



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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**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
Oct. 26, 2010**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 55
Years of Ministry
November 2010

Harvest Celebration Sunday

"Faithful Stewards of God's Infinite Grace"

November 21 – Bring your commitments

As we are empowered by God, we respond by grace by first giving ourselves to God. When that happens, our resources—which are gifts on loan to us from God—will follow. By faith, as God enables us, let's strive to:

- Pray regularly for the ministry of our church.
- Attend worship services often and seek to interest others in attending with us.
- Be available to follow God's leading in working in and through our church.

Give financially to support the work of the Spirit through our church in 2011.



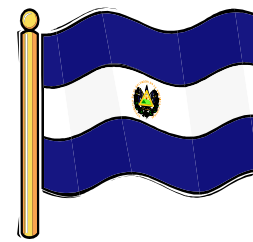
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
 Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
 2500 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, California 95062
 Phone—831-476-4700 — Fax—831-476-3918
 www..ststephenslutheran.org
 email—office@ststephenslutheran.org
 Rev. James P. Lapp, Pastor

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

In less than a month, the first of our two delegations will be leaving for El Salvador. We ask that you keep us in your prayers. There are many ways in which to continue your support of our work in the communities of Guillermo Ungo.

TO ALL SPONSORS - If you would like to send a gift, card or picture to your prayer child, we suggest you do so with the first delegation because currently there are more members which means more room in our luggage. The deadline is Sunday, November 14th. Please see examples of gift bags displayed in the Narthex.

NOVEMBER IS SISTER PARISH BENEVOLENCE MONTH. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. We have several programs: school scholarships (K-HS), university scholarships, health clinic and the Lutheran Church of El Salvador. You may also designate which program(s) you wish to support.

PUPUSA MEAL - Sunday, November 7th from 9-1. Come and enjoy delicious Salvadoran pupusas, salad, fruit and dessert. Tickets will be sold at the door. Cost: \$10/adult, \$4/Child

HOLIDAY SEE'S CANDY SALE - Begins Sunday, October 31st and ends November 28th. Avoid the long lines at the store and order your candy from us. Candy orders will be taken every Sunday after both services. Candy will be available on Sunday, December 12th.

OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDS AND "HEALTH KIT" ITEMS NEEDED - antihistamines, ibuprofen, acetaminophen, antibiotic creams, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar of soap, washcloths, combs. Items can be placed in the blue basket located in the Narthex.

Delegation Date: November 19-27, 2010

Coordinator: Ruth Cruddas cruddasm@pacbell.net

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

Coordinator: Chris Madsen chris@kcmadsen.com

GRACIAS!

Fall House Meetings

The Church Council invites you to an opportunity. We will be having house meetings on Sundays at St. Stephen's. The meetings will focus on updating the five year plan and considering capital improvements we want for our church. We will also be asking about a possible Capital Campaign. The house meeting schedule is as follows:

November 7 at 9:30 & 11:45
and
November 14 at 9:30 & 11:45

All sessions will be in the Fireside Room. There is a sign up sheet on the way out of both services.

Copies of the five year plan, which has not been updated for two years, will soon be available on the St. Stephen's website and will be available hard copy at the house meetings.

The results of the house meetings will be compiled and presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in January.

Thank you for participating.

Mark Linder



From Pastor Jim

In some ways it was not all that big of a deal that our Bishop Mark Holmerud joined us for worship. It was something he regularly does as part of his understanding of his call as Bishop and we weren't celebrating any kind of anniversary or other special occasion. But for me, it was one of the Sundays that I will always remember as a pastor at St. Stephens. For me that Sunday symbolized the end of something I have struggled with ever since I became a pastor 17 years ago.



It had only been 4 years since two Bay Area churches had been kicked out of the newly formed ELCA for calling openly gay or lesbian pastors, when I became a pastor in Santa Rosa. For all my years as a pastor we argued at the Synod Assembly and watched our Bishop deal with incredibly difficult situations. And now, all that is over. And now, we are more truly a church of God's grace. And now we are more truly a relevant church of the future. And now I am more excited and proud to be a pastor in this church than I ever have been!

