

ST. STEPHEN'S SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 am Worship Service
& Children's Church
Coffee Hour Fellowship

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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PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**
**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
June 27, 2011**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 57
Years of Ministry
July / Aug 2011



ONE SERVICE @ 9:30 am
Followed by Coffee Fellowship
Lets enjoy getting reacquainted with everyone!
Please sign up to assist with worship and to be coffee hosts

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. —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)

Parish. Many comments were made that this visit renewed and invigorated some relationships that were getting dormant, and delegations from those churches are already in the planning stages.

Speaking of **Delegations**, we have a News Flash!! There will once again be two delegations in 2010/2011. The first one, November 18 – 26, you have heard about. There is a lot of interest from the people at Trinity Presbyterian, so if you have not talked to Ruth Cruddas, please do so ASAP. Her email is crud-dasm@pacbell.net, or call her at 768-1580. The deadline for signing up for that delegation is August 1st, 2011.

The second delegation will be January 5-14, 2012, and will be led by Steve Barrett (from Good Shepherd) and Chris Madsen (from St. Stephens). The deadline for signing up for that delegation will be September 21, 2010. Please contact Chris if you are interested in this delegation. Her email is chris@kcmadsen.com and her phone is 438-1593.

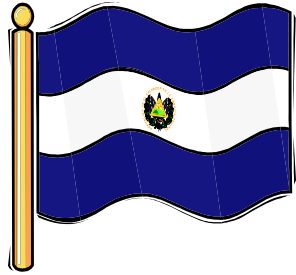
There will be an **orientation** that is mandatory for all first-time members of a delegation but anyone thinking of going is invited. It will be Sept.18, from 1:00-3:00 at Trinity Presbyterian (after their pupusa meal, which will be 11:45-1:00).

In addition there will be a 'getting-to-know-you' BBQ on Oct. 9 from 3:00-5:00; place TBD. At that time preliminary agendas will be discussed with delegation members.

The Winetasting will have occurred by the time you read this. Don't forget the **Rummage Sale on July 9** at St. Stephens. Call Chris if you need help or are willing to work a shift. Stay alert for other announcements about our other fundraising activities.

As always, thank you for your support, enthusiasm, willingness to help, and your prayers.

~ From the entire board of Santa Cruz al Salvador:
"Building Relationships for Better Lives"



El Salvador Sister Parish News

There is exciting news on the Sister Parish front – past, present and future.

In May, in conjunction with the Synod Assembly, a delegation from the Lutheran Church of El Salvador led by Bishop Medardo Gomez visited the Bay Area. In addition to Bishop Gomez were his wife Pastora Abelina, two other women pastors (Pastoras Norma and Guadalupe) and a financial officer of the synod office (Aracely). They were certainly kept busy, with workshops and various meetings during the assembly. Ruth Cruddas deserves many thanks for her work in organizing their time here, as well as a lot of driving around the Bay area!

After the Assembly, the women stayed for two more weeks. They visited churches in San Francisco, Palo Alto, Oakland and Berkeley with a Sister Parish in El Salvador, and PLTS (the Lutheran seminary in Berkeley) among other places. The second week we were privileged to have them visit our area. That time began with a BBQ at Lutheran Community church in Watsonville. As a direct result of that, a couple from Lutheran Community has committed to going on our November delegation!

Those of you in church on May 22 were privileged to hear Pastora Norma speak, and visit with her during the end of Sunday School pot luck (which she loved). While Norma was with us, Guadalupe was in Salinas where Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and Iglesia Luterana El Buen Pastor held a joint worship service in English and Spanish and Aracely was in Morgan Hill at Advent Lutheran. So you can see that we truly helped them with their goal of visiting as many Sister Parish congregations as possible.

We did allow them to have some fun: the Monterey Bay Aquarium, shopping until they dropped, and then a pedicure to help their feet recover. Wonderful friendships were made and there were more than a few tears as good byes were said. Their time ended with a farewell brunch at St. Mark's Lutheran in S.F., where some final "God Speed" were said, and some folks from St. Paul Lutheran in Lodi were able to touch base and learn more about their brand new Sister

From Pastor Jim

Recently, our scripture readings have been calling us to remember one of the central purposes of our existence as a church: that the church exists not so much for meeting the needs of those who are here, but instead it exists for those who aren't here yet.



