



ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 am Worship Service

Coffee Hour

9:30 am Adult Forum & 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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January 26, 2012**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



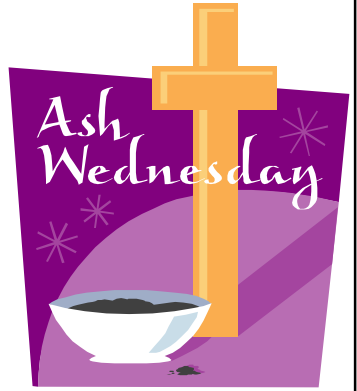
Sun

Celebrating 57
Years of Ministry
February 2012

**Feb. 22—Ash Wednesday Services
Feb. 29—March 28 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. —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

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.

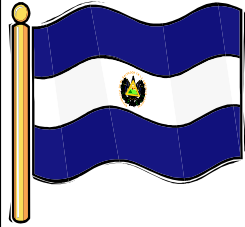
ES Summit Information

Chris Madsen and Ruth Cruddas attended the ELCA Global Mission - El Salvador Summit which was held January 19-21 at the Church wide offices in Chicago, IL. The summit provided the opportunity for all ELCA synods and congregations who accompany the Lutheran Church in El Salvador to get to know each other, learn about the accompaniment each has been providing, initiate coordination between all ELCA companions to strengthen our effectiveness and begin preparation for the next Encounter which is currently scheduled for November, 2012. The four synods represented were Sierra Pacific, Greater Milwaukee, Metropolitan Washington and SW California.

During a 2 1/2 teleconference with Bp. Medardo Gomez and his staff, we learned about the national situation and celebration of the 20th anniv. of signing of the Peace Accords, the work being done in the 'micro-regions', and the status of the country after the devastating floods last Oct. ELCA Disaster Response contributed \$130,000 to E.S. for flood relief efforts, however, to-date they have only received \$6,000 in contributions. All of Central Am. is affected by climate change but E.S. seems to be the hardest hit.

Bishop Mark Hanson spoke briefly to the group about the work being done in E.S., asking us 'What is our part of the larger whole?' and saying that we should not let our relationship make us myopic. God is a community of persons, we must have confidence in the Holy Spirit to work through us. Do not have low expectations of the Holy Spirit. Pastor Rafael Malpica Padilla, Exec. Director, Global Missions spoke to the group about 'Synergism - An Unholy Word for Lutherans' and how it relates to accompaniment. Pr. Raquel Rodriguez, Program Area Director for Latin America and the Caribbean and Stephen Deal, Regional Representative for Central America spoke about 'Accompaniment and Sustainability for Mission and Ministry'.

The Summit was very successful and exciting with so much more information to share. We are very thankful for the opportunity to attend and look forward to participating in the 'Next Steps' for the group. Please talk with Chris or Ruth if you are interested in helping or just want more information.



El Salvador Sister Parish News

The November El Salvador delegation had 21 members from four different area churches (St. Stephen's, Trinity Pres., Advent in Morgan Hill and Lutheran Community in Watsonville). It was a fun filled and somewhat harrowing experience not only for our six first time visitors but the rest of the delegation. You see, Dr. Richard Robinson, dentist from Trinity spent several hours in Customs trying to convince them that the lidocaine he brought to use for pulling teeth was not an illegal drug only to give up and let them keep it. On Sunday, while unpacking in our school room accommodations, he came running out with something in his hand, yelling, 'They missed one box!'. He was able to start the dental work he so anxiously wanted to do in our community. Our dear friend and member of the legislature, Pedrina Rivera was able to recover all the boxes of lidocaine from Customs a day later. He pulled 36 teeth in 2 1/2 days and said that in 3-5 years with regular dental care and fluoride treatments, he could eradicate tooth decay in our community. Mike C., Tom and Judith D., Sarah M., Vera H. and Christina R. worked in the dental clinic while George B., Kent I., Lisa J., Jill A., Catherine H., Karla N. and Wendy H. worked with patients in the clinic. We also had activities for the children that were organized by Emily and Lee D., Marie I. and Jeanette H. Lucas G. worked side by side with Don Fito doing odd-repair jobs around the school. Colin B. and Ruth C. 'floated' lending a hand where needed.

