Marshall B. 439-8979

Women's Combined Circles

MM / RR meets Wed ~ Apr 1

@ 12:30 PM (this month only)

Youth Group &

Confirmation Class

Sundays, Apr 11, 18, 25

6-8 PM dinner included.

Benevolence Offering

Habitat For Humanity

Council Highlights

We met in retreat on Sat. March 20 at the home of Bill and Margaret Schraft to welcome new leaders Marta Bechhoefer and Tom Eagle, spend time deepening our faith relationships with each other and to nurture our shared vision for ministry together at our church. Our president Paul Powers led us in devotions based on the stories of Elijah and how God provided a way in difficult circumstances. We were also inspired by the story of some people in Uganda overcoming great odds to lift up the power of forgiveness and working to provide otherwise forgotten people, some hope. It reminded us of our work in El Salvador and with COPA. Then we shared our faith stories and why we agreed to become leaders in our church. This helped us remember the roots of our deep caring for our church and its continued health. After a delicious lunch in the warm sunshine, Pastor Jim led us in a session on the importance of "looking outward" as a church. We tried to look at the church from the point of view of the person who doesn't go to church. We tried to think of ways we can let our community know that we are NOT a church that embodies the many negative stereotypes that are out there about Christians and the church. We dedicated this year to seeking ways getting the word out about our church and all the wonderful things that happen here.

February Financials

Total exp. \$22, 129 / Total income \$18,752

Why Our Offerings Are Important

“Empowered by God—Responding by Grace”

God uses money in a variety of ways in the lives of God's children.

Are you aware of God's presence when it comes matters of your finances? Are you inviting the Spirit of God into the decisions you make with your money?

God will not force a way to use money in our lives, but when we make a practice of bringing our financial life before God, we are called and reminded that God created us to use money in specific ways that will benefit us the most.

We remember that Jesus said “Wherever your treasure is, there will your heart will be also”. This calls and reminds us that God wants us make sure that we are seeking God's will in every aspect of our lives. This will help us make sure that our heart is in the right place as we go about our lives.

Perhaps the biggest aspect of our lives that competes for most of our attention and therefore our heart, is our money. When we give a significant offering (the Bible guides us to 10% - or a tithe) we are making sure where our treasure truly is and showing ourselves that we truly belong to God.

After all, everything we have is a gift from God. It is keeping our relationship with God genuine and full of integrity when we respond to God's grace by making our offering a significant spiritual practice in our lives.

Remember Earth Day April 22

Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice

Christian concern for the environment is shaped by the Word of God spoken in creation, the Love of God hanging on a cross, the Breath of God daily renewing the face of the earth.

We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are deeply concerned about the environment, locally and globally, as members of this church and as members of society. Even as we join the political, economic, and scientific discussion, we know care for the earth to be a profoundly spiritual matter.

As Lutheran Christians, we confess that both our witness to God's goodness in creation and our acceptance of care-giving responsibility have often been weak and uncertain. This statement:

- offers a vision of God's intention for creation and for humanity as creation's caregivers;
- acknowledges humanity's separation from God and from the rest of creation as the central cause of the environmental crisis;
- recognizes the severity of the crisis; and
- expresses hope and heeds the call to justice and commitment.

This social statement was adopted by the churchwide assembly in 1993. It summons us, in particular, to a faithful return to the biblical vision.

To view statement see <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements/Environment.aspx>



April Birthdays

4-1	Joel Hurtgam	4-17	Brian Houser
4-2	Boe Mitchell	4-17	Eric Mitchell
4-5	John Tury	4-18	Dawn Leclair
4-8	Robbin Heppe	4-21	Jakob Houser
4-10	Jeffrey Tuttle	4-23	Kathy Parker
4-11	Barbara Bautz	4-24	Ellen Madsen
4-11	Lorie Coronado	4-25	Gary Pflueger
4-12	Ron Buswell	4-26	Maya Gipson
4-13	Mary Jane Hoch	4-29	Nelleke Meerman
4-14	Nathan Gonzalez		
4-15	Linda Lillehaugen		
4-15	Wesley Page		
4-16	Jason Awe		
4-16	Doris Ray		
4-16	Manny Travers		



Happy Anniversary

4-8	Stephen & Kimberly Cappelloni
4-10	Donald & Nancy Daves
4-26	Josh & Lynd Paige
4-29	Hilding & Dorothy Ronning



Prayer Concerns:

Short Term: Aunt Kathy, Henrietta, Faith Conrad, Ron, Christina & family, Marino, Irene, Marge, Paul Abby, Mark, Linda, Marsha, Linda, Claudia, Kevin, Laurel & Dan, Linda Smith, Bev Loback, Mike Hebert, and Sebastian.

