

Vision of St. Stephen

September 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



This quote is from Frederick Buechner's book *Beyond Words*, Daily Readings in the ABC's of Faith. Buechner died this August leaving behind a legacy of influence among many pastors, readers, and people of faith.

One of the things that made him so accessible was his honesty and his vulnerability. In his memoirs, he shared openly about his family dysfunction, his doubts and lack of faith, his mental blocks as he wrote. That vulnerability makes it possible for us to do the same.

Part of sharing ourselves, though, happens best when we're in person, when we're together, when we're in community.

Back to Church Sunday is September 18th—we'll have cookies for fellowship after worship and a chance to visit with each other. A chance to be community together. To share joys and sorrows, to simply catch up on a different level from social media posts, and to share some smiles and some laughter as well.

The pandemic has reminded us some of the beautiful and terrible things that can happen to us in this life. But it has also revealed to us how we need each other. Of how we need to gather together around the Word, around the sacrament, to hear those words of forgiveness and love spoken "for you".

I'd love to see you in worship.

Peace, Pastor Beth

September Contents

Spiritual Growth	2
Youth & Family	3
LDR: Ukraine Update	3
Outreach	4
Birth Announcement	5
In Loving Memory	5
Church Finances	6
Administrative News	6
Prayer	7
Fun	7
Council	8
Steve's Bulletin Board	9
Celebrations	9
Calendar	10

Spiritual Growth

BIBLE 101

Having completed our study of Rachel Held Evans last book, we'll be moving into another book on September 13th at 7:00 p.m. We'll be looking at **Shalom Sistas**, by Osheta Moore. Here's the blurb for the book from a website: Like a lot of women, blogger Osheta Moore loved the idea of shalom: God's dream for a world that is whole, vibrant, and flourishing. But honestly: who's got the time? So one night she whispered a dangerous prayer: God, show me the things that make for peace... In *Shalom Sistas*, Moore shares what she learned when she challenged herself to study peace in the Bible for forty days. Taking readers through the twelve points of the Shalom Sistas' Manifesto, Moore experiments with practices of everyday peacemaking and invites readers to do the same. From dropping "love bombs" on a family vacation, to talking to the coach who called her son the n-word, to spreading shalom with a Swiffer, Moore offers bold steps for crossing lines between black and white, suburban and urban, rich and poor. What if a bunch of Jesus-following women catch a vision of a vibrant, whole, flourishing world? What happens when Shalom Sistas unite? Sounds interesting? New folks are always welcome!

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

You're invited to gather at Chick-fil-a on Central and McCord on Saturdays at 9:30 for conversation and "hanging out" with other St. Stephen's folks. We're usually there for about 45 minutes to an hour and you're welcome to come and go as your schedule allows.

WORSHIP SURVEY

We're looking for you to share your insights about our worship schedule and some other things. Hopefully, you received (either by email or postal mail) a survey. Please fill that out, either online or on paper, by Monday, September 12th. We have paper copies available here at church as well. Paper surveys can be returned to the purple flowered box in the narthex

RECOVENANTING

Throughout the month of September you'll have the opportunity to return the covenant of membership during our worship service or by dropping it in an envelope on the front door. Extra covenants can be found on the card table with the bulletins in the narthex.

JOY CLUB

Are you looking to connect with folks over conversation and a meal? If so, please join Joy Club for our monthly meal. On Tuesday, September 20th, we'll be dining at Rosie's Italian Grille at the corner of McCord and Nebraska. It is helpful if you sign up on the bulletin board or let Marsha Grouls, our host this month, know that you plan to come. See you at 12 noon! Our next meals will be on Tuesday, October 18 at Incorvaia Bene Italian, 4751 Monroe Street, and November 12 (yes, a Saturday) at the home of Nancy Pfau.

Youth and Family

YOUTH EVENT

Please keep our youth in prayer as they begin a new school year—for many of them, they're in a new school building as well! Our next time of crafts and learning will be in October.

Lutheran Disaster Response: Ukraine Update

In the six months since Russia invaded Ukraine, the Lutheran World Federation and member churches in Eastern Europe have accompanied tens of thousands of refugees from Ukraine. The ELCA has committed nearly \$3 million to LWF's response, thanks to generous Lutheran Disaster Response donors.

Six months after the military invasion of Ukraine, the Lutheran World Federation continues to support people affected by the war. As the cold season approaches, there is a need to rehabilitate homes and public buildings which have been destroyed or damaged. In addition, there is an increasing need for psycho-social support as well as pastoral care. LWF supports people in Ukraine, as well as refugees in the neighboring countries, with direct humanitarian aid and through its member churches.

