

Vision of St. Stephen

October 2022



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
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Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field.... will God not much more clothe you? Matthew 6:28-30

As you come up the main sidewalk into our building, you might have noticed a decorative rock in our flower bed. It says, "Whoever plants a seed believes in God". Occasionally I find myself smiling a bit, because there are lots of atheists who plant seeds, but I get the point---planting seeds take faith—faith that the soil, rain, and sun will cooperate, and a plant will grow and thrive there. We Christians believe and trust that God is part of that mix as well.

During the fall, we often think about harvest, trust, abundance, and stewardship. We'll be planting seeds in our prairie later this year and praying for God to for abundance. I see our prairie as a generous gift to the world. It's a sign to our neighbors and a reminder to ourselves that we care about the earth we share, that we're called to be stewards of this planet so that all—from humans to the bumble bees--can thrive abundantly. In time, the prairie will also be a gift to our community—a gift to birds, bees, butterflies and praying mantises, a place to slow down and look more closely at the intricacies of nature, a peaceful place to meditate and reflect on the rich abundance of this world our generous God has created for us.

Here at St. Stephen, we are richly blessed here with a generous congregation that worships well, that enjoys being together, that supports each other, that cares for our community, and that welcomes new people. Do we do all this perfectly? Of course, there is always room to do more, but on the whole, I feel we do these things well.

As you think about your own life, where do you see generosity? Where are you planting seeds? Where are you hoping to see abundance? Where are you called to be a blessing to others? How will you do that?

In the weeks ahead, you'll be hearing more about generosity, as we continue to ask for God's guidance. You'll be receiving a commitment card this month for you to return by November 5th.

God's peace to you,

Pastor Beth

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Spiritual Growth

GALATIANS BIBLE STUDY

What does it take to be a Christian? Who all is welcome in congregations? What do people need to “do” in order to be saved by Christ? These are questions that the early church struggled with and that we still sometimes fuss over in congregations. Paul tackles these issues in his letter to the churches in Galatia—and we’ll be talking about them, too, in our Wednesday 11:00 a.m. Bible study. Our group has been growing—and there’s room for you! No prior experience or expertise is needed.

MOVIE NIGHT

What was your favorite hobby during junior high? Our Movie Matinee this month features the semi-autobiographical story of a young boy who falls in love with filmmaking. He begins by filming his family and hometown, but discovers a shattering secret. He uses film to come to terms with what this new reality is.

Written and directed by one of the most famous filmmakers of our time. Come and enjoy a good show, popcorn, and discussion afterwards on Sunday, October 22 at 3:00 p.m.

BOOK GROUP

A detective octopus helps a grieving aquarium employee solve the mystery of her missing son. Shelby Van Pelt’s debut novel is a gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible. You’re invited to a discussion of Remarkably Bright Creatures on Thursday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m.

JOY CLUB

Bring a sandwich to Pat Hoehing’s house on Tuesday, October 17 At noon and enjoy conversation together. Pat will also be providing a crabby Greek pasta salad and drinks. Pat’s address can be found on our bulletin board sign up or by calling the office.

NOTICE OF OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting of the congregation will follow our 10:30 AM worship service on Sunday November 12 (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 after the meeting for food and fellowship.

SOUP POTLUCK

As the trees change color, are you longing for a bowl of soup? Well, we’ve got you! We’re having a soup potluck on Sunday, October 15, after worship. If you have a favorite soup you’d like people to try, please sign up on the bulletin board. We’re also looking for people to contribute bread and dessert.

PRAIRIE

Look for our prairie installation to begin this month! First, you will see the grass dying. After, we will be renting a small tractor and Harley Rake to provide better seed to soil contact. Zack Wentz from Faith Lutheran in Swanton has volunteered to operate this machinery! Then we’ll be waiting for the ground to freeze before we hand sow the seed. So, sometime between Thanksgiving and New Year’s we’ll be planting our seed. We’re planning to invite community members, Girls Scouts, etc to help us—so watch for this fun event. If you know someone who is passionate about native plants and the environment, we’d love to have their help for this sowing day!

