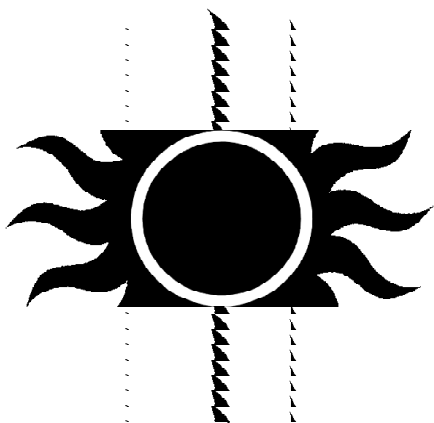


St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

*Celebrating 61
Years of Ministry
October 2014*

Reformation Sunday, October 26

(Wear something Red to Church!)

Aebleskiver Breakfast Fundraiser

9:30a and 11:30a 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) 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 popover.*

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 Heppe 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 McMilin

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...

It is noted elsewhere in this newsletter that about 40! people from our congregation have or will have helped in making the "Santa Cruz Style Oktoberfest" event a wonderful and fun community celebration. What started as a nostalgic conversation during our coffee time after worship one Sunday, has become an important expression of really trying to live out our central calling as a Christian church - to share the good news of God's love for all with those who are not yet a part of God's family.

Will all of this effort and planning automatically turn into a bunch of new people joining St. Stephen's ? Probably not, but we can't really think like that when it comes to doing God's will. Doing God's will has value in and of itself and reminds us that it is GOD who works in people's lives and that is out of our control.

The most we can do is be faithful and try to do what we can to get out of the way of God's working in people's lives. By offering our community this fun event we are getting out of the way of people's stereotypes of churches, by showing people that we aren't a stuffy, club-mentality gathering of followers of Jesus Christ. Instead the message is that we are down-to earth, salt-of-the-earth, people who are here because we LIKE being a part of a church and find it a central aspect of what makes life worth living.

Hopefully, as we try to break down some of the barriers people have against belonging to a church (like using a Martin Luther beer quote on our pint glasses!), there will be a better receptivity to the Spirit of God calling them to the blessings of a living faith shared with others.

Another part of our ministry to keep in prayer that helps fulfill this same calling, is the beginning of a middle school youth group. Although we have a few youth of our own, it is going to be the addition of about 6-8 youth that DON'T go to our church that will help make this a real possibility. Nelleke Meerman has been led by God's Spirit to work with me and co-lead this monthly gathering. We will welcome all faiths and non-faith in an attempt to show the radical hospitality of the gospel. It will be a safe and honest place where youth can form a meaningful peer group as they navigate the difficulties of growing through the teen years in Santa Cruz. Using Christian principles we hope to equip youth with some resources to make the better choices and really enjoy this exciting time of life.

May God bless all of our efforts and hopes for a healthy and vibrant church!

October Happenings

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

Blessing of the Animals

Oct. 5 @ 8:15 & 10:30

MMRR Women's Circle

Oct. 9 @ 10:30

Finance Committee

Oct. 10 at 9:00 am

Women's Café Group

Oct. 15 @ 6:30 pm

Healing Station during worship

Sunday Oct. 19

Property Work Day

Oct. 18 9:00—12

Church Council

Oct. 20 at 7:00 pm

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Oct. 28 @ 10:30

Benevolence

= Child Development Center

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

Council Highlights - September

1. Our devotional time centered on a reflection from the book, "My Utmost for His Highest" by Oswald Chambers. It was given to Pastor Jim by his mother on his 18th birthday and provided inspiration and comfort in some difficult days. The devotion centered on how prayer is not a means to change God's mind, but ours. We shared our Kyries and Glorias from the past month as our form of prayer.
2. Connie Creel was welcomed as a newly appointed council member. It will help to have her participation on the Worship Comm.
3. Barbara Johnston was approved to serve as a new Preschool Board member. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of working with children through her work at the San Jose History Museum.
4. A proposal for staff evaluations from the Mutual Ministry Comm. was approved. Staff will submit a one page document highlighting what has gone well and what hasn't, as the basis for a conversation with the group that oversees their work. This will be completed by the end of each year.
5. Council approved a motion to add the Mutual Ministry Comm. as a standing comm. in the by-laws. This will be on the annual meeting agenda.
6. Mid-Pen recently met with our task force and laid out next steps which look to have a groundbreaking sometime in June 2015.



