

Vision of St. Stephen

October 2020

This is the *Day*
that the Lord has made,
let us *Rejoice*
and be glad it in it.

Psalm 118:24

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Generosity:

Generosity: An aspect of one's character; a fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

Generosity is built into God's very essence. We see this generosity from the creation of the world to Jesus's birth and death on the cross.

God's generosity in creation is amazing. Did you know that there are 6,000 different species of mammals? That in addition to mammals, there are 34 other categories of animals, and more are being discovered? (See <http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20150325-all-animal-life-in-35-photos> for some neat pictures and descriptions). Throughout the Old Testament, there are stories of generosity to especially to those on the knife edge of poverty, Ruth and Naomi find a home; a widow is given flour and oil that do not run out; people of Nineveh are forgiven; God's people are brought home from captivity in Babylon. God is always seeking to open up the future.

In addition to creating this beautiful, complex world for us to grow in, God also reveals God's generosity in who Jesus is. Jesus feeds 5000 men (plus women and children) and there are plenty of leftovers. Jesus heals those who come to him, without requiring payment or any kind of favors in return. Jesus, in the words of Philippians 2, does not regard being equal to God as something to be exploited. He does not use his divine nature to make money or to make friends and influence people, instead he gives and gives of himself to others. Even on the night Jesus is betrayed, he is still giving...the gift of his body and blood, the gift of forgiveness of sins to his disciples and to us. Jesus opens up the kingdom of heaven to us, giving us the gift of eternal life.

We seek to imitate this generosity that is so much a part of who God is. Perhaps in this, the little child should lead us. Have you ever seen a child so eager to share "tea", to run up and give a hug, to share a picture or a dandelion? Kids have such unadulterated joy in sharing. I wish we could bottle that! Don't get me wrong, adults are incredibly generous as well, but perhaps not quite as enthusiastic!

God's generosity is not just something located in the past, but God's generosity is seen in our world today. As we thank God each week during our prayers of the church, what are you thanking God for? Are there things you're overlooking?

Over the next few weeks, we'll be focusing on Generosity. Through weekly sermons, frequent mailings (beginning with this one for those who receive a paper newsletter), and conversations in your home, you'll be given the opportunity to think on this.

You are invited to take the enclosed page during the appropriate week, with the line on the top "Live It Out", and work through them with family. You're also invited to form a "pod" with other members of the church and work through the page together, over the phone or in person.

God is Good...all the time. All the time...God is good.

Beth Ferne Johnson, pastor

October Contents

Spiritual Growth	2
Youth & Family	2
Halloween	3
Women	4
Outreach	5
Church Finances	6
Farewell	6
In Loving Memory	7
Administrative News	7
Prayer	8
Fun	8
Council	9
Steve's Bulletin Board	10
Celebrations	10
Calendar	11

Spiritual Growth

BIBLE 101

We are wrapping up our study of Mark in early October. The group will be planning what to do next; so if you're looking for good conversation, especially as it is getting dark earlier, please stay tuned for what's next and think about joining the discussion.

WALK-UP COMMUNION

Walk-up Communion is offered outside under our covered walkway on Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m. for households that have been quarantining together. We are communing using wafers, and a choice of wine or grape juice, which have been prepared in a safe manner. A bulletin and instructions are available on our website under the Resources tab. This 5-7 minute service features Confession and Forgiveness, as well as Holy Communion. It is also designed to provide physical distancing. The service is very similar to how communion is shared with folks in the hospital and those unable to come to worship. If these times don't work for you or your family, please contact Pastor Beth to make alternate arrangements.

ONLINE WORSHIP

We will be hosting Sunday Worship online at 11:00 a.m. while Ohio is in phase 1 and safety procedures are in place. You can find previous worship services or tune in live on our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/StStephenSyl/>) or our YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcriagedljlTqzljXXUnB7Q>). Feel free to send this link or share our page to friends and neighbors who might want a worship experience without leaving home!

ANNUAL MEETING

We will be having our annual meeting this year on November 8 through Zoom. We will be providing more logistical information during October. We plan to provide some training classes for those who may not have used Zoom before. Please contact Pastor Beth for more information.

Youth and Family

CATECHISM

Youth and parents, check your email for upcoming dates for classes!

THANKS TO FROSTBITE

Frostbite, a local company, contributed the ice cream sandwiches and treats we shared on Friends and Family day. For many years, they have also given us popsicles for the 3rd of July Fireworks on the Lawn celebration. Thanks so much!!

