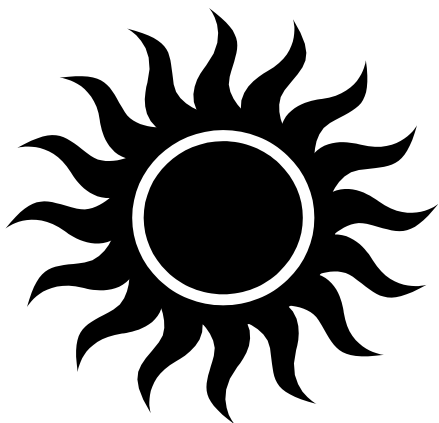


*St. Stephen's Lutheran Church*



Sun

Celebrating 60  
Years of Ministry  
October 2013

Aebleskiver Breakfast

October 6 9:30 and 11:30 seatings  
\$10 To Benefit our Pre-school

60th Anniversary Celebration

October 27th  
9:30 Worship & reception following

New Picture Directory

Photos taken Oct. 24-26. Sign up now!

# ***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](mailto:office@ststephenslutheran.org)

Rev. James P. Lapp, Pastor

- Ministers: The Entire Congregation
- Church Council: Pres. — David Balogh V. P. — Joel Hurttgam  
Treasurer— Mark Linder Secretary— , Rob-  
ert Bartee, Kim Cappelloni, Lisa Johnson,  
Barbara Rice, 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



Recently, Truett Bobo and I have been reading and discussing a book recommended to us by Rev. Bonnie Bell, entitled “Becoming a Blessed Church” by N. Graham Standish and published by The Alban Institute. As we worked through the reconciliation process, Bonnie found it a very helpful resource. We are using it for our council devotions and I assigned some homework to them that I would also like to pass on to you. The first exercise the author recommends is to “Assess the Church’s Spiritual Openness”. Here are the categories and questions:

## Prayerfulness

1. To what extent are people in the church comfortable with prayer?
2. Do they generally make public and private prayer a priority in their lives?
3. How comfortable are the lay leaders with prayer, especially in making prayer a priority in their lives during times of confusion and crisis?
4. How comfortable is the pastor with prayer, especially in making prayer a priority in her or his ministry?

## Discernment

1. **To what extent do members seem to give priority to seeking God’s guidance** through prayer and Scripture?
2. **To what extent do the leaders give priority to seeking God’s guidance** through prayer and Scripture in their lives and ministries?
3. To what extent do the leaders encourage the council, committees and other groups to spend time seeking what God wants, instead of simply going with majority rule?

## Faith

1. To what extent would you say that the members of our church have a strong faith in that they are willing to trust God in all situations and circumstances, especially in times of crisis and turmoil?
2. To what extent do the leaders of the church act in faith during time of crisis?

## Spiritual Vibrancy and Integration

1. To what extent does our church seem spiritually vibrant?
2. **To what extent do you believe people sense God’s purpose, presence and power** working in their lives?
3. How strong is the spiritual dimension in the church; that is, to what extent do spiritual concerns lie at the center of all decisions and determinations of the church and the leadership?

## October Happenings

### Chapel with the Pre-Schoolers

Wednesdays at 10:00

### Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 pm

### PreSchool Open House

Oct. 9 & 23 from 11:00—12:30

### MMRR Women's Circle

Oct. 10 at 10:30 am

### Altar Guild

Oct. 19 from 9:00 - 10:30 am

### Church Council

Oct. 21 at 7:00 pm

### Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Oct. 24 @ 10:30

### Mt. Cross Men's Retreat

Saturday, Oct. 25

Mark your calendars:

Dec. 8 Boutique & Bake Sale

Dec. 8 Christmas Pageant

Dec. 12 MMRR Soup Luncheon

Dec. 15 Christmas Party

*Electronic giving options are available  
ask Janet Slay for details.*

## Council Highlights

Devotions were from the book “Becoming a Blessed Church” by N. Graham Standish. The theme of the book relates to how the church and its leadership needs to remember to prioritize the seeking of God’s will through frequent prayer. When we do this we become a church of God’s purpose, Jesus’ presence and the Spirit’s power.

