

ST. STEPHEN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

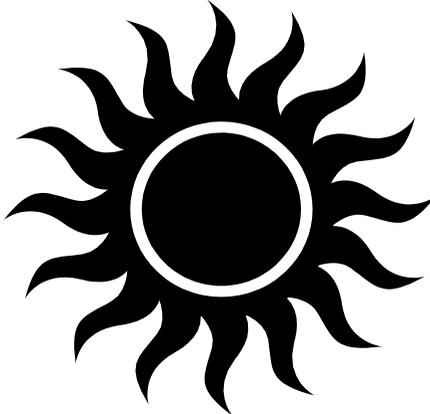
St Stephen's Lutheran Church
2500 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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March 24, 2011**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

*Celebrating 57
Years of Ministry
April 2011*

Holy Week & Easter Worship

Palm Sunday	April 17	8:15 & 10:30 am Worship <u>"Cry of the Whole Congregation"</u>
Maundy Thursday	April 23	11:30 am & 7:30 pm Worship <u>"The Last Supper"</u>
Good Friday	April 22	7:30 pm Worship <u>"The Seven Last Words"</u>
Easter Sunday	April 24	8:15 am Worship 10:30 am Worship with Children's Egg Hunt

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

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

2500 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, California 95062

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www.ststephenslutheran.org

email—office@ststephenslutheran.org

Rev. James P. Lapp, Pastor

Ministers: The Entire Congregation
Church Council: Pres. —Robert Bartee, V. P. —Paul Powers,
Treasurer—Tom Eagle, Secretary—Scott Medling,
Property—Don Smawley, Kim Cappelloni, Barbara
Rice, 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.

(Sister Parish continued)

meeting with the Bishop on several of our visits to El Salvador. He has asked us through the years to do three things:

- #1. Pray for us, and support us politically**
- #2. Keep coming back and bring your Bishop**
- #3. Come work in the communities**

On the November delegation during dinner at one of our prayer children's homes, Sandra the mother told us the story of how she ended up in a refugee camp. The camp was for children whose parents were killed or missing, the camp was run by Bishop Gomez.

Bishop Gomez will be one of the honored guests at this year's Synod Assembly this May, I encourage you all to attend and hear his story. While visiting Suchitoto (the closest big town) a few years ago we met a man named Frank Cummings. He is a retired professor who lives in Suchitoto and has been working to develop scholarships and workshops for high school students from the campo so that they can be successful in technical schools or university. He is also on the board of directors of our dear friend Sister Peggy's Centro Arte para la Paz. In January we officially established a relationship with the Centro working directly with Frank and sister Peggy to provide guidance and counseling for our university scholarship students so that they may be more prepared. During last November's delegation sister Peggy spoke about God being the God of gaps, that we are ALL called upon to help fill those widening gaps, the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, the healthy and the sick. By building and deepening our relationships with others, with our prayer children and their families, innkeepers, retired school teachers, crazy nuns and our own community here at home, we are living Gods intention.

Thank you,
Lisa Johnson



El Salvador Sister Parish News

I keep thinking about one of the readings from that first Sunday in Lent. How we human beings are formed with the utmost care, that to be in relationship with the creator, creation and especially, with one another is God's purpose for us all. Our visits to that very small country of El Salvador and our prayer children and their families help to remind us of this purpose. Through our many visits we have developed relationships not only with the families of our prayer children, but with many of the people we have met while planning the logistics of our visits. Damian is one of those people. He and his wife have been our innkeepers for the past several years while we are in San Salvador. It is only in the last few years that we have discovered his true identity! This quiet, unassuming man had been a leader in the rebel forces during the civil war. Then we found out that he lived in the Guazapa mountains of our sister community and that many, if not all of the former combatants in the ciudadela, know Damian. Damian is still our innkeeper and an elected member of the new assembly. I encourage everyone to come hear his story:

