



ST. STEPHEN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

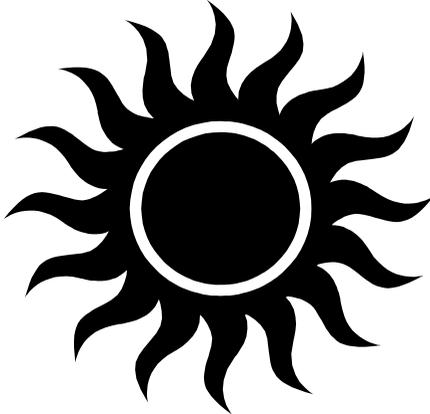
8:15 am Worship Service
Coffee Hour
9:30 am Choir rehearsal
10:30 am Worship Service
& Sunday School

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

Non-Profit Org.
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Soquel, CA 95073

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**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
May24, 2010**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 55
Years of Ministry
Summer 2010

Vacation Bible School
June 14-18
9am-12 noon (at St. Stephen's)
Children entering K through those entering 5th grade

On our VBS Friendship Trek we will explore God's Word in a fun and meaningful way while making new friends. On Thursday June 17th at 6pm we will also have our annual ice cream social and VBS performance. This is a wonderful way for our entire congregation to see what is going on at VBS and give our children the chance to share what they have learned with friends and family.




Parents Night Out
June 19th 5:30 to 8:30 pm
Drop off your child for dinner, and fun activities with the Youth Group

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 Abler

Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30am—2:30pm

Summer Pastor = Rev. Herb Schmidt 423-5777



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.

(Sister Parish Continued)

The next delegations:

Nov. 19 to 27, 2010: The deadline for commitment for this delegation was June 1. If you want to go on this delegation, contact Ruth Cruddas (768-1580) to find out if there is still space available.

Dec/Jan: The exact dates of the second delegation have still 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.

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*

"Gracias" again and again and again for your support.



El Salvador Sister Parish News

July 17 is the annual Rummage Sale. Plan to bring your items to the church on Friday, July 16 between 1:00 & 5:00. Call Chris Madsen at 438-1593 if you need someone to pick things up for you or if you need to arrange another time.

Two other summer events with dates to be announced: Woodstock Pizza Night and Surf City Billiards night - opportunities for a night out with the family and the above establishments will donate part of their proceeds to *Santa Cruz al Salvador*. Stay Tuned!

Recycling: "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Help Renew a Country". Something new we are going to try. Look for *Santa Cruz al Salvador* bins where you can bring your recycling, which we will then take to a Recycling Center for you. Or call Chris Madsen if you need them picked up at your home.

The third Sunday of the month Kent Madsen will be selling Fair Trade Coffee. Call him (same number as for Chris) if you need coffee sooner and he will bring it to you.

Ruth Cruddas, Jill Adachi, Lisa Johnson and Chris & Kent Madsen are going to El Salvador Aug. 4-12 "just for fun". We would be happy to bring letters or cards if any of you want to send one to your prayer child.

From Pastor Herb Schmidt



I want to congratulate St. Stephen's Congregation for following our ELCA & Synod Guidelines and providing a short-term Sabbatical for your Pastor every seven years in recognition of his faithful service among you. In a sense, during this period from June through August he will be on a spiritual pilgrimage, or vision quest reflecting on his role and your congregational challenges for future ministry. During this period he will also spend 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness as part of his time of reflection and spiritual renewal, something our Lord did as well, to seek God's call to ministry. He should return with renewed energy and new ideas for your work of ministry together here in this community.

But a Sabbatical is also good for you as a congregation. It helps all of us realize that each member of this church is part of the ministry. It is not just the pastor's work. We are all called as ministers in God's service. As your Sabbatical Interim Pastor I will be working part time and that will give us opportunities to share this ministry. That's a good thing. We will all grow from this experience and be better prepared to do GOD'S WORK WITH OUR HANDS.

Although I won't be full time, I DO want to be available and make sure there is good Pastoral care during this period. Feel free to call me any time at church or at my home study, where I will do some of my work (831 423 577). You can e-mail me at graceherb@aol.com. I also am planning a Text Study for the coming Sunday s and a sermon talk back time every Tuesday at Church from 11:00 a.m. to noon. All are Welcome. Of course it will be good to have one of your former Pastors, Glenn Johnson, to continue working with your Eucharistic ministers and we hope Pastor Roy Hoch will be recovered so he can participate as needed.

