



ST. STEPHEN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 am Worship Service
Coffee Hour
9:30 am Choir rehearsal & Adult Forum
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

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St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 55
Years of Ministry
December 2010

The Season of Advent

Join together in preparing for God's loving the world through Christ on the four Sundays of Advent:
Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12 & 19

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
Friday, December 24th
5:00 pm & 7:30 pm
(includes a special children's time)
11:00 pm



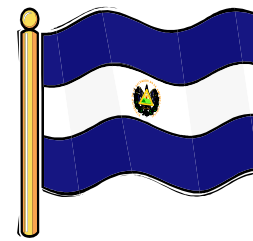
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
2500 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, California 95062
Phone—831-476-4700 — Fax—831-476-3918
www..ststephenslutheran.org
email—office@ststephenslutheran.org
Rev. James P. Lapp, Pastor

Ministers: The Entire Congregation
Church Council: Pres.—Paul Powers, V.P.- Robin Gloe,
Sec.— Scott Medling, Treas.— Tom Eagle,
Bill Schraft, Don Smawley, Marta Bechhoefer,
Mark Linder, 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 Abler
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.



El Salvador Sister Parish News

The Santa Cruz al Salvador Board wishes to extend a great big thank you to all of you for your continued support and your willingness to help build relationships with your prayer child. By the time you read this, the first delegation will have visited and probably returned from El Salvador with lots of wonderful stories to share which we will do some time in January, 2011.

To all Sponsors - If you would like to send a gift, card or picture to your prayer child, there is still time to do so. The second delegation, led by Chris Madsen has room and will be happy to take your one gallon bag of goodies. Suggested items: t-shirt, pens, pencils, hair and nail stuff for girls, toothbrush, toothpaste, candy treats, yo-yo's, etc.

Commitment Card - If you haven't already turned in your Prayer Child Commitment Card, the deadline is December 1, 2010. For those of you who do not have a prayer child and are interested please contact Chris Madsen or Ruth Cruddas.

Woodstock Pizza Night - Monday, December 6th, 5-9 PM. Present the flyer and they will contribute 25% of the proceeds to Santa Cruz al Salvador. So don't cook, take the family out for dinner and enjoy the fellowship of others who will be doing the same thing.

Holiday See's Candy Sale - Candy will be available on Sunday, Dec. 12th.

Delegation Date: December 28, 2010 - January 7, 2011

Coordinator: Chris Madsen chris@kcmadsen.com

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

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 6, Monday at 6:00 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?



Saturday Dec. 18 @ 9:30 am

We will rehearse in the Fellowship Hall then carpool first to Driftwood Health Care Center at 675 24th Avenue, where we will sing at 10:30. After serenading these folks, we will drive to Pacific Coast Manor at 1935 Wharf Road, Capitola where we will again sing for the residents at 11:30. I hope as many of you as possible can be part of this wonderful, annual St. Stephen's tradition.

In Peace ~ Suzanne Duval

From Pastor Jim

So, I am writing this the day after we gathered in the Fireside Room to listen to Marta's faith story. We are also about to celebrate the season of Advent by praying for and inviting to church those who may not have a church home.



Listening to Marta's story of coming to faith at a later age was a powerful reminder that the Spirit of God is eager to love people into the community of faith - the church. Unfortunately there is often a lot of stuff that gets in the way of that happening. Marta shared how she fell victim to the same "Image of Christianity in the Media" that makes us look like intolerant, irrelevant, superficial and less-than-intelligent people who only believe in God because we need a crutch to get through life. Beyond that, there are the scandals of church leaders, priests and pastors involving money and otherwise. Why would anyone want to come to church?

Well, sometimes all it takes is a child-like invitation, as in Marta's case. After several "no-strings attached", simple and unpretentious "Come and see" requests from a child, God found Marta in a place where, for the first time, she was ready to receive the life-changing grace that sustains us all.

