

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

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

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**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
April 28, 2011**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 57
Years of Ministry
May 2011

**All-Church Potluck
& Sunday School Celebration
Sunday, May 22nd @ 11:45**

End of Year Potluck / Student Art Show / Open Mic just around the corner. This is the official end of our Sunday School year. Come share in the fellowship, food and song! All are welcome to this event and it is a great time to invite visitors. Sign-ups are in the narthex. Hope to see you there!



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)

were there, she would have been drawn to the children of the streets -- she had offered childcare in her home and worked as a pre-school teacher. It made perfect sense that in that place where children and families have such great needs he would have found that she was there before him. Not personally, but all of those with hearts, like hers that are drawn to the least, the last, and the lost.

The gift of Luke 15 during the season of Lent is the three stories from Jesus about God's regard for the least, the last and the lost, wherever they may be. During Lent we are reminded to look again, what have we missed -- the migrant, the homeless, mentally ill, children and families struggling to have enough food on the table, those who are suffering in any way. Bishop Mark asks what gifts has God given us that we are called upon to share with those who are in such need? What "pennies" have we overlooked that could have made all the difference in changing lives- Ours as givers of God's good gifts, and those who are blessed to receive such gifts?

Please pray, "Gracious God, bless us with eyes to see those in need all around us, hearts and hands that are willing to share, and the grace of Jesus Christ to remind us of all your good gifts, including your saving grace. Amen"

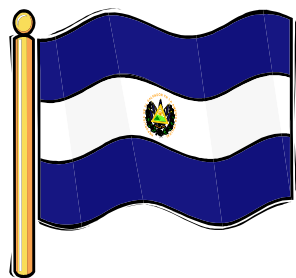
Thank you Bishop Mark.

May 7: The Human Race

May 22: Adult Forum — Pastor Norma Castillo of the Lutheran
Church of El Salvador and head of the Sister Parish Program

June 25: Wine Tasting at Bargetto's Winery

July 9: Rummage Sale



El Salvador Sister Parish News

By Lisa Johnson

A couple of Sundays ago I was approached by a member of St. Stephen's who told me that they did not agree or support what Santa Cruz al Salvador was doing. This person felt that we should be worrying about and raising money for people here in our own country, not in El Salvador. I wasn't too surprised, this wasn't the first person to voice these concerns.

One of the biggest reasons I love Santa Cruz al Salvador is the people who make up Santa Cruz al Salvador. Not only do the delegation members and supporters give generously of their time and money to those in need in our sister community in El Salvador, these same individuals give and volunteer and support those in need here at home.

With the permission of our synod bishop Mark Holmerud, I want to share one of his Lenten devotions. Luke 15: 8-9 "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." Bishop Mark says that this parable from Jesus reminds him of his mom saying "hello" on any number of days since she died in 2001. She used to sing the song "Pennies From Heaven" when he was a kid. Now, whenever he finds a penny he thinks of his mother saying "hello" from heaven. Last year when he found a penny in the gutter outside Casa Esperanza -- the homeless shelter whose name means "Hope House" in the city of San Salvador, he was not surprised that his mom would have thought to send greetings to him in one of the poorest neighborhoods of El Salvador. He said he felt that if she

From Pastor Jim



May Happenings

Adult Forum

Sundays 9:30 AM Fireside

Text Study & Sermon Talk

Join Pr Jim Tuesdays @ 11:00

Confirmation

Sundays from 6:30-8 pm

StoryBook Tea

Sunday, May 1 @ 2:30 am

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Tuesday, May 10 @ 10:30 am

Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca

Thursday, May 12, 10:30 am

Church Council

Monday, May 16, 7-9 pm

Choir Rehearsals

Sundays at 9:30 am

Synod Assembly

May 13—15

Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 pm
& May 7th Yarn Dying 9 am

Memorial Day Worship & BBQ

Mt. Cross

Benevolence Offering

Mt. Cross

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

Council Highlights

1.



Yarn Dying Saturday, May 7th 9 am in Fellowship Hall

The knitters are going to dye yarn under the instruction of Kris Nardello, long-time dyer and fiber enthusiast.

Last time we did this, we made beautiful yarn, so we're ready to do it again!