I look forward to working with you during these three months and pray that it will be a time of reflection and renewal for us as a congregation as we seek the Spirit's direction for our future. It is a special blessing that I will continue to serve with you as a member of St. Stephen's after this sabbatical time. May God bless this time to be a fruitful experience for us all.

(Pastor Schmidt is a retired Campus Pastor having served Stanford, the University of Arizona, and UCSC. He also was pastor of Messiah Lutheran before that and Professor at California Concordia College. In retirement he has served as Dean of our Conference, many Interims, and five different tours of duty working as Pastor of the Bukit Doa International Church in Bali. He and his wife Grace are members of St. Stephens.)

Summer Happenings

Text Study & Sermon Talk

Join pastor Herb
Tuesdays 11:00 All are welcome!

Church Council

Next meeting: June 21,
July 19, August 16 @ 7-9 PM

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Tuesdays, June 8, July 13,
Aug 10 @ 10:30 AM

Knitting

Meets every Thurs. at 6:45 PM

Scotts Valley Bible Study

Meets the 1st & 3rd Fridays,
June 4 & 18, July 2 & 16,
Aug 6 & 20 ~ 10:00 AM
Spring Lakes Park Party Room
Contact Marshall B. 439-8979

Women's Combined Circles

MM / RR meets Thur ~ June 3
Salad Luncheon @ Lu Sluiter's
~ 12:00 PM
NO MEETINGS JULY & AUGUST

Youth Group

June 5—Pizza / Movie night
June 19—Parent's night Out
Aug. 28—Atomic Bowling

Rummage Sale

Sister Parish & Boy Scouts
Sat, July 17

Council Highlights

1. Devotions reminded us that Jesus has “left us behind” with the Holy Spirit in order to be his Body in and for the world. The church is important because it is the instrument God has chosen to bring about God’s hopes for the world. We all have gifts to share to participate in God’s work and we need to encourage everyone to use them through the church.

2. Pastor Herb Schmidt joined us and he and Pastor Jim outlined the transition for Pastor Jim’s sabbatical. This will be acknowledged in the May 30 worship service.

3. Pastor Jim reported that he has been elected to the Mt. Cross Board for a 3 year term. Manda Truchinski, a recent seminary (Chicago) graduate, has been hired by Mt. Cross as Food Services Director. We may be able to be a sponsoring congregation to help her receive a special circumstances ordained call to the ministry at Mt. Cross. We will work with the Bishop’s office to achieve this goal.

4. Approved a temporary A.A. group to meet twice. Denied facility use request for an AARP driver safety program due to lack of space and set dates.

5. Mark Linder attended a statewide event in L.A. with other COPA members that is addressing the foreclosure crisis and encouraging our government to hold financial institutions more accountable.

6. An “Option to Lease” agreement with Mid-Peninsula Housing is being drawn up. A strategy to approach a re-zoning proposal to the Board of Supervisors is also being worked on by the COPA Housing Strategy Team.

| <u>Income:</u> | <u>Apr '10</u> | <u>Apr '09</u> | <u>Jan-Apr '10</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Contrib.- | \$16,853 | \$18,966 | \$77,636 | \$75,684 |
| Misc. | \$1,290 | \$1,220 | \$4,029 | \$1,840 |
| Total | \$18,143 | \$20,186 | \$81,665 | \$77,524 |
| <u>Expenses:</u> | | | | |
| Total | \$19,867 | \$21,035 | \$81,054 | \$75,215 |

Why Our Offerings Are Important

“Empowered by God—Responding by Grace”

“ . . . ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you” (Luke 11:9).

God has a wonderful “system” by which we as God’s children are to get our needs met. It’s a very simple “system,” but somehow, we fail to utilize it as we should. Here’s the plan: God says we are to ask. Is that simple or what? We are to bring our needs before God, to bring our petitions to God’s heart. But somehow, we must think that this plan is too complex, for with most of us, asking God is the last thing we do when we have needs.

Oh, we’ll tell our friends. We’ll discuss our needs with any and all who have the patience and courtesy to listen. We’ll frequently complain about our problems, even to the extent of sometimes holding God responsible for God’s seeming failure to provide for us. But ask God? Usually we’ll do that only as a last resort.

The result is a sad state of affairs among Christians. “You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures” (James 4:2-3). So our needs go unmet because either we do not ask or we ask with wrong motives.