Everyone who had a prayer child was able to meet and spend some quality time getting to know them or catching up. Again, during meal time in the homes of our prayer children, we learned about the life experiences of our host/hostess, continuing to strengthen our relationships. We also attended the graduation ceremonies on our last day in the community. Ruth C. was asked again to participate in handing out diplomas and afterwards, Judith D. and Karla A. interviewed many of the graduating students.

We look forward to sharing more stories with you including the video interviews soon. Next month you will read about the January delegation. Thank you for your continued support. - Your El Salvador representatives.

From Pastor Jim

During the season of Lent, we are encouraged to die to the things in our lives that draw us away from God's will for us and all creation. This is repentance.

"Bonnie Ware has long worked in palliative care, spending time with the dying during the final weeks of their lives. Over the years she's heard the same regrets from the dying:



- They wish they had the courage to be themselves, rather than trying to meet expectations.
- They say they should not have worked so hard - a lament heard especially from the older generation males.
- They regret not having had the courage to express their feelings, even if doing so would have caused others pain.
- They say they should have stayed in touch with their friends and given more time to nurturing friendships."

from The Christian Century - January 11, 2012

We would certainly do well to learn how to repent from those who are dying. If we would focus on just one of these aspects of our lives this Lenten season as our form of repentance, we would understand so much better what Jesus meant when he said he came "that we might have life and have it more abundantly."

By making our Wednesday evening time during Lent a regular priority to attend, we give ourselves a better opportunity to live more authentic lives with fewer of the regrets as expressed by our sisters and brothers who have gone before us. Their witness is a beautiful gift to us and when we gather to share a meal, worship and share our lives, we repent of letting the unimportant things take hold of us and keep us isolated. Instead we turn and embrace a more meaningful life lived in relationship with each other and God.

February Happenings

Sunday Adult Forums @ 9:30

Text Study & Sermon Talk

Join Pr Jim Tuesdays @ 11:00

Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 PM

Acolyte Training

Feb 4, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

MM/RR Women's Circle

Feb 9 - 10:30 AM Fireside Rm

Dinner Groups

Feb 11 & 18

St. Olaf Band

Feb. 1 Salinas

Feb. 2 Saratoga

Feb. 3 Palo Alto

stolaftickets.com 1-800-363-5487

Church Council

Monday, Feb, 20-9 PM

Youth Group

Lunch & activities — TBA

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Feb. 23 @ 10:30 am

Benevolence Offering

St Stephen's Scholarship Fund

Electronic giving options are available

Council Highlights

1. Devotions were read from “Strength to Love” by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as we gathered on the day that has been set aside by our country to honor his memory and the work of justice for ALL people regardless of our differences. We were reminded that we are all inextricably linked and that when injustice occurs to one person anywhere it is an injustice for all of us everywhere and we are called to act on behalf of those in need. We were also reminded of the non-violent nature of Rev. King's efforts which he drew from Jesus Christ's life, teachings and ultimate sacrifice on the cross in the face of injustice in order that love would prevail. We were reminded that we believe in and follow the one who showed us that the greatest power for good in this world is to love our enemies. We remembered how young Rev. King was when he paid the ultimate price and showed the “greatest love” when his life was laid down for his friends, a mere 43 years ago.
2. Approved a motion to go to the annual meeting asking the cong. to approve assuming ownership of The Growing Years Preschool and authorized a loan of \$2000 for start-up funds from an undesignated Thrivent Fund.
3. Approved a motion to engage the services of Kairos, Inc. to assist us in creating a long-term financial plan and possible capital fund campaign for facility renovations.
4. Approved annual meeting agenda.

Applying Bible Principles

Fourfold to the defrauded. Look closely. Witness the miracle — a camel passing through the eye of a needle.

As Christians — those who proclaim by that title that we are children of God through faith in Jesus Christ — our perspective on life should be different than non-Christians. How we acquire money, how we use it, and how we give it away should mark us as being followers of Christ. And just as Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus into his home gladly following that life-changing encounter at the sycamore tree, we should welcome Christ's presence in our lives gladly, with great joy as He alters the way we give.

