



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

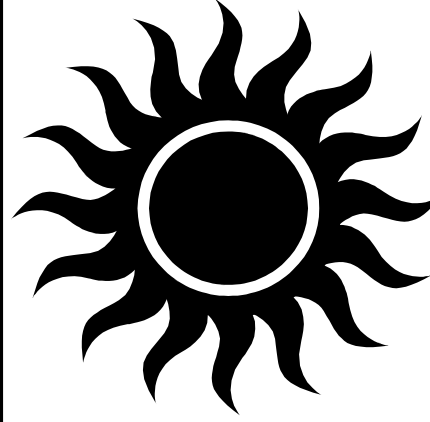
St Stephen's Lutheran Church
2500 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
September 26, 2011**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 57 Years
of Ministry
October 2011

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

October 30th at the 10:30am Worship Service

Come celebrate this significant life passage as these young adults affirm their baptism. We will be hearing God's Word through the "Statements of Faith" that they have been working on to articulate the beginnings of their faith journeys.

Rachel Lapp	Maddy Mouw
Jesse McMilin	Stefan Meek
Nelleke Meerman	Kylie Ronning
Collin Travers	Hannah Travers



May God's Spirit fill and bless you as you say

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)

For the November Delegation, we are asking for 'Health Kit' Items and OTC Medications. The 'Health Kit' is a washcloth, toothbrush and small toothpaste in a sandwich bag. The list of OTC medications is in the Narthex, along with a basket for your donations.

If you would like to send a gift, card or picture to your prayer child you can send those with the January Delegation. We will start collecting those early in December. Ruth and Chris will provide a list of examples, much as Margaret Schraft did for the Davenport Backpack project (Thank You Margaret for a GREAT idea).

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

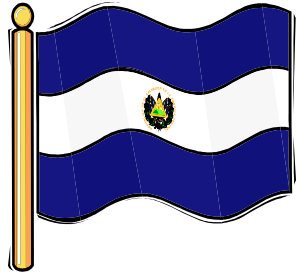
Pupusa Meal - Sunday, November 6th from 9-1. Tickets will be sold in advance starting Sunday, October 2nd, as well as at the door. Cost: \$10/adult, \$4/Child

Holiday See's Candy Sale - Begins Sunday, October 30th and ends November 27th. Candy will be available on Sunday, December 11th.

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

Jill Adachi, Ruth & Mike Cruddas, Lisa Johnson, Kent and Chris Madsen.

~ Building Relationships for Better Lives ~



El Salvador Sister Parish News

As you likely know, we have two delegations going to visit our sister community in Guillermo Ungo again this year. The November delegation is Nov. 18-26, with 20 people, with 2 first-timers from Lutheran Community in Watsonville and 2 more members from Advent Lutheran in Morgan Hill. Trinity Presbyterian will also have several new participants in this delegation.

The second delegation is January 5-14, 2012. This one will include first-timers from Hope Lutheran in Santa Clara and Christ Lutheran in Aptos, as well as 2 youth from Good Shepherd in Salinas going for the first time.

The original purpose of forming a non-profit was "strength in numbers". We always knew we could not do what we wanted to do alone, so our vision was to gather a group of small churches. As you can see, we are doing that! We are excited.

We ask that you keep all of the delegation members in your prayers as we prepare for and embark on our visits. We will share highlights of both trips early in 2012.

To all Prayer Partners: As we did last year, we will be contacting each one of you to personally thank you for your support and to give you a Prayer Partner brochure and ask you to recommit to being a Prayer Partner, or to let us know if you are not able to continue. We were able to talk to some of you on Rally Day. 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. For those we don't see in church, we will mail the card in early October.

From Pastor Jim



Well, it was a very nice summer for our church as people seemed happy to be worshipping together at one service. We hadn't done that for a few years as we recognized it would be better for visitors to have a choice during the summer. This summer, after a Spring that saw a few too many empty pews, the church council felt it might be better to welcome visitors to a more full sanctuary. And it did feel good to be all together.

