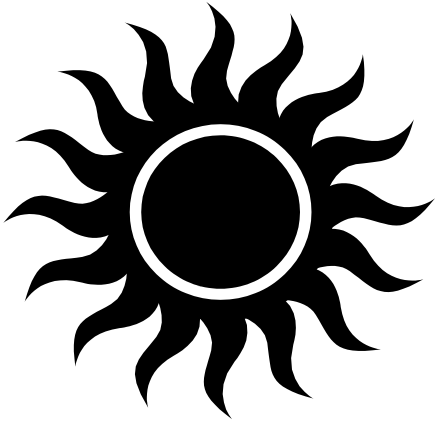


St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



SUN

*Celebrating 60
Years of Ministry
September 2014*

Resume 8:15 & 10:30 Worship Services September 7

OKTOBERFEST

"Santa Cruz Style"

Saturday, September 27th

12:00—4:00



A celebration of and for our community. Local beer, live music,
ethnic food, kids activities including jump house & climbing structure.

Commemorative Luther glasses for sale now!

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. — David Balogh V. P. — Joel Hurttgam
Secretary - Robbin Heppe Treasurer— Ron Buswell
Connie Creel, Jeanette Dawson, Judy Russell and
Rebecca Wickham

Directors of Music: Suzanne Duval & Gary Roberts

Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens Associate Musician: Jesse McMilin

Custodian: John Hopping

Children's Minister: Dusty Gipson

Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp

Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30am—2:30pm

Pastor's Office Hours—Wed. & Thurs. 10:00 am –1:00 pm

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.

VISION STATEMENT (proposed by council March 2014)

To become an energetic, multigenerational, multicultural, mission
community that offers play, hope, joy, service and life
as disciples of Jesus Christ



from Pastor Jim...

This little clip art of the chalice and open Bible is here every time for a particular reason. It represents the center of a pastor's calling in our church: that of the ministry of Word and Sacrament, which is how we define ordained ministry in the ELCA. Of course that encompasses a lot more than reading and talking about the Bible and administering the sacraments of baptism and holy communion.

You all lifted up the 20th anniversary of my ordination in a very meaningful way that I will always remember. It was a time for me to faithfully reflect on my calling as a pastor and as your pastor here.

As I did that I remembered the words said to me by Rev. Carol Been whom I had chosen to be the preacher at my service of ordination at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Santa Rosa. They were words that I thought were kinda strange when I first heard them (nothing new for Carol!) She said: "What you are about to do is impossible!"

I certainly didn't want to hear that after all that I had been through preparing for this day: 4 yrs. at CLU for a Bachelor's in Humanities, and 5 years at LSTC and the U. of Chicago for a M. Div. and an MSW - not to mention 3 yrs. as a full-time Youth Minister and 4 summers running a Lutheran camp. I was ready to tackle anything - It was ALL possible for this pastor-in-training!

But almost immediately I discovered that she was right. I went from the frying pan into the fire as my first congregation was in the midst of deep-seated internal conflict resulting from the sexual misconduct of the previous pastor. Yuck. This WAS impossible.

Through that, and many subsequent pastoral experiences, I learned that what Carol said was pretty true. But what she really meant was that it was impossible for me to be a pastor on my own, apart from me submitting to God and being ready to receive God's power through God's people - the church.

I have been so blessed to be your pastor, and your presence, your prayers, your work, your loving, your singing, and your openness to allowing God's Spirit to challenge how we are church together in the 21st century - have all helped make it possible for me to overcome all the impossibilities of being a pastor.

Thank you so much for your heartfelt acknowledgement of this significant anniversary in my life. Thank you for the beautiful red El Salvadoran stole that replaces the one I received on my ordination that I had since lost. I treasure our life together and look forward to what God will make possible for us.