J. Alan Youngren wrote, “When we begin to give out of some legalistic need to perform as Christians, we are well on the way toward frustration and defeat in our stewardship. Before long this attitude can lead to carelessness in giving, then reduction in giving and, finally, defeat in other areas of our spiritual lives.”

Or as Wayne Watts put it: “Giving is the friend of wealth, for with it comes joy and fulfillment rather than disappointment.”



**Please pick up your
end of the year financial statements
and offering envelopes**

TAKING OUR OFFERING SERIOUSLY

Applying Bible Principles

When Jesus Christ becomes Savior and Lord of a person's life, a new creation takes place (2 Cor. 5:17). Old things truly pass away, and new things take their place. This is nowhere more visible than with a person's outlook on money and material possessions.

Take Zacchaeus, for example. Here was a man who had made it to the top. He was literally "king of the hill" as he looked down over the city of Jericho. But the respect, friendship and status that Zacchaeus longed for had eluded him as people from all walks of life despised him. After all, he was the chief tax collector.

But when Jesus entered the life of this little man, the allegiance which Zacchaeus knew changed. He was no longer under the control of the world system as defined by Caesar. Now, he was accountable to Christ.

As Ken Gire points out in *Intimate Moments with the Savior*,

. . . his soul knows that account isn't good. The ledger is filled with entries of money extorted, money under the table, money skimmed off the top, money, money, money. That's the bottom line for Zacchaeus. The bottom line of a bankrupt life. But the Savior isn't looking for an audit. . . Jesus is moved with compassion. . . From behind the barriers he has erected around his heart, a flood of repentant feelings bursts forth. . . What took a lifetime to accumulate, one sentence of devotion liquidates. And not by a token ten percent. Half to the poor. Fourfold to the defrauded. Look closely. Witness the miracle — a camel passing through the eye of a needle.

As Christians — those who proclaim by that title that we are children of God through faith in Jesus Christ — our perspective on life should be different than non-Christians. How we acquire money, how we use it, and how we give it away should mark us as being followers of Christ. And just as Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus into his home gladly following that life-changing encounter at the sycamore tree, we should welcome Christ's presence in our lives gladly, with great joy as He alters the way we give.

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February Birthdays

2-1	Frank Millang	2-12	Randy Johnson
2-1	Lu Sluiter	2-13	Andrew Boe
2-2	Ed Drews	2-13	Anne Medling
2-2	Jean Petersen	2-17	Liana Mabry
2-4	Karen Lippe	2-18	Kathy Hopping
2-4	Kyle Travers	2-18	Jay Johnston
2-7	Marla Meek	2-19	Connie Creel
2-9	Edna Lindquist	2-21	Bob Heppe
2-10	Alfred Mitchell	2-21	Caitlin Hopping
2-10	Paul Powers	2-24	Miller Mouw
2-12	Beverly Giladett	2-29	Charles Eldridge



2-6	Pastor & Leslie Lapp
2-13	Truett & Carol Bobo
2-18	Andrew Boe & Karen Lippe
2-24	Rick & Susan Oldfield

Prayer Concerns: Short Term: Chris Brown, Lisa Pawalkat, Fritz & Emile Gschwng, Uncle Joe Melby, Babe Schneder, Steve, Bruce, Lorena, Claudia, Mary, Family of June Rohrbough, Family of Darlene Krohn, Diane, Austin Sparling, Berly Buland, Debra Aguirre, Jan, Lori Juhl, Kaitlin Cahill, Macion, Evan Milnes, Cpl. Stephen Hayes, Scott M., Corrina Kant, William, Christine, Rose Morrello, Henrietta, Pat Kress, Jean Hart & Gail Evans

Long Term: PJ Flynn, Howard Mason, Jan Wagner, Molly Salter, Gail & Nancy, Renie Leaman, Beverly Gilladett, Greg Weber, Josh & Michelle, Suzanne, CJ, Jill Lapp, Mickayla, Pearl Runquist, Jeanne, Lester Thompson, Bonnie Hansen, Jane Flammang, Ron Buswell, Bob Heppe, The Robe Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman, Chris Tury, Clint Bell, The Youth



To my dear friends and wonderful people of St. Stephen's. Thank you so much for the cards, calls and support. I appreciate you so very much. ~ Lisa Pawalkat

An enthusiastic "Thank you" ! From the staff & patrons of the homeless service center! Our latest delivery of toiletries was met with overwhelming gratitude. They are astounded that we keep coming back!

