

ST. STEPHEN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 am Worship Service (Sept. 4)

Children's Church & Coffee Hour Fellowship

8:15 & 10:30 am Worship Services resume (Sept. 11)

9:30 Adult Forum & Choir Rehearsal

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

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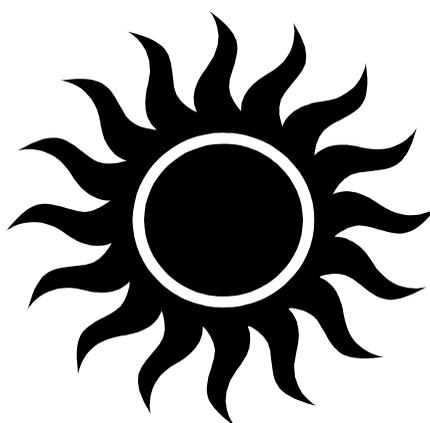
**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
August 25, 2011**

Rally Day—Sept. 11
Come learn about the ministries we offer.
The Youth will be sharing their experience
at the Western States Gathering @ the 10:30 service.

Resume 2 services—Sept. 11, 8:15 & 10:30

CHURCH PICNIC—Sept. 18, 3:00 to 7:00 pm
Anna Jean Cummings Park, Soquel.
Bring a friend and a dish to share.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



Sun

Celebrating 57
Years of Ministry
September 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. —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)

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

November is **Sister Parish** month for special benevolence giving.

PUPUSA MEAL – Sunday, **November 6th** from 9-1. Tickets will be sold in advance starting Sunday, October 2nd, as well as at the door. Advance purchase is encouraged to help with planning.

HOLIDAY SEE'S CANDY SALE – Watch for further details, but will begin the end of October so that the candy will arrive in early December.

Just a reminder that your monies also support:

University Scholarships – there are more and more students wanting to go to University. We are thinking of expanding the Prayer Partner program to the University scholarship recipients. Please let one of us know if you are interested in this program to be developed.

Health Clinic – supporting Dr. Roxanna Orellana and 2 health promoters. Watch for more details about **OTC Medications and 'Health Kit' Items** that the November delegation will be collecting to take with them.

The Lutheran Church in El Salvador

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 in 2012.

To paraphrase Paul's words in Phillipians 1: We thank our God in all our remembrance of you...because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Peace,
The board members of *Santa Cruz al Salvador*
"Building Relationships for Better Lives"



El Salvador Sister Parish News

Once again this year we have two delegations going to visit our sister community in Guillermo Ungo. The November delegation dates are Nov. 18-26. This delegation already has over 20 persons and cannot accept more. That group will be having a dental clinic and be doing health teaching.

'Delegation 2' will be leaving January 5 and returning Jan. 14. There are still openings for this delegation, so if you are interested in joining it, please contact Chris Madsen. Her contact information is 438-1593, or by email: chris@kcmadsen.com.

There is a mandatory orientation for all delegates on **September 18** at 1:00 at Trinity Presbyterian church (behind the Safeway on Morrissey). You are invited to their pupusa meal which starts at 11:00. This orientation is also open to anyone who might be interested in joining the January delegation but would like more information.

There is also a BBQ for all delegates on **October 9** at 3:00 (place TBD); more information about agendas will be discussed at this time.

To all Sponsors: we will once again be contacting you to give you a Prayer Partner brochure and asking you to fill out a commitment card. The 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. This is also your opportunity to let us know if you would no longer care to sponsor a child, so we can find a new sponsor. If you would like to send a gift, card or picture to your prayer child you can let us know when we contact you. These will be sent with the January delegation.

We need more sponsors: we have 6 students who do not have sponsors. There are 4 "elementary school" males with one each in kindergarten, 2nd grade, 6th grade and 9th grade. For a shorter term commitment, there are 2 students (one male, one female) who will enter their 2nd (and last) year of High School in January. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, contact Ruth Cruddas at 768-1580 or by email at cruddasm@pacbell.net.

September 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, Sept 8, 10:30 AM

Church Picnic

Sunday, Sept 18, 3:00 - 7:00PM

Church Council

Monday, Sept 19, 7-9 PM

Adult Forums Resume

Sept. 18 – Why a Shared Prosperity Agenda / Distribution of Wealth and Income in the U.S.

