

Vision of St. Stephen

April 2022

"I Am the
resurrection
and the
life..."



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
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"When they saw (the risen) Jesus, they worshipped him; but some doubted".
Matthew 28:17

Got Doubts? You're in good company.

On Easter Sunday, in Matthew's gospel, the risen Jesus tells Mary and Mary Magdalene that the disciples should head for Galilee. There the rest of the disciples see the risen Jesus for first and only time in this gospel. The disciple's reaction is fascinating. They worshipped Jesus, but some doubted. Doubted what exactly? The fact Jesus was risen? What their eyes were telling them?

There are many things in this world that I have doubts and uncertainties about. How long must we wait for evil to cease to exist? What do tyrants hope to accomplish as they lead countries into war? Why is life such a struggle for some, and seemingly so easy for others? How do we dare to say that our hope lies in the God of life who is present even in the midst of death?

Perhaps you have some of the same uncertainties or question, or some different ones.

As we walk through Easter through Pentecost, we'll see that this theme of questioning and doubting is an experience of the first disciples and the people they met. In fact, the doubts and questions start early in the Gospels—from the disciples not quite sure what an empty tomb means to the early church trying to figure out who is inside and who should be outside of the community.

So, this Easter season, bring your doubts, your uncertainties, and your questions to worship. You may find some answers. You may find you have even more questions. Either way, you'll be in good company!

See you in worship!

Easter Joy to You,
Beth Ferne Johnson, pastor

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Spiritual Growth

BIBLE 101

Our study of Revelation is wrapping up, so we'll be starting in with a new topic after Easter. Look for more information to come in the Sunday bulletin or feel free to call the church office. We meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Each Saturday at 9:30 a.m., you're invited to stop by at Chick-fil-A on McCord and Central Ave. A group of 4-10 folks are typically there for about an hour of conversation. Please feel free to drop by as your schedule allows—stay for as long or as little as you like.



WALK UP COMMUNION CONTINUES

You're invited to drop in on Wednesdays from 4:30-6 p.m. for communion. We will not have walk-up communion on April 13 because communion will be available at the Maundy Thursday worship!

JOY CLUB

Pat Hoehing will serve to host our luncheon gathering on Tuesday, April 19th at noon. Please bring your own lunch. Pat will be providing drinks. If you can sign up on our bulletin board, that would be very helpful. Thanks!

INQUIRER'S CLASS

Know someone who is interested in finding out more about St. Stephen? An inquirer's class will be held on Sunday, April 24th to answer questions and to share a little about what is involved about being a member of St. Stephen. We'll meet at noon for about an hour in the fellowship hall.

Youth and Family



YOUTH EVENT

Our next youth event with a Bible story and crafts will be held on April 10th at 3:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Holy Week & Easter

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Shout of Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, will greet us as worship begins and we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, just a few days before his death. This year we'll be having members of the congregation read the words of various participants in the Holy Week story. Please sign up on the bulletin board. Thanks!

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Join us at 7:00 p.m. in person and online for worship, focusing on the command Jesus gives his disciples that they should love each other, as Jesus himself eats a final meal with them before his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15

St. Stephen is hosting our Sylvania Area Churches annual worship service as we remember Jesus's last words from the cross. We welcome folks from Sylvania First United Methodist and Sylvania United Church of Christ for this worship at 12:00 noon.

At 7:00 p.m., our worship, online and in person, will feature a service of Tenebrae, of descending darkness.

EASTER, APRIL 17

Join us for a joyous worship in our building as we celebrate Jesus' victory over death itself! We are hoping that the weather will co-operate for our Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15 a.m. We'll also be livestreaming this worship on Facebook and YouTube so you can worship from home as well.



Outreach

Ukraine Donations

Lutheran World Relief is collecting donations to help with the Crisis in Ukraine. Some E.L.C.A. churches have gotten together and will match any donation given up to \$422,000. For more info or to give directly you can go to lwr.org/match or feel free to mark on your offering envelope or write Ukraine in the check memo. Thank you for your generosity!



