

Vision of St. Stephen

October 2022

Now he who supplies seed to the sower
and bread for food will also supply
and increase your store of seed
and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.
2 Corinthians 9:10

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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Dear partners in ministry,

Generosity is all around us, but sometimes we have to look for it. In the feeding of the 5,000 story in the Bible, significant generosity happened once the child shared his lunch (John 6:9). That is how it is here. Once we begin to share, we will see that God has blessed us with plenty.

Building a Culture of Generosity is the theme of our fall stewardship appeal. This theme points us to the generosity that we have witnessed around our church over the past year, but also points us to know that we can grow into this in even more profound ways.

When the pandemic began in March of 2020, many of us worried there would not be enough. Our ministry remained strong and in fact, many of us recognized just how critically important this community is to our faith.

Our grateful response in generosity helps to demonstrate to us and to the world around us that, in fact, God has provided us everything and we have enough, even enough to share.

In the weeks ahead, you will be hearing more about generosity. Newsletter articles, bulletin inserts, mission moments, letters and more will be used to share this story and our hopes for an even more robust ministry next year.

So, in the coming weeks, please engage with the materials. Pray about how you can become more generous. Then, on Commitment Sunday, November 13, please bring your intent card with you to declare the generosity that you intend to share with this congregation.

Thank you for being part of this exciting congregation. Pray for our common work together as we continue to reach out with the Gospel.

Sincerely in Christ,



P.S. Your intent card will be mailed to your home on November 3 for you to return on November 13.

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Spiritual Growth

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The worship committee received 48 responses from our recent survey! Thank you for participating! The first question about worship times received these responses:

20 votes for I would like to leave the current blended serve at 11:00 a.m.

16 votes for I would like to move the current service to 10:00 a.m.

8 votes for I would prefer we have 2 services: 1 at 8:30 and 1 at 11:00 a.m.

4 surveys did not answer this question.

Since the two service option received only 8 votes, and the votes were so close between the other options, the worship committee went to those 8 people and asked them to choose between the 10 or 11 start time. (During this time, we also received 2 late surveys) With those additions, the survey showed:

26 votes for 11:00 a.m.

20 votes for 10:00 a.m.

Since the results were 55% for 11 and 45% at 10, our church council leadership decided to split the difference. Our blended worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m. on our annual meeting date, November 13th. Until then, our worship will continue at 11:00 a.m.

After the first of the year, Gathering Space will return at 9:00 a.m. Our survey showed a strong interest in resuming this educational time together.

WORSHIP SURVEY

Thanks for responding to our recent worship survey! We've had quite a few of you indicate an interest in helping with Sunday morning worship. To facilitate this, we'll be having a 15 minute training session at 12 noon on the following Sundays: October 2 for greeters, October 9 for ushers, October 16 for lay assistants. A make-up session will be held on the following Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. for those who can't make the Sunday session. If you'd like to be trained for any of these opportunities, you're welcome to participate!

BIBLE 101

We're beginning a new book during October. Here's a review of Shalom Sistas, by Osheta Moore. "As the divisions in our world get wider and deeper, the need for peacemakers—not mere peacekeepers—is stronger than ever. In Shalom Sistas, Osheta Moore offers honest, practical, and vulnerable wisdom and experience on how we can actively create shalom in our circles. Filled with real stories and tangible practices, this book will challenge, encourage, and strengthen readers to respond to God's call and bravely engage in the beautiful kingdom work of peacemaking". Kathy Escobar If this sounds interesting to you, please join us at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays.

JOY CLUB

We will meet at Incorvaia's at 12:00 PM on Tuesday, October 18. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board (Questions : Ruth Moeller) The address is 4751 Monroe. This Italian restaurant is located just past the mall, opposite Rudy's Hot dog.

NOTICE OF OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting of the congregation will follow our 10:03 AM worship service on Sunday November 13 (around 11:30 AM). This is a chance to see the ministries we've been involved with during the past year! Please plan to stay for lunch after the meeting. We'll be having a spaghetti fundraiser for Lutheran World Relief's work in Ukraine.

WALK UP COMMUNION RETURNS

Walk up communion will be returning on a more regular basis this fall. Our worship survey showed that this is important to a significant percentage of folks who responded. Please stop by on Wednesdays between 5-6 p.m. (no communion available on 10/26 during Pastor Beth's vacation).

Outreach

Pasta Collection

Thank you St. Stephen! With everyone's help we were able to collect 137 pounds of pasta for the LSS food pantry! The pasta was collected through September 18th and delivered the following week to the pantry! The volunteers were grateful for the pasta and mentioned they were low on canned fruit. Thank you again for all the generous donations that help our local community!



OCC Shoebox Collection

This year we will be collecting items for boxes and pre-filled boxes for Operation Christmas Child! Boxes are available as well as pamphlets on how to back the boxes in the Narthex! We will also have a packing party on October 30th!

LWR Quilting

The quilters have completed 53 quilts this year through that will be sent all over the world to send hope and love where it is needed most. The quilts will be dedicated at the October 2nd service. Thank you ladies again for your time and talent!



Larry Golba Art Show

The paintings of Larry S. Golba will be on display here at St. Stephen November 5 & 6 between 12:30 and 4:30 PM. 60% of the sales will go to the Sylvania Area Family Services. We would love for you to come and see these beautiful paintings and support a good cause as well!

Church Finances

FAITH ENGAGEMENT

For those who are comfortable using technologies to contribute, Vanco services provides us with a smart phone app (Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement) that we can use to make our donations. You can use this app to make a one time gift to St. Stephen or an ongoing gift. There is a step by step instruction guide on our website (<https://www.ststephenlutheran.church/online-giving>), If you have any questions please contact the church office!