September Happenings

Chapel with the Pre-Schoolers

Wednesdays at 10:15 am

Knitting Group

Thursdays at 6:45pm

Alcoholics Anonymous

Fridays at 7:00 pm

Alanon

Sundays at 3:30 pm

Healing Station during worship

Sunday Sept. 21

Finance Committee

Sept. 12 at 9:00 am

Women's Café Group

Sept. 17 @ 6:30 pm

MMRR Women's Circle

Sept 11 @ 10:30

Annual Women's Retreat

September 20-22 (or Sat. only)

Church Council

Sept. 15 at 7:00 pm

Property Work Day

Sept. 16, 9:00—12

Habitat for Humanity Lunches

Sept. 23 @ 10:30

Benevolence

= Lutheran Campus Ministry

Electronic giving options are available

Council Highlights - July

1. We welcomed 2 guest representatives from Victory Outreach Church as the council considered a request from them to share the use of our facility on Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons. Concerns and advantages had both been raised by the congregation over the past month: Would the increased use create too much of an impact and need for clean-up? Will we ask more of our custodian thus increasing his compensation? Will the big differences in theology and approach to the Bible be a hindrance to our message in the community? The extra income (\$500/month) will help meet our budget in a year when we already have a big deficit. It's always good to share, especially with sisters and brothers in faith.
2. Judy Russell had volunteered to call references and found them favorable. Council approved request for a 6 month trial period beginning Wed. Aug. 13.
3. Ron Buswell volunteered to lead a meeting after worship on Sunday Aug. 17 for those interested in any facility renovations and the use of Mid-Pen funds for them. This meeting will lift up the council's priority that any use of Mid-Pen funds for the facility be done as a matching Capital Fund Campaign if at all. Ideas for what people would like to see done will be collected and then volunteers to help work on those ideas will be gathered.
4. There was no August Council meeting.



September

Birthdays

9-1	Bill Cruddas	9-12	Collin Travers	9-24	Peter Larson
9-2	Dillon Houser	9-12	Hannah Travers	9-26	Hope Coronado
9-7	David Balogh	9-14	Howard Mason	9-26	Jan Wagner
9-8	Cabel Dawson	9-14	Elias McMilin	9-28	Cathy Yost
9-8	Eric Millang	9-15	Ashley Volpi	9-29	Joanne Freymuth
9-9	Jill Adachi	9-16	Rick Oldfield	9-29	Holly Lynd
9-9	Becky Cramer	9-17	Marta Bechhoefer	9-29	Nicholas Lynd
9-10	Wayne Adachi	9-18	Connie Cunningham	9-29	Tasha Turzo
9-10	David Larson	9-19	Philip Spires	9-30	Kristen Silva
9-10	Paige Lynd	9-20	Brian Awe	9-30	David Stahl
9-10	Lori Millang	9-20	Steve Mouw	Belated wishes: 8-2 Grace Schmidt	
9-12	Nikki Creel	9-21	Michaela Turzo		

September Anniversaries

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



Belated wishes:
7-1 Pr. Herb & Grace Schmidt



Sunday School News

Dear Sunday School Friends and Families,

Fall is my favorite time of year. It is a time to reflect, prepare and plan. Families are refreshed after having a summer break and kids are going back to school, ready and excited for learning. I too am excited about this new school year in our Sunday School program and all that it will hold for our kids. I am working on our plan and am hoping to focus some time and attention on some of the basics with our own twist. We will be learning the books of the bible, some memory verses, and moving deeper into some of the tried and true bible stories using games and activities that will get our kids involved, moving and learning. This I hope will help us build a strong foundation for the lessons leading up to the birth of Jesus which we will study while preparing for the annual Christmas Pageant (scheduled for Sunday, December 7th, during the 10:30 service).

Our regular Sunday School schedule, during the 10:30 service, will resume on Sunday, September 7th when the congregation returns to two services.

We hope that your family has enjoyed the summer and I look forward to seeing your kids in Sunday School. Please let me know if you might be interested in helping out with any of our Sunday School activities or the Oktoberfest (many hands are still needed for this event!

