



ST. STEPHEN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

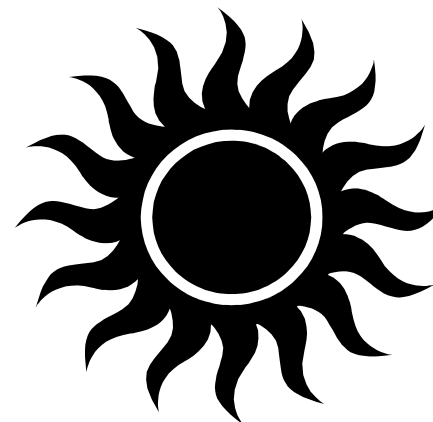
St Stephen's Lutheran Church
2500 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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November 23, 2009**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 55
Years of Ministry
December '09

The Season of Advent

Join together in preparing for God's loving the world through Christ on the four Sundays of Advent:

Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 & 20

We will observe the tradition of lighting the Advent Wreath each Sunday as well as praying for those who may not have a church home.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Thursday, December 24th

5:00 pm & 7:30 pm

(includes a special children's time)

11:00 pm

(includes Holy communion)



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.— Bill Schraft, Treas.— Mark Linder,
 Don Smawley, Dan Grow, Scott Medling,
 Jeanette Dawson, and Jan Wagner
 Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts
 Custodian: John Hopping
 Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp
 Children's Minister: Dusty Gipson

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.

ELCA Good Gifts

The giving catalog of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, lifts up more than 65 gift ideas filled with meaning and love. ELCA Good Gifts are a special way you can help make a significant impact on the mission and ministries of our church while giving a gift to a friend, teacher, neighbor or other loved one.

ELCA Good Gifts inspire leadership, nourish the hungry, heal the sick and respond to needs at home and around the world. Animals provide families living in poverty with food, funds, and fertilizer — all for a better future.

Learn more about these gifts at www.elca.org/goodgifts or call 1-800-638-3522

Popular Good Gifts:

Under \$25

- 10 Chicks
- Mosquito net
- Bundle of roof shingles

Under \$250

- Microloan
- Month's rent

Under \$500

- Cow
- Water well

Under \$75

- Pig
- Child immunization
- Survival kit



Thank You St. Stephen's

Thank you for your gift of \$162. Your gift makes such a difference for neighbors near and far who face hunger and poverty.

We'll put your gift to use right away—planting crops, digging wells, providing livestock, sending children to school, serving meals, stocking pantry shelves, and caring for the sick.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that when we serve our neighbors, we also serve our Lord. "...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,..." (Matt 25:35)

Thank you for responding generously to help neighbors who need food, clean water, safe shelter, and compassionate care.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Daniel Rift, Director ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

* * * * *

Thank you for your gift of \$330 to PLTS. Your gift makes all the difference in the world.

Recently I sent a letter telling about my high school band director whose positive energy and influence didn't just make an impact on me, but changed the way our entire little city looked at itself. He thought he was making us a better marching band. He made us all better people. He didn't know what he was doing. He had no idea what an impact he was making.

I wonder if you can fully appreciate the impact you are making on the students at PLTS, the seminary, and the whole church. You literally planted the seeds that will grow into beautiful fruit; fruit that will nourish the whole world. What a great gift that is!

On behalf of all those people out there who will one day be blessed by a minister from PLTS, thank you. You sent that minister & made it happen.

Gratefully,

Joel S. Wudel, VP Seminary Relations

From Pastor Jim...



It really felt like we were sent forth from worship to spread the good news and serve God and neighbor today, Sunday November 22. After dedicating ourselves at our Harvest Celebration worship, 30 of us went and joined a thousand of our friends from COPA, at the Mello Center in Watsonville to live out what we had just prayed for. It was inspiring to act so immediately on the faith we had professed with our new members Joel and Maryann, just hours earlier—"and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth." I am so moved to be a part of a congregation that is doing the difficult, slow and long work of justice in our community. I feel as though we are truly BEING the Body of Christ in the world, just as God would hope we would be.

