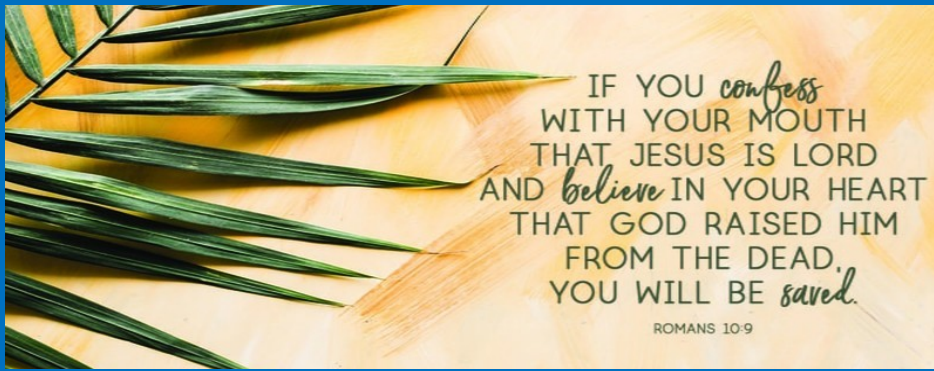


# Vision of St. Stephen

## April 2024



St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
7800 Erie St. • Sylvania, OH  
(419)885-1551  
[www.ststephenlutheran.church](http://www.ststephenlutheran.church)

Pastor: Rev. Beth Ferne Johnson  
[sslcpastor@buckeye-express.com](mailto:sslcpastor@buckeye-express.com)

*In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God, our sister or our brother ..... and we commit their body to its resting place, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.*

These words are said by the pastor at the graveside—as we stand, surrounded by those who have gone before us, with the casket or urn facing us—in the very face of death itself. It is a bold statement—one that would be impossible to claim or to believe—except for Easter itself.

On Easter morning, the disciples are not prepared to see Jesus alive; they're not expecting this at all. The hints that Jesus has given them did not take root and grow. Being resurrected—after 3 days—was beyond anyone's comprehension. That morning is not their finest hour; their disbelief, incredulity and confusion as they meet the risen Jesus demonstrates this. Thankfully, their comprehension expands as time passes. They realize the incredible thing that God has done!

We Christians, continue to boldly claim—even at the grave—that we will be resurrected as well. We will share in Jesus' rising from the dead. We don't know the specifics of this—even though many have speculated about it—it remains a mystery. But even so, we trust that it will happen.

During Lent, our midweek focus was on death and dying. Some who attended confided that their friends found this an odd topic to willingly discuss! And, in our culture that avoids and denies that death happens—it certainly is!

But all the more reason to talk about it—because when we talk about death, when we talk about dying, we take away some of the power death has to frighten, to terrify, to keep us paralyzed. We will all die, yes. But because God goes with us, as God goes with us all our life, we will not be alone in this process.

So, in these last days of Lent, as we move into the Easter season, we give thanks to God for the power and love God shows in opening up the future to us—providing us the sure and certain hope of our own resurrection to eternal life.

Jesus is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

God's Peace to you,  
Pastor Beth

### April Contents

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# Spiritual Growth

## **LENTEN DEATH AND DYING SERIES**

If you'd like to view the speakers from our Lenten series, and didn't get the email from Janell, please contact her at [sslcsecretary@buckeye-express.com](mailto:sslcsecretary@buckeye-express.com) and she can share those links with you. If you'd like to think intentionally about planning your funeral service, you'll find a helpful guide on the edge of our bulletin board. Completed copies can be shared with the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Beth.

## **WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Have you ever wondered about the books that are included in most Roman Catholic Bibles, but often not in Protestant Bibles? The technical name for these is Apocrypha. Pastor Beth will be leading us in exploring these books during our weekly Bible study on Wednesdays in April. Please join us at 11:00 a.m.

## **NEW GATHERING SPACE SERIES**

Who is Jesus really? Who are we really? Join Gathering Space on April 7<sup>th</sup> as we look at 1 John, a letter written to believers who are struggling with consistency in their faith life. Nancy Pfau will be leading us in this study during April and May. Please join in our lively discussions or just sit and learn! You'll find the group in the room to the north of our fellowship hall at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays.