October Birthdays

10-3 Pastor Lapp	10-21 Kathy Berens
10-3 Becky Judd	10-22 Abigail Davis
10-8 Amelia Davis	10-22 Kazunori Orthner
10-9 Stephanie Bonnett	10-24 Tom Eagle
10-13 Halcyon Abler	10-24 Noelia
10-13 Janet Slay	Monteagudo
10-14 Thomas Dawson	10-25 Bill
10-16 Luke Adachi	Schraft
10-16 Jaunita Zamarripa	10-29 Michael
10-18 Naomi Florin-	Cappelloni
Gosciminski	10-30 Deana
10-19 Samantha	McIntyre
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: The Family of Artie Meek, Hannah, Carol Kline Butlitta, Riley, Shelby, Kaitlyn, Shirley Fuqua, Renie Leaman, Lisa Pawalkat, Heysel, Maicon, Cameron, Kaitlin, Evan, Tasha, Opa Meerman, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, and Our Church Family. **Long Term:** Millie & Bob Simmen, Bonnie Hansen, Lu Walthart, Jennifer Borgardt, Gary, Pat Hubbard, Chris & Kent Madsen, Jan Wagner, Beverly Gilladett, Cathy Lorenzo, Dee, Mickayla, Pearl Runquist, Jeanne, The Robe Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman, The Youth of Today.



Sunday School News

Dear Sunday School Friends and Families,
Thanks so much to those who have stepped forward to help with our Sunday School program. Shay Barsabe and Leslie Lapp worked with our students in September to create yarn artwork on our fence, a beautiful addition to our Oktoberfest celebration! I appreciate your willingness to share your gifts with our children. Helpers are still needed for October.

This year Tara McMilin will be directing our annual Christmas pageant, "Christmas in Bethlehem" held on Sunday December 7th during the 10:30 service. Regular rehearsals will be held during Sunday School beginning on Sunday November 2nd and run through Sunday November 30th. A full dress rehearsal will be held Saturday December 6th.

Please let me know if you would like help with this ministry.

Save the dates: High School Retreat October 10 -12
Jr. High Retreat November 14-16

Sincerely, Dusty Gipson
831-338-3787 (home) dustygipson@yahoo.com

Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Women's Circle

Thursday, October 9 @ 10:30 Fireside Rm.

Bring your own lunch. Dessert and coffee are provided.
Come for service, socialization and setting your sights on God.
All Women are Welcome and Appreciated



St. Stephen's Child Development Center

We welcomed back our families last month to fresh curriculum and the return of old favorites. Teaching our returning group is very rewarding as they picked up so much information last year as we had a combined age class. Kathy Berens is attending the SEEDS program sponsored by First 5. Kathy feels honored to be selected from a group of applicants to attend. This program requires 2 nights a month and 6 Saturdays in 10 months. These classes are rich in content providing curriculum in literature, oral language, and math. SEEDS is an evidence based program created 10 years ago in Minnesota to bridge the socioeconomic gap between children with the goal of achieving their best reading potential by third grade. Children need to decode words by third grade in order to comprehend fourth grade textbook reading. Did you know that in some states they determine how many jails to build based on third grade reading scores?! SEEDS quality interactions are balanced and provide opportunities to build a strong foundation (self-image) on which learning and growth blossom. The key is quantity meaning the more you talk to a child in their early years the larger their vocabulary will grow. SEEDS teachers are sensitive, encourage, educate, and develop through self-image. This is done through conversation, alphabetic knowledge, book and print rules, phonological awareness, vocabulary building on background knowledge, and math. A SEEDS coach is assigned to support the growth and implementation of the curriculum on site for 10 visits. The first visit will include a 3 hour analysis of the current program using the Early Language & Literacy Classroom Observation (ELLCO) Pre-K tool followed by support until completion.

We have been busy harvesting our garden and planting fall flowers on the playground. September focused on returning to school, families and vacations, and "all about me". October is a very fun teaching month as there are so many wonderful books to share and creative activities based around Halloween and fall. Be sure to enjoy our main display board in the hallway and the others displays in the classrooms to see what the children are saying and creating.

