



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.  
Postage Paid  
Permit #79  
Soquel, CA 95073

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**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON  
Sept. 23, 2010**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



# Sun

Celebrating 55  
Years of Ministry  
October 2010

Sunday, October 17  
Rev. Mark Holmerud  
BISHOP of our Sierra Pacific Synod

Bishop Mark will be preaching at our worship services & will share his faith journey at 9:30 in the Fireside Rm. He is visiting at his request as part of his calling to be a shepherd of the 200+ churches of our Synod. Let's all be there to welcome him and share how God is working among us!



*You are the  
BODY of CHRIST,  
and individually  
members of it*

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

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 continued)

huge success and is very much appreciated by parents, students, and teachers, we also have the following programs:

University Scholarships - each year the graduating students have to decide whether their family can afford for them to go on to college or return to work in the fields to help support the family. We currently provide partial scholarships for 10 students. The annual cost for a student to attend the National University is \$1,200. We are encouraging vocational schools also.

Health Clinic - Dr. Roxana Orellana is new to the clinic as of February. When we met with her during our August visit, we were thrilled to learn that she has some great ideas about the clinic and is putting together her vision and plan for 2011. For the past two years we have been able to provide \$10,500 annually in support of the clinic. What we are able to give them depends on our ability to raise funds beyond the scholarship needs.

The Lutheran Church in El Salvador - we continue to meet with Bishop Medardo Gomez during each delegation. This past summer the Bishop of our Synod, Mark Holmerud, experienced life in El Salvador and expressed his appreciation for the work being done there. Our goal for this year is \$1,000.

OTC Medications 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.

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



## El Salvador Sister Parish News

Exciting news this year - we have two delegations going to visit our sister community in Guillermo Ungo. The November delegation dates are 11/19-27. We have 19 members, 5 of whom are going for the first time. The December delegation dates are 12/28/2010 to 1/7/2011. There are still openings for the December delegation so if you are interested in joining it, please contact Chris Madsen by 11/1/10 438-1593 or [chris@kcmadsen.com](mailto:chris@kcmadsen.com).

We ask that you keep all of the delegation members in your prayers as we prepare for and embark on our visits. We hope to share highlights of both trips early in 2011.

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 Partners Brochure. Our goal is to enhance your relationship with your prayer child and to help our organization identify opportunities to improve on our communications and support of the community. If you would like to send a gift, card or picture to your prayer child you can let us know when we contact you. There will be examples of gift bags displayed in the Narthex.

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

Pupusa Meal – Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 9-1. Tickets will be sold in advance starting Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, as well as at the door. Cost: \$10/adult, \$4/Child

Holiday See's Candy Sale – Begins Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> and ends November 28<sup>th</sup>. Candy will be available on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

School scholarships (K-HS graduation) remain our first priority when providing grants. In addition to our school scholarship program, which has been a

## From Pastor Jim

( I will share more about my sabbatical on Sun. Oct.10 at 9:30 am in the Fireside Rm.)



At our first council meeting since my return from a 3 month sabbatical, I led devotions that centered around Luke 16:19-31 and an article from The Christian Century. The article was reminding us that the human brain is changing the way it functions with the onset of so much electronic technology so quickly in our culture. In the scripture reading, the story of the rich man's wanting to warn his five brothers NOT to neglect the things of God, has implications for how we are so easily distracted from the things of God and our faith.

The article by Harvard Divinity School professor Stephanie Paulsell, outlined how it is being scientifically proven that the very neural pathways of our brains are adapting to our new technologies by bypassing the parts of the brain we use for contemplation, reflection and expressing our faith and integrating our beliefs into our lives.

My sabbatical time also confirmed this in my own experience and was valuable beyond measure as a way to increase my capability for "sustained attention" to matters of the heart and spirit. I was stunned by how much of a difference it made to my mind and spirit to be unplugged from modern life for extended periods of time in the Alaskan wilderness with my son Kyle. Kyle also found the time to be invaluable as a way of being able to process and reflect on the profound experience of traveling with the Synod Youth Committee to our other sister Synod in Rwanda. Looking back he said, "Being able to have that kind of slower, quieter time in Alaska was exactly what I needed after the intense experience of Rwanda. I'm not sure I could have re-entered modern life very well".

Things have and are changing very rapidly. Even our brains are having to adapt in unprecedented ways. The result is that human beings capacity for faith and "sustained attention" to matters of the spirit is being diminished and bypassed. Is that what we want? In this particular time, being an active part of your church may be more important than it has ever been. Participating regularly in worship and the ministry we offer are wonderful, re-focusing and attention-sustaining experiences that draw us nearer to our true source of life and energize our spirits for a fuller life as God intended.

