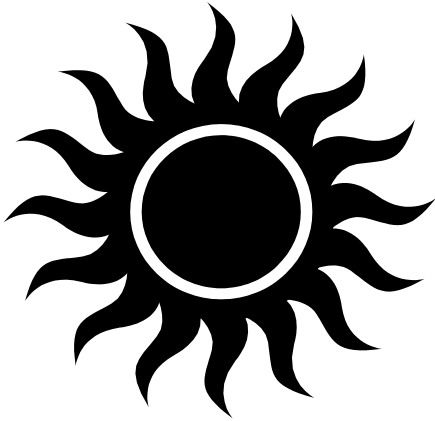


St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 59
Years of Ministry
February 2013

Feb. 13—Ash Wednesday Services

Feb. 20—March 20 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.

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](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)

email—office@ststephenslutheran.org

Rev. James P. Lapp, Pastor

- Ministers: The Entire Congregation
- Church Council: Pres. — Robert Bartee, V. P. — Tom Eagle,
Treasurer— Mark Linder, David Balogh, Kim
Cappelloni, Jeanette Dawson, Barbara Rice,
and Rebecca Wickham
- Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts
- Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens
- Custodian: John Hopping
- Children's Minister: Dusty Gipson
- Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
- Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30am—2:30pm
- Pastor's Office Hours—Wed. & Thurs. 10:00 am –1:00 pm
- 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.

From Pastor Jim



The season of Lent is coming at a good time for our church. Lent is traditionally a time for self-examination and repentance to prepare for the joy **and celebration of God's forgiveness of all sin** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This year we need to lift up these Lenten themes as we ask ourselves who we are as a church, why we exist and how we move into the future.

Much of this will happen with the help of Pastor Cindy Beck (see Council Highlights, next page), but it also happens in our own prayer / devotion time and when we gather for worship two times each week during Lent. This year, each of us has an opportunity to go deep within **our souls and ask ourselves "How can I turn around (repent) and go toward God when it comes to my involvement in my church?"**

St. Stephen's is in a fragile place in it's history. As I point out in my Annual Report, from the mid-70's until 1992, membership declined from about 800 to 375. Since that time we have maintained a relatively stable membership which is cause for small celebration since most ELCA congregations have declined further. However, despite some long-term plans for a better future, this past year has been filled with internal conflict that threatens this stability and our hopes to thrive in the future.

With so much external pressure on our church from a culture that increasingly sees belonging to a church as passé or is even anti-church because of the association with fanatics and extreme views, we cannot afford to allow any internal strife to be very long-lasting or it becomes toxic.

And so Lent comes at a good time for us to take a long, hard look within ourselves that leads to a repentance which turns us away from **internal conflict & toward God's will of unity within the Body of Christ.**

I stand ready to help lead us in this Lenten discipline as we continue our journey together. I pray that each of us will offer ourselves as the kind of living sacrifice that Christ offered for us - laying down our lives for each other as we move toward Holy Week.

February Happenings

Sunday Adult Forums @ 9:30

Feb. 3 "Thinking About Debt"
with Bill Anderson

Feb. 10 "Fjords in the Americas?"
Patagonia and Tierra Del Fuego
with Gary Meeker