Halloween

MASK-PAR-AID

Join with Sylvania Area Churches to celebrate Halloween with an alternate Trick or Treat!

St. Stephen is joining with other area churches to offer a socially distanced Halloween experience for members of the community!

We're in need of candy and of people to pass out candy to kids!

Members of St. Stephen (and any interested community members) are invited to stand along the edges of our parking lot while cars with kids drive in an oval through our parking lot. Kids will remain in their car, holding their Halloween candy collection device out the window of their car. We'll be passing out candy into their containers.

Kids can travel from (in any order) between St. Stephen, Sylvania First United Methodist, Sylvania United Church of Christ, and Olivet Lutheran, gathering candy from these locations as well.

Candy distributors are asked to wear masks and gloves; kids are also asked to wear masks.

As kids enjoy this parade for candy, we're also asking for them to aide their neighbors. We'll also be accepting donations for Sylvania Area Family Services. Among their top 5 requested items are: Toilet paper, Shampoo, Body Wash, Dish soap/laundry soap, and Paper towels.



Women

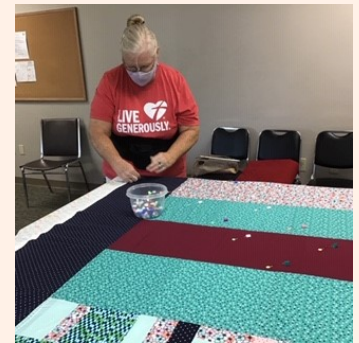
LWR QUILTING

Quilting will still continue with safety restrictions. Please RSVP to Libby Boldt at 419-356-6244 or Lboldt@bex.net, and feel free to contact her with any questions that you may have.



To comply with social distancing the quilting ladies each have a separate space to work on each part of the quilting process. Here is Linda B. sewing!

All quilters also wear their masks at all times while in the building! Here is Jenny T. pinning a quilt together so it can be sewn!



As of the last work day, the ladies had finished 25 quilts!

We have received more up to date information about last year's quilts, thanks to a personal phone call from the department of the ELCA that helps quilting ministries. As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, the explosion in Beirut, Lebanon killed at least 200 people and did incredible damage to the shipping port, storage facilities, and to homes in the area. Initially, LWR believed that 3 shipping containers of quilts, school kits, and other supplies were destroyed. Once people were able to enter the area and look more carefully, LWR discovered that although the containers themselves were damaged, most of the contents are salvageable and will be sent to people in need, especially those in refugee camps in Syria. We will be dedicating this year's quilts during our on-line worship on October 4th. Thanks to our quilters for all their hard work!

Outreach

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our gathering of Operation Christmas Child boxes continues this year, although without a packing party. You're invited to pick up a shoe-box here at church (by appointment, during quilting, during communion) at your convenience, fill it and return it to the church by November 22, our dedication date.



Kid's Movie Club

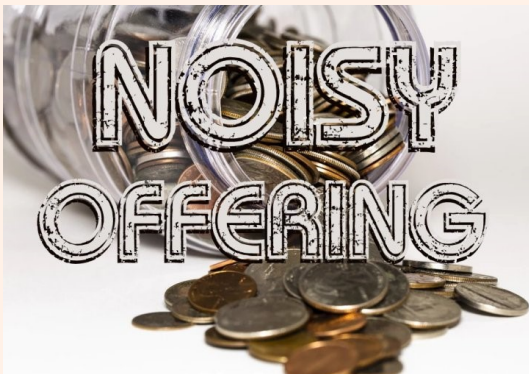
St. Stephen's Kid's Movie Club is hoping to meet Thursday, October 1st at 5:00 PM. We are now aligning our meet-ups with the school color system. If it goes red we will not meet, yellow and green we will meet with COVID restrictions in place.

Feed Your Neighbor

Our bin is generating a donation about every 3-4 days. So far, canned corn has been the most popular item shared with the LSS Food pantry. As we enter into the fall, please keep this vital ministry in mind! Feed Your Neighbor!



Noisy Offering



Has spare change been collecting around the house? We will be resuming our noisy offering at our drive-in worship services. Look for the soup pot as you exit the parking lots and toss your change in! Since we have not had noisy offerings for a while, it will be divided among those organizations that normally receive our offering.

Church Finances

GIVE PLUS

With social distancing and limited abilities to come together to worship at church, our ability to contribute to St. Stephen has been impacted. For those members who are comfortable with using new technologies to contribute, there is a smart phone app to make our donations. This is the same company we process our Simply Giving donations through. For complete instructions on how to use GivePlus, please see the St. Stephen website!



