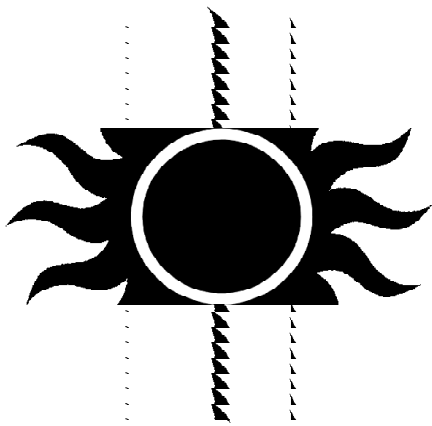


## *St. Stephen's Lutheran Church*



# *SUN*

*Celebrating 61  
Years of Ministry  
November 2014*

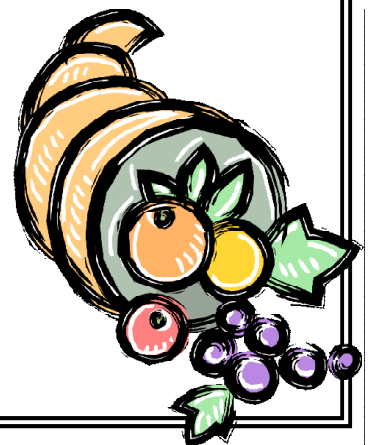
## Consecration Sunday

“Surprising Gifts”

November 23 – Bring your commitments

Let's all respond generously to God's love and grace for us. Use the materials mailed out to you to honestly reflect on how you will give thanks in the coming year. By faith, as God enables us, let's strive to:

- Pray regularly for the ministry of our church.
- Attend worship services often and seek to interest others in attending with us.
- Be available to follow God's leading by working in and through our church.
- Significantly give financially to the work of the Spirit through the ministry of our church in 2015.



***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. — David Balogh V. P. — Joel Hurttgam  
Secretary - Robbin Heppé Treasurer— Ron Buswell  
Connie Creel, Jeanette Dawson, Judy Russell and  
Rebecca Wickham

Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts

Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens Associate Musician: Jesse McMillin

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.

**VISION STATEMENT** (proposed by council March 2014)

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



*from Pastor Jim...*

On the heels of our Reformation Sunday celebration, where we remembered that the color red is used to evoke the day of Pentecost because we see the early Protestant Movement as the work of the Holy Spirit renewing the church - I am beginning a new Adult Forum series entitled, "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible".

We will use the gifts of one of the ELCA's more engaging leaders - Prof. Mark Allen Powell, who has been featured as one of our own Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly's keynote speakers at times. He will present each Sunday's theme via DVD and we will discuss and question the material afterwards.

Martin Luther's careful study and scholarly interpretation of the holy scriptures led to the important revelation and reclamation of the central Christian message that - people are made right with God and all of creation only through the grace of God which is known in Jesus Christ and what his life meant. In that same tradition we, as Lutheran Christians, continue this practice of careful interpretation

We need to remain faithful to reading the Bible in the same way while paying attention to the new information and ways we understand its meaning for today. I believe that this series will help us all become more comfortable with breaking down this ancient and complicated source of God's Word for daily lives.

The Bible was written in a certain time and cultural context, yet it is God's Living Word for people across all time and cultures. How do we read its messages without reading our own opinions and biases into it? How do we separate out culturally tied aspects of the Bible that no longer exist without watering down the original message and intent? Thank God there are folks like Mark Allen Powell to help us walk through these questions. Make a point to attend and offer your insights.

