

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Sun
Celebrating 55 Years of Ministry June '09

Volume 8, Issue 1

St. Stephen's Sun

1

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.

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.—Paul Powers, V.P.- Robin Gloe,
Sec.— Bill Scraft, Treas.— Mark Linder,
Don Smawley, Dan Grow, Scott Medling,
Jeanette Dawson, and Jan Wagner
Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts
Custodian: John Hopping
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
Youth Minister: David Stahl
Children's Minister: Dusty Gipson

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)

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

**POST OFFICE:
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PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON May 21, 2009

Non-Profit Org.

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Permit #79

Soquel, CA 95073

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

Volume 8, Issue 1

St. Stephen's Sun

2

June Happenings

Church Council

Next meeting is June 15 @ 7-9 pm

Vacation Bible School

Monday thru Friday, June 22—26

Ice Cream Social & kids program June 25, 6:30 pm.

Congregational Meeting

Sun. June 28 @ 12:00 Noon

Women's Circles Luncheon

June 4, 12:00 Noon at Lu Sluiter's

Scotts Valley Bible Study

Meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month (June 5 & 19) at 10 am in the Spring Lake Park Party Room

Contact Marshall Bautz 439-8979

Youth Group

Weds, June 3 & 17 and July 1 & 15 6:30—8:00 pm dinner included

Knitting

Meets every Thursday at 6:45 pm

Worship Team

Meets Thursdays at 6:30 pm

El Salvador Rummage Sale

Sat, June 20, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Donations may be dropped off starting June 8th 8:30—2:30.

Benevolence Offering =

World Hunger

Church Council

Next meeting is May 18 @ 7-9 pm

Confirmation Class

Meets Sun. May 3 & 17 @ 6:30 pm

Women's Circles Luncheon

June 4th @ 12:00 At Lu's 475-8418

Circles will resume in the fall.

Scotts Valley Bible Study

Meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month (May 1 & 15) at 10 am in the Spring Lake Park Party Room

Contact Marshall Bautz 439-8979

Youth Group

Every Wed. 6:30—8:00 pm

Knitting

Meets every Thursday at 6:45 pm

Worship Team

Meets Thursdays at 6:30 pm

Rummage Sale for Sister Parish

Saturday, June 20

Benevolence Offering =

World Hunger

Mark Your Calendars for upcoming events

Sunday School News

Hello Sunday School Families,

I am so excited about our upcoming VBS program and hope that all of our friends Sunday School can join us.

“The Great Bible Reef”

June 22 - 26 from 9:00 to 12:00

Cost \$35 (\$30 for sign ups by June 1st)

This will be a fun week of exploring God's love, growing in faith and meeting new friends the Great Bible Reef. Please feel free to contact me or Leslie if you have any questions. We also still need a few volunteers to help during this week. Check your schedule and either sign-up at church or let us know that you would like to help.

Ice Cream Social & Children's program
Thursday, June 25th

Don't think the Sunday School fun is over just because school is out. We will continue to have during the summer. The program is a bit more relaxed like sidewalk chalk art days, movie time and projects. Out for up sheets during the services with this fun program.

Sincerely,

Sincerely, Dusty Gipson 338-3787 home
dustygipson@yahoo.com

Faith-Full Families

(All Family Members)

Sundays once a month from 11:00a.m.-12:45p.m.
Faith-Full Families meet once a month to share a meal, play, create, and join together in a family blessing. Lunch is provided.

Story Book Tea

(Ages 5-11 with parent or grandparent)

Sunday afternoon once a month from 2:30p.m.-3:45p.m.
Each family spends a precious time together. The magic begins with a specially selected story. The families create a simple craft based on the story's message, and individual tea trays are presented to each family to share one-on-one time together.
Tea time concludes with a group heart blessing.

Sincerely,
Dusty Gipson
Sunday School Coordinator
831-338-3787 home 831-818-5703 cell dustygipson@yahoo.com

June Youth Spot (grades 9-12)

Greetings St. Stephens-
Summer is here! Warm weather, sunny skies (a little morning fog) and the end of school. Which brings us to the new youth group schedule. Beginning in June, we will be meeting every other week on Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00 pm. June meetings will be on the 3rd and 17th. In July, we will meet the 1st and 15th.

Summer kick off...
Beach Camping Trip
June 12—13
Coastways Ranch

Let me know if you are interested in attending or would like to help out in any way. And PLEASE bring your friends!

Also, we have several opportunities in the community to do yard work. This is a great way to make money for the youth group, as well as personal spending money for the summer. Please contact me if you are interested.

I hope you are all healthful, happy, and well.

Sincerely,
David Stahl

415-307-6866 stahldavid@msn.com

Youth Group meets Wednesdays 6:30-8:15pm
Dinner is included!.

