

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

*Celebrating 60
Years of Ministry
March 2014*

March 5 – Ash Wednesday Services - 11:30am & 7:15pm

March 12– April 9 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

(No Soup Ash Wednesday)



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 helping those in need 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
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...



On Tuesday, February 11, I was honored to attend the County Board of Supervisors meeting as they considered the plan to build St. Stephen's (affordable) Senior Housing. A very professional presentation was made by the Mid-Pen staff and then the floor was opened for public comment. I spoke on behalf of our congregation and told the story of how we had come to this day.

I began by telling about how in the late 90's, the Santa Cruz housing market began skyrocketing in response to the immense wealth being made over in Silicon Valley. As housing costs escalated, people who had lived here for a long time and whose income remained the same, found they could no longer pay the rent or mortgage.

At one point a woman and her family who had grown up at St. Stephen's approached the council to live in their trailer in the church parking lot. They lived there for 3 months before moving out of the area for good, leaving their extended family in Santa Cruz. There were also stories of the lack of affordable places for seniors to live on their fixed income.

And so, encouraged by our ministry partners in COPA, we began to ask how we could make a difference, and we took the step of offering our land for affordable housing about 6 years ago.

The supervisors unanimously approved our development and 3 of them even took time to publicly thank us for serving the community in this way. It was a landmark moment after 17 years of engaging in ways to help those who need quality and affordable housing.

It is also one of the best stories of how a congregation has lived out biblical stewardship in a very significant way. St. Stephen's has used the gift of it's land in a way that has multiplied that gift many times over in service to others. On top of that, new funds are now available for even further ministry to be multiplied, much like Jesus' Parable of the Talents challenges us to do.

When I was called as your pastor, I chose a theme verse from John 15 where we are encouraged to bear fruit - fruit that will last- to show that we are Jesus' disciples. It is very fulfilling to be able to say that we have certainly done that! It is looking like the Groundbreaking Ceremony will be in October. Praise God.

March Happenings

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.

Property Work Day

March 8 9:00—12

MMRR Women's Circle

March 13 at 10:30 am

Healthcare Academy

March 15 11:00—1:00

SC al Salvador reunion

March 15

Church Council

March 17 at 7:00 pm

Women's Bible Study

March 25 at 10:30 am

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

March 27 @ 10:30

Ushers needed– will train!

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

Council Highlights

1. Devotions and prayer centered on an article we read from our new ELCA Bishop, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton based on 1 Cor. 12. She reminds us to lift up the things that uniquely make us the church as opposed to the things we share in common with other well-meaning organizations. We are to be clear that we don't try to "get more members", but that we get more focused on our purpose as Christ's followers.
2. The long-term ground lease of our field, with Mid-Peninsula Housing Corp., who will build and manage the 40 units of affordable St. Stephens Senior Housing, was approved unanimously. This is the document that outlines in detail our agreement and relationship with Mid-Pen as the housing is built and maintained over the years. This includes the new signage, bell tower, parking lot, lighting, fencing off of our neighbor and landscaping - besides the new building itself. Thank you to our attorney, Catherine Philipovitch, for representing the church's interests so well, and to Mark Linder, Ron Buswell and Herb Schmidt for shepherding the whole process.
3. The Council retreat will be held at Mark Linder's home on Sat. March 22. David Balogh, Judy Russell, Ron Buswell and Pastor Jim will plan the agenda. It will include a recommendation from the Mutual Ministry Comm. to prioritize and condense the "Problem-Solving Document" that resulted from the reconciliation process with Pr. Cindy Beck from the Synod office.