Council set up 3 congregational forums to gather input about how we might use the funds we will receive at the end of the year from Mid-Peninsula Housing. See pg. 6 for more details.

Council will be sifting through the Problem-Solving document produced with Pastor Cindy Beck and participants in the reconciliation process last summer. We will take one or two categories per meeting and evaluate and prioritize the recommendations made in order to follow through on them.

\$700 from the Building Fund was approved for the renovation of the play yard lawn. Gopher wire, adequate irrigation and new sod will be installed.

New member Judy Russell was appointed by the council to complete a term vacated by Marta Duplantier. She will be nominated to then serve for 2 more years at the annual meeting in Jan.

Our investment portfolio was reviewed by the Finance Comm and Thrivent Rep. Mary Elizabeth Belizzi. \$6000 in anticipated income from one fund will not happen. Our deficit is now @\$27,000 for the year. August giving was up over last year. Increased giving over the latter part of the year is needed to meet our budget.

Dusty Gipson, our Children’s Minister, has decided to serve on a volunteer basis and will no longer receive a stipend.



## October Birthdays

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 10-3 Pastor Lapp       | 10-22 Abigail Davis      |
| 10-3 Becky Smawley     | 10-22 Kazunori Orthner   |
| Judd                   | 10-24 Tom Eagle          |
| 10-7 Rozella Weyant    | 10-24 Noelia Monteagudo  |
| 10-8 Amelia Davis      | 10-25 Bill Schraft       |
| 10-9 Stephanie Bonnett | 10-29 Michael Cappelloni |
| 10-13 Halcyon Abler    |                          |
| 10-13 Janet Slay       |                          |
| 10-14 Thomas Dawson    |                          |
| 10-16 Luke Adachi      |                          |
| 10-16 Jaunita Flores   |                          |
| 10-18 Naomi Florin-    |                          |
| Gosciminski            |                          |
| 10-19 Samantha         |                          |
| Schneider              |                          |



## October Anniversaries

- 10-2 Joel & Maryann Hurttgam  
 10-11 Darwin & Patrice Awe  
 10-21 Gary & Lois Meeker  
 10-30 Robert & Cheryl Bartee

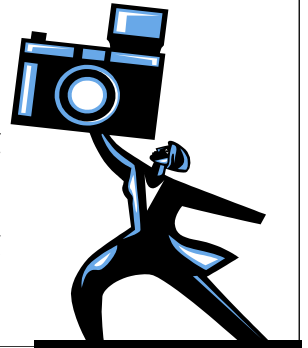
## Prayer Concerns:

**Short Term:** Paul Cunningham, Jean Boudreau, Shelby, Millie & Bob Simmen, Tasha Turzo, Opa Meerman, Kaitlin Cahill, Heysel, Maicon, Cameron Lucero, Evan Milnes, Michael, Marge, Mark, Linda, Joseph, Caitlin, Stefan, Sherry, Claudia, Gary Sowers, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and St. Stephen's Church Family. **Long Term:** Jenny Rebecca Phillips & Thomas John, Pat Hubbard, Joyce, Chris & Kent Madsen, Jan Wagner, Cheri & Danny Gail & Nancy, Renie Leaman, Beverly Gilladett, Lisa Pawalkat, Greg Weber, Bonnie Hansen, Larry Knapp, Cathy Lorenzo, Dee, Jill Lapp, Mickayla, Pearl Runquist, Jeanne, Ron Buswell, The Robe Family, The Volpi Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman, The Youth of today

# New Picture Directory

Photos will be taken October 24-26

Sign up for your photo session at church or at [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org), or call Leslie in the office. If you cannot make these dates, please contact Dennis 408-313-4895 to make other arrangements.