Youth Minister, David Stahl cell phone: 415-307-6866
or leave him a message w/Leslie at 476-4700

Sister Parish Rummage Sale June 20th, 9-1:00 - at St. Stephen's (co-sponsored with the Boy Scouts). As you do your spring cleaning, please save your items for us. Donations may be delivered beginning June 15th! Contact Chris Madsen for details 438-1593.

Council Highlights

1. Our devotions centered on Micah 6:6-8 which may be one of the most simple and eloquent descriptions of God's will for all humanity ever written. In essence, the prophet asks: What kind of big sacrifices do you want from me to prove my worth to you, O God. "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God." Our church has some good experience with justice ministries: the homeless, our sister parish in El Salvador, our work with other churches locally through COPA. Now we have another opportunity to be on the side of those who are more vulnerable in our community, which is known to have the most unaffordable housing in the entire country. Above all, as we may enter into a process to use our field for affordable senior housing, we need to remember that this idea comes out of our faithfulness to one of the main themes of the whole Bible: Justice. To be sure, this is a big and potentially complicated undertaking, but we cannot ever lose sight of the underlying purpose of serving a very big need in our community. Seniors, who can often be widows and widowers, are some of the most vulnerable in our community. May the Spirit lead us as we strive to be faithful to God's call in the scriptures

January—April Financials

Envelope \$58,980 actl vs. \$62,664 bdtg Total exp. \$75,793 actl vs. \$75,936 bdtg

June

6-1 Jonatha Anderson
6-1 Jim Hanson
6-2 Nancy Daves
6-4 Marilee Gregory
6-5 Sara Jett Lund
6-5 Lauren Pond
6-6 Tara McMilin
6-6 Joseph Ronning
6-7 Chanel Helgueros
6-8 John Bauer
6-8 Gladyce Berg
6-8 Steve Young
6-10 Glenn Johnson

Birthdays

6-10 Kirk McMilin
6-11 Sila Capp
6-12 Ruth Mitchell
6-12 Madeline Mouw
6-14 Stephanie Dawson
6-16 Mike Cruddas, Jr.
6-16 Donald Daves
6-16 Hunter Paulson
6-17 Truett Bobo
6-19 Kim Brouse
6-19 Jonas Capp
6-20 Abigail Robe
6-21 Jenna Mabry
6-26 Bonnie Bell
6-28 Pearl Compton
6-29 Michael Nunes

5-3 Margaret Schraft
5-4 Donna Sorensen

5-5 Kathleen Allen
5-5 Kent Madsen
5-6 Cheryl Curry
5-6 Renee Robe
5-6 Hjordis Quitzau
5-7 Virginia Beltz
5-7 Ross Johnston
5-9 Clinton Bell
5-9 Lois Meeker
5-10 Julie Mouw
5-15 Mark Esquibel
5-15 Jesse McMilin
5-17 Alexandra Weisblatt
5-18 Jordan Ayers

Birthdays

5-18 Rebecca Balogh
5-18 Leah Parker
5-19 Laney Johnson
5-20 Aria Bartee
5-21 Dianna Barry
5-21 Steven Bernard
5-22 Nicholas Mitchell
5-23 Don Fuqua
5-24 Travis Awe
5-25 Trent Hopping
5-26 Epimenio Valencia
5-27 John Coronado
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 Greg Paulson

Prayer Concerns:

Short Term: Carla Spain, Les, Grandpa Richard, Chuck Breizy, Glenn Johnson, Jim Sargent, The Messerschmidt family, Bonnie & family, Mark Toback, Cheryl, Mark, Marsha, Irene, Mindy, Daniel, Kevin, Marge, Marino, Danny, Chris, Debbie, Linda. **Long Term:** Linda Taylor, The family of John Cahill, Ron Buswell, Dorothy Ronning, George & Poki, Ruth & Steve, Jon & Judy, Sophia Taylor &

family, Judy Dowd, Devin Barlow, Alison Barlow, Bev Loback, Jeannie Mann, Dorothy Anderson, Shirley Fuqua, Aravella, Michelle & C.J. Muchanic, Suzanne Podolski, Finn Becker & family, Wayne Jackson, Martha Beito, Douglas Brown, Chelsea Rocha & family, Brooks & Glenn Leaman, Ruby & Bob Heppe, Linda Davis, Earl Lewis, Jeffery Patterson, Mark Gregory, Chris Tury, Cheryl Bayne, Vince Catalano, Bill Crouser, Jeanette Howe, Cathy Lorenzo, Ron Waltrip, Debbie Jackson, The Oldfield family, Dick Walthart, Jo Wishart, those who are jobless, Sister Parish in El Salvador, Our Troops, Pres. Barack Obama & family, Peace & Healing the earth.