Already this Fall, though, some are wondering if we should have stayed at one service as the church feels more empty now. Why is that? We have about 375 people in our church and we struggle to have 100 people in church on a Sunday. There are many different kinds of reasons, of course, but I want to make sure we all know that worshipping together is THE priority for being a part of a church.

I know very well that with each passing year, worshipping on a Sunday morning is becoming more and more a thing of the past in the community and culture we live in. It is very easy for us to be swept up in the "normalcy" of doing something else on a Sunday morning because that is what most everyone else is doing. Some of us work, our kids have sports and other activities scheduled, or we're just so busy the rest of the time that church starts becoming another thing to do when all we want to do is just stay home for once!

In the midst of these post-modern changes, the scriptures still reach out and call us to a see life differently. We ARE a peculiar people and I challenge you to do what you can to "change what we care about most" (as we heard in Mt. 21) and reflect that in our decisions about coming to church each week. Everyone is needed and you are missed.

By making regular worship a priority in our lives, we leave no doubt as to where our hearts truly are as we offer them to God. And as we offer our lives to God regularly together, we are regularly filled with God's spirit and grace as we live as we were created to live. See you in church often!

October Happenings

Text Study & Sermon Talk

Join Pr Jim Tuesdays @ 11:00

Knitting

Meets every Thurs at 6:45 PM

MM/RR Women's Circle

Thurs, Oct. 13, 10:30 AM

Storybook Tea

Oct. 16, 2:30 Fireside room

Church Council

Monday, Oct. 17, 7-9 PM

FaithFull Families

Oct. 30, 1:00 local cemetery

Adult Forums Sundays at 9:30

Oct. 2—Faith Story

Pr. Glenn Johnson

Oct. 9—'What kind of community do we want?'

M. Bautz

Oct. 16—"Welcoming & Relationship building"

Oct. 23—Open

Oct. 30—"The Value of Faith" Pr. Jim & Confirmands

COPA Core Team

Oct. 9, noon @ Jeffires

**Monthly Benevolence Offering =
Child & Family Institute**

Council Highlights

1. Pastor Jim led devotions reminding us that God's leaders are forgiven so that they can lead boldly and be free from fear. Our namesake day, Santa Cruz - Holy Cross, was Sept. 14, and this reminds us of the depth of the hope that God has for us. The cross shows us the power that forgiveness has as we act in faith striving to do God's will. Knowing we are forgiven gives us courage to move boldly into the future.
2. Pastor Jim reported that the director of the Growing Years preschool, which leases space from our church, has taken another job and is looking to sell the preschool. Irene was hoping that one of her teachers would be able to take over as the director, but that did not work out. The church council asked Pastor Jim to lead a Task Force comprised of Dusty Gipson, Tracy Fleming and Barbara Bautz, (all of whom have education and/or experience with preschoolers) to explore the possibility of having the preschool be run by the church.
3. A combined group of the Field Task Force and the Long Range Task Force met to discuss and set agendas for both groups in the near future. Ideas were discussed about how to fund the various capital improvements we would like to make and what to do with the lump-sum lease payment that will come from Mid-Peninsula. They also made a recommendation to the Council to deposit the \$30,000 advance from Mid-Pen in the Thrivent Building Fund, and to meet with an attorney as we move forward with the Ground Lease Agreement.

hung a framed letter written by General Sam Houston to Johnson's great-grandfather Baines more than a hundred years earlier. Sam Houston's signature makes the letter valuable, but the story behind it is much more significant. Baines had led Sam Houston to Christ, and Houston was a changed man.

The day came for Sam Houston to be baptized — an incredible event in the eyes of those who knew his previous life-style. After his baptism, Houston stated that he would like to pay half the salary for the minister. When someone asked why, his simple response was, "My pocketbook was baptized, too."

Like other followers of Christ throughout the centuries, Sam Houston demonstrated the reality of God's grace in his life by reciprocating that grace in the form of financial giving. Sam Houston worshipped God through his giving, and his gifts gave fresh evidence of the grace of God at work in his life.

