



ST. STEPHEN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

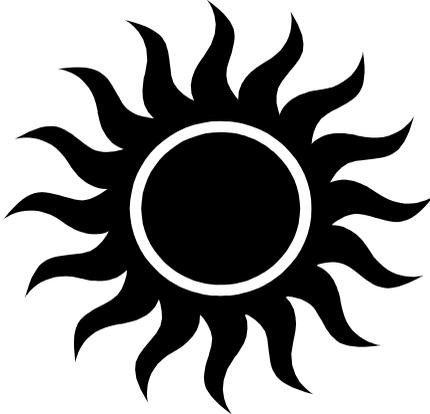
8:15 am Worship Service  
Coffee Hour  
9:30 am Choir rehearsal & Adult Forum  
10:30 am Worship Service  
& Sunday School

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  
May 24, 2011

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 57  
Years of Ministry  
June 2011

Vacation Bible School

June 20-24 from 9am-12 noon (at St. Stephen's)

Invite Friends, grand children, and neighbors! On our VBS "Backyard Campout" we will explore God's Word in a fun and meaningful way while making new friends.

VBS Performance & Ice Cream Social

Thursday, June 23 rd at 6pm

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

Summer WORSHIP Schedule JULY 3 – SEPT 4  
One service @ 9:30 am



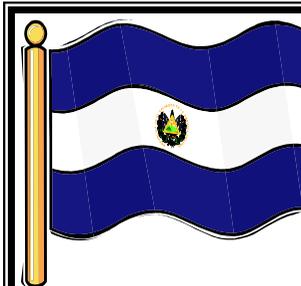
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church of America  
 2500 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, California 95062  
 Phone—831-476-4700 — Fax—831-476-3918  
 www..ststephenslutheran.org  
 email—office@ststephenslutheran.org  
 Rev. James P. Lapp, Pastor

Ministers: The Entire Congregation  
 Church Council: Pres. —Robert Bartee, V. P. —Paul Powers,  
 Treasurer—Tom Eagle, Secretary—Scott Medling,  
 Property—Don Smawley, Kim Cappelloni, Barbara  
 Rice, 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  
 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

Many were visibly moved as Pastora Norma shared with us how she came to be a Lutheran in a patriarchal Roman Catholic society. During lower points in her life, a small miracle would appear and God's plan was revealed. There were 3 things that jumped out during her sermon:

- 1- The Lutheran Church embraced women in the pastoral role.
- 2- The Salvadoran people don't want our charity, but accompaniment.
- 3- We are all just the details in God's plan. Don't place so much importance on us. God will always be at work. Don't get in the way.

The question of how the church relates to certain unjust ways in our country continues to arise. It was clear from the story about "Vampire Corporations" (ie Coca-Cola) why American Christians have responsibility to the people who produce the goods that we consume. Stay tuned next month for an in depth account of the Salvadoran's visit.

June 25: Wine Tasting at Bargetto's Winery 3—5 pm \$25

Music - will be provided again this year by Colin Boyle, his friend Simon and Jesse McMilin. We may even have a special appearance of a flamenco guitarist friend of Jill and Wayne Adachi)

Silent Auction - back by popular demand . . . there will be a wonderful opportunity to bid on a host of gifts from local establishments

July 9: Rummage Sale— save the date and save your stuff! Ok to start bringing in your donations during office hours.

## Connecting global and local mission: 'No one is irrelevant'

(Excerpt from [www.livinglutheran.com](http://www.livinglutheran.com))

Bjorn Peterson's involvement with the ELCA and its Global Mission gatherings has him all fired up about the church. "I think it's the most exciting time ever to be in the ELCA," he says. "The church is not dying. It's being pruned ... and there's a new kind of blossom that looks different from what the plant used to."

The 28-year-old from Nativity Lutheran in Bend, Oregon is careful to add that this isn't about throwing out the old to bring in the new. "This is the trajectory of where the church has been going. It's not separate from where the church has been but is the natural consequence of it." Some people say they don't recognize the church anymore. He encourages them to see the changes as "God's evolution of what has been to what is to be" and says it's a natural progression. It's not about some people being irrelevant. It's about "how God is becoming relevant to new people and how we can all get behind that," says Bjorn. "No one is irrelevant."

The ELCA Mission Gatherings are a great place for conversations, Bjorn says — conversations about connecting global and local mission work, about working side by side no matter what age, about how the church is moving from colonialism to creating in a collaborative way.

The conversations are about expanding capacity, says Bjorn. That gets at the heart of the ELCA's emphasis on accompaniment as the model for both global and local mission. The ELCA's resource materials on mission define this model as walking together in such a way that "gifts, resources and experiences are shared with mutual advice and admonition to deepen and expand our work within God's mission."