I am so glad to be with you in these endeavors and am so blessed to have been given the time to experience them myself. THANKYOU!

## October Happenings

### Text Study & Sermon Talk

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

### Church Council

Monday, Oct. 18, 7-9 PM

### Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Tuesday, Oct. 12 @ 10:30 AM

### Knitting

Meets every Thurs. at 6:45 PM

### Youth Group

Sunday, Oct. 3, 6 PM—8 PM

### Women's Combined Circles

MM / RR meets Thur ~ Oct. 7  
~ 12:00 PM Fireside room

### Dinner Groups

Saturdays, Oct. 2 & 9

### High School Retreat

Oct. 15-17 Mt. Cross

### Family Movie Night

"Prince of Egypt" Fri, Oct. 22 6:15  
A good one for adults as well!

### Property Work Day

Saturday, Oct. 23, 9 AM—1 PM

### Altar Guild

Saturday, Oct. 23, @ 9:30 AM

### Baptism

Oct. 24 Enzo Salendro @ 10:30

## Council Highlights

1. Rev. Herb Schmidt was asked to attend the beginning of the meeting so that the council could formally thank him for his service as pastor while Pastor Jim was on a sabbatical. He was presented with a leather organizer and card signed by all. Pastor Herb thanked the council for the opportunity to serve and said he felt like having this time helped him heal from his severe bout with the shingles. He then encouraged us to join with other local churches in sponsoring a community-wide seminar on the topic of "Jesus, Politics and Empire" which will bring two of the leading biblical scholars on the Gospels to Santa Cruz in March.
2. Pastor Jim reported that he has been elected as Treasurer of the Mt. Cross Board. He asked for prayers for the camp as they had a very low summer and received \$66,000 less summer income than anticipated. Also the camp's reserves have been spent down by @ 25% in one year. Fortunately, the reserves are still healthy and there are some large retreat groups this Fall.

<u>Income</u>	Aug '10	Aug '09	Jan-Aug '10	Budget
Contrib.	\$20,344	\$19,169	\$146,488	\$150,872
Misc.	\$316	\$419	\$3,988	\$3,660
Total	\$20,660	\$19,588	\$150,476	\$154,532
<u>Expenses</u>				
Total	\$19,276	\$17,701	\$156,330	\$154,514
Net. Inc.	\$1,384	\$1,887	-\$5,854	\$18

### (Offerings continued)

Dr. Forrest had received "*without payment,*" and he gave "*without payment*" (Matt. 10:8). He typified the kind of giving that God expects each of us to demonstrate as we respond to His good gifts by giving back to Him what was rightfully His in the first place.

Charles Stanley wrote this: "When God deals with us, it is always in abundant grace. He is lavish with His love and forgiveness. None of us can ever repay Christ for what He did for us at Calvary. He generously gave His life so we could enjoy eternal life." He went on to say, "There are two kinds of people: givers and keepers. . . .If you decide to be a keeper, you will miss God's richest blessings. But when you give yourself away, you will reap the goodness of God."

That's because it is impossible to outgive God who has a unique accounting system. He never divides; He always multiplies. Will you trust Him today by giving generously to Him who "*richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment*" (1 Tim. 6:17)?



## Why Our Offerings Are Important

### “Empowered by God—Responding by Grace”

In 1935, Dr. R. A. Forrest, president of Toccoa Falls College in Georgia, embarked on a trip to visit former students who were serving the Lord on the mission field. R. G. LeTourneau, a prominent Christian businessman, heard him speak in Omaha and was very encouraged by what he heard. The night before Dr. Forrest sailed to Japan, a letter arrived at his hotel containing a check from Mr. LeTourneau for \$1,000. Mr. LeTourneau thought it would be nice if Dr. Forrest “had some money in his pocket as he went around the world to give to folks in a tough spot.”

Dr. Forrest was elated and kept a detailed accounting of how he used that money to minister to people in need. When he returned to New York, he mailed the records to Mr. LeTourneau. A few days later, a reply came from Mr. LeTourneau that simply read, “Come see me.” When Dr. Forrest arrived at Mr. LeTourneau’s office in Peoria, he found a man who was deeply moved by Dr. Forrest’s record of changed lives. He said, “If you can be trusted with \$1,000 and make that kind of impact, you can be trusted with \$10,000” and gave him a check in that amount.