Sincerely,
Dusty Gipson

831-338-3787 (home) dustygipson@yahoo.com



St. Stephen's Child Development Center

Our quiet yet festive summer ended with some bittersweet farewell's to our friends Ricky, Laila, and Alex who are leaving for Elementary School. After sea creatures, ocean, beach, pirates, and camping our curriculum now focuses on fall, apples, family, and "All about me." We are very excited to have wonderful families returning for another year of growth and opportunity.

We would like to give thanks and appreciation to John Hopping who diligently keeps our school clean and yard manicured. Ours is a big facility with a lot of ground to cover for one person no matter how many groups come in and out for activities. Our preschool staff appreciates the hard work John does to keep our environment clean and tidy. Thanks John!

We would like to extend special thanks to Candace Anderson for all of the work she has done to tidy up many rooms in the building. The trickle-down effect has benefited the preschool by having clean storage areas and an overall cleaner environment. Thanks you to Candace and her helpers Bill Anderson, and Connie Cunningham to name a few for your contribution to our cleanliness. We also want to thank Connie for using her elbow grease to clean the floor tiles in the Preschool bathroom and Lu Sluiter for using her muscle to tackle the ovens. We surely appreciate your effort.

The teachers have been busy planning curriculum for our new school year. We will be adding some new programs and improving programs that we enjoyed before. We look forward to sharing the new programs with you as they unfold. Kathy Berens will be attending First 5's SEEDS Literacy Program for 9 months along with teachers from Public School Transitional Kindergarten in order to expand SSCDC's literature program. Our teachers are applying or upgrading their California State Early Childhood Teaching Permits while continuing their Early Childhood Education. We are also evaluating new instruments to observe and document each child's development as they grow through our program. It should be an exciting year!

Blessings, Kathy Berens 462-4453

Worship & Music Committee

The comm. met 8/12- and the following attended members- Connie Creel, Barbara Rice, Pastor Jim Lapp, Pastor Bonnie Bell, Candace Anderson, Ruth Mitchell.

Devotions- Jim- From book called “Lift Up the Whole Church”; worship and music are linked; worship connects us to our mission as a church; centered on word and sacraments - Baptism and Communion. God gathers us in on a regular basis to receive Gods love and grace, to equip believers to serve one another in the world. Next meeting-- Jim will do devotions for the remainder of the year based on this book.

Goals for 2014-

1. Congregational survey-- survey of 4-5 open ended questions . Being done in Aug Comm. (2-3). Barb— We have about 14 surveys so far. During summer service there have been 50-60 attendees so getting more than 10% is considered good by researchers. We want as many surveys as possible. PLAN - Will do last time Sept 7, with 2 services. Members encouraged to drop them off and place in a brightly covered box on last pew near sound equipment. PLAN -Barb will summarize the results at next meeting.

2. Review time and talent sheets for revision of worship assistant lists -- Candace, Connie and Barb met for 3 ½ hr to strategize on who we call and what to ask. Plan is to call all people listed in the directory on behalf of the W/M comm., thanking each for their hard work at the church, years of service, and inquire about assisting during the service; also if they have prayer concerns, remind about the 3rd Sunday each month with the Healing Station. Will leave message if unable to reach. PLAN- to have completed calls by next meeting. Herb Schmidt is interested in serving on W/M Comm. next year.

3. Reconciliation Recommendation Report- Jim sent to Barb; update— Lisa had reviewed and commented under worship and music section “All areas in this section are being addressed throughout document.” PLAN - No further action needed by W/M comm.

4. Hymn sing- Quarterly hymn sing,

Hymn sing dates are 8/31 and 11/23 so on 8/17 and 24, 11/9 and 16, need for congregation to submit requests. 8/31--- Chris Madsen asked to have this date set aside for El Salvador group presentation. One Sunday in Sept. Kirk M wants to organize a ukulele worship service. PLAN- 8/31 will not be a hymn sing as planned due to El Salvador group wanting to do service- one service. Next hymn sing will be 11/23.