Feb. 17 "On Death and Dying II"
Kim Cappelloni, LCSW and Pr. Jim

Feb. 24 "Communications"
with Jim Liedtke

Ariose Concert at St. Stephen's

Fri. Feb. 1 @ 8:00 pm

Sun. Feb. 3 @ 3:00 pm

Chapel with the Pre-Schoolers

Wednesdays at 10:00

Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 pm

MM/RR Valentine's Potluck

Thurs. Feb. 14 @ 10:30am Fireside

Church Council

Monday, Feb. 18, 7:00 pm

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Thursday, Feb. 28 @ 10:30

Book Club

Sat. Feb. 9 @ 10:30am Fireside

Benevolence Offering

St. Stephen's Scholarship Fund

*Electronic giving options are available
ask Janet Slay for details.*

Council Highlights

1. We welcomed Pastor Cindy Beck from the Sierra Pacific Synod office. Pr. Beck is trained in church conflict management and has been assigned to our congregation to begin a reconciliation process. The last year has produced some disagreements among us and the Kairos report recommended that our congregation engage in a reconciliation process before we enter into a Capital Fund Campaign. Pr. Beck has worked with many congregations in our Synod to help situations of conflict become opportunities for growth and new ministry. The first gathering with Pr. Beck will be for a "**Conflict Transformation Skills Workshop**" on **Saturday, March 9th from 9a.m. - 12 noon at church**. The entire congregation is asked to attend. This workshop will help lay a foundation for our continued work with Pr. Beck which is expected to last 6 months to a year. This work is intended to heal past hurts, improve communication within our congregation and to lead us toward a common mission for the future. At the culmination of Pr. Beck's work she will provide us and the Bishop with a report and recommendation for any future action. It is critical to the future health of our congregation that we all engage in this process with open minds and hearts with forgiveness as our goal.



February Birthdays

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



Anniversaries

| | |
|------|-----------------------|
| 2-6 | Pastor & Leslie Lapp |
| 2-13 | Truett & Carol Bobo |
| 2-24 | Rick & Susan Oldfield |

Prayer Concerns:

Short Term: Chris & Kent Madsen, The Family of Hjordis Quitzau. Marla Meek & family, The family of Bob Heppe, The Family of Rob Gipson, Jill Adachi and family, Dave Walthart, Francisco Bernal, Elizabeth, Pearl, Doris Ray, Lisa Pawalkat, Juanita Perez-Flores, Carla & Chris Brown, Fred & Carol Warner, Bernie Meanie, Madeline Massa, Tasha Turzo, Hazel, Cameron Lucero, Evan Milnes, Opa Meerman, Kaitlin Cahill, Abbey Meck, Corrine & Gary Stevenson, Daniel G. & sons, Joseph, Tupelo, Brad, Jan & Jer, Bruce, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and St. Stephen's Church Family. **Long Term:** Bonnie Hansen, Jan Wagner, Gail & Nancy, Renie Leaman, Beverly Gilladett, Greg Weber, Jill Lapp, Mickayla, Pearl Runquist, Jeanne, Ron Buswell, The Robe Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman, Chris Tury, Clint & Bonnie Bell, The Youth



Sunday School News

The SPSYC elementary weekend camp is almost here students in 3rd-5th grade are invited to join us for a

FAITH QUEST:

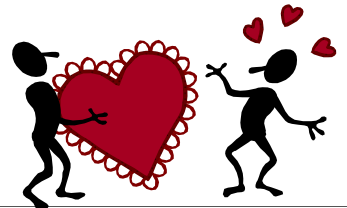
**Journey Through the Kingdom of God
February 22-24 at Mt. Cross**

We are calling all Kings and Queens; all Princes and Princesses; all Squires, Jesters, and Knights to the **Epic Quest** of the century! Come and together we will journey through the Kingdom of God in this realm. There will be intrigue, adventures, and great tales will be told of our travels! Medieval & fantasy costume is encouraged. ”. I will be chaperoning the girls and Kirk McMillin (Eli’s Dad) will be chaperoning the boys. If you haven’t signed up there is still time. Contact Leslie in the church office for more information.

February also brings one of my favorite activities with our children. This month we will be working on creating 100 handmade valentine cards for the residents of Driftwood Healthcare Center. We may even venture out to other care facilities if we have extras. This year we are also partnering with the Child and Family Institute to create and deliver these cards so we hope to share God’s love and light with even more people in our community. We plan to meet at St. Stephen’s at **1:00 on February 10th for delivery.** I will have maps available at that time. If you have any extra valentine supplies (stickers, doilies, etc.) please feel free to send them in. We love that the kids can really show their own unique creativity through this project and a variety of supplies helps to facilitate that.

