

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

*Celebrating 60
Years of Ministry
April 2014*

Holy Week & Easter Worship

Palm Sunday	April 13	8:15 & 10:30 am Worship <u>"Cry of the Whole Congregation"</u>
Maundy Thursday	April 17	11:30 am & 7:30 pm Worship <u>"The Last Supper"</u>
Good Friday	April 18	7:30 pm Worship <u>"The Seven Last Words"</u>
Easter Sunday	April 20	8:15 am Worship 10:30 am Worship with Children's Egg Hunt

Easter Breakfast served from 9:30 to 12 benefits our Sister Parish

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. — David Balogh V. P. — Joel Hurttgam
Secretary - Robbin Heppe Treasurer— Ron Buswell
Jeanette Dawson, Lisa Johnson, Judy Russell 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...

CHURCH COUNCIL RETREAT SUMMARY



After a delicious breakfast provided by Mark Linder at his home, we reviewed the Parable of the Talents and then read from Matt. Ch. 6 where Jesus teaches to not store up for ourselves treasures on earth, but to store up treasures in heaven. By reflecting on these verses, we were trying to keep God's will at the forefront of our discussions and decisions as leaders of our church, especially because they will involve the use of money in the coming year.

Many powerful and personal stories were shared around the table as we listened to how God had spoken to each of us through St. Stephen's or another church. We renewed our commitment to health and vitality of our church by realizing just how meaningful the work of the church had been in each of our lives.

One of our main objectives that day was to emerge with a concrete approach to implementing the "Problem-Solving Document" that was approved at the annual meeting Jan. 26. Lisa Johnson graciously offered to re-work the document to condense redundancies and things already accomplished. The rest of the items will be accomplished through a creative process brought to us by Judy Russell using a method she has developed in her mom's group called "The Bible Experience". It's called "Living Out God's Good Purposes...by playfully putting to work St. Stephen's Problem Solving Document". Essentially, beginning with each council person, we will identify an action from the PSD and we will invite others to join in fulfilling it. After identifying a related Bible verse, we will decide how to use our "talent or bag of gold" to go and do the action. Afterwards we will reflect on how God worked through our efforts and share the story with the congregation. At our April meeting we will share what we will do.

We spent some time developing a new vision statement that will guide our actions in the coming 5 years or so. We realized that the one we used in the past was about 10 yrs old and came out of a difficult experience as Light of Life had recently closed. At the same time we affirmed our Congregational Mission Statement. The vision statement will help to focus us on how we will fulfill our mission.

We concluded with prayers of Kyrie and Gloria.

April Happenings

Lenten Worship & Soup

April 2 & 9 - 10:30 am & 6:30 pm

Chapel with the Pre-Schoolers

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 pm

Women's Café Group

On hiatus during lent. Come to Wed. worship & Soup suppers.

Altar Guild

April 5 from 9—10:30 am

Worship & Music Committee

April 8 at 7:00 pm

MMRR Women's Circle

April 10 at 10:30 am

Property Work Day

April 19 9:00—12

Church Council

April 21 at 7:00 pm

Women's Bible Study

April 22 at 10:30 am

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

April 22 @ 10:30 (new day Tues)

Child Dev. Center Board

April 28 at 7:00 pm

Council Highlights

1. Devotions and prayer centered on “The Parable of the Talents” from Matthew 25. This has been the guiding principle for the Field Task Force as we worked toward using our field for providing affordable housing. This month we receive the final lump-sum lease payment from Mid-Pen and we want to use the gifts we have been entrusted to wisely for God’s glory.
2. Renegotiated our agreement with Palo Alto Medical Foundation for 20 parking spaces to be used Mon- Fri. at \$4000/ yr.
3. Passed several motions related to finances:
 - a) to put the Mid-Pen payment into our existing Thrivent Money Market fund until a more permanent place is determined by Finance Comm.
 - b) that October benevolence be changed to the Global Mission Advocacy Team El Salvador pastor’s endowment.
 - c) that Mark Linder, Ron Buswell and Bill Anderson be added as signers on our investment accounts.
 - d) that mid-year scholarships of \$250 each be awarded to Mary Robe and Juanita Perez-Flores who first enrolled for Winter semester at Cabrillo College.
4. Council retreat will be held at Mark Linders home Sat. March 22. The agenda was distributed and included: Matt. 6 reflection, sharing faith stories about how God has spoken through St. Stephen’s to you, how to address the problem-solving document, develop vision statement, review old and develop new 5 year plan.



April Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|------|-------------------|------|---------------|------|-----------------|
| 4-1 | Joel Hurttgam | 4-16 | Manny Travers | 4-21 | Jakob Houser |
| 4-5 | John Tury | 4-16 | Doris Ray | 4-26 | Maya Gipson |
| 4-8 | Robbin Heppe | 4-17 | Brian Houser | 4-29 | Nelleke Meerman |
| 4-11 | Barbara Bautz | | | | |
| 4-11 | Lorie Coronado | | | | |
| 4-12 | Ron Buswell | | | | |
| 4-12 | Joshua Lorenz | | | | |
| 4-13 | Tempest Abler | | | | |
| 4-13 | Mary Jane Hoch | | | | |
| 4-15 | Linda Lillehaugen | | | | |
| 4-16 | Jason Awe | | | | |



Anniversaries

- | | |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 4-8 | Stephen & Kim
Cappelloni |
| 4-10 | Don & Nancy Daves |
| 4-13 | Nick & Becky Judd |
| 4-29 | Hilding & Dorothy Ronning |
| 4-30 | Don & Shirley Fuqua |

Prayer Concerns:

Short Term: Renie Leaman, Lisa Pawalkat, Kirk's mom, Susan Gross family, Family of Bruce Blado, Terri Adams family, Jan Sollem-Brotherton, Mark, Linda, Debbie, Dorothy, Artie, Babe, Aunt Bea, Billy Rodoni, Kurt Bell, Lorie Juhl, Crystal, Jeffrey, David & Daniel Jr., Shelby, Robe family, Aunt Pat Sargent, Laura, Evan, Julie, Jenna, Heyzel, Maicon, Opa, Tasha, Kathy, Millie & Bob Simmen, Chris, The St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and The St. Stephen's Church Family. **Long Term:** Jennifer Borgardt, Jan & Jer, Aunt Elsie, Gary, Pat Hubbard, Chris & Kent Madsen, Jan Wagner, Cathy Yost, Beverly Gilladett, Cathy Lorenzo, Dee, Jill Lapp, Mickayla, Pearl Runquist, Jeanne, Ron Buswell, Brooks & Glen Leaman, Youth of today.



Sunday School News

Spring is almost here! In Sunday School we have been busy learning about Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It has been a great time of faith building with our students. They are always full of wonderful questions and observations. I continue to be blessed by them and their unique perspectives.

Take a look at what we have planned for April:

Sunday April 6th – What is Holy Week? We will discuss and complete a fun project that will help the kids better understand what is happening during this time of year at church.

Sunday April 13th PALM SUNDAY- No Sunday School. Students will remain in church with families to enjoy a dramatic reading presentation by members of the congregation during the 10:30 service.

Sunday April 20th EASTER- we will have a celebration during our normal Sunday School time including a story, crafts and healthy snacks. There will also be an egg hunt right after the 10:30 service.

Sunday April 27th- What does it all mean? We will reflect on what we have learned about Easter and Holy Week and what it means for us. This will include discussion and an art project.

Mark your calendars for our End of Year Potluck celebration on Sunday May 18th right after the 10:30 service. This is such a fun event for the whole congregation and marks the end of the official Sunday School year. Let me know if you have any questions or would like to help with any of our fun lessons or events.

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





St. Stephen's Child Development Center

As I reflect on content for this newsletter I came across last year's article and noticed the growth we have made in the last year. In April 2013, we were painting classrooms, hiring our first qualified teacher, starting our garden, and creating a new website. We have come a long way to realizing our vision for the CDC. We have our teachers Frieda Karelin and Caryn Bowles contributing to all aspects of the classrooms, our center is clean, we have yielded many plant growing experiences in our garden, and the website and advertising are up and running. Reflection is a great tool in order to track progress and open opportunities for additional growth. I had the opportunity to complete 10 hours with a Mentor which gave me the tools to bring our files and the facility up to code for Community Care Licensing. Our ministry is ready for official visitors and I have peace of mind regarding regulations.

Our goal for April is to update the website including pictures of the improvements and experiences we provide. We have 13 current students, 13-15 students for summer enrollment, and 10 returning students for fall enrollment. As we grow we are mindful of what our facility can support and the quality we would like to offer to our families. In contrast to last year's critical need for additional enrollment, we will update our advertising to keep our name in the community. We are in a position to begin a waiting list with only a few openings to offer. Our bathroom accessibility will be a controlling factor in keeping enrollment between 13-18 students. We are proud to offer quality care and curriculum with personal attention to each child balanced with staying within our now healthy budget.

