



ST. STEPHEN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

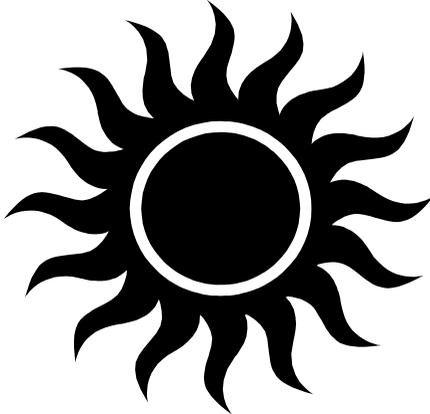
8:15 am Worship Service
Coffee Hour
9:30 am Choir rehearsal
10:30 am Worship Service
& Sunday School

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

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

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**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
January 21, 2009**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 55
Years of Ministry-
February 2010

**Feb. 17—Ash Wednesday Services
Feb. 24—March 24 Wed. Lenten Services**

Every Wednesday during Lent
We have TWO opportunities to gather:

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



These worship 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 at Easter. Please sign up on Sunday to help host a soup lunch or supper. We need at least two families to sign up for each soup supper. These services are also the time we collect special offerings to help subsidize our Summer Day Camp and Vacation Bible School for the children.

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.— Bill Schraft, Treas.— Mark Linder,
Don Smawley, Dan Grow, Scott Medling,
Jeanette Dawson, and Jan Wagner
Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts
Custodian: John Hopping
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
Children's Minister: Dusty Gipson
Youth Director: 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

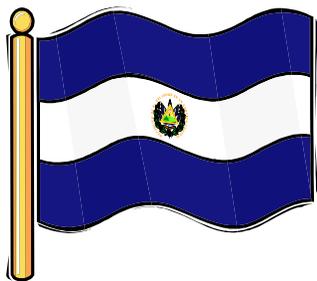
St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community
who worship God in Christ,
nurture people growing in faith,
serve others with acceptance and love,
and invite people to share the joy of the Spirit.

(Sister Parish continued)

Mitch Ronning: Mitch and Linda have "adopted" a family; an effervescent single mother of three children who took in her niece's three children a couple of years ago when their mother died. This came about on the delegation two years ago when Mitch and her young son Jose Luis "bonded" on first sight. Mitch states that one of the highlights for him was when he and Joe took some hot wheels over to the family and spent some quiet time "just hanging out". The clinic days were also a fulfillment of a desire he had prior to his first trip two years ago. On that trip he worked with a few of the health promoters for a few hours. On this trip, while working with one of the delegates who spoke Spanish, he was able to treat and teach exercises to dozens of people over a two-day period.

Joe Ronning: Mitch reports that a highlight for Joe was when he realized that the family considered Joe the "godparent" of Bryan (about 9 years old, Bryan is one of the niece's sons). Joe will now be sponsoring Bryan, while Kylie (Mitch reports) will be sponsoring Camilla, who is entering kindergarten this year.

Jill Adachi: "There were so many highlights of this trip. For me, every time I visit I get to know my prayer child, Raoul, a little bit better. This time we had a wonderful afternoon and lunch with Raoul and his family. In the short time that I have been visiting Ungo, it is amazing to see how the school and the students have thrived. Much of this is due to the dedication and contributions of members of the participating congregations that make up *Santa Cruz al Salvador*. Finally, (I could go on for a long time), it never ceases to amaze me that our delegations, no matter how diverse and unknown we are to each other, figure out how to live with, work with, and enjoy each other's company in a very short time. In every respect, this was an awesome trip."



El Salvador Sister Parish News

Last month, four people from St. Stephen's related the highlights (no one could say just one) of the November 2009 trip (as reported to Chris Madsen). This month Chris continues her "report".

Lisa Johnson: "The whole trip was a highlight... but watching the high school age youth perform at the peace pole ceremony was very special. To see these young people growing up, to think that so many of these kids and young adults I first met 6 years ago! Some of the kids were just "little terrors" when I first meet them, and now, just the nicest, well behaved, happy, coolest kids ever. It has been such a joy to have been even a small part of their lives, and to know that our delegations represent some of the only (USA) Americans that these young people have known. What an honor." She also stated that the trip to Anibal's (the prayer child of Lisa's dad, Glenn Johnson) house and the visit with his family was great.. Another very special & moving moment for Lisa -and all of us who know Glenn - was when she presented Glenn's vestments to Martir Vigil, who has been leading church services in the church in M. Romero for several years while going to school, and was just ordained in August of 2009.

Colin Boyle (Lisa's son): "I am always disappointed when the trip comes to an end, for every second I spend with the people of El Salvador seems to be an eternity, and it breaks my heart when I must say good-bye. But the connections that bond between the people and the delegation always strengthen every year and I am happy to say that this trip was very successful. I was honored to play along with the other youth of the community at our annual peace pole ceremony and interacting with the youth in general from day to day has always been special."

From Pastor Jim...