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## October Birthdays

- 10-3 Pauline Acronico
- 10-3 Pastor Jim
- 10-3 Becky Smawley
- 10-4 Cheryl Bayne
- 10-7 Rozella Weyant
- 10-9 Stephanie Cramer
- 10-12 Matthew Bernard
- 10-13 Halcyon Abler
- 10-13 Janet Slay
- 10-14 Tom Dawson
- 10-16 Luke Adachi
- 10-18 Naomi Florin-Gosciminski

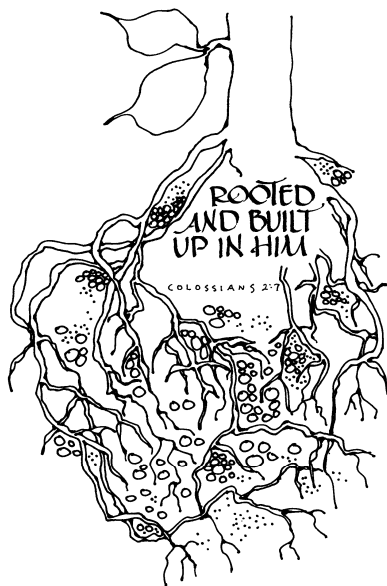
- 10-21 Ruth Webber
- 10-24 Tom Eagle
- 10-24 Noelia Monteagudo

- 10-25 Mildred Bell
- 10-25 Bill Schraft
- 10-29 Michael Cappelloni



- 10-2 Joel & Maryann Hurttgam
- 10-11 Darvin & Partice Awe
- 10-21 Gary & Lois Meeker
- 10-30 Robert & Cheryl Bartee

**Prayer Concerns:** **Short Term:** Renie, Greg Weber, Bill Schraft, Opa Meerman, Dan Meck family, Caitlin Cahill, Jill Lapp, Lorena P., Crystal, Gary W., Jan H., Eleanor Zoellner, Joshua, Fred **Long Term:** Clint & Bonnie, Maya & Emma Gipson, Chrissy DeStefano, Nicco Hall DeStefano, Faith Conrad, Paul Hayes family, Gary W., Zongar Johnson, Cathi Decker, Jim Boone, Jeremy, George Trippel, Jean Weiland, Carla Spain, Jim Abler, 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, Finn Becker & family, Nathaniel Morris, 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

The Youth Group will be meeting the first Sunday of every month through December, as well as having one other activity each month. Confirmation class will resume in January, so during the fall, Youth Group will involve both Jr. and Sr. High youth. Invite your friends!!!

Sunday Oct 3rd - Youth Grp. 6-8:00pm  
Spaghetti, conversation & games

Oct 15 - 17 - Senior High Retreat  
(visit [www.spsyc.org](http://www.spsyc.org) for details).

Saturday Oct 23 - Hiking at Fall Creek in Felton, 2:00-4:00pm

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

Nov 12 - 14 - Junior High Retreat Visit [www.spsyc.org](http://www.spsyc.org).  
We will be registering as a group.

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

Sunday Nov 21 - Bake Sale, between services

Lydia Abler  
h: 831.421.0996 c: 408.319.1413

## St. Stephen's is part of eScrip



eScrip is a fundraising program that provides resources to organizations and projects that support children. Participating business partners contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty cards, credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to the organization of your choice. Safeway and Macy's are just two examples of local businesses that participate. A complete list of participating merchants can be found at <http://www.escrip.com/merchants/search/index.jsp>.

Here is how it works: you sign up by going on-line and registering your Safeway grocery card or a debit/ credit card that you use. As a result, a percentage of money that you spend at any of the participating stores will automatically come to St. Stephen's. Currently, the money is allocated towards the youth group to help with costs for any trips and retreats. It does not cost anything to enroll, and the pennies add up!

You can sign up on-line now at [escrip.com](http://escrip.com) (our Group ID# is 500002433). If you are unable to go on-line to enroll directly or have questions about the program, please contact Robin Gloe at 477-9447 for assistance.

If you are already signed up with eScrip with another organization, you may still participate for St. Stephen's because your contribution may be split up to three (3) ways. Remember you need to renew each year.

Thank you for your support.



## Time for Dinner Groups

**Sat, Oct. 2 and / or Sat, Oct. 9**

**These are great times of fellowship for us to help build our sense of Christian community by sharing a meal and good conversation together!**

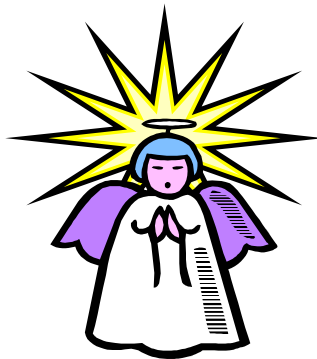
**Groups are 6-10 people, potluck to gourmet feast...host decides! Sign up for which date(s) you are available and if you can host! Contact Jill Adachi 426-5950**

## Fall House Meetings

**The St. Stephens house meetings this fall will be very interesting and important!** The Church Council is considering a capital projects campaign in conjunction with the possible agreement with Mid-Peninsula Housing to develop 25-27 affordable senior housing units St. Stephens property. A capital projects campaign could make this unique opportunity for service to seniors in our community an opportunity to do more for our mission and ministry at St. Stephens.

