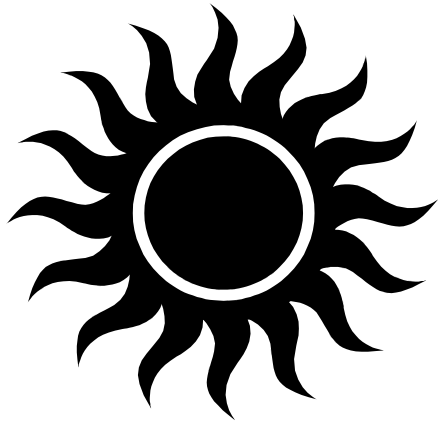


St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

*Celebrating 62
Years of Ministry
April 2017*

*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. — Mark Linder V.P.— Jay Johnston
Secretary - Robbin Heppe Treasurer— Ron Buswell
Jill Adachi, David Balogh, Connie Creel,
Jeanette Dawson, and Renee Rice.
Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts
Sunday School: Candace Anderson & Robbin Heppe
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens
Custodian: John Hopping
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)

Holy Week & Easter Worship

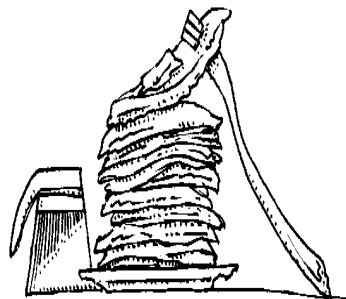
Palm Sunday April 9 — 8:15 & 10:30 am Dramatic Worship

Maundy Thursday April 13 - 11:30 am & 7:30 pm Worship
"The Last Supper"

Good Friday April 14 - 7:30 pm Worship
"The Seven Last Words"

Easter Sunday April 16 - 8:15 am Worship
10:30 am Worship
with Children's Egg Hunt

Easter Breakfast to benefit our many ministries.
Celebrate the resurrection with food & friends!
Served from 9:30 to 12.



Pancake Breakfast

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.

VISION STATEMENT

To become an energetic, inclusive, multigenerational, multicultural,
missional community that offers, hope, joy, worship, service, play,
and life as disciples of Jesus Christ



From Pastor Jim

What an exciting time to be St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Santa Cruz!

So much is taking place around us these days. We are all anticipating the completion of the Low-Income Senior Housing as we see the fruits of our vision become real, and we as we already are meeting new people in church who have come out of appreciation for our work. Next we will plan ways to welcome the new residents and begin to get to know each other. The new sign, landscaping, lighted parking lot, sidewalk to 7th Ave., and the new dedicated left-turn lane into our campus will be completed very soon, which will tell the community that we are here and ready to welcome them and serve them. The new narthex bathroom and altar guild closets are finished and our ministry of hospitality is strengthened. Our preschool ministry is thriving under outstanding leadership from our board and staff. I also just saw the design for the new structure that will house our historic bell, which will once again ring out loud to call the faithful to worship.

It is certainly a time of renewal in the life of our 63 year old church. We are certainly being Re-Formed in this, the 500th anniversary of the The Reformation! I hope you are sensing the excitement and looking for ways that you can increase your participation in this vital and vibrant ministry. Thanks to all who have given so much to bring us this far. Thanks be to God for continuing to show us the way toward being the kind of church that welcomes the kinds of changes that are necessary to always be Re-Forming and true to the central message of God's grace and love for all - especially

April Happenings

Sunday Adult Forums 9:30

Chapel with the Pre-Schoolers

Wednesdays at 10:15 am

Knitting Group

Thursdays at 6:45pm

Alcoholics Anonymous

Fridays at 7:00 pm

MMRR Circle

April 13 @ 10:30

Finance Committee

April 14 @ 8:30 am

Women's Café Group

April 19 @ 6:30 pm

Church Council

April 10 @ 6:30pm

Child Dev. Center Board

April 24 @ 11:30 am

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

April 25 @ 10:30

Bible Study

April 25 @ 10:00 am

Sister Parish Bargettos Benefit

April 29 @ 3:00

Please sign up to help on

Church Council Highlights

Devotions were from "Reclaiming the "L" Word - Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core" by Kelly A. Fryer with foreword by Dr. Timothy F. Lull. In light of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Church celebration this year, we decided to use this book as the source for our devotions this year.