Recently, our worship attendance has been calling to us to take the above calling more seriously.

Recently, we have said goodbye to several long-time, active members and we have welcomed very few new members.

Recently, we had the lowest VBS attendance we have ever had in my fifteen years as your pastor.

It's probably a good idea to pay attention to all of these signs that we have experienced lately. The fact is that there are just going to be fewer and fewer people who will wander through our doors looking to join a church. Our culture has changed so much in such a short amount of time and most of those changes are leading people away from being a part of a church, especially a church like ours that has a Roman Catholic sounding name that evokes some of the more negative images people have of church.

Although we would rather go about our lives believing that our church will always be there because it always has been, it is naïve and ignorant, in this day and age, to think that way. The only way St. Stephen's has a long future is if we decide that now is the time to really dedicate ourselves to taking some risks and share the love we have for God and God's church with those we know. New people will only come when they know that people they respect and love are involved and see it makes a difference in their lives.

There are some pretty significant barriers that people have when it comes to being a part of a church. The main way people will be able to get past those barriers is through their relationship with you. I am praying that we will take more risks with those we know that do not have a home church and remember our calling as followers of Christ.

July / Aug. Happenings

Text Study & Sermon Talk

Join Pr Jim Tuesdays @ 11:00

Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 PM

July 4 Holiday

Office Closed

Church Rummage Sale

Sat., July 9 all day

Fri., July 8 set up

Beach Bon Fire / Sing a long

July 31, 7-9 pm Rio Del Mar

Church Council

Monday, July 18, 7-9 PM

And August 15

COPA Core Team

Sunday Aug. 7, 10:45 am

Women's Circle, Choir

& Habitat To resume in Sept.

Did you know St. Stephen's offers the options to give electronically?

Ask Janet Slay for details.

Benevolence Offering

July: Homeless Service Center

Aug: Pacific Lutheran

Theological Seminary

Council Highlights

1. The funding application to the department of Housing and Urban Development of the federal government for our affordable senior housing was completed and submitted by Mid-Peninsula Housing Corporation. This is the first step in obtaining funding for the housing and it is not likely to be approved. It is important to get this first application in as it helps to get our proposal on the radar and will help us hone future applications to be more successful. Pastor Jim produced a four page letter for the application, outlining how our congregation is already providing potential services for the residents and how we may provide some new services as well. Some of the new ideas included a Parish Nurse program and a grandparent program with the preschool.

July / August Anniversaries

- 7-1 Robert & Dusty Gipson
- 7-3 Tom Eagle & Barbara Bautz
- 7-5 Scott & Anne Medling
- 7-12 Frank & Evelin Millang
- 7-17 Orville & Edna Lindquist
- 7-18 Manny & Patricia Travers
- 7-28 Charles & Sandra Eldridge
- 7-30 Jim Hanson & Kathy Griffith
- 8-3 Steve Campbell & Theresa Loback-Campbell
- 8-6 Mark Linder & Mary Dean
- 8-15 Ross & Barbara Johnston
- 8-18 Vern & Linda Lillehaugen
- 8-20 Ed & Kathy Parker
- 8-28 Daniel & Barbie Grow

(Faithful Stewards continued)

In some ways, such individuals who give only when they feel like it fit Abraham Lincoln's description of those who achieve financial success but little else in life. "Financial success," he once said, "is purely metallic. The person who gains it has four metallic attributes: gold in his palm, silver on his tongue, brass in his face, and iron in his heart."

"In contrast," writes Randy Alcorn, "the Macedonian believers begged 'us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry [giving] to the saints' (2 Cor. 8:4). When we catch a vision of God's grace, we will give according to our duty, yes, but far more, we will give beyond our duty, voluntarily captivated by the grace of our ever-giving Lord."