I will be out of town on **Sunday February 3rd** (for a family funeral) as well as on **Sunday February 24th** (chaperoning weekend camp) and would hope to have a **volunteer** teacher lead our children on that Sunday. Curriculum and projects will be prepared in advance. Please let me know if you might be able to help or have any other questions.

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



Benefits the Child Development Ctr.

CRAB DINNER

Saturday, March 2nd

5:30 & 7:00pm

In Fellowship Hall



Featuring Live Music & silent auction

Advanced tickets required \$39 / two for \$70

- Sponsored by Thrivent Financial -

We are hoping to have lots of community participation, so invite your friends. “It takes a village”! We are asking for members to donate baked goods for dessert. Tickets are available Sundays or in the office. Call now to reserve your spot.

Dear Friends at St. Stephen’s -

I’m jumping for joy at the thought of you. You continue to amaze me with your generosity of heart and service to the community around you.

I especially give thanks to you for your heart for the inmates at SC county jail. You have brought light into a dark place with your gift of the Christmas bags for the inmates.

I pray for you my friends as you move through a difficult time and I pray that the God of light and love will bless you greatly and bring you to a time of renewal and excitement for the work God has called you to.

Your friend in Christ, Chaplain Karla Norton



St. Stephen's Child Development Center

My name is Kathy Berens and I am your new Child Development Center Director. Our Lord and Heavenly Father has assigned me this great ministry as I continue my experience at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. As a founding member of the School Board I am fortunate to have the partnership and guidance of Bill Schraft (President), Sheila Buswell (Secretary), Dusty Gipson (Treasurer), Leslie Lapp (Church Administrator), and Pastor Jim Lapp on the SSCDC ministry. We welcome Margaret Schraft as a new voting member on the School Board. Initially, my goal was to serve as an Intern through Palo Alto University and volunteer 230 hours. A turn of events has guided me to this next chapter with our church. I am thankful for the positive response and support I have received thus far from the congregation and Church Council.

I began teaching preschool when my children were very young. I raised them in the Lutheran Church and preschools and through that involvement was inspired to study child development. I had the privilege to be mentored by Ingrid Andrews, Professor at Saddleback College and a founder of St. Margaret's Episcopal School. Ingrid hired me from a great pool of educators to assist her as she was Assistant Director and Pre-K teacher concurrently. During our time together she built and Directed the Infant Toddler Center, then was promoted to Director position of the prestigious preschool. My wealth of information in which I want to share with St. Stephen's is a direct result of my time with her. My last employer was Gloria Dei Lutheran Preschool in which I was able to implement learned skills on my own. I am delighted to have returned to Lutheran School teaching with the privilege of sharing my experience with you.

My first goal thus far has been to revive the physical plant in order to create an inviting canvas for prospective families. The evidence is in the Eagle Scout playground project which was completely donated, and the overall refurbishment of the shed, sink, playground and classrooms along with the help of volunteers. Second, I am passionate about documentation and photography as the method of sharing what we do at the center and why we do it. Curriculum is facilitated

(Child Development continued)

and classrooms along with the help of volunteers. Second, I am passionate about documentation and photography as the method of sharing what we do at the center and why we do it. Curriculum is facilitated through play. I purposefully plan play experiences that have learning components in them, while documenting the development of each child as they experience the classroom and playground.

Finally, each week the SSCDC families receive a weekly email with photos attached in order to share the purpose of the experiences. Parent education is the bridge beyond the Early Childhood experience and is of great importance in community building. All of these experiences are available to you as well as you can read the SSCDC display board which includes a copy of the weekly email.

This is our school together, so please come and visit or volunteer as we would love to share this experience with you. Next month there will be more specific volunteer and donation opportunities as we all get more familiar with our mission here.

Warmly, Kathy Berens
cdc@ststephenslutheran.org (Director) 464-4453

Mary - Martha / Ruth -Rebecca Women's Circle
Valentine's Day Potluck
Thursday, Feb. 14 @ 10:30 am Fireside Room

Please bring a dish to share.