As we enter Spring Break we reflect on March 2014 which began with generous efforts from our congregation to make our Crab Dinner a great success. About \$2700 was raised! We had 6 families attend including and alumni from last year. The families truly enjoyed the experience with our congregation. Please refer to our **Thank You** poster in the Narthex that recognizes the volunteers who worked so hard to make this event successful. Proceeds will be applied to building a new sandbox area and manipulatives for the classroom. The ability to do this is very timely as spring creates new energy and familiarity for the children creating the need to offer new experiences and keep their interest which in turn facilitates positive guidance.

As we celebrate the season of Easter we symbolically will release the butterflies we observed through metamorphosis. May you feel the renewal and joy that April offers to our ministries here at St. Stephen's. We appreciate all of your kind words and support as we continue to move forward with progress and reflection at our preschool. Thanks be to God! Blessings, Kathy Berens



Santa Cruz County

Hello Members of St Stephen's!

As you know, Habitat builds decent, affordable housing for low income families. In 2013 Thrivent awarded Habitat a grant to build a home on Harbor Drive in Santa Cruz. The home was finished in December 2013 on schedule, and the Sun family was able to move in before Christmas.

We would like to thank all of you who helped make this happen including those who made lunches for the volunteers, those who participated in our "first Friday of the month" clean up days, those who volunteered to build the home and those who donated to support this effort. We couldn't have done it without you!

Our local Lutheran churches had a goal of raising \$25,000 for the 2013 build but actually raised over \$40,000 including cash and gifts in kind. We also had a goal that 25% of the volunteers would be Lutheran /Thrivent members and we actually achieved 22%. Again, thanks so much for your support.

For 2014 we had applied to Thrivent for a build grant for the ADU (accessory dwelling unit) located in the back of the Harbor Drive property. Initially we were told we would not receive a grant this year, but a few weeks later we learned that someone else had dropped out, so we did receive the grant!

We are well on our way – the foundation is in, all the walls are up, and the roof will be completed before you read this. Stop by Harbor Drive to check out our progress. We expect to complete this home by May. Everett Smith, a deaf man and his seven year old daughter have been selected as the future homeowners and he is working hard to complete his 500 hours of sweat equity. Since he is deaf, others can contribute hours to help him complete his sweat equity. If you would like to volunteer, you can have your hours count toward his goal.

We hope you will be able to help build this home by volunteering again this year. Margaret Schraft is coordinating lunches for the volunteers once per month and we have the "first Friday of the month" clean up days from 10-12 noon scheduled for April and May. Come join us.