Financials

	May '11	May '10	Jan-May '11	Jan—May Actual	Jan—May Budget
<u>Income</u>					
Contrib.	\$17,509	\$18,709	\$90,427	\$96,345	\$94,373
Misc.	\$100	\$217	\$3,197	\$2,791	\$2,300
Total	\$17,609	\$18,926	\$93,624	\$99,137	\$96,673
<u>Expenses</u>					
Total	\$18,931	\$19,363	\$94,922	\$101,154	\$94,884
<u>Net Inc.</u>	-\$1,322	-\$437	-\$1,298	-\$2,017	\$1,789

WHY OUR OFFERINGS ARE IMPORTANT

“Faithful Stewards of God’s Infinite Grace”

General Norman Schwarzkopf once recalled when he was the Assistant Commander for Personnel at the Pentagon. He had been in this assignment for two weeks when his superior left for an eight-week trip to the Orient. General Schwarzkopf expressed concern about his ability, even as a major general, to handle this new responsibility. His superior told him to follow “Rule 13.” When Schwarzkopf asked what “Rule 13” was, his superior told him, “When given command, take charge.” “But what if I don’t know what to do?” asked Schwarzkopf. The reply was that he should follow “Rule 14 - Do what is right.”

Sometimes Christians are in a similar predicament, especially concerning actions based on feelings. We do many things in the Christian life because they are “right,” not because we necessarily want to do them or feel like doing them. Nowhere is this more true than concerning our giving. Even when perhaps we do not feel like giving, mature Christians give because doing so is “right” and because God has motivated our hearts to give.

Unfortunately, some people follow the life principle of giving only when they feel like it. The problem is that they seldom feel like it. Oh, they might give to a special project now and then or respond to a special need that appeals to them. Otherwise, though, they usually fail to give unless they happen to feel like it.

In some ways, such individuals who give only when they feel like it fit Abraham Lincoln’s description of those who achieve financial success but little else in life. “Financial success,” he once said, “is purely metallic. The person who gains it has four metallic attributes: gold in his palm, silver on his tongue, brass in his face, and iron in his heart.”

“In contrast,” writes Randy Alcorn, “the Macedonian believers begged ‘us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry [giving] to the saints’ (2 Cor. 8:4). When we catch a vision of God’s grace, we will give according to our duty, yes, but far more, we will give beyond our duty, voluntarily captivated by the grace of our ever-giving Lord.”



July/August Birthdays

7-1	Lisa Pawalkat	7-18	Gary Meeker	8-2	Roy Hoch
7-2	Linda Bernard	7-19	Darvin Awe	8-3	Robert Gipson
7-2	Vi Olly	7-19	Katie Boe	8-3	Renie Leaman
7-3	Margaret Elkins	7-20	Michael Lyons, Jr	8-4	Nicholas Bernard
7-6	Scott Poetzinger	7-21	Cheryl Bartee	8-9	Lydia Abler
7-7	Chelsea Larson	7-22	Keven Meek	8-10	Daniel Grow
7-9	Sandi Crouser	7-23	Martha Balogh	8-14	Orville Lindquist
7-10	Kyle Lapp	7-24	Ingrid Nore- Gonzalez	8-14	Renee Rice
7-11	Shirley Fuqua	7-24	Sherilyn Jager	8-14	James vonSchmacht
7-11	Chris Tury	7-24	Julia Poetzinger	8-15	Ruth Cruddas
7-12	Arija Buswell	7-25	Terri Adams	8-15	Susan Oldfield
7-14	Rachel Parker	7-27	Mark Linder	8-17	Brad Cramer
7-15	Nancy Houser	7-29	Kylie Ronning	8-18	Marcella Constantine
7-17	Donald Ray	7-30	Scott Lorenz	8-18	Derek Poetzinger
7-18	Scott Medling	7-30	Kendrik Meerman	8-19	Evelein Millang
		7-31	Barbie Grow	8-22	Darleen Krohn
		8-1	Noah Lorenz	8-25	Leah Powers
				8-27	Leslie Lapp
				8-27	Ed Parker
				8-27	Delores Price
				8-28	Rachael Lapp

