



ST. STEPHEN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

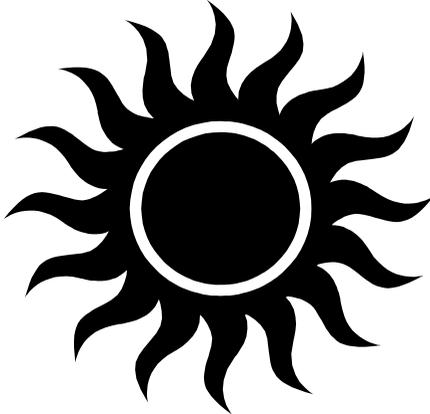
8:15 am Worship Service
Coffee Hour
9:30 am Choir rehearsal & Adult Ed.
10:30 am Worship Service
& Sunday School

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

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

**POST OFFICE:
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**
**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
April 26, 2010**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 55
Years of Ministry
May 2010

All-Church Potluck & Sunday School Celebration Sunday May 23rd @ 11:45

Back by popular demand will be open mic time!
So come share in the fellowship, food, and song
as we lift up our children and all they have
learned. Invite a friend!!!



Vacation Bible School June 14—18
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

email—office@ststephenslutheran.org

Rev. James P. Lapp, Pastor

Ministers: The Entire Congregation
Church Council: Pres.—Paul Powers, V.P.- Robin Gloe,
Sec.— Scott Medling, Treas.— Mark Linder,
Bill Schraft, Don Smawley, Marta Bechhoefer,
and Jeanette Dawson
Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts
Custodian: John Hopping
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
Children's Minister: Dusty Gipson
Youth Minister: Lydia Ablor



Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30am—2:30pm
Pastor's Cell Phone: 325-9095
(Call Pastor between 9 am and 5 pm, M-Thurs.
or anytime for emergencies. Please only give to
church members)

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community
who worship God in Christ,
nurture people growing in faith,
serve others with acceptance and love,
and invite people to share the joy of the Spirit.

Nov. 19 to 27, 2010: This delegation will include some clinic days. This past November when we held our first clinics, we found lots of jobs for non-medical people during clinic time - so all are welcome . The deadline for commitment, which includes a nonrefundable \$100 deposit, is June 1. There is already a lot of interest in this trip from people in the other congregations, and we have set the maximum number at 20, so this will be on a "first come" basis. Contact Ruth Cruddas (768-1580) for more information.

Dec/Jan: The exact dates of the second delegation have not been decided, but the departure will be sometime between Dec. 27-29, 2010, with the return date Jan. 4th or 5th, 2011. Contact Chris Madsen (438-1593) if you are interested in this delegation and give her input re: the best dates for you. Once the dates are finalized, a commitment date will be announced.

If you think you might be interested but have questions, please contact Ruth or Chris at the numbers above. We will have an informational meeting on Sunday, May 16th after the 2nd service in the Fellowship Hall.

As always, whether or not you will ever visit El Salvador, we urge you to keep praying for the children and their families in our Sister Parish. If you have a child to sponsor, pray for him/her by name.

Peace to you and your loved ones
The board members of *Santa Cruz al Salvador*



El Salvador Sister Parish News

As mentioned in the last newsletter, fundraising for the Salvadoran school year 2011 is well under way. On May 8 is the Human Race, which benefits the Volunteer Center as well as our organization. Ruth Cruddas, Lisa Johnson and Chris Madsen are walking. Any of them will be pleased to have you sponsor them!

May 22 is Winetasting at Bargetto Winery, from 2:00-5:00. The winery is located at 3535 No. Main Street, Soquel, and the suggested donation is \$25.00. There will be hors D'oeuvres, and a silent auction. This is a great time for relaxation and fellowship - and a great opportunity to invite friends. We will be selling tickets every Sunday until then, and tickets will be available at the door.

We will now be selling Fair Trade coffee from Equal Exchange, who also gives part of their profits to Lutheran World Relief. Another win-win situation. At this time coffee sales are planned the 3rd Sunday of the month, but you can contact Kent Madsen at 438-1593 if you run out. There is both caffeinated and decaf, whole beans and ground.

Our next delegations: How exciting. We have now grown so much that we now have two delegations planned for 2010-2011.

From Pastor Jim...



The death of Rev. William Crouser has caused me and perhaps many of us to reflect on the meaning of our faith and our relationships with the church and all the saints.

P.C. (Pastor Crouser) struggled with the slowly debilitating effects of Parkinson's disease for over 30 years. That part of his life goes beyond any definition of courageous. The way he and Sandi approached life during those years is one of the most moving and faith-filled witnesses I have known and may ever know.