## **CATECHISM**

Our catechism students will be meeting at Lourdes on April 7<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. for a Seder meal sponsored by Lourdes Lifelong Learning/Jewish Federation. This promises to be a unique experience for the group, as we experience a seder meal together. We will meet for a regular class session on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 p.m. as well.

## **PRAYER SHAWLS AVAILABLE**

Our Needler group has a supply of prayer shawls ready to be given away to someone who is in need of one. You can find them outside of Pastor Beth's office—please feel free to take one to someone who needs to know that they are not alone as they go through a difficult time. Our crochet group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month from 1-2 p.m. Feel free to drop in to cheer them on or to learn a new skill yourself!



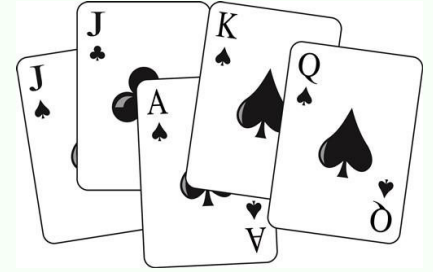
## **BAPTISM**

Lila Mae will be baptized at our worship service at 10:30 AM on April 14! Her Uncle Trace will also be taking his first communion at the service. Their family invites you to reception after worship in our Fellowship hall!

# Activities

## **EUCHRE NIGHT**

Euchre anyone? We'll be gathering on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 p.m. for some good fellowship and fun. If you'd rather play a board game, please bring in something you like to play! Snacks will be provided!



## **JOY CLUB**

Our Joy club will be enjoying conversation and lunch on Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> at noon at a location to be determined. Please sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office and ask Janell to add your name to the list. Any questions? Contact Sue Kahl.

## **MEN'S BRUNCH**

We'll gather at Scrambler Marie's on Central Avenue Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 for a brief devotion, good conversation, and good food.

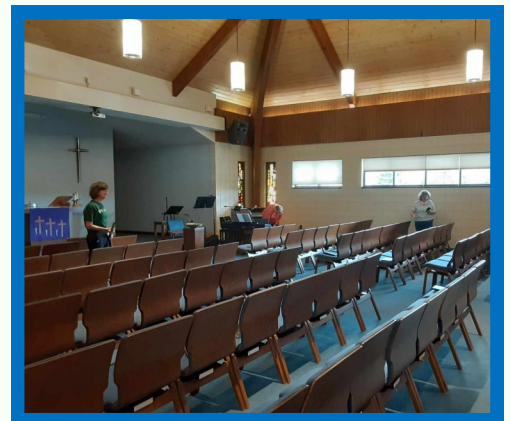
## **BOOK CLUB**

Do you enjoy reading novels? We've been working through some really interesting ones. Our April Book will be *The River we Remember* by Willian Kent Kruger; our May book is *Water from my Heart* by Charles Martin, and in June we'll be discussing, *Educated* by Tara Westover. We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 in our church library. If you have a reader in your life, please let them know about this group!



## **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all the ladies who came and cleaned this sanctuary on March 23! The sanctuary looks great and you did a wonderful job!



# Outreach

## Souper Bowl

We're helping those with food insecurity through our donations in February! We collected \$1,065.40 for the Lutheran Social Services food pantry and delivered 110 cans to help the community! Thank you for your generosity!



## March Macaroni Madness



In March, we started collecting boxes of macaroni and cheese for area food pantries. We have a table set up in the Narthex that already has over 60 boxes! We'll be collecting Mac and Cheese through mid April.

## 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! If you would like to support the LSS pantry another way, check out the flier on the next page!



## Pentecost Potluck!

Please mark your calendar's for May 19th! After church we will be holding a Pentecost Potluck! More details to follow!



# LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES of Northwestern Ohio

*Strengthening People in Body, Mind and Spirit*



Benefitting People Served  
by the LSS Emergency  
Choice Food Pantry



# Friday, May 17 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern  
Ohio Toledo Office  
2149 Collingwood Blvd.

Bring your donation for our  
Emergency Choice Food Pantry  
to our Toledo Office and let us  
unload it!

### *Wish list:*

- Canned Meats
- Canned Fruits
- Canned Soups
- Peanut Butter
- Cereal
- Oatmeal & Grits
- And More!