February Happenings

Church Council

Next meeting: Feb15 @ 7-9 PM

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Tuesday, Feb 9 @ 10:30 AM

Story Book Tea

February 7 @ 2:30 Fireside Room

Faith-full Families

February 21 @ 11:45 AM

@ Christ Lutheran

Knitting

Meets every Thursday at 6:45 PM

Scotts Valley Bible Study

Meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays,

Feb 5 & 19 ~ at 10 AM

Spring Lakes Park Party Room

Contact Marshall Bautz 439-8979

Women's Combined Circles

MM / RR meet 1st Thurs. of each

month ~ February 4 at Noon

Youth Group &

Confirmation Class

Sundays, Feb. 21 & 28 6-8 PM

Benevolence Offering

St. Stephen's Scholarship Fund

Council Highlights

\$\$ from Mark?

Why Our Offerings Are Important:

“Empowered by God — Responding by Grace”

Applying Bible Principles

One of the most striking accusations the Lord Jesus made when He was on earth was to label someone a hypocrite. Time and time again, He criticized the Pharisees and others for their hypocrisy. They said one thing but did something entirely different. They fit the description used by Zig Ziglar who said, “A hypocrite is one who is not himself on Sunday.”

That's perhaps what the Apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote to Timothy: “And whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” In other words, to give credence to Christianity, to give lip service to following Christ and to trusting in Him as Savior and Lord, and then to fail to provide for our own family, is hypocrisy. To do so, in reality, is to deny our faith and to be considered as someone who has no faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and no interest in spiritual matters.

It seems like such a small thing — relatively speaking (pun intended) — that Paul is exhorting Timothy to do. Provide for your own household, your own relatives. Take care of those under your care. Minister to those closest to you as a demonstration of your Christian faith.

Yes, we are to give to His ministry here at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Yes, we are to be involved in ministering to others “on our own” and as part of the outreach of this church. But we are also to provide for our own families. We are also to minister to them and to care for them, for by doing so, we demonstrate the practical reality of our Christian faith. We thereby avoid the label of hypocrite since what we say is what we do.

How's the balance in your life? Are you providing for the needs of this ministry and those of your household? As a result, do others (especially your family) see Jesus in you?

Life Among the Lutherans

By Garrison Keillor

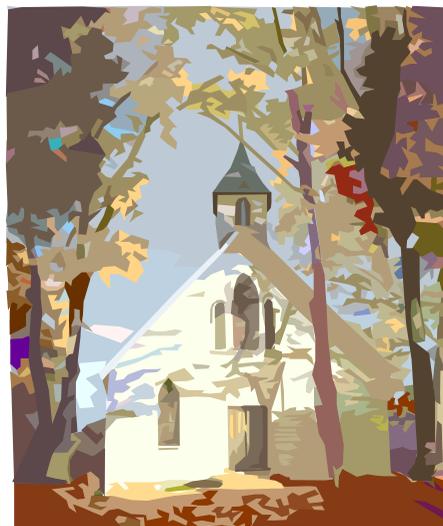
LSS Fundraiser for 125 year Celebration

\$25 Purchase Price includes book,
sales tax and \$11.96 tax deductible contribution to LSS

Lutheran Social Services of Northern California (LSS) Fundraiser, "An Evening with Garrison Keillor" previously scheduled for September 22nd, 2009 at the Sacramento Auditorium was cancelled after Keillor suffered a minor stroke and was hospitalized for a week in Minneapolis.

If you would like to help support LSS programs, for a limited time you can purchase Keillor's latest book. Your generous donation can make a difference to the individuals we serve. For more information about LSS, you can look us up on the web at www.lssnorcal.org <<http://www.lssnorcal.org/>> .

Orders are due by February 17th.
Checks should be made out to Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca Circle.



February Birthdays

- | | | | |
|------|-------------------|------|------------------|
| 2-1 | Frank Millang | 2-13 | Andrew Boe |
| 2-1 | Lu Sluiter | 2-13 | Ann Medling |
| 2-2 | Ed Drews | 2-15 | Marlene Olson |
| 2-2 | Jean Petersen | 2-17 | Liana Mabry |
| 2-4 | Karen Lippe | 2-18 | Kathy Hopping |
| 2-4 | Kyle Travers | 2-18 | Jay Johnston |
| 2-6 | Susan vonSchmacht | 2-19 | Connie Creel |
| 2-7 | Marla Meek | 2-20 | Fern Bentz |
| 2-9 | Edna Lindquist | 2-21 | Bob Heppe |
| 2-10 | Alfred Mitchell | 2-21 | Caitlin Hopping |
| 2-10 | Paul Powers | 2-24 | Miller Mouw |
| 2-11 | Erick Sorensen | 2-24 | Lisa Paulson |
| 2-12 | Beverly Giladett | 2-25 | Ruth Pflueger |
| 2-12 | Randy Johnson | 2-29 | Charles Eldridge |



Happy Anniversary

- 5 Don & Donna Sorensen
- 6 Pastor Jim & Leslie Lapp
- 13 Truett & Carol Bobo
- 18 Andrew Boe & Karen Lippe
- 24 Rick & Susan Oldfield



Prayer Concerns:

Short Term: Aunt Kathy, Pat, Bruce, Madeline Massa, Ron, Susan, Louise Daniel, Lori Margo, Henrietta Howard, Bonnie, Bev Loback, Rich Baker, Judy & Family, Les, Wayne, Kim Brouse, Ron Fisher & family, Jan, Daniel, Carmen Harper, Carol, Steve, Sharon, Desi, Diane & Randy, Bob, Darrel Mayfield, Greg, Allan, Jeanne, Joselyn, Peggy & Martin Rice, Harry Barlow, Gayle Cutter, Faith, Tara, Carol, Steve, Daniel, Jamie, Claudia, Rick, Bruce, Bob, Elsie, and Crystal..

