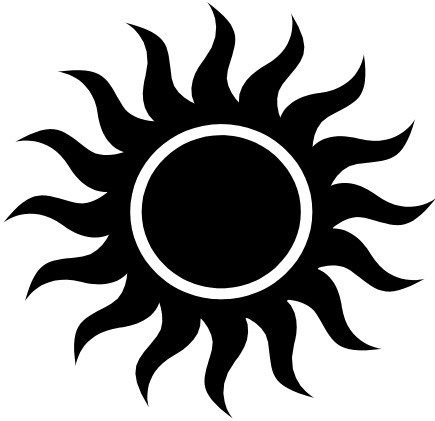


St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 60
Years of Ministry
December 2013

The Season of Advent

With a brand new liturgy, we will join together in preparing
for God's love coming to the world through Christ
on the four Sundays of Advent:

Dec. 1, Dec. 8 (children's program), 15 & 22

We will observe the tradition of lighting the Advent Wreath and
adorning the tree with the Chrismons (Christian symbols)

We will also pray for those who may not have a church home with
the intention of inviting them to Christmas Eve Service.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Tuesday, Dec. 24th ~ 5:00 & 7:30pm
(includes a special children's time)
and 11:00 pm (with Holy Communion)



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](http://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
Treasurer— Mark Linder
Robert Bartee, Kim Cappelloni, Lisa Johnson,
Barbara Rice, 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



Last month I talked about how throughout the history of the Church, times of crisis have led to renewal. I related that to our present circumstances as a congregation and how the celebration of our 60th Anniversary was a harbinger of that time of renewal.

On Sunday Nov. 17th some of our families got a glimpse of how that sense of renewal will start to take effect. **About 25 children and adults from St. Stephen's and the same number from Christ Lutheran, Aptos gathered to be led by Linda Staats from Homegrown Faith** as to how we might enliven and enrich our ministry with children, youth, parents, and everyone in our churches. Linda's intergenerational approach and resources has gotten us excited about the future possibilities for each of our congregations and for what we can do together.

We spent time together interacting and sharing in a way that the 6 generations present were all valued and lifted up as baptized children of God. Beginning with 90 yr. old Ruth from Christ Lutheran and all the way to 5 yr. old Arija Barte we **recognized the value of being together in growing in our faith and passing on the faith to our younger members.** We were introduced to some of the most recent thinking and resources to enhance this aspect of our ministry as smaller congregations.

The most valuable learning for me was that our size congregation is actually in the best position to do this kind of ministry well. And in many ways we are already doing it well. But the result of our time Linda was that we came away with **new possibilities for being intentional about planning intergenerational gatherings** as we strive to fulfill the promises we made at baptism to help raise our children in God's ways.

Our Children's Minister, Dusty Gipson, myself and some other parents and leaders will now take what we learned and begin planning how it can best be implemented at St. Stephen's. This will also be a point of invitation for our preschool families and others in our community who do not have a church home. We also began to lay the groundwork for a future joint youth ministry for our middle and high school students. **Please keep this effort in prayer and look to participate in whatever manifestation comes forth!**

December Happenings

Chapel with the Pre-Schoolers

Wednesdays at 10:00

Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 pm

PreSchool Open House

Dec. 11 from 11:00—12:30

MMRR Boutique & Bake Sale

Dec. 8 from 8—noon

Worship & Music Committee

Dec. 10 at 7:00 pm

MMRR Women's Luncheon

Dec. 12 at noon @ Lu Sluiter's

Women's Café Group

Dec. 11 at 6:30 pm at The Abbey

Blue Christmas Worship

Dec. 15 at 3:00

Friendship Party

Dec. 15 at 5:30 pm @ Lu's

Church Council

Dec. 16 at 7:00 pm

Women's Bible Study

Dec. 17 at 10:30 am

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Dec. 26?

Council Highlights

1. Devotions and prayer led us to turn over our wills and to seek God's will for our church as we offer our gifts as leaders.
2. Tom Eagle presented an internal audit report done by Ruth Cruddas, Kathy Allen, Don Fuqua, and Tom. It found need for improvement in how records are being kept and stored, and recommended hiring a CPA to do a professional audit in the coming year. No improprieties were found. Council will act on report at its Dec. 16 meeting.
3. Treasurer Mark Linder presented a preliminary 2014 budget. It freezes salaries and other expenses and relies on interest income from Mid-Pen funds that the church will receive in 2014 to cover a projected \$27,000 deficit. This may also be the case for 2015 as we will need at least 2 years to gather a clear mission and focus for our ministry coming out of 2 years of internal work and reconciliation. A budget will be voted on Sun. Jan. 26th
4. A nominating comm. was formed for church council. 3 yr. terms are up for Barbara Rice, Kim Cappelloni and Robert Bartee.
5. A new church website will be in place soon. Pastor Jim has been trained to be able to maintain it. Thanks to Leanne Salandro for setting it up.
6. Kirk Adams, CPA, will be providing the church with a document showing that the church is exempt from being taxed on it's receipt of the \$1.2 million from the Long-Term Ground Lease of our land for Mid-Pen's development of St. Stephen's Senior Housing.



December Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 12-2 Ken Gross | 12-20 Stefan Meek |
| 12-4 Carol Bobo | 12-20 Greg Weber |
| 12-5 Ruth Gonzales | 12-21 Robin Reid |
| 12-6 Don Smawley | 12-22 Vern Lillehaugen |
| 12-7 Donald Daves | 12-26 Shay Barsabe |
| 12-8 Kirk Adams | 12-28 Brad Tuttle |
| 12-8 Maryann Hurttgam | 12-29 Con Coonrad |
| 12-11 Julie Gilbertson | 12-31 Darren
Crews |
| 12-12 Zack Larson | 12-31 Paul
Cunningham |
| 12-13 Cary Helgueros | 12-31 Jeanette
Dawson |
| 12-14 Sheryl Brouse | 12-31 Dusty
Gipson |
| 12-15 Robert Bartee | |
| 12-18 Todd Johnson | |
| 12-18 Molly Mouw | |
| 12-18 Leslie Radford | |

*Belated wishes to
Betty Coonrad Nov. 9*



Anniversaries

- 12-04 Peggy & Phil Crews
 12-04 John & Kathy Hopping
 12-05 Wayne & Jill Adachi
 12-05 Mike & Ruth Cruddas
 12-17 Alfred & Ruth Mitchell
 12-22 Chris & Lorie Juhl

Prayer Concerns:

Short Term: Family of Dick Stromme (Jill Adachi's father) Shelby & family, Julius Creel, Paul Cunningham, Kathy Allen, Millie & Bob Simmen, Kaitlin Cahill, Allie Wells, Hayzel, Maicon, Evan Milnes, Alice, Marge, Artie, Mark, Linda, Anna, Susan, Cathy, Cayley & Alex, Jennifer, Abby, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and St. Stephen's Church Family.

Long Term: Pat Hubbard, Chris & Kent Madsen, Jan Wagner, Renie Leaman, Cathy Yost, Beverly Gilladett, Lisa Pawalkat, Bonnie Hansen, Larry Knapp, Cathy Lorenzo, Dee, Jill Lapp, Mickayla, Pearl Runquist, Jeanne, Ron Buswell, The Robe Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman, Youth of today.

Sunday School News

The children have been working so hard to bring the Nativity Story to life for our congregation. Come share with us:

“Christmas in Bethlehem”

Sunday, December 8th at 10:30



This will be such a fun event and a great time to invite friends and neighbors to join us.

This month we will also be decorating 100 Christmas Goody Bags for the inmates of the Santa Cruz County Jail. This is such a wonderful opportunity for our children to share God's love with others. The bags will be filled with treats and Christmas cards from our students. If you would like to donate items (individually wrapped, no foil, and able to fit in a lunch size bag) we will be including the following in each bag:

- Candy bar (full size)
- Bag of chips
- Fruit treat (gummy bears or like)
- Granola bar or bag of nuts or cookie (individually wrapped)
- Few Jolly Ranchers or something like it.

More fun in December:

Sunday Dec. 1st-Pageant preparation during Sunday School

Saturday Dec. 7th- Pageant full dress rehearsal 3-5pm

Sunday Dec. 8th- Pageant performance during 10:30 service (children should arrive at 10:15 for costuming)

Sunday Dec. 15th- Bags for Inmates project during Sunday

Sunday Dec. 22nd-Complete Bags for Inmates project and celebrate with a birthday party for Jesus during Sunday School

Sunday Dec. 29th- What happened next? Story and project during S.S.