Prayer Concerns: **Short Term:** Lois Meeker, Jan Wagner, Ruth Mitchell, Jean Calvert, Gail & Nancy, Renie Leaman, Beverly Gilladett, Greg Weber, Josh & Michelle, Trevor Lorenz, Mike Brag, Harold Vaughn, Eddie Fococci, Alan Giersberg, Mark Griffon, Jill Lapp, Richard Wedemeyer, Madaline Massa, Mike & Christine Huska, Volpi Family & Riley, Mickayla, Hoppings, Larry, Marino, Marsha, Marge, Linda, Larry, Mark, Thomas Milnes, Sherry, Steve, Wetterhorn family, Kim Beer, Jan Flaming, Jacqueline Hernandez, Bryan Stowe, PC Dawson Family, St. Stephen’s VBS **Long Term:** Kaitlin Cahill, Opa & Nana Meerman, John Meerman, Dan Meck Family, Craig Hayes, Dorothy & Gary, Robe Family, Kaitlyn McKinney, Clint & Bonnie and family, Maya & Emma, Donald Salter, Chrissy DeStefano, Nicco Hall DeStefano, Betty, Faith Conrad, Paul Hayes family, Eric Hedsrom, Jim Boone, George Trippel, Jean Weiland, Carla Spain, Mildred Belle, Linda Taylor, Ron Buswell, Dorothy Ronning, Bonnie Hansen, Jon & Judy, Shirley Fuqua, Greg & Allison Pate, Michelle & CJ Muchanic, Suzanne Podolski, 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, Youth, our troops, Pres. Obama & fam, Peace & Healing for the earth.

Blog Bits from Western States
Youth Gathering Musician
Rachel Kurtz



I am amazed by the Lutheran church. I love love love the theology (what I know of it) and all the work towards neighborhoods, nationally and internationally is really intentional and incredible. I was baptized Catholic and raised mainly in the New Life Assembly of God church. I had Lutheran friends growing up and remember them going to youth gatherings. If you would have asked us in high school if it were more likely for them to become Pentecostal or me, Lutheran, we would have agreed I would not be a Lutheran. God had other plans. I went to AFLBS (The Association Free Lutheran Bible School) and finally really started hearing about grace in a way I hadn't understood before. For instance, I can not do anything to make God love me more. I can not in any way earn my salvation with good behavior, service or otherwise and I can not make God love me any less. Should I sin all the more that grace may abound, may it never be!!

Through my years as a camp staffer and youth director, I worked in various Lutheran settings, and now I am hooked. I love the Lutheran's and the Lutheran theology and I am proud to consider myself a Lutheran (with the Holy Ghost) .

