



ST. STEPHEN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 am Worship Service
Coffee Hour
9:30 am Choir rehearsal
10:30 am Worship Service
& Sunday School

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

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

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St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 55
Years of Ministry-
September 2010

annual Church

PICNIC



Sunday, September 19
2:00—7:00 pm
Anna Jean Cummings park, Soquel
Bring a Friend & a Dish to share

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.—Paul Powers, V.P.- Robin Gloe,
 Sec.— Scott Medling, Treas.— Mark Linder,
 Bill Schraft, Don Smawley, Marta Bechhoefer,
 and Jeanette Dawson
 Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval
 & Gary Roberts
 Custodian: John Hopping
 Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
 Children's Minister: Dusty Gipson
 Youth Minister: Lydia Abler
 Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30am—2:30pm
 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.

(El Salvador continued)

“The cross known as “The Subversive Cross” is a simple, white cross which leans against the front, left wall of Resurrection Church in San Salvador. The cross is covered with hand-written messages—messages for peace and prosperity from the people of Resurrection. The cross was made in 1989, during the Salvadoran Civil War.

[Bishop Medardo Gomez](#) wanted to give his people the opportunity to express their sorrow for the sins of their country, and also the hopes and prayers they had for the future of El Salvador. One Sunday, during the offering, he invited the worshippers to come forward and to write down the sins, and the hopes and prayers on a plain, white cross.

At that time, the government decided to crack down on guerrilla fighters who had successfully taken control of the neighborhoods outside of San Salvador. Here, the fighters hid among the poorest of the poor. The government bombed these areas and targeted religious leaders as supposed protectors of the guerrilla fighters. This is the time at which six priests were killed at the UCA.

Soldiers came to Resurrection Church to investigate and to search for Bishop Gomez. Their intent was certainly to question him, but perhaps their intent was even more dangerous for him. Bishop Gomez had fortunately escaped a mere 15 minutes before the soldiers entered the church. The soldiers searched the church, and seized the white cross as evidence of subversion.

Government soldiers continued to terrorize Christians. They arrested Lutheran missionaries and clergy across the country. Eventually these captives were released, but the government kept the white cross. As the cross stood among the soldiers, these men read the messages which were written upon it. Their hearts were turned, and they were convinced that the sins described on the cross were their sins. By this time, Bishop Gomez returned from exile, and was invited to the President's house. Bishop Gomez used this opportunity to ask the President about the white cross.

Some time later, the President requested that the white cross be brought to his home. The soldiers turned it over to the President. As the cross stood in the President's house, he read the messages and pondered the sins of the government. He was moved to send the cross back to Bishop Gomez.

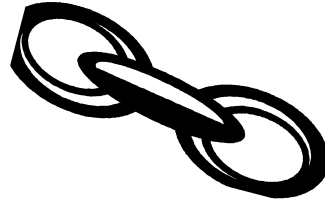
The people of Resurrection Church see the cross as a sign of God's Spirit working in the world. Now known as “The Subversive Cross,” this cross stands as a testimony to the power of God and a beacon of hope for the poor of the community.”

We will present the cross to the congregation on Rally Day, and it will be on display in the Narthex. We hope that it will stand as a testimony to the power of God in your lives also.

In God's Peace, Chris Madsen

Travel and Child Sex Trafficking

by Truett Bobo

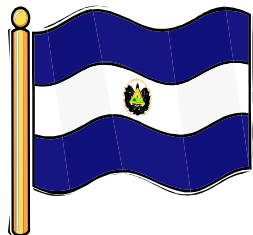


"God's Work.....Our Hands....." An effort to reduce sexual exploitation of children and assure the protection of children's rights by the travel and tourist industry is being led by the Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS). A six-point code has been developed by ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking), and hotels are being asked to adopt it as an expression of support for this endeavor. Read this code at: http://www.thecode.org/index.php?page=1_1

Some major hotel chains have adopted these standards, but many have not responded, and thousands of children and youth continue to be victimized by traffickers who "rent" them to johns in hotel rooms across America. Action by hotels, promoting a family-friendly atmosphere, would seem to be a "no brainer," yet there has not been any wave of hotel operators getting on board. So, action by travelers is being promoted: whenever you stay in a hotel or motel, it is suggested that you provide them with a personalized copy of a sample letter that you can find at (Word document about halfway down the page under the heading "FOR ALL OTHER TRAVELERS"): www.cbisonline.com/sriaction.