J. Irvin Overholtzer was a pastor who was greatly used by God as the founder of Child Evangelism Fellowship. His philosophy of providing for the financial needs of this world-wide organization was this: “Ask God . . . and tell God’s people.” Yes, we need to share our needs with others. We ought to make others aware of opportunities for them to get involved in being used of God to meet those needs. But the *first* step in the entire process is this: “Ask God.”

And when we do, we can claim the promise stated so clearly in Jeremiah 33:3 — “Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

Say, do you have needs in your life today? Why not “ask God”? Why not come boldly before God? Why not take God at God’s Word and ask? That’s God’s plan for God’s children: “. . . ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you” (Luke 11:9).

Or as Eliza Hickock wrote a century ago, “I know not by what methods rare, but this I know: God answers prayer!”

Thank You

Hello St Stephen's!

On behalf of my parents and my brothers, I would like to thank you all for bringing meals to my parents, Roy and Mary Jane Hoch. My Dad's illness has been quite an ordeal and we are so very happy that he is recovering. Your meals were such great support ... It has meant a great deal to my dad in particular.

Blessings to you all!

Beth Hoch



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®

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You are invited to attend an Economic and Investment Update presentation hosted by Thrivent, your financial representative Mary Elizabeth Bellizzi, and your Local Santa Cruz County Chapter Board. There is no cost to attend this informational event.

When you have a better understanding of the factors that affect financial markets and trends, you can make more informed investment decisions.

Thursday, June 10th

2:00 pm Marie Calendars (3400 Clares St. Capitola)

Or

6:30 pm Seascape Country Club (610 Clubhouse Drive, Aptos)

The guest speaker will be Ed Browning, Regional Manager of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Please call Mary Elizabeth at 688-1788 with any questions.

Summer Birthdays

| | | | |
|------|-------------------|------|----------------------|
| 6-1 | Johnatha Anderson | 7-11 | Shirley Fuqua |
| 6-1 | Jim Hanson | 7-11 | Chris Tury |
| 6-2 | Nancy Daves | 7-12 | Arija Buswell |
| 6-2 | Timothy Johnson | 7-14 | Rachel Parker |
| 6-4 | Marilee Gregory | 7-15 | Nancy Houser |
| 6-5 | Sara Jett Lund | 7-17 | Donald Ray |
| 6-5 | Lauren Pond | 7-18 | Scott Medling |
| 6-6 | Tara McMilin | 7-18 | Gary Meeker |
| 6-6 | Joseph Ronning | 7-19 | Darvin Awe |
| 6-7 | Chanel Helgueros | 7-19 | Katie Moe |
| 6-8 | Gladyce Berg | 7-21 | Cheryl Bartee |
| 6-8 | Steve Young | 7-22 | Kevin Meek |
| 6-10 | Glenn Johnson | 7-23 | Martha Balogh |
| 6-10 | Kirk McMilin | 7-24 | Sherilyn Jager |
| 6-12 | Ruth Mitchell | 7-24 | Ingrid Nore |
| 6-12 | Madeline Mouw | 7-24 | Julia Poetzinger |
| 6-14 | Stephanie Dawson | 7-25 | Terri Adams |
| 6-16 | Mike Cruddas, Jr. | 7-26 | Kelsey Olson |
| 6-16 | Donald Daves | 7-27 | Mark Linder |
| 6-17 | Truett Bobo | 7-29 | Kylie Ronning |
| 6-19 | Kim Brouse | 7-30 | Scott Lorenz |
| 6-20 | Abigail Robe | 7-30 | Hendrik Meerman |
| 6-21 | Jenna Mabry | 7-31 | Barbie Grow |
| 6-26 | Bonnie Bell | 8-1 | Marcella Constantine |
| 6-29 | Michael Nunes | 8-1 | Noah Lorenz |
| 7-1 | Lisa Pawalkat | 8-2 | Roy Hoch |
| 7-2 | Linda Bernard | 8-3 | Robert Gipson |
| 7-2 | Vi Olly | 8-3 | Renie Leaman |
| 7-3 | Margaret Elkins | 8-4 | Nicholas Bernard |
| 7-6 | Scott Poetzinger | 8-5 | Martha Beito |
| 7-7 | Susan Greene | 8-9 | Lydia Abler |
| 7-7 | Chelsea Larson | 8-10 | Daniel Grow |
| 7-9 | Sandi Crouser | 8-14 | Orville Lindquist |
| 7-10 | Kyle Lapp | 8-14 | Renee Rice |

