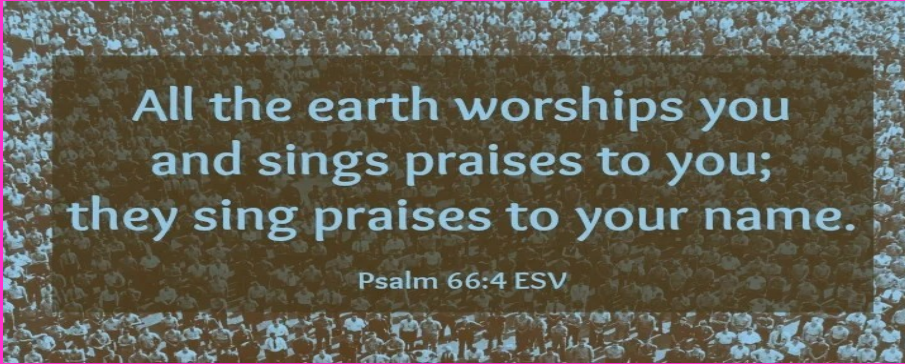


Vision of St. Stephen

May 2024



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

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

As Spring continues to take hold and summer comes closer, the whole world sings "Glory to God:"

*Earth is full of wit and wisdom,
sounding God's delighted laugh,
from the tiny roly-poly
to the treetop-tall giraffe.
All creation sings in wonder;
even rocks and trees rejoice
as they join the ringing chorus:
echoes of our Maker's voice.*

*Earth is full of wit and wisdom,
woven into harmony.
Ev'ry creature has a purpose,
ev'ry flow'r and bumblebee.
Spider, human, redwood, gecko,
monkey, chicken, mouse, and snake
live within a single fabric:
cloth that only God could make.*

*Earth is full of wit and wisdom:
penguin, platypus, and snail,
cactus, sea slug, oak, and algae,
from the microbe to the whale.
In this great and strange creation,
with a breath God gives us birth:
born of soil to live as stewards,
called to love and serve the earth.*

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979 Text © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved

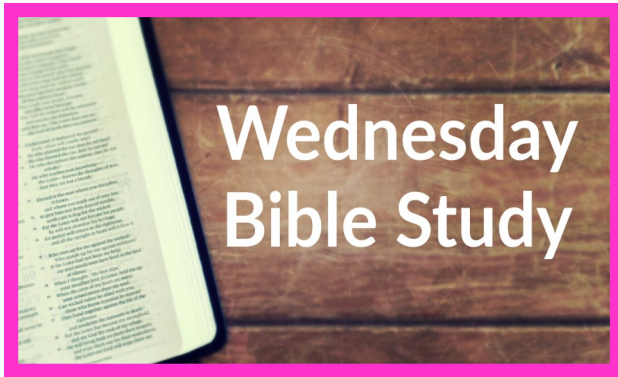
*Things words are from a newer hymn I hope we can sing together in Sunday
worship!*

God's peace,
Pastor Beth

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Spiritual Growth



Wednesday Bible Study

During May, we will continue our focus on the Apocryphal book of Tobit. Scenes from Tobit's life story were often featured in Renaissance paintings. The book of Tobit has some parallels to the book of Job as both books deal with the question of why bad things happen to "good people". Sound intriguing? We meet on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. in the library—no expertise required!

Gathering Space

Gathering space is currently on a hiatus, please watch our "This Week" for more info on when it will return!

Catechism Events

Our Catechism class will meet for 2 hours on May 5th from 6-8. They are working through the stories of the Old Testament, focusing on God's message of abundance for all. We're tentatively planning a Fun Friday event for our youth on Friday, May 31st from 7-10 p.m. Look for more details to follow!

Upcoming Baptism

Eloise Bogdan, daughter of Andrea and Jake Bogdan, will be baptized during our worship together on Sunday, May 5th. After worship will be a reception in the fellowship hall! We look forward to officially welcoming Eloise into our family of faith.

Why do we sometimes wear Red for Pentecost?

On Pentecost, 7 Sundays after Easter, the Holy Spirit descends upon the disciples during the Festival of Pentecost (Acts 2). As the crowd looks at the disciples, they see tongues of flame resting above their heads. The disciples, filled with the Spirit, begin to share the story of Jesus with those around, speaking in the regional languages of those who are attending the festival. Five thousand people heard and believed in Jesus and became Christian. So, remembering this day, you're invited to wear red to worship on May 19th!