Contact Jeremy at 419-243-9178 for  
more information and ways to support  
or visit our website at [www.lssnwo.org](http://www.lssnwo.org)

# Church Finances

## THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLAR DEADLINE

To members who have Thrivent accounts, please direct your Choice dollars before March 31. You can go to Thrivent.com and follow the instructions. If not directed, you will lose them. You may also call Thrivent (800-847-4836) and ask if you have Choice Dollars if you prefer.

-Sally Goetz



## KROGER REWARDS

Do you shop at Kroger? Did you know that you can earn dollars for our church's outreach merely by shopping as you normally do? Check out the bulletin board in our Narthex, or the "Ways To Serve" page on our website for instructions on how to link your card to the St. Stephen Community Rewards!

# Administrative News

## TEMPORARY OFFICE HOUR CHANGE

Our church secretary, Janell, had a change in childcare recently and has had to temporarily change her office hours. From now through the last week in May, she will no longer be working on Thursdays, but will be working on Friday from 8 AM until 4 PM. Once this school year ends, her schedule will revert back to normal!

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **May 2024** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by April 9.**



# In Loving Memory



## Marilyn Hendricks

Marilyn J. (Bork) Hendricks was born 11-3-1934 prematurely at 5 months and not expected to survive, but she sure did. Her early years were quite normal as her family moved into the neighborhood where Ray lived and she attended Wernert Elementary. Playing "Kick the Can" was the street game that was played in those days and she could run faster than everyone. It was at this time that she and Ray became "Girl Friend/Boy Friend". It was also at this time that Ray and his family moved out of town and she went to Witmer. She graduated in 1952 and started her first job as secretary at Toledo Scales and

it is believed she was the oldest surviving employee of the original Toledo Scales. She loved her job and stayed at it until 1963. In the mean-time, she and Ray had kept in touch with each other. They met again in 1955 at the funeral for Ray's grandfather. They married in 1957 and had their first child Penny ('63) and Robbin ('66). To complete the family tree, Penny married William Gergich and they have 2 children: William (deceased), Ashley (Kameron) Niemi who have baby Kiernan. Daughter Robin married Dale Brock and they have 2 sons; D.J. and Alex. Marilyn was so very proud of this whole family and she was sad to leave it...but it was her time, (12-13-23 at age 89). Throughout her life, she has been involved with Eastern Star.



## Nancy Kubiak

Annie "Nancy" Kubiak, 93 of Sylvania, Ohio passed away February 19, 2024, while surrounded by her loving family. Annie was born June 17, 1930, to Adam and Martha (Patterson) Penman.

The nonagenarian was born and raised in Toledo, graduating from Woodward High School in 1948. After graduation, she took up a plethora of different occupations, first with the Toledo Trust Bank, followed by stints at the Rossford Ordnance Depot, as one of the first women emergency medical technicians in Toledo, before retiring

from the American Red Cross's records department. Annie continued to stay busy during retirement, working for decades as a hostess at McDonald's restaurant. Additionally, Annie led a knitting/crocheting class at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Sylvania.

# Prayer

## APRIL PRAYER NOTES

### A Prayer for Peace

God,

Even when my life feels chaotic, I can experience Your peace because of what Jesus did on the cross. Thank You for making this possible by sending us Your Son! He has made a way for us to know and experience You.

Peace is evidence that You are with me, and that You love me. Even when life feels out of control, I can cling to the truth that Your peace isn't based on my feelings or circumstances—but on Your character and faithfulness.

When I don't feel at peace, please make Your presence known to me. Remind me that You're in control. Give me Your strength and comfort when the world feels unsafe. Protect my heart and mind from the weight of my feelings and thoughts.

Allow me to sense Your presence, and to live with confidence that You are always near. Let my life be an example of Your peace that surpasses understanding.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Alice—Healing & Comfort  
Chris—Peace & Comfort  
Those with Cancer—Healing  
Greg—Healing & Comfort  
Olivia—Healing & Comfort  
Victims of Gun Violence  
Nancy—Healing  
Sean—Guidance  
Tom—Healing  
Savannah—Comfort  
Wolf—Stomach Cancer  
Richard—Healing  
Dave—Comfort & Healing  
Lisa—Peace  
Jessica—Answers & Healing  
Gary—Stroke & Recovery  
Tre—Healing  
All victims of trauma and war

# Fun

## ALL IN GOOD FUN



## BIBLE QUIZ

What natural disaster happened when Jesus died?

