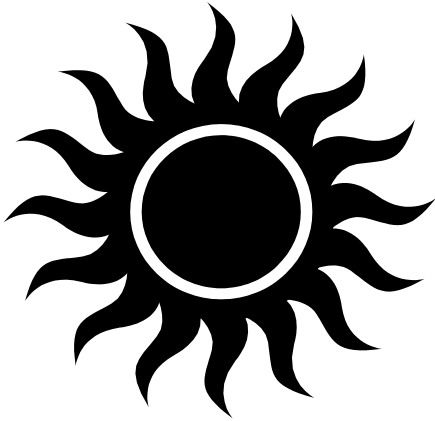


St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 59
Years of Ministry
September 2013

Regular Worship Schedule resumes
Sept. 8th - 8:15 & 10:30

Rally Day—**Sept. 8th in between services**
Come celebrate & participate in the ministries we offer.

CHURCH PICNIC!

SAT. Sept. 14th

10:00 to 3:00 @ Mt. Cross - Felton

Come get to know our neighbors at Christ Lutheran. The pool, and ropes course will be open! Bring a friend & a dish to share...sign up in Narthex. Suggested donation \$5—10 for Mt. Cross use.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

2500 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, California 95062

Phone—831-476-4700 — Fax—831-476-3918

[www..ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)

email—office@ststephenslutheran.org

Rev. James P. Lapp, Pastor

- Ministers: The Entire Congregation
- Church Council: Pres. — David Balogh V. P. — Joel Hurttgam
Treasurer— Mark Linder Secretary—Marta Duplantier,
Robert 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



On Sunday, August 18 (a Sunday I had planned to be on vacation for six months ago) our church welcomed, perhaps for the first time, a foreign dignitary! The Vice President of El Salvador, Salvador Sanchez Ceren, and his accompanying entourage, participated with us in worship. Due to the security concerns, his visit was not publicized and largely kept a secret.

His visit was prompted by the work of Lisa Johnson and others in our community who helped the city of Watsonville declare itself a sister city to El Salvador. As part of his visit to celebrate that new relationship, and because of St. Stephen's long and fruitful relationship with so many people in El Salvador, it was decided that they would include a stop to worship with us on Sunday morning.

I can't believe I wasn't able to enjoy this visit with them and all of you! How many regular, old Sundays pass in 17 years time when nothing like this ever happens? I often shake my head in bewilderment at the strange nature of the timing of certain aspects of this job. It can be very frustrating.

However, things like this always serve to remind me that this job is not really about me and never has been. As the called spiritual leader, one of my main jobs is to lift up what Martin Luther called "the priesthood of all believers", which includes all of you. Sure, I would have loved to have been a part of such a significant and exciting celebration. It would have been very satisfying to reflect on the beginnings of our sister parish work with Light of Life in Scotts Valley so long ago and beam about how far we have come. I would have loved to see Ruth, Mike, Chris, Kent and Lisa receive the kudos they so deserve for the amazing level of dedication and organization they have brought to this program.

Instead, gathering the stories has had to suffice. And really, that is more important anyway. Because it has always been the stories that have gathered us as the church. Stories of how God has worked in and through each of our lives, and not just the pastor's.

As we move into a new era of ministry for St. Stephen's, having come through a wilderness of sorts, I am praying that we will remember these things. That we will all claim our calling to be little priests in our church and then go and act on that calling, much like the leaders of Santa Cruz al Salvador. I look forward to equipping you to GO and be the Body of Christ through our church.

September Happenings

Chapel with the Pre-Schoolers

Wednesdays at 10:00

Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 pm

Property Work Day

Sept. 7, 9—noon

PreSchool Open House

Sept. 11 & 25 11:00—12:30

MMRR Women's Circle

Sept. 12 at 10:30 am

Church Picnic @ Mt. Cross

Sept. 14 from 10—3

Church Council

Sept. 16 at 7:00 pm

Worship & Music Committee

Sept. 17 at 7:00 pm

Annual Women's Retreat

September 20-22 (or Sat. only)

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Sept. 26 @ 10:30

Child Development Center Bd.