As you give to the St. Stephen's Lutheran Church ministry, will you do so out of love and devotion as part of your worshipful praise? Will you thereby allow your prayers and gifts — like those of Cornelius — to ascend as a "memorial before God"?



TAKING OUR OFFERING SERIOUSLY

Applying Bible Principles

Have you ever asked yourself why you should give to God? After all, if God owns everything as the Scriptures claim, surely He doesn't need our help to pay His bills. Why, then, should the Christian faith place such a great emphasis on giving?

There are many reasons why we give, but one of the best motivators is that we should give as an act of worship, out of love and adoration for our blessed Lord who has given so much to us. Hearts that have been touched by God's love and by His sacrifice will naturally want to respond by giving. Such giving is an integral part of worship. In fact, it is worship, just as much as praying or singing or preaching. Or as one contemporary author expressed it, "Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice an echo. Gratitude follows grace as thunder follows lightning."

When we give in that spirit, out of gratitude for God's grace shown to us, our giving takes on a whole new dimension. Like Cornelius, one who "... gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God," our prayers and gifts will ascend as a "memorial before God" (Acts 10:4). Thus, as we give to the Lord through our worship, we evidence the grace of God in our lives.

On the wall of President Lyndon Johnson's White House office hung a framed letter written by General Sam Houston to Johnson's great-grandfather Baines more than a hundred years earlier. Sam Houston's signature makes the letter valuable, but the story behind it is much more significant. Baines had led Sam Houston to Christ, and Houston was a changed man.

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October Birthdays

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|-------|------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 10-3 | Pastor Jim | 10-16 | Luke Adachi |
| 10-3 | Becky Smawley | 10-18 | Naomi |
| 10-4 | Cheryl Bayne | | Florin-Gosciminski |
| 10-7 | Louisa Capp | 10-21 | Ruth Weber |
| 10-7 | Rozella Weyent | 10-24 | Tom Eagle |
| 10-9 | Stephanie Cramer | 10-24 | Noelia |
| 10-12 | Matt Bernard | | Monteagudo |
| 10-13 | Haley Ablor | 10-25 | Mildred Belle |
| 10-13 | Janet Slay | 10-25 | Bill Schraft |
| 10-14 | Tom Dawson | 10-29 | Kim Cappelloni |



- | | |
|-------|-------------------------|
| 10-02 | Joel & Maryann Hurttgam |
| 10-11 | Darvin & Partice Awe |
| 10-21 | Gary & Lois Meeker |
| 10-30 | Robert & Cheryl Bartee |

Prayer Concerns: Short Term: Olivia, Family of Alfred Gaertner, Andrew, Artie, Babe, Kevin, Stefan, Marino, Marge, Mark, Linda, Marsha, Joseph, Joe, Leah, John Caughlin, Tess, Vera Hansen & daughter Connie, John Hathaway, and family of Tom Milnes, Rhonda Nederhauser **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, Kaitlin Cahill, Opa Meerman, Abbey & Noah Meck, Jill Lapp, Volpi Family, Mickayla, Pearl Runquist, Jeanne, Lester Thompson, Bonnie Hansen, Jane Flammang, Cheryl Bayne, Ron Buswell, Bob Heppe, The Robe Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman, Chris Tury, Dorothy Ronning, Clint Bell, The Youth

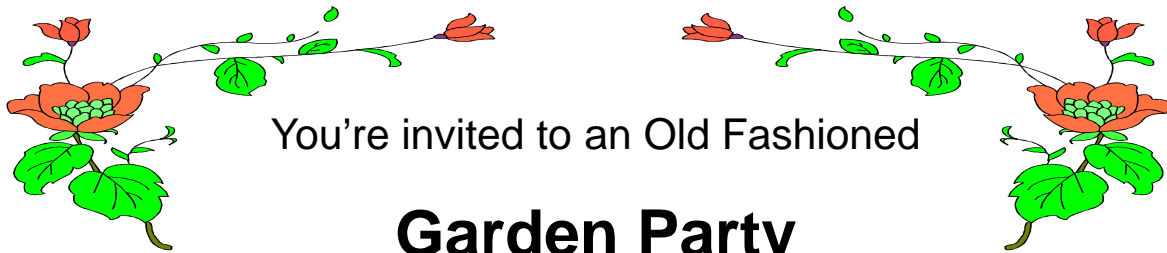
Youth Corner



“Leaving Neverland
for God’s Foreverland”