March Birthdays

3-2 Nancy Prevedelli	3-20 Peggy Crews
3-4 Dave Robe	3-21 Mike Cruddas
3-5 Steven Pond	3-21 John Schneider
3-6 Bev Hickman	3-22 Elizabeth Balogh
3-10 Marshall Bautz	3-23 Sheila Buswell
3-10 Mark Mabry	
3-12 Theresa Loback-Campbell	3-23 Polly Cappelloni
3-18 Keith Slay	3-24 Dean Slay
3-18 Shelby Volpi	3-27 Chuck Davis
3-19 Oliver Spires	



Anniversaries

3-9 Steve & Robin Reid
3-10 Steve & Julie Mouw
3-16 Bill & Sherilyn Jager
3-19 Brad & Shawn Cramer
3-29 Randy & Kathy Johnson

Prayer Concerns:

Short Term: Terri Adams & family, Eli, Naomi Lyall, Jan Sollem-Brotherton, Jane Davis, Jim Norgaard, Jaqueline Hernandez, Adrienne, Nathan, Lorie Juhl, Natalie, Joseph, Crystal, Jeffrey, David & Daniel Jr., Family of Ken Keighley, Shelby, Robe family, Aunt Pat Sargent, Laura, Kaitlin Cahill, Heyzel, Maicon, Evan, Cameron, 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, Renie Leaman, Cathy Yost, Beverly Gilladett, Lisa Pawalkat, Bonnie Hansen, Cathy Lorenzo, Dee, Jill Lapp, Mickayla, Pearl Runquist, Jeanne, Ron Buswell, The Robe Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman, Youth of today.



**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY**

Sunday School News

Dear Sunday School Friends and Family,

We had such a meaningful experience in February delivering Valentine's at Driftwood Healthcare Center in Santa Cruz. I am so proud of our children. They made 100 valentines! They are truly letting their lights shine bright in this community. The residents and staff really appreciated their visit and were so happy to see them.

We also had some of our students attend the Mount Cross Weekend Camp in February. This is such a great way for our students build relationships with each other and other students in our Synod. It is always a great time. Proof is in the new songs they are singing around the house, and the pile of really dirty laundry.

Mark your calendars for Easter Sunday, April 20th. We will be hosting an Easter egg hunt after the 10:30 along with a special Sunday School celebration during our regular class time. Please let me know if you would like to help out with this fun event!

Sincerely,
Dusty Gipson

831-338-3787 home
dustygipson@yahoo.com

End of the Year Potluck May 18 after the 10:30 service



St. Stephen's Child Development Center

Our month kicked off with our second annual Crab Dinner Fundraiser March 1. Thank you to all of the volunteers that made this event happen especially, Bill & Margaret Schraft, Leslie Lapp, Sheila Buswell, Don Smalley, and Kirk McMillan. We will highlight a more specific accounting of volunteers in our next newsletter.

As we enter March we usually start planning for spring. Although we wish for more winter rain we will move forward with traditional activities. In science, we will be learning about butterflies and metamorphosis through observing our caterpillars as they go through the process of change. We will release the butterflies' end of March before our spring break March 31 – April 4. In art, we will be making liquid watercolor butterflies using eye droppers to paint with which helps develop fine motor muscles.

In our garden sweet peas should be in full bloom and we will observe the process along with enjoying their magnificent scent. The children harvested the seed from dried stalk out of Miss Kathy's garden last summer bringing this science activity full circle. We will be harvesting carrots we planted in December to eat and feed to our bunny Shanti.

St. Patrick's Day is sure to bring Leprechaun Shenanigans to our classrooms along with O'Brien potatoes for snack. We will also create our rainbow and shamrock display for your enjoyment in the hallway.

Finally, we will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday by enjoying his many publications. We will feature "Green Eggs and Ham" in English and Italian followed by dining on that very meal.

Thank you for all of your snack contributions. We will have an updated list available to view on our announcement board in the hallway as we appreciate continued contributions from our generous congregation and school families.



Blessings, Kathy Berens 462-4453

Adult Forums — Every Sunday @ 9:30
Lenten Perspectives

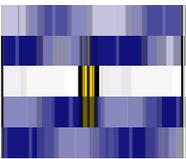
Mar 2 - "Lent Overview - What & Why?" - Pastor Jim

Mar 9 - "Prayer" - Pastor Herb Schmidt & Friends

Mar 16 - "Wings of Advocacy" - Guest Speaker:
Jim Young - A one-to-one ministry with the homeless.