5. Healing stations—will do on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Need 4 members to assist while Jim does the healing station. Have 1st assistant 8/17 so need 2 more assistants. Dates-- Aug 17, Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 16,, Nov 21, Dec 18. PLAN- Barb and Candace will be 2nd assistants

One service for summer- F/U with Bonnie— did not have time to review attendance sheets and giving, to see if it makes a difference going from two services to one. PLAN—Bonnie still planning to do this.

New Liturgy for 9/7 - Jim / Connie— will plan to use the McGeever in the fall- one we know. For Advent- last year Suzanne put together nice service—will ask if she could do that again- use that same service. PLAN - to use liturgies that congregation knows.

Upcoming services - Aug 24— Celebrating Jim’s 20th Ordination— Rachel Lapp will be doing presentation in lieu of sermon.

Oct 12—Blessing of the animals—PLAN- do same service as last year; Connie will contact the Sentinel.

Oct 26—Reformation Sunday – reminder in bulletin and Monday email about wearing red. PLAN - Barb to send email to Leslie about this.

Closing - Group- open group prayer and saying Lord’s prayer together

NEXT MEETINGS---- 10/14, 12/9 Submitted on behalf of the W/M Comm. - Barb Rice

Benevolence Offerings

September—Lutheran Campus Ministry

Reaching out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the students, faculty and staff of UC Santa Cruz and CSU Monterey Bay, Lutheran Campus Ministry of the Monterey Bay supports students on their faith journey by providing opportunities for Bible study, prayer, worship, service and fellowship.

July—Homeless Service Center = \$175

August — C.L.U. and P.L.T.S. = \$145.00

(was given as of Aug. 24)

Notes from the Treasurer

Financial Information - January through July 2014

	Actual	Budget	Delta
Donations and Income	\$97,353.41	\$107,625.07	-\$10,271.66
Expenses	\$115,530.28	\$123,260.83	-\$7,730.55
Deficit	-\$18,176.87	-\$15,635.76	-\$2541.11
MidPen \$	\$20,000.00	\$15,750.00	

Our donations and income are \$10,271.66 below our budget through July, but fortunately our expenses are below plan by \$7,730.55. So overall we are \$2,541.11 behind budget. Our budget also includes the use of Mid Pen Lease money to make up the deficit. So we have withdrawn \$20,000 from our Mid Pen funds to pay current expenses and cover the \$18,176.87 deficit so far this year.

As a result of investment of the Mid Pen funds and additional facility use income, I am hopeful that we will be able to cover our expenses through the rest of the year. I will let you know how we are doing in next month's newsletter. More giving always helps as well!

A big THANK YOU goes out to Kirk Adams and Sherilyn Jager for doing our bookkeeping and payroll.



OKTOBERFEST

We need you: Saturday, September 27th

The whole body is needed to make this community-oriented church event a spiritual success. Your talents, and hands are what God will use to do what he loves most, reaching and connecting his creation to Himself and the Church.

We need to get the word out — beyond our church family. Please go to the St. Stephen's FaceBook page "Like it, Join it, & Share with your friends" and do the same for the Oktoberfest post. There are fliers available for you to share as well.

Please sign up at church or call the office with how you can help for an hour or two:

Selling tickets

Serving Food & Beer

Leading Children's Activities

Grounds/ Setup & Cleanup

Bake cookies, bars, cupcakes etc.

Being a host in our Sanctuary during Organ concert

Women's Café Group Potluck
Wednesday Sept. 17, 6:30 pm @ Terri's home

Our small group spends time in fellowship, discussion & prayer. Come together as women of faith....new folks welcome! Bring a dish to share. More info call Leslie 476-4700.

GREETINGS FROM THE CHOIR MUSIC TEAM!

I hope you all had wonderful summers and you are ready to join us as we begin to sing wonderful, worshipful music at the 10:30 am service.

The choir will start rehearsing again on September 7th, the first Sunday in September. We will sing for sure on the first time on Sunday September 14th, at the 10:30 am service and most likely also for the first service on September 7th. We'll select music that can be readily learned in one rehearsal. We'll continue rehearsing every Sunday morning from 9:30 am to 10:25 am in the Fellowship Hall as usual.