Our fun celebration honoring our Bishop and having so many of you in church that Sunday was a real boost to my spirit as I reflected on all those years gone by. Sometimes I felt bad for our Bishop and sad that some churches have decided to leave the ELCA. It must be, at times, a great burden to be the one who oversees the leaving of these churches. At the same time I felt relief and new sense of peace that we are part of a church that can now move ahead with our mission of sharing God's grace with ALL people. What a gift it was to have the baptism of little Enzo Salandro as part of our worship that day as well. His wide-open eyes as I walked him up and down the aisle embodied the hope I have for our church and its future.

November Happenings



Daylight Savings Ends Nov. 7

Text Study & Sermon Talk

Join Pr Jim Tuesdays @ 11:00
All are welcome!

Church Council

Monday, Nov. 15, 7-9 PM

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Tuesday, Nov. 9 @ 10:30 AM

Knitting

Meets every Thurs. at 6:45 PM

Youth Group

Sunday, Nov. 7, 6 PM—8 PM
Jr. High retreat Nov. 12-15

Women's Combined Circles

MM/RR meets Thur ~ Nov. 11
~ 10:30 AM Fireside room

Pupusa Meal

Nov 7, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

House Meetings

Sun. Nov. 14, 9:30 & 11:45 AM

Council Highlights

1. In response to our Gospel reading for the Bishop to "Pray Always" from Luke 18, we spent our devotion time in prayer. After some silence we offered up petitions of "Kyrie" (Asking for God's mercy and help) and petitions of "Gloria" (Thanking God). As leaders, it is important to actually be and do what we say and proclaim in our weekly worship. It was a powerful time as we shared our burdens and joys with each other to God.
2. Pastor Lapp reported that he attended the annual Professional Leaders Conference. It was held in Tahoe City for the first time. Usually it is held at Asilomar in Pacific Grove. The theme was "Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Christian Ethics for Today". The conference challenged pastors and other rostered leaders to use the lessons of one of our martyrs as we face ethical decisions in our communities and in our nation. The church cannot shrink away from the public square, but must raise its voice when it sees things going wrong.
3. The Finance Committee will be meeting with our Thrivent Rep. Mary Elizabeth Bellizzi, to discuss how our investments with them are doing and if we want to make any changes. These funds came to the church years ago as part of a deceased members bequest.

<u>Income</u>	Sep '10	Sep '09	Jan-Sep '10	Budget
Contrib.	\$13,883	\$15,971	\$160,371	\$169,669
Misc.	\$3,083	\$853	\$7,071	\$4,120
Total	\$16,966	\$16,824	\$167,442	\$173,789
<u>Expenses</u>				
Total	\$17,353	\$20,521	\$174,486	\$176,757

(Offerings continued)

One of the ways in which we demonstrate our love for God is through giving. If we give out of a sense of obligation or because "the church needs the money" or because we feel we have to give, we miss the point of 1 Corinthians 13:3. We also miss the blessing that comes from giving out of a heart motivated by our love for the Lord. When we give because of that motivation, our giving provides a tangible expression of our love for Him as we give in response to His love and grace.

As the offering plate passes by you next Sunday at church, you might want to pray this prayer of thanksgiving and commitment: "Lord, thank you for loving me before I could love you. Thank you for demonstrating your love by dying on Calvary for me. And thank you for the privilege of giving to you today as I worship you through this expression of my love for you."

As you consider not only next Sunday's offering, but equally important, your on-going financial support of the ministry at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, what is your response to God's love for you?



Why Our Offerings Are Important

“Empowered by God—Responding by Grace”

One of the most familiar of all Bible passages is 1 Corinthians 13, which is known by many as the “Love Chapter.” Many people — Christians and non-Christians alike — have committed part or all of these thirteen wonderful verses to memory. But most people probably do not realize that one of the greatest truths concerning giving is taught in this passage.

The Apostle Paul, writing under the direct and divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit, said, “If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.” In other words, according to this verse, our giving is to be motivated by love. If it is not, then it has absolutely no value to us.