Mar 23 - TBD

Mar 30 - "Serving Homeless People in Santa Cruz"
The 180 / 180 Project - James Russell, Social Worker



Save the Dates (Sister Parish benefits)

Mar. 23 – Apr. 13 (approx. dates): Easter Lily sale

April 20: Easter Breakfast

June 7: Winetasting at Bargetto Winery

June 28: Rummage Sale and car wash (Boy Scouts)



On Feb. 10 a car accident wiped out our sign when the driver fell asleep. Several folks responded quickly to help. John Hopping went beyond his custodial duties to clean up the huge mess. Ron Buswell, Pastor Jim, Leslie and Bill Anderson repaired and replaced the sign.

Also, the church refrigerator went out. Thank you Joel Hurttgam and Pastor Jim for helping replace the broken refrigerator.



Steward of the Month - Ron Buswell

Ron has shared his time and skills in several ways this past month. A potential big problem with our sign being hit by a car was immediately taken on by Ron and we now have a very attractive replacement. As our new Treasurer, Ron has led a transition from a paid bookkeeper to a new church system for volunteers. He has served on the Field Task Force for 5 years leading to the recent Board of Supervisors approval for St. Stephens Affordable Senior Housing. He spends a few days a week building homes with Habitat for Humanity, and serves as Chair of their local board. Thanks for your powerful witness, Ron! It inspires us to give our lives back to God, too.



Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca Circle

Thursday, March 13 at 10:30 am

Speaker: Author, Karen O'Connor

She will share her Faith Journey. Her Books will be for sale.

Please bring a sandwich. Hostesses Connie & Rebecca will provide Coffee and dessert. All women are welcome!

The Class: Spiritual Awakening 2.0 based on the work of Diana Butler-Bass

Dates: March 2, 4-6 pm; March 9, 12:30-2:30 pm,
and March 16, 4-6pm PeaceUnited Church of Christ, 900 HighStreet

Description: This three-part series is designed to follow-up the Progressive Christian Forum "Christianity After Religion" and her book, *The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening*. We will dive deep into Diana Butler Bass's agitational questions and seek our own Expression of Spiritual Awakening 2.0... for ourselves, our churches, and our communities. We will Express ourselves through individual and group experiential assignments. Please RSVP so we can have materials ready for you! mmale@baymoon.com

Worship and Music Committee

Please refer to the W/M Comm. Annual Report for a complete summary of the 2013 accomplishments and goals for 2014.

Meeting 2/10/14. Pr. Jim led us in devotions which focus on the recent Gospel from Luke Ch 2, that God has given us everything we need to do our mission. When we gather in Jesus' name in worship we are a body of Christ as we focus on those who are present and pray for those who are absent. We shared our dreams for SS, a similar activity being done by the Council. Attendance at the holiday service was about the same as the previous year, with the 5:30 Children's service well attended. The Lutheran Handbook/Guide is now complete and in the pews behind the Bible so please take a moment and review this wonderful piece of work- thank you to Candace, Jim and Bonnie (and Candace's nephew for the assist with formatting). The Toddler Room is completed with the addition of a gently used swivel-rocker and the room is used most every Sunday. Selections were made for the liturgy for the Sundays in Lent with the need to keep it simple for the Congregation's sections. We didn't get through the entire agenda so items were moved to the next meeting to be held 4/8/14. Goals that we will begin working on: review the recommendations from the 2013 Reconciliation Report, conduct a simple congregational survey, and updating the worship assistants list (acolyte, 1st & 2nd assistant, usher lists) with review of the time and talent sheets, and implementation of "Prayer Ribbons".

Please continue to give us feedback as we work towards enhancing everyone's worship experience.

HEALTH CARE ACADEMY

Sat. March 15th from 11am - 1pm

At St. Stephen's, sponsored by COPA

As the Affordable Health Care Act deadline of March 31 approaches there still may be confusion about signing up for Covered California or Medi-Cal.

This academy will give general information, help answer questions and give possible stories / scenarios for coverage and their prices. It will also provide connections to enrollment counselors in our community who will be able to help people sign up before the deadline if they don't already have coverage. Everyone is welcome. There is no fee for any of the services of enrollment counselors.