## **November Happenings**



**Daylight  
Savings Ends  
Nov. 2**

### **Chapel with the Pre-Schoolers**

Wednesdays at 10:15 am

### **Knitting Group**

Thursdays at 6:45pm

### **Alcoholics Anonymous**

Fridays at 7:00 pm

### **Alanon**

Sundays at 3:30 pm

### **Property Work Day**

Nov. 8 9:00—12

### **MMRR Women's Circle**

Nov. 13 @ 10:30

### **Finance Committee**

Nov. 14 @ 9:00 am

### **Healing Station during worship**

Nov. 16

### **Church Council**

Nov. 17 @ 7:00 pm

### **Women's Café Group**

Nov. 19 @ 6:30 pm

### **Habitat for Humanity Lunches**

Nov. 25 @ 10:30

Benevolence  
= El Salvador Sister Parish

## **Council Highlights**

1. Devotions centered on the story in Matthew 15 where the foreigner Canaanite woman basically embarrasses Jesus into remembering that faith crosses all boundaries that human beings attempt to create. She reminds us that “even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the Master’s table”, which challenges us be people who give more than crumbs to those in need, and to be as generous as possible.
2. Discussed how we can assist our preschool on Election Day as we share the facility with the public. Unfortunately last year, a transient couple locked themselves in the bathroom and would not come out, which caused a safety issue for the staff and children. This year we will erect a temporary barrier and have volunteers act as hosts to only allow election workers and staff access to the hallway.
3. Received a report from the Finance Comm. which outlined where the Mid-Pen funds have been invested, and introduced our Fall Stewardship Emphasis theme of “Surprising Gifts”.
4. Approved establishing a new “Organ Fund” in order to offset costs of some significant organ repairs that were discovered during a recent tuning. Gary Roberts will lead this effort. It is estimated that it may cost a couple thousand dollars to complete.
5. Eleven Middle School youth attended our first meeting led by Nelleke Meerman and Pastor Jim. It will be a monthly meeting and we will attend the Mt. Cross retreat Nov.14-16.



**November Birthdays**

11-5 Sandra Eldridge	11-19 Isaiah Brouse
11-6 Kaitlyn McKinney	11-19 Briana Juhl
11-7 Dorothy Ronning	11-19 Jessica Juhl
11-8 Suzanne Duval	11-20 Hilding Ronning
11-8 Lorie Juhl	11-22 James Jones
11-10 Amanda Cunningham	11-22 John Hopping
11-12 Gwyn Larson	11-24 Lindsey Cramer
11-13 Colin Boyle	11-23 Xavier Brown
11-14 Barbara Johnston	11-24 Bill Anderson
11-16 Stephen Cappelloni	11-24 Kathy Johnson
11-16 Christine Madsen	11-25 Brian Brouse
11-17 James Abler	11-26 Linda Ronning
11-17 Ariela Turzo	11-29 Kathy Griffith



**November Anniversaries**

11- 27 David & Martha Balogh

**Prayer Concerns:**

**Short Term:** Kim Cappelloni, Herb Schmidt, Sonja Peterson, Leslie Mason, The Family of Millie Simmen, The Family of Artie Meek, Amanda Pederen, Louise Daniel, Riley, Shelby, Kaitlyn, Shirley Fuqua, Vi Olly, Daniel, Steve, Crystal, Tupelo, Bonnie, Renie Leaman, Lisa Pawalkat, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and Our Church Family. **Long Term:** Carol Kline Butlitta, Bonnie Hansen, Lu Walthart, Jennifer Borgardt, Gary, Pat Hubbard, Chris & Kent Madsen, Jan Wagner, Beverly Gilladett, Cathy Lorenzo, Dee, Mickayla, Pearl Runquist, Jeanne, the Volpi Family, the Robe Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman, The Youth of Today.



## **Sunday School News**

I want to extend my appreciation to those who have stepped forward to help lead our children in Sunday School over the past few weeks. Leslie Lapp, Shay Barsabe, Nelleke Meerman, Jeanne Boudreau, Judy Russell and Sara Anderson have all volunteered to teach. It is such a blessing to be a part of a church community that is willing to share talents and time with our kids. I hope that their experience has been enjoyable and rewarding. We really do have a wonderful group here.