As we look ahead to our new year there are many exciting changes on the horizon. I will be working with Pastor Jim to enhance our existing programs and introduce new ones. We hope to better equip our families and our church community to continue to lead our children in their faith development. Sincerely, Dusty Gipson 831-338-3787

St. Stephen's Child Development Center

Our November article focused on gratitude as we have received so many contributions from our congregation to build and enhance our program. As I reflect on our school with humility, just one year ago the path to December 2013 was full of challenges and opportunities. December 2012, I was an Intern here offering my volunteer hours to support the school along with serving on board. The December school board meeting delivered news of our inability to make payroll, continued loss of students, the resignation of our Director and school board president in a tired facility. What rose from that was a miracle. The Lord lifted my hand and before I knew it I said "Yes, I can direct the preschool". Somehow I was able to complete full time college, internship, and keep the doors open 10 hours a day practically alone. If it were not for the support of Pastor Jim, Leslie and the board members I may not have made it through but God wanted this ministry to survive and grow.

I reflect on our progress as I look at our new Eagle Scout built 2 year old playground area, raised planter beds filled with plant growth, new bikes, green grass, a resurfaced bike track, and a cheerfully painted deck area. All of our classrooms are freshly painted and decorated displaying the joys of learning at every turn. Communication is pleasant and the information outlines the importance of learning through play. Most importantly I have a staff that is personally invested in our success and who bring a range of talents that enhance our program. Miss Caryn passionately brings art projects, Miss Jess spearheaded weekly yoga, and Miss Frieda has designed a learning structure for our afternoons. These are just a few examples of what our dedicated and conscientious teachers bring.

Now that my education and Internship is complete I am able to get out into the community and meet other professionals that serve children. We were able to learn about marketing and budgeting from Janine Canada at the Cabrillo Small Business Office. We learned technology and formed our website with Leanne Salandro. I am meeting Directors in through the workshops offered by Sita Moon at the SC office of Education. This week I begin the Director Mentor program so that I can analyze my procedures and make sure we are up to code while getting a better pulse of the community we serve. The best news is that we serve 10 students and their families and we have the opportunity to share them with you during our annual Christmas Pageant. Seven of our families are new to our school as we graduated 5 children last summer. This entire journey has been a very difficult one full of sacrifice but our Lord and Savior continues to guide me through on this mission to build our ministry. I thank all of you who have joined in the journey. Although I cannot anticipate the plan God has for our new year I look forward to exploring the direction he sends us in together! Happy new Year St. Stephen's!

Kathy Berens (Director) 464-4453 cdc@ststephenslutheran.org

Note from Pastor Niels Carlsen

(Niels lives in Florida and was Interim Pastor '95-'96)

Dear Members of St. Stephen's & Pr. Lapp,

I am sorry I cannot be with you on the 60th Anniversary of the Congregation. Anniversaries are always wonderful times, and my prayers are with you as you remember the past 60 years together.

I am pleased that I was a part of this Congregation for one year as your Interim Pastor. I remember it as a good year, meeting and ministering to many of you who I am sure are still there. I also remember good times with your former Pastors as I served as Pastor of Christ Lutheran in Aptos.

One of my fond memories as Interim Pastor was a surprise by Pastor Lapp as he visited me one morning in the pastor's office, wanting to know all about St. Stephen's. God had called him to become your Pastor. God has really blessed him in his ministry with you. Pastor, thank you for that special meeting.

Anniversaries are times for looking back, but also a time for looking ahead for future years in God's ministry. Follow the words of the Apostle Paul to the Church at Colosse:

"See that you go on growing in the Lord and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with Joy and Thanksgiving for all he has done!" Colossians 2:7b

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Carlsen

Adult Forums—Every Sunday @ 9:30

Dec. 1 — Advent Scripture Themes - Pr. Jim

Dec. 8 — Circle Boutique, No Forum

Dec. 15 — Rev. Bonnie Bell
- Celebrate Readings

Dec. 22— Sharing Faith Stories - TBA

Dec. 29— **What's next in adult forum?**



Stewards of the Month

★ Mark Linder, Tom Eagle, Ruth Cruddas, Kathy Allen & Don Fuqua ★

★ All of these folks have offered their time and skills to God through our church as we seek to be good stewards of our finances. Mark has served ★
★ as our Treasurer for the past two years and most recently led 3 forums ★
★ on possible uses of the funds we will receive from the lease of our land ★
★ for the building of affordable senior housing. He also led us in a meaning- ★
★ ful stewardship exercise during worship as we prepared for Harvest Sun- ★
★ day. The other folks have served on our internal audit committee - the ★
★ **first such group in anyone's memory. Their efforts will help our church be** ★
★ as diligent as possible with the financial gifts we offer to God. Thank you ★
★ to all for serving as inspiring witnesses for us as we each consider how it ★
★ is that we will offer ourselves to God through our church. ★