Each meeting, your church council spends the first 30 min. engaging in discussion around faith, church leadership and how we can be true to the scriptures and our tradition as Lutheran Christians. As your chosen leaders, this is the most important work that they do. Without this kind of prioritization of our time, we risk becoming just another governing board of any other non-profit organization or country club. That cannot be.

Many people are tempted to think that the church council's most important work is how we manage the church's money or making decisions using our Constitution. That kind of thinking is very dangerous for God's church as it places God in second place to the decisions that human beings make. When that happens, the church forfeits its true purpose and mission and might as well not exist. There are plenty of other charitable, well-meaning organizations out there that we can be a part of. The Church has a different calling and remembering that must start with its leadership. It is too easy to allow the mindset of the latest business-type thinking to influence the way we are as a church. We are different. We are a peculiar people, as the Bible



- 4-1 Joel Hurttgam
- 4-5 Cameron Popkin
- 4-8 Robbin Heppe
- 4-11 Lorie Coronado

- 4-11 Anne Johnston
- 4-12 Ron Buswell
- 4-12 Joshua Lorenz
- 4-13 Tempest Abler
- 4-15 Linda Lillehaugen
- 4-16 Jason Awe
- 4-16 Manny Travers
- 4-16 Doris Ray
- 4-17 Brian Houser
- 4-21 Jakob Houser
- 4-26 Maya Gipson
- 4-29 Nelleke Meerman



- 4-8 Stephen & Kim Cappelloni
- 4-10 Don & Nancy Daves
- 4-13 Nick & Becky Judd
- 4-29 Hilding & Dorothy



Short Term: Family of Shirley Fuqua, Family of Mary Jane Hoch, Edna Lindquist, Taiyo, Don, Mary Anne Hurttgam, Erker Family, Laura Hayes Meerman, Jean

Petersen, Lois, Jack, Randall Morgan, Benjamin Riordan, Chris S., Mike, Renee Child, the Massa Family, Pat Ferronte, Chris & Carla Brown, Betty, Colin, Jimi, Brian, Marta, Dustin, Mark, Lisa, John Morgado, Yvonne, Baley, David, Josphe, Debbie, Joanne, Pamela, Caitlin, Kevin, Marge, Steve, Crystal, Binnie, James & family, Kyle, Cabel & family, Richard, Sandra Eldridge, Margot Wilson, Gretchan, Susan Anderson, Jan, Ross Poulson, Carmen Harper, Adrienne, Kathy, Chad & Claire Haman, Dawn, Margarita, Stephanie Jager, Leslie, Ryan, Joe, Pat & brothers, Justin, Riley, Shelby, Kaitlyn, Daniel, Ryder, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and Our Church Family.

Long Term: Lu Walthart, Anne Teboe, Tom Blegen, Ed Drews, Vi Olly, Mike Jugan, Jenny Rebecca Hodge, Bobbie Erickson, Becky, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Kim, Brian, Tim, Isaiah, Lance Elliott, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Barry & Barbara, Emma Peterson, Margaret Elkins, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Bonnie Hansen, Karin, Pat Hubbard, Beverly Gilladett, Cathy Lorenzo, Pearl Runquist, Volpi Family, Robe Family, C.J. Muchanic Jr., men and women of Armed Forces, and the



Child Development Center

On Sun. 2/26 Pastor Jim preached his sermon on Transfiguration -Matthew. 17: 1-9. In preparation for Lent, this was very inspiring to me and I wanted to bring it's essence to our preschoolers. "Built into the very fabric of our culture is to do something...We're so tired and stressed...if we don't accomplish anything we won't know who we are. We don't know what our purpose is. (Lapp pp. 1)" "The key for us...knowing when to 'do' and when & how to just, 'be' (Lapp pp. 2)."

This way of life has trickled down to our youngest children as they adjust to the rigorous schedules of parents who are trying to provide for their family. This means children must get up before they are rested, stay at school for up to 9 hours per day, and eat within a certain time frame. They are rushed to and from multiple places each day. Potty training is hard to schedule, and staying home with a sick child is challenging for parents. Technology has also become more pre-dominant in the young child's family whether the parents are distracted by it, or the children are playing games with it. Rest time is now something the children "grow out of" during age 3 rather than 5. In some cases, school begins at age 2. Somewhere in this maze of life we must teach our children how to just "be" rather than "do." Therefore, we have a 2-hour rest time as part of our day. Children read books and listen to music as they practice learning how to relax their bodies to restore for the rest of their day.

