

Vision of St. Stephen

May 2022



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

Pastor: Rev. Beth Ferne Johnson
sslcpastor@buckeye-express.com

In the past few weeks, the Bible 101 group has been tackling the book of Revelation. We're toward the end of the book right now, looking at the beautiful passages in chapters 20 and 21.

Together we've been thinking about how this book speaks to those, like the early Christians, who are being oppressed by a political power (for the early church this was Rome). The book assures them and us that ultimately, God will triumph over the forces of tyranny and evil. Interestingly enough, God's triumph is so ultimate that no battles are actually fought in the book—armies line up to fight, but God declares victory and is unchallenged.

An interesting aspect of the book is how the imagery of Revelation shows up in our worship service. During Easter we're singing, "This is the feast, the victory of our God, for the lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Worthy is Christ, the lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are his".

In the book of Revelation, it is the slain lamb that appears several times, but especially in the 21st chapter. John describes the heavenly city as not needing the sun or moon to provide light, because the Lamb is its light (Rev. 22:23). I'm reminded of Jesus saying, "I am the light of the world", in John's gospel (John 8:12).

As we walk through this Easter season together, as we luxuriate in the signs of spring all around us, let us celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection. God has conquered and will continue to work in our world for peace, for justice, for love. We are called to be treasured partners in this work. Our future is wrapped up in God's plan to redeem the world.

God's peace,
Pastor Beth

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Spiritual Growth

JOY Club

Pat Hoehing is facilitating a lunch at Rick's Diner on Monroe Street for May 17th at noon. Please sign up on the bulletin board or contact Pat with your intention to participate. If you'd like to coordinate one of our monthly lunches at a restaurant or your own home, please let Pastor Beth know. We typically meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at noon.

Mother's Day

Do you have a great photo of you with your mom, a sister, your kids, or a favorite aunt? How about one with several generations of women? You're invited to send a favorite photo to Janell by Saturday, May 8th. She'll be created a Facebook page collage to celebrate the connections we share with the women in our lives!

Youth Event

Our next Youth Event will be held on May 15th at 3:00 p.m. We'll be decorating T-shirts with paint as well as talking about a Bible story. Please join us for a fun afternoon!



Bible 101

The group is finishing up our study of the book of Revelation. Look for more information in our Sunday bulletin insert or in our upcoming newsletters about our next topic for discussion. We meet on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. and would welcome any and all participants.

Guitar Jam Session

Do you play guitar? Would you like to spend an hour or so on a Saturday playing guitar with others? We're organizing a time for folks to come and play some contemporary worship music together just for fun. By participating you're not obligating yourself to play in worship, just to try out some music together. We're trying to organize schedules, so look for more information to come about this opportunity.

Easter Sunday



Thank you to everyone who helped make our Easter celebrations possible! Thank you to Marsha Grouls, Tricia Kunkel, Sharon Mason, Tom & Julie Dangelo, Sue Kahl and Pastor Beth who helped to beautify our grounds on Yard Work Day. Thank you to Lin & Marty McKelvey, Beth Madden, Betty Lock and Tricia Kunkel for helping with the Coffee Hour and Easter Treat Table for after service. And thank you to Vickie Veitch and Jeremy & Lisa Hopkins for helping with the Easter Egg Hunt!

Outreach

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 difference to people in need in our community!



Operation Christmas Child Tupperware Party

We will be having a Tupperware party May 8 until May 15th. Our Tupperware representative, Brenda Shawver, has generously offered to donate her profit back to us to help fund our OCC project. We will also be selling raffle tickets for Tupperware products with 100% of the ticket sales going to our OCC Project. Brenda will have a table set up before and after services on both Sundays. If you have any questions please see Lisa or Jeremy Hopkins



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!



Church Finances

OUTREACH QUARTERLY GIFTS

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services has been gifted with our outreach funds for the first two quarters of this year. LIRS is working intensely in eastern Europe to help with Ukrainians who are fleeing their country. For more information about how our wider Lutheran church is helping with this crisis, check out the LIRS.org website, as well as the Lutheran World Relief website (LWR.org).

