

Vision of St. Stephen

November 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

Dear members and friends of St. Stephen,

I was fortunate to grow up in a family that modeled generosity. Every week, my mom would give me or my sister our family's offering envelope to put in the plate as it went down the aisle. When we were really little, we each got a quarter to also put in the offering plate as it was passed along.

I remember the excitement of getting my first box of offering envelopes and tithing my babysitting money to the church. I thought I was all grown up!

My home congregation was extremely generous to me (and to 9 others from the congregation) as it paid the tuition for my studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

I have served in congregations with people that have modeled generosity for me. During my time at Salem Memorial in Detroit, the congregation was really struggling with paying the utility bills and other monthly costs. We housed an area Head Start program for young kids and were reaching out to the neighborhood. But our building was in bad shape—we had a leaky flat roof and a boiler that was on the fritz. We had one member who gave substantially to replace both of those problems so that our building would provide a warm welcome to our community and to members. Another member of the church included Salem Memorial in her estate plans with a large gift.

Here at St. Stephen, we're the recipient of your generosity. During the pandemic, we had people who gave their government relief checks to St. Stephen to help with our ministry here, as well as continuing their giving.

We have seen generosity toward Salem with our ongoing personal needs collection as well as our in-gatherings of food items. We have had outpourings of pasta, Mac and Cheese, and lots of other items for the Lutheran Social Services food pantry.

I am surrounded by generous people who continue to teach me about generosity. As I think about my own giving for this next year, I've decided that I will double my giving for the month of July and December. I'm not sure exactly how that will go, but I've decided to try it.

I look forward to hearing more of your stories of generosity as we continue this generosity journey together!

God's peace to you,
Pastor Beth

November Contents

Spiritual Growth	2
Outreach	3
Church Finances	4
Administrative News	4
Prayer	5
Fun	5
Council	6
Steve's Bulletin Board	7
Celebrations	7
Calendar	8

Spiritual Growth

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints Sunday is November 6th. 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

WORSHIP TIME CHANGES

On November 13, our worship time will shift to 10:30 a.m.

JOY CLUB

Different Day: Saturday, November 12th

Different Time: 11:00 a.m.

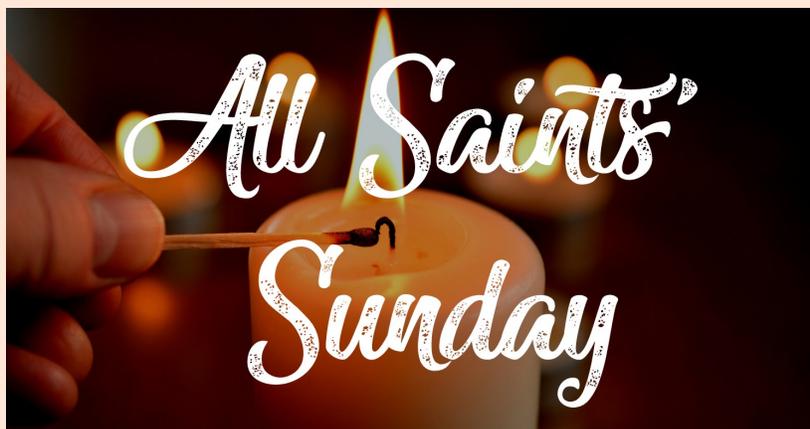
Relax and enjoy some fellowship before the holidays descend upon us. To welcome our "employed ladies" who normally are unable to join us on our regular day, we're changing the day/time for November. Join us for brunch on the 12th of November at the home of Nancy Pfau, 5224 Brookfield Lane, Sylvania. Please sign up on the church bulletin board or contact Nancy directly (Ph: 419-882-5430 or email at 5224nancy@gmail.com) if you plan on joining us.

ANNUAL MEETING

St. Stephen's annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 13th after our 10:30 a.m. worship. At this meeting, we'll share the ministries and activities we've been involved with in 2022, vote for council members, and vote on the proposed 2023 budget. We're looking to provide a Zoom option for the meeting with more details to come as the date approaches. Copies of the proposed 2023 budget will be available in early November for you to look over.

INQUIRER'S CLASS

Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about membership at St. Stephen? We'll be having an inquirer's class on Sunday, November 20th at noon in the library. During this session, you'll learn more about the congregation and how you can be involved.



Outreach

Larry Golba Art Show

The paintings of Larry S. Golba will be on display here at St. Stephen November 5-20. November 5 & 6 between 12:30 and 4:30 PM will be the opening with a reception, from November 7th-20th appointments will be needed to view and purchase the artwork. 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!