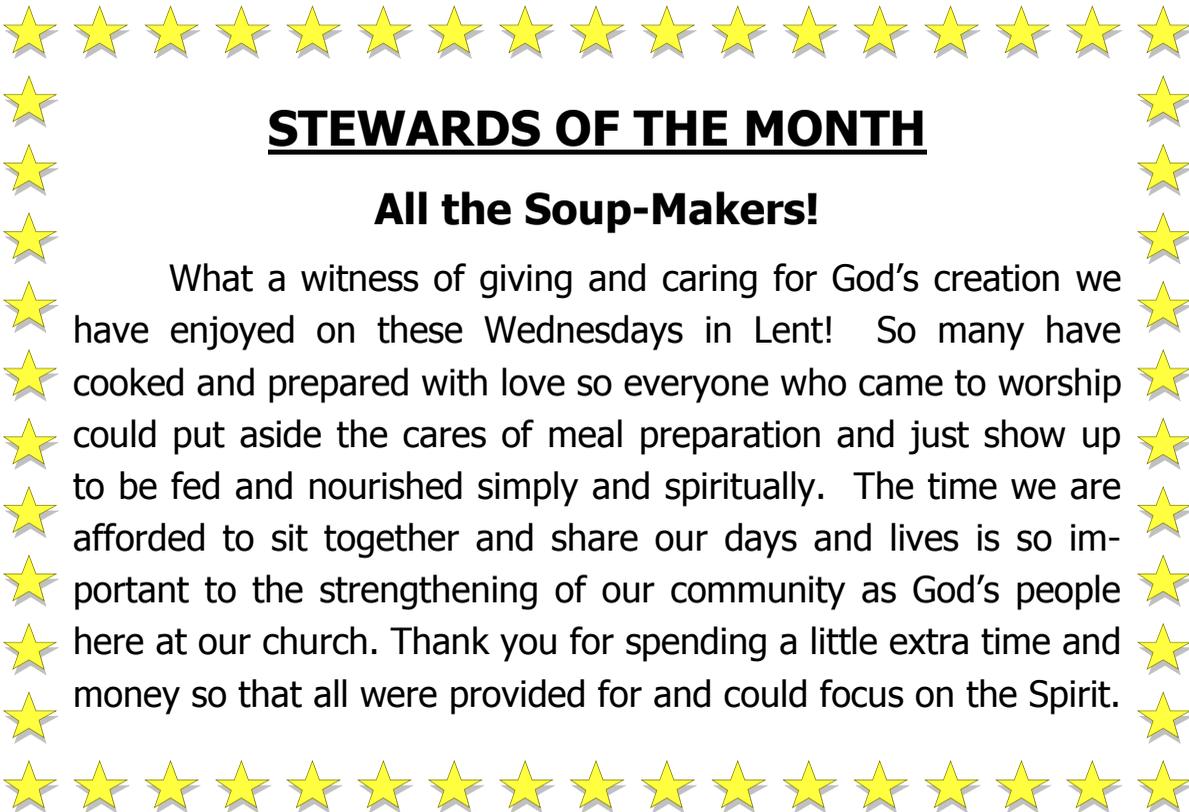
Thanks again, Ron Buswell

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering - April

Habitat for Humanity

Our mission is to build decent, affordable housing for low income people in Santa Cruz County. Since being established in 1989, we have built 34 homes in Santa Cruz County and have three additional homes nearly completed in Scotts Valley. When a family is selected to purchase a home, they must complete 500 hours of "sweat equity" to qualify. The price of the home is typically set by the family's ability to pay, and the mortgage is held by the local Habitat affiliate at 0% interest.

March: Live Oak Family Resource Center - \$160 was given (as of 3/24)



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.

Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca Circle

Thursday, April 10 at 10:30 am

Speaker: Gitta Kyle

Who, at 82 years of age, is a Holocaust survivor and will tell her story.

Please bring a sandwich.

Hostesses Joanne & Ruth will provide Coffee and dessert.

All women are welcome!

Mt. Cross Ministries Memorial Day

Work Weekend and BBQ

May 23-26

This is it, the big weekend of the year! You can fight traffic and the rest of California going camping and to the lake or you can come for a weekend of projects at Mt. Cross to repair and prepare camp for the summer season. Saturday and Monday are spent working, with recreation activities, campfire devotions and rest time in the evening. Sunday there is a BBQ and activities for everyone in the family. You must register yourself and/or your family for this event.

Visit our website www.mtcross.org
or contact us at program@mtcross.org

The Drought is Here—Blog from Bishop Holmerud

“Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’” John 4

...driving through the very northern reaches of our synod from Chico to Yreka. It was good to connect with church leaders; to hear the hopes, joys and concerns of their lives and ministries. I was also shocked and amazed as I drove past Lake Shasta and Trinity Lake. They are alarmingly dry for this time of year, and with the snow pack at 10% of normal, it portends to be a long, hot, dry summer. Water rationing is already in place, and communities are being told their water supplies will be exhausted in a matter of weeks unless significant rain begins to fall. Even with the rain, it will not be nearly enough to change what climatologists are calling a “500 year drought.”

Five years ago, when I visited our Companion Synod in Rwanda, water was also an issue, but in a much different way. There are many places where you don’t simply turn on a faucet to get all the water you want. They are forced to walk for miles every day to fill 5 gallon water cans, and then carry them – full and weighing 40 lbs – miles back to their homes.

To offer assistance to these thirsty people, the Lutheran Church of Rwanda and the LWF were working to create water catchment systems, so that more sources of clean, potable water would be available. Their profound witness reaching into the everyday lives of people with the love and regard Christ has for ALL causes me to wonder “What will our witness as followers of Jesus be in the coming months / years of drought conditions?” What support will we offer to the people of the communities we serve, in what will surely be “ground zero” for the worst effects of the drought?