I first knew PC because he served as the Executive Director of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of N. CA (Mt. Cross) for 16 years and touched the lives of countless young people whose faith was nurtured and enlivened in that creative and enriching environment. My wife Leslie was a camper during some of those years which led to her serving on the staff for her four college summers. Much of her growth in faith and appreciation for the church happened during those summers. Those of us who are grateful for Leslie's gifts in our church office should know that the seeds for ministry were sown in those amazing and wonderful years. The beginnings of our own relationship are deeply indebted to the fertile ground of faith that PC created at Mt. Cross.

The contrast between the length of suffering that PC experienced and the beauty and power of his contribution to the church I have loved and served is what gets me. My mind wants to question why PC had to live with his disease for so long when his family could have enjoyed his health and Mt. Cross could have thrived for much longer under his leadership. My spirit wants to believe that life is precious and valuable no matter its limitations. And I do believe that for PC. Although I wish with all my being that a cure for Parkinson's could've been found very early in PC's diagnosis, we have all been the recipients of a life and marriage lived deeply in the grace of God, where faith becomes the daily source of life. And isn't that what we all should be striving for?

Thank you PC and Sandi for the gift of faith you have shared with us. We and so many others are so much better thanks to your witness.

May Happenings

Church Council

Next meeting: May 17 @ 7-9 PM

Dinner Groups May 1 & 15

Contact Jill Adachi 426-5950

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Tuesday, May 11 @ 10:30 AM

Knitting

Meets every Thurs. at 6:45 PM

Scotts Valley Bible Study

Meets the 1st & 3rd Fridays,

May 7 & 21 ~ at 10 AM

Spring Lakes Park Party Room

Contact Marshall B. 439-8979

Women's Combined Circles

MM / RR meets Thur ~ May 6

@ 12:30 PM

Youth Group &

Confirmation Class

Sundays, May 2, 16, 23

6-8 PM dinner included.

Eucharistic Ministers

May 24, 11:00 am at Glenn's

Wine Tasting ES Benefit

May 22 from 2:00—5:00

Human Race

May 8 to support Sister Parish

Council Highlights

Our devotions reminded us that, at our core, we are Easter people. This means that our lives are centered around the hope that, come what may, we do not become discouraged when things don't go well. Instead we lift up the fact that one we follow overcame death so that our lives could always be lived in the hope of renewal and a better day.

Pastor Lapp spoke on behalf of his son Kyle who is a representative of the southern bay area (District D) for our Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee. He has been developing leadership skills and leading retreats for 3-5th graders with about 20 other youth. The committee has been invited to visit our other Sister Synod church in Rwanda, Africa and our seminary (PLTS) is paying for half through a fund they have for developing youth leadership. Kyle needs to raise the rest and, thanks to council approval, will be sending out a letter to the congregation asking for financial support from members. The Youth Group has already decided to give towards his trip through their fund. He will give a presentation upon his return. The trip is June 29-July 10.

Our Field Task Force and the COPA Housing Team have met with our County Supervisor, John Leopold and secured his support for affordable senior housing to be built on or site. Thanks to our work with COPA over the years, we have developed a supportive relationship with our elected representative.

Why Our Offerings Are Important

“Empowered by God—Responding by Grace”

God's Word has more to say about money and material possessions than about heaven and hell combined. Obviously, how we, as God's children handle what God has entrusted to us is a very important subject. Our offerings are a sign of our relationship with God, and the importance we place on our faith shows in how we handle our money.

Money is also the only subject about which God says, in essence, “Prove Me. Trust Me. Try Me.” God does not issue that challenge concerning any other aspect of our Christian walk of faith. Not about prayer; not about sharing our faith others; not even about salvation. Just money. God truly desires us to trust everything to God's hands, especially that which we may be tempted to put more of our trust in, like money.

God said to Malachi, the prophet, “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test . . . see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.”

Life is meant to be blessing. When we place our money in God's hands we remove many of the barriers in the way of the blessings God is waiting to share with us. We miss so much of the beauty of life when we become so wrapped up in the issues and concerns relating to our money. When we honor God first with our money, then we have shown God that we truly believe all we have belongs to God and we have tilled the soil of blessing that God can now give more easily because our attention is focused more on the things of God rather than the world. Let's be good givers and rejoice in the blessing that brings!