Sound familiar? Stay tuned to our Sister Parish News...

## From Pastor Jim

On Ash Wednesday, Sara Miles from St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco, walked in the Mission District with about a dozen others, all dressed in black cassocks, offering people the imposition of ashes on their foreheads. A mother unwrapped her week-and-a-half old baby boy and held him up. Miles crossed his forehead with ashes and said the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The mother said, "Thank you" - as did everyone else who received the ashes that day. Why, Miles wondered, would people say thank you when they are told they are going to die? "Because it's the truth," she decided. "And ashes on the skin show that, despite all the lies of our culture, nothing is hidden, or pretended, or made-up anymore. We are walking, as the Gospel tells us, in the light." (Journey with Jesus, April 17).

I like to think of St. Stephen's as such place where despite all the lies of our culture, we gather to lift up the truth of God's Spirit among us where nothing is hidden or pretended or made-up anymore. I hope you see your participation in our church as an affirmation of living life in the truth of God - seeking to bring that message to a culture that is too often easily deceived into thinking that there is something more worthy of our dedication and devotion than God. May all that we do lead us into the light of God's truth and will for all creation. Thank you God for loving us even when we hide or pretend or make-up something more valuable than you. Bring us into your light and truth. Amen.



## June Happenings

### Adult Forum

Sundays 9:30 AM Fireside

### Text Study & Sermon Talk

Join Pr Jim Tuesdays @ 11:00

### COPA Core Team

Sunday, June 5 at 11:45

### Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca

Thursday, June 9, 12:00 PM

Margaret Schraft's home

### Youth Car Wash

Sunday, June 26

After both services

### Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 PM

Yarn Dying June 18 at 9am

### Parent's Night Out / Campout

Saturday, June 18 @ 6:00 pm

### Church Council

Monday, June 20, 7-9 PM

### VBS June 20 - 24, 9 AM - 12

### Kids Program & Ice Cream

June 23 6:00 pm

### Sister Parish Wine Tasting

June 25 @ Barghetto's

### Benevolence Offering

World Hunger

## Council Highlights

1. Devotions reminded us that the church is the Body of Christ in the world and that we need to have regular check-ups to see if we are a healthy body. In his report to the Synod Assembly, our Bishop Mark Holmerud provided us with a check-list for what a healthy congregation looks like. We fit many of the characteristics, but there were some areas we need to pay attention to.
2. We welcomed a special guest from ElderFocus, a non-profit that advocates for the needs of seniors and who is helping Mid-Pen Housing apply for the federal funding. He led us in an exciting discussion about the possible shared and new programs and relationships we might have with the residents of the new senior housing. These ideas were compiled into a letter along with a resolution that the council passed stating that we are committed to expanding existing programs, creating new programs and developing lasting relationships with other organizations in our community that will provide services for the senior residents.
3. Pastor Jim reported on his attendance at the Synod Assembly in Burlingame. Bishop Medardo Gomez, who in the mid-80's was abducted, imprisoned and tortured for his faith which called him to speak for the poor, was the guest of honor and preached at our worship. Kyle and Rachel Lapp attended as youth delegates. Resolutions regarding equitable pastoral compensation, and offering an alternative budget were passed. A \$1.7 million gift was received from the sale of Golden Gate Lutheran Church in San Francisco.

### **(Faithful Stewards continued)**

measure we give, we will in turn receive.

Jack Hartman, a Christian businessman, said it this way: “. . . the more we give to God, the more this opens the channel for God to see that we receive abundantly in return. If we withhold our giving, we are actually withholding the blessing that God wants to give us.”

Someone described non-essentials in life as “. . . playing Scrabble on the *Hindenburg* or rearranging deck chairs on the *Titanic*.” Maybe that's a picture of how you view giving — as a non-essential, something not very important in the totality of life. Could it be that is why your needs are not being met in full?

Think about this: What would happen if you began to place a rightful priority on your giving, even to the point of giving sacrificially? You see, you would then have the “right” to claim Philippians 4:19 with the expectation that in response to your giving, God would meet all of your needs. Your obedience to God's direction in your life to give would then result in having God meet your needs, even with the same “measure” that you give.

Remember, “We do not give to get, but when we give, we get.”



# WHY OUR OFFERINGS ARE IMPORTANT

## *“Faithful Stewards of God’s Infinite Grace”*

Here’s a little true or false test. Be forewarned that the question is somewhat tricky. True or false: A Christian can expect to have all of his or her needs supplied by God.

On the surface, that would seem to be true. After all, Philippians 4:19 says, “*And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*” But what many people fail to realize is that this promise is a conditional promise. The reason God will supply all of our needs is based on Philippians 4:18 where the Apostle Paul describes how his needs were met by the Christians at Philippi through the sacrificial offering which they had sent to him.