**Lecture by Damian Alegria
Thursday, April 7, 6:30—8:00 pm
Trinity Presbyterian Church.**

Another important relationship is that with the Bishop of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church (he is also President, Lutheran Churches in Central America and Panama) Bishop Gomez's commitment to defending human rights in El Salvador has made him a repeat nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize. During the Salvadoran Civil War, Bishop Gomez received numerous death threats and was detained and tortured. According to Bishop Gomez, the persecution of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church stirred him to greater faith in the power of the gospel of peace, and to a deeper public engagement of the church in favor of the poor. He continues to lead the church as it speaks for the voiceless people of society (Perkins School of Theology, SMU 03/15/11). We have had the

From Pastor Jim

Death Serves Life

*(from "Measuring the Days"
by Walter Wangerin Jr.)*



Spring: The earth when you walk on it, is soft and takes your footprint willingly. It holds the rain and waits for seed. The rivers are rising and the streams know how to laugh. A mule deer is listening, her head held high, her milk vein swollen, her body heavy with young.

Spring: The whole creation is NOT groaning. Right now, creation does not travail in pain. For a little while creation is eager with life and bursting with hope.

Spring is EASTER! Resurrection is the reality all around us in the creation of God. And Jesus Christ, also, rose living from this ground.

And although creation for the rest of the year may suffer dust and heat, thorns and thistles - the curse on the ground for our sake and our sinfulness; although summer and fall may reinforce its subjection to futility, and winter kill the abundance it labored to produce, at Easter creation enjoys a respite.

Now it is not in bondage to decay. Instead decay becomes a compost nourishment. Life is not subject to death, but death serves life. The green shoot feeds on autumn's leaves. Humus is the richest scent on a springtime air.

May we all experience such resurrection this Easter!

April Happenings

Adult Forum

Sundays 9:30 AM Fireside

Text Study & Sermon Talk

Join Pr Jim Tuesdays @ 11:00

Youth Group & Confirmation

Sundays from 6:30-8 pm

StoryBook Tea

Sunday, Apr 10 in Aptos @ 2:30
& 27th in Fireside room

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Tuesday, Apr 12 @ 10:30 am

Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca

Thursday, Apr 14, 10:30 am

FaithFull Families

Sunday, Apr 17, noon - Aptos

Church Council

Monday, Apr 18, 7-9 pm

Choir & Band Rehearsals

Sundays at 9:30 am

Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 pm

Eucharistic Ministers

Monday, April 4
meet 9:30 to carpool

Benevolence Offering

Habitat For Humanity

Council Highlights

1. These past few weeks have been filled with meetings and strategy to try and secure funding for a much-needed Youth Center in our community of Live Oak. An amazing coalition came together thanks initially to the vision and strategy of the Community Safety Team of COPA. Three years ago COPA formed its Shared Prosperity Agenda after months of House Meetings and Individual Meetings and conversations about what the pressures and needs are in our community. It became clear that one of the strongest ideas was for a Youth Center to be built in Live Oak.

This idea was seen as an essential piece in making the community safer because it addresses the prevention aspect. By giving youth and children affordable alternative activities and role models, they will make better decisions and have more positive relationships that hold them accountable to those better decisions.

We began by meeting with the Director of the Boys and Girls Club to form a relationship that would lead to future collaboration with the Live Oak School District who would generously provide the land for the Youth Center on the Shoreline Middle School campus. They put together a top-notch proposal that would cost \$13 million and serve over 200 kids a day. Then the Governor proposed raiding our local redevelopment funds to help balance the State budget. Initially the Supervisors only allocated \$2 million for a Youth Center. But after meeting with them individually and speaking at their public meetings, we were able to get a commitment of \$5 million for the Youth Center!

This will go a long way to fulfilling our mission as a congregation that “serves others with acceptance and love” as we provide hope for a new generation in our church’s neighborhood.

