

Vision of St. Stephen

November 2021



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
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This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24

As you may be aware, my youngest child lives with depression. There are some days when getting out of bed before midmorning is an impossible task. Countless days of school have been missed. Opportunities to be a “regular” teenager have gone by the wayside. This is not a matter of will. If it were possible, this child would be fully engaged in life. However, it is hard to fight against the chemistry of one’s own brain.

So, in the midst of this reality, I’ve been learning some things. A resource, the Depression Project, has been helpful as it encourages the depressed person and their loved ones to focus on what you can do, not what you can’t do. Focusing on what you can’t do is, in our house, a recipe for continued negative spirals. Given that mindset, there are places for thankfulness and celebration.

“You were able to do a math assignment! Today, you were in school earlier than yesterday! You are able to be more active than you were at this time last year!”

This is not easy work. In fact, it is painful to see how difficult life is for one living with depression. Even so, this period in my life has provided me with insights into how God shows up. God shows up more frequently than we usually give God credit for doing. It’s in the really simple things, like getting out of bed on the first try, like having energy to do things, in the kindness of teachers, in the work of therapists, in kind words shared, in the prayers offered by others, in the medication researchers have created. In countless ways, God shows up.

And so, in this month when we pay more attention to thankfulness than we do otherwise, I am thankful to each day. May this season call each of us to a greater appreciation and recognition to when and where we see God’s fingerprints in our lives.

God’s peace to you,
Pastor Beth

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Spiritual Growth

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints Sunday is November 8th. At this service, we have the Book of the Dead available for you to add the names of those who have died since last year's All Saints celebration. If you're planning to worship online with us that day and would like to include the name of a loved one, please contact Janell and ask her to write in the name for you. If you're worshipping in the sanctuary, the book can be found at the end of them middle aisle



BIBLE 101

Our series on Holy Time starts up again on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning with November 9th. We'll be thinking about how we recognize and respond to God's grace in the now and through imagining, see the future in the light of God's reign. You're welcome to join in, prior participation is not necessary!

JOY CLUB

Neta Schmidt is hosting our luncheon on November 16th at noon. You can find her address in our church directory or by calling the church office. Please either sign up on the bulletin board or let Neta know that you're planning to come. Thanks!



INDOOR WALK-UP COMMUNION

Wednesday communion opportunities will resume on November 10th from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Communion will be offered each Wednesday, except November 24th, the day before Thanksgiving. If you don't like to drive in darkness, please call Pastor Beth to arrange a morning communion time.

ANNUAL MEETING

We will be holding our Annual Meeting of the congregation over Zoom on Sunday, November 14th at 12 noon. During the prior week, we will be emailing you a zoom link to use for the meeting. We did this last year and it worked fairly well. Paper copies of the budget should be available here at church beginning October 31st. Stay tuned for further information as it becomes available.

Youth and Family



ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Want to be part of a group growing your faith? Minneapolis, MN is the place for the 2022 National Youth Gathering. Youth who are in grades 8-12 this fall are eligible to go. Please speak with Pastor Beth if you're interested in attending. We will likely partner up with a local congregation for this event which will be held from July 24-28, 2022.

YOUTH EVENT

We'll be gathering on November 14th at 3:00 p.m. to put together a Thanksgiving craft for our shut-in members. See you then!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DANCE

Have a kid who loves to dance? This year our Children's Christmas Program will include a dance segment. If your kids would like to participate contact Angela McCoy and see the practice schedule on the calendar in this newsletter!

Thank You

We have had a few folks recently "retire". Sue Marvin has stepped down after years of helping the altar angels with communion set-ups and clean-ups. Pat Hoehing has also "retired" from her time of heading up the altar group and making sure that the countless moving parts that help our worship flow smoothly get done! Corrie Schuppenies is stepping away from a term on church council. Thank you all for sharing yourselves and your time with us through these positions!

Outreach

Flu Shot Clinic

Thinking about getting a flu shot this year? We're making it easy for you! We'll be hosting a flu shot clinic on behalf of the Lucas County Health Department on Monday, November 8th from 12-3:30 P.M. Bring yourself, an ID, and a copy of your health insurance card. If you want to fill out a required form ahead of time, you'll find them on the bulletin board and the narthex round table. Please help us spread the word about this opportunity.



OCC Shoebox Collection

This year we will be collecting pre-filled boxes for Operation Christmas Child! Boxes are available as well as pamphlets on how to back the boxes in the Narthex! Please return your box to St. Stephen by November 14.

Extra Craft Supplies

Salem Lutheran Church is looking for donations of craft supplies for their kid's afterschool program. If you have items, like kid scissors, markers that still work, etc., you'd like to share with them, please add them to the Salem personal needs pantry collection. Thanks!



Sylvania Area Family Services

Want to help a family in need? We are participating in the SAFS holiday food basket program this year. We're aiming to collect a total of \$425 to help 4 families in our area. Families are given \$25 per person in Kroger gift cards so that they can shop for their own food, so we'll be helping 17 people in our area. If you'd like to provide a \$25 gift card or a monetary donation in a different amount, please use the envelopes labeled SAFS on the usher table in the narthex or mail your gift to the church. Our goal is to gather this money by November 14th. If we exceed our goal, those monies will be applied toward the Christmas food gift cards we'll be sharing with the same families. During November, we will also have a board available with individuals and their Christmas gift card wishes.