Mt. Cross Retreat Oct. 14-16

Last chance to register! Chaperone needed.
See spsyc.org for more details.



You’re invited to an Old Fashioned

Garden Party

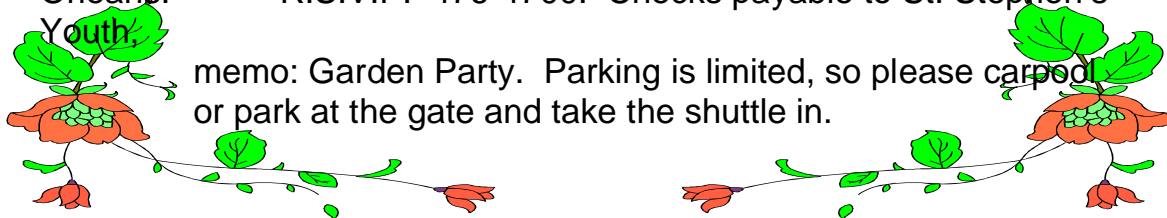
October 22 from 2:00—5:00 pm

The home of Mark Linder & Mary Dean

2 Westwood Rd. ~ Pasatiempo

Help send our our youth to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. R.S.V.P. 476-4700. Checks payable to St. Stephen’s Youth.

memo: Garden Party. Parking is limited, so please carpool or park at the gate and take the shuttle in.



Financials

<u>Income</u>	<u>Aug. '11</u>	<u>Aug. '10</u>	<u>Jan-Aug '11</u>	<u>Jan-Aug Actual</u>	<u>Jan-Aug Budget</u>
Contrib.	\$15,490	\$20,344	\$138,777	\$146,488	\$145,653
Misc.	\$548	\$316	\$5,092	\$3,988	\$3,680
Total	\$16,038	\$20,660	\$143,868	\$150,476	\$149,333
<u>Expenses</u>					
Total	\$16,979	\$19,847	\$149,690	\$156,924	\$151,300
<u>Difference:</u>	-\$941	\$813	-\$5,821	-\$6,448	-\$1,967

Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Circle

**Thursday, October 13
10:30 am in the Fireside Room**

Please join us for an informative presentation by Sylvia Fosythe of the Funeral Consumer’s Alliance. Ms. Forsythe’s topic is “Funerals: First Things First.”

All Women are welcome! Wear a Halloween costume or hat! Bring your own sandwich. Coffee and dessert are provided.

Hostesses: Carol Bobo and Margaret Schraft

**Register now: Women of the ELCA Convention
@ Mission d’Oro in Santa Nella**

October 28—30



STEWARDS OF THE MONTH- Gary and Lois Meeker
 It is always a blessing when someone in our church sees a need and decides to do something about it. Instead of thinking that it is someone else's job or responsibility they believe and understand that we are ALL part of the Body of Christ. Thank you Meekers for noticing our front doors needed repair after 12 years of weather and then making sure the job got done and was paid for. Once again our doors say, "Everyone is Welcome Here".

*What keeps us from the Gathering?
 What draws us in? - Susan von Schmacht*

Gathering together for worship is an important way for us to connect with one another and with God. But, often, "life happens" and we can't or don't gather as often as we might wish. This Fall, I'll be leading a series of focus groups to explore the shifting patterns of worship attendance here at St. Stephen's. We'll look at what keeps us from the gathering and what draws us in. Pastor Jim and the Church Council are supporting me as I seek my Masters in Christian Ministry at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. This project will help me with one of my classes and it will help our church have an important conversation. If you're interested in being a part of this exploration or just want to know more about this, please email me at svonschmacht@sbcglobal.net

Sunday School News



We are off to a great start this Sunday School year and the fun is just beginning!