November 2<sup>nd</sup> will begin our Christmas Pageant preparation led by Tara McMilin. We will practice each Sunday in November during Sunday School time. We will have a full dress rehearsal on Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> with the performance on Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 service. Look for more details coming soon. We will need volunteers for a variety of tasks relating to this performance.

Sincerely,

Dusty Gipson 831-338-3787 [dustygipson@yahoo.com](mailto:dustygipson@yahoo.com)

## **Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Women's Circle**

**Thursday, November 13 @ 10:30 Fireside Rm.**

Our speaker will be someone from the Literacy Program. Please bring your own sandwich. Coffee and dessert will be provided by hostesses, Rev. Bonnie and Lu. Our Dec. meeting will be held on Dec. 13th at noon with a soup luncheon at the church inviting special guests, the Cafe Group. Also plan to attend our Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 7 and get involved with our Mitten tree starting the first Sunday in Nov. The gifts will be presented to the kids at the Davenport Resource Center by Dec. 10. Also buy raffle tickets in Nov. for a large chocolate, wine and movie gift basket to be drawn at our bazaar. It's a wonderful season of giving - all women are



## **St. Stephen's Child Development Center**

Fun was had by all who attended Oktoberfest! In preparation, the children cheerfully helped paint the Open House sign that was hung with balloons to invite Oktoberfest attendees to explore our Child Development Center. The air was filled with music, laughter, and bubbles. This event was an opportunity for fellowship among our existing families and an opportunity to welcome more. Our playground offered play dough, sidewalk chalk, bike riding, sand and water play combined with the activities offered on the nearby field. It was fun for the children to enjoy their playground with their parents. One father appointed himself "The Ambassador" and toured his friend and daughter which resulted in a new part time student who will begin soon.

God was present in how Oktoberfest enticed neighborhood families to explore our preschool program and church. Community members inquired about our donation bin in the Narthex. Not only did we meet some wonderful neighbors but we enrolled a full time student. Additionally, we have 2 students interested in enrolling in January as well as cultivating interest in others. It was a pleasure to open our doors to the greater community and witness school families in fellowship with church families. Open House was a great opportunity to welcome school families to explore our worship opportunities as we strive to combine interest in our ministries.

As we finish enjoying all of the literature and activities that October and Halloween had to offer we turn our attention towards Thanksgiving and gratitude. In this we will explore the Fruits of the Spirit; Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance(patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. We will be teaching these attributes and appreciating them in our students so we can lift them up in recognition in a discipline that they model in their daily life. The children will each bake a pumpkin pie as a personal contribution to share at their family Thanksgiving table.

Finally, we appreciate all of the volunteers that helped with our Aebleskiver fundraiser and your witness of the Teacher Installation celebrated on October 26.

Thanks be to God! Kathy Berens 462-4453

## **Worship & Music Committee**

The comm. met 10/14- and the follow-

ing attended- Connie Creel, Barbara Rice, Pastor Jim Lapp, Pastor Bonnie Bell, Gary Roberts

**Devotions-** Jim continued with readings from “Lift Up the Whole Church”; Discussed why people attend church- for friends, music and spiritual growth; “Assembly” is the most important; Worship moves us outside of ourselves so that we are united with God and each other during worship; that we then go out into the world. Next meeting-- Jim will do devotions

### **Goals for 2014-**

**1. Congregational survey**—This has been completed. Barb shared the raw data and the spread sheet summary. Reviewed and discussed. Average attendance during the 5 Sundays survey was conducted was 76 and 21 surveys were submitted, which represents 36%. Barb will review and finalize report for Connie and Jim to present to the Council 10/20.

**2. Review time and talent sheets for revision of worship assistant lists** -- Candace, Connie and Barb are calling all people listed in the directory on behalf of the W/M comm., thanking each for their hard work at the church, years of service, and inquire about assisting during the service; also if they have prayer concerns, remind about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month with the Healing Station. Will leave message if unable to reach. There’s approximately 20-25 members still to call. Bonnie wrote an article for the Sept. newsletter referencing the history of lay-persons involvement in the service to emphasize the importance of participation so to encourage sign up to assist.