ATTENTION THIRVENT MEMBERS

Please remember to direct your "Thrivent Choice" dollars now and again before year end. Call me at (419)654-6264 with any questions.

Sally Goetz

TREASURER

Are you gifted with a talent for accounting, bill paying, and financial acumen? We're looking for someone to become our church treasurer. The job includes paying bills, keeping track of balances on church accounts, and preparing the yearly budget. It involves 4-5 hours per week. If you'd like to know more, please contact Libby Boldt, Marilyn Scuralli, or Pastor Beth.

SIMPLY GIVING

This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving. St. Stephen relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Please see me for details.

Sally Goetz

Farewell

FAREWELL TO KRISTIN

We are sad to say Farewell to Kristin Huffman, member and our dedicated nursery attendant. Kristin has taken a position with a mortgage company in Virginia and starts work there in early October. She will be staying with her parents for a while before finding her own place. Kristin has served as our nursery attendant for years and has also taught Sunday school and Vacation Bible School youth during that time as well. Please keep Kristin in your prayers as she makes this transition.

In Loving Memory



Gerald "Jerry" Kunkel, age 75, of Sylvania, Ohio passed away on August 26, 2020 in the gentle care of Ebeid Hospice. He was born in Toledo on April 17, 1945, the youngest of five, to William Kunkel and Blanch Wojciechowski. He is survived by his wife, Tricia Kunkel; daughters, Kayla Kunkel and Kristi Shepler (Jordan); daughter-in-law, Michelle Kunkel; sister, Theresa Wozniak (Joe); sisters in law, Ethel Kunkel and Candy Kunkel; and grandkids, Katrina Kunkel and Eleanora Shepler. Jerry was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Mary Ann Pozy (Don); and his brothers, Bill Kunkel and Bernie Kunkel. Jerry is reunited with his son, Scott Kunkel of Tyler, Texas who suddenly passed in 2018.

Raised in Toledo, Jerry graduated from Central Catholic H.S. in 1963 and studied accounting at Davis Business College. He worked locally for Haughton Elevator, MetLife, and the business offices of Burger King Franchise and St. Johns H.S. He cherished and maintained many lifelong friends. Jerry, the "Social Director," enjoyed bringing together family and friends through sharing meals at local restaurants, game nights, vacations, concerts, theater and movies, Jeep & Miata rides, trips to Cedar Point, walking/biking the neighborhood, exercising with his friends at Bally's and completing the NYC Marathon in 1987. He loved being with family, especially doting on his granddaughters. He proudly hosted the Annual Kunkel Family Reunion for over 30 years.

"Stay Excellent!" – Jerry Kunkel

Administrative News

ELECTION SITE

If you typically vote here at St. Stephen, you may have gotten a notice from the Board of Elections redirecting you to vote at a different location. Because the voting machines here do not have enough room for social distancing, we were informed by the Board of Elections that they would be redirecting voters to a different location for voting. We are hoping that we will be able to serve as a precinct for future elections.

LITTLE MIRACLES

As the situation with Covid-19 continues to affect school plans around our area, Little Miracles has decided to suspend their operations here at St. Stephen until January 2021. Their bus will be here each day to take Highland students to and from the Little Miracles location on Harroun Road, but the students will not be here in the building.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **November 2020** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by October 13.**



Prayer

OCTOBER PRAYER NOTES

As I write this, we are in the midst of the coronavirus epidemic. Much has changed in our lives but we still gather together.....though apart.....for worship in the church parking lot. I like those worship services. I feel God's presence as we try to see each other from our cars and as we worship together.....even as we maintain "social distancing". God is with us no matter where and when we join in worship. Some of my friends have walked over and stood at a distance and asked "how are you doing?" Well, between my hearing and the masks, sometimes I'm not sure what is being said. Fortunately, Debbie is next to me and she can tell me, if I don't hear, what is being said. It feels so good to have someone ask "how are you doing?" To know that we care enough for each other to gather in this way and to try and keep communications flowing between us even though that's not so easy now. But the best part of this worship, and whatever form worship takes in the days ahead, is God is always there. And when we leave and head for our own homes, He goes with each of us. He is always taking care of us. The days ahead may be uncertain. We may miss seeing our friends. BUT we are never alone! God is always with us. Be sure to spend some time with Him each day....Let's pray.

