

Vision of St. Stephen

March 2023



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
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**“This is my Son, the Beloved,
with whom I am well pleased; Listen to him.”**
Matthew 17:5

On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus, Peter, James, and John hear God say these words. Soon after, they go back down the mountain, to the daily activities of teaching, preaching, and healing. I am sure, though, that Peter, James and John do not easily forget this event.

During the Sundays of Lent, we too will be “listening to him”, to Jesus, as we hear Jesus interact with for the forces of evil, with Nicodemus, with the Samaritan woman at the well, with the man born blind (and the whole town as well), and with Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

During the Wednesdays in Lent, we’ll be thinking about other faithful Christians, throughout the centuries, who also have “listened to him”. We’ll look at the lives of people you may be familiar with and people you might never have heard of before. We’ll think about how “listening to Jesus” changed the trajectory of their lives and how they lived out their response to Jesus in their lives, and in some cases, in their deaths as well. Here’s a list of their names:

George Herbert
John Wesley and Charles Wesley
Perpetua and Felicity
Harriet Tubman
Sojourner Truth
Gregory the Great
Patrick
Joseph
Oscar Romero
Hans Nielsen Hauge
John Donne

As we listen to others and their conversations, reactions and responses to Jesus, we’re invited to think about how we’re called to live in this world. We bear the cross of Christ on our forehead in baptism and we are encouraged to “let our light so shine before others so that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven”. How does this change how we live in our world, as we, too, strive to “listen to Jesus” and to follow him?

Peace,
Pastor Beth

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Spiritual Growth

JOY CLUB

We will be meeting for lunch on March 21th at noon. We are meeting at Charlie's on Central across from Lowe's. Please sign up on the bulletin board. Contact Pat Hoehing with questions!

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SERVE

We're looking for some people to join our Altar Angels and Shepherd teams. Our shepherd team keeps people apprised of what's happening here at St. Stephen by sending out postcards, emails, and keeping in contact with folks. Our Altar Angels prepare communion and clean up afterwards, on a rotating basis. For more information on what's involved, contact any of our Shepherds—Larry and Lynn Golba, Lin McKelvey, Marilyn Scuralli and Ruth Moeller. For Altar questions, please connect with Ruth Moeller or Pastor Beth. Thanks!

LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIPS

"Listen to Him" We have a rich calendar of saints in the Lutheran tradition—Christians from every age who have pointed to Christ in their living and their dying. In remembering these specific people who have gone before us, we find inspiration for our own journey through life. We'll be looking at those who have a day of commemoration that occurs during the weeks of Lent (February 22-Easter this year).

Please join us at 12 noon or 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in March for our worship time together. In the evening, we'll also have an opportunity to eat together at 6:30 p.m. There is a sign up sheet on our bulletin board if you'd like to bring a soup to share for the evening meal!

JEREMIAH BIBLE STUDY

Our study of the prophet Jeremiah continues on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Jeremiah's words are challenging, as he confronts the people for their lack of trust in God. Even as he foresees trouble and destruction on the horizon, there is still reason to hope because God promises to be with the people. Please feel free to join in at any point in our conversation—prior experience is not necessary!

SMALL GROUPS

Thank you for responding to our survey on small groups. Emails have been sent to those who indicated an interest in various options. Once a 1st meeting date has been established, we will publicize that through email and one call now so that others can get involved if they wish!

Thank You!

To Merry Cook for the cookies for the celebration of marriage gift bags. For Marty McKelvey, Tricia Kunkel, Sharon Mason, Jake and Andrea Bogdan for making porch deliveries. For Joni Tolles for providing flowers and assembling the packages. To Sally Goetz for the corsages!

To all who made such delicious pots of soup for Souper Bowl Sunday! To all who helped set up, helped in the kitchen, and helped to clean up from the event!

To John Lock, who has stepped away from the livestreaming team, for getting us online and live streaming in the fall of 2019. We were so fortunate to have that capability and practice in place so that when we had to worship virtually, it was a smooth transition to do so!

To our team of delivery people—Dave Aldrich, Joan Haddox, Ruth Moeller, Doug Paxton and Steve Ziegler who periodically take a load of items to Salem, the LSS food pantry, Sylvania Area Family Services, etc.

Youth and Family

YOUTH EVENT

We've got a couple of things planned this month for our Girl's Youth Group. On Sunday, March 5th, we'll be gathering for a session of learning, craft, and fun. On St. Patrick's day, we'll gather for an evening of food, games, crafts, and a chance to hang out! If you have a junior high or high school girl in your life, please let them know about these opportunities!

Holy Week

At the present time, this is our plan for worship during Holy Week:

Palm Sunday, April 2

Live streamed and in person worship at 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 6

Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 7

At 12:00 p.m. at the Sylvania United Church of Christ

At 7:00 p.m., we will be worshipping through a service of Tenebrae.

Easter, April 9

We will be having our Easter Brunch at 9:15 AM. We will be worshipping in person and online at 10:30 a.m. We're hoping to have an Easter Egg Hunt for our youth at 9:45 a.m. If you'd like to contribute wrapped candy for our Easter egg hunt, please bring donations to the basket in the narthex. Thank you!!



Outreach

Souper Bowl

We're helping those with food insecurity through our donations in February! We've collected \$200 for the Lutheran Social Services food pantry and, so far, 150 cans of soup for them as well!



March Macaroni Madness

In March, we'll be collecting boxes of macaroni and cheese for area food pantries. We did this 2 years ago and had a wonderful pyramid of boxes to share with the hungry in our community. We're hoping to do that again this year! We'll be collecting Mac and Cheese through Easter Sunday.