| | |
|------|-------------------|
| 8-14 | James vonSchmacht |
| 8-15 | Ruth Cruddas |
| 8-15 | Susan Oldfield |
| 8-17 | Brad Cramer |
| 8-18 | Derek Poetzinger |
| 8-19 | Evelyn Millang |
| 8-22 | Darleen Krohn |
| 8-25 | Leah Powers |
| 8-27 | Ed Parker |
| 8-27 | Leslie Lapp |
| 8-27 | Delores Price |
| 8-28 | Rachel Lapp |
| 8-30 | Emma Gipson |

Happy Anniversary

| | |
|------|--|
| 6-3 | Roy & Mary Jane Hoch |
| 6-4 | Greg & Ruth Weber |
| 6-11 | Bob & Ruby Heppe |
| 6-11 | Kirk & Tara McMilin |
| 6-22 | John & Lorie Coronado |
| 6-23 | Chris & Tasha Turzo |
| 6-28 | Kirk & Terri Adams |
| 7-1 | Robert & Dusty Gipson |
| 7-3 | Tom Eagle & Barbara Bautz |
| 7-5 | Scott & Anne Medling |
| 7-12 | Frank & Evelein Millang |
| 7-17 | Orville & Edna Lindquist |
| 7-18 | Manny & Patricia Travers |
| 7-28 | Charles & Sandra Eldridge |
| 7-30 | Jim Hanson & Kathy Griffith |
| 8-3 | Steve Campbell & Theresa Loback-Campbell |
| 8-6 | Mark Linder & Mary Dean |
| 8-15 | Ross & Barbara Johnston |
| 8-18 | Vern & Linda Lillehaugen |
| 8-20 | Ed & Kathy Parker |
| 8-28 | Daniel & Barbie Grow |



Youth Corner

First and foremost, I would like to thank all of the youth and their parents for a wonderful Spring session. We will have our final meeting of the Spring on Sunday May 23rd before breaking for the Summer.

Now, we won't be taking the entire Summer off, but we will be keeping our meetings at a minimum out of respect for other Summer plans. We have three events planned for the Summer, BRING FRIENDS!!!:

Saturday June 5th

5:00-7:30pm

Pizza & Movie Night at St. John's Episcopal Church in Aptos

Saturday June 19th

5:30-8:30pm

Parents' Night Out

The Youth Group will host an evening of dinner, crafts and movies for the younger kids of our congregation, to give their parents a chance to get out for some "grown-up" time. We will be asking for a small donation to cover the cost of dinner.

Sunday August 29th

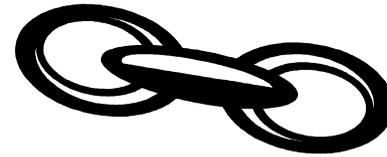
6:00-8:00pm

Atomic Bowling at the Boardwalk Bowl

Thank you, again, to everyone for making this Spring a success! Have a wonderful Summer, and I'll see you at our planned events!

Lydia Abler, Youth Director

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



"Craigslist" and Human Trafficking by Truett Bobo

Though it is not widely known, Craigslist.com is enjoying huge profits from its on-line sex advertising. Connecticut's Attorney General stated earlier this month (May) that their ads for prostitution and sex trafficking could be as high as \$36 million per year, based on published reports.

Last year Craigslist announced that they were removing the erotic services section due to pressure that they had received from the anti-trafficking community, and this news was received with some fanfare. However, according to some experts in the field of human trafficking, there has been little change at Craigslist except to re-name the category as "adult services." These ads exploit women and children by providing an easy way for predators to find their prey.

In spite of the obvious, Craigslist claims that what they are doing is legal and denies that their web site is related to the trafficking of victims. And, until now, there has been a determined resistance to any change on their part.

Anyone interested can address this issue to going to:

http://humantrafficking.change.org/petitions/view/tell_craigslis_t_to_make_real_change_in_the_adult_services_section_of_craigslis_t

and signing the petition on that page. If you do, you will probably receive an email from Craigslist that seeks to paint a civil or wholesome portrait of their business, but you can do your own research on the subject and make up your own mind. You might want to start with a recent New York Times article:

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/04/technology/04craigslis_t.html

THANK YOU for supporting Kyle's trip to our sister synod in Rwanda, as a representative from our Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee. June 26—July 10.