PLEASE MAKE NOTE ON WORSHIP SLIP TO REMOVE NAMES FROM PRAYER LIST

(Please notify the office when to remove names from the prayer list)

Happy Anniversary

- 6-3 Roy & Mary Jane Hoch
- 6-4 Greg & Ruth Weber
- 6-8 Marilee Gregory
- 6-5 Ed Drews
- 6-11 Bob & Ruby Heppe
- 6-11 Kirk & Tara McMillin
- 6-22 John & Lorie Coronado
- 6-23 Chris & Tasha Turzo
- 6-28 Kirk & Terri Adams
- 5-5 Mario & Barbara Brochinni
- 5-12 John & Chris Tury
- 5-24 Paul & Leah Powers
- 5-26 Epimenio & Emily Valencia
- 5-27 David & Gwyn Larson
- 5-28 Gary & Ruth Pflueger
- 5-30 Kent & Christine Madsen

Field Task Force Report

As a result of the house meetings of our congregation for the 5 year plan, the Church Council appointed a Field Task Force to investigate the possibility of one of the largest goals—the use of our field for affordable senior housing. The Field Task Force (Teresa Loback-Campbell, Rev. Herb Schmidt, Mark Linder, Jan Wagner & Pastor Jim) has met twice and is recommending that the congregation work with the non-profit housing corporation, Mid-Peninsula Housing, in order to

come back to the congregation with a specific proposal for affordable senior housing on our field.

Our initial research indicates that there is both the necessary funding available and support at the County Gov't to make this vision a reality. The rationale for moving toward this kind of use of our field is as follows:

1. Helps us fulfill our Mission and be better stewards of our resources by caring for those in need.
2. S.C. County is, and has been for some time, one of the most unaffordable places to live in the country (housing costs vs. income levels).
3. County Gov't is actively looking for such projects (Redevelopment funds available now)
4. Housing may be made available to church members as a priority.
5. Possibility of housing for church staff in project (parsonage for future pastors)
6. Improves appearance of our property (parking lot, attractive development, puts us more on the map, possibly include neighboring property)
7. Makes church facilities safer. (Constant residential presence)
8. Mid-Peninsula has depth of experience with these projects in County and property management.
9. Church retains land through lease arrangement.
10. Income stream to congregation through lease payments.
11. Shared use of multi-purpose room/kitchen.
12. Encouraged by County Planning Dept. staff and Supervisor Leopold in recent meetings.

Remember that the vote on June 28 is nothing official and there is a very long way to go before a real proposal can be made. But we need to decide if we are supportive of this direction toward affordable housing. There will be many questions and we will not have too many answers yet. However, there will 3 opportunities for discussion provided.

Sunday June 7th at 9:30am & 11:45am

Wednesday June 10th at 7pm

All will take place in the Fireside Room. Bring your questions, ideas, concerns, and hopes. Notes will be taken to include your input in the work of the Field Task Force.

Make sure to come June 28 at 11:45am for the Special Meeting

New Members

The Turzo Family
Chris & Tasha and their two
daughters Michaela and Ariela

New family from Scotts Valley, Jeanette Dawson's neighbors.

STEWARD OF THE MONTH— Kathy Allen

Thanks for sharing your gifts as a reader and on the altar guild, especially during the busy Lent and Holy Week. It's really nice to have a new person take an interest in preparing us for worship each week. Your humble spirit is a beautiful reminder of the one we follow and how we should all try to live.

Stewardship: Applying Bible Principles

Someone once said, "Experience is a good teacher, but she gives the test first and then the lesson." That's certainly true, and based on many of life's experiences, we frequently fail the test before we can benefit from the lesson.

The formula "e equals mc²" is familiar to many college students but understood by very few people. Most of us know it had something to do with Einstein and was the formula that led to the release of enormous power and to the nuclear age. Similarly, in funding the local church, "e" might stand for *every*, "m" for *member*, "c" for *commitment*, and the "2" for the *effort multiplied by itself*. The fruit of that kind of effort is much more powerful than what Einstein discovered, even as Jesus described it in Matthew 21:22 — "Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

Right now, as we consider the opportunity to support the ministries here at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, God is putting us to the test. As Gordon Moyes

stated, “Responsible giving or stewardship is not man’s way of raising money, but God’s way of raising people. . . .The church’s budget is not a list of its expenses, but a record of its vision. It is not a list of bills to be met, but a program of ministry to be achieved.”

As each of us prayerfully considers what God would have us give, and as we obey what God asks of us, we can trust Him to provide the resources. That’s a test — a test of where we are spiritually much more than where we are financially. It’s a test of us as individuals and of us as a church. The question is whether or not we really believe that God has the power and ability to bless our obedience “far more than all we can ask or imagine” (Eph. 3:20).

How are you doing concerning God’s tests regarding money in your life? If God’s provision in your life in the days ahead depends on *how* you obey His leading *now* concerning your giving, what will the future be like for you?