Connie and I have selected some great music for the choir to sing 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.

Please contact me Suzanne Duval, or Connie Creel, if you're interested in singing with the choir. No experience is necessary. All are welcome!

See you on Sunday, September 7, at 9:30 am.
Peace! Suzanne Duval – Music Director





STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

Lots of People!!!

Pastor Jim's 20th Ordination Anniversary Brunch Celebration was coordinated by **Lu Sluiter** who lovingly handmade all of the beautiful Cross and Bible centerpieces. Also thanks to **Don Smawley, Barbara Rice, and David Balogh** for helping plan the special time. Providing help in the kitchen were **Gwyn Larson, Janet Slay, Connie Cunningham, Candace Anderson, and Joanne Freymuth**. Earlier in the week, Lu scrubbed both ovens till they sparkled! And Connie tackled the bathroom floors. Candace and Connie have been working hard on renewing the Fireside room. Other painters were **Joel Hurttgam, James Russell, Bill Anderson and David Balogh**. It's been a summer of service for our facility. Thanks for all of your humble witnesses in caring for the gift we have.

Faith Community Conference and Ministries Fair

“Walking Our Talk Together”

Sept. 5 2:00—5:00 pm

Calvary Episcopal Church

Come share with us as we explore our Faith response to poverty & human suffering.
Sponsored by Association of Faith Communities

Property Work Day

Sat. Sept. 13 from 9 am to noon

Help get ready for our Oktoberfest and PreSchool Open House!
More painting, fixing, poster making, and gardening.

Lutheran Campus Ministry of the Monterey Bay

I bring greetings from the Board of Lutheran Campus Ministry of the Monterey Bay and our campus pastors: Clark Brown and Jon Perez at California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and Inese Dahl at the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC).

The month of September is when St. Stephen's benevolence offerings are designated toward campus ministry. This vital program is not a line item in our congregation's budget. The Board extends a big thank you for your faithful support over the years through prayers, financial donations and volunteering. It is critical to this ministry. St. Stephen's is well-represented on the Board. Rev. Herb Schmidt is the President and I am now the Treasurer. Herb was UCSC's first campus pastor nearly 50 years ago and both Herb and Inese have been very active with the University Interfaith Council. We are very fortunate that Inese, Clark and Jon have now had many years of experience working with young people on our campuses. I am continually amazed at all they are able to accomplish within the time constraints of these very part-time positions. **Inese will visit both services on Sunday, September 21 to share highlights of the ministry at UCSC.**

Why is this an important ministry? Our campus pastors reach out to young adults at a critical time, a time when they are making decisions which will affect the rest of their lives. Even the smallest amount of support can contribute to positive student development and overall well-being. Our campus pastors provide opportunities for worship services on campus, fellowship activities, community service projects and counseling.

You can read about the campus ministry at CSUMB on their website: <http://www.graceroom.org/> Clark Brown, who is the pastor at St. Timothy's in Monterey and Jon Perez who is the pastor at Epiphany in Marina provide opportunities for worship and other activities. They also provide spiritual support as campus chaplains to the whole CSUMB community. They have an office in the Personal Growth & Counseling Center on campus. Two Sunday evenings a month they offer a communion service called Grace Room Word and Table. On the alternate Sunday evenings they hold Chaplain Café where they can be found at Peet's Café in the Library for conversation. Every Thursday from 11 am to 2 pm is "Chaplains out to Lunch", an open lunch table in the Dining Commons. Service opportunities include a food pantry and vegetable garden and a homeless emergency lodging program at Epiphany Church in Marina which is very close to campus.

How can you help? We ask you to keep this ministry in your **prayers** in the coming months. You can **volunteer** to help with hospitality. Email Inese at: inese@messiah-lutheran.us. You can select to **support** LCM with your Thrivent Choice Dollars by calling Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836. Thank you again for your support of this ministry.