~Betty Lock

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Jill—Comfort, Strength & Peace
Joel—Strength and Recovery
Jamie—Healing and Insight
Hanna C.—Strength and Healing
Chelsey—Healing & Peace
Lila & Lib—Peace & Comfort
Sarah's Family—Comfort & Healing
Linda—Cancer
Zachary—Answers and Comfort
Don—Healing
Richard—Work
Ryan—Peace & Success
Noah—Strength and Understanding
Jeff—Guidance & Understanding
Lyndsey—Healing and Comfort
Chesney's Family
Mark D—Healing & Comfort
Amber—Migraines
Rich—Transplant Healing
Holt Family—Healthy Family
Julie—Patience, Peace & Guidance
Kathleen—Comfort & Healing
Joan—Healing & Comfort
Nora—Continued Healing
Joyce—Cancer
Kunkel Family

Fun

ALL IN GOOD FUN



BIBLE QUIZ

How many children did Martin Luther have with his wife?

(Answer page 10)

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 6
- D. 8

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

2020 Council Members

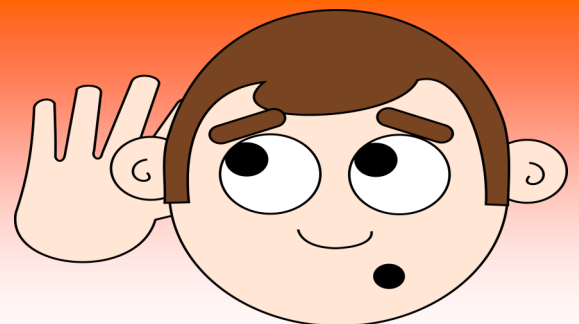
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Secretary</i>	Corrie Schuppenies
<i>Treasurer</i>	Libby Boldt

Ministry Liaisons were established as follows:

<i>Christian Education</i>	Pastor Beth
<i>Finance</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Prayer, Praise, Worship</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Property</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Stewardship/Staff Support</i>	Beth Thomsen/Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Technology</i>	John Lock
<i>Youth & Family Ministry</i>	Corrie S./Doug Paxton
<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.

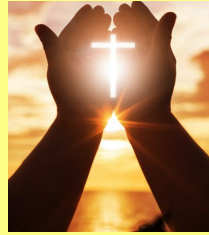


Steve's Bulletin Board

Pat and Herb Hoehing would like to thank the many "rain dancers" that "showered" us with beautiful cards and messages for our 65th wedding anniversary. It meant a lot to us.



Facebook Prayers



For the past few months, we've been inviting people to pray with us through our Facebook page. We've prayed for a variety of people and places and situations in our world. If you have a suggestion for our prayers, please let Pastor Beth know and she will include it.

The Word In Season

"The Word in Season" books for October, November and December are now available by the usher's table. If you would like one, please call Janell to schedule a pick up. This is a great daily resource for at home study! Please feel free to take one today!

Bible Quiz Answer:

C. 6

October Celebrations

Baptismal Birthdays

10/1	Kayla Marchant
10/2	Carol Haddix
10/11	Megan Cook
10/21	Kathy Ziegler
10/23	Wendy Staup
10/25	Eli Ballard

Birthdays

10/7	J.T. Chauvette
10/8	Elaura Maple
10/11	Beth Sterba
10/12	Angela McCoy
10/17	Tom Schmidt
10/20	Tina Williams
10/28	Lin McKelvey
10/29	Dan Gustafson
10/29	Kristin Huffman

Anniversaries

10/2	B&N Rieck
10/3	D&J Paxton
10/4	R&C Schuppenies
10/16	D&W Staup
10/20	D&B Davis

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Quilt Dedication 11AM Online Worship	5	6 7:00 PM Bible 101	7 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion	8	9	10 Wedding of Clara Aldrich and Keven Som- merville in Mich- igan.
11 11AM Online Worship 11AM Drive-In Worship (Weather Permitting)	12	13 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Bible 101	14 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion	15 6:00 PM Bish- op's Fall Gath- ering	16	17
18 11AM Online Worship	19 6:30 PM Coun- cil Meeting	20 7:00 PM Bible 101	21 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion	22	23	24
25 11AM Online Worship 11AM Drive-In Worship (Weather Permitting)	26 9:30AM LWR Quilting	27 7:00 PM Bible 101	28 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion	29 7:30 AM Bish- op's Fall Gath- ering	30	31 Turn Clocks Back Mask Par Aid 2-4PM