Our Chapel service provides a place of peace in which children feel the love of Jesus, are introduced to prayer, and the tradition of lighting candles. This way no matter where their lives lead them they have been shown the love and comfort of God.

After the sermon, I decided to introduce the concept of meditation and mindfulness by reading to the children, "What does it mean to be present?" We have had success with Yoga as a time of calm and redirection. To be present through meditation is to find your "still quiet place", which is the name of the CD I use. This place inside each of us is discovered through a path of breathing. The children instantly respond to the soft voice, and participate in the meditation. Later we use the breathing to help calm individual children as they meet the daily stressors of their lives. We offer up to date curriculum presented in an old-fashioned way as we respect this time of child development as possibly the only few years they won't HAVE TO DO so much. We teach them through play so they can use their imaginations and take time to create and discover rather than meeting a deadline for product. So, breathe with children; Caryn taught a new technique she learned at Cabrillo, "smell your flowers (breathe in) and blow out your candle (breathe out on your finger)."

In closing as Pastor said, "Lent, which begins with the ashes of the cross placed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, calls us to re-discover our spirituality, to just be in the presence of God and listen." I am striving to do just this personally and share with the children how to find their peaceful place so they will have tools for their future.

Warmly, Kathy Berens 462-4453

Sunday School

Sunday School continues to be full of energy and happiness while learning about the season of Lent leading up to Easter Sunday. We look forward to a very active April with the anticipation of many children on Easter which will be filled with crafts, Easter books and some yummy goodies. In May, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation will be discussed.

The Sunday School year will be concluding on May 21, with a celebration of the Bible stories we have learned about and fun end of the year crafts.

It has been so enjoyable to share about Jesus, the Bible and God's word with your children and to interact with them on their questions and discussions. Their young hearts, souls and spirits will spread love, kindness and God's word to the world!

This month, we will have Sunday School:

April 2

April 9

April 16

April 23

Peace,
Teachers Robbin and Candace

A Prayer for your day:

*"Lord, teach me to do
what You most want me to*

And to be what You want me to be."



MATTHEW 19:14

Treasurer Notes...

Budget Information

Feb-17

| | February Actual | February Budget | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | Net |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------|
| Contrib. Income | \$10,232 | \$13,000 | \$27,124 | \$26,000 | \$1,124 |
| Facility Use Income | \$733 | \$583 | \$1,217 | \$1,167 | \$50 |
| Investment Income | \$3,341 | \$3,333 | \$7,155 | \$6,667 | \$488 |
| Misc. Income | \$0.42 | \$0 | \$0.87 | \$0 | \$0.87 |
| Total Income | \$14,306 | \$16,917 | \$35,496 | \$33,833 | \$1,663 |
| Expenses | \$15,939 | \$16,531 | \$20,482 | \$18,906 | \$885 |
| Net | -\$1,633 | \$386 | -\$825 | -\$1,603 | \$778 |

Contribution income was only 79% but investment income was on budget in February.

Expenses were 96% of Budget in February but above budget for the year since we paid for the roof repair in January.

For the year our contribution income is still above budget overall. For the year our contribution income is still above budget overall.

Thanks to everyone for your support ~ Ron



Benevolence Donations (Individual and Church)

| <u>2017 through February</u> | <u>Donations</u> | |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Am. Fdn. Suicide Prevention | \$550.00 | |
| SS Scholarships | \$315.00 | |
| Live Oak Resource Center | \$0.00 | |
| Habitat for Humanity | \$10.00 | |
| Mt. Cross | \$0.00 | |
| World Hunger | \$20.00 | |
| Homeless Service Center | \$0.00 | |
| CLU/PLTS | \$0.00 | |
| Lutheran Campus Ministry | \$33.00 | |
| SS CDC | \$80.00 | |
| El Salvador Sister Parish | \$0.00 | |
| Lutheran World Relief | \$25.00 | |
| COPA | \$0.00 | |
| ELCA Synod | \$575.00 | |
| Total | \$1,608.00 | |
| 2017 Benevolence Target | \$8,175.00 | % of Target 19.7% |