Thanks so much to everyone who donated bars of soap for our soap drive. I will post results in our next newsletter.

Family Movie Night was also a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship. Thank you to all who joined us for that fun event

During October we will continue our study of the Old Testament. One of the benefits to being a small group is that we can change our plans quickly to meet the needs of the children and the congregation. Our schedule this month will look something like this:

October 2 - Genesis 6:11-14 & 17-22 "Obeying God"

October 9 - Exodus 3:11-15 "By What Name"

October 16th - Judges 13:1-14:19 "Samson's Riddle"

October 23rd - Isaiah 64:8 "You Are The Potter"

October 30th - Psalm 4:8 & 63:6 "Sleeping In (Graham) Comfort"

All of the Sundays in November will be devoted to Christmas Pageant preparation. Dress rehearsal will be December 3rd from 3-5 at St. Stephen's. Pizza provided. "Christmas in Bethlehem" a Christmas Pageant performed by the students of St. Stephen's Sunday School December 4th during the 10:30 service. Please let me know if you have any question, concerns or would like to help out with any of the exciting activities going on in our Sunday School program.

Sincerely, Dusty Gipson 831-338-3787 home dustygipson@yahoo.com

Bishop Mark Holmerud's Message

It's been a little over a month since the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA ended in Orlando. 1,023 voting members, including 14 from our Synod, spent nearly a week together worshipping, studying, praying and voting, in between times for meals and Bible studies with people from other synods. I believe all those who attended the Assembly would say the experience was worthwhile. Attending a Churchwide Assembly is a great opportunity to sense the work of the larger church and how interdependent the congregations, synods and churchwide expressions of this church truly are.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to attend a Churchwide Assembly and would like to do so, your opportunity is at hand. In the conference and district gatherings that will take place over the next two months, nominations will be made for those who would like to attend the 2013 Assembly which will take place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from August 12-18, 2013. Among the items of business that will be considered during this particular Assembly will be an election for Presiding Bishop and consideration of plans to re-imagine the ministry of the ELCA through the L.I.F.T. (Living Into the Future Together) proposals. Voting members will be elected when we gather for our synod assembly in San Jose next May. If you'd like to know more about serving as a voting member please contact your pastor.

I encourage you to attend your conference/district meeting. It's a great opportunity to network with other congregational leaders in your area, and perhaps to learn about a new idea for your congregation's ministry. It's often what happens when we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit's guiding and leading. Thank you for the many faithful ways you have already responded to the Spirit's call in your daily and congregational ministries - and for your prayers for our synod's ministry and the ministry of the E.L.C.A.

God's Peace ~ Bp. Mark

COPA:

Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action

COPA has many activities for October and November. Please join the core team in any of these activities. If you are interested contact Marshall Bautz, Kent Madsen, Mark Linder, or Dusty Gipson. The activities are:

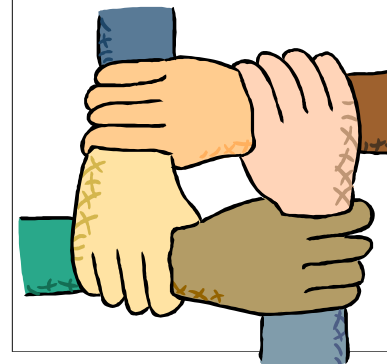
October 9— COPA Core Team meeting following second service @ "Jeffries". You invited to join the Core Team.

October 15— COPA Development Day, 2:00-5:00 pm
Aptos Community Methodist Church

October 23— Northern California Summit on the Economy, 2—6:00 pm
St. Mary's Catholic Church, San Francisco, with sister organizations and thoughtful economists.

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!



Thank you.

The COPA Core Team