Long Term: 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, 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 Group & Confirmation

The following Sundays:

JANUARY: 31st

FEBRUARY: 21st and 28th

MARCH: 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

APRIL: 11th, 18th and 25th

MAY: 2nd, 16th and 23rd

6:00pm: All Group dinner (parents see sign up sheet).

6:30pm: All Group game/activity.

7:00-8:00pm: Break into Confirmation (7th & 8th grade) and Youth (9th-12th grade) groups for small group time.

We all understand that our youth have very busy schedules between school and other activities. What we ask is that they come as often as they are able to, so that they can help build and mold our Youth Group. During our meeting I mentioned that I am new to working officially as a youth minister, so I am planning to spend part of our first meeting on the 31st talking with the kids to find out what they want to get out of this group, and what I can provide for them by way of support and encouragement.

Teen years can be a very difficult stage of life, and my vision is to provide the youth of our church with a safe and welcoming community, and a peer group that understands them on a much deeper level.

Thank you! Lydia Abler

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

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

Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief is working with partners on the ground to deliver aid. Every dollar donated is critical to this life-saving effort.

There are several ways you can help:

- **Pray:** for all those affected and those who are there to help.

Give Right Now - Now you can also text gifts to LWR from your cell phone. It's quick and easy. **Just text LWR to 40579 to make a \$10 donation.** Remember to **reply YES** to the confirmation. Messaging and data rates may apply.

Once immediate needs are met, further gifts will be used to help LWR respond where the need is greatest, in Haiti or elsewhere around the globe. Please also consider making an unrestricted donation which will enable LWR to respond quickly to the next emergency.

- **Act:** LWR plans to send material aid, such as quilts and health kits, to Haiti. Help restore hope and health to people in Haiti and all around the world by making quilts or health kits – visit lwr.org/beinvolved to learn more.

- **Connect:** As we learn more about the needs of the people of Haiti, LWR will explore more ways to help. Keep up with our on-going efforts by visiting lwr.org/Haiti.

Bishop's Response to the People of Haiti

The news reports from Haiti in the last few days have been reminiscent of the reports we received just over five years ago when the tsunamis hit Malaysia - the devastation is almost too great to comprehend. Deaths in the tens of thousands, millions without food and water, many thousands wounded, international relief efforts hampered by damaged airports and dock facilities.

Then, yesterday morning, the disaster became much more than mind-numbing statistics. I received an e-mail informing me that the son of Bishop Emeritus April Ullring Larson and Judd Larson, Ben, a senior at Wartburg Seminary, had been killed in Haiti when the house he was staying in collapsed during the earthquake. Ben's wife, Renee, and cousin, Jonathan, staying in the same house, escaped unharmed. You may remember that Bp. Larson was our Bible Study leader at last year's synod assembly; she also has many friends and colleagues in our synod. Please keep the Larson family in your prayers as they make their way to Haiti, as well as all of those who are suffering great loss and devastation as a result of the earthquake.

For those interested in helping, please respond through Lutheran Disaster Relief (www.elca.org/disaster), a highly regarded agency throughout the world. Now is the time that help is needed, and can literally save lives.

God's Peace, Bp. Mark (Sierra Pacific)

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(Excerpt from the Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson letter)

The ELCA is already responding through the Lutheran World Federation's Haiti Program. Given the devastation caused by this earthquake, the ELCA has committed an initial \$250,000 from ELCA International Disaster Response for Haiti and has authorized an additional \$500,000 as congregations respond both to the immediate needs and long-term rebuilding efforts...

Sunday School News



In January the kids came up with some "rules" for Sunday school. I hope that this will help us have a more productive time together. We also, among other things, started creating projects for the Summer art show for our congregation. I can't wait for May when you will all be able to see what the kids have been working on.

We have some really fun things planned for Sunday School students in February. Please let me know if you would like to help with any of these activities:

February 7th - Making Valentine cards for distribution at a local convalescent home

February 14th - Make more Valentine cards

February 21st - What is your choice, Jesus? (Matthew 4:1-11)

February 28th - A Night Visitor (John 3:1-17)

Mark your calendars for Sunday February 14th. After church the Sunday School students are invited to deliver the Valentine cards we have made to the residents of the Driftwood Healthcare center. We hope to meet at Driftwood at 1:00pm but this time is subject to change. I will keep everyone posted.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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