We hope that everyone will attend the Teacher Installation (at both Worship Services) and Aebelskiver fundraising breakfast (9:30-12:30) in support of our Preschool Ministry on October 26. Tickets will go on sale after the 8:15 and 10:30 Worship Services for \$10.00 per person.

Blessings, Kathy Berens 462-4453

Property Work Day

Sat. Oct. 18th from 9 am - Noon

More painting, fixing, cobweb battling, and sprucing up
Contact Council member Joel Hurttgam 425-0964 for info.

Worship & Music Committee

At the last meeting we discussed the participation in the service of those who worship. Did you know that having an active part in public worship stemmed from Martin Luther's revision of the Roman mass (way back in 1500). In fact, the word liturgy means, "the work of the people." This tradition recognized that the presiding pastor was not the only leader of worship ... one feature of contemporary worship is the emphasis on shared leadership to indicate that the service is not something that the pastor does while the people watch but is something which is an action shared by all who assemble to worship and over which one is called to preside. Moreover, the people are encouraged to provide the petitions of intercessions in the Eucharist (communion). Laypeople - women as well as men - ought to be encouraged to share in the assisting roles as their abilities allow, in addition to the clergy of the parish. They are not just helpers in the absence of ordained people; they have their own rightful role to fulfill. (pgs 9-10 Manual on the Liturgy, Augsburg Publishing House, 1979.)

As adults living in 2014 television and performance based culture we are trained to be recipients not participants. However the texting / computer culture of the younger generation will not tolerate a non participatory worship time. (See *The Show is Over* in the September *Lutheran Magazine*) St. Stephens as well as, the whole Christian Church needs ideas from you and me - how do we teach about a God who loves each of us so today's people can experience it? Prayer is one component - where you and I take time daily to pray for ways to include people in our lives; as well as in the worship experience. We each need to talk about how God's love has made a difference in our lives. How has being loved and acting in loving ways changed your life? Your neighbor? Think about it? Then share it.

Yes, St. Stephens does invite you to welcome the stranger, prepare the simple meal of bread and the fruit of the vine, share and clean up after; read and pray aloud; but more than that we need you to pray for the love of Jesus to dwell in your heart and bring you to worship to strengthen your faith and inspire each of us to live as the people of God - listening to news, it seems that forgiveness among individuals, groups, and nations is key. I guess Lutherans knew that as we start each service by offering God's forgiveness to each of us. Ah! What a relief.

Your worship committee: Barbara Rice - Chair, Candace Anderson, Bonnie Bell,
Connie Creel, Suzanne Duval, Pr. Jim, Ruth Mitchell, Gary Roberts.

Thank You, thank you, thank you -

to everyone who participated in my 85th birthday party. I know it's late but there were continuing contributions to the STOP MALARIA CAMPAIGN. You will be glad to know that over \$2,700 was sent from St. Stephens. I think it is awesome. Thank you for all those who brought food, those who worked, and to my family who decorated with mosquito nets & flying mosquitos and African tablecloths - and Rolf who gave the plea for contributions. The campaign is not over so why not toss your change in a jar daily and see how much you can collect by Thanksgiving and drop it in the offering in December - designate for STOP MALARIA. - **Pr. Bonnie Bell**

“Spiritual Nurture: The Heart of Personal & Congregational Life”

November 8 – 9 Santa Cruz, CA

Rev. Dr. John R. Mabry**

“The Mystic & the Modern Church”

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

“Christian Meditation: A Practicum”

Sunday November 9th at 12 noon - Trinity Presbyterian Church

***co-sponsored by the Progressive Christian Forum & Trinity
Presbyterian Church, Santa Cruz, CA.**

****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 *Growing Into God: A Beginner's Guide to Christian Mysticism*.

Adult Forums — Every Sunday @ 9:30

Oct. 5 - Rev. Carol Been - "My Faith Story"

Oct. 12 - Bring your pet. "How God Works Thru Them"

Oct. 19 - "Church Member Faith Story" - TBA

Oct. 26 - Aebleskiver Breakfast Fundraiser

Women's Café Group Potluck

Wednesday Oct. 15, 6:30 pm @ Julie Mouw's home

Our small group spends time in fellowship, discussion & prayer.
Come together as women of faith. New folks are always welcome!
Bring a dish and laughter to share.