## Adult Forums—Every Sunday @ 9:30

- Oct. 6 — Council Report with David Balogh
- Oct. 13 — Possible use of lease Money with Mark Linder
- Oct. 20 — Truett Bobo- Study of Sunday Readings

In an effort toward better member participation and transparency, your Church Council, on September 14, decided to hold at least three meetings with all interested members of the congregation who wish learn and/or offer their views on how best to use the funds that the church will receive from the upcoming housing project.

These meetings will be held in the Fireside Room, on October 13 and November 10 at the Adult Forum (9:30-10:45); with another meeting on November 10 after the second service for those who cannot be at the 9:30 AM Meetings

Each meeting will be moderated by David Balogh (President) and Mark Linder (Treasurer), and members of the Field Use Task Force.



★ Stewards of the Month - Oroville & Edna Lindquist ★

These very faithful witnesses have served as Eucharistic Ministers for 15 years - bringing Holy Communion to homebound members, including Howard Mason ★

who just turned 100 yrs. old last month. The Lindquist's spiritual gift of hospitality has been shared and appreciated by countless people over many years! ★





## St. Stephen's Child Development Center

September brought new beginnings to our preschool. We welcome our new students Jordan Wright, Cora Holder, Ryan Harris, Ricky Leon, Mackenzie Zamora, and Parker Forbus. We welcome back Anthony Moreno and Kelton Forbus. We continue to host Open House, give private tours, advertise, and answer inquiries. Little by little we are beginning to grow.

September 29 we hosted a teacher installation in church on "Preschool Sunday". We welcome Frieda Karelin as our new teacher for the younger group along with Jessica Johnson our new assistant. Kathy Berens continues as the teacher of the older group along with our assistant Caryn Bowles. Dusty Gipson and Katherine Randall continue to substitute teach and participate as we need them. I am very proud of the team we have developed as they are loving and hands on with the children. They make the Directing position a pleasure.

We hosted 'Back to School Night' on September 18 and had a wonderful turnout. This was an opportunity for families to meet each other and to further describe our curriculum, policies and procedures, as well as answering questions. It is delightful that there are some families interested in attending a church service as well as the preschool.

October kicks off our fundraising efforts as we are hosting the Aebelskiver Breakfast on October 6<sup>th</sup> along with the second annual bike drive. Please look for the snack sign-up sheet as we really appreciate the contributions we are receiving from the congregation.

The playground is having a new lawn installed and will be finished this month. Hopefully the gophers will have mercy on us this year as we are including gopher wire as a deterrent. Please continue to enjoy our display boards as we finish apples and "getting to know you" as we transition into Halloween and all of the excitement this holiday brings to the children.

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to this ministry!

Blessings, Kathy Berens (Director) 464-4453

cdc@ststephenslutheran.org <http://sscdcpreschool.com/>

*"Our mission is to inspire children in their early years  
so they may have a sense of self and grow into competent,  
well -rounded and spiritual people"*

To Benefit our Pre-school  
**Aebleskiver Breakfast**



October 6  
9:30 and 11:30 seatings

Tickets available on Sundays and at the door.  
\$10 payable to "St. Stephens Child Development Center"

***In case you didn't know:** **Æbleskiver** ([Danish](#) meaning *apple slices* (singular: *æbleskive*)) are traditional [Danish](#) pancakes in a distinctive shape of a sphere. Somewhat similar in texture to [American pancakes](#) crossed with a [popover](#), æbleskiver are solid like a pancake but light and fluffy like a popo-*

**Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Women's Circle**  
**Thursday, Oct. 10 at 10:30 am in the Fireside room**

Speakers: Ruth and Chris sharing about our mission in El Salvador.

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME. Please come and bring a sandwich / lunch. Dessert and coffee will be provided. ALSO - - in conjunction - - ALL WOMEN are invited to attend a Bible Study led by Pastor Bonnie on WOMEN OF THE BIBLE which will be held monthly on a Tuesday - the first one on October 22 at 10:30 in the Fireside Room.