We have received \$250 in Thrivent monies for the professional application of Round-up and signage. We’re hoping to receive a 2nd Thrivent grant to purchase the seed. We have received an anonymous gift of \$750, which will cover the equipment rental and some extra expenses.

The prairie group will be carpooling on a field trip out to Faith Lutheran in Swanton on Wednesday, October 4th. Faith will be presented with a plaque from Sacred Grounds designating their prairie as a Sacred ground location. If you’d like to go on this expedition, please meet here at church at 5:15.

Many thanks to the prairie planning team: Carol Brown, Lynn and Larry Golba, Sue Kahl, Trish Kunkel, Sharon Mason, April Mercer, Kathie Tefft, Sharon Sorensen, Vickie Vietch, and Pastor Beth

Outreach

Pet Blessing

Our annual pet blessing will be held on Saturday, October 7th. We'll have the official blessing of the pets at 12:00, 12:45, and 1:30 p.m. In between those times, we'll have a pet adoption agencies here with pets that you can meet from Best Friends Forever Rescue!

Pet Blessing

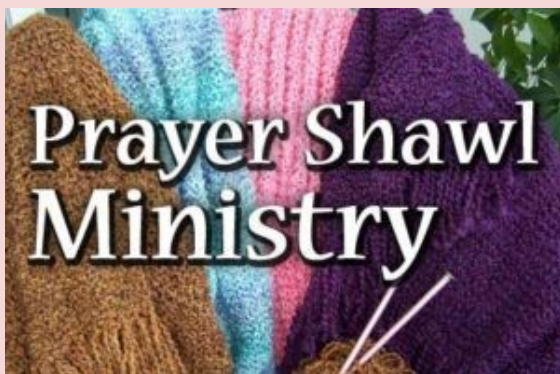


OCC Shoebox Collection

Take a look around the narthex at the moment and you'll see lots of things for our Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection. We'll be meeting after worship on Sunday, October 29 and packing shoeboxes! Please plan to join in the fun of assembling these. If you're putting one together on your own, please have it here to church by October 29, too.

LWR Quilting

The goal of LWR is to save and improve lives in the poorest parts of the world through humanitarian assistance during disasters, ongoing teaching about sustainable farming techniques and improving resilience in the face of environmental changes. For 10 years now, our LWR quilters have made quilts that will be shared with people who are facing dire circumstances due to disasters, war, and relocation. This year our group will send at least 45. We'll be dedicating these beautiful, warm and well made quilts on Sunday October 8th during our worship service together.



The Needler's

Our Needler group of knitters and crocheters have produced 2 prayer shawls that have been gifted to people with long term health concerns. We're working to produce more, so if you know of someone who would appreciate one, please let Pastor Beth or Janell know. This group meets on October 2 & 16 at 1:00.

In Loving Memory



Nancy Rieck

Nancy Jean (Kazmierski) Rieck, a lifetime Toledo resident, joined her dearest husband, Robert, in heaven on August 21st, 2023. She had celebrated her 83rd birthday a few weeks prior, surrounded by family and both of her beloved sons.

Nancy was born July 28, 1940 to Stephen and Sabina Kazmierski. As a first generation Polish American, Nancy was proud of her heritage and shared her mother's chrusciki recipe with all who enjoyed the dessert. She graduated from Woodward High School in 1958. Nancy met the love of her life, Bob, at a Tiedtke's party in the basement of a local bowling alley. Nancy declared it was love at first sight, and they spent the whole night dancing. They were married on October 2, 1965 and began their life together, raising their two sons – Brian and Kevin – in their home on North Haven in West Toledo.

Nancy and Bob were unwaveringly dedicated to their faith. They were longtime members of Christ Lutheran Church, where Nancy also served as church secretary for many years. Nancy and Bob were most recently members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in

Sylvania, where they loved volunteering and playing an active role in the community. Nancy and Bob were frequently at Oak Shade Grove in Oregon, OH, where Nancy was a member of the Tuetonia Chor of Toledo. Both Bob and Nancy loved to sing, which led to numerous trips with the choir touring and singing around Germany. Each August, Nancy could be found working in the potato pancake house at the German American Festival, sweating and smiling alongside her sister and friends. Nancy loved giraffes, for she found them to be peaceful and gracious animals. They could be spotted throughout her home and wardrobe. She was holding her favorite stuffed giraffe when she passed.