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY IN THE 21st CENTURY:

"CONNECTION & ENGAGEMENT"

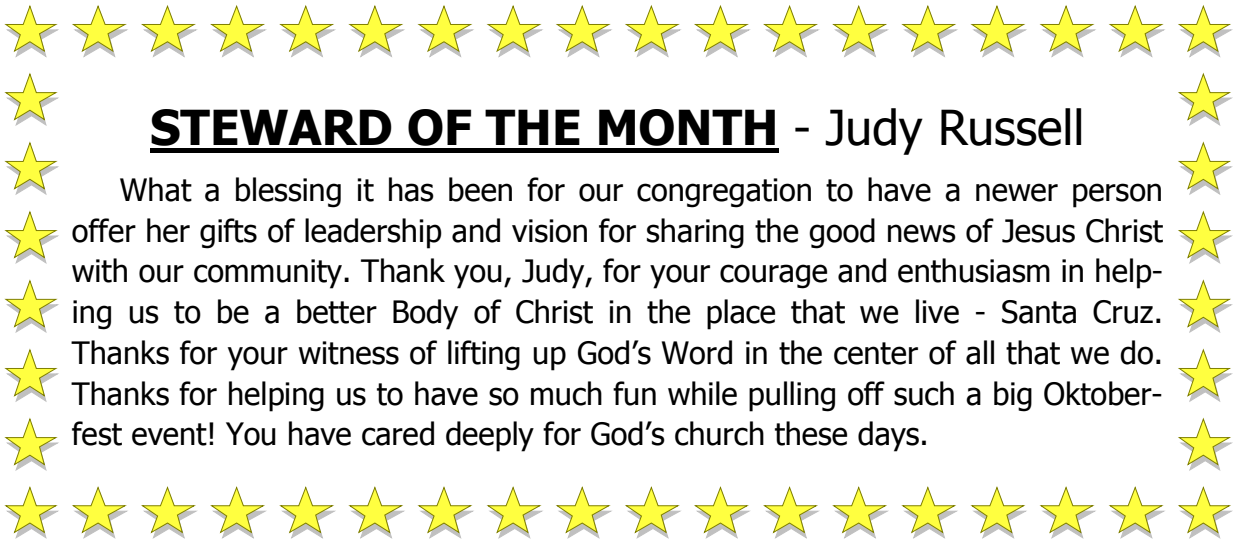
An Interactive Two Day Seminar

Fri.Feb. 6 - Sat. Feb.7, 2015

Peace United Church of Christ - 900 High Street, Santa Cruz

Sponsored by: Progressive Christian Forum of Santa Cruz

Registration available soon at **www.ticketriver.com**.



STEWARD OF THE MONTH - Judy Russell

What a blessing it has been for our congregation to have a newer person offer her gifts of leadership and vision for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with our community. Thank you, Judy, for your courage and enthusiasm in helping us to be a better Body of Christ in the place that we live - Santa Cruz. Thanks for your witness of lifting up God's Word in the center of all that we do. Thanks for helping us to have so much fun while pulling off such a big Oktoberfest event! You have cared deeply for God's church these days.

OKTOBERFEST OUTREACH - Thank You's

Donors: Beckmann's Bakery, Geo Wilson, Palace Arts, Safeway, Staff of Life, Thrivent Financial, Trader Joes, and Woodworm Party Store.

Participants: Boy Scout Troop #633, Day Worker's Center, Habitat for Humanity, Kids on Broadway, Live Oak Family Resource Center, Mt. Cross Camp, Musical Me, Mythic Games, Santa Cruz al Salvador, and the Scandenavian Club

Workers: 40 St. Stephen's folks gave of their time and talents to make this event happen! A beautiful, all-church effort. More after the event in the next news-

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 475-5668

Gaza and Prospects for Peace

With Rev. Kate Taber

Saturday, October 18th - 12noon Lunch

Messiah Lutheran — 801 High Street

Rev. Taber is Facilitator for Peacemaking and Mission Partnership The Presbyterian Church, and Associate Pastor of the Palestinian Lutheran Church in Bethlehem . She works with the Church in the Holy Land and was in Gaza during the recent conflict. She will discuss the situation in Israel / Palestine and the role of the Church in peacemaking and reconciliation.