## Greetings from Rev. Nancy Feniuk Nelson, SPS Bishop's Associate

It is the day that I observe turning 60. I anticipated waking and feeling fairly grumpy. You see, I had an article nearly finished that somehow disappeared from my computer that auto-saves at a rate of every three words or so. But not this time. It's simply gone. Add in the fact that I need to get on the road for three days of meetings, and you can see why I anticipated a grumpy start to the day.

But that's not what happened. Instead I feel this overwhelming and totally surprising sense of gratitude and joy. At the risk of sounding corny, I have to say that I am glad to have awakened. I am pleased to sit here with this task to do, a place to do it and people with whom to share it. Perhaps it is a function of this new decade of life, but I find that I have a very different sense of God's presence this morning. On the other hand, God has been surprising me for all these years, so how is it I am surprised again? Another reason to be grateful, I guess.

My planned article had to do with how annoyed I happen to be with the California Powerball game. It was pretty witty, which is part of why I'm mad the computer ate it. (Yes, hubris is probably my favorite sin ...) But in the midst of witty writing, I was having a hard time figuring out what exactly my annoyance was about. (Besides the fact that they stole a song from my angst-y adolescence to hawk something that makes too much of its money on the backs of poor people seduced by language that I think ought to be reserved for God). But now, this morning, I know why I am annoyed: The ad campaign suggests, on levels both obvious and hidden, that we do not have enough to be truly happy. If I were preaching, I would repeat that last part again, this time with emphasis: that WE do not have ENOUGH to be TRULY happy. That is their message. It sells their product. And we buy it. Maybe we buy their product. Definitely we buy their message. At least I do .... Especially when I've been caught up in all manner of other important, pressing, consuming life stuff. I buy the NOT ENOUGH message.

But not this morning. I have this surprising, humbling, and joyful sense that it IS ENOUGH and so much MORE than enough. Even though nothing has changed since yesterday when I worried about exactly the same things, today it feels like abundance. And I feel great gratitude and joy.

Writing something this close to my heart feels kind of odd. But I figure we've all had this "aha moment" every now and again in our lives. We all have those take-your-breath-away-knock-you-down moments when we suddenly see that all that we are and all that we have really is as a result of God's abundant grace. Perhaps the purpose of this article is to remind you of times you've felt this God-present-grace-filled-gratitude moment. Maybe that will help you somehow - in your life at home or at work or even at church. Maybe it will give a little hedge of protection as you go from here. What I do know is that I felt compelled to write about waking up surprised by joy .... And gratitude. What a nice alternative to grumpy!

## Benevolence Offerings

October—Child & Family Institute offers families opportunities to spend loving time exploring the community and playing together through its programs—Spirited Adventures and Story Book Tea. These programs give intentional time away from TV, video games, phones providing opportunities for meaningful play and conversation. CFI families also reach out into the community providing backpacks to children in need, hygiene kits to homeless and foster children, and holiday gifts to children in need. Donations to CFI help support these outreach ministries as well as support our family programs.

September—Lutheran Campus Ministry

= \$380.00 (was given as of Sept. 26)

## **WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Meetings held 8/20 and 9/10.

1. Oct. 6 we will celebrate with a service for "Blessing of the Animals". Bring your pet or a photo of your pet for a blessing. The service was finalized at the 9/10 meeting. Advertising will be done through local papers and websites.
2. The 60th Anniversary Service Oct. 27 will have a focus on remembering with traditional hymns and celebrating the future with parts of the liturgy from the 25th Anniversary of the ELCA. The sermon will be given by Rev. Jose Luis La Torre-Cuadros, assistant to the Bishop. The one service at 9:30 will be followed by a gathering in the Fireside and Fellowship Rooms to enjoy good company and food, along with special displays. Remember to wear red!!! It's Reformation Sunday.
3. The new banner signage is out front. Thank you Connie for getting these ordered and Pastor Jim for putting them up.
4. The "Handbook for Lutherans" is being reviewed with plans to have it finalized by the Fall.