Activities

Needler's

Our crochet group continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 1:00 p.m. Members of the group have created coverlets for our baptized young people, to clothe them in Christ, and prayer shawls for those who are in health crises. If you or someone you know would like to have a prayer shawl, please take one from the table by Pastor Beth's office. The shawl comes with a paper for the recipient, explaining the gift. Experienced crocheters and newbies are welcome! Bring a project of your own—or work on a prayer shawl to be given away here.

Fellowship Meal

We continue to gather monthly for a soup supper and conversation on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:30. As the weather warms, Vickie is planning to feature some cold soups. Come and enjoy!

Muffins with Mom on Mother's Day

We'll celebrate the women in our lives with muffins after worship on Mother's Day, May 12th. You're invited to grab a bite in our narthex as we enjoy a time of fellowship together.

JOY Club

On Tuesday, May 21st, we'll be lunching at Ameera's Bistro, 5127 Main Street in Sylvania (SouthBriar plaza). Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to join us for lunch at 12:00 p.m! Any questions, please contact Pat Hoehing.



April JOY Club

Men's Breakfast

We will meet on Saturday, May 25 at 11:00 a.m. at Scrambler Marie's on Central Ave. In addition to some good food, we'll have a brief devotion/discussion together, too.

Book Group

The book for our May discussion is Water from my Heart by Charles Martin. In June we'll be thinking together about Educated by Tara Westover. If you enjoy reading and discussing books with others, please join in! We gather on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Euchre Nights

We had 17 people here for Euchre on April 12th—so we're planning some more Euchre nights soon! If you'd like to help with snacks for these events, please let Lin McKelvey know.

Happy Birthday Dear Congregation!

On Saturday, May the 4th, St. Stephen celebrates its 55th birthday! May the Force of God continue to be with us!

Outreach

Salem Non-Food Pantry Focus

Between now and Mother's Day, you're invited to bring in items for the personal needs pantry at Salem Lutheran, in Toledo's Vistula neighborhood.

We're encouraging donations of baby shower items, including diapers, personal care items for babies, etc. \$10 gift cards to Kroger/Target are also welcomed and can be put in the purple box on the round table in the narthex. If you'd like to help deliver these items to Salem during the week of May 12th, please let Pastor Beth know.



Macaroni Madness

We collected 140 boxes of Macaroni and Cheese for the LSS Food pantry during March and April! Thank you for helping to feed our neighbors!

Visitation Team

Mary Dwyer, Sharon Mason, Ruth Moeller, and Shelley Wilczynski have met and will be occasionally visiting with our members at home. If you would be interested in having one of them visit you, please let the church office know. Pastor Beth will be continuing her visits with our members, but this team provides our members with additional opportunities for conversation! Mary, Sharon, and Shelley will be trained to distribute communion to others as well.



Pentecost Potluck

Look for a sign-up sheet to be posted soon on our narthex bulletin board (or call/email the church office and Janell can add your food item to the list)! You're invited to stay after worship on Sunday, May 19th for our meal together.

New Members

On Sunday, April 14th, we welcomed a new family into our congregation. Wade and Michaela Dennis were welcomed as new members, as their daughter, Lila Mae, was also baptized! Lila's sponsors were Rachel Strube and Devon Davis. To complete this celebration, Lila's uncle, Trace (Larry Wilczynski III) received his first communion!

The next Sunday, Shelley and Larry Wilczynski and their son Trace were received as members of St. Stephen! You can find information about them on the bulletin board!



Administrative News

PASTOR BETH TAKES A SUNDAY OFF

Pastor Beth will be taking one of her 4 vacation Sundays on May 19th. Her nephew, Evan, is being confirmed that morning at St. John's Lutheran in Port Clinton. She is looking forward to celebrating this step in her nephew's faith journey and enjoying this day with her family.

