



ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

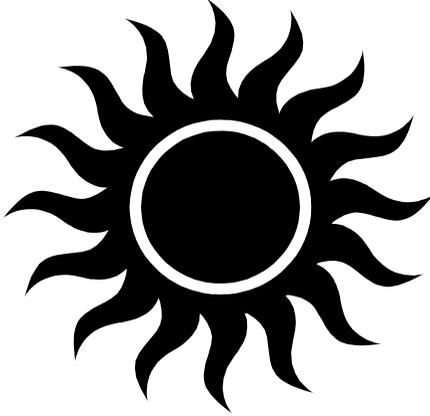
St Stephen's Lutheran Church
2500 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
October 24, 2011**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 57
Years of Ministry
November 2011

Harvest Celebration Sunday "Investing for Time and Eternity"

November 20 – 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 2012.



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.

(Sister Parish continued)

TO ALL SPONSORS - Start thinking about a gift, card or picture to your prayer child. The second delegation, led by Chris & Kent Madsen, will be taking these in January. We ask that your gift be put in a one gallon closable plastic bag. Suggested items: t-shirt or other blouse/shirt, pens, pencils, hair and nail stuff for girls, candy treats, yo-yo's, baseball caps (boys), socks. Ruth and Chris are working on some more age-specific ideas, so stay tuned. The picture of you and your family and a brief note are the most important items, so start getting those ready.

COMMITMENT CARD - If you haven't already turned in your Prayer Child Commitment Card, the deadline is November 13. This will allow us to find a new sponsor should you decide not to continue your support. For those of you who do not have a prayer child and are interested please contact Chris Madsen or Ruth Cruddas. We will get more names in January.

HEALTH KITS: washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste. Place these items and any of the OTC items listed below in the blue basket in the narthex.

Over-the-counter meds:

Ibuprofen - Advil, Naprosyn - Alleve, Acetaminophen - Tylenol, Children's Tylenol - (no liquids), Multivitamins (nothing that can be mistaken for candy), Calcium supplements, Diphenhydramine - Benadryl, Loratidine - Claritin, Cetirizine - Zyrtec, Famotidine - Pepcid, Ranitidine - Zantac, Antibiotic ointments and creams, Antifungal creams - Lotrimin, clotrimazole, etc (both topical as well as vaginal preparations), Immodium, Omeprazole - Prilosec OTC, Antacid - Tablets (no liquid), and Hydrocortisone cream

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

Your El Salvador representatives Chris, Ruth, Lisa, Jill, Kent and Mike



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. The first delegation will be leaving shortly on Nov. 18th, led by Ruth and Mike Cruddas. Remember them in your prayers. This group will be taking the Over-The-Counter meds and the "health kits" (see list below) and need those by Nov. 13.

PUPUSA MEAL - Sunday Nov. 6 from 9:00-1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. (Daylight Savings Time ends, so remember to turn your clocks back the night before). Fellowship and Food - what a great combination! If you have not signed up or purchased a ticket - never fear! Tickets will be sold at the door.

HOLIDAY SEE'S CANDY SALE - starts Oct. 30 and will end on Nov. 27. Candy will be available on Sunday, December 11th.

MONTHLY BENEVOLENCE - We know that not everyone can make the commitment to have a Prayer Child. November is Sister Parish month, an opportunity for all to contribute a special offering. There are more and more youth wanting to go to the University, and this money will allow us to help more of them achieve that dream.

WOODSTOCK PIZZA - Plan on going out for pizza on Monday, Nov. 7 and support our Sister Parish at the same time. Coupon/flyers will be available. You need to turn that in as you order your pizza &/or salad and Wodstock Pizza (Front St. downtown Santa Cruz) will contribute a % of their proceeds to Santa Cruz al Salvador.

