

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

*Celebrating 60
Years of Ministry
May 2014*

SUMMER WORSHIP - ONE SERVICE

AT 9:30 am MAY 25 — Aug. 31

Sunday School Celebration & Church Potluck

Sunday, May 18 @ 11:45

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



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
2500 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, California 95062
Phone—831-476-4700 — Fax—831-476-3918
www..ststephenslutheran.org
email—office@ststephenslutheran.org
Rev. James P. Lapp, Pastor

Ministers: The Entire Congregation

Church Council: Pres. — 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...



Here are two things I'm excited about for our church for this coming month:

"Making Sense of the Cross"

with Prof. David Lose - Luther Seminary

This new Adult Class series on Sunday mornings at 9:30 is going to help us become more clear and articulate about this central symbol of what we believe.

We will use a video presentation of this popular teacher, group discussion and question-asking as our way of digging deeper into the basic things we believe about God and what God did through Jesus.

This time will certainly draw us closer to God and each other as we gather to think more about the meaning of this Easter season.

This series comes highly recommended from several local congregations.

The other event this month is :

The Installation of Jesse McMilin

as Associate Musician - Sunday May 11

At both services Jesse will be providing the music on his own as he leads us in the central gathering for Christians - worship on the Sabbath.

We have been so blessed to witness Jesse's musical and leadership gifts flourish among us for many years. Having been so faithful in his offering and witness through providing the prelude and postlude music, and leading our children after the Children's Message - the Spirit has led us to continue to lift up his gifts and provide training and opportunity for more worship leadership.

He will be mentored by our Church Musician, Suzanne Duval and we will provide him this role as he prepares to continue his education in college after his senior year next year.

Come on Mother's Day to worship God and lift up Jesse as someone who offers his gifts in service to God. It is a big part of what it means to be the church as each of us are given certain gifts and abilities to build up the Body of Christ. May Jesse's witness set us all an example of how we can use our time and gifts to give back to our God some of what we have been blessed with. Thanks be to God that one of our own is becoming a leader in the church.

May Happenings

Chapel with the Pre-Schoolers

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Knitting Group

Thursdays at 6:45pm

Alcoholics Anonymous

Fridays at 7:00 pm

Alanon

Sundays at 3:30 pm

Parkinson's Support Group

May 7 at 12:30

MMRR Women's Circle

May 8 at 10:30 am

Finance Committee

May 9 at 9:00 am

Property Work Day

May 10, 9:00—12

Women's Café Group

May 14 Potluck 6:30 pm

Book Club

May 17 at 10:30 am

Church Council

May 19 at 7:00 pm

Mt. Cross BBQ

Sun. May 25 from 1—4:00 pm

Women's Bible Study

May 27 at 10:30 am

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

May 27 @ 10:30

Synod Assembly

May 30 - June 1 Burlingame

Council Highlights

Devotions and prayer reminded us of our call to “GO” and share who and what we are as followers of Jesus Christ. We are a people always on the move seeking ways to serve and welcome others to live out the faith. Matt. 28:16-20.

1. Erik Larsen and Cindy Valdez from the Day Worker Center attended as guests to thank and give an update about the recent Health Care Academy hosted at St. Stephen's last month. 30 people attended and the goal of helping lower income families access affordable health care was met.
2. Rachel Lapp shared some good news that she applied for and was selected to be a part of an 8 girl delegation to our sister synod of Rwanda called “Girls Faith Encounter”. She asked for and was given permission to send a letter to congregation members seeking financial support for the two week trip.
3. Gary Roberts is recovering from open heart surgery. He hopes to return as musician on May 18.
4. Council heard several reports of how members will be helping to fulfill the Problem-Solving Document using the “Bible Experience” shared with us by Judy Russell.
5. Formed new Outreach Task Force to try and be more intentional about inviting new people to make St. Stephens their church home. Ron Buswell, David Balogh, Pastor Jim and 2 others will meet to work on some ideas.
6. An Eagle Scout candidate will help with the sandbox project on our playground.