Church Finances

SIMPLY GIVING

Still thinking about signing up for our Simply Giving program? I am happy to help you get started, or if you are already using our program and want to change an amount, I can help you there as well. This program allows you to set an amount to have it deducted from your checking or savings account on a regular basis. Vanco Services is the company working with Thrivent Financial to make this work for you. See me Sally Goetz, phone no. 419-654-6264.
Sally Goetz, Coordinator

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR FINANCE TEAM

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. Instructions can be found on our website under the "Serve" tab and if you have any questions please contact the church office!

KROGER REWARDS

We are pleased to report St. Stephen is receiving donations from 21 of our households who shop at Kroger and earned \$102.63 for St. Stephen between May 1, 2021 and July 31, 2021. 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 check our website!

Administrative News

NURSERY ATTENDANT SEARCH

As we look to the fall, we are interested in once again providing nursery care for our youngest members on Sunday mornings. If you or someone you know would be interested in this paid position, please let Pastor Beth or Janell know.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **December/January 2021** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by November 9.**



Prayer

NOVEMBER PRAYER NOTES



7 Prayers for NOVEMBER

1. May your health improve.
2. May your friends be blessed.
3. May your family be loved.
4. May your finances multiply.
5. May your pains be less.
6. May your worries disappear.
7. May you be blessed.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Jill—Comfort, Strength & Peace
Joel—Strength and Recovery
Jamie—Healing and Insight
Hanna C.—Strength and Healing
Chelsey—Healing & Peace
Sarah's Family—Comfort & Healing
Linda—Cancer
Zachary—Answers and Comfort
Richard—Work
Noah—Strength and Understanding
Jeff—Guidance & Understanding
Lyndsey—Healing and Comfort
Mark D—Healing & Comfort
Holt Family—Healthy Family
Julie—Patience, Peace & Guidance
Kathleen—Comfort & Healing
Joan—Healing & Comfort
Nora—Continued Healing
Phillips Family—Healing
Karen—Healing
Those with Cancer—Healing
Jeff—Grief/New Job
Roger Jr.—Pancreatic Cancer
Greg—Healing & Comfort
COVID Sufferers
Haiti Survivors
Afghanistan Refugees

Fun

ALL IN GOOD FUN

Every family has secrets until a Sunday School teacher asks a group of kids if they have any prayer requests.



BIBLE QUIZ

How many brothers did Jesus have?

(Answer page 10)

- A. 0
- B. 2
- C. 4
- D. 6

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

2021 Council Members

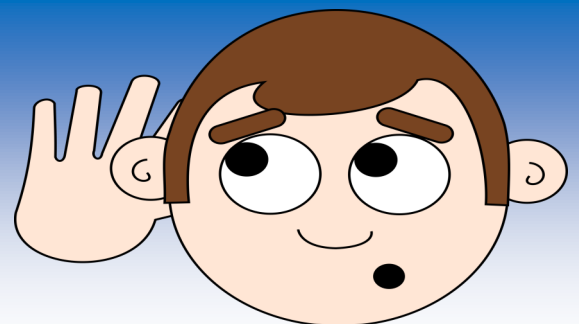
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Secretary</i>	Corrie Schuppenies
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Housel

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>	Corrie Schuppenies
<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

Sharon Mason is providing flowers for the altar on Sunday, November 21 in memory of her mother.



The Klimesh family would like to thank everyone who helped to make Mary Ann's memorial service such a moving and meaningful celebration of her life. We would also like to offer appreciation and gratitude for your continued prayers and support (cards, food, etc.) over the last ten months since her death and for all the love and support, cards, emails, and food offered during Mary Ann's final months as well. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. -
-Don, Lia, and Jessica Klimesh

Dear St. Stephen,

I apologize for the delayed response, but I am writing to you to say thank you for the scholarship. It means the world to me that you care about me and my education. The money will be put towards my Spring 2022 semester at Northwestern Michigan College and Great Lakes Culinary Institute. I am enrolled in the Culinary Arts Applied Science program and Baking Certification program at my college. Thank you for the support and I hope you have a wonderful rest of the year.

Thank you again, Megan Cook

Bible Quiz Answer:

C. 4

October Celebrations

Baptismal Birthdays

11/1 Aaron Ziegler
11/3 Lin McKelvey
11/5 Angela McCoy
11/11 Becky Henderson
11/14 Joyce Cunningham
11/24 Amelia Huddleston
11/26 J.T. Chauvette
11/26 Kristi Shepler


Birthdays

11/3 Marilyn Hendricks
11/13 Michelle Ballard
11/19 Linda McDonough

Anniversaries

11/13 T&A Schmidt
11/15 D&C Gustfson
11/19 J&J Sansbury
11/21 B&S Markin
11/30 R&J Cornell

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Election Day	3 6:30 PM Girl Scouts	4	5	6 9:45 AM Coffee and Conversation
7 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship 12PM Kid's Dance Practice	8 12PM Flu Shot Clinic	9 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Bible 101	10 4:30PM Walk-Up Communion	11	12 6:30PM Kid's Dance Practice	13 9:45 AM Coffee and Conversation
14 11AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship 12PM Annual Meeting 1PM Kid's Dance Practice 3PM Youth Event	15 7:00 PM Council Meeting	16 12 PM JOY Club 7:00 PM Bible 101	17 4:30PM Walk-Up Communion 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	18	19 6:30PM Kid's Dance Practice	20 9:45 AM Coffee and Conversation
21 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship 12PM Kid's Dance Practice	22	23 7:00 PM Bible 101	24	25 	26	27 9:45 AM Coffee and Conversation
28 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship	29	30 7:00 PM Bible 101				