Monday, Sept. 30 at 7:00 pm

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

Council Highlights

1. Devotions were from Colossians Ch. 3 which reminded us of our calling and purpose as a church to be kind, compassionate, and seeking to forgive each other. In that Spirit we read aloud the Church Council Covenant which reminds us of many of the helpful things we have learned through our work with Pr. Cindy Beck about listening, communication and forgiveness.
2. Gary Meeker & Candace Anderson attended as visitors. Gary expressed his reflections on the reconciliation process with Pr. Beck.
3. Bill Schraft, CDC President, reported on the progress of our preschool. Council approved spending of \$1000 from reserves if needed for preschool budget shortfall. Enrollment is very close to self-sustaining.
4. Council approved \$700 from the Building Fund to renovate the lawn in the play area. Kathy Berens secured an estimate that includes gopher wire, new sod, re-setting bender board, fixing the irrigation system and all labor.
5. County Planning and Fire Dept. approval of the Senior Housing is ongoing. The Fire Dept. required a wider access to the back of the building, so we'll lose some landscaping and benches. Groundbreaking is still on schedule for October of 2014.
6. Marta Duplantier resigned from church council. A replacement will be appointed at the September meeting. Anyone interested should contact David Balogh, President, or church office
7. Planning a process to engage the congregation in how we will use the funds generated from the long-term lease of our field for affordable senior housing, will be on the agenda for the Sept. council meeting. Funds will arrive at the end of the year.



September Birthdays

9-1	Bill Cruddas	9-12	Collin Travers	9-24	Peter Larson
9-2	Dillon Houser	9-12	Hannah Travers	9-26	Hope Coronado
9-7	David Balogh	9-14	Howard Mason	9-26	Jan Wagner
9-8	Cabel Dawson	9-14	Elias McMilin	9-28	Cathy Yost
9-8	Eric Millang	9-15	Ashley Volpi	9-29	Joanne Freymuth
9-9	Jill Adachi	9-16	Rick Oldfield	9-29	Holly Lynd
9-9	Becky Cramer	9-17	Marta Bechhoefer	9-29	Nicholas Lynd
9-10	Wayne Adachi	9-18	Connie Cunningham	9-29	Tasha Turzo
9-10	David Larson	9-19	Philip Spires	9-30	Kristen Silva
9-10	Paige Lynd	9-20	Brian Awe	9-30	David Stahl
9-10	Lori Millang	9-20	Steve Mouw		
9-12	Nikki Creel	9-21	Michaela Turzo		

September Anniversaries

9-1	Tom & Jeanette Dawson
9-3	Bill & Margaret Schraft
9-4	Jim Jones & Shay Barsabe
9-6	Ron & Sheila Buswell
9-6	Jim & Naomi Florin-Gosciminski
9-6	Ken & Susan Gross
9-6	Brian & Nancy Houser
9-6	Kevin & Marla Meek
9-17	Paul & Connie Cunningham
9-29	Stephen & Lauren Pond

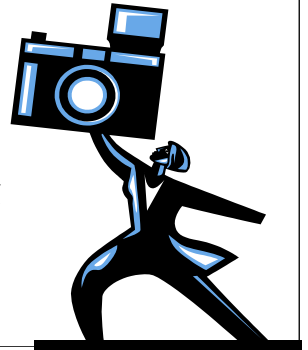


New Picture Directory

Photos will be taken October 24-26

You will receive an automated phone call soon. Then, you may sign up for your photo session at church or on our website.

We will also be gathering special event photos.



Church Council Seat Open

The Council requests nominations for a vacant seat. Please call David Balogh, President, or the church office.



★ Stewards of the Month - Santa Cruz al Salvador ★

★ This includes many of us who, over the years, have participated in the mission of our Sister Parish program with the Lutheran Church of El Salvador and, in particular, the communities served by the school in Guillermo Ungo. Specifically we have to name Ruth & Mike Cruddas and Chris & Kent Madsen for their continued leadership in this meaningful relationship. Last month they and the rest of the rummage sale crew created more opportunities for the youth, children and families there as they raised education funds. This year we were pleased to include our new neighbors at the Day Worker Center in the fun day. Their dedicated work reminds us all of our calling as Christians to GO into all the world, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. THANK YOU!





St. Stephen's Child Development Center

Congratulations Kathy!

First student to receive this award from Palo Alto University:

“Outstanding Senior Internship presentation of the Year”

Psychology & Social Action Class of 2013

Our summer program included patriotic activities, camping, sea animals, dinosaurs, and gardening. We hope you enjoyed the summer display board as it illustrated our activities. Our curriculum also included working with numbers and letters along with story dictations by the children which have been displayed.