In Memoriam

Rev. William Crouser

former Executive Director, Lutheran
Outdoor Ministries — Mt. Cross

~Memorial Service~

Sat. May 1st at 10:30 am

Reception to follow in the
Fellowship Hall

March Financials

Total exp. \$18,692 / Total income \$28,853

	Mar 2010	Mar '09	Jan-Mar '10	Budget
Income				
Contributions	\$27,744	\$24,298	\$60,783	\$56,391
Misc Income	\$1,109	\$544	\$2,739	\$1,380
Total income	\$28,853	\$24,842	\$63,522	\$57,771
Expenses				
Total Expense	\$18,692	\$20,367	\$60,859	\$56,304
Net Income	\$10,161	\$4,475	\$2,663	
	\$1,467			

Monthly Benevolence Offering = Mt. Cross / Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

Your quarterly financial statements are available in the Narthex

May

Birthdays



5-3 Margaret Schraft
5-4 Donna Sorensen
5-5 Kathleen Allen
5-5 Kent Madsen
5-6 Cheryl Curry
5-6 Hjordis Quitzau
5-6 Renee Robe
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
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 Kimberly Cappelloni
5-30 Tim Oldfield

Happy Anniversary

4-30 Don & Shirley Fuqua—55 years!
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



Prayer Concerns: **Short Term:** The family of Bill Crouser, Emily Smith, Sandra Tiner, Craig Vasconcellos, Digger, Fred, Faith Conrad, Family of Dan Meck, Opa Meerman, Kevin, Marsha, Marino, Mark, Claudia, Linda S. Joanne, Irene, Rossi Family, Meek Family, Bev Loback, Mike Hebert, Mr. Smith. **Long Term:** Clint Bell, The Family of Jack Lundin, Ruth Pflueger, Maya & Emma Gipson, Paul Hayes, Cathi Decker & Jim Boone, Andrew Brown, Jeremy, George Trippel, Jean Weiland, Carla Spain, Jim Abler, Mildred Belle, Ruth Farrar, Linda Taylor, The family of John Cahill, Ron Buswell, Dorothy Ronning, Bonnie Hansen, Susan, Jon & Judy, Peggy R., Martin R., Ned R., Devin Barlow, Alison Barlow, Jeannie Mann, Dorothy Anderson, Shirley Fuqua, Greg & Allison Pate, Aravella, Michelle & C.J. Muchanic, Suzanne Podolski, Finn Becker & family, Nathaniel Morris, Wayne Jackson, Martha Beito, Douglas Brown, Chelsea Rocha & family, Brooks & Glenn Leaman, Ruby & Bob Heppe, Larry Heppe, Linda Davis, Earl Lewis, Jeffery Patterson, Mark Gregory, Chris Tury, Cheryl Bayne, Vince Catalano, Jeanette Howe, Cathy Lorenzo, Ron Waltrip, Ernie, Debbie Jackson, Jo Wishart, the jobless, Sister Parish, Schools, Our Youth, Our Troops, Pres. Obama & family, The people of Haiti, Peace & Healing for the earth.

Youth Corner



Thank you to everyone for making our Easter Breakfast fundraiser a big success! It is a tradition that people look forward to all year. They love to see "our youth" in action. I also want

to say a special thank you to all of the youth and their families for being so excited and involved with the breakfast, from set-up to tear-down!

We will be discussing what types of events and activities the youth would like these funds to go towards.

MEETING DATES for the remainder of Spring are:

MAY: 2nd, 16th and 23rd

6:00 to 8:00pm

Your friends are always welcome!



PARENT MEETING—I would like to meet with you parents again soon to assess the "Summer Situation" (possibly on May 9th, or on a Saturday?), so contact me with your availability for this meeting as soon as you can!

That's it for now! Thank you again for the continued support!

Peace to you! Lydia Abler

Home: 831-421-0996 or Cell: 408-319-1413 or Twitter: MinistryThruMus

Email: <mailto:ministry_thru_music@yahoo.com> minis-

House Meeting Time

The economy is having an impact on many of our members, their families and our community. The Church Council and the St. Stephen's COPA Core Team hopes our church can better understand this impact and begin to develop a plan of action to help address these issues along with our neighboring churches. Members of the Church Council and the Core Team will be inviting you to participate in a house meeting to share our stories. These stories will help shape the plan of action. We will be sharing the key themes coming from the house meetings with the Council and the Congregation. Other COPA member congregations are conducting similar house meetings as we develop a regional and possibly a state strategy to address these impacts collectively.

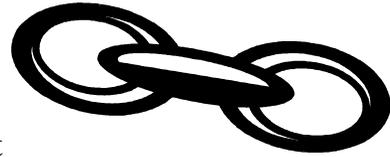
The house meetings will be conducted between now and May 30. We encourage you to accept the invitation to share your story and listen to the stories of others as we continue to strengthen our relationships with one another as the Body of Christ.