Special Funds for the Organ, Piano, Hearing Impaired, Solar Electricity, Narthex Bathroom and Landscaping

| | <u>February 2017</u> | <u>Reserve</u> | <u>Needed to Payoff</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Organ | \$8.00 | \$28.00 | \$1,686.50 |
| Piano | \$0.00 | \$50.00 | \$342.00 |
| Hearing Impaired Equip. | \$0.00 | \$20.00 | \$220.00 |
| Solar Electric Payback | \$117.20 | \$224.62 | \$26,116.08 |
| Narthex Bathroom | \$10.00 | \$75.00 | \$13,575.94 |
| Landscaping | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$15.00 |
| Sound System | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$30.00 |



Remembering Earth Day April 22

Christian concern for the environment is shaped by the Word of God spoken in creation. We know care for the earth to be a profoundly spiritual matter.


The problem of sustainability may seem overwhelming, but there are basic steps that everyone can take to help achieve a lasting, healthy future for the Earth.

- What you choose to eat affects your health and the environment. Industrial farming of livestock is very energy-intensive, and is responsible for more carbon pollution than the entire transportation industry. Eat less beef and look for free range and organic dairy. Cut down on processed foods.
- Choices made around the home have a huge impact on the natural world. You can quickly lower that impact by purchasing products with less packaging, and taking your own reusable bags. Buy eco friendly products that contain no toxic chemicals. Evaluate your needs and cut down on unnecessary purchases. Donate or sell unneeded items and buy used items.

More info at calacademy.org and elca.org. The "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice" statement explains the ELCA's teachings on ecology and the environment, grounded in a biblical vision of God's intention for the healing and wholeness of creation.

This statement provides a Christian understanding of the human role to serve in creation, and a hope rooted in God's faithfulness to the creation from which humans emerge and depend upon for sustaining life. It provides a framework for understanding the human role in creation, the problem of sin and the current environmental crisis.

"Caring for Creation" expresses a call to pursue justice for creation




Mary Jane Hoch
April 13, 1927— March 1, 2017

and


Shirley Fuqua
July 11, 1938 — March 3, 2017

Blessed be the memory of these children of God,
and may light perpetual shine upon them.



Bathroom and Altar Guild Cabinet Dedication
- April 9th - Immediately following each service.

Please join as we dedicate the new Narthex bathroom and Altar Guild cabinets. This will also mark the start of our capital campaign to raise the \$15,000 of matching funds. The total cost was \$30,000 and we agreed to payback half of that with the other half coming from reserves. To date we have raised \$1,415 toward our goal of \$15,000.



A chart is posted next to the bathroom
to track our progress.

STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

Jeannette Dawson & Barbara Johnston

Thank you for sharing your gifts by leading the Wednesday worship services. You each have the gift of music and you use it well in our church by praising the One who originally blessed you with it. It is a beautiful witness of faith when we can see someone exercising their faith. It reminds each of us not to become complacent about our relationship with God and our church. Each of us is

April Adult Forums — Every Sunday @ 9:30

April 2, 23 & 30 — “How Jesus Became God”
Continuing the DVD series from The Great Courses
by Prof. Bart Ehrman, Princeton
New York Times best-selling author

April 9 — Habitat for Humanity Update

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering

APRIL: Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay

Habitat Santa Cruz and Habitat Monterey merged in 2016 to become Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay. We are still dedicated to building decent, affordable housing for low income people and our primary efforts are currently in Santa Cruz County. We are just finishing two homes on Frederick St in Santa Cruz and will be starting homes on Plateau and Los Esteros Court shortly. The home on Plateau is part of the MyHouseMy-Home initiative for seniors to age in place. Also, in addition to our Re-Store on Swift Street we recently opened a ReStore in Seaside. The housing shortage is critical in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, but Habitat provides opportunities for families to realize their dream of home ownership which would otherwise not be possible. Please join Ron Buswell at the Adult Forum on April 9th to learn more about Habitat for Humanity Monterey Bay. Thanks for your support.