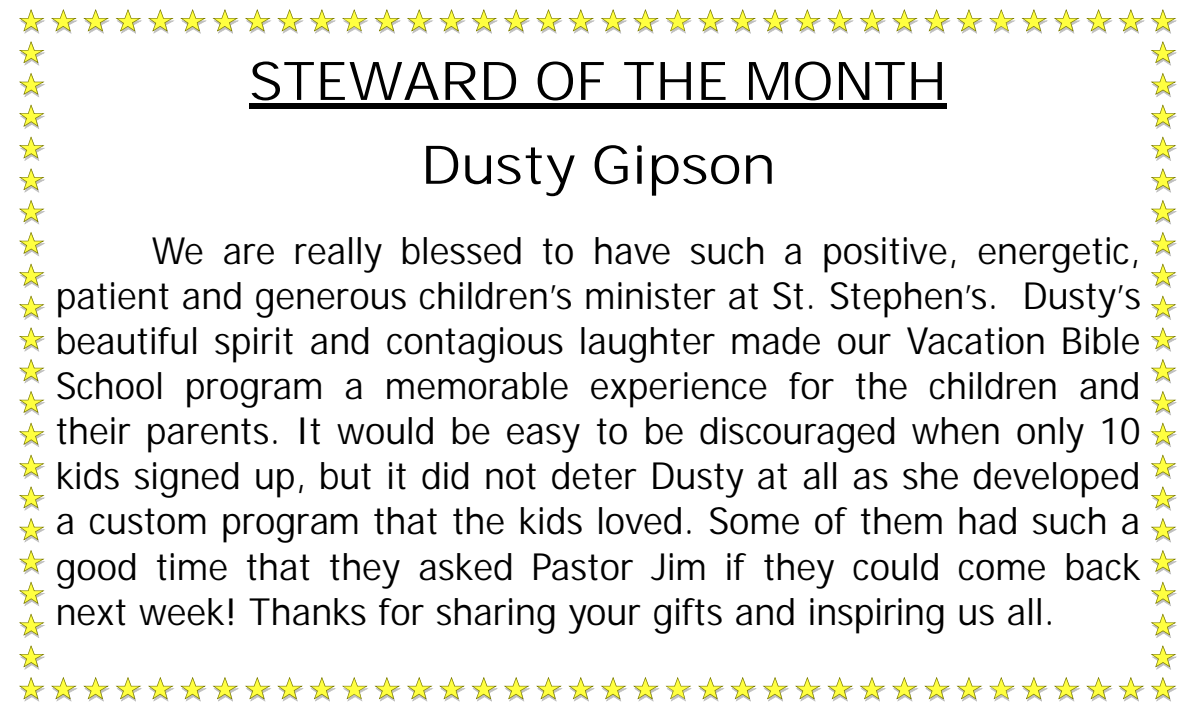
But everyone that I have talked to is concerned about the future of the Lutheran church. My friend, Pastor Tracy's church, is worshipping about 70 people on an average week. They are doing so many things to reach out to their transformed neighborhood. They are trying to be relevant to the neighborhood while maintaining their distinct Lutheran heritage. I feel like many in my generation feel like....well we hired you to do the job Pastor, now do it! I know many of the older members remember when they spent multiple days per week at the church in various capacities. Their kids were expected to be part of that service. I was convicted frankly, of how little I help with my church. The Lutheran church understands it needs to change and transition with the times and neighborhoods and some are digging in their heels and living on an endowment and thinking they are doing outreach. One reason I love my church is because they are open, loving, preach the gospel and are doing very practical things to live and serve their neighborhood. I love it. We all need to do our part to share the gift of our church.



Annual Mt. Cross Women's Retreat
September 24-26

Come away for a weekend with your fellow sisters in Christ. Our speaker, Diane Zemke, will be leading us in large group sessions. We will also spend time singing, laughing and enjoying being women of God. Come for the day, part of the weekend or the entire weekend. Come rest in the redwoods!

www.mtcross.org



STEWARDSHIP OF THE MONTH

Dusty Gipson

We are really blessed to have such a positive, energetic, patient and generous children's minister at St. Stephen's. Dusty's beautiful spirit and contagious laughter made our Vacation Bible School program a memorable experience for the children and their parents. It would be easy to be discouraged when only 10 kids signed up, but it did not deter Dusty at all as she developed a custom program that the kids loved. Some of them had such a good time that they asked Pastor Jim if they could come back next week! Thanks for sharing your gifts and inspiring us all.



New Members

GLORIA GROTTJAN came to us through her friend Marta. She was raised in a Lutheran church in Exeter, CA and is glad to be back in a church that feels like home. She has already shared her gifts and volunteered as a reader for our worship.

DORIS FLEMING moved here from her Lutheran church in Bakersfield where she was a long-time member. She is a retired social worker who worked to help abused children heal from their experiences. She and her daughter **TRACY FLEMING** recently moved here to be nearer to family in the San Lorenzo family. Tracy is a preschool teacher at the preschool next door and they both live in Capitola.

New address: Gladyce Berg
500 So. 18th Street
Norfolk, Nebraska 68701

See her note posted in the narthex. She says her neighbors are very friendly and are taking her in. But she misses her St. Stephen's family and asks for our prayers.

Sunday School News



Hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer! Vacation Bible School in June was fantastic with many visitors from our community joining us. Thanks so much to all who helped make it a wonderful week of fellowship and faith development for our children!

During our Children's Church time in July and August we will be exploring the Fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23. I plan to be here most Sundays this summer. If I am unable to find a volunteer on those days when I am not here then a related project will be available on the back table in the Narthex for children to complete during the service. In July and August we will be covering...