May Birthdays

5-1 Matteo Salandro
 5-3 Margaret Schraft
 5-5 Kathleen Allen
 5-5 Kent Madsen
 5-6 Cheryl Curry
 5-6 Renee Robe
 5-7 Ross Johnston
 5-9 Lois Meeker
 5-10 Julie Mouw
 5-15 Jesse McMilin
 5-18 Jordan Ayers
 5-18 Rebecca Balogh
 5-19 Laney Johnson
 5-20 Aria Bartee
 5-22 Nicolas Mitchell
 5-23 Don Fuqua

5-24 Travis Awe
 5-25 Trent Hopping
 5-26 Andrew Davis
 5-26 Epimenio
 Valencia
 5-27 Mark Brouse

5-27 Tyleigha
 Brouse- Jones
 5-27 Barbara Rice
 5-27 Mary Robe
 5-28 Mitch Ronning
 5-29 Elke Spires
 5-30 Kim Cappelloni
 5-30 Tim Oldfield
 5-31 Scott Ruble



Anniversaries

5-24 Paul & Leah Powers
 5-26 Epimenio & Emily
 Valencia
 5-27 David & Gwyn Larson
 5-30 Kent & Chris Madsen

Prayer Concerns:

Short Term: For the parents of the children who died before them, for the lost and searching, Fran, Shirley Fuqua, Gary Roberts, Renie Leaman, Lisa Pawalkat, Susan Gross family, Jackson Family, Brouse Family, Oldfield Faamily, Erlinda Knapp, Aleja, Claudia, Peggy, Bruce, Cathy, Crystal, Cassie, Jan Sollem-Brotherton, Shelby, 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, The Robe Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman, Youth of today



Sunday School News

We had a wonderful Easter celebration in April! We enjoyed a story, some crafts and an egg hunt on Easter Sunday. A special thank you to the St. Stephen's Youth who helped the Easter Bunny get ready for our egg hunt on the playground.

It's time to register for Camp. Mt. Cross Summer Theme is "Living in God's Time" for everything there is a season (Ecc. 3:1). They have has some exciting programs for your kids to choose from. We do have kids going (Week 6) July 20 - 25 both in "Treetoppers" and "Pathfinders" see mtcross.org

As our Sunday School year winds to a close please mark your calendars for our annual End of Year Potluck on Sunday, May 18th right after the 10:30 service on the playground. Bring your favorite dish to share and come celebrate our amazing students. This is one of my favorite events of the year because this congregation knows how to make great food, YUM! Come enjoy food, friends and great music. It will happen right after the 10:30 service on the playground. Hope to see you all there!

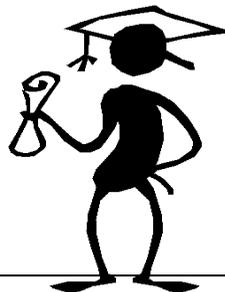
Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to help.

Sincerely, Dusty Gipson

831-338-3787 home dustygipson@yahoo.com

Blessing of the Graduates Sunday, June 15

Please let us know if you are graduating from High School, College, or Trade school. We want to celebrate your accomplishments.





St. Stephen's Child Development Center

As people walk through the halls of the preschool they observe pictures of happy children, enjoy bright and colorful artwork, and hear sounds of laughter. The feedback we have received from the congregation has been very positive as our school has grown. Behind the seen a deeper level of learning is taking place that is not apparent in the displays and laughter. Each child and their family enter our school ministry with their unique ways of being an individual family different from the others. Not only are we supporting the development of each child, we also offer support and resources for the families responsible for raising the child. This includes parent education, financial resources, mental health referrals, flexible scheduling, and the occasional hug followed by a warm smile. Every day offers a new collection of challenges and rewards. We were called upon to make some difficult decisions last month in support of some of our families and are happy to report that the interventions resulted in people receiving the help they needed while building a deeper trust with them. So often negative outcomes are reported in the media therefore it is comforting and rewarding to have come through some difficult choices and to have fostered positive outcome for our preschool ministry overall. We appreciate the prayers of our congregation which created the support and positive energy we needed to grow.