(“Faithful Stewards” continued)

A gentleman known as “Chaplain McCabe” was seeking to raise a million dollars for missions. In his quest, he often struggled with discouragement and disappointment as he encountered tight-fisted Christians who refused to give to God. One day, while going through the mail, he came across a tattered note from a young boy. Written in a boyish scrawl and liberally punctuated with blots, the letter read: “I’m sure you’re going to get a million dollars for missions. And I’m going to help you get it, too. So here’s a nickel towards it. It’s all I’ve got right now, but if you need any more, just call on me.”

Chaplain McCabe told that wonderful story around the world, and it was greatly used by God to challenge people everywhere to give literally millions of dollars to missions. As far as we know, no one forced that young boy to give all he had or even to write a letter. No one pressured him to part with his nickel. He did so willingly because somewhere in the recesses of his heart, he had decided to do so.

As you consider the St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church ministry and all that takes place in and through our church for God’s glory, will you do the same? Will you give “not reluctantly or under compulsion,” but willingly from the heart, with the full realization that “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7)?



WHY OUR OFFERINGS ARE IMPORTANT

“Faithful Stewards of God’s Infinite Grace”

“Coercion” is action which makes us do something, usually by force or threat or punishment. For example, the threat of a ticket or the fine which results causes us to regularly check our speed when driving. We are “coerced” into obeying the law, whether we want to or not.

Some people give to God because of coercion. They envision God as a glorified “bully” who is seeking to extract from them some of their hard-earned money. They reason, however incorrectly, that if they fail to give to God, then somehow, divine punishment will result.

That concept is totally foreign to the Scriptures. In fact, as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, God wants us to give not because we have to, out of fear, or because we are required to do so. Rather, God’s desire is for us to give because we want to, because we have decided in our hearts to give in a manner which makes our giving something to be richly enjoyed.

Search the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation, and you will discover God’s universal principle concerning giving: Give willingly from the heart. Not because someone is “coercing” you to give. Not because in a moment of emotional duress you made a commitment to give. Not because you desire to avoid punishment or discipline. Give because you want to, because you’ve decided in your heart to give.

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April Birthdays

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



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

Prayer Concerns: **Short Term:** Pete & Lisa Riem, John Hopping & family, Gail & Nancy, Renie Leaman, Beverly Gilladett, Kathybell, Greg Weber, Margaret & Bill Schraft, Mike Brag, Harold Vaughn, Eddie Fococci, Alan Giersberg, Mark Griffon, Jill Lapp, Richard Wedemeyer, Madaline Massa, Pastor Martir, Steve Hintze, Bruce, Lorena & Saul, Jacob, Doreen & family, Elena, Steve, Daniel, Dylan Foster, Angie, Louie, Barbara, Gina, Kevin, Marino, Marge, Mark, Linda, Marsha, Joe, Joanne, Logan, Sara, Jacqueline Hernandez, family & friends of Rosemary Irvine, Volpi Family & Riley **Long Term:** Kaitlin Cahill, Opa & Nana Meerman, Dan Meck Family, Dorothy & Gary, Robe Family, Kaitlyn McKinney, Clint & Bonnie, Maya & Emma, Donald Salter, Chrissy DeStefano, Nicco Hall DeStefano, Betty, Faith Conrad, Paul Hayes family, JoAnn, Eric Hedsrom, Jim Boone, George Trippel, Jean Weiland, Carla Spain, Mildred Belle, Linda Taylor, Ron Buswell, Dorothy Ronning, Bonnie Hansen, Jon & Judy, Peggy, Ned R., Devin Barlow, Alison Barlow, Dorothy Anderson, Shirley Fuqua, Greg & Allison Pate, Aravella, Michelle & CJ Muchanic, Suzanne Podolski, Wayne Jackson, Martha Beito, Chelsea Rocha Famly, Brooks & Glenn Leaman, Bob Heppe, Jeffery Patterson, Mark Gregory, Chiris Tury, Cheryl Bayne, Vince Catalano, Jeanette Howe, Ron Waltrip, Jo Wishart, Cathy Yost, the jobless, Sister Parish, the youth, our troops, Pres. Obama & family, Peace & Healing for the earth.