Please don't hesitate to join us for the fun. You will have to supply your own animal-fiber yarn (like wool) and wear old clothes.

We continue to meet Thursdays 6:45 pm. All are welcome!



WHY OUR OFFERINGS ARE IMPORTANT

“Faithful Stewards of God’s Infinite Grace”

One day, as you open the mail, you discover a letter from the credit card company which indicates that because you are such a valued customer, your credit limit is being raised to \$5,000. The next day, because you were late sending in a payment of \$19.25, you receive another letter from the same company. The second letter makes you feel like a terrible person and states rather emphatically that if you don’t pay up immediately, the company will take action against you. What a mixed signal that would be!

God never sends mixed signals. He is always consistently clear in providing direction to us, even when His instruction runs counter to our natural tendencies. This is especially true when it comes to our giving. Remember, giving to the Lord’s work at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church is not to help “poor God” pay His bills. Rather, giving is one of God’s ways of growing Christians and of causing us to be more like Christ. That’s why God calls us to resist the natural tendency to hoard and to be stingy. That’s why God calls us to give, not only out of our abundance, but also when our financial resources are limited.

John Templeton, founder of the Templeton group of mutual funds, concluded a speech to the International Association for Financial Planning by confiding that he had been asked by a financial planner at the convention to mention the name of the “very best opportunity” for investing in the world today. Templeton said, “I told him that the most risk-free investment, the most rewarding investment was . . . giving of your income to your church. In my 46 years of experience, I have never known anyone who regretted that investment. I have never known anyone who has made that investment for ten years without being rewarded with both happiness and prosperity.”

John Templeton was only echoing advice that God had given to Solomon centuries earlier. “. . . the one who gives water will get water.” As you consider your life and giving, will you be part of God’s eternal plan by giving in a refreshing manner to the St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church ministry today and in the months ahead? Remember this: No one ever went broke trying to outgive God.



May Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 5-3 Margaret Schraft | 5-19 Laney Johnson |
| 5-4 Donna Sorensen | 5-20 Aria Bartee |
| 5-5 Kathleen Allen | 5-21 Dianna Barry |
| 5-5 Kent Madsen | 5-23 Don Fuqua |
| 5-6 Cheryl Curry | 5-24 Travis Awe |
| 5-6 Renee Robe | 5-25 Trent Hopping |
| 5-6 Hjordis Quitzau | 5-26 Epimenio Valencia |
| 5-7 Ross Johnston | 5-27 Barbara Rice |
| 5-9 Lois Meeker | 5-27 Mary Robe |
| 5-10 Julie Mouw | 5-28 Mitch Ronning |
| 5-15 Jesse McMilin | 5-29 Elke Spires |
| 5-17 Alexandra Weisblatt | 5-30 Kim Cappelloni |
| 5-18 Jordan Ayers | 5-30 Tim Oldfield |



- | |
|--------------------------------|
| 5-5 Mario & Barbara Brochinni |
| 5-12 John & Chris Tury |
| 5-24 Paul & Leah Powers |
| 5-26 Epimenio & Emily Valencia |
| 5-27 David & Gwyn Larson |
| 5-30 Kent & Christine Madsen |

Prayer Concerns: **Short Term:** Jan Wagner, Ruth Mitchell, Jean Calvert, The family Martha Beito, The family of Pete Riem, Kim & Kristina, Gail & Nancy, Renie Leaman, Beverly Gilladett, Greg Weber, Margaret & Bill Schraft, Trevor Lorenz, Mike Brag, Harold Vaughn, Eddie Fococci, Alan Giersberg, Mark Griffon, Jill Lapp, Richard Wedemeyer, Madaline Massa, Mike & Christine Huska, Steve Hintze, family & friends of Rosemary Irvine, Volpi Family & Riley, Mickayla, Jean Reeder, Hoppings, Kevin, Stephan, Marino, Mark, Linda, Marge, Marsha, Joe, Wetterhorn family, Jane Flammang, Kim Beer, Bryan Stowe, Dawson Family, St. Stephen’s VBS **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 Family, Brooks & Glenn Leaman, Bob Heppe, Jeffery Patterson, Mark Gregory, Chris 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

Western States Youth Gathering July 1-5 "In The Balance" (Last chance to register, see Lydia!!!) So, you have a lot going on in your life? School, work, family and friends, expectations and hopes don't you just scream for a break? How do you balance all this stuff when so much of it seems out of balance? Google "balanced life" and see what you come up with. Dozens of voices are ready to tell you how you can keep your life in balance. How is one to keep it together?