What a Shared Prosperity Conference we had! So much has been accomplished and so much hope and determination was renewed. We are really making a difference in the areas of affordable housing (Supervisor Ellen Pirie credited us with being the main reason the County passed its first Housing Element in 20 years—qualifying us for millions of dollars from the state), the foreclosure crisis (Congressman Sam Farr praised COPA for the work we are doing), and community safety (Supervisor John Leopold will work with us to provide a new youth center in Live Oak using millions in redevelopment funds).

This kind of work does not have a lot immediate results and rewards, but today it was satisfying to put it all together sitting with our church and knowing that we had something to do with these big changes that are taking place. Thanks especially to Mark Linder, Marshall Bautz & Melanie Carrido for there leadership roles at the conference. Great job, church!

December Happenings

Church Council

Next meeting: Dec 21 @ 7-9 PM

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Tuesday, Dec 8 @ 10:30 am

Faith-full Families

December 6 @ 11:45 Christ Lutheran

Story Book Tea

December 13 @ 2:30 Fireside Room

Knitting

Meets every Thursday at 6:45 PM

Scotts Valley Bible Study

Meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays,
Dec 4 & 18 ~ at 10 AM
Spring Lakes Park Party Room
Contact Marshall Bautz 439-8979

Women's Circles

Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Soup Party at the home of Lu Sluiter
Dec 3 - Noon Contact: Renie 426-3259