Thank you,

St. Stephen's Church Council

and the St. Stephen's COPA Core Team

Understanding & Ending— HUMAN TRAFFICKING



The following is a report from Central Coast News about a recent human trafficking case in Paso Robles. In addition to the harm done to the trafficking victims, the patients at the four elder care homes have had to cope with stress and anxiety related to a forced relocation. All this shows how damaging this crime is and that it can happen almost anywhere. Since the arrest and charges are so recent (March 30), the outcome is unknown, but there is a potential of many years in prison for the Morales couple.

3-31-10 PASO ROBLES -

The couple at the center of a human-trafficking investigation is out of jail, but as of Wednesday, it seemed they had not returned to their home in Paso Robles. Maximino Morales, 44, and his wife 46-year-old Melinda Morales bailed out of jail Tuesday night. They face federal charges for harboring foreign aliens. At one of the homes owned by the Morales couple, a woman answered the door, who said she is Melinda's mother. Fely Berages said she was at the home Tuesday when FBI agents searched the home, but does not know if the allegations against her daughter and son-in-law are true.

Investigators also raided three other homes in Paso Robles, and arrested the Morales couple on suspicion of smuggling three Filipino Nationals into the United States and forcing them to work at the elder care homes they owned. "It was chaotic," said Margaret Johnson, who lives next door to the Morales home, of the raids. "It's a big deal, this is a real quiet neighborhood," said neighbor Faron Goodwin. Neighbors said they were shocked to hear of the allegations against Max and Melinda Morales. "They've lived next door for six or seven years, have always been kind, there's never been any problems, just very pleasant people," said Johnson. "They kept to themselves and waved and stuff like that, they were nice, I was pretty surprised," said Goodwin.

Maximino Morales is under house arrest, and required to wear an electronic monitor. FBI agents said the couple could face up to 30 years in prison. Investigators said they have not ruled out additional charges against the couple.

Sunday School News

VBS is almost here!!!
Join us on the Friendship Trek
June 14-18 9am-noon
Kids entering K thru entering 5th
Early registration \$30



This is going to be such an exciting week of fellowship and fun. I am looking for volunteers in a variety of areas for this program. Check the sign-up sheet passed during services to see where you can help.

Mark your calendars for Sunday May 23rd right after the 10:30 service for our End of the Year Potluck Celebration. This will be a fun, relaxed time to get together for eating, sharing and fellowship. The children will have a few songs prepared and we will have open mic time too. Our annual student art show will also be on display as well. We hope that you will plan to join us!

May 2nd Learning a new song

May 9th Mother's Day Project + practice new song

May 16th Oil pastel project + song practice

May 23rd Setting up End of the Year Potluck celebration and Art Show

May 30th God's people collage

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.
Sincerely,

Dusty Gipson
338-3787 home



Adult Christian Education Series

"Forward to the Past: Understanding What a Christian Is"

led by retired Bethany University
professor—Truett Bobo

**Every Sunday through June 6
9:30—10:25 am in the Fireside Rm.**

With the Nicene Creed to guide us, we will look at the essential elements of what constitutes a Christian faith and consider ways that these impact believers in daily life and worship. All are welcome!

STEWARD OF THE MONTH

Don Smawley

It sure is nice to have a council member who has been around the church so long and knows all the quirks and workings (such as what to do with old, rusted-out water fountain pipes) of our facility like Don does! Thanks for sharing your time and gifts in organizing our last work day and being available to handle those unforeseen problems an older facility often encounters. Beyond that, your gift of hospitality is always enjoyed by our congregation as you share your culinary treats with us so often. We'll remember the sight of our kids' faces covered with the chocolate from your dipped peanut-butter cookies for some time!

St. Stephen's History Project

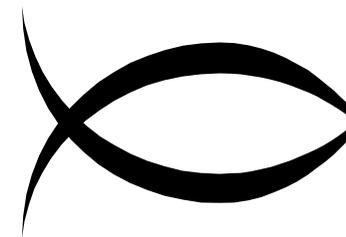
Do you know a piece of St. Stephen's history? As I was cleaning out a portion of the sheds, I discovered boxes of pictures. These faces need names! I will need lots of help to figure out what to do with these treasures.



If you are interested in this project, please contact Candace 576-9753.

Chrismon Tree Ornaments

Our church Christmas tree could use some "chrismon" ornaments. Chrismon: from the words "*Christ Monograms*"; which are symbols of Christ often used to decorate Christmas trees in the sanctuary.



If you are interested in this craft project, please contact Candace 476-9753