For reservations (cost \$10) contact Herb Schmidt 423-5777, graceherb@aol.com or Darrell Yeane 600-7088, suedy2@comcast.net

Co-sponsored by the Progressive Christian Forum, the Palestine-Israel Action Committee, the Santa Cruz chapter of The Jewish Voice for Peace, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and others.

Sunday Worship October 12 8:15 and 10:30 am

Bring your pet or a photograph of your pet to receive a special blessing during worship. All Creatures great and small are welcome.



This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's celebration of all of God's creation including all the animals.

Benevolence Offerings

October — Child Development Center works in partnership with families to provide care and learning that transfers from school to home. This creates better success in independence, confidence and self help skills.

September—Lutheran Campus Ministry= \$412.00
(was given as of Sept. 21)

Financial Information - January through August 2014

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>
Donations and Income	\$107,742.02	\$114,333.33	\$-6591.31
Expenses	\$130,718.07	\$132,486.66	\$-1768.59
Deficit	\$-22,976.05	\$-18,153.33	\$-4822.72
MidPen	\$20,000.00	\$18,666.67	

Hope you all had good summer vacations. Now is the time to get back on track and get our pledges up to date. We are running a net of about \$5K behind budget (\$7K behind in donations and income but almost \$2K below on expenses). To cover the shortfall we have had to use more Mid Pen money than planned.

Our other income (in addition to donations) has recently increased somewhat from interest and dividends as well as from additional facility income. If we can get back on track with donations, then I am hopeful that we will not have to use anymore Mid Pen money to cover our expenses for the rest of this year.

Peace, Ron Buswell - Treasurer



El Salvador Sister Parish News

The Santa Cruz al Salvador Board of Directors is very happy to announce that St. Andrew Presbyterian of Aptos has become a member of our organization. Rev. Karla Norton and Marian Langdon are their representatives on the Board. Karla has participated on numerous delegations. Marian and several other members of St. Andrew are very interested in our Prayer Partner Program as well as possibly going on a delegation. We now have six member churches and one participating church.

Prayer Partner Program

To all Sponsors; we will be contacting each one of you during the month of October to personally thank you for your support and to share with you our new Prayer Partner Brochure. Our goal is to enhance your relationship with your prayer child and to help identify opportunities to improve on our communications and support of the community. We encourage all sponsors to send a one-gallon gift bag with a card or picture to your prayer child which will be given during the scholarship awards ceremony in January, 2015. You can let us know when we contact you if you wish to continue your support. There will be examples of gift bags displayed in the Narthex.

Fundraising

We have a couple of fundraising activities to help meet our goal for this year:

Pupusa Meal - Sunday, November 2nd from 9-1. Tickets will be sold in advance starting Sunday, October 5th, as well as at the door. Cost: \$10/adult, \$4/Child

Holiday See's Candy Sale - Will be begin October 26th thru November 23rd. Candy and gift certificates will be available December 7th, 2014

Monthly Benevolence - November has been designate as El Salvador Sister Parish month. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

(Sister Parish Continued)

University Scholarships

Each year the graduating students have to decide whether their family can afford for them to go onto college or return to work in the fields to help support the family. We currently provide partial scholarships for 15 students. The annual cost for a student to attend the National University is \$1,200.

El Pilar

This is a new community about 45 minutes south of San Salvador that we have become acquainted with recently. The people, their homes, their needs are very similar to the situation in Guillermo Ungo 20 years ago. Yes, it is hard to believe but true. We are very interested in learning more about the community and how we can help. Water is their number one priority. We embrace 'Gods Work, Our Hands' and will share the journey with you.

The Lutheran Church in El Salvador - ES Pastor's Salary Endowment Fund

We continue to meet with Bishop Medardo Gomez during each delegation and over the years he has provided some wonderful insights to the work of the church in El Salvador. However, the country is very poor; sometimes the pastors do not receive a salary and have to work a second job to help 'make ends meet'. SCaS was able to contribute \$600 to the fund last year. We hope to give more this year.

We would like to thank Pastor Evie Macway from Trinity Presbyterian for giving us permission to use the liturgy they developed for our El Salvador Sunday. Chris apologizes for asking after the fact.

Thank you again for your continued support of our work in El Salvador.

Jill Adachi, Ruth Cruddas, Chris and Kent Madsen
"Building Relationships for Better Lives"

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

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NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
September 25, 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**