Sept. 25 – The Importance of the Civic, Government, and Market segments of the U.S./ Distribution of Wealth and Income in the U.S. II

COPA Planning Meeting

Sept. 18, 2 – 5 p.m.
First Congregational Church

Family Movie Night

Friday, Sept 30, 6:15 PM

Monthly Benevolence Offering = Lutheran Campus Ministry

*For electronic giving options,
ask Janet Slay for details.*

Council Highlights

1. Pastor Jim led devotions reminding us why being the church in today's culture is increasingly important and necessary. Although many are choosing to leave the church, it is important for us to remain faithful and focused on being the Body of Christ in our community and world. The alternative leaves a void that may not immediately seem apparent, but, when taken in the context of the whole of life, becomes quite empty and lacks the depth we need. He thanked the council for its work as leaders of this church and challenged them to keep our mission in mind as we move toward big decisions and an exciting future.
2. Council approved 2 new monthly benevolences. January will be "Ending Human Trafficking" and October will be "Child and Family Institute". Thank you to Truett Bobo for raising the issue of modern slavery and how we can help stop it. Funds will go to two orgs. identified by the ELCA. Thanks to Janet Slay for encouraging us to a greater support of our shared CFI program with Christ Lutheran, Aptos.
3. We will soon receive a deposit from Mid-Peninsula Housing of \$30,000. Pastor Jim has organized a Task Force meeting for Sept. 1 to make recommendations to the council about uses of that money, preparations to enter into a ground lease, seeking an attorney to help with the lease, prioritizing the capital improvements we want to make as a result of our 5 year plan, and how we will fund the projects we identify.
4. The County Planning Department has approved our project for 40 units of affordable senior housing - 13 more than expected!



September Birthdays

| | | | |
|------|------------------|------|-------------------|
| 9-2 | Dillon Houser | 9-16 | Rick Oldfield |
| 9-7 | David Balogh, Sr | 9-17 | Marta Bechhoefer |
| 9-8 | Cabel Dawson | 9-18 | Connie Cunningham |
| 9-8 | Eric Millang | 9-19 | Philip Spires |
| 9-9 | Jill Adachi | 9-20 | Brian Awe |
| 9-9 | Mario Brochinni | 9-20 | Kurtis Lemke |
| 9-9 | Becky Cramer | 9-20 | Steve Mouw |
| 9-10 | Wayne Adachi | 9-21 | Michaela Turzo |
| 9-10 | Chelsea Larson | 9-24 | Peter Larson |
| 9-10 | David Larson | 9-26 | Hope Coronado |
| 9-10 | Paige Lynd | 9-26 | Jan Wagner |
| 9-10 | Lori Millang | 9-28 | Cathy Yost |
| 9-10 | Don Sorensen | 9-29 | Joanne Freymuth |
| 9-12 | Nikki Creel | 9-29 | Holly Lynd |
| 9-12 | Collin Travers | 9-29 | Nicholas Lynd |
| 9-12 | Hannah Travers | 9-29 | Tasha Turzo |
| 9-12 | Nicole Weber | 9-30 | Kristen Silva |
| 9-14 | Howard Mason | 9-30 | David Stahl |
| 9-14 | Elias McMilin | | |
| 9-15 | Ashley Volpi | | |



| | |
|------|--------------------------------|
| 9-1 | Thomas & Jeanette Dawson |
| 9-3 | Bill & Margaret Schraft |
| 9-4 | James Jones & Shay Barsabe |
| 9-6 | Ron & Sheila Buswell |
| 9-6 | Jim & Naomi Florin-Gosciminski |
| 9-6 | Brian & Nancy Houser |
| 9-6 | Kevin & Marla Meek |
| 9-17 | Paul & Connie Cunningham |
| 9-29 | Stephen & Lauren Pond |

Prayer Concerns: **Short Term:** Vi, Howard Mason, Vera Hansen & daughter Connie, John Hathaway, and family of Tom Milnes, Marcella Constantine, Rhonda Nederhauser, The People of Somalia, End to Gang Violence, **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, Cheryl Bayne, Ron Buswell, Bob Heppe, The Robe Family, Brooks & Glen Leaman, Chris Tury, Dorothy Ronning, Clint Bell, The Youth

Our giving, then, becomes a foundation, not concerning salvation, but rather, concerning our investments. Suppose for a moment that you had invested 100% of your life's savings in the stock of a company. Would you not be watching with great eagerness how that company was performing? Would you not be checking up on how well it was doing, on management's goals for the future, and on how it was faring against the competition? In a similar way, our investments in the work of the Lord not only indicate where we are placing our emphasis, but also, they will determine where our interest lies. We will be checking up on them, evaluating their performance, and giving thought to the day when they will yield eternal dividends in our behalf.