The season of Lent offered tremendous support and renewal for your Preschool Director. Sharing conversation over soup and singing the Holden Evening Prayer each week offered stability and affirmation. Although I walk the hallways with a positive smile many of the very personal challenges I share in this ministry can weigh heavily on my heart and mind. Kind comments and warm hugs go a long way to keeping me moving in a positive direction. I am blessed to work for a Christian organization who values my efforts. I am especially grateful for Pastor Jim and Leslie Lapp who remind me that what I am doing here matters to so many especially on the days I may not recognize that. I am also blessed to have dedicated teachers and a diligent School Board to support the important decisions and to help us plant cornfields (thanks Bill!).

I return here every day because God has delivered me to you good people where I can discover my potential as one of the ministers at St. Stephen's. Thanks be to God! Sincerely, Kathy Berens



Women Build Week: May 3 – 10

The Harbor Drive ADU site is encouraging women to join our volunteer crew for Women Build Week

Friday, May Clean-up Day: moved from May 4th to May 9th 10:00—12:00.

To coincide with Women Build Week the jobsite Clean-up Day, has been rescheduled to Friday May 9th .Wear your “grubbies” to spiff-up the jobsite. Men are welcome! This helps add to our Lutheran volunteers hours required by the Thrivent Builds grant!

Mt Cross Memorial BBQ & Carnival: Sun, May 25th @ 1:00—4:00

Mark your calendar for the annual Mt Cross BBQ on Sunday, May 25. Proceeds benefit the Habitat’s 2014 Thrivent Build home. In addition to a delicious BBQ, there will be carnival activities for kids, big and small! \$15 for ages 12 and up, \$6 for ages 4 – 11, and under 4 is free. Bring your extended family & friends!

Harbor Dr ADU HOME DEDICATION: Tues, May 27th @ 6 pm

Join us in celebrating the completion of the Harbor Drive ADU, our current Thrivent Builds Home. This energy efficient, 500 sq. ft. home is going to be a wonderful home for the Smith Family. Meet Everett Smith and his daughter as we welcome them to their new home! Light refreshments will be served.

IN MEMORIAM

Gladyce Berg

Gladyce was a member of St. Stephens for 32 years before she moved to Nebraska to be nearer to her family. She is fondly remembered for her active participation in the life of our church as an office volunteer, on the worship and music comm. and in the choir. She was well-known throughout the community for her gift of hospitality and care-giving which she shared with both the homebound and children. A memorial service will be held at St. Stephens at a later date, hosted by her close friend, Ann Pomper.

Blessed be the memory of this saint of God.

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering - May

Mt. Cross Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

"Igniting Passionate Faith, Equipping Servant Leaders & Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ". Mt Cross offers a variety of programs from 2nd graders up through college. This camp has brought so much joy to our young campers for 65 years. Many of our children at St Stephens have enjoyed our outdoor ministry. Many of those children are grown adults sitting next to you right now. This Months benevolence is for Mt Cross. Let's remember them in our prayers. Thank You for your continued prayers and support!
Mt Cross Ranger - Don Smawley

April : Habitat for Humanity - \$215 was given (as of 4/24)



STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

Our Santa Cruz al Salvador Sister Parish Leaders

It never ceases to me amaze me as a pastor how dedicated and hard-working these folks are for this powerful and beautiful ministry. This time they organized the Easter Lily sales and the Easter Breakfast as ways to reach out in love to our second family in El Salvador. Thank you for your strong witness of serving in faith so that others lives in difficult circumstances can be made better. It also helps our church become closer as a fellowship in Christ to be able to sit down and share a meal together. Thank you for serving all of us and providing such a meaningful way for us to celebrate the Resurrection!



Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca Circle

Thursday, May 8 at 10:30 am

Speaker: Mary Elizabeth Bellizzi from Thrivent

Please bring a sandwich.

Hostesses Dorothy & Edna will provide Coffee and dessert.

Mark your calendar for our annual salad potluck luncheon on June 12 @ noon at Margaret's home. All women are welcome!

Mt. Cross Ministries

Memorial Day Work Weekend, BBQ & Carnival

May 23-26. / Sun. May 25 - 2-5pm Celebration

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 camp opens at 2:00 for a BBQ and activities for everyone in the family.** You must register yourself and/or your family for this event. The BBQ supports the Thrivent / Habitat Build.