What is "in the balance?" Where are your hopes and dreams, your efforts and expectations taking you? What is at stake and in the end what really matters? When the world seems to be pulling you in all directions at the same time the words of Paul are welcome. There is "NOTHING that can separate from the love of Christ."

In the confusion of voices, all telling us different things what is God calling us to be about? Join us next summer on the campus of CLU as we celebrate that which nothing can take away the love of God in Jesus Christ. Join us as we consider how Jesus is our balance leading us to lives that make a difference.

"So what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending us his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us - who was raised to life for us! - in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us! Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture...I am absolutely convinced that nothing - nothing living or dead, angels or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable - absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us." Romans 31-38



Mt. Cross Memorial Day Celebration

Monday, May 30

11:00 Worship

12:00 BBQ

1:00 Pool opens

1:30 Climbing Tower opens

2:00 Archery contest

3:00 Field Games

\$12 in advance by mail or on online

www.mtcross.org

\$15 at the door

Great fun for the whole family!

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.

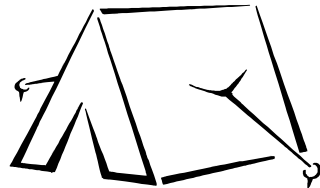
Mt. Cross Camp registration is NOW OPEN!!!

Vacation Bible School

June 20-24 from 9am to noon

Kindergarten thru 5th grade

Join us for a "backyard campout" register before June 1st.



Sunday School News



Thanks so much to everyone who made our Easter celebration a success! It was a wonderful way to share the Good News with our children and visitors.

Don't forget that our End of Year Potluck/Student Art Show/Open Mic is right around the corner on May 22nd right after the 10:30 service. This is the official end of our Sunday School year. All are welcome to this event and it is a great time to invite visitors. Sign-ups for the potluck and volunteers are in the Narthex. We hope to see you there!!!

Children's Church will begin on June 12th. We are looking for volunteers to lead these exciting summer activities for our children. Please let me know if you are interested in joining in the fun.

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School June 20-24 from 9-noon each day. We will be exploring in our own backyard with a Backyard Campout theme. Cost is \$30 for registration before June 1st, \$35 after June 1st. Space is limited. Students entering Kindergarten through those entering 5th grade are welcome to join us for the event. Invite friends, family and neighbors!

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks, Dusty Gipson dustygipson@yahoo.com 831-338-3787

Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca Circle

Thursday, May 12 @ 10:30 am Fireside Room

Please join us for an informative presentation by Ms. Melissa De Vera, Registered Dietician, Dominican Hospital. Ms. De Vera's topic is: "Healthy Eating on a Budget."

Bring your own sandwich.
Coffee and dessert provided.

Hostesses: Hjordis Quitzau and Gwyn Larson.



STEWARD OF THE MONTH

Don Smawley - palms?

Many hands...Altar guild for multiple changes during this season...especially the drapes ?

Sunday Adult Forums

May 1—**Truett bobo** discusses a lifetime of experience with the belief and practice of Speaking in Tongues, a tradition that sets Pentecostal Denominations apart from other Christian denominations.

May 8—**Kent Madsen** traces the development of his faith from Iowa to many years of distinguished service in Light of Life and St. Stephen's Lutheran churches, as well as decades of experience on the Council of the Sierra Pacific Synod.

May 15—**Steve Pond** speaks about his life as a Christian, and how it has shaped his business experience in his how business.

May 22—**Pastor Norma Castillo** visits us from El Salvador, and shares her travail in dealing with military conflicts that affected every part of her ministry there.

May 29—**Renie Leman** talks about her many years at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church and how for decades she assumed responsibility for the food served in the church from funerals to banquets to Serving the homeless until medical problems intervened.

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 |