BENEVOLENCE GIFTS

At our August meeting, our church council voted to share \$2,000 to help those in Kentucky and surrounding states recover from the devastating flooding this summer. This money was shared with Lutheran Disaster Response. Here's how that money, along with other donations, will be used. "To respond to the flooding, Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is supporting the Indiana-Kentucky Synod to rebuild homes in Owsley County, one of the poorest counties in Kentucky. The homes all belong to families who wouldn't have been able to rebuild without financial support. Additionally, the synod is replacing septic tanks for 25 families. LDR is also supporting Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, which accompanies Manna from Heaven, a feeding ministry in Myra, KY, that received an ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grant. It lost everything inside the building and the LDR grant will replace the building's contents, including furniture and food storage appliances, as well as rewiring the electricity for the building." (To see ways the Lutheran Disaster response helps with other disasters, check out their blog at blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse—including ways they're helping after Hurricane Fiona and Ian.)

Administrative News

OFFICE VACATION

Pastor Beth will be on vacation from Sunday, October 23 through Saturday October 29th. If you're in need of pastoral care during her absence, please contact our secretary to arrange for a visit with a local Lutheran pastor.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **November 2022** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by October 11.**



Prayer

OCTOBER PRAYER NOTES



COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Alice—Healing & Comfort
Patrick—Comfort & Healing
Imber Family—Comfort & Healing
Jill—Comfort, Strength & Peace
Joe—Strength and Recovery
Chelsey—Healing & Peace
Those with Cancer—Healing
Greg—Healing & Comfort
Olivia—Healing & Comfort
Shannon—Comfort & Peace
Dave—Healing & Comfort
Noah—Strength and Understanding
Devon—Healing & Recovery
COVID Sufferers
Tornado Survivors
Afghanistan Refugees
Ukraine
Victims of Gun Violence

Fun

ALL IN GOOD FUN



BIBLE QUIZ

Martin Luther played what instrument before entering the monastery?

(Answer page 7)

- A. violin
- B. harpsicord
- C. French horn
- D. lute

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

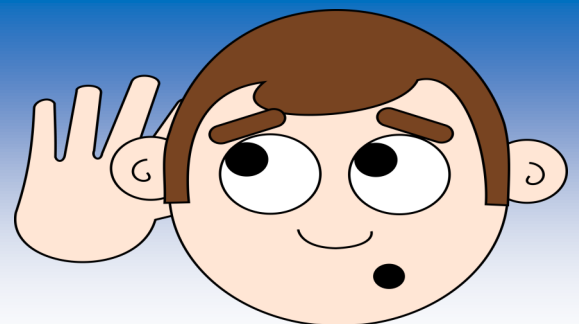
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Tom Schmidt
<i>Secretary</i>	Beth Madden
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Housel

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>	Tom Schmidt
<i>Staff Support</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Stewardship/Evangelism</i>	Beth Madden
<i>Technology</i>	Tom Dangelo
<i>Youth & Family Ministry</i>	Lin McKelvey
<i>Social Ministry</i>	Joan Haddox

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

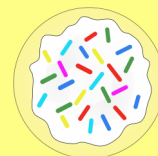
Hearing assistance equipment for up to 8 users available for anyone who needs help hearing the service better. Please ask Jeremy Hopkins or anyone who uses the equipment for assistance.



Steve's Bulletin Board

If you have any pictures from church events that you would like to be considered for the annual report please e-mail them to sslsecretary@bukeye-express.com

Thanks so much for all your responses and willingness to provide cookies for back to church Sunday on Sept. 18th. Since we are beginning a new fall season, perhaps it is time to recheck with those in the cookie "production group". If you would like your name removed from the group list, please let me know. (Perhaps you would rather be in cookie "distribution" or "usage". ☺) If you love to bake and would like to add your name to this group, let me know. We have already picked up two new bakers. Whenever you are contacted for baking, it is always OK (and Christian) to say "no, not this time". Thanks, again! Pat Hoehing



LSS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS!

The Emergency Choice Food Pantry serves more than 500 individuals every month with the help of our wonderful volunteers! If you'd like to sign up to become a volunteer in our Food Pantry, call or email Debbie Lisk at 419-243-9178 or dlisk@lssnwo.org.

Bible Quiz Answer:

D. lute

October Celebrations

Baptismal Birthdays

10/1	Kayla Marchant
10/2	Carol Haddix
10/11	Megan Cook
10/14	Evin McCoy
10/21	Kathy Ziegler
10/23	Wendy Staup
10/25	Eli Ballard

Birthdays

10/7	J.T. Chauvette
10/12	Angela McCoy
10/17	Tom Schmidt
10/20	Tina Williams
10/28	Lin McKelvey
10/28	Allison Shadle
10/29	Dan Gustafson
10/29	Kristin Huffman

Anniversaries

10/3	D&J Paxton
10/4	R&C Schuppenies
10/16	D&W Staup
10/20	D&B Davis

October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation 10:00 AM Pet Blessing
2 Quilt Dedication 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship 12:00 PM Greeter Training	3	4 6:30 PM Make- Up Training 7:00 PM Bible 101	5 5:00 PM Com- munion 6:30 PM Girl Scouts	6	7	8 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
9 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship 12:00 PM Usher Training	10	11 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 PM Make- Up Training 7:00 PM Bible	12 5:00 PM Com- munion	13	14	15 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
16 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship 12:00 PM Lay Assistant Train- ing	17 7:00 PM Coun- cil Meeting	18 12 PM JOY Club 6:30 PM Make- Up Training 7:00 PM Bible 101	19 5:00 PM Com- munion 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	20	21	22 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
23 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship	24	25	26 7:00 PM Park- inson's Meeting	27	28	29 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
Pastor Beth Vacation						
30 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship 12PM OCC Packing Party	31 Reformation Day					