Book Club

Saturday, March 15 @ 10:30 am Fireside Rm

Book: “Bitter Grounds” by Sandra Benitez

Come for lively discussion and fellowship

Questions: Call Candace 476-9753

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering - March

Live Oak Family Resource Center

This valuable community center serves many in our local neighborhood and is one of our COPA partners as we seek to meet the needs of families by organizing for changes and new opportunities. Below is an excerpt from the ‘Thank You Letter’ we received last year. It reminds us about the importance of our partnership with places who are serving the more vulnerable ones in our community.

“Thank you so much for your generous donations. Your contribution has already gone to work providing vital services for the Live Oak Families, including connecting them with health insurance and providing free summer sports leagues for kids.” Kate Hinnenkamp, Director

February: Scholarship Fund - \$205 was given (as of 2/17)

A Note from the Lutheran Campus Ministry at CSU Monterey Bay

Each Thursday, the Episcopal Campus Minister (Jon Perez) and I, the Lutheran Campus Minister (Clark Brown) have a drop-in discussion time in the CSUMB dining commons that we call “Chaplains Out to Lunch.” Recently, a young woman sat down with us for the first time, and she was clearly trying to figure out just who and what we are. “Are you a priest?” she asked the one wearing the funny black shirt. “Yes,” said Jon, “I’m an Episcopal priest, and Clark is a Lutheran Pastor.”

We went on to explain that our role on campus was to support all students, faculty, and staff regardless of their religious background, including the events we sponsor and pastoral care we offer. She told us she was Pentecostal in background and then she asked “Are you Christian?”

We frequently are asked this question, usually by more conservative Christians. When these students ask us, it is not meant with any malice, but out of genuine curiosity. Still, we understand that many of the Christian students on campus have been raised with the idea that the “mainline” churches and Roman Catholic churches are, at best, marginally Christian.

For this young woman, her language about her belief in Jesus was dominated by images of punishment for those who do not obey God: “fire,” “the oven,” and “destruction.” As she asked us what we thought of these things, we offered that our churches did not emphasize God’s punishment so much, but the Good News of grace that Jesus constantly proclaims. We explained that we believe that God transforms lives and this world through abounding love, and we most want our people to know that with confidence.

I could tell this was hard for her to understand. Her faith was very conditional: you have to believe or “the oven;” you have to behave or “the oven.” And yet, she was asking the questions. College is a time of immense growth, and not just intellectually. For both students straight out of high school and older students, these years are a time of questioning and imagining possibilities; it can be a time of dramatic spiritual growth.

This is why we Lutherans and Episcopalians are on campus at CSUMB and UCSC, to help students grow spiritually and proclaim the astounding and abundant grace of God, known in Jesus’ life, teaching, death, and resurrection. In our world of competition and materialism, it is simply shocking how many people have not *heard* this Good News.

Through the work of campus ministry and the Good News of Christ we proclaim, God is transforming lives, often in ways we never even find out about. Thank you for your ongoing partnership to your local universities.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Clark M. Brown

El Salvador Sister Parish News

We continue with some personal stories from the last two delegations to El Salvador.

Edita McQuary from Christ Lutheran in Aptos. The following thoughts are from an article she wrote for the 2/15 edition of the Aptos Times (vol 23, # 4; www.tpgonlinedaily.com). Since this was her first trip, she learned what "Building Relationships for Better Lives" means. Her first impression was "After landing we made our way outside where instead of the usual Holiday Inn or parking garage, palm trees in a park greeted us - how novel!. Some of the activities she wrote about: "To understand a country, one needs to know some of its history... On Friday morning, Kent Madsen took the first-time visitors to various historical sites, including the "Memorial Wall". "This wall, in a park, has 32,000 names etched on it of people who had been killed or had 'disappeared' during the civil war of 1979-1992."

Other highlights for Edita were the craft project organized by Joey Amrhein (formerly of Christ Luth) of glitter tattoos, stained glass painting on ornaments, and colorful rubber-band bracelets. The scholarship ceremony was another highlight. "The families of the children are very concerned about educating their children". The families and the scholarship committee participated in the annual ceremony where each student receives a packet in addition to the sponsor's gift. "The \$75 sponsorship is used to buy an extra pair of shoes, a second uniform, school supplies and a hot meal for each child." Edita ends her article with 'Brothers and sisters in Christ' took on a whole new meaning for us" as they shared meals with families of scholarship recipients. This helped them become better acquainted with the families, as well as their food and housing conditions. She was particularly impressed with the bougainvillea, the chickens and turkeys milling around! (Others will probably comment on the roosters - but that is a different story).