In other words, although those first-century Christians gave to Paul with the desire of assisting him in his ministry to the early church, because of their giving, they earned the “right” to expect that God would fully meet all of their needs. Because of their willingness to share their resources with Paul, as he indicated in Philippians 4:17, fruit would abound to their account. They could then look to God to supply all of their needs. Although they did not “give to get,” they would “get” because they gave.

That same principle holds true today. As one person expressed it so well, “*We do not give to get, but when we give, we get.*” That’s what the Lord Jesus said in Luke 6:38. He indicated that by whatever measure we give, we will in turn receive.

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## June Birthdays

- |      |                   |      |                  |      |               |
|------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|---------------|
| 6-1  | Jim Hanson        | 6-10 | Enzo Salandro    | 6-17 | Truett Bobo   |
| 6-1  | Johnatha Anderson | 6-12 | Ruth Mitchell    | 6-19 | Kim Brouse    |
| 6-2  | Nancy Daves       | 6-12 | Madeline Mouw    | 6-20 | Abigail Robe  |
| 6-4  | Marilee Gregory   | 6-14 | Stephanie Dawson | 6-21 | Jenna Mabry   |
| 6-5  | Lauren Pond       | 6-16 | Mike Cruddas     | 6-29 | Michael Nunes |
| 6-6  | Tara McMilin      | 6-16 | Donald Davies    |      |               |
| 6-6  | Joseph Ronning    |      |                  |      |               |
| 6-8  | Gladyce Berg      |      |                  |      |               |
| 6-8  | Steve Young       |      |                  |      |               |
| 6-10 | Glenn Johnson     |      |                  |      |               |
| 6-10 | Kirk McMilin      |      |                  |      |               |



- |      |                       |
|------|-----------------------|
| 6-3  | Roy & Mary Jane Hoch  |
| 6-4  | Greg & Ruth Weber     |
| 6-8  | Marilee Gregory       |
| 6-11 | Kirk & Tara McMilin   |
| 6-22 | John & Lorie Coronado |
| 6-23 | Chris & Tasha Turzo   |
| 6-28 | Kirk & Terry Adams    |

**Prayer Concerns:** **Short Term:** Family of Dorothy Anderson, Lois Meeker, Jan Wagner, Ruth Mitchell, Jean Calvert, Gail & Nancy, Renie Leaman, Beverly Gilladett, Greg Weber, Margaret & Bill Schraft, Zongar Johnson & family, Josh & Michelle, Trevor Lorenz, Mike Brag, Harold Vaughn, Eddie Fococci, Alan Giersberg, Mark Griffon, Jill Lapp, Richard Wedemeyer, Madaline Massa, Mike & Christine Huska, Babe, Windy & family, Rick, Jacob, Steve, Joe & Elsie, Jan, Johnny, Diane, Randy, Bruce, Volpi Family & Riley, Mickayla, Jean Reeder, Hoppings, Larry, Marino, Mark, Thomas Milnes, Kemberly Jerkins, Sherry, Steve, Wetterhorn family, Kim Beer, Jan Flemming, Jacqueline Hernandez, Bryan Stowe, PC Dawson Family, St. Stephen’s VBS **Long Term:** Kaitlin Cahill, Opa & Nana Meerman, John Meerman, Dan Meck Family, Craig Hayes, Dorothy & Gary, Robe Family, Kaitlyn McKinney, Clint & Bonnie and family, Maya & Emma, Donald Salter, Chrissy DeStefano, Nicco Hall DeStefano, Betty, Faith Conrad, Paul Hayes family, JoAnn, Eric Hedsrom, Jim Boone, George Trippel, Jean Weiland, Carla Spain, Mildred Belle, Linda Taylor, Ron Buswell, Dorothy Ronning, Bonnie Hansen, Jon & Judy, Peggy, Dorothy Anderson, Shirley Fuqua, Greg & Allison Pate, Aravella, Michelle & CJ Muchanic, Suzanne Podolski, Wayne Jackson, Chelsea Rocha Family, Brooks & Glenn Leaman, Bob Heppe, Jeffery Patterson, Mark Gregory, Chiris Tury, Cheryl Bayne, Vince Catalano, Jeanette Howe, Ron Waltrip, Jo Wishart, Cathy Yost, the jobless, Sister Parish, the youth, our troops, Pres. Obama & family, Peace & Healing for the earth.

## Youth Corner

Thank you so much for your support at the Easter Breakfast, and in purchasing Easter Lillis. Your donations make participating in these meaningful events possible. We will be offering a few more opportunities for the kids to "work" their way to L.A. The "L.A." stands for both Los Angeles this summer, and Louisiana next summer for the National Gathering IN New Orleans!!!!