- What will our words and actions say to those whose lives will be devastated because of the lack of our usually abundant supplies of water?
- How will we stand with and support both the growers and the gatherers who may well be standing in food lines together before the summer is out?
- How will we support the firefighters and those whose homes or lives have been lost when a predicted dangerous fire season comes?
- How will we advocate for using less water for the lawns and shrubs around our homes and churches so fields and orchards and livestock will have more water?
- How will we advocate with State and local water officials for just, equitable and ecologically sound water policies?

I’ll be driving and praying about this (with my eyes open) when I’m “on the road again.” I look forward to reading/hearing how you are walking and working and imagining God’s presence through these and other questions in our lives and ministries... “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?” Matthew 25

January - February 2014

Financial Recap

	Annual Budget	Two Month Est.	Actuals	Delta
Income	\$ 199,500.00	\$ 33,250.00	\$ 27,253.30	\$ (5,996.70)
Expenses	\$ 198,730.00	\$ 33,121.67	\$ 33,083.99	\$ (37.68)
Subtotal			\$ (5,830.69)	
MidPen Funding**			\$ 5,000.00	
Net			\$ (830.69)	

** \$5000 from MidPen \$60K payment in December 2013 **

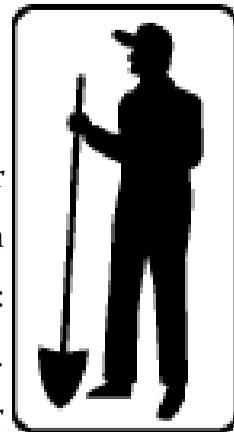
Kirk expects to be able to input our budget in QB in May so we should have budget vs. actual information by June Financial Committee meeting

Electronic giving options are available.
Call the office or ask Janet Slay for details.

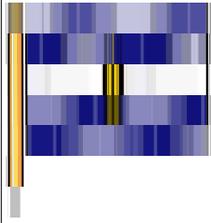
Property Work Day

April 19 - 9 am to noon

Let's get together to make our church shine for Easter! Tis the season for gardening, bring your sun hat gloves, and weeding tools. Other projects include: sanding, painting, electric work, and roof tile repair. Contact Council member Joel Hurttgam 425-0964 for



WORK DAY



El Salvador Sister Parish News

Jesse McMilin, part 2

Perhaps the most memorable experience of all came to me through music, as in many situations it often does, seeing as music is my gift and I regard it as my utmost duty and pleasure to share it in whatever way I can. On the trip with us was Mauricio—19, who had been raised in El Salvador and is currently living with Ruth and Mike Cruddas, attending Cabrillo College. He brought his guitar along with him, and was well-learned in an intriguing style that was a blend of classic rock and the music of his own culture. On the last night of the trip, he invited me to a jam session. We stayed up much longer than we intended, resulting in a very sleepy next day, but it was well worth it. As I sat with him in front of the schoolrooms, the two of us connected in what almost seemed to be a singular mind as we contemplated the trip in the form of music. The endless audience of stars above seemed to be listening with utter fascination as the darkness of night sang along in echoing harmony. And at that moment, I knew for certain I wanted to return. I decided with resolution that I would go on the next mission trip and live again amongst the beauty that is El Salvador.

The children there delighted me, their boundless curiosity never for a second letting them out of the sight of the mysterious Americans. They wanted to show us everything they did; they wanted to take us everywhere in their little town; they wanted to accompany us on our hikes up the mountains and from house to house. One day remains distinct in my memory when we were hosting a craft project, several tables spread throughout the school cafeteria and bearing various activities. The projects coming along quite nicely, we decided to play a little music for the kids to sing along to. I ran back to the schoolrooms where we were staying and grabbed my ukulele, and soon enough we were engaged in a Spanish version of the popular camp song, "Joy in my Heart." The children, of course, wanted to try out the instruments for themselves. Omar—7, came up to me after the song, hands outstretched tentatively and eyes expectant, the request to try the ukulele obvious in his expression. I let him, which was possibly the biggest simultaneous mistake and success I had on the entire trip.

Before I knew it, I had a parade of children following me around wielding enthusiastically the plethora of small, accessible instruments I had taken on the trip. Noticing that some delegation members were getting rather annoyed at the cacophony, I decided to move outside with my miniature orchestra of chaos. Rumor has it that whenever I approached, one could hear the advancing wailing of the ukulele, a recorder or two, and several harmonicas. The kids certainly had fun, and I did too, but I am most definitely

(Sister Parish Continued)

definitely glad I was able to ask someone how to say, "Not now, but maybe later," in Spanish before the situation got too out of hand. Of course, my orchestra seemed melodic and soothing compared to the rooster that sat by our window that night, which, contrary to popular belief, does not crow once at five or so in the morning but rather every two seconds from ten to seven.

