

# Vision of St. Stephen

## November 2023



St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
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Several Sundays ago, in worship, I ended the sermon time by inviting folks to think about how being part of this congregation has shaped and changed you. In our baptism, God invites us to align our heart and our actions with God's intention for the world of love, peace, and justice. Here's what some of you said.

### Being part of St. Stephen has changed me by...

Giving me the opportunity to start my journey in Christ through baptism

Patience

Learning to be still and know

Helping me to be more generous

Helping me feel not alone during hard times

By making new friends in Christ, building and strengthening my faith in God

Providing years of family, family, fun, food, friendship

Blessing me with a family of friends

Learning the meaning of the love and care of a church family

Giving me a sense of purpose and allowing me to be myself among a loving family

Listening, trusting, being grateful

Giving me a spiritual home, a sense of belonging

Pushing me out of my comfort zone

Wonderful caring friends, guidance for our lives as we grow in faith

Bringing me closer to my family and Christ.

Giving me a family

The opposite of fear is love—St. Stephen encourages strength and love.

Expanding my family...my church family. The congregation (which is the church) are like family. They celebrate with you in your joys and they support you during your sorrows, sadness and needs like blood family. They love and care for you unconditionally...they have expanded the love in my heart. I am truly blessed with these "new" family members.

Teaching me and helping me to live out my faith

How would you answer this question?

God's peace to you,  
*Pastor Beth*

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# Spiritual Growth

## GATHERING SPACE

Dave Haddix will begin new topic in our Sunday morning Gathering Space on November 5<sup>th</sup>. We'll be exploring the Old Testament, focusing on events from Joshua to David. His study will conclude on December 17<sup>th</sup>.



## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, during our worship service, we'll be reading the names of those who have died in the faith before us. If you have a name of someone you'd like to add to our Book of the Dead, please contact Janell in the church office to have her add the name or come to worship that day and write in the person's name yourself. As we do this, we give thanks to God for these people who have made an impact in our life.

## ANNUAL MEETING

St. Stephen will be having our annual meeting on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> after our 10:30 worship service. At this meeting, we will be sharing our current financial situation and celebrating the things we've done during the past year. We'll be voting to approve our 2024 budget and voting on council members. After our meeting, we'll adjourn to the fellowship hall for a Chili cook-off! If you have a great chili recipe, bring it in and we'll give it a taste! Bragging rights will go the top 3 ranked chili's! We have a sign up sheet in the narthex for chili's and other food items.

## SAFS THANKSGIVING

This year we once again have the opportunity to assist local families during the holiday season. St Stephen is partnering with Sylvania Area Family Services to support several families. While we have not yet received our number of family members, it is time to start collecting \$25 Kroger gift cards for holiday dinners beginning with Thanksgiving. Please leave any donations in the provided box or the church office. As soon as we receive our families we can begin our Christmas donations. Thank you in advance for your generosity and prayers.



## JOY CLUB

Do you enjoy Chinese food? Our women will be headed to the Happy Dragon, 4204 West Alexis Road on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at noon (note the change in date due to Thanksgiving). In December, JOY club is invited to the home of Jettie Sansbury on December 19<sup>th</sup>. See our narthex bulletin board to sign up to attend!

## GALATIANS

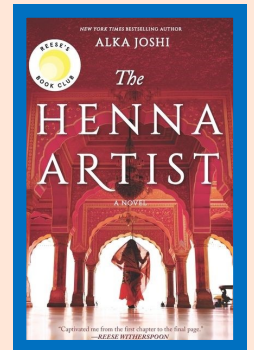
Our Wednesday Bible Study of Paul's letter to the Galatians continues as we think about what it means to be a person of faith in the early days of the church and in our present time. We will meet November 1, 8, 15 and 29<sup>th</sup> this month at 11:00 a.m. You are welcome—no prior knowledge or expertise is needed!

## The Needler's

Our Needler group of knitters and crocheters will meet Nov. 6 & 20th at 1:00 PM. All skill levels are welcome, and we are also inviting anyone with a craft project they would like to bring and work on with others!

## BOOK GROUP

Our book group is taking a break for the holidays but will get back together on January 25<sup>th</sup>. We'll be discussing the book, The Henna Artist by Alka Joshi. If you'd like to join the discussion, please plan to do so!