From Pastor Jim



A recent Newsweek poll confirms that Americans are in a gloomy mood. 76% think the country is on the wrong track, and 70% believe Americans were much better at solving problems 25 years ago. (Christian Century- 10/04/11)

Well, despite that kind of sentiment in our land, I have been in one of the best moods I can remember as a pastor. It doesn't quite fit with the general feeling of the country, and its not because I've had an increase in my income - in fact, sending a child to college has had the opposite effect. Sure, I could be gloomy about things like worship attendance (especially now that the 49ers are playing well), and the fact that we are behind by almost \$7,000 in the budget. But lately I am not seeing success through the same lens as the rest of the country.

A lot of that has to do with our work through our community organization, COPA. Over the 14 years that we have been engaged in one way or another with our neighbors about what we can do together to make our communities better places to live, something very significant has happened to our church that is really beginning to bear lots of fruit today.

Kind of like the Parable of the Wedding Banquet where those who were invited and supposed to come decided not to, so the king goes out and invites anyone and everyone to come to the feast, it seems like we are doing the same thing. By caring about things like affordable housing in one of the most unaffordable places to live in the country, and making our land available to help meet that need, many new and exciting blessings are beginning to take shape for the future of our congregation.

From the prospect of 40 -50 families living near our church to engage in our life together, to the prospect of a new preschool ministry run by members of our church, to the gift of significant funds through being good stewards of our land, to the possibility of shaping our facility for future growth, to the chance that just MAYBE we'll be able to convince our neighbor to include his property in the exciting new developments we are undertaking - there is so much to be hopeful about for St. Stephen's long into the future!

It's a good thing we don't pay attention to national polls about how we're supposed to feel, but instead press on to live out the goals and purposes of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the midst of what could be gloomy times. Let's get excited!

November Happenings



**Daylight
Savings
Ends Nov. 6**

Text Study & Sermon Talk

Join Pr Jim Tuesdays @ 11:00

Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 PM

MM/RR Women's Circle

Thurs, Nov. 10, 10:30 AM

Story Book Tea

Nov. 13, 2:30 in Fireside room

Church Council

Monday, Nov. 21, 7-9 PM

Spirited Adventures

Nov.. 20 @ Homeless Service
Center / Rebele House 1:00

Pupusa Meal

Nov 6, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Lefse Party

Nov. 10, 6:30 pm

**Monthly Benevolence Offering =
El Salvador Sister Parish**

Council Highlights

1. THE ROOF PROJECT IS DONE!!! And it looks like it may actually be working because we had no leaks after a fairly heavy rain in early October. Thank you to Don Smawley and Tom Eagle for taking care of all the arrangements and seeing the project through. The contractor elevated the pitch of the small flat roof part on the side that leaked, so hopefully we'll finally have the problem solved. It cost @ \$7,000 which came from the Building Fund.
2. The Preschool Task Force (Dusty Gipson, Barbara Bautz, Sheila Buswell, Tracy Fleming, Pastor Jim) met for the first time with Growing Years Director Irene Freiberg. She has hired Tracy as a teacher and is assisting Tracy with the licensing process. We will be contacting the ELCA for resources to help start a preschool and will bring a proposal to the congregation at our annual meeting to add the preschool to our ministry.
3. The Long Range Task Force will be meeting Nov. 7 & 8th with two reps. from different groups that will assist us in planning a process of renewal that will lead to a Capital Fund Campaign. We will meet with Kairos and the James Company to determine which one is a better match. They also will talk about hiring an architect for the narthex bathroom and new kitchen/fellowship hall expansion.
4. The Field Task Force will be meeting with Mid-Pen Housing to talk about the possibility of building a new preschool at no cost to the church in conjunction with the affordable housing. We'll also be meeting with the County about possibly increasing the housing units from 40-50.

Applying Bible Principles

time, God wants people to give systematically and to respond to the Spirit's direction in their lives by careful planning.

Speaking of consistent givers (the kind who generally plan their giving), Randy Alcorn described them as the "backbone of the church." Such people do not miss giving to God's work, even when they are unable to attend. Just because they are not physically present when the offering plate is passed does not mean that they skip a Sunday or two in supporting the life and ministry of the church.