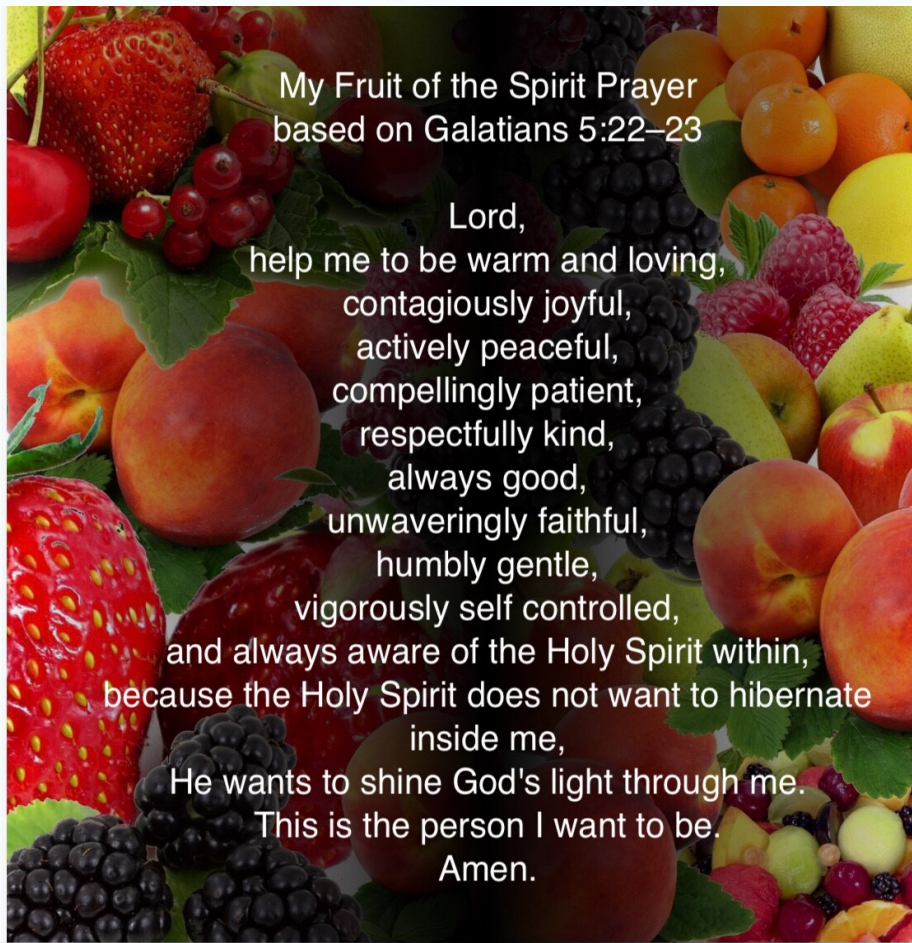
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **June 2024** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by May 14.**



Prayer

MAY PRAYER



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
Tracey—Healing
Wolf—Stomach Cancer
Richard—Healing
Dave—Comfort & Healing
Lisa—Peace
Jessica—Answers & Healing
Gary—Stroke & Recovery
Tre—Healing
Laura—Healing & Comfort
Anna—Strength & Healing
Richard—Healing
Terry—Comfort & Healing
Archer—Healing & Comfort
All victims of trauma and war

Fun

ALL IN GOOD FUN



BIBLE QUIZ

Who was John the Baptist's mother?
(Answer page 8)

- 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

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 & 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!



Trace and Lila on April 14, 2024

Altar Thanks



Thank you to everyone who donated flowers for our Easter worship, and Sue Kahl for arranging the flowers for our altar!

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
5/29 Sharon Sorensen

Birthdays

5/2 Joyce Cunningham
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

5/7 Jake & Andrea Bogdan

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11:00 AM Bible Study	2	3	4 Happy Birthday St. Stephen 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
5 10:30 AM Worship/Baptism 11:30 AM Bogdan Reception 6:00 PM Catechism	6 1:00 PM Knit/Crochet Group	7 3:00 Communion	8 11:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Fellowship Meal	9	10	11 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
12 Mother's Day 10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship 11:30 AM Muffins with Mom	13	14 Newsletter Deadline 3:00 Communion	15 11:00 AM Bible Study	16	17	18 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
19 10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship 11:30 AM Pentecost Potluck	20 LWR Quilting 1:00 PM Knit/Crochet Group	21 12PM JOY Club 3:00 Communion 6:00 PM Council	22 11:00 AM Bible Study	23 7:00 PM Book Group	24	25 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation 11:00 AM Men's Brunch
26 10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship	27 Office Closed	28 3:00 Communion	29 11:00 AM Bible Study	30	31 7:00 PM Fun Friday Scholarship Application Deadline	