We have learned that the most successful house meetings are those conducted at St. Stephens on Sundays around the time of our services. The house meetings this fall will focus on possible capital projects at St. Stephens. This is an opportunity to share your ideas and dreams. From upgrading or moving the kitchen, to enlarging our fellowship hall, to a new bathroom near the front of the church, to purchasing the adjacent property, to an endowment to provide additional staff. The results of the conversations will be presented at the annual meeting along with proposed next steps. The house meetings will be facilitated by a Council member or a member of the COPA core team. They will run for one hour. **The house meetings will begin on Sunday, October 24 and end on Sunday, November 14. You will be able to select which meeting works best for you. The meetings will be at 9:30 or 11:45.** As we get closer to October 24 more specific information will be sent to you. I hope you will join in on this exciting conversation about our ministry and mission in Santa Cruz county.

**Thanks, Mark Linder**



To the Angels of St. Stephen's -

THANK YOU for all your support, prayers, and gourmet meals you have sent the past several weeks. I'd never have made it without you.

Love & Blessings, Renie

## Sunday School News

We hope that you enjoyed Rally Day and found some opportunities to serve or get more involved in the ministries of our church. We have so many amazing things going on here. It is a very exciting time! Thanks so much to everyone who brought soap for our Lutheran World Relief soap collection. I have spoken with a few families who forgot to bring the soap they hoped to so I will leave the box in the Narthex until Sunday October 10th.

This month in Sunday School we will be exploring more stories of the Old Testament through reading, crafts, games and drama. We will also be learning the names of the Old Testament books through song. I continue to be impressed by the thoughtful and insightful questions and comments our Sunday School children present during our studies. Our kids are amazing!!!

Don't forget to mark your calendars:

Free Family Movie Night  
Friday October 22  
The Prince of Egypt  
(an animated story of Moses)

6:15— fun Egyptian crafts  
6:30 sharp—movie begins

Popcorn and water will be provided. Invite your friends to join us for this fun event.

Sincerely, Dusty Gipson Sunday School Coordinator  
831-338-3787 home [dustygipson@yahoo.com](mailto:dustygipson@yahoo.com)



## Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Circle - A Pumpkin Invitation



An orange pumpkin  
Big and round,  
Sat oh, so still  
Upon the ground.

He sat and wished  
With all his might  
That you would come  
To chat with delight.

Thursday, October 7— 12:00 noon in the Fireside Rm.  
Service Projects will be discussed,  
Join us for devotions with Pastor Jim, fellowship, lunch and fun!

## STEWARD OF THE MONTH

# Vi Olly

**Thank you for caring for God's church and creation! Your work with our library, worship band, and visitor bags are meaningful ways to show your thanks for God's grace in your life. We are also inspired by your commitment to not owning a car as a significant way to do what you can to take better care of God's earth. Your choices of discipleship challenge us to remember that all we have belongs to God!**

## October Worship

### October 3

Ushers 8:15—Cunninghams  
Ushers 10:30— Volunteer  
Reader 8:15—Elke Spires  
Reader 10:30—Chris Madsen  
Assistant 8:15—Volunteer  
Assistant 10:30— Connie Creel  
Acolyte— Volunteer  
Coffee 8:15—Janet Slay  
Coffee 10:30—Henrietta Howard

### October 10

Ushers 8:15— Volunteer  
Ushers 10:30— Volunteer  
Reader 8:15—Barbara Johnston  
Reader 10:30—Marta Bechhoefer  
Assistant 8:15—Sheila Buswell  
Assistant 10:30— Volunteer  
Acolyte—Jesse McMilin  
Coffee 8:15— Volunteer  
Coffee 10:30—Bev Hickman

### October 17

Ushers 8:15—Cunninghams  
Ushers 10:30—Volunteer  
Reader 8:15— Volunteer  
Reader 10:30— Volunteer  
Assistant 8:15—Ruth Cruddas  
Assistant 10:30—Mark Linder  
Acolyte—Nelleke Meerman  
Coffee 8:15—Volunteer  
Coffee 10:30—Volunteer  
Adult Forum—Bishop Holmerud

### Assistants

### October 24

Ushers 8:15— Volunteer  
Ushers 10:30—Volunteer  
Reader 8:15—Theresa L.C.  
Reader 10:30—Mark Linder  
Assistant 8:15 - Janet Slay  
Assistant 10:30— Volunteer  
Acolyte— Volunteer  
Coffee 8:15—Volunteer  
Coffee 10:30—Volunteer

### October 31

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

Altar Guild for the month —  
8:15 Margaret  
10:30 Marla