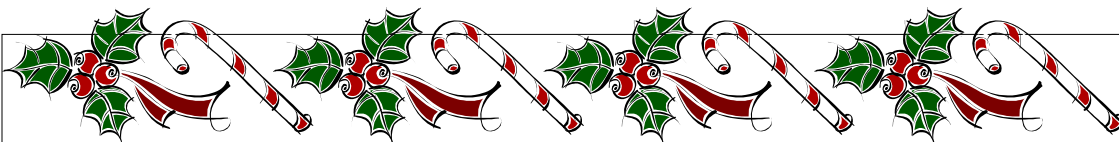




Circle Boutique & Bake Sale

Sunday, Dec. 8 from 8:00 to noon

Come and enjoy FUN for all. Bring home some treasures and goodies. Also the Raffle Baskets of chocolate, garden and kitchen items will be raffled off then at noon. We will need: breads, cakes, pies, candy, nuts, and craft items too. Boutique items can be brought between 1:00 and 3:00 Saturday. Baked goods no later than Sunday 8:00 am. We will price items. Ques-



Friendship Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 15th at 5:30 pm

Lu Sluiter's Home—141 Cabrillo St., Capitola 475-8418

Bring: Finger food (not dessert) to share & beverage and a wrapped gift for the fun-filled exchange game!



MM / RR Circle Christmas Luncheon

Thursday, Dec. 12 @ Noon

Join us at the home of Lu Sluiter (141 Cabrillo St., Capitola).

Lu and Lois Meeker are preparing a soup luncheon.

All ladies are invited to attend & you need not bring a thing!



Women's Café Group

Wed. Dec. 11 @ 6:30 pm

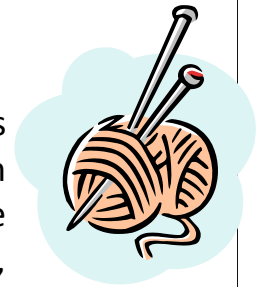
The Abbey Coffee Shop (Highland / Mission St.)

Café is a Web-based magazine for women who want to build **Community**, participate in **Advocacy**, strengthen **Faith**, and strive toward **Enlightenment (CAFE!)**. It incorporates a Lutheran perspective for women of Christian faith or simply for any woman who is interested in how faith can relate to the issues that women face today. Our small group spends time in fellowship, discussion & prayer. More info call Leslie 476-4700. See www.boldcafe.org.

Fingerless Gloves on the Davenport Tree

The Thursday-night knitters are making fingerless gloves to go to Davenport this year. You'll find these gloves hung on the Advent tree over the next few weeks. Each year, the knitters make something for the Advent tree: hats, blankets, scarves, and--this year--the gloves.

You don't have to come to the Thursday-night meetings to knit gloves! If you feel inspired, knit up a pair and hang them on the tree yourself, or give them to Shay Barsabe or to Leslie Lapp before Dec. 1. Happy knitting!



Poinsettia Sale

This sale will help support

our Pre School. You will have a dedication in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. The plants will grace the sanctuary during Christmas services, and then you will be able to bring you plant home to enjoy for the rest of the holiday season. Sign up, or call the office. **\$15 to "St. Stephens" with memo stating "Poinsettia" by Dec. 12.**



Saturday Dec. 21
8:30 am @ church

Come share the Joys of the Advent and Christmas Season. The holidays are almost here. I have booked the “St. Stephen’s Christmas Choir” to sing carols at the La Posada Retirement community.

- We will be singing for the residents at 10:00 for about 45 minutes.
- **This year we’re only singing at the one facility in town where a member of the congregation is living.**

The address is: 609 Frederick St, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
Phone number is: (831) 429-9230

Please arrive at St. Stephen’s no later than 8:30 am .We will provide music books for you. I’ll hold a quick rehearsal and then we’ll be off. Dress festively and feel free to bring sleigh bells (if you have them), or car keys to jingle when we sing the appropriate songs.

I hope many of you can join in the caroling. It’s always a very gratifying experience to witness the power of music, particularly during the Christmas holidays. The residents love it when we come, especially when we ask them to sing along and include them in the performance.

In Peace ~ Suzanne Duval

Monthly Special Benevolence Offering - December

COPA

Communities Organized for relational Power in Action

This interfaith ministry of Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties focuses on doing justice in the areas of affordable housing, public safety, immigration, education, **economic opportunity and health care. Please join St. Stephen’s Core Team to learn more.** Contact Mark Linder or Pr. Jim

November—Santa Cruz al Salvador - \$310 was given (as of Nov. 23)

Blue Christmas Worship Service

Sunday, December 15^h at 3 p.m.