This Advent we have an opportunity to be that kind of invitation. The kind that helps to clear away the mounds of stuff that is in the way of someone coming to see and receive the grace of God for the rest of their lives. Beginning right now, enter into a prayer that asks God to show you who and how to invite someone, to join you for church on Christmas Eve. How beautiful it would be to have Marta's story become a more common one at St. Stephen's!

December Happenings

Text Study & Sermon Talk

Join Pr Jim Tuesdays @ 11:00

Boutique & Bake Sale

Dec 5, 8:00 AM - 12 Noon

Advent Wreath Making

Dec 5, 9:30 AM

Lefse Making

Mon, Dec 6, 6:00 PM

Women's Christmas Luncheon

MM/RR Thur, Dec.9, 12:00 PM

Parents' Night Out

Sunday, Dec 12, 4 —8 PM

Friendship Party

Sun, Dec 12, 5:30 PM

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Tuesday, Dec 14 @ 10:30 AM

Christmas Caroling

Sat, Dec 18 @ 9:30 AM

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, Dec 19, 10:30 AM

Blue Christmas Worship

Sunday, Dec 19, 7:00 PM

Church Council

Monday, Dec 20, 7-9 PM

Band

Meets every Thurs at 6:30 PM

Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 PM

Council Highlights

1. Pastor Jim has been re-engaging with some of our activities with COPA since his sabbatical. We now have a new organizer that we are working with here in Santa Cruz County. Annie Willis was recently hired to help Joaquin Sanchez and shore up our work in this area. Annie is from upstate New York and arrives at a crucial time when a number of opportunities are beginning to become realities. As a member of the Community Safety Team, Pastor Jim had been mentoring a new leader from Live Oak, Jorge Savala. Sadly, Jorge and his family found it difficult to remain in Santa Cruz county because of its unaffordability for young families starting out, and they moved to Florida to pursue higher education. Pastor Jim is now the Chair. This summer the Community Safety Team and the Live Oak Family Resource Center (a COPA member) worked with the Sheriff's office to create a new Sheriff's Activity League for Live Oak area youth and children. It was a huge success and involved over 100 underserved youth through a Futsal (indoor soccer) league held at Shoreline Middle School. Potential new community leaders emerged as coaches and volunteers, and a new more positive relationship with Sheriff's Deputies was formed. Pastor Jim is already meeting with Sheriff Phil Wowack to plan and expand the activities for the coming year, including a Jr. Giants baseball program! Plans are also starting for a Youth Center in Live Oak run by the Boys and Girls Club.

<u>Income</u>	Oct '10	Oct '09	Jan-Oct '10	Budget
Contrib.	\$19,904	\$15,572	\$180,275	\$188,466
Misc.	\$327	\$322	\$7,398	\$4,580
Total	\$20,231	\$15,894	\$187,673	\$193,046
<u>Expenses</u>				
Total	\$16,323	\$18,470	\$190,809	\$194,158
Net Inc.	\$3,908	-\$2,576	-\$3,136	-\$1,112

"Faithful Stewards of God's Infinite Grace"

Remember the Oil Crisis in the 70's when there were long lines at the gas pump? The perception was that we were running out of oil. In reality, that wasn't the situation at all. We were not running out of oil. As Larry O'Nan described it, "The core problem was a matter of imbalance, greed, and selfishness. Competition had created an environment where we thought we needed to get something before someone else got it."

Just as perception created an illusion that the world was running out of oil, perception sometimes creates an illusion when it comes to giving to the work of God through the ministry at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. The perception is that, sometimes, our financial resources are insufficient to enable us to give an offering. Some of us think that we simply cannot afford to give.

But that's not the situation at all. Even poverty is not a reason for not giving back to God. The Christians in Macedonia were very poor. As 2 Corinthians 8:2 describes them, they were in "extreme poverty." Yet, even in that situation, they were full of joy and gave as much as they were able — and more. How could they do that?