Youth Corner

Thank you everyone for your understanding and support during this break in our Youth Group get-togethers. Confirmation Class continues Sunday evenings at 6:30-8:00pm. Regular Youth Group meetings will resume as soon as I am able. I will keep you posted.



Easter Lilly Sales Now through April 15,

Make checks payable to St. Stephen's Youth for \$15.

Hosting Easter Breakfast

Decorate & Prep on Saturday,

Serve Sunday (shifts TBD). Please let me know whether you will be able to help out on Saturday April 23rd. On Easter Sunday, we will begin preparing food at 8:00am, and will wrap up during the second service.



The Western States Youth Gathering "Balance" July 1-5

At Cal. Lutheran in Thousand Oaks. \$400 includes program, housing and food during the Gathering. A registration deposit of \$100.00 per registrant is required (Non refundable after April 15, 2011). Musicians include Rachel Kurtz and Agape, and speakers include Paul Benz, Rachel Manzo, Paula Sturgeon, Manny Retamozo and Aaron Tidwell. This will be an excellent event for us to attend, and that it will help us to strengthen our relationships with God and with each other, so please check your calendars and let me know soon if your youth will be able to attend this event. Turn in the reg. fee (\$85.00 per youth) and Medical Release Form ASAP. See www.wsyg.org. We will register as a group.

Lydia Abler ~*~ Youth Director

h: 831.421.0996

c: 408.319.1413

Message from our Bishop...

I couldn't believe my eyes. We watched in horror as the tsunami struck Japan within minutes of the massive quake.

Images from a few years ago of a similar event in Sumatra came to mind, it was hard to imagine anything but that a tremendous loss of life would follow. Fears have become a reality, and now there is the threat of a nuclear disaster as well. Thousands are dead, tens of thousands are missing, and millions are without shelter, food, water and power.

Pr. Brian Deckinger of Trinity Lutheran in Pleasanton, our synod's disaster response coordinator, was on the phone, checking in with pastors and congregational leaders in coastal towns of our synod to determine what, if any, resources might be needed for assistance. According to some reports, it's likely we will be facing a disaster of our own at some point in the not-too-distant future. Will we be ready?

In the event that a disaster would strike in our synod, Pr. Brian and others will be available to contact those affected by fires, floods, earthquakes and even tsunamis. Networks of short-wave radio operators, mobile phones, text messaging and other means will be utilized to keep lines of communication open, and to try to bring assistance where needed. Our being as prepared as possible to deal with such a disaster is vital.

The ELCA Disaster Response, which over the last year has been a part of \$12.5 million in relief to Haiti, is now receiving donations to help alleviate the suffering of those who have lost everything in Japan - loved ones, homes, their lives as they knew them. You have already been helping through your previous gifts to the ELCA - we are already on the scene! You can offer additional help by logging on to www.elca.org. **100%** of donations made for the "Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami" will be used to respond to this disaster - NO administrative expenses will be taken from these donations.

God's Peace,

Bp. Mark Holmerud

Camp and College Scholarships Available!

Every year St. Stephen's Lutheran Church awards camp and college scholarships to members of our congregation and other well deserving individuals associated with the church. Camp scholarships are for the 50% of the amount of registration for the camp. College scholarships are awarded to those enrolled in junior colleges, 4 year colleges, and seminaries. The maximum support for junior colleges is \$500 per year; for 4 year colleges the maximum support is \$1,000 per year; and for seminaries the maximum support is \$2,500.

The deadline for application is May 31st. Applications will be considered by the Finance Committee of the church in June. Camp scholarships are awarded upon receipt of the registration bill after the Finance Committee meeting in June. The first half of the college scholarships is awarded in late August and the second half in late December.



Please see Tom Eagle, Treasurer, or go to the church office to receive an application form.

Mt. Cross Camp registration is NOW OPEN!!!