Bonne Bell & Connie Cunningham will provide Coffee and dessert.
Bonnie will be leading devotions. All women are welcome!





Thrivent Builds Homes January Update

In 2013, Thrivent Financial, the local Thrivent Chapter, local Lutheran Congregations and Habitat for Humanity Santa Cruz County have partnered to build one affordable family home in the Beach Flats area of Santa Cruz.

Family selection:

Orientations were, Jan 19th and Jan 21st. Qualified applicants will show an ability to pay for the home, a need for housing and willingness to partner with Habitat for Humanity Santa Cruz County.

Beach Flats Habitat Home:

Schematic designs have been approved for a three-bedroom, two-bath home. A public hearing with the zoning administrator will take place mid Feb. Upon approval, working drawings will be finalized, a plan check completed and construction will begin.

Fundraising and Donate a Day Campaign:

We have one year to build this house. The Donate a Day Campaign is designed to show that if ten people give \$6.85 each, we will have enough for one day's construction. If we can raise \$68.50 for 365 days, we will have the \$25,000 committed to this exciting project. **So far we have raised \$864 or 12 days!**

Would you and your friends like to donate a day or even a week? It's easy. Sign up your friends and yourself for \$6.85, less than the cost of a movie. You just need to collect the money and send the checks (payable to Habitat for Humanity with Thrivent Builds written on the memo line) to Habitat for Humanity Santa Cruz County, 1007 Cedar St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Beth Bowman, Director of Resource Development & Ron Buswell, Board Chair
(831) 469-4663 office or (831) 332-1420 cell
development@habitat.org

ReStore now open! 1007 Cedar Street
Thurs, Fri & Sat 10am - 5pm (831) 824-4704

The Progressive Christian Forum of Santa Cruz presents:

The SUBVERSIVE WAY of Jesus

A Two-day Workshop

Featuring: Dr. Robin Meyers

Author of "*The Underground Church*"

Friday, February 8 at 7:30 pm
Calvary Episcopal Church
532 Center Street

Saturday, February 9 from 9:00 to 3:00
First Congregational Church
900 High Street

Cost: \$75 including lunch \$25 Friday only \$50 Saturday only incl. lunch

Info call 831-426-2010 Register online:

www.ticketriver.com/event/5758-the-subversive-way-of-jesus

BOOK CLUB – rescheduled

Date: Saturday, February 9

Time: 10:30 am

Place: Fireside Room

Book: "To Heaven and Back" A Doctor's
extraordinary account of her death, heaven, angels and life again.
By Mary C. Neal, M.D.

Questions: Contact Candace 476-9753 or Kathy 430-6359



Do you have a good Addiction?

Vi insisted this Sunday morning at the beginning of Worship Team Practice that we pray before we start rehearsal. She reminded us that we had become too busy practicing the last couple of weeks and had forgotten to pray. We let our schedule get in the way of starting off with prayer. We skipped over the focus and power behind our mission due to time constraints. How can a church band be effective without prayer? According to Vi, nobody can. Vi has an addiction to prayer.

It was my turn to pray. We take turns to make sure everyone in the band has a chance. Jesse, Maya, Nelleke and Suzanne are also part of the worship team too, so I want to include them and even ask them to pray on occasion. I finished praying and Vi sighed, leaned into me and said, "Thank you." I had all kinds of logical reasons why I wanted to delay the prayer, yet when we skip the prayer for scheduling reasons we often still run out of time and Vi is not her best.

Vi does not go to a support group to relieve her addiction, but rather to feed it. Vi has a consuming compulsion for which she is not seeking therapy, but instead trying to escalate. Vi doesn't want to start her day, finish her day, eat a meal or clip her fingernails without praying. Well, I suppose she can clip her nails without praying, but other than that, almost everything requires prayer. That is an addiction I would love to have. I love praying, but I can get so caught up in my agenda that I often put it off and miss it altogether. Sometimes, I fall into a routine and prayer loses its worth. In short, I cannot pray like Vi, but I wish I could.