The reason they gave abundantly, eagerly and willingly out of their "extreme poverty" was that they "gave themselves first to the Lord." That's the secret of giving that honors God. When we give ourselves to God wholeheartedly, without reservation, then we find that giving is a natural outcome. Our perception changes from that of scarcity to one of abundance.

As you consider the resources God has placed at your disposal, like the Macedonian Christians, will you — regardless of your financial situation — first give yourself to the Lord and then let your giving be a natural outcome?



A GOOD MEASURE
PRESSED DOWN
SHAKEN TOGETHER
RUNNING OVER.
LUKE 6:38

Sunday Adult Forums

In between services @ 9:30 - Fireside Room

“Exploring Faith Journeys and Traditions”

**Join Pastor Jim and other leaders as we
take some time to deepen our walk of faith!**

Dec.12- **Candace Anderson** (Altar Guild) colors and paraments of the church year & their meaning

Dec.19- **Lisa Johnson** shares her faith story as someone raised as a PK (Pastor’s Kid).



December Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 12-4 Carol Bobo | 12-18 Molly Mouw |
| 12-5 Ruth Gonzalez | 12-20 Stefan Meek |
| 12-6 Don Smawley | 12-20 Greg Weber |
| 12-7 Donald Daves | 12-21 Kathybelle Barlow |
| 12-8 Kirk Adams | 12-21 Robin Gloe |
| 12-8 Maryann Hurttgam | 12-22 Vern Lillehaugen |
| 12-11 Julie Gilbertson | 12-26 Shay Barsabe |
| 12-12 Zack Larson | 12-31 Darren Crews |
| 12-14 Sheryl Brouse | 12-31 Paul Cunningham |
| 12-15 Robert Bartee | 12-31 Jeanette Dawson |
| 12-18 Todd Johnson | 12-31 Dusty Gipson |



- 12-4 Phil & Peggy Crews
- 12-4 John & Kathy Hopping
- 12-5 Wayne & Jill Adachi
- 12-5 Mike & Ruth Cruddas
- 12-17 Alfred & Ruth Mitchell
- 12-22 Chris & Lorie Juhl

STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

Sheila Buswell, Candace Anderson, Lu Sluiter,
Gwyn Larson, Carol Bobo, & Barbara Bautz.

These gifted women gave their time and abilities to our church by producing works of art to adorn our sanctuary during the Advent season. On Sunday Dec. 12 during worship, we will dedicate our new CHRISMONS! These are the Christian symbol ornaments that will decorate the church’s Christmas tree. This was a long time in the making and when you see the quality of work you will know this offering came from deep within as a way of glorifying God. Thanks!

Prayer Concerns: **Short Term:** June Boudreau, Renie, Kathybell Barlow, Greg Weber, Bill Schraft, Opa Meerman, Dan Meck family, Kaitlyn Cahill, Jill Lapp, Richard Wedemeyer, Joshua, Fred, Madaline Massa, Kaitlyn McKinney, Robe Family, Joan Abler, the Becker family, Linda & Zongar **Long Term:** Clint & Bonnie, Maya & Emma Gipson, Chrissy DeStefano, Nicco Hall DeStefano, Faith Conrad, Paul Hayes family, Betty, Gary W., Zongar Johnson, Allison Bolin, Cathi Decker, Jim Boone, Jeremy, George Trippel, Jean Weiland, Carla Spain, Mildred Belle, Ruth Farrar, Linda Taylor, family of John Cahill, Ron Buswell, Dorothy Ronning, Bonnie Hansen, Susan, Jon & Judy, Peggy, Ned R., Devin Barlow, Alison Barlow, Jeannie Mann, Dorothy Anderson, Shirley Fuqua, Greg & Allison Pate, Aravella, Michelle & C.J. Muchanic, Suzanne Podolski, Wayne Jackson, Martha Beito, Douglas Brown, Chelsea Rocha & family, Brooks & Glenn Leaman, Bob Heppe, Linda Davis, Jeffery Patterson, Mark Gregory, Chris Tury, Cheryl Bayne, Vince Catalano, Jeanette Howe, Ron Waltrip, Ernie, Debbie Jackson, Jo Wishart, Nick Doan, Jan & Jer, Mary Lou McClean, Cathy Lorenzo, Cathy Yost, Bob Nelson, the jobless, Sister Parish, the youth, Our Troops, Pres. Obama & family, Peace & Healing for the earth.