“Within days of the attack, we had a team in Poland. Since then, we’ve established an office in Warsaw, and six multi-purpose cash distribution centers which to date have helped more than 50,000 people. We work closely with the Lutheran church and the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR”, says Chey Mattner, LWF Head of Operations. “Cash allows mothers to buy what is best for their family, and gives them a much-needed sense of autonomy. In time, the program will focus more on providing protection to women, children and those who are vulnerable.”

Much of this work has been made possible through the donations of LWF member churches, who have generously contributed to the LWF response. In a unique partnership, LWF has combined funds and infrastructure from the UN refugee agency UNHCR, its own technical expertise and coordination experience in humanitarian work, with the deep connection of its member churches with local communities.

“It’s humbling to see this strong response by the churches,” says Eva Christina Nilsson, LWF Director of Mission, Theology and Justice. “The LWF member churches, both in Ukraine and the neighboring countries have shown great hospitality and solidarity with people suffering from the war. They have opened up their parish houses, their homes and taken concrete action in serving people that had to leave their country. The churches all have a long diaconal experience which they have built on in this crisis situation.

As the cold season approaches, LWF will start assisting people in the northern region of Ukraine to prepare war-affected communities for a long winter ahead.

Further projects are also planned with member churches in the region, who after half a year of hosting refugees need support to rehabilitate infrastructure, and to integrate the Ukrainians into local communities.

“We don't know how long this war will last, but we remain committed to serving those who are suffering in the best way we can” says LWF Head of Operations, Chey Mattner.

Outreach

Back to Church

As summer winds down, you're invited to be more intentional about your Sunday worship attendance. We'll be having a chance for conversation and cookies at our coffee hour following worship on Sunday, September 18th.



Pasta Collection

We are currently collecting pasta (preferably macaroni and egg noodles) for the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry through Sept. 18th! LSS's food pantry was featured on local news channels in August as its shelves were bare. A gift of pasta or money can help make a real difference for a family. Another way to make a difference is by volunteering at the LSS Food pantry itself. Help is needed to stock shelves with food. Please speak with Pastor Beth for more information.



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!



Prayer for the Cure

We'll gather on Sunday evening, September 18th at 6:30 p.m. for a half hour service of prayer for those who are living with cancer/ chronic illnesses. Please join us as we pray for healing, peace, comfort for those people and for their caregivers as well.



Birth Announcement



Julia Veronica Pfau

Julia was born August 2, 2022. She was born in Johnson Creek, Wisconsin to Steven and Alison Pfau and weighed 7 pounds 7 ounces and measured 19 inches long. She is the granddaughter of Thomas and Nancy Pfau. Welcome to the world Julia Veronica Pfau!

In Loving Memory



Born July 27, 1938, Toledo, Ohio, Joseph O. Sansbury was the twelfth of fourteen children born to the late Walter and Carrie Frye Sansbury. He was a 1957 graduate of Jesup W. Scott High School. As a student Joe was band president, a member of the HI-Y, and the Athletic Committee of the Student Council. A four-year member of the track team, he was number one in the city for hurdles and went to the state championships. Joe was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2017. Joe received Christ at an early age. He was baptized at St. Philip Lutheran Church. After leaving he became a member of Payne Memorial Methodist Church and he later joined St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Joe attended The Ohio State University and graduated from Central State University with a bachelor's degree in education. He received his master's degree in education and Administration from The University of Toledo. He took advanced courses in Education at Wayne State University, University of Akron, and The University of Toledo.

In November 1966, he married Jettie Brown. To this union they had two daughters, Shawn and Amy. In 2016, they celebrated fifty years of marriage.