**4. Hymn sing-** Quarterly hymn sing, The next is scheduled for 11/23 so on 11/9 and 16, congregation to submit requests on attendance sheets. Jim stated that a seminary student will probably do the sermon that day so we will do hymn sing around her sermon.

**5. Healing stations**—3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Need 3-4 members to assist while Jim does the healing station. Need 2 more assistants. Dates -- Oct 19, Nov 16,, Nov 21, Dec 18. PLAN- Barb and Connie will identify other assistors at time of service.

**6. Blessing of the animals** on 10/12 was successful with some members from the community attending. Approximately 8-10 dogs and one snake, accompanied their owners and others shared photos of their pets for the blessing. We will continue to do this service annually.

**7. One service for summer-** F/U with Bonnie reviewed and compared the data for attendees at the summer service, including the amount of offering given. Highlights-- when going to one service, attendance did decrease and it also decreased between 2013 (average attendance 93) and 2014 (average attendance 70). Also of importance was the significant decrease in the amount of offering given. More detailed report to be completed and presented to Council.

**8. Oct 26—Reformation Sunday** - reminder in bulletin and Monday email about wearing red. PLAN - Barb to send email to Leslie about this.

**9. Organ maintenance needed**—Gary met with an organ tuner who gave him a rough estimate of some initial repairs needed, approximately \$1,000. Connie and Jim will take this information to the Council on 10/20. Suggestion of setting up an organ fund for annual maintenance and repairs.

**9. Liturgy** for Advent Suzanne will utilize, one she had put together last year. Next



## ***Open Rehearsal – Santa Cruz Chorale & Orchestra***

**December 12 – 7:00 to 9:30 pm @ St Stephen's**

Please join the Santa Cruz Chorale and the Monterey Bay Sinfonietta for their "first" rehearsal together. Watch, listen and learn how a masterful conductor works with a professional orchestra and a community choir and brings to life Monteverdi's magnificent work for the holidays, his "Christmas Vespers".

The rehearsal is open to all members of St. Stephen's Church and their friends. There is no charge for attending, but a free-will donation of any amount would be appreciated.

The full Santa Cruz Chorale concert will be on Saturday, December 20, at 8:00 pm and on Sunday, December 21, at 4:00 pm at Holy Cross Church.

## **"Spiritual Nurture: The Heart of Personal & Congregational Life"**

November 8 – 9 Santa Cruz, CA

**Rev. Dr. John R. Mabry\*\***

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### **"The Mystic & the Modern Church"**

Saturday November 8 at 7:30pm - Peace UCC Church

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### **"Christian Meditation: A Practicum"**

Sunday November 9th at 12 noon - Trinity Presbyterian Church

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\*co-sponsored by the Progressive Christian Forum & Trinity Pres.

\*\*The Rev. Dr. John R. Mabry is United Church of Christ minister, and currently pastor at Grace North Church in Berkeley and Our Redeemer Lutheran in Oakland. He teaches world religions and spiritual direction at the Chaplaincy Institute in Berkeley, and is an adjunct professor at Santa Clara University in the Pastoral Ministries Department. His most recent books include *A Christian Walks in the Footsteps of the Buddha*; *Faithful Generations: Effective Ministry Across Generational Lines*, and

**Adult Forums — Every Sunday @ 9:30**

***“How Lutherans Interpret the Bible”***

*with Prof. Mark Allen Powell*

This is probably the main distinction that exists among various forms of the Christian church, especially in America. We will spend time becoming more familiar with why we view the Bible the way we do. This will help us to better apply it's message to our daily lives. It's always a lively discussion!

**Women's Café Group Potluck**

**Wed. Nov. 19, 6:30 pm @ Jeanette Dawson's home**

Our small group spends time in fellowship, discussion & prayer. Come together as women of faith. New folks are always welcome!