One writer expressed it this way: "We can trade temporal possessions that we cannot keep anyway to gain eternal possessions that we cannot lose. This is like a child given a chance to trade bubble gum for a new bicycle, or a man offered ownership of the Coca-Cola company in exchange for a sack of bottle caps. Only a fool would pass up this opportunity. What we keep we will lose. What we give and share and do in Christ's name will ultimately come back to us in heaven in a far better and permanent form."

Remember, Jesus Christ is the "sure foundation." Jesus is the Cornerstone. As we work and as we give, we are building on Him and on what He accomplished on Calvary. What kind of builder are you?



WHY OUR OFFERINGS ARE IMPORTANT

Applying Bible Principles

Anyone who has ever been personally involved in the construction of a building knows that the foundation is of utmost importance. The finest architectural design and the best construction materials are of little value if the foundation is not built correctly.

The same is true of life itself and of our giving. Concerning the rich, the Apostle Paul instructed Timothy to “. . . command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future” (1 Tim. 6:17-19).

Do not misunderstand: Jesus is the foundation. He is the Cornerstone. When it comes to the matter of our salvation, Christ and Christ alone is the “sure foundation.” Nothing we can do — not even giving of our resources — can add one bit to that foundation.

But we can follow the counsel of the Apostle Paul concerning our giving. Through our giving, we can send our treasure on ahead. We can follow the admonition of the Lord Jesus and through our giving, we can “lay up treasure in heaven.” John Bunyan summarized both teachings in this statement: “Whatever good thing you do for Him, if done according to the Word, is laid up for you as treasure in chests and coffers, to be brought out to be rewarded before men and angels, to your eternal comfort.”

Our giving, then, becomes a foundation, not concerning salvation, but rather, concerning our investments. Suppose for a moment that you had invested 100% of your life’s savings in the stock of a company. Would you not be watching with great eagerness how that company was performing? Would you not be checking up on how well it was doing, on management’s goals for the future, and on how it was faring against the competition? In a similar way, our investments in the work of the Lord not only indicate where we are placing our emphasis, but also, they will determine where our interest lies. We will be checking up on them, evaluating their performance, and giving thought to the day when they will yield eternal dividends in our behalf.

Lutheran Campus Ministry of Monterey Bay

Greetings! We continue to offer Lutheran presence on UCSC and CSUMB Campuses. Once again and over and over, I want to thank you for your continued support of this ministry through prayers, financial donations, and volunteers. St. Stephen’s is the most represented church on Campus Ministry Board among Lutheran congregations in Monterey Bay Area with Rev. Herb Schmidt, Rev. Roy Hoch and Connie Creel serving on the Board. So, thank you for being partners in this ministry to young adults!

I would also like to take this opportunity and share a little bit about the highlights of the ministry at UCSC. Although, with continued budget cuts and tuition raises, we saw many challenges on Campus last year, God also gave us many opportunities to continue to share God’s love. Here are some of the highlights of our ministry:

- We have strengthened the core group of students through shared worship, meals, off-campus events, and Small Group Bible Study. Almost all of them are returning students this year and I am looking forward to continued ministry with them.

- We have been actively involved in serving in the community, including participating in Habitat for Humanity, trick and treating for canned food that was donated to SC AIDS Center, and volunteering in an After-school Program at a local church.

- We sponsored World’s Banquet, a multicultural dinner and learning experience of global food accessibility. More than 30 students attended and were involved in the planning. Money and canned food raised were donated to Second Harvest Food Bank.

- We facilitated Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services on Campus. Ash Wednesday services reached the highest attendance of around 200 people that we have seen in the last few years.

- Lutheran Campus Ministry continues to connect students to the local Lutheran Church by providing rides and helping them get involved in the ministry of the church.

- I continue to actively participate in University Interfaith Council (UIC) serving as a Vice-president. Through the work of UIC, spirituality is becoming more and more accepted and respected part of Campus life.

Lutheran Campus Ministry is supported by ELCA Church at large, local Lutheran congregations and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. We ask for your continued prayers and financial support as we are striving to serve young adults on both campuses.