Nancy was an avid baseball fan. She loved her Toledo Mud Hens and Detroit Tigers. She and Bob attended/volunteered at many Mud Hens games over the years. When she lived with her sister, Rose Marie, you could often hear them yelling at the television cheering on the Tigers and their favorite player, Miguel Cabrera.

The heart of Nancy's life was always her family. She hosted the family Thanksgiving gathering for decades and took turns with her siblings hosting the family Christmas Eve celebration. The lights of her life were her granddaughters, Danielle and Madison. Surviving Nancy are her sons, Brian (Kristina) and Kevin (Christine); granddaughters, Danielle (Kyle) and Madison (Alberto); and sisters, JoAnn (Ron) and Rose Marie. She was preceded in death by her younger brother, John and by her soulmate and husband, Robert. Nancy and Bob are now reunited and taking another spin around the dance floor that Nancy had long been awaiting.

Administrative News

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **November 2023** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by October 10.**



Prayer

OCTOBER PRAYER NOTES

Autumn Blessing

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.



COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Carrie—Healing
Alice—Healing & Comfort
Chris—Peace & Comfort
Those with Cancer—Healing
Greg—Healing & Comfort
Olivia—Healing & Comfort
Shannon—Comfort & Peace
Dave—Healing & Comfort
Afghanistan Refugees
Victims of Gun Violence
Rieck Family—Comfort & Peace
Jim S.—Healing & Comfort
Wolf—Stomach Cancer
Bogdan Family—Comfort & Peace
Blaesing Family—Comfort & Peace

Fun

ALL IN GOOD FUN



BIBLE QUIZ

How many weeks did it take for Martin Luther to translate the New Testament into German ?

(Answer page 7)

- A. 18
- B. 7
- C. 11
- D. 23

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

2023 Council Members

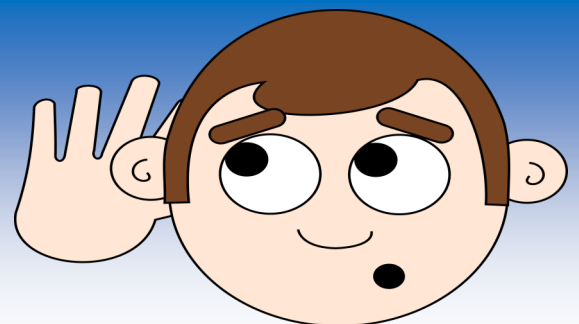
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Tom Dangelo
<i>Secretary</i>	Lin McKelvey
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Housel

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>	
<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

Walk-Up
Communion
Tuesdays
3:00-3:30 PM!

**We collected \$311
for the Lutheran Dis-
aster Relief for the
Maui Wildfires!**

WORD IN SEASON!

Please pick up the new Word in season for October, November and December of 2023! Located on a table in the Narthex.

Bible Quiz Answer:

C. 11

October Celebrations

Baptismal Birthdays

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

10/12 Angela McCoy
10/17 Tom Schmidt
10/20 Tina Williams
10/28 Lin McKelvey
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	2 1:00 PM Needler's	3 3:00 PM Walk- Up Communion	4 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:15 PM Prairie Field Trip	5	6	7 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation 12:00 PM Pet Blessing
8 Quilt Dedication 10:30AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship	9	10 Newsletter Deadline 3:00 PM Walk- Up Communion	11 11:00 AM Bible Study	12	13	14 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
15 10:30AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship 11:30 PM Soup Potluck	16 1:00 PM Needler's 6:00 PM Coun- cil Meeting	17 12 PM JOY Club 3:00 PM Walk- Up Communion	18 11:00 AM Bible Study	19 7:00PM HOA Rental	20	21 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation 4:00 PM UCC Lecture (See Bul- letin Board)
22 10:30AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship 3:00 PM Movie Matinee	23	24 3:00 PM Walk- Up Communion	25 11:00 AM Bible Study	26 7:00 PM Book Club	27	28 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
29 10:30AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship 11:30 AM OCC Packing Party	30	31 Reformation Day				