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Informing it's members at St. Stephen's that the Thrivent Choice Voting Events winner has been chosen. The individual vote in the mail for your charity of choice to receive funds winner is St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, receiving \$279,941.00. This is on the national and non-Lutheran level. Don't fret however, as everyone's organization that was listed will get some funding depending on the level of voting interest. The total amount given out by Thrivent is one million dollars and everyone gets a piece of the pie. Thank you to everyone who took the time to send in your votes!

- Gwyn Larson

Sunday School News



There is so much going on this month!

April 3rd- Thrivent financial stewardship workshop for kids (15 minute parent meeting after service)

April 10th - Last Supper craft

April 17th - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, students will be enjoying a dramatic Palm Sunday presentation during the 10:30 service.

April 24th - Easter Celebration!!! Kids will enjoy a guest storyteller from the Child and Family Institute's Storybook Tea and Easter crafts during Sunday School. An egg hunt will follow the 10:30 service.

In order to have a successful Easter celebration for the children of our congregation and the many visitors we hope will join us we will need some help. Please take a look at the list below and see if there is something you might be interested in helping with.

Needed for Easter Celebration:

- Donations— candy, eggs and small toys for egg hunt
- * Craft helpers * Egg hiders * Egg hunt bag distributors *
- *Welcome bag distributors * Post hunt finders *

With so many fun things going on, April will be a great time to invite friends and family to join us in Sunday School!!! Don't forget to also mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

May 22nd Annual Church Potluck, Student Art Show and Open Mic after the 10:30 service. This marks the end of our official Sunday School year.

June 21-25 Vacation Bible School at St. Stephen's

Please let me know if you can help with any of our events.

Dusty Gipson
338-3787 home (dustygipson@yahoo.com)

Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca Circle

Thursday, April 14 @ 10:30 am Fireside Room

Please join us for an interesting presentation by Ms. Pam Rhodes, Manager, St. John's The Helpful Shop. Pam will speak about the 58 years that The Helpful Shop has been in Capitola.

We will continue our service work on the Health and School Kits Project sponsored by the Women of the ELCA. Becky Cramer is coordinating this project for St. Stephen's.

Bring your own sandwich. Coffee and dessert provided.

Hostesses: DeLores Price and Lisa Pawalkat.

All women are welcome!

STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

All the Soup-Makers!

What a witness of giving and caring for God's creation we have enjoyed on these Wednesdays in Lent! So many have cooked and prepared with love so everyone who came to worship could put aside the cares of meal preparation and just show up to be fed and nourished simply and spiritually. The time we are afforded to sit together and share our days and lives is so important to the strengthening of our community as God's people here at our church. Thank you for spending a little extra time and money so that all were provided for and could focus on the Spirit.



Sunday Adult Forum continues

"Living the Questions"

Join Pastor Jim at 9:30 each Sunday as we take some time to deepen our walk of faith by asking some of the harder questions of life. We will use a critically acclaimed DVD series with some of the leading Biblical scholars and thinkers to stimulate our

Caring for Creation

Every Day can be Earth Day! You already do the basics . . . Reduce, Reuse & Recycle right? How about:

- Ride your bike or walk. It's good for you and the earth!
- Plant a tree or grow a garden. They act as natural filters.
- Turn off the lights & Unplug electronics, they still use energy even when turned off!
- Shop & Eat local. Cuts down on energy & boosts local economy.
- Try composting. In landfills, everything is compacted so items don't biodegrade.
- Check out www.freecycle.org to get rid of or gain items.



Financials

<u>Income</u>	<u>Feb-2011</u>	<u>Feb-2010</u>	<u>Jan-Feb 2011</u>	<u>Jan-Feb Budget</u>
Contrib.	\$17,899	\$18,692	\$35,315	\$34,532
Misc.	\$408	\$30	\$1,652	\$920
Total	\$18,307	\$18,722	\$36,967	\$35,452
<u>Expenses</u>				
Total	\$20,667	\$23,800	\$38,547	\$36,033
<u>Net Income</u>	-\$2,360	-\$5,078	-\$1,580	-\$581