We encourage and welcome your feedback about our projects that are listed on the bulletin board in the Narthex, Minutes are also posted.

Submitted on behalf of the Worship and Music Committee by, Barbara Rice

## 60th Anniversary Celebration Update

The Worship and Music committee have been working hard on preparing our special service and we continue to seek special photos or memories that people would like to share for the St Stephen's "Walk Through History" display.

We have been handing out 3x5 invite cards with "save the date" at both services for those who would like to send them to family or friends who may want to attend.

So far we have \$60.00 in our anniversary fund account and the committee has been very careful to keep budget in mind when deciding on what to serve for the reception. If you can give more, it is needed.

Hearty hors d'oeuvres will be available at each table and dessert will be served. The idea is for people to mingle, munch and enjoy the visual presentations. After this time we'll gather to hear from our special guests listed below.

Please let Lisa Johnson know if you have a photo or memory that you'd like to share in the display 429-8042 or Leslie in the church office

We will be welcoming former pastors and their families:

~ Rev. Nita (Flora) Matthews and her husband will be coming from Colorado. She is former Pastor George Flora's daughter and grew up at SSLC 1960-1975. She is currently serving as a hospice chaplain.

~ Rev. Timothy Hillerman will be coming from Edmonds, Washington. He served here 1971-1976.

~ Current members Rev. Glenn Johnson 1976—1990 and his daughter Lisa Johnson.

~ Mary Ann Hult coming from Issaquah, Washington. Her husband,

# Sunday School News



Fall is my favorite time of year. While summer break is always welcome when it arrives I do enjoy returning to a regular routine. The kids also seem glad to back to our regular Sunday School schedule and I look forward to the coming months of learning and exploring our faith.

Our children's program is blessed to have the addition of Kirk McMilin who has graciously offered to lead our older children who are interested in study and music. This program will be at the same time as our regular Sunday School program during the 10:30 service. We hope that this will better serve the needs of our older students.

I have compiled a few important upcoming events for our students. Please mark your calendars for those that apply to your family or someone that you know that may be interested.

SPSYC Jr. High Retreat for grades 6 – 8 at Mt. Cross  
November 8 – 10

## **St. Stephen's Christmas Pageant Rehearsals**

begin November 10<sup>th</sup> (during Sunday School)

Full dress rehearsal December 7<sup>th</sup> 3-5pm

Pageant performance December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 service

SPSYC Elementary Retreat for grades 3 – 6 at Mt. Cross

February 21 – 24, 2014

End of the Year Potluck May 18 after the 10:30 service

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to help with any of our fun children's activities.

Sincerely,

Dusty Gipson

831-338-3787 home or [dustygipson@yahoo.com](mailto:dustygipson@yahoo.com)



## Thrivent Builds Santa Cruz County September Update

**419 Harbor Drive, Santa Cruz: The Thrivent Builds worksite.** The home is progressing nicely. Almost all the windows have been installed and volunteers continue to install the siding on the exterior of the house.

### **Volunteer with us Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays!**

There are jobs for everyone. No experience necessary!

**The build day starts at 8:00 am and ends at 3:30 pm.** Just let us know you are coming – so we can have enough tools and lunch!

**Clean-up days** will be from **10 am to 12 pm the first Friday of the month.** Help us sweep interiors and load building debris into our dump truck. All cleaning tools and materials will be provided.

Join the Thrivent Chapter Board on **October 4<sup>th</sup>** as they kick-off this new volunteer activity. Then come back on **Nov 1<sup>st</sup> & Dec 6<sup>th</sup>**.