Salem Non-Food Pantry

Our ongoing collection for Salem Lutheran non-food pantry could use an infusion! They are always in need of any baby supplies, natural hair care products, dry laundry detergent, toothpaste and toothbrushes, lotions, and hair styling products! They always appreciate our donations and it really makes a different to people in need in our community!



Feed Your Neighbor

Donations continue to be delivered to our bin. We are taking about a trunk load full of food to LSS every month. We appreciate your continued support in donations and sharing our “Feed Your Neighbor” mission!



Green Bean & Syrup Collection

We'll be sending our collection of green beans, pancake syrup, and pancake mix down to Salem Lutheran at the end of March. Look for our final totals to be published on Facebook and in our Sunday bulletin. So far we have collected 59 bottles of syrup and 130 cans of green beans!



Church Finances

KROGER REWARDS

We are pleased to report St. Stephen is receiving donations from 22 of our households who shop at Kroger and earned \$97.09 for St. Stephen between Nov. 1, 2021 and Jan. 31, 2022. A huge thank you to all who are participating in this program. If you have not already done so, please go online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com, and sign up to have your Community Rewards directed to St. Stephen! Also, every few years, Kroger's requires each household to re-confirm their donation choice, which you can do through the same website. Our organization number is PJ196. If you would like assistance in signing up for this program, please see Marilyn Scuralli or Kathy Aldrich.

Administrative News

CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY

In late April, we hope to have our in house picture directory ready for you to pick up and take home! We're accepting submitted photos through April 4. Please email them to Janell in a Jpeg. Jeremy Hopkins will be available on Sunday mornings (3/27 and 4/3) to take photos here at church as well.



PASTOR BETH'S 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Thank you for the cards, cake and gathering to celebrate my 10th anniversary of service to St. Stephen as your pastor! I appreciate you all so much as we seek to praise and serve God together! Peace, Pastor Beth

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **May 2022** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by April 12.**



Prayer

APRIL PRAYER NOTES

Getting older is not always easy but one thing that “older” people do is reminisce. I find myself doing that a lot lately. I guess that means I am “older”. I don’t really feel any different but the signs of aging are apparent. I forget too easily..... I have gotten shorter!!!.....and I’ve lost a significant portion of my hearing which means I’m not as involved as I used to be in activities. But reminiscing is sometimes comforting and sometimes saddening. Remembering one’s youth and all the happy days is good. Remembering the loss of loved ones can be very hard. It is easy at this time in my life to spend time reminiscing. Times like meeting my husband and our courtship are, of course, good as are the days of having children, grandchildren, AND great grandchildren! But life also gives us days of loss and those are not so happy. All of my family (mother, father, three brothers and one sister) have all gone on to their eternal home. Those days were difficult but I was, and am, comforted by the knowledge of a wonderful God who provided for us all the chance to live eternally with Him in a much better world. And that is not just reminiscing.....that is God’s truth and God’s gift to us all. So in the midst of my reminiscing, I always remember that “ God is good.....all the time. And... all the time....God is good!!” So let us remember to thank Him....let’s pray. ~Betty Lock

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Alice—Healing & Comfort
Patrick—Comfort & Healing
Denny—Healing
Jill—Comfort, Strength & Peace
Joel—Strength and Recovery
Chelsey—Healing & Peace
Noah—Strength and Understanding
Those with Cancer—Healing
Roger Jr.—Pancreatic Cancer
Greg—Healing & Comfort
Tina—Ease & Comfort
Nancy—Comfort & Healing
Scott—Healing
Olivia—Healing & Comfort
COVID Sufferers
Tornado Survivors
Afghanistan Refugees
Ukraine
Imber Family

Fun

ALL IN GOOD FUN

Q: Why do we color Easter eggs?