Sunday, June 26

9:30—10:30

and 11:45 on

Tickets are available in advance,  
or on the spot...see Julie Mouw.

## Parent's Night Out & Campout

Saturday, June 18

6:00 pm

(children over 5 are invited to  
sleep over, bring sleeping bag)

Drop off your child for dinner & fun activities with the Youth Group & Dusty  
RSVP 476-4700. Suggested donation \$20 (or what ever you are able)



An illustration featuring a "Rummage Sale" sign with a dollar sign, a brown suitcase with "SALE" written on it, and another dollar sign.

## July 9

Save the date  
and

Save your stuff!

Donations may be brought to  
church during office hours.

Ahhh, we all breathe a sigh of relief as summer approaches. Our routines change and some of you may have some time on your hands. There are plenty of ways the church can use you. Try something new. Sign up in the narthex or call the office.



COFFEE HOSTS

USHERS

READERS & ASSISTANTS

ACOLYTES

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**Dorothy Anderson**

Dorothy passed away peacefully on May 13. She was 93. I wish I could spread Dorothy's love of God and her church throughout her life, all over Santa Cruz County. There would be enough to cover us all many times over. We will all miss her presence in worship which was one of her highest goals every week of her life. She volunteered in her church office every week for 20 years after her retirement. We will miss her hugs and faithful witness of God's Spirit in her smile. We thank God for the love and care we witnessed from Kent, Chris, Susan and Donna in these last years. We celebrate her life and thank God for giving her to us on Sun. May 29 at 3pm. at St. Stephen's.

**BLESSED BE THE MEMORY OF THIS SAINT OF GOD.**



**Frederick Street House Dedication is June 4 at 10:00 am.**

Habitat lunches will end in May. They will start again in August for the new build in Scotts Valley. We always get compliments on the fantastic lunches St. Stephen's provides. Thanks so much! Enjoy the summer off. - Margaret Schraft

**Sunday School News**



CHILDREN'S CHURCH will begin on June 12th. We are looking for volunteers to lead these summer activities for our children. Please let me know if you are interested in joining in the fun.

Some of our students will be going to SUMMER CAMP AT MT. CROSS this summer. If you know anyone, maybe friends or family that might be interested check out the Mt. Cross website at <http://www.mtcross.org/>. There is a great selection of camps dates available to choose from. We also have partial scholarships available for those who need them. Please contact Leslie at 476-4700 for more info.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is almost here...see sign up sheet for bringing snacks, and helping with the ICECREAM SOCIAL.



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

## Circle's Spring Salad Luncheon Thursday, June 9 at 12:00

Join us at the home of Margaret Schraft, 1225 Whispering Pines Drive, in Scotts Valley. Co-hostesses are Lois Meeker and Lu Sluiter. Plan to bring a salad or a dessert.

RSVP to Margaret 438-3680, by June 6th. Carpool at 11:30 from the church.

All women are welcome!

The Circles delivered to Rowland & Pat Rebele Homeless Day Services Center a basket FULL of motel sized toiletries collected from the congregation. The staff expressed extreme gratefulness and said they'd just run out the day before ( coincidence or divine intervention! ) They said there had been 1,904 showers taken in just the month of April. As you go on your summer trips please remember to bring those motel sized toiletries back and place them in the basket The staff also said there had been 650 loads of laundry done in April and there is an ongoing need for large boxes of laundry soap. That could be left in the Narthex with a note for the Homeless Day Services Center. Questions? Call Becky 458-2825.

## Sunday Adult Forums - 9:30am

**June 5** – SHAY BARSABE reviews her circuitous journey of faith that eventually led to the creation of an ecumenical web site that has offered Morning and Evening Prayer (with appointed psalms, readings, and music), in English and Spanish, on the Internet since 1994.

**June 12** – TRUETT BOBO discusses the Pentecostal belief and practice of Speaking in Tongues, including his own personal and congregational experiences of this phenomenon. This is a continuation from his sharing on May 1 since we ran out of time.

June 19 & 26 TBD

## STEWARD OF THE MONTH

### Ruth Cruddas

Ruth is not only the steward of the month for St. Stephen's, but also for the Sierra Pacific Synod and the Lutheran Church of El Salvador! Having organized and planned a visit from a delegation of pastors and Bishop Medardo Gomez from El Salvador to attend the Synod Assembly, Ruth has deeply cared for and shared her gifts with many this month. We are so proud that a leader from our church has been able to serve a very important purpose for two of our bishops as we keep "Building Relationships for Better Lives". Many were deeply moved and spiritually enriched by the messages our friends brought us and Ruth enabled it all to happen so well with an amazing attention to detail. Thank you, Ruth!