Visit our website www.mtcross.org for info and tickets

We invite you to join us -

Open House & Dedication
of the Main Hall at the Resource Center for Nonviolence to
Scott Kennedy
Saturday, May 10, 2014
612 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

Scott Kennedy, RCNV co-founder and long-time staff member who died November 19, 2011. These events are part of the public launch celebration for our Building for the Future community campaign to fund the renovation of our 50-year old building.

Open House: 11:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.

****Light Refreshments *Tours 11:30 12:00 2:30***

Dedication of Scott Kennedy Hall: 1:00p.m.

****Vice-Mayor Don Lane, emcee *Music by Songstress Tammi Brown***

****El Sistema (after school music program)***

****Public Launch of the Building for the Future community campaign***

Please RSVP for the Dedication. Limited Seating.

831.423.1626 or rcnvinfo@gmail.com

COPA Leadership training

April 27 and May 4 from 12:30-2:00PM
Peace United Church of Christ, 900 High Street
lunch provided, donation appreciated.

This training is the second phase of our internal relational meeting campaign. Our first phase was a training by Tim McManus with our church leadership; followed by more than 50 individual meetings within our church. YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND WITH ANY MEMBERS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION.

Please reserve a spot with Mary Male at: male@baymoon.com or 325-6897

Note from our Bishop

My favorite story in Scripture is the account in John's Gospel of Mary Magdalene going to the tomb. It was the first Easter, but Mary didn't know that. She expected death. In her profound grief she couldn't recognize Jesus. It was only when Jesus called her by name that she was able to see the risen Lord.

Jesus saw Mary. Jesus knew Mary. Jesus spoke "Mary." It was being completely seen, utterly known and lovingly called that opened Mary Magdalene to the hope of the resurrection and into a deeper relationship with Christ. Because she was seen she could see.

This is Easter vision. We have been seen, known and called by God through the crucified and risen Savior and, having received the Spirit through baptism, we all can now see. We can see Christ, and we can see Christ in our neighbor. No one is invisible to God, and no one is invisible to us. What wondrous love is this!

So beloved, with newly opened eyes let us be bold to say, "Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah!"

Blessed Easter,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Property Work Day

May 10 - 9 am to noon

Let's get together to make our church shine! '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 info.





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

INTRODUCING THE SYNOD RESOURCE CENTER

Did you know these resources are available for any interested church member?

The Synod Resource Center operates like a free lending library. If you live within easy driving distance of Fresno, you are welcome to come in and browse (2311 E. Shaw Avenue). Or, just take a look at our online catalog, at www.resourcecenterspselca.org. You will be amazed! Any items you select will be mailed to you -- your only cost is postage for returning them.

Are you a small group member, or starting a small group? We have numerous titles and subjects appropriate for small groups, many with DVD teacher. Search the catalog by subject, or by author.

Are you a grandparent (or parent) looking for age-appropriate Bibles? Or beautiful Bible story books? Are you interested in personal study, or devotional reading? Other religions?

Call us at 559 345-2725, or Email us at rspselca@pacbell.net. We look forward to hearing from you.

Women's Café Group Potluck

Wed. May 14 @ 6:30 pm @ Lisa Johnson's home

Our small group spends time in fellowship, discussion & prayer. Come together as women of faith....new folks welcome! Bring a dish to share. [More info call Leslie 476-4700.](#)

Worship & Music Committee

The Committee met April 8. Bonnie opened with devotions that focused on our remembering Christ in our lives, in Holy Communion. We also prayed for Gary's healing and his input was missed. The way God's Grace comes to us in His forgiveness.

Goals for 2014 reviewed and prioritized. Discussions included:

1. Prayer Ribbons- Candace reviewed the cost to do this activity, approx. \$1500, and possible ways to implement this activity with less cost but the dramatic effect of the ribbons would be lost. Committee decided to table this activity for now.

2. Quarterly hymn sing, with members selecting favorite hymns, I lieu of a sermon. Congregation will be asked to identify songs to be sung beginning two weeks prior to the hymn sing. Dates selected for hymn sing are 6/29, 8/31 and 11/23 so on 6/15 and 22, 8/17 and 24, 11/9 and 16 you will have the opportunity to write the hymns you want to sing on your attendance sheet.

3. Incorporating singing of Psalm into services as suggested by a member. Discussion focused on length of 2nd service with the children's time and choir anthem. We will do a trial for 3 months beginning in the Fall and time for this will be accommodated by deleting the 2nd reading.