Counters Needed

I am actively recruiting additional members for the team. Time commitment is minimal – approximately 90 minutes 3-4 times a calendar quarter. Fundamental knowledge of Microsoft Excel is helpful, but not mandatory. Orientation and training will be provided. Call 475-5668 or let the office know of your interest.

Thank you for honoring me as Steward of the Month. I could not complete the Financial Secretary duties without the dedication of the SS Counters – Kathy Allen, Ruth Cruddas, Gwyn Larson, Lois Meeker, Jean Petersen and Linda Ronning. Gwyn has decided to relinquish her position on the team as of March 30th. We will miss her enthusiasm and never-ending flexibility. Thank you for your years of service.

~ Janet Slay

Sunday School News



Dear Sunday School Families and Friends, January welcomed many new visitors to our Sunday School program. What a blessing!!!

In January we spent some time looking at our Sunday School program and the kids came up with great ideas for improving on what we are already doing. I look forward to implementing some of those positive changes over the next few months.

For the first half of February we will be creating about 100 Valentine cards for the residents of the Driftwood Healthcare Center. This year we will be distributing those on Sunday, February 12th. Meeting time to be announced.

SPSYC Elementary Event - February 24-26, 2012

God's Love is NOT hidden!

God's Love is for EVERYONE!

Jesus is the ULTIMATE agent of GRACE

Come spend a weekend with us at Mt. Cross in the Santa Cruz Mountains and become a Not-So-Secret Agent of God's grace! Plan ahead: The cost will be \$115 for early registration (\$50 per person deposit), and \$130 after February 7, the early registration deadline. Kirk McMilin and I will be chaperoning. Friends are welcome, contact Leslie for more information.

We will need a Sunday School Sub Feb. 26...who can help?

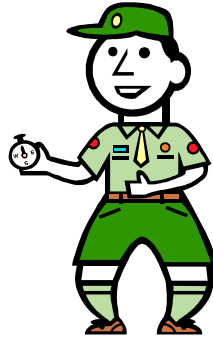
Sincerely, Dusty Gipson
831-338-3787 home



Jesus, Poverty, and Empire – *Then & Now*
 With Theologians from Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries
March 9 & 10 (1st Congregational Church)
 Registration info suedy2@comcast.net or 426-2010

Scout Sunday

February 12



This is the day each year when Scouts focus on their promise of Duty to God and on the 12th point of the Scout Law—“A Scout is reverent”.

Scott Caldwell remains the ever faithful Scoutmaster. This troop has met continuously at St. Stephen’s since the church was built here in 1961. We are so thankful for their dedication and hard work. We always look forward to seeing their projects, and partaking in their goodies

Cookbooks Needed

MM/RR Circle is holding a cook book sale on March 31, Saturday (10 - 2) and April 1st, Palm Sunday (9 - 12). We would appreciate any donations of cook books that you may want to part with. There will be a plastic blue bin in the Narthex where you can drop them off. Go through those overflowing closets or book shelves and lighten your load. Your book donation will help the circle give to local charities and may be an inspiration to an upcoming Julia Childs. Bon Appetit.



Acolyte Training

Kids 3rd grade and older
 Feb. 4, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM



ADULT FORUMS **Sundays @ 9:30 am**

- Feb. 5** Community Improvements — continue the discussion
- Feb. 12** Bonnie Bell’s Life Story
- Feb. 19** The Anatomy of Love I as seen by C.S. Lewis with Truett Bobo
- Feb. 26** The Anatomy of Love II as seen by C.S. Lewis with Roy Hoch

Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca **Thursday, Feb. 9** **10:30 am in the Fireside Room**

Please join us for a Valentine Pot Luck Luncheon. Wear or bring a heart and a dish to share. After a short business meeting, we will enjoy food and fellowship.

We are collecting cookbooks for our Cookbook Sale. Please bring cookbooks!
 Hostesses: Connie Cunningham, Joanne Freymuth, and Gwyn Larson.

All women are welcome!