**HOLIDAY MITTEN TREE PROJECT**

**Mary/Martha Ruth/Rebecca Circle**

St Stephen's members will again help the children of the Davenport Resource Center have a bright and Merry Christmas. Every child deserves to have a gift on Christmas morning, and you can make that possible

- Pick a mitten off the tree
- Add your name and telephone number next to your child's name/mitten number to the sign-up sheet by the tree
- Buy your child a gift -limit \$20.00
- Place your wrapped gift with the mitten attached under the tree by Dec.7.

**Delivery date is December 10<sup>th</sup>.**

A gift idea list will be by the tree – No clothes PLEASE!



★ **STEWARD OF THE MONTH** - Kent Orthner ★

★ Most people haven't see Kent's efforts yet, but we soon will as a new website ★  
★ is being readied to launch. In this day and age a website is really the main tool ★  
★ we have to reach out and welcome new people to this congregation. We are ★  
★ grateful that Kent has offered his gifts in this way so we can do our best to ★  
★ connect our message and mission with a culture that increasingly doesn't know ★  
★ us. Thanks for keeping us up to date, Kent! ★



**OKTOBERFEST "God Sightings"**

“Celebrate God all day, every day!  I mean, *revel* in Him!  Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side  working with them and not against them.  Help them to see that the Master is about to arrive.  He could show up any minute!”  Philippians 4:4,5

What an honor it was to bring Paul's inspired words to life through an Oktoberfest by working side by side with the Saints at St. Stephen's, collaborating with community organizations, recruiting local musicians, and creating something new inspired by ancient scripture. I can't help but to once again celebrate and rejoice in the gifts of joy, hope, play, and enthusiasm that our Master brought throughout the planning, anticipating, festivities, and the stories that are still being shared weeks following the event.

What's next? How about we continue what we started by returning to our tired and true source, the Bible. Together we can find the words, verses and stories that God now desires for our community to put into action that will leave another lasting mark!

Cheers! Judy Russell

*It was truly a group effort on the part of many St. Stephen's members and it brought us closer together as a congregation, It also felt great to be doing something that the community could enjoy that was very reasonably priced. It gave me an opportunity to talk to my friends and also strangers about our church in a new and different way.*

- Connie Creel

*Our guests were having such a good time. I especially enjoyed the smiles and laughter of the children. All were good stewards of the land, resulting in only a few pieces of litter*

## Stewards of Surprising Gifts

*May God... who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in you, invigorate your work, enliven your speech. – 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 from The Message*

### God's Surprising Gifts

Not long ago a security camera captured a little boy leaving a mysterious package at a police station reception window. It contained \$10.85 in coins. His grandfather had been a policeman killed long ago in the line of duty and the boy wanted to honor his memory. One of the officers at the station said, "It was so heartwarming. It made our day."

God surprises us with such amazing, transforming gifts! Sometimes we are the bearers of God's gifts.

Scripture assures us that first God gives to us: "God reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence." We can take heart; God knows our needs and hopes and wants only the best for us.

### Our Surprising Gifts

God's gifts enliven our capacity to respond with our gifts. In the next few weeks, remember how good God has been to you and give thanks for the wonder of your life. As you pray about making your pledge of support for the ministry of our church on Consecration Sunday, November 23, with a confident and hope-filled heart let your response flow naturally. When we open our hearts to God, our response may surprise even us.

Letters will be going out soon describing this year's Stewardship Campaign and will include a time and talent worksheet and a pledge card for 2015. Please bring both of them with you on Consecration Sunday.