St. Stephen's will be offering a Blue Christmas Service -- a time when the "blue" feelings many people experience during the holidays can be acknowledged.

This is not a joyous season for everyone. Greetings of Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays, non-stop shopping, parties, and other traditional ways of celebrating the holidays often contrast sharply with the feelings of people for whom it's not "the most wonderful time of the year." For families suffering from the recent or impending death of loved ones or in crisis due to illness or any other kind of loss, or for those who suffer from **Christmas** depression or other mental illness, it **can be a very isolated and lonely time.**

In this Blue Christmas Service, all those who are not having a very Merry Christmas for whatever reason, and the friends who support them, are invited to come and be with one another in a liturgy that speaks of the compassionate love of God for His hurting people. **Together we will offer up our pain, sorrow, anxiety, and loneliness** to the One whose birth we commemorate -- our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is our prayer that those who attend will be blessed with peace, hope, and especially the comfort of knowing they are not alone and deeply loved by God.



Thrivent Builds Santa Cruz County

Thrivent Builds Harbor Drive Home Dedication

Date: December 14, 2013

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Where: 419 Harbor Drive, Santa Cruz (adjacent to S C Bible Church)

Lite refreshments provided **volunteer@habitatsc.org or 469-4663**

St Stephen's 60th Anniversary celebration follow up

An estimated 90 people attended the St. Stephen's 60th anniversary and reception. There are too many people to thank for making our 60th a real celebration. We needed a "good party". It was so nice to see people having a nice time together, for walking together through the years, the ups & the downs. Thanks to our Worship and Music committee for putting together an incredible service, for having our Sierra Pacific Synod Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Jose Luis La Torre-Cuadros as a guest preacher, for having Pastor Nita Flora, Mary Ann Hult and Pastor Glenn Johnson share some of their memories.

I would like to thank Don Smawley, Joel and Maryann Hurtgamm, Candace Anderson, Ruth and Mike Cruddas, Glenn Johnson, Ruth Mitchell, Carol Bobo, the Lindquists and Connie Cunningham for their assistance in setting up and preparing the reception. A special thank you to Chris Madsen for her research and preparation of the hymnal display. Thank you to Lu Sluiter and the Ruth Rebecca/Mary Martha circle for contributing funds to cover expenses and to all those who contributed to the 60th fund.

I have itemized everything (except time & labor) so that we can have similar celebrations and parties in the future, why wait another 10, 20, 60 years? Our 60th celebration was quite affordable and frankly, FUN. Many people have approached me to say what a nice time they had and how interesting St. Stephen's history is and how excited they are for our future. We here at St. Stephen's really are fortunate to have such a solid foundation, the one rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ. ~ Lisa Johnson

Thank you especially to those who contributed financially.

Contribution from Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca: \$300.



El Salvador Sister Parish News

The Santa Cruz al Salvador Board wishes to extend a great big thank you to all of you for your continued support and your willingness to help build relationships with your prayer child. The Pupusa meal was a great success, not only in funds raised but in the fellowship. There was a lot of energy in that room!

By the time you read this, the first delegation will have returned from El Salvador. A full report, as always, will be in a few months.

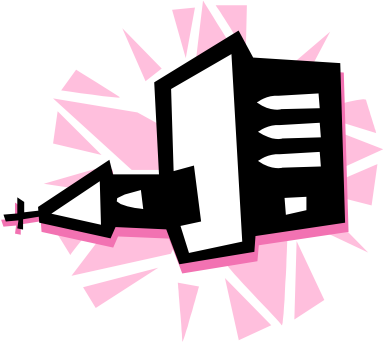
To all Sponsors - the delegation leaving Jan. 2 will have a medical **focus, holding several 'clinic days'. They will also be present at the** scholarship ceremony. This is when we distribute the school supplies, and give the children the small gift bag, letter & picture that you promised to send when you signed your commitment card. (Remember that promise?) Please get your gift bag to Ruth in a 1 gal storage bag (no larger than that) by Dec. 29. Suggested items: t-shirt, sleeveless tops for girls, pens, pencils, hair and nail stuff for girls, candy treats (that **don't melt**), **yo-yo's & other small toys, etc.**

Health kits: washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste. Place these items and any of the OTC items listed below in the blue basket in the narthex.

Commitment Card - **If you haven't already turned in your Prayer Child Commitment Card**, please do so as soon as possible. For those of you who do not have a prayer child and are interested please contact Chris Madsen or Ruth Cruddas.

Thank you again for your continued support of our Sister Parish.

Feliz Navidad, from
Your El Salvador representatives



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
November 21, 2013**

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

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2500 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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