The question here is not how much we give, or how frequently we give, or the manner in which we give, but **why** we give. And it is based on the principle taught so clearly in Romans 5:8, “But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners, Christ died for us.” When we were nothing but sinners, Christ died for us. When we had nothing but the refuse of sin in our lives, Christ died for us. When we were “strangers” to God’s promises, Christ died for us. Long before we could ever love Him, He provided convincing evidence of His love for us by dying for us on Calvary. And that’s why “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

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November Birthdays

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 11-2 Zachary Hayes | 11-17 James Abler | 11-26 Linda Ronning |
| 11-5 Sandra Eldridge | 11-17 Ariela Turzo | 11-26 Shauna Warda |
| 11-6 Kaitlyn McKinney | 11-18 Dorothy Anderson | 11-29 Kathy Griffith |
| 11-7 Brian Coronado | 11-18 Henrietta Howard | |
| 11-7 Dorothy Ronning | 11-19 Isaiah Brouse | |
| 11-8 Suzanne Duval | 11-19 Briana Juhl | |
| 11-8 Lorie Juhl | 11-19 Jessica Juhl | |
| 11-10 Amanda Cunningham | 11-20 Hilding Ronning | |
| 11-12 Gwyn Larson | 11-22 John Hopping | |
| 11-13 Colin Boyle | 11-22 James Jones | |
| 11-14 Barbara Johnston | 11-22 Parker Scott | |
| 11-16 Stephen Cappelloni | 11-23 Xavier Spain | |
| 11-16 Christine Madsen | 11-24 Bill Anderson | |
| | 11-24 Lindsey Cramer | |
| | 11-24 Kathy Johnson | |
| | 11-25 Barbara Brochinni | |
| | 11-25 Brian Brouse | |



- 11-3 Joanne Freymuth
 11-26 Julius & Connie Creel
 11-26 Howard Mason
 11-27 David & Martha Balogh

Prayer Concerns: **Short Term:** Renie, Tex Ronning, Kathybell Barlow, Greg Weber, Bill Schraft, Opa Meerman, Dan Meck family, Kaitlyn Cahill, Jill Lapp, Richard Wedemeyer, Joshua, Fred, Madaline Massa, Kevin, Stefan, Irene, Marsha, Marge, Julie G., Bob N., Aunt Lone, Jacob, Daniel G., **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.

Youth Corner

Sunday Nov. 7 - Youth Group
6:00-8:00pm ~ Tacos, talk & fun

Nov. 12 - 14 - Junior High Retreat
"God's Gym—Exercise Your Faith"



Sign up now! Visit spsyc.org for details. Friends are welcome. What an honor to have 3 teens serving on this unique & wonderful committee!!! Congrats to Rachel Lapp & Maddie Mouw on your recent election. They will help lead this event!

Saturday Nov. 20 - Baking event, 2:00-4:00pm

Sunday Nov. 21 - Bake Sale, between services. To raise funds for the Western States Youth Gathering in July.

Save the Date:

Sunday Dec. 19th - Parents' Night Out, youth host younger children—games and activities from 4:00-8:00pm.

During December, we will also be selling poinsettias. Watch for sign-up sheets, as we will need Youth Group members available between services for the sales.

Lydia Abler c: 408.319.1413

Collect Food Labels For The Navajo Lutheran Mission

You can help The Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission at Rock Point, Arizona earn free merchandise such as computers, audio/visual equipment, physical education equipment, reference books, musical instruments or even a mini-van, simply by collecting Campbell UPCs and dropping them off at church in the box in the Narthex.

It's easy to pitch in. Simply save product UPCs (bar codes) from any of the following eligible Campbell products:

- All *Campbell's*® soups
- *SpaghettiOs*® Pasta
- *Campbell's*® beans, gravies, and canned pasta
- *Prego*® Italian sauces
- *Swanson*® stocks, broths and canned poultry
- *Campbell's*® tomato juice
- *Pepperidge Farm*® breads, cookies, and frozen products
- *Pepperidge Farm*® *Goldfish*® crackers
- All *V8 Splash*® Beverages
- All *V8 Fusion*® Beverages
- *Campbell's*® Foodservice products

Help multiply our efforts by asking your friends and family to collect UPC's (bar codes) on behalf of our church. Leslie Lapp is coordinating this effort for our church. Contact her at 476-4700 for any questions. Visit www.NELM.org



New Members

Laura & Zachary Hayes
Patrick , Leanne, and Enzo Salandro
Cynthia & Campbell Smith

Plan Ahead For the Holidays . . .

ELCA Good Gifts — Order now!

See lwrgifts.org or 1-800-597-5972 for meaningful gifts that inspire leadership, nourish the hungry, and heal the sick .
Including LWR fair trade coffee.

Davenport Gift Tree—Watch for tree in church
Provide Christmas joy for a child or two.

Holiday Boutique & Bake Sale — Dec. 5

We will need: breads, cakes, pies, candy, nuts & craft items.