4. Congregational Survey of 4-5 open ended questions to obtain ideas to improve our worship experience and to respond to suggestions expressed in the reconciliation process of being transparent and responsive to members, is being drafted and will be done in June. The Congregation is always encouraged to talk directly to committee members but this will be another forum for the W/M Committee to hear from the congregation.

5. Healing Station – this will be available the 3rd Sunday of each month during communion. In order to accommodate this meaningful time, we will need 4 people to offer communion while Pastor Jim prays with those who participate in the healing station. Please remember to sign up for all of the opportunities for service each Sunday.

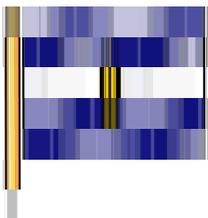
6. Review of time and talent sheets—Barbara will put information on a spreads sheet for a better summary format for committees. These will be used to update the assistant's lists.

7. Review of Recommendations from the Reconciliation Report – Jim stated that the Council is reviewing these and plans to consolidate suggestions as there are duplications. Suggested committee wait to hear from Council on their process for further review.

8. Summer service schedule—Bonnie will review the attendance data from last summer as concern expressed over decreased attendance during the summer with only one service option. Pros and cons discussed. Decision to have one or two services during the summer months will be made by the Council.

Final set of minutes will be posted in the narthex when completed. Next meetings 6/10, 8/12, 10/14 & 12/9.

Submitted on behalf of the W/M Committee by, Barbara Rice



El Salvador Sister Parish News

June 7: Winetasting at Bargetto's Winery, from 3:00-5:00, with a silent auction. Tickets will go on sale in May.

June 28: Rummage Sale with the Boy Scouts.
Start saving your stuff!

Nov. 2, 2014: Annual Pupusa lunch

TBD: dinner at Shadowbrook; they donate 30% of proceeds to our non-profit.

November will mark the 20th Anniversary of our first visit to Guillermo Ungo by Larry and Kathleen Morkert and Kent & Chris Madsen. We are planning a special celebration. Stay tuned.

Thank you to all who are prayer partners and contribute to the scholarship fund. We will keep you informed of other fundraisers as they are planned.

By the time you get this newsletter, the Easter Breakfast will have taken place. Next month we will have the official 'Thank You', but let's start now. Not only for all the workers, but for all of you who supported us by attending.

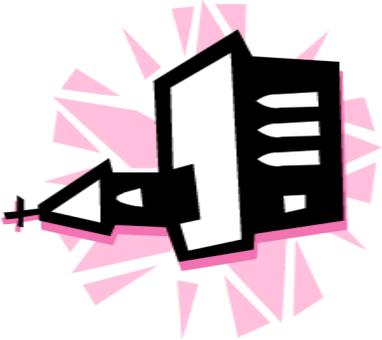
We wish to thank the following people for organizing the craft projects on the previous two delegations. In November 2012 it was Catherine & Jeanette Holmes of Advent Lutheran and Gwen May of Trinity Presbyterian, and in January 2013 it was Joey Amrhein (formerly of Christ Lutheran) and Wendy Hess of Lutheran Community. This activity is often mentioned as a highlight during reflection time. It involves interacting not only with the children but with mothers and grandmothers.

Next delegations: The board of Santa Cruz al Salvador tentatively set the dates for the next delegations. **November 21-29, 2014** and **January 1-10, 2015**. We will have two delegations if there is enough interest. Please talk to Ruth Cruddas if you are interested, (you don't have to commit yet) so we can determine the exact dates, whether or not we will have two delegations, and if we can get group airfare.

Talk to someone who has gone - find out what a delegation is all about. Former delegation members are: Mitch Ronning (Joe, Kyle & Kylie); Jean Calvert; Manny & Kyle Travers; Lisa Johnson; Wayne Adachi; Mike Cruddas, Pr. Jim, Leslie, Kyle & Rachel Lapp; Jesse McMilin; (My apologies to those I have forgotten).

You are also encouraged to speak to the current board members:

Jill Adachi, Ruth Cruddas, and Chris & Kent Madsen



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
April 24, 2014

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

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

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