## PRAIRIE UPDATE

Have you looked at our north yard lately? You can clearly see the brown area that will become our prairie! We're waiting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> application of Round-up to kill off any remaining area of grass. Zach Werty from Faith Lutheran in Swanton is ready to operate a tractor and Harley rake (which we'll be renting from Great Lakes Rental). After the ground freezes, sometime between Thanksgiving and New Year's we'll have a sowing party. If you know of someone who is passionate about the environment and would like to help us sow seeds, please talk with them about this opportunity to help create a pollinator prairie here in Sylvania that will be enjoyed by our members and the community for years to come! Thanks to 3 Thrivent grants and monies given directly to the prairie, this project has been independently funded without Sunday offerings!

## VISITING MEMEBERS AT HOME

Do you enjoy visiting with people? Are you looking to make a new friend or strengthening an existing friendship? We are looking to expand our group of people who visit those we know who have challenges getting out and about. Pastor Beth visits these folks on a regular basis—but more people are invited to join in this project. Please sign up on the bulletin board or speak with Pastor Beth if you're interested.

## WARM WINTER CLOTHING COLLECTION

We'll begin our annual collection of coats, mittens, scarves and hats this month. Look for the collection boxes in the narthex! Items will be shared with Sylvania Area Family Services and other local charities.

## Upcoming EVENTS!

- **Advent Wednesday worship, December 6, 13, and 20<sup>th</sup>**
- **Christmas Eve worship 4 and 7 p.m.**
- **Sensory Santa TBA**

# Outreach

## Christmas Cookies

Is your kitchen going to be filled with the delicious smells of baking cookies? Would you like to join a cookie exchange? We're planning to have one on December 10<sup>th</sup> after worship—more details to come, but keep some cookies in reserve for this!



## Quilt Blessing



46 Quilts were dedicated and sent off to Baltimore Maryland where they will begin their journey to their final destination through Lutheran World Relief. Many thanks to all those who participate in this ministry—from faithfully setting up tables to the various jobs involved in creating them.

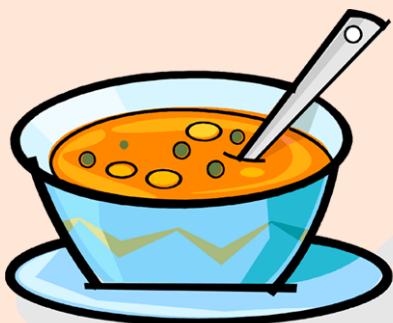
## Recycle Bags Box

What's up with box for recycling bags in the narthex? Our local Lion's Club is collecting 500 pounds of plastic bags (see side of box in narthex for the many types of plastic bags that are accepted). The bags will be made into a Trex bench (recycled plastic "wood") placed at Sylvania Area Family Services and at the Sight Center. Each bench is made up of 500 pounds of plastic bags! Merry and Mike Cook are helping to take the bags to a collection center.



## Monthly Fellowship Meal

Would you like have some fellowship and conversation over a supper soup meal? We're beginning a new opportunity for people to enjoy an evening meal together. Vickie Veitch will be providing a home-made soup every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Our first evening meal will be November 8<sup>th</sup>!



CoolClips.com

# 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!

# Administrative News

## VACATION

Pastor Beth will be on vacation from November 16 – 22. A highlight of this vacation will be the opportunity to attend the wedding of her cousin on Sunday afternoon, November 19<sup>th</sup>!

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Would you like to help shape our Sunday worship experience? If so, we’d love to add your input and ideas to expand our existing worship committee. Please speak with Pastor Beth if you’re interested or have questions about this opportunity.

## INQUIRER’S CLASS

Interested in learning more about belonging to St. Stephen? Mark your calendars for an inquirer’s class to be held on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> after worship!

## 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 2024** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by November 14.**



# Prayer

## NOVEMBER PRAYER NOTES

### **A Blessing For the Gifts Of Creation**

Thank you God for all that grows,

Thank you for the sky's rainbows,

Thank you for the stars that shine,

Thank you for these friends of mine,

Thank you for the moon and sun,

Thank you God for all you've done!