Upon checking into a hotel, let the management know your concern regarding human trafficking and inquire whether they have any policies or practices that address the issue of patrons engaging in sex trafficking, especially of children. Encourage them to take action, and support the ECPAT code in their effort to end human trafficking. You can also email CBIS about your actions and responses, sriaction@cbisonline.com.

It may seem a small thing, but if travelers begin to take this seriously, we can have a wholesome influence toward change. Happy traveling!



El Salvador Sister Parish News

On this recent trip, Kent and I were honored to accompany our Synod's Bishop, Mark Holmerud, to a church in Soyapango that is the "Sister Parish" of St. Mark's Lutheran in San Francisco. We will tell you some time of the vibrant ministry we saw there. However, what was most moving to me was a gift to our congregation – a miniature of the "Subversive Cross". The story of that cross is below, as told to a Pastor in the Milwau Synod by a member active in El Salvador ministry.

From Pastor Herb Schmidt



Grace and I want to thank you for the privilege of serving as your Interim Pastor this summer as Pastor Jim was on Sabbatical. As I suggested in my sermons during June we as a congregation should also observe a Sabbatical time during this period. I think most of us did that. We became more attentive to the way in which God is present in our lives and we began each day with the simple prayer: *"This is the day the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!"* As Pastor Jim returns we hope you will attempt to be on a continuing Sabbatical becoming more mindful of the way God acts in our lives today.

BOOKS ON DISCIPLES Some of you have asked to receive more information to follow up on the children's Disciples sermon series of this past summer. Leslie has two books in the office which you can check out to read. Very interesting!

It has been a joy serving with you and I hope the Tuesday morning study of Texts for the coming Sunday and the monthly Exploring our faith through our life journey's will continue.

One in Christ's Service,
Pastor Herb Schmidt

P.S. Pastor Jim returns September 5...with quite a surprise for you! A children's sermon not to be missed!!!

September Happenings

Text Study & Sermon Talk

Join Pastor Jim

Tuesdays 11:00 All are welcome!

Church Council

Next meeting: Monday, Sept. 20,
7-9 PM

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Tuesday, Sept. 14 @ 10:30 AM

Knitting

Meets every Thurs. at 6:45 PM

Scotts Valley Bible Study

Meets the 1st & 3rd Fridays,

Sept. 3 & 17 ~ 10:00 AM

Spring Lakes Park Party Room

Contact Marshall B. 439-8979

Women's Combined Circles

MM / RR meets Thur ~ Sept. 2

~ 12:00 PM Fireside room

Youth Group Resumes

Sundays 6:00 to 8 pm

Dinner included

Rally Day

Sept. 12 @ 11:30

Mt. Cross Women's Retreat

Sat., Sept. 25

Council Highlights

1. Received the financial report and other on going Task Force reports from council Members.
2. Reviewed the Lease Option document from Mid Peninsula Housing regarding the details of our low income Senior Housing project. Members of the Housing Committee had met with Reuben Helick and suggested a number of possible changes to the document. These changes will be discussed with Mid Pen. Housing and when a final Option Document is developed it will be given to the congregation for approval.
3. Council President Paul Powers reported on follow up actions regarding the Easement documents with our neighboring property owner and his support for the Housing Development.
4. The Council President was directed to negotiate with the AA group about their request for developing storage space.
5. The council took a close look at the finances and the reason this year looks out of balance is the payment for a Sabbatical Interim Pastor. It was suggested that perhaps each year the congregation should set aside at least \$1000 so that in seven years when the next Sabbatical would be scheduled the money might be there. This idea will be considered when the next year's budget is developed.