A: Because Jesus dyed for your sins!

Happy Easter!

BIBLE QUIZ

What did the Romans do with the coat that Jesus wore?

(Answer page 8)

- A. Burned It
- B. Ripped it Up
- C. Gave It To A Beggar
- D. Cast Lots

ARE YOU OKAY?

If you find yourself in need of emergency supplies or in need of someone to talk to, please don't hesitate to call the church office and we will assist you however we can or direct you to resources that may be able to help.

Council

2022 Council Members

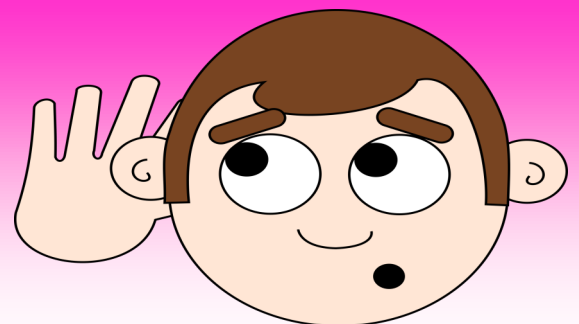
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Secretary</i>	Beth Madden
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Housel

Ministry Liaisons were established as follows:

<i>Christian Education</i>	Pastor Beth
<i>Finance</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Prayer, Praise, Worship</i>	Pastor Beth
<i>Property</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Staff Support</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Stewardship/Evangelism</i>	Beth Madden
<i>Technology</i>	John Lock
<i>Youth & Family Ministry</i>	
<i>Social Ministry</i>	Joan Haddox

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Hearing assistance equipment for up to 8 users available for anyone who needs help hearing the service better. Please ask Jeremy Hopkins or anyone who uses the equipment for assistance.



Steve's Bulletin Board

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Warm Clothing Drive! Ruth Moeller was able to take multiple loads of warm clothes to organizations that really needed them!

JOY Club March 2022!



The Word In Season

Word in Season

The Word in Season for April, May and June are now at the church! If you can't make it to the building to pick one up, call the office and Janell can send you one!

Bible Quiz Answer:

D. Cast Lots

April Celebrations

Baptismal Birthdays

4/1 Jake Bogdan
4/1 Barb Davis
4/1 Tricia Kunkel
4/1 Sandy Markin
4/1 Sharon Mason
4/5 Amy Chauvette
4/6 Betty Lock
4/6 John Lock
4/17 Bill Markin
4/22 Marsha Grouls

Birthdays

4/2 Mike Bogdan
4/3 Tom Dangelo
4/5 Brenden Shadle
4/7 Pat Hoehing
4/7 Bryan Huffman
4/10 Tom Davis
4/11 Cathy Gustafson
4/12 Tom Pfau
4/13 Kayla Marchant
4/19 Larry Golba
4/21 Joanne Johnson
4/29 Jenny Troutman

Anniversaries

4/21 Mike & Karen Bogdan

April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9:30 Coffee and Conversation
3 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship	4	5 7:00 PM Bible 101	6 4:30 PM Walk Up Communion 7:00 PM Len-ten Worship	7	8	9 9:30 Coffee and Conversation
10 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship 3PM Youth Event	11	12 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Bible 101	13	14 7:00 PM Maun-dy Thursday Worship	15 12:00 PM SAC Worship @ St. Stephen 7:00 PM Good Friday Wor-ship	16 9:30 Coffee and Conversation
17 Easter 10:15 AM Easter Egg Hunt 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship	18	19 12:00 PM JOY Club 7:00 PM Bible 101	20 4:30 PM Walk Up Communion 7:00 PM Coun-cil Meeting	21	22	23 9:30 Coffee and Conversation
24 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship 12PM Inquirer's Class	25 LWR Quilting	26 7:00 PM Bible 101	27 4:30 PM Walk Up Communion	28	29	30 9:30 Coffee and Conversation