Poinsettia Sale



The annual Poinsettias are sold to support our Youth Group. 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 your plant home to enjoy for the rest of the holiday season. Sign up, or call the office. **\$15 to "St. Stephens Youth Group" by Dec. 5.**



Youth Corner

It's that most wonderful time of the year again, a time of wonder and joy. I think it's important for us all to help spread that joy to those around us, especially to those for whom this isn't a joyous time of year. Remember to offer smiles and kind words to those you meet; that small act could brighten someone's day! This also tends to be a very hectic time of year for most of us, so we will be keeping the Youth Group activities light through the end of the year. Remember that Confirmation class will be starting up again in the New Year, and Youth Group will return to weekly meetings, so reserve your Sunday nights for us!

Youth Group Meeting— Sun. Dec. 5th 6:30-8:00pm
Eat dinner beforehand, and meet in the Sanctuary

Parents' Night Out—Sun. Dec. 19th 4:00-8:00pm
Got some last minute shopping to do? Just want a little bit of Grow-up Time? Let the Youth Group watch your children for a few hours! We will provide games, crafts, dinner and a movie.

Peace, Love and Joy to all ~ Lydia 421-0996

ATTENTION MUSIC LOVERS!

Classical Piano Concert
Thursday, December 9 at 7:00pm



Mark your calendar for an evening of music from the Masters- Chopin, Mozart, Liszt and others. You are invited to hear a live classical piano concert performed by Susan Flaskerud Rathmell, a fellow Lutheran. The concert is sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. A freewill offering will be taken and all proceeds will be donated to Lutheran World Relief.

St. Stephen's COPA Core Team
Sunday Dec. 5 @ 11:45 am
Fellowship Hall

- Review proposed 2011 and 2012 COPA calendar of activities
- Discuss the COPA retreat (January 16 / 17 offsite) and determine who can attend
- Determine COPA Core Team meetings for 2011
- Discuss how best to connect with the Congregation

Interested persons are invited to attend

2011 Offering Envelopes Are Here

Pick up from the table in the entrance. Note that numbers have been reassigned. Remember to bring your "Estimate of Giving Card" and "Time & Abilities sheet"

Blue Christmas Worship Service

Sunday, December 19th at 7 p.m.

St. Stephen's will be offering a Blue Christmas Service -- a time when the "blue" feelings many people experience during the holidays can be acknowledged.

This is not a joyous season for everyone. Greetings of Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays, non-stop caroling, parties, and pageants, and other traditional ways of celebrating the holidays often contrast sharply with the feelings of people for whom it's not "the most wonderful time of the year." For families suffering from the recent or impending death of loved ones or in crisis due to illness or any other kind of loss, or for those who suffer from Christmas depression or other mental illness, it can be a very isolated and lonely time.

In this Blue Christmas Service, all those who are not having a very Merry Christmas for whatever reason, and the friends who support them, are invited to come and be with one another in a liturgy that speaks of the compassionate love of God for His hurting people. Together we will offer up our pain, sorrow, anxiety, and loneliness to the One whose birth we commemorate -- our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is our prayer that those who attend will be blessed with peace, hope, and especially the comfort of knowing they are not alone.



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 Wednesday Dec. 15th in order to have them delivered in time for La Posada. Volunteer drivers needed. Thank you for all you have done throughout the year for Davenport. We are still collecting Winter items (blankets, coats etc.)