Our modern society seems to feed off addictions. Kindergarteners demand toys they see on TV and my kids play video games for hours on end. I even met a guy who said he was so addicted to golf he had to abandon the sport. He said it wrecked his marriage and interfered with attending church. He didn't have a 'Golfers Anonymous' where he could seek help, so he had to take charge of his life and quit playing altogether.

However, prayer is a positive addiction. We are called to spread the good news, serve justice and help those in need. All of that has a foundation in prayer. How can we be effective and purposeful without the critical component of prayer in our lives? It is a foundation to all that we practice as Christians. The support group for our prayer life is the church. Church attendance is the way we listen to the angel on our shoulder and not the other guy.

I would like to be a little closer to Vi and others in our church who seem to have that prayer life addiction. Maybe I can gain some helpful habits by rubbing shoulders with prayer addicts. A life of prayer might be a good topic for an adult forum seminar. What is your addiction and would you like to trade it in for prayer? Vi can't live without her prayer compulsion. Can you?

- Kirk McMilin



El Salvador Sister Parish News

The January delegation of 20 people has returned and still feeling the warmth, love and excitement of visiting our Sister Parish in the ciudadela of Guillermo Ungo. This marked the 18th delegation trip. Here are a couple of testimonies from two of the young adults who travelled with us.

"Going to El Salvador this January meant so much to me. I have wanted to go ever since my dad and brother went for the first time. I always thought it would be a great experience, and it truly was. The best part about it for me was interacting with the kids. After hearing about them for all these years it was so great to finally meet them. What I realized while I was there and when I got home is how happy the people are in El Salvador. They don't have very much but they always have a smile on their face. The people there showed me that life isn't about the material things. Being happy is about being with people you love and living life to the fullest. I made great relationships with the kids and I can't wait to go back and see them. I miss El Salvador already and think about my wonderful experience everyday. This journey opened up my eyes and I realized new things about the world. I am so grateful of everything I have in my life and especially grateful towards my dad for taking me on this trip. I love my family in El Salvador and I am so happy that they could teach me **more about life and love.**"

~ Kylie Ronning

(El Salvador continued)

"Got home last night and can't stop thinking about the trip! I want so badly to come back! I heard that there might be a delegation going sometime soon, and I am really interested in going, I also am writing to you because I would really like to have a prayer child. I see the connections that you and other people have with the kids and I want a relationship like that. Thanks! And enjoy the rest of your trip!"

~ Sarah Bargetto

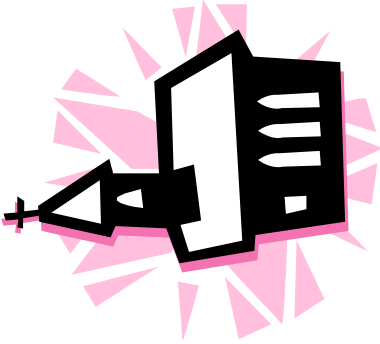
Message from Chris - **I'm happy to say at this time chemotherapy** seems to make me a little stronger and appears to be working. I am very thankful for all the prayers and concerns that have been expressed. Especially from Bp Mark Holmerud, Bp Medardo Gomez, Sister Peggy, our dear friend Pedrina who is the mayor of Suchitoto and our god-son, Walter, his mom Sandra and sister Nancy.

Thank you all
for your continued support of our work in El Salvador.

"Building Relationships for Better Lives"

Your El Salvador delegation members
Chris, Ruth, Lisa, Jill, Mitch, Kylie, Sarah, Kent and Mike

See Www.santacruzalsalvador.org for lots more information



ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 am Worship Service

9:30 am Adult Forum & Choir Rehearsal

10:30 am Worship Service

Children's Church

Coffee Hour

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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PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
January 31, 2013**