He has met his goal of raising \$1,300 to cover the half of the trip cost not covered by a special fund through Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Any funds raised over the goal will go towards helping some of the other 18 youth who are attending, but who may not have the same kind of support Kyle has received.

It has been an overwhelmingly generous and quick response. You are an amazing congregation!



Circle's Spring Luncheon

Thurs, June 3 at 12:00

RSVP Lu Sluiter 475-8418
141 Cabrillo Street, Capitola

All Women are invited!

Bring a salad to share.

Sunday School News

Summer is here! The potluck / celebration marked the end of our Sunday School year and the beginning of our summer fun. The format for our children's program changes a little in the summer. We hope that your families will be able to join us.



Sign up NOW for VBS
June 14-18

Volunteers are still needed to help with class!



Ice Cream Social & Children's program
Thursday, June 17th at 6 pm

During the summer we offer Children's Church. It starts on June 13th and ends on August 29th and happens during the 10:30 service just as Sunday School does. It is a more relaxed time for our kids to explore God's word. This summer we will be getting to know the 12 disciples a little better. We hope to see your family there.

Mark your calendars for Rally Day September 12th during the 10:30 service. Rally Day is when we kick off our exciting new year of Sunday School. It is also the day Sunday school resumes. Sign up for Sunday school and a variety of other church activities on that fun morning.

As with all of our programs it takes a lot of hands to make them happen. Please check your calendars and let me know if you would like to help out with any of these activities.

Sincerely, Dusty Gipson 831-338-3787



New Members

The Catalan Family—Juan & Roxana
and their two children Ana & Rafael

Beverly Hickman

The Lyons Family—Michael & Diana
and their two children Mia & Michael Jr.

Shauna Warda

STEWARD OF THE MONTH

Jean Peterson

Jean has always shared her gifts from God with our church. It has been second nature for her to find a way to serve God by volunteering her time in any number of ways, including on our church council and finance committee. Recently, she has become a regular and very welcome presence in our office, assisting Leslie with all sorts of projects. But what I am most grateful for lately, is her caring for people who are hurting. Often times the pastor is the last one to find out that one of our members is in the hospital or suffered some kind of setback. This month Jean wisely alerted me to a such a situation. Thanks for caring for our church family Jean!

Greetings from Lutheran Campus Ministry of Monterey Bay

We continue to offer Lutheran presence on UCSC and CSUMB Campuses. First of all, I want to thank you for your continued support of this ministry through prayers, financial donations, and volunteers.

I am looking forward to visiting St. Stephen's Church on June 16, but I would also like to share a little bit about the highlights of the ministry at UCSC Campus this school-year. It has been a challenging year at UCSC in many ways, not the least of which are the cuts in budget and services that university provides while increasing student fees. The Campus has seen several protests, one of them resulting in the property damage. It has affected the emotional climate when it comes to both, students and staff on Campus. Through this year, I have had multiple opportunities to share God's love with both, students and staff in these challenging times. Here are some of the highlights of our ministry on Campus:

- Last year, most of the students that I was working with either graduated or transferred. I am happy to see a small student leadership team has formed, and I am looking forward to continuing working with them next year.
- We have held small groups Bible Study on Campus and plan to continue.
- We have been actively involved in serving in the community, including participating in Habitat for Humanity builds, gleaning with AG Against Hunger, co-sponsoring Three Cups of Tea event during which money was raised for building schools in Afghanistan, and painting at La Familia Center.
- We organized Advent and Ash Wednesday worship services on Campus.
- We continue to connect students to the local Lutheran Church by providing rides and helping them get involved in the ministry of the church.
- Especially this year, I have spent time supporting students through certain crisis and connecting them to additional help when needed.
- We co-sponsored several educational forums on Campus, including "What Does Jesus Look Like in Sudan" forum
- I continue to actively participate in University Interfaith Council (UIC) serving as a VP. As a result of UIC ministry, the University has decided to offer Faith and Spirituality Theme housing and has asked UIC to provide programming for students. It opens new opportunities to uphold the importance of faith on Campus.

This Ministry is supported by the ELCA, local Lutheran congregations and Thrivent Financial. We ask for your continued prayers and financial support as we are striving to serve young adults on both campuses.

Inese Dahl, Lutheran Campus Minister, UCSC
Tel. 831 241 3367, e-mail: inese@messiah-lutheran.us