<u>Income</u>	July '10	July '09	Jan-July '10	Budget
Contrib.	\$14,240	\$16,854	\$126,144	\$132,075
Misc.	\$549	\$419	\$3,672	\$3,200
Total	\$14,789	\$17,273	\$129,816	\$135,275
<u>Expenses</u>				
Total	\$17,353	\$20,521	\$136,872	\$136,281
Net Inc.	-\$2,564	-\$3,248	-\$7,056	-\$1,006

(Why Our Offerings Are Important continued)

Compared to many people in the world, all of us — to one degree or another — have been richly blessed by God. That's why we need to apply Paul's counsel to our lives. As we follow his instruction, giving in the name of the Lord Jesus to meet the needs of others, we "lay up treasures" for the coming age.

One of the primary reasons God provides material blessings to us His children is that we might through those material provisions minister in His name to other people. According to Matthew 25:40, when we do that, even to what Jesus described as the "least" of His brethren, it is as though we have done it unto Him.

As one writer expressed it so well, "Investing in the lives of others and growing in our relationship with God are spiritual treasures. They are not subject to destruction or thievery. They are fully protected. Their value never diminishes." Or as an anonymous poet wrote, "Shall the great Judge say, when my task is through, that my soul had gathered some riches, too? Or shall at the last it be mine to find that all I had worked for was left behind?"

As you consider your true wealth and what really counts for eternity, think about this: How much better to be a poor person who is spiritually rich than a rich person who is spiritually poor.

How rich are you?

Why Our Offerings Are Important

“Empowered by God—Responding by Grace”

How rich are you? Most of us would respond to that question with a recitation of our material possessions. We would list bank accounts and their contents, stocks, bonds, houses, vehicles, and other so-called assets as tangible evidence of our wealth.

But is that how rich we are? Not really. Adrian Rogers said this, “If you want to know how rich you are, add up everything you have that money can’t buy and what you’ve sent on to heaven. That’s how rich you really are.”

There are two ways to send money on to heaven, or as the Bible phrases it, to “lay up treasures in heaven.” One is to give to the work of the Lord. As we do that, particularly through giving our tithes and offerings here at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church, we make deposits in what one writer described as the “Bank of Heaven.” Another way to accomplish that goal is to give to meet the needs of other people. That’s the admonition provided by the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 6:17-19 when he instructed Timothy, “*As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God. . . . They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share.*”



September Birthdays

9-1	Bill Cruddas	9-21	Michaela Turzo	9-29	Holly Lynd
9-2	Dillon Houser	9-24	Peter Larson	9-29	Nicholas Lynd
9-7	David Balogh, Sr	9-26	Hope Coronado	9-29	Tasha Turzo
9-8	Cabel Dawson	9-28	Cathy Yost	9-30	David Stahl
9-8	Eric Millang	9-29	Joanne Freymuth	9-26	Jan Wagner
9-9	Jill Adachi				
9-9	Mario Brochinni				
9-9	Becky Cramer				
9-10	Wayne Adachi				
9-10	David Larson				
9-10	Paige Lynd				
9-10	Lori Millang				
9-10	Don Sorenson				
9-12	Nikki Creel				
9-12	Colin Travers				
9-12	Hannah Travers				
9-12	Nicole Weber				
9-14	Howard Mason				
9-14	Elias McMilin				
9-15	Ashley Volpi				
9-16	Rick Oldfield				
9-17	Marta Bechhoefer				
9-18	Connie Cunningham				
9-19	Philip Spires				
9-20	Brian Awe				
9-20	Kurtis Lemke				



9-1	Thomas & Jeanette Dawson
9-3	Bill & Margaret Schraft
9-4	Jim Jones & Shay Barsabe
9-6	Ron & Sheila Buswell
9-6	Jim & Naomi Florin-Gosciminski
9-6	Brian & Nancy Houser
9-6	Kevin & Marla Meek
9-17	Paul & Connie Cunningham
9-29	Stephen & Lauren Pond

Youth Corner

Youth Group Resumes...invite your friends:
Sunday evenings 6:00-8:00pm
Dinner at 6:00 and splitting into smaller groups at 7:00

Parents' meeting September 12th, 7:00-8:00pm
Please check your schedules and confirm availability.