Inese Dahl

Lutheran Campus Minister, UCSC

241 3367, e-mail: inese@messiah-lutheran.us

“The Lord is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made...” Ps.145

Tid—Bits from the Western States Youth Gathering

Chaperone, Julie Mouw

Anticipation. Excitement. Celebration. Joy. Gifts. Surprise. Pride. If I were to post this list of words in December, most would surely associate it with a particular holiday. Who would have guessed that would actually be a list of words that is associated with a bunch teenagers packed in a car traveling hundreds of miles together?

Time to come together! Each of the teens, each a unique individual, had completely different ways of expressing thoughts, feelings, fears, hopes or expectations on what was awaiting them at the ELCA Gathering in Thousand Oaks.

A time of bonding and compassion! Despite a rocky start to the trip (thank goodness it turned out NOT to be a bad case of nerves), each teen proved what it meant to be selfless and supportive even though they were anxious and excited to start their adventure. They took time to listen to each other in our little group. They took time to listen to others from unfamiliar groups. They took the time to get to know some things about some others they had never met before.

Teens are adventurous! Everything was the great unknown. Despite that, every teen was open and begging for new experiences at every opportunity and step of the way. The adventure began on the road but the true adventure was staying in dorms with people we didn't know as well as attending learning sessions. They chose learning sessions from a list and found ones that suited them. They compared with each other about each session they wanted to attend. In the dorms, the faces of others became more familiar and friendships began.

Open! Hearts and minds of teenagers don't often appear receptive to churchiness. Asking this group to go to worship was close to effortless (once the right outfit was achieved-never forget they are still teens). I marveled at each one as they became engaged, and truly connected to each new message. There was no resistance even though they knew it would be a long worship. As for the nightly devotions. There was no phoniness, sometimes goofiness, but it was real and meaningful.

And finally- Realizing Balance! Each day we all identified something that felt in or out of balance. We took time each day for well planned and thought provoking devotions. Taking time each day to "dig in", "dig deeper" and end with a lesson from the bible gave us encouragement and strength to live our lives in the love of Christ. We paused to soak in what He gave for us so we could live a more balanced life.

Anticipation. Excitement. Celebration. Joy. Gifts. Surprise. Pride. I hope it is clear that I was not describing a holiday. The list describes how I was truly blessed to accompany a special group of teens and watch the balancing of teen life and faith.

Financials

| | <u>July '11</u> | <u>July '10</u> | <u>Jan-July '11</u> | <u>Jan—July Actual</u> | <u>Jan—July Budget</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Income</u> | | | | | |
| Contrib. | \$18,947 | \$14,240 | \$123,287 | \$126,144 | \$126,974 |
| Misc. | \$417 | \$549 | \$4,423 | \$3,672 | \$3,220 |
| Total | \$19,364 | \$14,789 | \$127,710 | \$129,816 | \$130,194 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | | | |
| Total | \$18,432 | \$17,376 | \$132,512 | \$137,077 | \$133,547 |
| <u>Net Inc.</u> | \$933 | -\$2,587 | -\$4,802 | -\$7,261 | -\$3,352 |

STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

Don Smawley and Crew

Thanks for organizing such a wonderful day of taking care of our facility and our church! (They are different, you know.) Our facility looks like the church here really cares about it's mission and the church is better off because we gathered together and used our gifts and time for God's glory!

Mmrr circle...collect school items...

Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Circle

Thursday, September 8 at 10:30am Fireside Room

Bethany Kilzer from Hestia's Home Organizing will present "Top Ten Tips for Organizing Your Kitchen." In addition, we will share our program for the 2011-12 year.

All women are welcome! Bring your sandwich and a book for our Book Exchange.

Hostesses: Lu Sluiter and Lois Meeker



Dear St. Stephen's family,
 Thank you very much for the beautiful orchid plant which was hand delivered to my house by Don and Donna in July. This was a wonderful surprise! Being part of the music program at St. Stephen's is one of the biggest joys in my life. Thanks again for this very nice gift.
 Peace, Love, and Joy, Connie Creel



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More Tid–Bits from the Youth

. . . At my school, not many kids go to church. It was really nice to be around so many people who do. You can relate to all of them because you believe in the same faith. These are stories I will never forget. They helped me to remember that you can get through anything, even when life seems almost impossible. This is an experience I hope I can participate in again. I feel like I now know so much more about God and being a Christian. - Kylie Ronning

. . . The Western States Youth Gathering was a wonderful experience. I had never been to one before so I didn't know what to expect. I learned so many different things about my faith and helping others. It was also really fun to meet so many other kids from around the western states. I didn't realize how many people shared the same faith as me. Over all, I had an amazing experience on this trip! Hannah Travers 😊