Jesse McMilin: El Salvador: A Memoir, part 1 *This was his first trip to El Salvador. These are some reflections a month after his return. Part 2 will be in next month.*

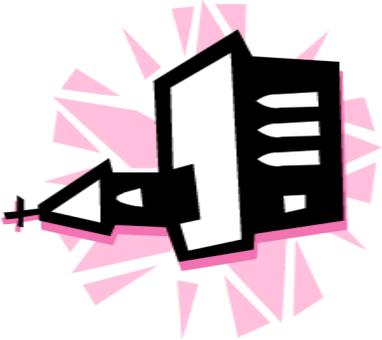
When people hear of church trips to third world countries, they usually associate them with the giving of resources. Give we certainly did, but not in the way people think. Rather, we gave our time and energy to collaborate with the community, to remind them that they have friends in America, to assure them that they're not alone after the disastrous war that struck their country only thirty years ago. Although we did not physically build anything with our hands, as many assumed we must have, we still did many things to help the people of El Salvador: we donated money to the developing education system in the community of Guillermo Ungo as well as facilitated a graduation ceremony for elementary, middle and high school students; we shared our culture, language, and friendship; we listened to their stories and told ours.

We may not have each received the same gifts from the people and culture, but for everyone and especially new members there was much to gain in experience, friendship, and most importantly of all, perspective. Perhaps the most prevalent thing I learned was that the country, though it may be monetarily poor, is rich in Spirit. The people are resilient and vibrant, despite their hardship. They warmly welcomed us into their homes, as fascinated by us as we were by them. It amazed me how the adults were so open to us, though the weariness was often apparent in their work-worn faces and hands, and how the children had a sparkle in their eyes reflecting at everyone a freedom of Spirit and unhindered wonder of a degree that I had never seen before in American children.

The trip wasn't all laughs and happy children and orchestras of chaos; There were more serious times as well. Before we entered the community of Guillermo Ungo, the new delegation members were taken on a tour of the University of Central America where we learned of the horrors, in a historical perspective, that had occurred during the war. It was strange to be so close, both physically and temporally, to places of tragedy. One church we visited bore on its walls several paintings, depicting both literally and symbolically events from the massacre of the Jesuits, who were killed for being intellectuals. The rage of justice is not a common emotion for me, but as I learned of the injustice that was done, I could not but help being furious at the oligarchy, greedy for land and power, that had facilitated such atrocities.

As I placed foot in the sanctuary where Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated; as I walked through rooms filled with the preserved clothing and items of those who had been killed, still soaked in dried blood; as I stood in a garden of roses where bodies of Jesuits had been heartlessly dumped; I was touched in a way I had never been before. I was not just mournful for the Jesuits, but also for the ignorant soldiers under the oligarchy's direction who were forced to kill so many innocent people. When I asked our guide if he thought that evil deeds committed in ignorance could still be considered evil, I was met with more than I expected. Our guide was apparently, a philosophy professor and what I intended to be a simple question of opinion turned into a drawn out, thoughtful discussion about good and evil, providing excellent closure for what I had just learned.

An energetic nun, Sister Peggy, who has been living in the nearby town of Suchitoto since the war often says there is a virus that resides within El Salvador whose spread is inevitable. It's in the air, in the water, in every single one of the people. This virus is not deadly, and you may not even notice the symptoms for years. However, when the virus does go into effect, it snares you within its hold and refuses to be cured. There is no vaccine for it, nor is there any method of treatment, nor is anybody developing any of these defenses due to its rarity, though it infects every delegation member that comes. And what exactly does this virus do? Well, that's simple. It makes you want to come back.



ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 am Worship Service & Coffee Hour

10:30 am Adult Forum & Choir

10:30 am Worship Service

Children's Church

Coffee Hour

NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
February 25, 2014

**POST OFFICE:
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

St Stephen's Lutheran Church
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Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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