Be ready to give as the Spirit of God leads, even on a moment's notice. Be ready to give when a special need arises. But most of all, develop a "strategic plan" to give by seeking God's direction concerning your giving and by putting aside funds in preparation for giving. Then "work your plan" by giving those funds as you gather at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church with other Christians each Lord's Day. And when you can't be present for worship, plan carefully to be sure that your giving follows your plan. Remember, the work and ministry of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church go on week after week, even when you are unable to be present.



TAKING OUR OFFERING SERIOUSLY

Applying Bible Principles

“Strategic planning” is a two-word term that can best be described as a “buzz word.” It’s in vogue. It’s trendy for businesses (and churches) to talk about and engage in strategic planning.

Frequently, when quizzed about why they should engage in strategic planning, business owners and managers will respond with a host of reasons and yet miss the basic benefit that comes from planning: Businesses which plan are more profitable than those which do not. In other words, those who aim at something are more likely to hit it than those who aim at nothing.

Similarly, when it comes to giving, Christians are to develop a “strategic plan.” We are instructed to set aside funds systematically, regularly, for support of Gods’ work through the church. In that way, when we come to worship each week, we’ll be prepared to give. We will have “planned” our giving under the divine leadership of the Holy Spirit. Then, by giving that which we have set aside, we will put our plan to work as the offering is received.

Yes, the Holy Spirit can and sometimes does lead us to give gifts in a spontaneous manner without planning. But as a rule, spontaneous, unplanned giving is the exception. Most of the time, God wants His people to give systematically and to respond to His direction in their lives by careful planning.

Speaking of consistent givers (the kind who generally plan their giving), Randy Alcorn described them as the “backbone of the church.” Such people do not miss giving to the Lord’s work, even when they are unable to attend. Just because they are not physically present when the offering plate is passed does not mean that they skip a Sunday or two in supporting the life and ministry of the church.

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November Birthdays

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



11-26 Julius & Connie Creel
11-27 David & Martha Balogh

Prayer Concerns: Short Term: Henrietta Howard, Tom Dawson, Marty Picco, Nancy Crowell, Olivia, Linda Phillips, Devon, Craig, Helen, Hana & Chuck Dahl, Margaret Petersen, Tyler Thom, Victims of Flooding in El Salvador **Long Term:** PJ Flynn, Howard Mason, Jan Wagner, Ruth Mitchell, Molly Salter, Gail & Nancy, Renie Leaman, Beverly Gilladett, MaryAnn Hurttgam, Madeline Massa, Greg Weber, Vi & Suzanne, Josh & Michelle, Jill Lapp, Volpi Family, Mickayla, Pearl Runquist, Jeanne, Lester Thompson, Bonnie Hansen, Jane Flammang, Ron Buswell, Bob Heppe, The Robe Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman, Chris Tury, Dorothy Ronning, Clint Bell, The Youth

Youth Corner

Middle School Retreat (6-8th gd)

Nov. 11-13

Theme: “www.thefaithbook.God”

At Mt. Hermon



Sign up now! Visit www.spsyc.org for details. Your friends are welcome!!! Contact Leslie at 476-4700 if you want to go.

What an honor to have 3 teens serving on the Synod Youth Committee that will be leading this event!!! Congrats to Jesse McMillin on his recent election and to Rachel Lapp & Maddie Mouw as they serve another year.



To all who supported the Garden Party fundraiser. To Mark Linder & Mary Dean for graciously hosting. To the St. Stephen’s Worship Band (Kirk, Steve, Vi, Hendrik & Jesse) for the great tunes. Your generosity helped raise \$850! We are well on our way to New Orleans!!!

STEWARD OF THE MONTH

Marshall Bautz

Thank you, Marshall, for always giving back to God by blessing the church with your gifts of leadership. You have done this throughout your life in so many ways, and we are inspired by your dedication and commitment. In particular, we have been blessed with your leadership of our Sunday morning adult classes last year and now this year too. It is so important for us to gather and have some holy conversations about so many things that are happening in our church and world.

You have also been a faithful representative of our church in our relationship with other local churches in COPA. Your involvement in the recent meetings where we are trying to identify the needs we need to serve in our community is much appreciated and keeps us close to our mission. It is not always the easiest work, but it has a big impact on many lives.