As summer concluded so did our regular school year. We hosted our first graduation ceremony in the Chapel for our 5 Kindergarten bound students. Pastor Jim led the music with favorite Chapel songs accompanied by his guitar. Miss Kathy called each student to the front to share a narrative of the **child's accomplishments, a certificate, and a new Children's Bible**. Thank you very much to The Gipson family for the Bible donations. This helps bridge our Preschool with the church.

Fall starts with 4 remaining students in our older program (ages 4-5) and 2 new students in our younger program (ages 2-3). Three families are interested in enrolling in the younger program October – December. Miss Kathy will continue to lead teach the older program along with Director duties. Our program is multi-cultural and our students are introduced to Spanish, Italian, and French along with our regular curriculum due to the language talents of our staff. We hope to hire a new part-time teacher in October to facilitate our afternoon program.

Our school starts out small but mighty. We could not continue without the much appreciated support of our congregation, Pastor Jim, Church Administrator Leslie, Church Council, and School Board members. Thank you to everyone for supporting our ministry. **It is my prayer that our “small business” will begin to show significant growth as the Christmas holiday approaches.** What better way to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ than in the service of young children and their families. You are invited to visit our new Preschool website: <http://sscdcpreschool.com/>. Thank you to Leanne Salandro for taking on this enormous task as a volunteer for our school!

Blessings, Kathryn Berens

**ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod
Synodical Women's Organization and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary**

Thirteen years ago a Women's Seminar Scholarship Fund was established by women in our synod to benefit women students attending PLTS who are in need of financial assistance. The goal for the fund was set at \$150,000. As of June 2013, we have raised \$77,288 or almost half of the funds needed for a scholarship.

Our current goal is to collect the remaining \$72,712 so that the scholarship is funded and can be awarded to a woman student at PLTS who has potential for ministerial leadership.

Would you consider a gift that will help us achieve this goal? The funded scholarship would help:

- Celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Women of the ELCA
- Anticipate the potential merger between PLTS and CLU
- Acknowledge the leadership shown by women in the life of the church

Please consider making a donation to PLTS—the Women's Seminar Scholarship Fund. Checks may be sent to PLTS, 2770 Marin Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708 and marked "Women's Seminar Fund".

Thank you,
Dorothy Arata, Endowment Coordinator

**Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Women's Circle
Thursday, Sept. 12 at 10:30 am in the Fireside room**

WELCOME ALL WOMEN! Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Women's Circle is holding its first meeting of the year. Devotions are given, a speaker on some interesting topic is scheduled, a short business meeting held and then we have lunch. Everyone brings a sandwich and hostesses decorate and provide coffee and dessert. It is a great time for fellowship and getting to know each other. We meet every second Thursday of each month so mark your calendars now!

GREETINGS FROM THE CHOIR MUSIC TEAM!

I hope you all had wonderful summers and are ready to join us as we begin to sing wonderful, worshipful music at the 10:30 am service.

The choir will start rehearsing again on September 8th, the second Sunday in September. We will sing for sure on the first time on Sunday September 15th, at the 10:30 am service and most likely also for the first service on September 8th. We'll select music that can be readily learned in one rehearsal. We'll continue rehearsing every Sunday morning from 9:30 am to 10:25 am in the Fellowship Hall as usual.

We hope to have some special music for the choir to sing at the one service at 9:30 am on Sunday, October 27th, when St. Stephen's celebrates its 60th birthday.

Connie and I have selected some great music for the choir to sing through Christmas-time. Some of the pieces will be old favorites and some will be new. I would like to encourage anyone who might like to sing to join us at this first rehearsal. It's lots of fun and a great way to support Sunday worship.

Please contact me Suzanne Duval - Choir Director, or Connie Creel - Choir Consultant, if you're interested in singing with the choir. No experience is necessary. All are welcome! Peace!



Benevolence Offerings

September—Lutheran Campus Ministry

Reaching out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the students, faculty and staff of UC Santa Cruz and CSU Monterey Bay, Lutheran Campus Ministry of the Monterey Bay supports students on their faith journey by providing opportunities for Bible study, prayer, worship, service and fellowship.