(Answer page 8)

- A. Earthquake
- B. Flood
- C. Tornado
- D. Hail



## 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

## 2024 Council Members

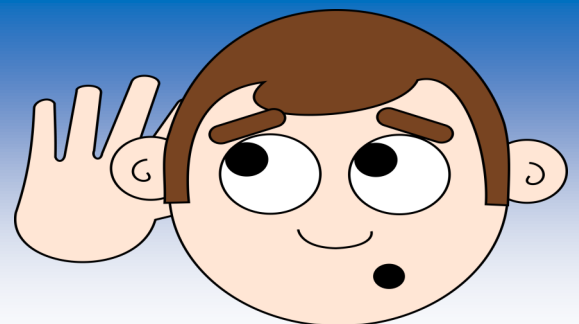
|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| <i>President</i>      | Marilyn Scuralli |
| <i>Vice President</i> | Tom Dangelo      |
| <i>Secretary</i>      | Lin McKelvey     |
| <i>Treasurer</i>      | Kathie Tefft     |

## 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 &amp; 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

## 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!



## 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:

A. Earthquake

# April Celebrations

## Baptismal Birthdays

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

## Birthdays

4/1 April Mercer  
 4/2 Mike Bogdan  
 4/3 Tom Dangelo  
 4/7 Pat Hoehing  
 4/7 Bryan Huffman  
 4/10 Tom Davis  
 4/11 Cathy Gustafson  
 4/12 Tom Pfau  
 4/19 Larry Golba  
 4/21 Joanne Johnson  
 4/26 Amber Mercer  
 4/29 Jenny Troutman

## Anniversaries

4/21 Mike & Karen Bogdan

# April 2024

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu                            | Fri                                  | Sat  |
|--|---|---|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
|  | <i>1</i><br>1:00 Needler's                                | <i>2</i><br>3:00 Walk-Up<br>Communion                                       | <i>3</i><br>11:00 Bible Study                             | <i>4</i>                       | <i>5</i>                             | <i>6</i><br>9:30 Coffee and<br>Conversation                              |
| <i>7</i><br>9:15 AM Gathering Space<br>10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/Online<br>Worship<br>4:00 PM Catechism @ Lourdes  | <i>8</i><br><b>Eclipse—Office<br/>Closed at 12<br/>PM</b> | <i>9</i><br><b>Newsletter<br/>Deadline</b><br>3:00 Walk-Up<br>Communion     | <i>10</i><br>11:00 Bible Study<br>6:30 Fellowship<br>Meal | <i>11</i>                      | <i>12</i><br>7:00 PM Euchre<br>Night | <i>13</i><br>9:30 Coffee and<br>Conversation<br>*Church Rental           |
| <i>14</i><br>9:15 AM Gathering Space<br>10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/Online<br>Worship & Baptism/First Com-<br>munion<br>11:30 AM Church Reception<br>6:00 PM Catechism | <i>15</i><br>1:00 Needler's                               | <i>16</i><br>12:00 JOY Club<br>3:00 Walk-Up<br>Communion<br>6:00 PM Council | <i>17</i><br>11:00 Bible Study                            | <i>18</i>                      | <i>19</i>                            | <i>20</i><br>9:30 Coffee and<br>Conversation                             |
| <i>21</i><br>9:15 AM Gathering Space<br>10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/Online<br>Worship  | <i>22</i><br>LWR Quilting                                 | <i>23</i><br>3:00 Walk-Up<br>Communion                                      | <i>24</i><br>11:00 Bible Study                            | <i>25</i><br>7:00 Book<br>Club | <i>26</i>                            | <i>27</i><br>9:30 Coffee and<br>Conversation<br>11:00 AM Men's<br>Brunch |
| <i>28</i><br>9:15 AM Gathering Space<br>10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/Online<br>Worship  | <i>29</i>   | <i>30</i>   |   |                                |                                      |  |