THANK YOU from The SPIN Program (Socks for People In Need)

SPIN would like to extend sincere thanks to the people of your parish who very generously donated to our Sock Drive – thanks to the warm hearts of churches around the area, we collected more socks than ever before in SPIN’s 4-year history (more than 700 pairs). With these new donations alone, we can reach out and help 700 of our brothers and sisters in need! As the rains arrived and overnight temperatures have dipped, people living on the streets or in shelter situations without laundry facilities are always SO grateful for the simple gift of a pair of clean, new socks! Since its beginning just over 4 years ago, SPIN has distributed almost 23,000 pairs of socks – what an amazing but simple gift to people living on the streets or in shelters. Thank you for being a part of this effort.

Please know that your generosity is deeply appreciated. The need for socks continues year-round, so some churches have chosen to allow their collection boxes to be available all year round.....this would be wonderful! If you would like more information, contact Pat Lorenzo at



Easter Lilies

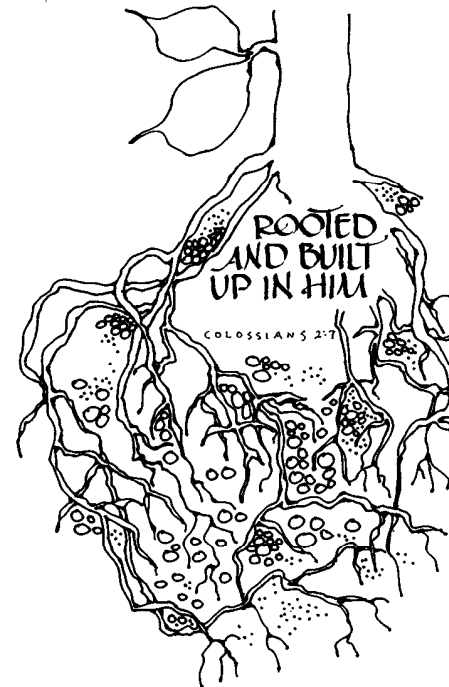
Sale to benefit Lutheran Campus ministry

- ~ Make \$15 checks payable to St. Stephen’s
- ~ Memo line “Lily”
- ~ List your dedication on the sign up sheet

You may take home your Lily after the second service on Easter.

MMRR Circle - Thursday, April 9 at 10:30 am

Special meeting! Pastor Jim will be giving a presentation of a Sader Meal following the morning Maundy Thursday service. Soup lunch is included, and all attendees of the morning service are invited.



Women’s Café Group Wed, April 19 at 6:30 pm

Come, share a meal, devotions & fellowship. More info 476-4700

Bible Study continues with Rev. Bonnie Bell Tuesday, April 25 at 10:00am



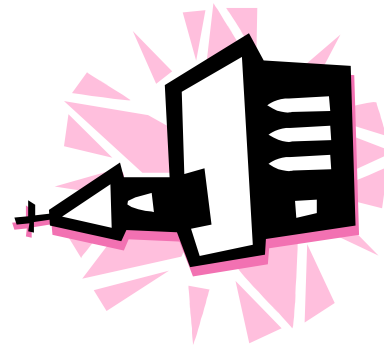
El Salvador Sister Parish News

Bargetto Wine Tasting Event
Saturday, April 29th
3:00 to 5:00 pm

Come and join us for a relaxing spring afternoon tasting wine at Bargetto Winery in Soquel. We've made some tempting new wine choices for your tasting. There will be drawings for seven (count 'em, seven) baskets. We're sure there's one that will call to you, "Bid on me! Take ME home!" There will also be food, music, up dates on our work, and great conversation. Ticket prices are \$35 advance, \$45 at the door; see Kent or Jeanne for tickets. Bring your friends - we hope to see you there!

Water is Life - an Update

Water is vital for our faith and life; water has also been an important part of our work in El Salvador. Today we are continuing the work begun by Trinity Presbyterian Church to provide a clean, reliable water supply for the communities of El Pilar and Bendición De Dios. We recently approved the funding for materials (\$1,000) to build an enclosure around a second well, as people outside the community are pumping water at night, often in large quantities. We are also continuing the success of the initial phase of our composting latrine project in these communities - to help keep their water clean and safe. The funding for the second group of ten latrines was recently approved. The community originally asked for 81 latrines, so there is yet more work to do! Watch for our third annual Walk for Water in September.



ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 am Worship Service

9:30 am Adult Forum & Choir Practice

10:30 am Worship & Children's Church

And Coffee Fellowship

NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
March 27, 2017

POST OFFICE:
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

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Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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