Colin Boyle: The following was submitted by Lisa Johnson, using some of the papers her son Colin wrote after his trips to El Salvador.

This past January Jesse and Rachel had the opportunity to travel to El Salvador on a delegation. I loved hearing their stories during adult forum. I am reminded that they are now a part of the many young people from St Stephen's who have visited their prayer children and their families. Besides youth from the various churches in our organization, those from our church include Kyle Lapp, Kyle Travers, Joe & Kylie Ronning, Stephanie Dawson, Nikki Creel, and my own son Colin and my grandson Jimi. All of these young people have had a life changing experience, all have come home with a better understanding of themselves and of others, and above all the understanding of being in relationship with people from a different culture.

Colin will be graduating from Santa Clara U. in June as a civil engineer and will be entering the Peace Corp. Since 2006 Colin has written several school papers about his Salvadoran experiences. In 2009 he wrote "... Witnessing the extreme poverty of the country opened my eyes to what privileges I possessed... El Salvador was an amazing experience, especially because we stayed *with* the people not in a hotel. El Salvador has inspired me to help my own community such as the local Boys' and Girls' Club..."

"I had the chance to hike to the top of Guazapa (a mountain not far from my summer home in El Salvador), sitting atop a boulder looking over the vast reaches of one of the poorest yet beautiful countries in the world... we sat resting among one another as we rejoiced in our feat of the mountain by sharing a bag of potato chips. A barbed wire fence encircled us, preventing the cattle that grazed on the hill from approaching the deadly edge. This mountain was once used as a guerilla military base in the civil war that ended in 1992, and one of the boys found an old bullet shell. Intertwined in the barbed wire were flowers, slowly constricting the wire as they bloomed... "My El Salvador experiences have persuaded me to help these developing nations in the best possible way: repairing their infrastructure—roads, bridges, buildings, sanitation systems; and most importantly, developing more ways to have access to clean water."

As a parent I am so grateful for Ruth and Chris, Mike and Kent. For sharing your passion and love of the Salvadoran people with us, for sharing in the spirit of the good works that Jesus Christ has called us to do.

Edita McQuary (office administrator at Christ Lutheran, Aptos):

Edita wrote an incredible article on the peace pole ceremony in which the January 2014 delegation participated. Lisa championed the construction of a peace pole in 2008, and a ceremony has been held annually since then. "A **Peace Pole** is a monument that displays the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" (or equivalent) in the language of the country where it has been placed, and usually 3 to 5 additional translations. Since 1983, more than 100,000 have been placed around the world in over 180 countries." (Wikipedia). Edita's article appeared in the March 15 issue of the Aptos Times. I highly encourage you to go to the following URL to read the article. Chris Madsen will make a copy and post it in the Narthex. It is titled "The Peace Pole and the Helicopter".

http://issuu.com/timespublishinggroup/docs/a21403_tab_issuu/23?e=3533832/7075540

I should mention, for those of you who know Larry Morkert, that Edita makes a statement about Rev. Morkert's death. Larry is alive, living in Chicago with his wife Kathleen and near his two children.

A reminder about up-coming fundraisers:

Easter Lilies (order before Apr. 13)



Easter Breakfast (Apr. 20)

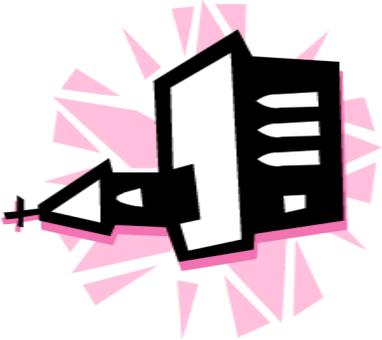
Wine tasting at Bargettos: June 7

Rummage Sale: June 28



Peace to you, and as always a sincere
Thank You to all of you for your support.

Santa Cruz al Salvador board



ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 am Worship Service & Coffee Hour

9:30 am Adult Forum & Choir

10:30 am Worship Service

Children's Church

Coffee Hour

NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
March 27, 2014

POST OFFICE:
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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

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