Circle's Christmas Boutique & Bake Sale

Sunday, Dec. 5th from 8:00 to noon

We will need: breads, cakes, pies, candy, nuts, and craft items too. Please wrap your baked goods in cellophane and tie with a red or green ribbon. Boutique items can be brought between 1:00 and 3:00 Saturday. Baked goods no later than Sunday 8:00 am. Lu & Hjordis will price items. Questions, call Lu 475-8418

Sunday School News

Preparations are underway for our Annual Christmas Pageant. We are busy costuming, learning lines, working on stage directions and delving into the story of Jesus birth. This is such a fun and exciting time for our students.



We are inviting members of our congregation to be an even bigger part of our Annual Christmas Pageant. We are asking you to create a unique poem to be read by the students during the **pageant to be held on Sunday, December 19th during the 10:30am service.**

- The topic is "Children serving God".
- The invitation is open to all ages.
- The winning poem will be read after the singing of "O Come All Ye Faithful" and before the telling of the Nativity Story (just to give you some background and setting info...).
- All entries must be submitted by Sunday, December 5th before the 10:30 service to be considered. We will be making our decision during Sunday School that day.

We will also be having a **birthday party for Jesus on December 26th.**
Thanks, Dusty 338-3787

Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca Circle

Christmas Luncheon Thursday, December 9 @ noon

Please join us at the home of Lu Sluiter (141 Cabrillo Street, Capitola) . Lu Sluiter and Lois Meeker are preparing a soup luncheon complete with salad, bread and dessert. All ladies are invited to attend.

RSVP to Lu at 475-9418 by December 7.

Friendship Christmas Party

Dec. 12th at 5:30 pm

Lu Sluiter's Home—141 Cabrillo St., Capitola

RSVP 475-8418 by Dec. 10

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

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



December Worship

December 5

Ushers 8:15—Volunteer
Ushers 10:30—Hurttgams
Reader 8:15—Elke Spires
Reader 10:30—Volunteer
Assistant 8:15—Janet Slay
Assistant 10:30—Connie Creel
2nd Assist. 10:30—Barbara Rice
Acolyte—Volunteer
Coffee 8:15—Renie Leaman
Coffee 10:30—Don Smawley

December 12

Ushers 8:15— Volunteer
Ushers 10:30—Hurttgams
Reader 8:15—Theresa L.C.
Reader 10:30—Barbara Bautz
Assistant 8:15—Volunteer
Assistant 10:30—Tom Eagle
Acolyte—Jesse McMilin
Adult Forum—Candace Anderson
Coffee 8:15—Janet Slay
Coffee 10:30—Volunteer

December 19

Ushers 8:15—Fuquas
Ushers 10:30— Hurttgams
Reader 8:15—Volunteer
Reader 10:30—Connie Creel
Assistant 8:15—Volunteer
Assistant 10:30—Barbara Rice
Acolyte—Nelleke
Adult Forum - Lisa Johnson
Coffee 8:15—Rebecca W. & Jean C.
Coffee 10:30—Volunteer

December 24—Christmas Eve

Ushers 5:00—Volunteer
Ushers 5:00—Volunteer
Ushers 7:30—Volunteer
Ushers 7:30—Volunteer
Reader 5:00—Volunteer
Reader 7:30—Volunteer
Reader 11:00—Volunteer
Assistant 11:00 PM—Volunteer
Acolyte 5:00—Volunteer
Acolyte 5:00—Volunteer
Acolyte 7:30—Volunteer
Acolyte 7:30—Volunteer
Altar Guild 5:00 PM—Theresa L.C.
Altar Guild 7:30 PM—Marla Meek

December 26

Ushers 8:15—Volunteer
Ushers 10:30—Hurttgams
Reader 8:15—Volunteer
Reader 10:30—Vi Olly
Assistant 8:15—Volunteer
Assistant 10:30—Volunteer
Acolyte—Volunteer
Coffee 8:15—Volunteer
Coffee 10:30—Volunteer

Altar Guild for the month —
8:15 Kathy Allen
10:30 Jill Adachi

November 7

Ushers 8:15—
Cunninghams
Ushers 10:30—