July—Homeless Service Center,

August — C.L.U. and P.L.T.S. = \$245.00

(was given as of Aug. 19)

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE UPDATE

1. Planning worship service for 60th Anniversary Oct 27, Reformation Sunday. We will have one service at 9:30 am. Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Jose Luis Torres will be our guest preacher.

2. Pew resource "Handbook for Lutherans" that will include campus map, glossary of church terms, explanation of our liturgy and more.

3. You may have noticed the new signage by the street indicating time for summer worship and there will also be one for the two services. Thank you Connie for facilitating that project.

4. Planning “Blessing of the Animals” worship service for Sunday Oct. 6th - Bring your pets or a picture of them for a special blessing as we lift up these gifts from God and how they enrich our lives.

Next meeting Sept 10, 7-8:30 in the room next to the sanctuary.

Please contact one of us with any questions or ideas for worship.

On behalf of W/M Comm. ~ Barbara Rice

Committee = Gary Roberts, Connie Creel, Pastor Jim, Suzanne Duval, Bonnie Bell, Candace Anderson, Ruth Mitchell, Kirk McMilin

60th Anniversary Celebration Update

The 60th Anniversary Committee has met several times after church services to brainstorm ideas for our October 27th Reformation Sunday celebration. Margaret and Bill Schraft, Lu Sluiter, Gary Roberts, Don Smawley, Carol and Truett Bobo, Marshall Bautz, Pastor Jim, Ruth Cruddas, Joel Hurtgam and myself have come up with a theme of "Walking Through History and the Changing Culture".

Gary has suggested that we have tables & booths lining the walkway from the Sanctuary to the Fellowship hall that will represent all of St Stephen's programs and ministries, from the Book Club, Children's Center, RR/MM, Singing Dinner groups, Boy Scouts, Parkinson's Group to Santa Cruz al Salvador.

In the Fellowship Hall after worship we are planning a reception similar to an art reception, with hors d' oeuvres, desserts and drinks. We are working on a historical visual presentation for all to enjoy while "mingling" and hopefully re-igniting old friendships. If you have a special photo or memory that you would like to share with the rest of our St Stephen's family please let me know and we will put it in our "visual presentation". Chris Madsen is working on a collection of Lutheran Hymnals replete with historical anecdotes. We are also seeking favorite "Lutheran jokes".

On a personal note, I have had a wonderful time reading and looking over all the archival stuff that is in the St Stephen's library. Many fond memories have flooded back and looking at the 25th anniversary story in the directory, former pastor Glenn Johnson spoke of the St Stephen's Story "is not really so much a story that attempts to describe the growth and progress of material building and accomplishment. We know that the real story is the one we enjoy singing about in that old familiar hymn "I Love to Tell the Story of Jesus and His Love!" It is that story which is at the heart and core of our congregation's life and work." The Gospel this past Sunday, and in his sermon, Pastor Jim reminds us, Luke 12:32-40 "... those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and give to others."

We also need current mailing information for adult children of members so that we can send an invitation.

Suggestions / ideas to Lisa Johnson 429-8042 or Leslie in the office.

Sunday School News



Welcome back! I hope that you all enjoyed your summer. I also hope that you are as excited as I am for Sunday School to start! We will have a year full of faith building and fun!

Join us on Sunday September 8th right after the 10:30 service for Rally Day. Rally Day is a time when the various ministries that our church offers are represented and looking for new participants. This event kicks off our Sunday School year. Stop by the table and see what new fun stuff we have planned for our Sunday School students this year.

One thing I love about our program is that we can make changes and modify our plans easily based on the interests and needs of our students and families. Each month in my newsletter article I will include our planned activities for the month but will also remain open to opportunities that unfold that would help our children build their faith. In September we plan to do the following:

- September 1st – No Sunday School or Children's Church (Labor Day weekend)
- September 8th – Rally Day! Welcome back activities and overview of what is planned for the year
- September 15th – Books of the Old Testament introduction and mini-book
- September 22nd - Books of the Old Testament challenge and happy man game
- September 29th - Noah's Ark watercolor project

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

Sincerely,
Dusty Gipson 831-338-3787

Dear Pastor Bonnie and Pastor Jim,

I just received this article from my sweet mom in Wisconsin and it made me think of you two. I wanted to include it in the newsletter too. It was written on the occasion of his recent retirement.