*The Surprising Gifts Stewardship program is adapted from a similar program created by the United Church of Christ.*

## **November Benevolence Offerings**

**Santa Cruz al Salvador (Sister Parish)** is a non-profit made up of 6 local churches. The churches include a Presbyterian church in Santa Cruz, as well as Lutheran churches in Morgan Hill and Salinas. Funds raised pay for scholarships and school supplies for students attending the school in Guillermo Ungo, El Salvador. In addition, we support scholarships for university and vocational schooling (including housing assistance), health care supplies for the local clinic, and support for the Lutheran and Presbyterian churches in El Salvador. *“Building Relationships for better lives”*

**October — Child Development Center = \$280.00**

(was given as of Oct. 23)

### **Electronic Giving option**

2015 Offering Envelopes will be available at the end of November. If you would prefer to give Electronically, please contact Janet Slay.

### **Offering Counters Needed**

Volunteer to join a faithful group of St. Stephen's members who count the weekly offering. Time commitment required is 60-90 minutes 3-4 times per quarter (3 months). Experience with Windows Excel helpful but not required. Orientation and mentoring provided to work in a 2-member team. Offerings are counted weekly either Monday or Tuesday depending on when counters are available.

Please contact: Janet Slay [Jolene95@comcast.net](mailto:Jolene95@comcast.net) 475-5668



## El Salvador Sister Parish News

Do you have a prayer child graduating? Would you like to give him/her a card to celebrate graduation? If so, please contact Kent Madsen; he will be going to El Salvador with a couple of folks from Advent Lutheran Church in Morgan Hill to attend the graduation ceremony. He would be very happy to deliver your graduation card.

We will also be collecting Over-the-Counter medications for the January, 2015 delegation. A list of suggested items will be in the Narthex. Items should be put in the basket in the narthex by December 21<sup>st</sup>. Please contact Jill Adachi if you have any questions.

The **Monthly Benevolence** for November is *Santa Cruz al Salvador*. This is your opportunity to give a donation even if you do not have a Prayer Child.

**The Pupusa Meal is November 9<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00-1:00.**

We hope you can attend. Please note the date change.

**See's Candy:** Sale begins Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and ends November 23<sup>rd</sup>, candy will be delivered on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> fresh and just in time for the holidays.

**Dinner at Shadowbrook, Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** This year Santa Cruz al Salvador is pleased to announce that we will be participating in the Community Tuesday event at the Shadowbrook who donates 33% of their proceeds to our organization. All you have to do is make your reservation, let them know you are with Santa Cruz al Salvador and enjoy your evening. Do you have an anniversary to celebrate, want to get together with a group of friends for the holiday or just have a great meal then here's your opportunity.

Stay tuned for information about providing a gift bag for prayer child at the Scholarship Ceremony during the January, 2015 delegation.

As always, we are very grateful for your prayers and monetary support.

Peace to You

The board of *Santa Cruz al Salvador*



## Plan Ahead For the Holidays . . .

### **ELCA Good Gifts — Order now!**

See [lwrgifts.org](http://lwrgifts.org) or 1-800-597-5972 for meaningful gifts that inspire leadership, nourish the hungry, and heal the sick .  
Including LWR fair trade coffee.

### **Davenport Gift Tree— now**

Provide Christmas joy for a child or two. Wrapped gifts **due Dec. 1**

### **Holiday Boutique & Bake Sale — Dec. 7**

We will need: breads, cakes, pies, candy, nuts & craft items.

### **Children's Christmas Pageant — Dec. 8 @ 10:30**

### **Santa Cruz Chorale — Dec. 12 @ 7:00**

Open rehearsal at St. Stephen's. Free will donation

### **MM / RR Christmas Luncheon — Dec. 13**

### **Christmas Party — Dec. 14**

Don't miss the famous, fun-filled, gift exchange game.

### **Christmas Caroling — TBD**

- More details in the December Newsletter!

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

Non-Profit Org.  
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Soquel, CA 95073

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

**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON  
October 29, 2014**

Children's Church

**10:30 am** Worship Service

**8:30 am** Adult Forum & Choir

**8:15 am** Worship Service

**ST. STEPHEN'S  
WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