Fall retreats at Mt. Cross:

Oct. 15-17 High School

Nov. 12-14 Middle School

Please check out www.SPSYC.org for more details. This is the committee that

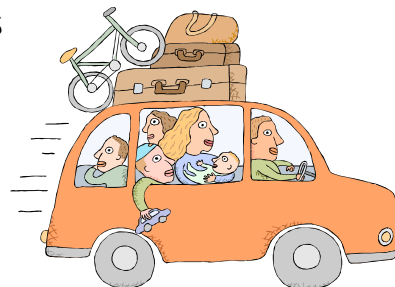
Kyle Lapp serves on...the one that went to Rwanda!!!! There will be high school elections and an opportunity for you to join the committee. We need to plan quickly, as registration is very soon. These are memorable times!

Next Summer is the Western States Gathering at CLU in So. Cal. Road Trip!!!
July 1-5, 2011: www.wsyg.com
Save the dates!

Looking forward to a fun-filled Fall!

Lydia Abler

h: 831.421.0996 c: 408.319.1413



Live A Life That Matters

Ready or not, someday it will all come to an end.

There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days.
All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten,
will pass to someone else.

Your wealth, fame and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance.

It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.

Your grudges, resentments, frustrations, and jealousies will finally disappear.

So, too, your hope, ambitions, plans, and to-do lists will expire.

The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.

It won't matter where you came from, or on what side of the tracks you lived, at the end.

It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.

Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant.

So what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured?

What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built;
not what you got, but what you gave?

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence, but your character.

What will matter is not how many people you knew,
but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.

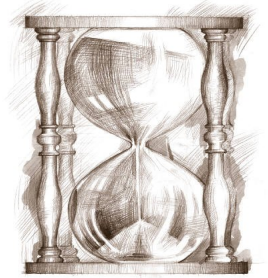
What will matter is not your memories, but the memories that live in those who loved you.

What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.

It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice. Choose to live a life that matters!

Author Michael Josephson — <http://www.charactercounts.org>



The impact of the economy on our families

House meetings were held in May and June to learn the impact of the economy on St. Stephen's members. The information will be integrated with the results of house meetings from other COPA member institutions. The themes that emerged from the St. Stephen's meetings were:

- Cost of health care and long term health care
- Running out of health insurance
- Hospitals in region laying off nurses due to declining birth rate as people postpone children due to the economy.
- Class sizes at K-12 are increasing
- College students are paying more, but not finding the classes they need as classes are reduced due to budget cuts
- School teachers being laid off
- Pay cuts and furloughs at UCSC and other government institutions are difficult especially for single wage earners
- Recent college graduates having a difficult time finding jobs
- Foreclosures and the refusal of banks to modify loans
- Housing remains unaffordable for many
- Families forced to relocate to find jobs
- Local economy produces few decent paying jobs causing many to work over the hill
- Reduction in development impacting construction jobs adding to unemployment

These impact related stories are from St. Stephen's members. The feedback is important as COPA works with local government to improve the local economy.

House meetings regarding our five year plan, investment in the five year plan, and possible long range capital projects will be conducted from early October through mid November. These meetings will be held at the St. Stephen's on Sunday mornings either at 9:30 a.m. or Noon.

Submitted by Mark Linder



Sunday School News

Our VBS Friendship Trek in June was a week of amazing fun, fellowship and faith. We saw many of our Sunday School friends and were able to meet many new friends from our community through that exciting program. Thanks again to all who made that possible.



Over the summer our children got to know the 12 disciples a little better during Children's Church and Pastor Schmidt's messages for the kids. We had a fun summer thanks to all the volunteers that took time out to help us make this program happen for our children.

Mark your calendars for our fun upcoming events...