Lefse Making

Dec 3 - 6:30 PM Fellowship Hall
Contact: Gwyn Larson 476-8239

Circles Bake Sale

Dec 6 - 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Christmas Caroling

Dec 12 - 12:30 PM
Contact: Paul Powers 423-4513

Friendship Party

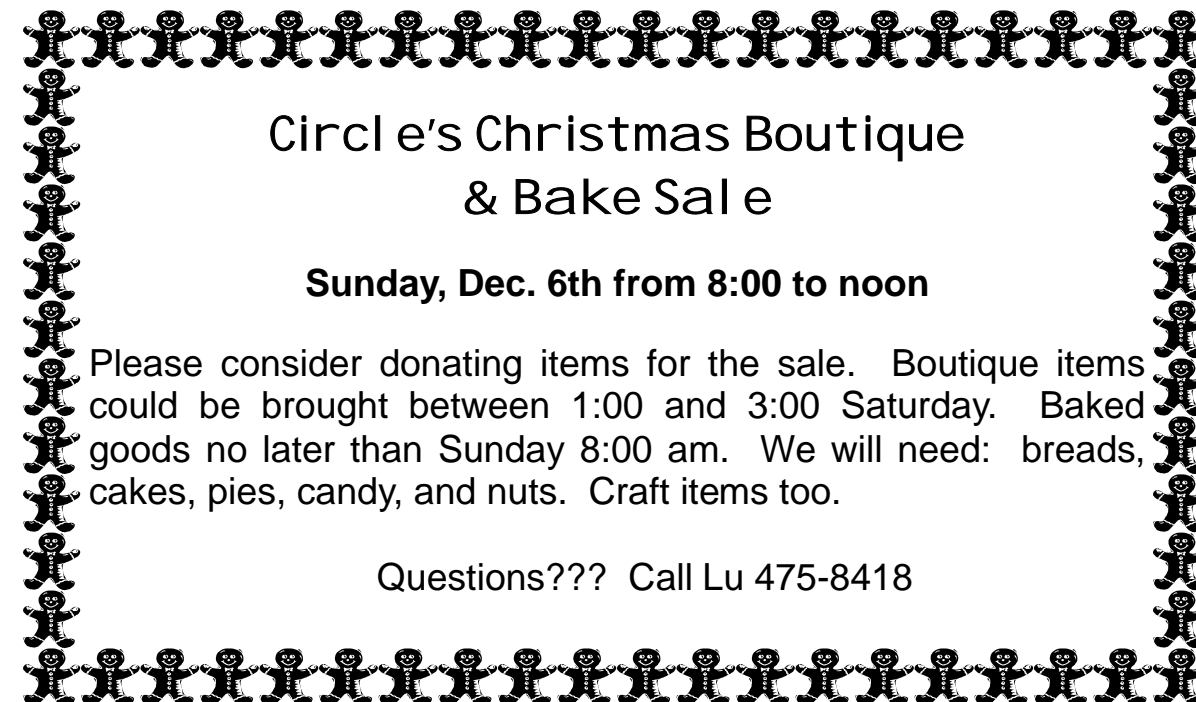
Dec 13 - 5:30 PM Lu Sluiter's 475-8418

Christmas Pageant

10:30 AM Service

Council Highlights

1. Devotions consisted of a conversational group prayer led by Pastor Jim. We each shared a "Kyrie" (something we were asking for God's help with) and a "Gloria" (something we were thanking God for). Pastor Jim reminded us that we more than leaders of a club or non-profit organization who make business-type decisions. We are a small group ministry that cares and prays for each other as we care for the Body of Christ-our congregation.
2. The Field Task Force met with Jan Lindenthal and Jessica DeWitt from Mid-Peninsula Housing Corporation. Initial indications from the County Planning Department have been positive. We are zoned as "Public Facility" which may be enough, but we don't that for sure yet. We would qualify for about 27 units of senior housing only, because of parking space. "Senior" would mean age 55 and up. The field would be used under a "ground lease" agreement with Mid-Pen. and the church would receive a lump-sum lease payment up front. The property would be managed by Mid-Pen. A portfolio of their other projects is available in the office. A letter of intent is being drawn up to guide our future relationship.



Circle's Christmas Boutique & Bake Sale

Sunday, Dec. 6th from 8:00 to noon

Please consider donating items for the sale. Boutique items could be brought between 1:00 and 3:00 Saturday. Baked goods no later than Sunday 8:00 am. We will need: breads, cakes, pies, candy, and nuts. Craft items too.

Questions??? Call Lu 475-8418

Friendship Christmas Party

Dec. 13th at 5:30 pm

Lu Sluiter's Home—141 Cabrillo St., Capitola
RSVP 475-8418 by Dec. 11

Bring: Finger food (not dessert) to share and a wrapped gift for each person coming for the fun-filled game

Dessert & Coffee will be provided...All are welcome!!!



Poinsettia Sale



The annual Poinsettias will be sold to support our Sister Parish program in El Salvador. You will have a dedication printed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. The plants will grace the sanctuary during Christmas services, and then you will be able to bring you plant home to enjoy for the rest of the holiday season. Please sign up on the clipboard at church, or call the office. **Checks payable for \$15 to St. Stephens—memo “poinsettias”.**



Davenport Gift Tree

Again this year, we are providing Christmas gifts for the children at Davenport Resource Center. There is a tree in the narthex with tags with names & ages on them. Please take a tag (or two) and provide Christmas joy for a child or two.

All gifts must be under the tree by Thursday Dec. 17th in order to have them delivered by La Posada.

Thank you for all you have done throughout the year for Davenport. We are still collecting Winter items (blankets, coats etc.)

Any questions? Call Renie 426-3259 or cemeterynut@scbglobal.net.

December Birthdays

12-4	Carol Bobo	12-26	Shay Barsabe
12-5	Ruth Gonzalez	12-28	Brad Tuttle
12-6	Don Smawley	12-31	Dave Anderson
12-7	Donald Daves	12-31	Darren Crews
12-8	Kirk Adams	12-31	Paul Cunningham
12-8	Maryann Hurttgam	12-31	Jeanette Dawson
12-11	Julie Hintze—	12-31	Dusty Gipson

Gilbertson

12-12	Zack Larson
12-13	Cary Helgueros
12-14	Sheryl Brouse
12-15	Robert Bartee
12-18	Todd Johnson
12-18	Molly Mouw
12-20	Stefan Meek
12-20	Greg Weber
12-21	Kathybelle Barlow
12-21	Robin Gloe
12-22	Vern Lillehaugen



Happy Anniversary

12-4	Phil & Peggy Crews
12-4	John & Kathy Hopping
12-5	Wayne & Jill Adachi
12-5	Mike & Ruth Cruddas Sr.
12-10	Martha Beito
12-17	Alfred & Ruth Mitchell
12-22	Chris & Lorie Juhl
12-26	Clint & Bonnie Bell