— Aliceanne Pellegrino-Henricks

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

*Carrie—Healing*

*Alice—Healing & Comfort*

*Chris—Peace & Comfort*

*Those with Cancer—Healing*

*Greg—Healing & Comfort*

*Olivia—Healing & Comfort*

*Shannon—Comfort & Peace*

*Dave—Healing & Comfort*

*Afghanistan Refugees*

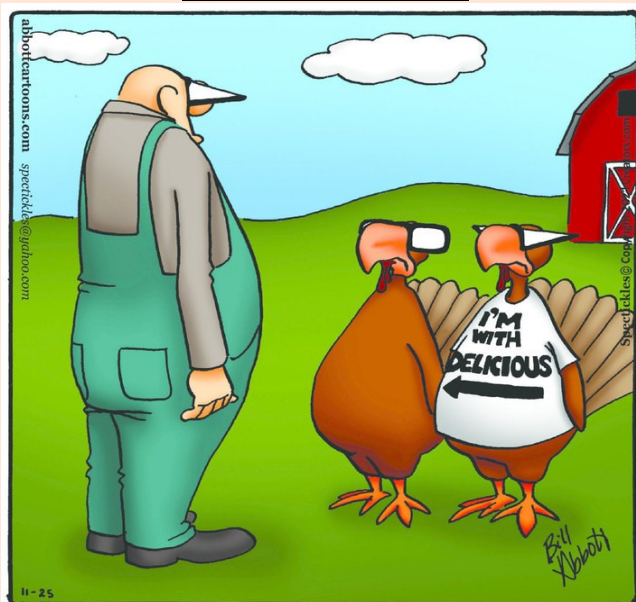
*Victims of Gun Violence*

*Wolf—Stomach Cancer*

*Jessica—Surgery recovery*

# Fun

## ALL IN GOOD FUN



## BIBLE QUIZ

How many lepers did Jesus heal?

(Answer page 10)

- A. 0
- B. 5
- C. 10
- D. 25

## 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

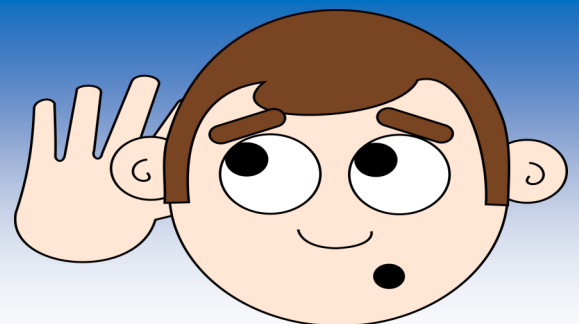
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Tom Dangelo
<i>Secretary</i>	Lin McKelvey
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Housel

## 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 &amp; 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

Thank you all who donated  
and packed boxes for OCC!  
We will more details in the  
next newsletter!

## October Soup Potluck!



## **SAVE THE DATE FOR GAME NIGHTS**

We've got some fun game nights  
scheduled for the next few months,  
so feel free to add these to your cal-  
endar now! January 12, March 1,  
April 12—from 7-9 p.m.

Bible Quiz Answer:

C. 10

# 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 Kristi Shepler

## **Birthdays**


11/2 Mary Dwyer  
11/3 Marilyn Hendricks  
11/13 Michelle Ballard  
11/19 Linda McDonough

## **Anniversaries**

11/13 T&A Schmidt  
11/21 B&S Markin  
11/30 R&J Cornell



# November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11:00 AM Bible Study	2	3	4 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
5 <b>All Saints Sunday</b> <b>Fall Back Time Change</b> 9:15 AM Gathering Space 10:30AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship	6 1:00 PM Needler's	7 <b>Election Day</b> 3:00 PM Walk-Up Communion	8 11:00 AM Bible Study  6:30 PM Monthly Meal	9	10	11 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
12 9:15 AM Gathering Space 10:30AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship 11:30 AM Annual Meeting 12:15PM Luncheon 6:30PM Catechism	13 6:00 PM Council Meeting	14 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 12:00 PM JOY Club 3:00 PM Walk-Up Communion	15 11:00 AM Bible Study	16-18 <b>Pastor Beth Vacation</b>		
19 9:15 AM Gathering Space 10:30 AM In Sanctuary/ Online Worship	20 1:00 PM Needler's	21	22	23 	24	25 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
26-28 <b>Pastor Beth Vacation</b>			29 11:00 AM Bible Study	30		
26 9:15 AM Gathering Space 10:30 AM In Sanctuary/ Online Worship	27	28 3:00 PM Walk-Up Communion	29 11:00 AM Bible Study	30		