Financials

	<u>Aug. '11</u>	<u>Aug. '10</u>	<u>Jan-Sep '11</u>	<u>Jan-Sep '10</u>	<u>Jan—Sep Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>					
Contrib.	\$16,246	\$13,883	\$155,023	\$160,371	\$161,359
Misc.	\$1,164	\$3,025	\$6,355	\$7,071	\$4,140
Total	\$17,410	\$16,908	\$161,378	\$167,442	\$165,499
<u>Expenses</u>					
Total	\$17,767	\$17,562	\$168,089	\$174,486	\$168,560
<u>Difference:</u>	-\$357	-\$654	-\$6,711	-\$7,044	-\$3,062

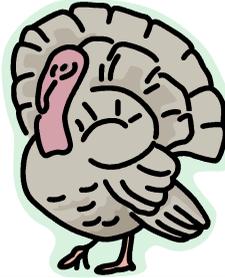
Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Circle

Thursday, November 10 @ 10:30

Please join us for an informative presentation by Ms. Carly Dezlin of Planned Parenthood. Bring a non-perishable item of food for donation.

All Women are welcome! Bring your own sandwich. Coffee and dessert are provided.

Hostesses: Doris Ray & Joanne Freymuth



Dinner Groups

Sat, November 5 & 12



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 in church. For more info call Jill Adachi 426-5950.

GOT LEFSE?

What did Ole say to Lena? So den it's time to make da lefse, ya? Come on **Thursday, November 10 at 6:30 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 sooooo yummy—da family will love you for it. Recipe in the narthex. Questions, call Gwyn Larson 476-8239.

Sunday School News



This is such an exciting time of year. We are winding up our study of the Old Testament and preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

All of the month of November will be spent getting ready for our Christmas Pageant. We will be practicing, costuming and preparing a poem for the children to recite. We hope that all members of the congregation, friends and family will join us.

Important pageant dates to remember

Dress Rehearsal
Saturday, December 3rd
from 3-5, Pizza provided

Christmas Pageant Performance
Sunday, December 4th
during the 10:30 service

Please have children to church by 10:15 to get costumes on.

During November and the beginning of December we will also be participating in the Second Harvest Food Bank annual food drive. Food collected is distributed to families in need in Santa Cruz County. Please bring in non-perishable food items and put them in the collection bin in the narthex. Encourage your children to ask friends and family if they would like to contribute as well.

Please let me know if you have question or would like to help with our fun children's activities.

Sincerely,
Dusty Gipson
338-3787

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— Nov. 6—20

Provide Christmas joy for a child or two. Wrapped gifts due Nov. 20

Holiday Boutique & Bake Sale — Dec. 4

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

MM / RR Christmas Luncheon — Dec. 8

Friendship Group Christmas Party — Dec. 11

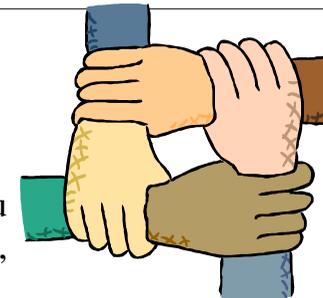
Don't miss the infamous, fun-filled, gift exchange game.

Christmas Caroling — Dec. 10

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

- More details in the December Newsletter!

Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA)



COPA has many activities that you are invited to. If you are interested contact Marshall Bautz, Kent Madsen, Mark Linder, or Dusty Gipson.

November 16 - Ratification of the "Stand Up and Take Charge" Agenda, 6:00 pm Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Salinas. Our goal is for 30 from St. Stephen's. Car pools will leave from St. Stephens by 4 pm

November 14 – 18 – Five Day National Leadership Training in San Jose – This is from the Industrial Areas Foundation. COPA is a part of the IAF Network of organizations. We would like to send at least four from St. Stephen's!

ADULT FORUMS **Sundays @ 9:30 am**

*Nov. 6 — "Making Improvements in Community"
with Marshall Bautz*

Nov. 13 — "Church Symbols" with Truett Bobo

*Nov. 20 & 27—Video "Understanding Jesus for the
Future" with Rev. Herb Schmidt*