Prayer Concerns:

Short Term: Louise Daniel, Lori Margo, Cary & Chanel Helgueros, Henrietta Howard, Rich Baker, Judy & Family, Les, Wayne, Kim Brouse, Ron Fisher & family, Jan, Daniel, Carol, Steve, Sharon, Desi, Diane & Randy, Bob, Mindy, Daniel, Michael, Kevin, Marino, Mark, Linda, Bryan, Marsha, Joe, Irene, Joanne, Claudia, Peggy & Martin Rice, Harry Barlow, and Gayle Cutter.

Long Term: George Trippel, Doreen Demetto & Joanie, Carla Spain, Jim Abler, Mildred Belle, Linda Taylor, The family of John Cahill, Ron Buswell, Dorothy Ronning, Bonnie Hansen, Susan, Jon & Judy, 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, Bill Crouser, Jeanette Howe, Cathy Lorenzo, Ron Waltrip, Debbie Jackson, The Oldfield family, Dick Walthart, Jo Wishart, the jobless, Sister Parish, Schools, Our Youth, Our Troops, Pres. Obama & family, Peace & Healing for all the earth.

GOT LEFSE?

What did Ole say to Lena? So den it's time to make da lefse, ya? Grab your griddle and lefse stick and come to St. Stephen's on **December 3**, Thursday at 6:30 pm in da Fellowship Hall and we will make da lefse together, you betcha. No griddle and stick? No problem—we share. But you **must** bring da dough and don't ya know it must be made ahead of time so it's **cold** yest like winter in Norway. You will also need an extension cord, extra white flour, rolling pin, pastry cloth, paper towels, butter and sugar. Lefse can be tricky—uffda! But it is soooooo yummy—da family and friends will love you for it.

Call Gwyn Larson 476-8239 for more info, don't ya know?

Christmas Caroling !

Come share the Joys of the Advent and Christmas Season with our Convalescent Parishoners.

Saturday Dec. 12 @ 12:15
Meet in the Fellowship Hall

We will arrange to carpool to:
Pacific Coast Manor
& Driftwood Health Care Center

Hot Cocoa and Cookies will be served afterward. Sign up in the Narthex.
Contact Paul Powers 423-4513



(Empowered by God continued)

been gifted equally. Some have been gifted by God to work with their hands, with machines, or with computers. Others excel in their ability to communicate orally or via the printed page. The effective outreach of the Gospel here at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church is made possible only when God's people who are part of this fellowship use their combined talents for God's glory and for the good of this ministry.

Finally, there is the matter of our treasure. Don't be confused. Money cannot buy salvation. Money cannot buy eternal life. Money can't even buy security which God alone provides. But how we use money is an indication of our priorities. Think about the process: God owns everything. According to Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the Lord's." God has never relinquished His title deed to the world, but God enables us to earn that which rightfully belongs to Him. God then seeks to have us return a portion of what He has entrusted to us through our giving.

Giving is not done to pay the church bills. Giving is not because God needs anything from us. Giving is God's way of growing Christians. Every time we give for God's glory from hearts that have been redeemed by God's love and grace, we give away a little of our selfishness. Every time we give of our resources, we grow in grace and in our walk with Christ.

As you consider your life during this time of stewardship emphasis, will you — like the Macedonian Christians — excel in the "grace of giving" by first giving yourself to the Lord? Will you then respond by grace through giving your time, your talents and your treasure to be used by God in this ministry?

As you consider your response to these questions, and as you seek the Lord's direction concerning your giving in the next few months, please remember these simple yet profound words:

Only one life, 'twill soon be past;
only what's done for Christ will last.

Why Our Offerings Are Important: “Empowered by God — Responding by Grace”

“Now as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you — so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking” (2 Cor. 8:7).

In our last article as part of this year’s stewardship emphasis, we saw how God is our Source, how all that we have comes from God, how the Spirit empowers and enables us, and how we respond by grace through faith. We also saw that like the Macedonian Christians, we are to first give ourselves to the Lord as good stewards of the grace of God.