Join us for Rally Day on September 12th @ 11:30 to learn about some of our ministry opportunities and programs. There will be information and fun presentations. This is also the day to register your children for the new Sunday School year or review the current information we have on file. Don't forget to stop by our table and pick up your welcome letters with more information about exciting changes in our upcoming year. We also will be collecting bars of soap for distribution to those in need through Lutheran World Relief. A brand new bar of soap contributes to dignity and cleanliness. LWR accepts new bars of any brand soap, in its original wrapping. All bar sizes are accepted; however, bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) are highly preferred. Please place your soap contribution in the plastic tote labeled SOAP near the Sunday School table.

Fun (and FREE) Fall Family Movie Night Friday, October 22nd. The movie starts promptly at 6:30 and ends at 7:45. We will be watching "The Prince of Egypt". It is a beautifully animated story of Moses. Popcorn and water will be provided. Invite your friends and come a little early (6:15 or so) for some fun Egyptian crafts.

Don't forget to check out our "Opportunities to Serve" board in the back of the church. You will see Sunday School volunteer sign-ups there along with many other opportunities to serve in our church community.

Sincerely, Dusty Gipson

338-3787 or dustygipson@yahoo.com

**“Trivia Challenge 2010”
A Benefit for the Literacy Program of Santa Cruz County**

**Friday, October 8
6:30 to 10:00 p.m. at the Civic Auditorium**

The evening includes dinner hors d’oeuvres and dessert, live music, a no-host wine and beer bar, great raffle prizes, and, of course, the trivia contest itself. Persons may participate as team members, sponsors or spectators (spectators are given pads and pencils to play along at their seats).

Illiteracy has a very debilitating effect on our community. Statistics link it to problems related to law enforcement, criminal justice, employment, and health and human services. The Literacy Program has helped over 10,000 persons significantly change their lives by improving their reading, writing and speaking skills. Students are taught free of charge on a one-on-one basis and their curriculum is tailored to meet their individual needs.

For more information, please log onto www.sctriviachallenge.org or call 831-427-5077. The website includes sample trivia questions and answers as well as information on how to become a Literacy Program tutor. No prior teaching experience is required—just the ability to read, write and speak English.

STEWARD OF THE MONTH

Henrietta Howard

For taking the bull by the horns and literally digging right into our landscaping issue. Curb appeal is so important and we have lacked luster for some time. “Afterall, this is God’s house” she says. Thank you for your Spirit & enthusiasm! It is contagious!!!

September Worship

September 5

Ushers 8:15—Jill & Shauna
Ushers 10:30— Joel & Maryann
Reader 8:15—Elke Spires
Reader 10:30—Scott Medling
Assistant 8:15—Volunteer
Assistant 10:30—Connie Creel
Acolyte— Volunteer
Coffee 8:15—Rebecca & Jean
Coffee 10:30—Cappelloni
Adult Forum—Roy & Beth Hoch

September 12

Ushers 8:15—Jill & Shauna
Ushers 10:30—Joel & Maryann
Reader 8:15—Melanie Carrido
Reader 10:30—Cheryl Curry
Assistant 8:15—Ruth Cruddas
Assistant 10:30—Mark Linder
Acolyte—Jesse McMilin
Coffee 8:15—Jan Wagner
Coffee 10:30—Volunteer
Adult Forum—Kyle Lapp

Altar Guild for the month —
8:15 Connie & 10:30 Candace

Assistants

September 19

Ushers 8:15—Jill & Shauna
Ushers 10:30 Joel & Maryann
Reader 8:15—Barbara Johnston
Reader 10:30—Connie Creel
Assistant 8:15 - Janet Slay
Assistant 10:30—Bill Schraft
Acolyte—Nelleke Meerman
Coffee 8:15—Volunteer
Coffee 10:30—Volunteer

September 26

Ushers 8:15—Jill & Shauna
Ushers 10:30—Joel & Maryann
Reader 8:15—Theresa L.C.
Reader 10:30—Mark Linder
Assistant 8:15—Glenn Johnson
Assistant 10:30—Volunteer
Acolyte— Volunteer
Coffee 8:15—Cunningham
Coffee 10:30—Volunteer