Advent Wreath Making — Dec. 5

Norweigan Lefse Making — Dec. 6

“Uff-da”, the dough is tricky, but so yummy!
Need griddles...you betcha!

MM / RR Christmas Luncheon — Dec. 9

Friendship Group Christmas Party — Dec. 12

Don't miss the infamous, fun-filled, gift exchange game.

Christmas Caroling — Dec. 18

Share the joys of the Advent and Christmas Season with our
Convalescent parishoners at Driftwood Health Center.

Sunday School News



Dear Sunday School Families, Thanks so much to those who joined us for Family Movie Night. As always, it is so much fun to get together with people in our church family and this evening was no exception. So glad to see some new faces join us too. In October our Sunday School students, with the help of our congregation collected 60 bars of soap for those in need. They have been shipped to Lutheran World Relief who will distribute them to victims of natural disasters all over the world. Thank you to all who participated. This month in Sunday School we will be...

November 7 - Conclusion of Old Testament study
and mini book summary project

November 14—Giving thanks craft

November 21 - Pageant preparations begin

November 28 - Pageant preparations and sharing memory verse
with congregation during children's time.

**Mark your calendars for our annual Christmas Pageant to be held during the 10:30 service on December 19th. We can use help in all areas of our pageant. Please take a look at your calendars and let me know if you can help in any way.

Each month I will be challenging our Sunday School students to memorize a short bible verse. Our memory verse for the month of November is

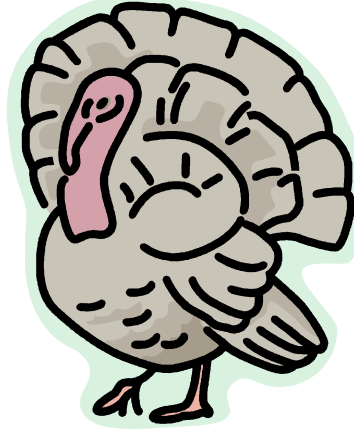
“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
his love endures forever.” -1 Chronicles 16:34 (NIV)

Please help and encourage your students to memorize this verse. Let me know if you have any questions or ideas about our program.

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

Mary Martha / Ruth Rebecca Circle

**Thursday, November 11
10:30 AM in the Fireside Rm.**



Please join us for an interesting presentation by Ms. Erika Heron, Director, Davenport Resource Center. Erika will speak about the ways we can help the Davenport Resource Center during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Bring a sandwich. Coffee and dessert provided.
Hostesses: Margaret Schraft and Connie Cunningham
All Women are welcome!

STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

Jan Wagner, Ruth Mitchell, Don Smawley,
and the Cappelloni Family

Thank you, all of you, for how you welcomed our Bishop Mark Holmerud on Sun. Oct. 17th! By hosting an extra-good coffee time you shared your gifts of hospitality with him and our whole church. Not even the rain could dampen our spirits that day as we shared in all the goodies you brought. It helped us linger a little longer and remember why church is so wonderful. Thanks for your witness of how doing a little more goes a long way.

November Worship

November 7

Ushers 8:15—Cunninghams
Ushers 10:30—Volunteer
Reader 8:15—Elke Spires
Reader 10:30—Marta Bechhoefer
Assistant 8:15—Bill Schraft
Assistant 10:30—Connie Creel
Acolyte—Volunteer
Adult Forum—Barbara Johnston
Coffee 8:15—Volunteer
Coffee 10:30—Volunteer

November 14

Ushers 8:15—Volunteer
Ushers 10:30—Volunteer
Reader 8:15—Doris Ray
Reader 10:30—Mark Linder
Assistant 8:15—Ruth Cruddas
Assistant 10:30—Robert Bartee
Acolyte—Jesse McMilin
Adult Forum—Rev. Ron Koch
Coffee 8:15—Cunninghams
Coffee 10:30—Volunteer

Altar Guild for the month —
8:15 Theresa Loback-Campbell
10:30 Barbara & Candace

Assistants

November 21

Ushers 8:15—Volunteer
Ushers 10:30—Medlings
Reader 8:15—Barbara Johnston
Reader 10:30—Connie Creel
Assistant 8:15—Glenn Johnson
Assistant 10:30—Volunteer
Acolyte—Nelleke Meerman
Adult Forum—Marta Bechhoefer
Coffee 8:15—Volunteer
Coffee 10:30—Volunteer

November 28

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