Joe started his career as a classroom teacher, later becoming a traveling Health and Phys-Education teacher. He became Assistant Director of Admissions for the University of Akron. He later accepted the position of Executive Director of Concentrated Employment Program (CEP) in Toledo. Joe served as principal of Collingwood Learning Center, Garfield, and Oakdale elementary schools as well as Old West End and Robinson Junior High Schools. He became the first African American Director for Certified Teacher Personnel for Toledo Public Schools where he remained until his retirement. After retirement, he became an Instructor and Counselor for Fresh Start Academy, and later was School Leader for the George Phillips Academy. He returned to Toledo Public Schools as the Director of Certified Teacher Personnel. His final retirement was in 2010. He was a member of many professional organizations, including the Great Lakes Association for School, College, and University Staffing Board of Directors, and was President of Toledo Association of Elementary School Principals. Additionally, he served as Vice President of Phi Delta Kappa, trustee for Toledo Association of Administrative Personnel and was the first African American President of Ohio Association of School Personnel Administrators. Joe served on Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce, Project FEED and on the Boards of LSS and Lutheran Homes. Joe was a Life Member of his beloved Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, where he served as President for two terms and Historian Emeritus for the Toledo Chapter, Alpha Xi Lambda. Joe was recognized as "Recruiter of the Year" by Bowling Green State University and was the recipient of the NAACP ACT-SO-Service Award. He also served as a Docent at Lathrop House.

Church Finances

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

We received the Kroger community rewards from May 1 to July 31, 2022. 26 households participated. Total rewards to St. Stephen were \$100.73 Thankyou to all who participated. Operation Christmas Child will be receiving the money from this quarterly reward!

Administrative News

OPEN COUNCIL POSITION—TECHNOLOGY

Would you be interested in serving on church council? We're looking for someone to be our technology liaison. This would involve keeping in communication with our technology volunteers, coordinating a fix of any technology issues, and attending one meeting a month. Please speak with Marilyn Scuralli or Pastor Beth if you're interested.

LITTLE MIRACLES

Little Miracle is now back in the building with a before and after school program during the week!



THANK YOU OLIVET

Thank you to Olivet Lutheran for opening their building to St. Stephen to celebrate the life of Joe Sansbury. Due to the number of attendees we were unable to hold his service here, but Olivet generously offered their building. Thank you again!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **October 2022** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by September 13.**



Prayer

SEPTEMBER PRAYER NOTES

“

Heavenly Father,
We lift up all those who
are facing various illnesses.
Give them the hope and
courage they need today and
every day. Comfort their pain,
calm their fears, and surround
them with Your peace.
In Jesus' name, Amen.”

CIRCLE OF PRAYER



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

When the friend you invited to Church said they had a really good time



@churchmemesministry

BIBLE QUIZ

As of 2-19, how many languages has the full Bible been translated to?

(Answer page 10)

- A. 386
- B. 698
- C. 542
- D. 802

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

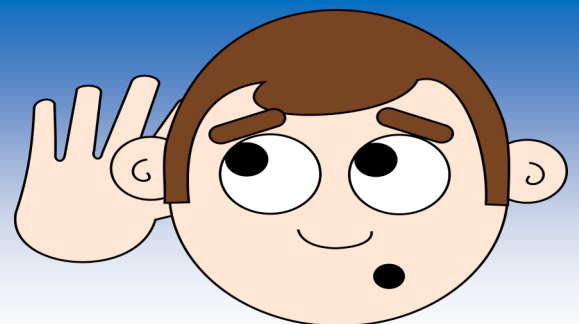
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	
<i>Secretary</i>	Beth Madden
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Housel

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>	
<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

Volunteer Sign Up Sheet

If you would like to help with worship, a new volunteer sign up is available in the Narthex on the bulletin board! Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE

October 1: Pet Blessing

October 30: Operation Christmas Child packing party

November 5 and 6: Larry Golba Art Exhibit (work available for purchase)

November 13: Annual meeting and Spaghetti lunch fundraiser for Ukraine/Lutheran World Relief

For
nothing is
impossible
with *God*
Luke 1:37

Bible Quiz Answer:

B. 698

September Celebrations

Baptismal Birthdays

9/1 Marty McKelvey
9/17 Marilyn Scuralli
9/28 Joan Haddox
9/30 Niel Johnson

Birthdays

9/2 Darrell Staup
9/5 Patrick McCoy
9/12 Clare Aldrich
9/14 Lisa Hopkins
9/22 Aaron Ziegler
9/25 Ruth Moeller
9/28 Jackie Cornell

Anniversaries

9/6 L&K Tefft
9/8 S&A Senci
9/14 J&K Bork
9/27 S&K Ziegler

September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
4 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
11 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship	12 Worship Survey Due	13 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Bible 101	14 5:00 PM Walk Up Communion	15	16	17 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
18 Back to Church Day Pasta Collection Ends 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship 6:30PM Prayer for the Cure	19 7:00 PM Coun- cil Meeting	20 12:00 PM JOY Club 7:00 PM Bible 101	21	22	23	24 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
25 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship	26 LWR Quilting	27 7:00 PM Bible 101	28	29	30	