Peace, love, and joy! ~~ Connie Creel

Mary Martha/Ruth Rebecca Women's Circle

September 11 @ 10:30

This is the first meeting of the new season. The speaker will be Susan Cabrera, talking about senior programs in the community and senior volunteering opportunities. Hostess is Connie with devotions by Pastor Bonnie. Bring your lunch. Dessert and coffee are provided.

Come for service, socialization and setting your sights on God.

Annual Women's Retreat

Sept 19– 21 (or Saturday only)

What: The Fall Women's Retreat is a long standing tradition at Mt. Cross that offers women a chance for spiritual renewal, fellowship, learning, laughing, fine dining and the beauty of God's creation. This fall, our special speaker will lead us in thought provoking sessions as we explore what it means to be a Brave woman of God.

Theme "Brave" Verse: *And let us not grow weary of doing good,
for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.* – Galatians 6:9

Register by September 12: \$150.00 Only Saturday: \$100.00

Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Julia Lambert Fogg, Assoc. Prof. of New Testament and Early Christianity as well as Chair of the Religion Dept. at Cal. Lutheran University. She is focused on developing innovative, immersive and relational teaching methods, particularly for experiential and transformational learning with Students. She specializes in Pauline letters and is passionate about her work on the social and political dynamics of communities. She has spent five years preaching and presiding over a bilingual congregation in Pasadena, working with at-risk youth on leadership skills and educational aspirations. Out of this experience she is currently developing a liberation theology for immigrants in Southern California using biblical narratives of border crossing. She is thrilled to be joining us this fall.



El Salvador Sister Parish News

Over the past few months you may have heard a reference to 'El Pilar' during the prayer time. This article is going to clarify what El Pilar is.

In 2006, a woman showed up in Karla Norton's office (then pastor of Trinity Presbyterian) asking if they could do something for a small community in El Salvador, named El Pilar. This was before Trinity had a relationship with Santa Cruz al Salvador.

Living Water, an NGO in El Salvador, put in two wells; one was sponsored by Trinity. In 2008, Pastor Karla, David Gomez (of Trinity) and Mike Cruddas visited and saw how poor the community was. All three of them were moved by what they saw, and there have been several more visits. They have expressed that El Pilar (and the nearby communities mentioned below) are developmentally where Guillermo Ungo was 15-20 years ago.

El Pilar is about a forty minute drive from San Salvador, located between Zaragoza and Cimarron in the department of La Libertad. There are four separate communities in the area, with El Pilar being the largest and more organized. They are: El Pilar, Bendiciones de Dios Uno, Bendiciones de Dios Dos, and San Carlos. They have 15-50 families and were formed 1990 to 2003. Each has their priorities for development, but common areas are water, latrines, education, electricity. The children have a long way to get to school as the Ministry of Education is not involved at this time.

Santa Cruz al Salvador always works with a Salvadoran NGO Non-governmental organization when money is going to be given. For this project, they are working with The United Community Association for Water and Agriculture (ACUA).

The board has not officially discussed "adopting" El Pilar w/out giving up another project in Guillermo Ungo. The decision has been made to use designated funds (currently \$2,000) to assist these communities. The board has authorized research and planning work using these funds. Specifically they have decided to support a water project and approved the \$457 expenditure to test the water. We are waiting for ACUA to get back to us.

Where will we need to decrease our support if designated funds do not continue? Sustainability of our work with these communities is a concern without a more robust source of funding. Trinity has expressed interest in providing support, and there may be another church who would be interested in helping them.

Two concerns that the board needs to address are:

- Sustainability is part of the accompaniment / ELCA model we are using for mission. It states that "we seek to embed mission in ongoing relationships and communities" (from ELCA Global Mission Unit - used by permission).
- Obtaining legal status if they do not have it. The board decided that we focus our efforts in the El Pilar communities on those who have obtained their legal status. We will keep everyone informed about the progress.

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

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**POST OFFICE:
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PLEASE DO NOT DELAY**

**NEWSLETTER WAS SENT ON
August 27, 2014**

Children's Church

10:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Adult Forum & Choir

8:15 am Worship Service

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ST. STEPHEN'S