FURNACE REPLACEMENT

Did you know our church has 7 furnaces? The property team has been monitoring these closely over the years. Each year we have our roofing contractor come and service these. Some of these have already been replaced over time. This May we will be replacing a unit that was installed back in the 2002 expansion. We want to thank Joe Kahl for taking the lead to get us 3 installation quotes to ensure we were good stewards of our financials vs our needs. The decision was made at council to select Overcashier & Horst who came with the lowest yet comparable in service to the others. Cost will be \$8350 vs the other bids of \$9365 and \$14946. Installation will be in early May. Our current Capital Improvement (formerly Building) Fund is \$18,344. We will be using funds from this account to pay for this need which brings us down to \$10,000 left. We wanted to share this info as we will need to look at building this fund back up for future Capital needs. Please consider giving to the Capital Improvement Fund whenever an opportunity arises. Keeping you informed...

Marilyn Scuralli, Council President

Administrative News

NEW DIRECTORY

At the time of this writing, we're working on our new photo directory. We'll let you know when it is available for pick-up at the church. Thank you for being so willing to have your photo taken on Sundays and to email photos in as well!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **June 2022** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by May 10.**

Prayer

MAY PRAYER

Welcome May

May You be happy.

May You be well.

May You be safe.

May You find comfort.

May You have strength.

May You have courage.

May You find healing.

May You have peace.

May You have joy.

May You be filled with
loving kindness.

MAY YOU BE BLESSED

TODAY

AND ALWAYS



COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Alice—Healing & Comfort

Patrick—Comfort & Healing

Denny—Healing

Jill—Comfort, Strength & Peace

Joe—Strength and Recovery

Chelsey—Healing & Peace

Noah—Strength and Understanding

Those with Cancer—Healing

Roger Jr.—Pancreatic Cancer

Greg—Healing & Comfort

Tina—Ease & Comfort

Olivia—Healing & Comfort

COVID Sufferers

Tornado Survivors

Afghanistan Refugees

Ukraine

Baker Family

Fun

ALL IN GOOD FUN

What did Jonah's family say
when he told them about what
happened before reaching Nine-
veh?

Hmmmm, sounds fishy.

BIBLE QUIZ

Who was John the Baptist's mother?

(Answer page 10)

- A. Elizabeth
- B. Mary
- C. Ruth
- D. Hannah

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>	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

Application Deadline

If you would like to apply for a St. Stephen academic scholarship, the deadline is May 31st!

1st Call Mentor

Pastor Beth will be serving as a mentor to a group of our 1st Call pastors in the synod. When a pastor is newly ordained and in their first call as a pastor, they are asked to meet with other new pastors for support, encouragement, and discussion. Every few months, the group is asked to attend a retreat with other groups from the Region 6 area of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky. Pastor Beth is excited to help provide guidance and facilitate these meetings.

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. Elizabeth

May Celebrations

Baptismal Birthdays

5/1 Sue Kahl
5/2 Garry Ward
5/11 Beth Ferne Johnson
5/14 Debbie Lock
5/16 David Aldrich
5/16 Kathy Aldrich
5/16 Jessica Klimesh
5/16 Clare Sommerville
5/18 Jordan Shepler
5/19 Tristan Bonde
5/25 Cathy Gustafson
5/26 Mike Bogdan
5/29 Sue Marvin

Birthdays

5/2 Joyce Cunningham
5/4 Kayla Kunkel
5/4 Debbie Lock
5/6 Tristan Bonde
5/7 Ryann Fox
5/18 Jordan Shepler
5/28 Lynn Tefft
5/29 Peggy Scholl

Anniversaries

5/27 Tony & Michelle Tebary

May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship 12PM Worship Committee	2	3 7:00 PM Bible 101	4 Happy Birth- day St. Stephen	5	6	7 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
8 Mother's Day 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship	9 7:00 PM Shep- herd Meeting	10 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Bible 101	11 7:00 PM Coun- cil Meeting	12	13	14 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
Tupperware Fundraiser						
15 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship 3PM Youth Event Tupperware Fundraiser	16	17 12PM JOY Club @ Rick's 7:00 PM Bible 101	18	19	20	21 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
22 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship	23 9:30 AM LWR Quilting	24 7:00 PM Bible 101	25	26	27	28 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
29 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship	30 Office Closed	31 Scholarship Application Deadline				