OCC Shoebox Collection

Our packing party was held on Sunday, October 30th, as this newsletter was sent to you, so we don't know how many boxes we've put together. However, those boxes will be dedicated in worship on November 13th—so if you still have one at home that you're working on, please return it on or before this Sunday. Thanks!

Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser for Ukraine

After our annual meeting stay for lunch! Lunch is free with spaghetti, bread, salad and desserts. A free will offering will be gathered to support LWR in Ukraine. LWR is working to care for Ukrainians who fled, sending medical teams, delivering medical supplies, providing emergency assistance and cash for Ukrainian refugees in Poland, providing sexual exploitation and abuse prevention services, distributing LWR quilts and care kits, and other support efforts.



Glenwood Giving Store Ministry Concludes

We received this letter from Pastor Chris Hanley at Glenwood. "The Giving Store expressed Jesus' radical hospitality for many years. This ministry has now finished. On behalf of the community of Glenwood, thank you for making this ministry possible through your donations, communication, fundraising, and volunteer days." At the present time, we're waiting to hear from area churches to see if one will be taking up this ministry for the long term. If you have donations, please hold them or give them to other agencies until we can announce a new plan.

Church Finances

ONLINE GIVING

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!

QUARTERLY BENEVOLENCE

At our September church council meeting, our council decided to share the 3rd and 4th quarterly benevolence with Lutheran Disaster Relief to help with the devastating flooding from horrific rainfall in Kentucky in July. Our gift of \$2,000 will help LDR in their work. As the full scope of the damage is assessed, Lutheran Disaster Response will work with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and local communities to focus on long-term needs. They anticipate that the response will include rebuilding homes, replacing lost household items and providing emotional and spiritual care to survivors. This is in addition to LDR's ongoing response to the December 2021 tornadoes in western Kentucky.

Administrative News

CHURCH COUNCIL

We'd like to thank Beth Madden for her service to St. Stephen's ministry as she steps away from council. Beth has been working in the areas of stewardship and evangelism. With her departure, we're looking for one or two people who might be willing to serve on church council. If you're interested and have questions, please talk with Marilyn Scuralli or Pastor Beth.

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 2022** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by November 8.**



Prayer

NOVEMBER PRAYER NOTES

Dear God,

Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives. Thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all you do, and for all you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

- Debbie McDaniel

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

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

2022 Council Members

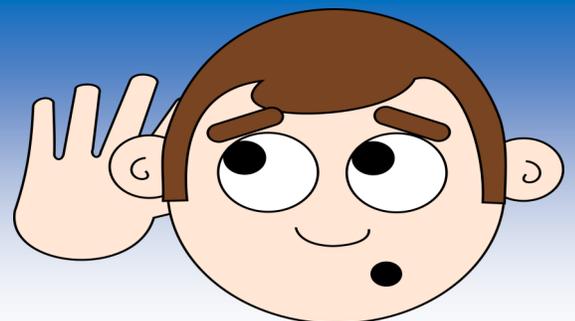
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Tom Schmidt
<i>Secretary</i>	Beth Madden
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Housel

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

We will start our SAFS gift card collection for Thanksgiving soon! Be on the lookout for more info!



An adoptable dog all dressed up for our Pet Blessing!



Looking ahead....

Advent Wednesdays start November 30

Christmas Caroling, Saturday, December 10th at 1:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve worship, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship, Sunday, December 25, 10:30 a.m.

Bible Quiz Answer:

C. 4

November 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
11/21 B&S Markin
11/30 R&J Cornell

November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 PM Bible 101	2 5:00PM Walk- Up Communion	3	4	5 9:45 AM Coffee and Conversation 12:30 Golba Art Show
6 Fall Back Time Change 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship 12:30 Golba Art Show	7	8 Election Day Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Bible 101	9 5:00PM Walk- Up Communion	10	11	12 9:45 AM Coffee and Conversation 11:00 AM JOY Club
13 10:30AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship 11:30 AM Annual Meeting 12:15PM Ukraine Spaghetti Fundraiser	14 7:00 PM Coun- cil Meeting	15 7:00 PM Bible 101	16 5:00PM Walk- Up Communion 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	17	18	19 9:45 AM Coffee and Conversation
20 10:30 AM In Sanctuary/ Online Worship 11:30AM Inquirer's Class	21 7:00 PM Coun- cil Meeting	22 7:00 PM Bible 101	23	24 	25	26 9:45 AM Coffee and Conversation
27 10:30 AM In Sanctuary/ Online Worship	28	29 7:00 PM Bible 101	30 Advent Wor- ship			