. . . Since the gathering, I have had a lot to balance but nothing compared to the stories that were shared at the gathering. All of them made their stories extremely relate-able to those happening in mine, and I'm sure many of the other youth's lives. The point sent across to us was that, if we just put our faith in God, he will somehow find a way to help us balance our life no matter what the situation we are faced with. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to go and absorb all the wonderful information, love, and spirit I felt that week. I look forward to the national youth gathering in 2012. Thank YOU! Maddy Mouw

. . . I found the speakers very interesting and the music during the worships brought people together. I had the most fun gathering food for mana food drive even though it was hot. My group during the food drive was offered water by one of the people that gave us food. It showed me that the community really cared about what we did for other people. I would also like to thank everyone for the support in prayers and in financial support. I really enjoyed the trip thank you. — Stefan Meek

. . . I met people from Montana all the way to Hawaii and Alaska. While making so many new friends I also strengthened my faith. I got to meet people that had some pretty hard lives and then got to hear how they overcame there problems with God. We also went on service projects. I thought it was really cool that they took advantage of the large number of willing to help students and had each kid do a little work so that when we all came together it made a large difference for some people in need. Thank you for continually sponsoring me on these retreats. ~ Rachel Lapp

* COME SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AT 10:30 ON SEPTEMBER 11TH *

Sunday School News



We are ready to kick off another fun Sunday School year!!! Our schedule for September looks like this:

RALLY DAY — September 11 and the official kick-off of our Sunday School year. We will be creating posters for our annual soap drive to benefit the Rebele Family Shelter. In addition to Sunday School registration we will also have a representatives from a variety of St. Stephen's ministries. Come and check it out!

Sept. 18 — Studying Genesis 1:1 and making "Creation Popcorn Balls"

Sept. 25 — Studying Genesis 37:1-36 and 39:1-45:28 and a paper cutting activity called Joseph Feed His Family.

FALL FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT is on Friday, Sept. 30th here at St. Stephen's. We will be watching "Joseph-King of Dreams" by Dreamworks animation. Fun crafts for the kids will be from 6:15-6:30 with the movie beginning promptly at 6:30 (ending at 7:45 pm). Popcorn and water will also be provided. This is a **FREE** event sponsored by our Sunday School program. All are welcome, bring a friend. Please let me know if you have any questions or ideas for our children's ministry or would like to help in any way.

Sincerely, Dusty Gipson dustygipson@yahoo.com

ATTENTION CHOIR MEMBERS (OLD AND NEW)



I hope that you all had a positive and fun summer, full of family vacations and outings and time for just plain relaxing.

The choir will **start** rehearsing again on September 11th. We will sing on September 18th at the 10:30 service. This is a little later than usual, but it is because of the switch from one service back to two services. We'll be rehearsing on Sunday mornings from 9:30 am to 10:25 am in the Fellowship Hall as usual.

Connie and I have selected lots of wonderful music through Christmas-time. Some of the pieces will be old favorites and some will be new. I would like to encourage anyone who might like to sing to join us at this first rehearsal. It's lots of fun and a great way to support Sunday worship.

Contact Connie Creel or me if you're interested in singing with the choir. No experience is necessary. All are welcome! Hope to see you on the 11th.

Peace ~ Suzanne Duval, Music Director

COPA Update

You are invited to learn more about COPA, the Shared Prosperity Agenda, and the Stand Up and Take Charge campaign. COPA is a broad based power organization of institutions including faith based institutions, non-profit organizations, and schools covering Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. Current issues COPA is working on include alternatives to gangs for youth, access to health care, strengthening the local economy, affordable housing, and foreclosure prevention. St. Stephen's is an active member. Learn more at the following events:

September 18, 9:30 a.m. – Adult Forum – Why a Shared Prosperity Agenda – Distribution of Wealth and Income in the U.S.

September 18, 2 – 5 p.m. – COPA Planning Meeting – First Congregational Church

September 25, 9:30 a.m. – Adult Forum – The Importance of the Civic, Government, and Market segments of the U.S. – Distribution of Wealth and Income in the U.S. II



SAVE THE DATE October 22 – GARDEN PARTY

This fundraiser will help send our youth to the National 2012 ELCA Youth Conference in New Orleans. It is a spiritual and inspirational event for youth throughout the U.S. So, save the date and plan to attend. The Garden Party will be at the home of Mark Linder and Mary Dean. Stay tuned for more details in the weeks ahead.