It just might, you know. . . .

A child is born St. Stephen’s day, 12/26, at 12:30 pm at Sutter Maternity. Dustin Michael Willdig. Son of Mart and great grandson of Glenn Johnson.

And Barbara Jayet’s grand son...?

El Salvador Sister Parish

, (date TBD) and the 16th annual Pupusa Meal is November 1.

Thank you once again for your generosity!

Paz de Cristo (the Peace of Christ), Your Sister Parish Committee

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming events that benefit our Sister Parish:

Rummage Sale June 20th, 9-1:00 - at St. Stephen's (co-sponsored with the Boy Scouts). Please start saving your items now! Contact Chris Madsen for details 438-1593.

Questions call Ruth Cruddas 768-1580

**In Memory of Harold "Hal" William Kolbe
October 12, 1918—April 25, 2009**

He was the oldest of six children of Saraphine and William Kolbe, was born in Young, Saskatchewan, Canada. He grew up in Fairmount, North Dakota where he graduated high school. He entered Wartburg College at Waverly, Iowa receiving his Bachelors in teaching degree.

He began his teaching career in Pacific Junction and Anderson, Iowa. Hal married Lorraine Kizzier and joined the Navy, serving in the South Pacific. He was commissioned Lt. at this time. After serving his country, he continued pursuing his teaching and receiving his Masters degree; later moving to Santa Cruz as an administrator for several years. **He was a member of St. Stephen's, being the last charter member.**

After the death of his daughter Deborah, and wife Lorraine, he was married to Flossie Robertson and moved to Iowa. He enjoyed living in the country, mowing the grass and planting flowers.

While in Iowa, Harold became an active member of the Pacific Junction United Methodist church and a life member of VFW Post 7064 of Tabor, Iowa enjoying both of these activities.

Hal is survived by Flossie, his wife of Pacific Junction, his son William of Sacramento, brother Lowell of Wahpeton, ND one sister, Vera Gilles of Desert Springs, CA also grandchildren Kevin and wife Felicia, Brittney, Chad, and Mariah as well as many nieces, nephews, step children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and friends, **including St. Stephens members Tex and Dorothy Ronning**

The family requests in lieu of flowers, donations to the Pacific Junction United

Faithfully, Craig has been Called to Mt. Cross after praying for years to be involved in a creative and missional setting. This prayer has led Craig back to the outdoor ministry setting where the college level theory can be truly lived out and the university theology can be put into practice. Jesus Christ came to establish a ministry of reconciliation – with Him, with each other, and with the world.

If you have any questions for Craig, please contact him at craig@mtcross.org.

St. Stephen's has been certified as a "Green Business"

Thank you to Dusty Gipson, John Hopping, Irene Frieburg and Leslie Lapp for helping us be better stewards of God's creation by earning this award!

We are actively working to show our environmental responsibility in caring for creation by adopting the following policies and practices:

- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
- Purchase Environmentally friendly products from local businesses
- Conserve energy, water and natural resources

For more info see www.montereybaygreenbusiness.org

Dive in to the
Great Bible Reef...

Vacation Bible School
June 22-26

Fun for kids entering K through entering 5th grade (see page 6)

Stained Glass Replacement Fund Begun

Many of you have heard that the

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 28 after 10:30 worship

a very brief meeting to review our budget and vote on a recommendation for the future use of our field.

Dear St. Stephen's Congregation:

Thank you for being such welcoming and gracious hosts to community groups like ours!

The members of the 3:00 pm Sunday Al-Anon Family Group are truly grateful.

In Memory of Irvin M. Smith II

Friend and colleague of Gary Roberts

Mr. Smith passed away on Sunday, April 19, following injuries he sustained in an accident in 2006. He had been immobilized and under hospital care for more than 2 years.

Mr. Smith was born in Santa Cruz and graduated from Santa Cruz High. He graduated from University of the Pacific and earned his teaching credentials there. He taught at San Lorenzo Valley High for many years, and operated his family business, Irvin M. Smith and Sons Chapel of the Four Seasons in Santa Cruz.

Irvin will best be remembered as a very talented musician. He was an accomplished organ master. His love for music reached to others as he formed the Chapel of the Four Seasons Boys Choir in which he taught youngsters of all ages at no charge. The Choir, for 50 years, was the longest privately run organization of its kind in the country.

He was very active in both civic and church organizations; serving on the Board of Directors of Easter Seals, and volunteering his talents as an organist for many churches, including St. Stephen's.

Irvin leaves behind his wife of 44 years, Karen Smith of Santa Cruz, his son Greg Smith, and three beloved granddaughters, Mikaela, Taylor and Gabriella all of Santa Cruz.

Any kind acts of charity may be made in Irvin's name to the Easter Seals Society.