I wonder if folks really realize ALL the "hats" a Pastor wears on a regular basis. I felt you could relate to what Pastor Piotter said in this article below. I was confirmed by him and married to my first husband, Tim by him. He baptized my children, Crystal (34 yrs) and Jacob (28), so he holds a special place in my heart. I am happy to see his humor in this article, because honestly.....I thought of him as a tough, serious guy to me as a teenager especially :-)

More than anything, I wanted to thank you for all you have done and all you do to minister, help, support, comfort, coach, direct and mentor all of us in the community! You have very strong shoulders, so I hope you have a shoulder when you need one, too.

"Pr. Piotter says the demands placed on clergymen are greater than ever before.

A pastor is required to be a theologian, vocational counselor, diplomat, psychiatrist, writer, marriage consultant, funeral director, speaker, children's worker and teacher.

In addition, they must be conversant with the latest theories and practices in areas like economics, pediatrics, geriatrics and computer science, Piotter observed.

But the greatest service that a pastor can render to his people is contained in the words of Jesus, *'Whether it is preaching, teaching, visitations to the sick and shut-in, marital counseling, family problems, blessed is the pastor who can say, I have given them your word!'*"



Thrivent Builds Santa Cruz County

Thrivent Financial, the local Thrivent Chapter, local Lutheran Congregations and Habitat for Humanity Santa Cruz County have partnered to build one affordable family home in Santa Cruz.

419 Harbor Drive, Santa Cruz: The Thrivent Builds worksite - A house takes shape! Volunteers needed 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!

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

Fundraising-to-date:

Cash received: \$13,580

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

Pledged cash and in-kinds: \$14,562

See a video of the second story SIPS installation on our website:

www.habitatsc.org

SPRUCE UP SATURDAYS

September 7th - 9 am to noon

Let's get together to make our church shine! 'Tis the season for gardening, bring your sun hat, gloves, and weeding tools. We also have a sandbox to build, and drinking fountain to install. Contact Council member Joel Hurttgam 425-0964.





El Salvador Sister Parish News

The worship service on August 18 was a treat. The Vice President of El Salvador, Salvador Sánchez Cerén, attended our worship service. He presented St. Stephen's with a beautiful cross, as well as words of thanks from the communities of Guillermo Ungo for our support over the years, and for our "kindness". He asked for our prayers to continue for peace in his country.

November, when the first of the 2 delegations going to El Salvador will be leaving, will be here before we know it. November is when the graduation ceremony for the school in Guillermo Ungo takes place. Feel free to send a letter to your prayer child. The Pupusa Meal (November 3) would be a good time to bring that to church. The scholarship ceremony is not until January, so we will be collecting gift bags in December – stay tuned. That delegation is January 2-11. **We are excited that there are several people from our congregation who will be going on a delegation for the first time!** We will let you know in next month's newsletter who will be going on a delegation from our congregation.

The November delegation members will also be taking Over-The-Counter medications. A basket with a list of items will be placed in the narthex shortly. Because situations change, we will again be asking those of you who want to continue to be a Prayer Partner with a child or youth in the communities served by the school in Guillermo Ungo to recommit. **If you are not currently a Prayer Partner and would like to be, or would like to learn more, please talk to Ruth Cruddas or Chris Madsen.** There are opportunities for both short-term and long term commitments.

Everyone is encouraged to stop by the *Santa Cruz al Salvador* table on Rally Day, September 8. We will have commitment cards to fill out if you want to continue with your prayer child, or to inform you of what the Prayer Partner program is all about if you think you would like to become a Prayer Partner. We will also have brochures *about Santa Cruz al Salvador* which discusses the history as well as the mission.

Are you aware that Ruth and Mike Cruddas are housing a 19-year-old youth from El Salvador? His name is Mauricio, and he is the son of Carolina Vasquez and Damian Alegria who run the Oasis guest house where we stay when we are in San Salvador. Mauricio will be attending Cabrillo College this fall, taking general ed. classes as well as working on a Computer Science major. He wants to transfer to UC Berkeley when he is finished. His English is quite good, so let Ruth know if you would like to include him in a family outing, invite him to dinner, etc.

As usual, your prayers and overall support is appreciated.

Peace to you, Chris & Ruth



ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 am Worship Service & Coffee Hour

9:30 am Adult Forum & Choir

10:30 am Worship Service (begins Sept. 8)

Children's Church

Coffee Hour

**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
August 22, 2013**

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

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

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