Long Term: Clint Bell, Paul Hayes, Andrew Brown, Jeremy, George Trippel, Jean Weiland, Carla Spain, Jim Abler, Mildred Belle, Ruth Farrar, Linda Taylor, The family of John Cahill, Ron Buswell, Dorothy Ronning, Bonnie Hansen, Susan, Jon & Judy, Peggy R., Martin R., Ned R., Devin Barlow, Alison Barlow, Jeannie Mann, Dorothy Anderson, Shirley Fuqua, Greg & Allison Pate, Aravella, Michelle & C.J. Muchanic, Suzanne Podolski, Finn Becker & family, Nathaniel Morris, Wayne Jackson, Martha Beito, Douglas Brown, Chelsea Rocha & family, Brooks & Glenn Leaman, Ruby & Bob Heppe, Larry Heppe, Linda Davis, Earl Lewis, Jeffery Patterson, Mark Gregory, Chris Tury, Cheryl Bayne, Vince Catalano, Bill Crouser, Jeanette Howe, Cathy Lorenzo, Ron Waltrip, Ernie, Debbie Jackson, The Oldfield family, Jo Wishart, Bruce, Susan, the jobless, Sister Parish, Schools, Our Youth, Our Troops, Pres. Obama & family, the people of Haiti, Peace & Healing for all the earth.

Youth Corner

Happy Spring everyone!

Looking back, the group who went to the youth retreat at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary seemed to have a good experience, learning new things and strengthening friendships.

Now, looking ahead, our next big event coming up is the Easter Breakfast and here's the line-up:

Saturday, April 3

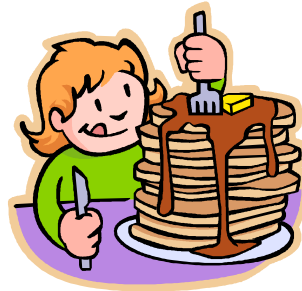
10:00am-2:00pm - Set-up/Pre-cook

Sunday, April 4

9:00 - Begin cooking

9:30am-12:00pm - Serving Easter Breakfast

12:00pm-1:00pm - Break-down and clean-up



Finally, and most importantly, I want to say a great big thank you to everyone who supported the Youth Group by buying an Easter Lilly. For anyone who hasn't yet turned in their payment, please do so at your earliest convenience (remember, the lilies are \$15.00 each).

Youth Group (7th—12) meets on the following Sundays:

APRIL: 11th, 18th and 25th

MAY: 2nd, 16th and 23rd

Thanks and Peace to you! Lydia Abler

Home: 831-421-0996 or Cell: 408-319-1413 or Twitter: MinistryThruMus

Email: <mailto:ministry_thru_music@yahoo.com> minis-

try_thru_music@yahoo.com

Facebook: ministry_thru_music

You're Invited to Attend An Economic and Investment Outlook Update

Looking to renew your investing confidence?

Find out how to put the markets into perspective. Join us and learn about:

Updates on economic & investment news

Strategies for coping with economic changes

Key economic factors that effect financial markets

You're invited to attend these *free* educational seminars hosted by the Monterey-San Benito County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and financial representative Terri Wooldridge (CA insurance ID # 0C75108)

When: 2 Free Sessions on April 29, 2010

Where: 1:00—2:00 p.m. Good Shepherd Lutheran Ch.
580 Larkin Street, SALINAS

Or

6:00—7:00 p.m. St. Timothy's Lutheran Ch.
52 Soledad Drive, MONTEREY

Register: Call 888-450-2300 or

terri.wooldridge@thrivent.com

By April 26, 2010

The guest speaker will be Darrell Shideler, Senior Financial Consultant, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Certified Financial Planner, ChFC, CLU (CA insurance ID # 0536317)

Please call 888-450-2300 or send an e-mail to terri.wooldridge@thrivent.com today to reserve a place for yourself and a guest.