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!



Euchre Game Night

Love to play cards? We'll be having a euchre night on Friday, March 24 from 7-9 p.m. Please bring cards or games that you'd like to play and join us for snacks and a chance to be together.



Church Finances

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF FOR TURKEY

Our Church Council has sent our 1st quarterly gift of \$1,000 to help with the situation in Turkey following the earthquake on February 6th that is impacting 9.1 million people. LWR has already sent quilts, baby care kits, personal care kits, tents, tarps, winter clothing, and solar lights and will be providing more of these shipments. LWR is also coordinating with other groups to distribute ready to eat food and hot meals, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, and warm clothing. They are also working to provide toilets and bathing facilities as well as psychosocial first aid and mental health services. Another important need they are working to provide is child friendly spaces. If you'd like to give to help this effort, you can write a check to St. Stephen with LWR in the memo line or contribute directly to LWR at www.lwr.org

KROGER REWARDS

We received the Kroger community rewards from Nov 1 – Jan 31st, 2023. 25 households participated. Total rewards to St. Stephen were \$97.90 which will go to our LWR quilting fund this quarter. Thank you to all who participated.

2022 GIVING STATEMENTS

If you had not picked up your statement at church it was mailed out at the end of February! Please review your statement, and if there are any issues don't hesitate to contact Janell in the office! Thank you for your continued support to St. Stephen and our ministries.

Administrative News

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **April 2022** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by March 14.**



Prayer

MARCH PRAYER NOTES

God's Spring Prayer

Spring is a breath of fresh air, cool – not cold, gentle – not bold. Its life sprouting up from the ground, the birds and insect sounds. A reminder of renewal, a marvel from You. Your gift to me is deserving of all the thanks and praise I can offer. Blessed are You, Creator of seasons.



prayables.com

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Carrie—Healing
Brian—Heart Surgery
Alice—Healing & Comfort
Chris—Peace & Comfort
Patrick—Comfort & Healing
Vietch Family—Comfort & Peace
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
Devon—Healing & Recovery
COVID Sufferers
Afghanistan Refugees
Ukraine
Victims of Gun Violence
Stephanie & Layla—Healing
Lin— Comfort & Healing
Mary—Healing & Comfort

Fun

ALL IN GOOD FUN

Q: Why did the pastor go to the gym?

A: To do some cross-fitness!

BIBLE QUIZ

Why is purple associated with Lent?

(Answer page 8)

- A. Associated with Spring and Flowers
- B. Associated with Mourning for the crucifixion
- C. Associated with Morning for new church year
- D. All the other good altar colors were taken

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

2023 Council Members

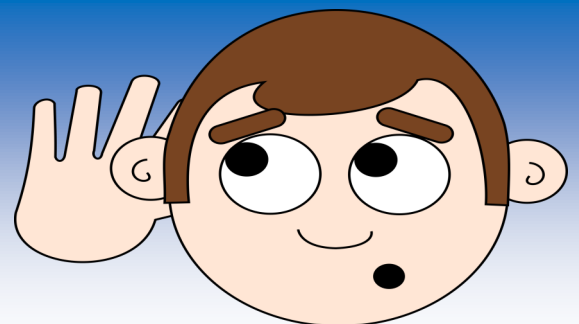
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Tom Dangelo
<i>Secretary</i>	(Lin McKelvey beginning in March)
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Housel

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>	
<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

Daylight Savings Time
Don't forget to turn your
clock 1 hour ahead on
March 12!

Celebration of Marriage 2023



Lenten Devotional



The Lenten Devotional for 2022 are available for pick up in the Narthex! The Word in Season are also available, both are free!

Bible Quiz Answer:

B. mourning

March Celebrations

Baptismal Birthdays

3/1 Jim Bork
3/1 Linda McDonough
3/12 Chase Mercer
3/13 Craig Scholl
3/17 Ken Marvin
3/24 Beth Madden
3/31 Sally Goetz

Birthdays

3/1 Betty Lock
3/3 Annetta Schmidt
3/4 Chase Mercer
3/6 Jessica Klimesh
3/8 Sharon Mason
3/9 Jim Bork
3/9 Amy Chauvette
3/9 Sally Goetz
3/14 Sue Kahl
3/25 Kathy Aldrich
3/25 Beth Ferne Johnson
3/28 Garry Ward
3/29 Beth Madden

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11:00 Bible Study 12:00 Worship 5:00 Communion 6:30 Soup 7:00 Worship	2	3	4 9:30 Coffee and Conversation
5 9:00 AM Gathering Space 10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship 11:30 AM Girl's Group	6	7	8 11:00 Bible Study 12:00 Worship 5:00 Communion 6:30 Soup 7:00 Worship	9	10	11 9:30 Coffee and Conversation
12 Spring Forward Time Change 9:00 AM Gathering Space 10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship	13	14 Newsletter Deadline	15 11:00 Bible Study 12:00 Worship 5:00 Communion 6:30 Soup 7:00 Worship	16	17 Girl's Group Fun	18 9:30 Coffee and Conversation
19 9:00 AM Gathering Space 10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship	20 6:00 PM Council	21 12:00 JOY Club	22 11:00 Bible Study 12:00 Worship 5:00 Communion 6:30 Soup 7:00 Worship	23	24 7:00 Euchre	25 9:30 Coffee and Conversation
26 9:00 AM Gathering Space 10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship	27 LWR Quilting	28	29 11:00 Bible Study 12:00 Worship 5:00 Communion 6:30 Soup 7:00 Worship	30	31	