**Email John: [volunteer@habitatsc.org](mailto:volunteer@habitatsc.org) or call (831) 469-4663.**

### **Volunteering-to-date (as of August 20):**

Total volunteer slots: 277

Volunteer slots filled by Lutheran Churches/Thrivent Members: 60

### **Fundraising-to-date:**

Cash received: \$14,240

In-kind materials/services received: \$9,560

Pledged cash and in-kinds: \$16,562



## El Salvador Sister Parish News

Thank you to all who filled out your Prayer Partner commitment cards on Rally Day. We know that situations change, which is why we ask for a re-commitment every year. Five families chose to sponsor a new student - **either for the first time or their previous Prayer Child "moved on"** (graduated, moved, etc.) We will continue to pass them out until the end of September, and then will mail them to those whom we have not seen. There is a shoebox in the

**narthex for you to return your commitment card if you don't see Ruth or Chris.** We should be getting more names soon, so if you are interested, please let us know.

We had a great turnout for the delegation orientation. Lisa Johnson is the **only one on the November delegation from St. Stephen's. In January, Jill Adachi, Ruth & Mike Cruddas, and Kent Madsen are the "returnees" from St. Stephen's.** We are very excited about the number of first-time delegates: Jean Calvert, Rachel Lapp and her friend Sierra Dwyer-Voss from Sacramento, Jesse McMilin, **and Roy Hoch's daughter and granddaughter, Beth and Ada.**

Health kits: The November delegation will be carrying health kits and OTC meds. A basket for collecting those will be out soon. We will have sample health kits on display in the Narthex, but they include washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste and soap. . Place these items and any of the OTC items in the basket in the Narthex.

Over-the-counter meds:

Ibuprofen - Advil

Naprosyn - Aleve

Acetaminophen - Tylenol

**Children's Tylenol** - (no liquids)

Multivitamins (nothing that can be mistaken for candy)

Calcium supplements

Diphenhydramine - Benadryl

Loratidine - Claritin

Cetirizine - Zyrtec

Famotidine - Pepcid

Ranitidine - Zantac

Antibiotic ointments and creams

Antifungal creams - Lotrimin, clotrimazole, etc (both topical & vaginal preparations)

Immodium

Omeprazole—Prilosec OTC

Antacid—Tablets (no liquid)

Hydrocortisone cream

To all Sponsors - Start thinking about a gift, card or picture for your prayer child. The January delegation will be taking these. We ask that your gift be put in a one gallon, closable plastic bag. Suggested items: t-shirt or other blouse/shirt, pens, pencils, hair and nail stuff for girls, candy treats, yo-**yo's**, baseball caps (boys), socks. Ruth and Chris are working on some more age-specific ideas, so stay tuned. The picture of you and your family and a brief note are the most important items, so start getting those ready.

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.

Pupusa Meal - Sunday, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00-1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. (Daylight Savings Time ends, so remember to turn your clocks back the night before). Fellowship and Food - what a great combination! Tickets will go on sale in October, and will also be sold at the door. Take out boxes will also be available.

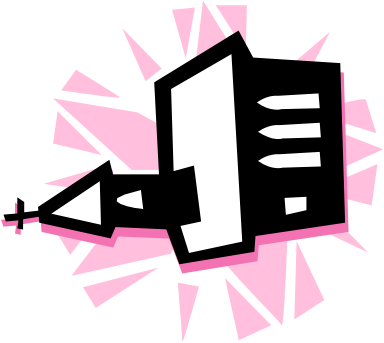
**Holiday See's Candy Sale** - exact dates to be announced, but should start in November so that delivery will be in plenty of time for Christmas gifts.

Monthly Benevolence - We know that not everyone can make the commitment to have a Prayer Child. November is Sister Parish month, an opportunity for all to contribute a special offering. There are more and more youth wanting to go to the University, and this money will allow us to help more of them achieve that dream.

Commitment Card - **If you haven't already turned in your Prayer Child Commitment Card**, the deadline is November 13. This will allow us to find a new sponsor should you decide not to continue your support. For those of you who do not have a prayer child and are interested please contact Chris Madsen or Ruth Cruddas. We will get more names in January.

Thank you again for your continued support of our work in El Salvador.  
Your El Salvador representatives Chris, Ruth, Lisa, Jill, Kent and Mike

*"Building Relationships for Better Lives".*



# **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

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

**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON  
September 26, 2013**

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

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