- 7/3 Peace
- 7/10 Patience
- 7/17 Kindness
- 7/24 Goodness
- 7/31 Faithfulness
- 8/7 Gentleness
- 8/14 Self-Control
- 8/21 Wrap-up and review (last Children's Church for the summer)

Please let me know if you would like to help out with any of these topics this summer. We will not be having Children's Church or Sunday School on August 28th or September 4th as we prepare for Rally Day and the kick off of our exciting new Sunday School year on September 11th. Let me know if you have any questions or would like to help out with any of the fun activities we have for kids here at St. Stephen's.

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

THE TWENTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF THE SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD

“LORD, WHEN DID WE...”

May 13-15, 2011 • Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport, Burlingame, CA

HIGHLIGHTS

The Sierra Pacific Synod met in Assembly under the theme “Lord, When did we...” based on Matthew 25:31-46, with 589 in attendance. Of those present, 478 were voting members. 108 of those were voting members for the *first time* and 42 were under 31 years of age. For the first time, simultaneous translation services for all business sessions were offered in Spanish for voting members.

Bishop Medardo Gomez, Bishop of the Lutheran Church of El Salvador (one of our Companion Synods of the Lutheran World Federation, arranged through the Evangelical Lutheran in America) was present, brought greetings, and preached at the Assembly’s closing worship. He was joined by three pastors and one parish worker from congregations and ministries in the Lutheran Church of El Salvador. Please see the *Santa Cruz al Salvador* article for details on activities of the Bishop and his delegation after the Assembly.

Keynote addresses were presented by **Dr. Mark Allan Powell**, Trinity Lutheran Seminary: *The Least of These* and *Hearts and Treasures*. **Dr. Carol Jacobson**, PLTS, offered the **Bible Study**: *Living in Three D: Becoming a Matthew 25 Church*. The **Rev. Ruben Duran**, Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit, brought the **report** of the **ELCA** and the **Presiding Bishop** Mark Hanson, and **Mark Myers**, member of the **ELCA Church Council**, brought greetings and shared the work of the Council.

St. Francis Lutheran Church, San Francisco, was warmly welcomed back onto the roster of Sierra Pacific Synod Congregations and the ELCA.

Resolutions passed

Resolution 2011-01 *Regarding Appropriate Pastoral Compensation* (which provides an annual baseline and a worksheet for calculation and discussion of pastoral compensation. The third resolve was neither affirmed nor rejected, and will be referred to the Synod Council, along with Resolutions 2011-04 and 2011-05.)

(Synod Assembly Continued)

Resolution 2011-02 *Regarding the Use of the Trinitarian Name in Synodical Worship Services* (which resolved that the Sierra Pacific Synod “continue to affirm and celebrate the Holy Trinity in its life and liturgies”).

Resolution 2010-03 *Regarding Annual Synod Budgets* (which asks the Synod Council, beginning with the 2012 Assembly, to present at least one budget option that shows a balanced budget).

Additional Resolutions have been referred to the Synod Council, as unfinished business.

Elections

District D: *Louise Rankin* was elected to the Leadership Discipling Team; *Rev. Susan Birkelo* was elected to the Synod Council. (Note: St. Stephen's is located in the Monterey Bay Conference, part of District D.)

In other business:

The Assembly adopted a **2012-13 Budget** as proposed which showed anticipated income of \$1,927,500 with expected expenses totaling \$2,720,851. The difference will be made up from funds the Synod has in reserve.

Approved changes to the Synod By-Laws SB11.07.01 through SB11.07.09, moving them into Continuing Resolutions. These sections of the Constitution and By-Laws relate to Synod Discipling Teams. This change will make it easier to reconfigure Discipling Teams as needs may arise in the future.

On a personal note:

As in the past, I appreciate the confidence the congregation showed in electing me as a Voting Member of the Assembly. I am inspired and energized by working with other Lutherans in shaping the ministry of our Synod and its congregations. During this particular Assembly I experienced roller-coaster surges of emotions due to the simultaneous events of my mother-in-law's passing, the presence and participation of the Salvadoran delegation at the Assembly, the reception of St. Francis Lutheran Church and the inspirational worship services.

Respectfully Submitted, Kent Madsen