Sometimes, when stewardship is mentioned, people wrongly conclude that giving money is all that is involved. Not so. Giving **does** include our financial resources, but it goes far beyond money and actually encompasses three primary resources. These are what might be called “building blocks” in God’s “school of faith” which constitute “lifestyle stewardship” or “total stewardship.”

First, there is the matter of our time. Time is one resource that is given to everyone equally. All of us have twenty-four hours in every day. No more, no less. How we use our time reflects accurately what is a priority in our lives. Some people have made the TV a priority in their lives. They might not admit it, but by totaling the amount of time they spend in front of the set, it would be hard to draw any other conclusion. Others have made sports a priority. How can we tell that’s true? Again, by the amount of time they spend pursuing sports. The key question is this: How much of the 168 hours available to each of us every week is spent in pursuit of God or in service to God’s kingdom, especially here in this ministry?

Then there is the matter of our talents, an area in which all of us have not

Sunday School News

‘Tis the season!

Bring your children to join in the Advent services as we prepare for the Christmas festivities. There is a spot in the pageant for all of you!!! We need you to make our celebration complete!!!



We give thanks for teachers Jan Wagner & Ruth Mitchell for helping us make a GIANT Advent wreath.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| December 6 | Christmas Pageant Practice |
| December 13 | Pageant Practice—Teachers Leslie & Mitzie |
| December 19 | Pageant dress rehearsal 3-5 pm then PIZZA! |
| December 20 | Christmas Pageant during the 10:30 service |
| December 27 | “Resolutions” —Teacher Robbin Heppe |

Remember to invite your friends and neighbors to Christmas Eve Service. Many people don’t have a church home and would welcome your invitation.

Please sign up to help with these events. Feel free to call if you have questions or need more information about the Sunday School.

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

“Sing aloud to God our strength” Psalm 81

WOMEN'S CIRCLES MERGE!!!

All Women Are Welcome

Starting in January, Mary/Martha & Ruth Rebecca are merging. Our new meeting time will be the 1st Thurs. of the month @12:00 noon, so ladies can come during their lunch break. We serve sandwiches, cookies & coffee. We are more than a "Coffee Klatch". We support ministries in our community AND enjoy devotions and fellowship as well. Come join us!

**Christmas Soup Party @ Lu's Dec. 3rd at Noon
Do not bring anything, just come!**

STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

Margaret Schraft & Carol Bobo

Our Fellowship Hall has never looked better, especially now that the beautiful mural is complete! Thank you both for sharing the artistic gifts God has given each of you. The mural reminds us of the amazing gift of God's creation that we are so fortunate to enjoy here in Santa Cruz, as we see Lighthouse Point and Natural Bridges. Our Fellowship Hall is a very busy place every week, as we host a preschool, the Boy Scouts, various 12-step groups and other community groups/meetings, not to mention our own programs. Your visible offering reminds us all that this is God's building, to be used for ministry and to glorify God.



NEW MEMBERS

Joel & Maryann Hurttgam

Donna Gafforio

We joyfully received Joel And Maryann on Harvest Celebration Sunday. They have been worshipping with us regularly for many months now and just recently volunteered to help usher! We are inspired by their dedication and willingness to serve right away. Joel attended St. Stephen's briefly about 25 years ago. Maryanne was raised in the Roman Catholic Church and is overcoming her natural shyness by ushering! They also make great fried chicken ,which was gobbled up at our picnic.

Donna has been worshipping with us for many months as well and is an avid sermon appreciator (Yes, there is such a thing!) She was invited by Dorothy Anderson and the Madsens as she is Dorothy's caregiver. What started as a job has become a new adventure of faith. Donna will be received in worship as soon as the Madsens return from El Salvador!

2010 Offering Envelopes Are Here

Please pick up your envelopes at the back of the church as you leave. Note that numbers have been reassigned. Also, please remember to bring your "Estimate of Giving Card" and "Time & Abilities sheet" and place it in the offering plate during the worship service the next time you come to church.