Light refreshments will be served

Understanding & Ending—HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Unfavorable circumstances of people's lives that urge them to pursue a better life, are a major factor contributing to people being trafficked around the world. A few of these "push" factors that foster human trafficking are the following:

- poverty
- lack of education
- gender inequality
- war or armed conflict
- lack of employment
- ethnic discrimination
- political oppression
- domestic abuse

It is easy to understand how these circumstances can make a person vulnerable, especially when an opportunity arises to experience life that offers something better. When the victims realize that the promises made were simply a ruse to entrap them, it is too late, and they become subjects of many forms of abuse and violence at the hands of their abusers.

One easy way for interested people to become engaged in opposing human trafficking is to join the Blue Heart Campaign, <http://www.unodc.org/blueheart/>.

Another simple, but valuable opportunity to act right away is by signing the following petition. **California Against Slavery** is presently circulating a petition to get 600,000 signatures in order to place an initiative on the November ballot that will strengthen present laws against human trafficking and give California the toughest and best human trafficking law in the United States.

All interested parties can either go on-line to sign the petition, at www.californiaagainstsavery.org, or I, Truett Bobo, will have a petition available during the coffee time following the second service.

In order to sign the petition, you must be registered to vote in Santa Cruz County and provide a residence address (no P. O. Box addresses).

Your support for this is greatly appreciated



Sunday School News

We had an exciting month of March getting to know who Jesus really was. Through reading the Gospels and asking questions the kids have been creating a mini character study of Jesus. Their observations have been fascinating and thoughtful. I continue to be amazed at how wonderful our children are!



We hope that your family will join us for the following Sunday School activities in April:

- April 4 Easter stations during Sunday School + egg hunt after church
- April 11 What happened next???
- April 18 Celebrate Earth Day and environmental stewardship
- April 25 The Holy Trinity

On Easter Sunday we will be having an egg hunt for the kids after church. We will need candy and things for the egg hunt. If you would like to donate any items please put them in the box labeled "Egg Hunt" in the Narthex. We will also need a few volunteers in the Fireside Room to stuff eggs and prepare that morning. I will arrive at 10am to begin preparing.

I will not be here on April 25th and am hoping that someone from the congregation would be willing to lead our children during that morning. Please check your schedule and let me know if you would be willing to serve.

Thanks again for your support of this program for our children. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dusty Gipson
338-3787 home
dustygipson@yahoo.com

Dinner Groups

**Saturday May 1
and/or May 15**



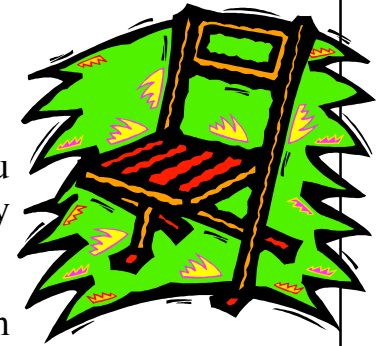
These are great times of fellowship for us to help build our sense of Christian community by sharing a meal and good conversation together! Groups are 6-10 people, potluck to gourmet feast...host decides! Sign up for which date(s) you are available and if you can host! Contact Jill Adachi 426-5950

STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

Margaret and Bill Schraft

What a blessing retired folks can be for the church!
Your witness among us as Church Council member, Women's Circle leader, Thrivent leader, worship assistant, fellowship hall painter and upholsterer, soup maker, and retreat host (whew!), has been so appreciated by our church. I know I'm probably missing a way or two that you offer yourselves in service to God, but we know that is not really the point. The point is that we thank God for our lives by giving our time and abilities back to God. You have done that well. Thanks for sharing your faith!

New Fellowship Chairs



The new folding chairs have arrived! If you would like to contribute toward their purchase, they cost \$30 a piece.

Please make checks payable to St. Stephen's with "chairs" on the memo line.

There are a limited number of old chairs available for those who would like them. Please contact the office to pick up.

Special Valentine Delivery!

(Note from Bonnie Bell)

I want to tell you that Lewis (Lou), in Clint's room, at Santa Cruz Healthcare where he is recovering from a broken vertebrae, was so touched by the Valentine that our Sunday School children delivered. I heard him talking to his wife on the phone...

"Guess what? A man and a little boy (no older than 5 came to our room and the little boy said, "This is for you." and he handed me this Valentine that he said he had made himself. Inside it says, 'Have A Happy Day.' and he didn't know me at all! That was really kind."

And later he told the same story to anyone who called or came in his room. Later Lou asked me if I knew who those people were and where they were from? I was proud to be able to say that I did and told him it was the Pastor from St. Stephen's Lutheran and the Sunday School children. He was so appreciative. Clint was, too! Thanks for your witness.