

Vision of St. Stephen

May 2023

**"...THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GENEROSITY, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, AND SELF-CONTROL."
GALATIANS 5:22-23**



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

7800 Erie St. • Sylvania, OH

(419) 885-1551

www.ststephenlutheran.church

Pastor: Rev. Beth Ferne Johnson

sslcpastor@buckeye-express.com

Morning has broken like the first morning:
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Morning Has Broken, ELW hymn 556

A few months ago, I was walking Darwin, our beagle, in Highland's field when I came across an odd rectangle of land marked off with a sign on it. The sign explains that this rectangle is being converted into an urban prairie with the help of the Toledo Zoo. That got me to thinking about our own backyard here at St. Stephen—especially the area between our playground and the north edge of our property.

I've been thinking about how little we "use" that land—once every couple of years, at Easter, we use it for the egg hunt, but often it is too wet for that. I've been thinking about the cost of mowing that area—both in terms of paying for it to be mowed, but also in terms of the fuel used and exhaust created by the mowing crew.

As Christians, one of our callings is to be good stewards—not only of our own resources, but of the earth itself. As I read more about the need to create green spaces for the birds and insects that are part of this world, I'm thinking that we have a unique opportunity here.

If we took this area of grass and installed a prairie, that would be a gift, both to our community and to the creatures that share our world.

The Toledo Lutheran Conferences pastors recently met at Faith Lutheran in Swanton. Much to my surprise, I learned that they have established a prairie on a portion of their land—and the people that worked with it are willing to provide us with some guidance as well. The Toledo Zoo's Wild Toledo program is also a resource.

I have a vision of a prairie, filled with native plants, birds, butterflies and other pollinators, with a path meandering through it, perhaps with a small water feature or a bench or two along the way to sit and to pray and to think and to just be. This space could be a gift to our community—a place to revive the soul and to enjoy the beauty of this world that God has gifted to us.

If you'd like to think together about this project, I encourage you to sign up on the narthex bulletin board.

God's peace,

Pastor Beth

May Contents

Spiritual Growth	2
Outreach	3
In Loving Memory	4
Administrative News	4
Prayer	5
Fun	5
Council	6
Steve's Bulletin Board	7
Celebrations	7
Calendar	8

Spiritual Growth

JOY Club

Joy Club will be meeting for lunch and fellowship at Jing Chuan, 4424 Secor Road, on Tuesday May 16th. Please sign up on the narthex bulletin board for this noon lunch. Any questions, please contact Pat Hoehing.

Muffins with Mom on Mother's Day

We will be celebrating the women in our lives with a special fellowship time after church on Mother's day. Come and enjoy a muffin after worship! If you have a photo of the special women in your life, please share that with Janell before noon on Saturday May 13, so it can be a part of our Mother's Celebration album on Facebook!

Jeremiah Bible Study

Our study of the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah continues to meet on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. We're discovering the fierce power of God's yearning love for the people, even as they run away from God, chasing after other gods and other political alliances in the face of encroaching empires. New people are always welcome!

Knit/Crochet Group

New people are continuing to pop in to our knitting and crocheting group. We have several beginners as well as people who have been creating items for years. In addition to working on individual projects, the group hopes to create some items for others in need. As we figure that out, we'll let you know more. We're meeting here at church at 1:00 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the Month. (May 1 and 15)

Men's Breakfast

At our initial meeting, the group decided to meet twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. In addition to general conversation, the group will spend a portion of their time together in intentional conversation around a topic. We're gathering at Scrambler Marie's on Central Avenue, across from Lowe's. (May 9 and 23)

Book Group

The monthly meeting of the Book Group will be on Thursday, May 25th at 7:00. When the newsletter was published, we had not yet decided on the book we'll be reading, so look for information in the bulletin insert or call the church office. New people are always welcome—we're meeting at 7:00 on the 4th Thursday of the month here at church.

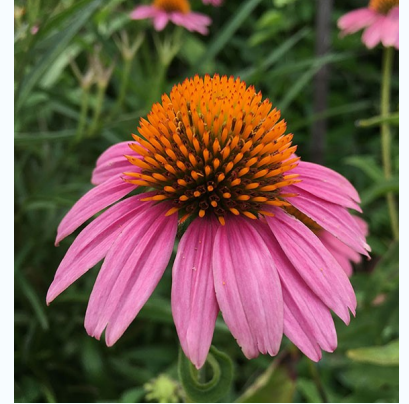
Genacross Gathering Space

What do you know about this ministry in our area? May 14th is the day to find out more! Mike George will be leading Gathering Space at 9 a.m., sharing stories of Genacross' mission—that includes at-risk youth as well as older people. Pastor Greg Olsen, chaplain at the Wolf Creek campus, will be preaching in worship that day.

Outreach

Prairie Project Group

If you're interested in helping to think about the Prairie Project, please add your name to the sign up on the narthex bulletin board. If you're interested but won't be here in the building to do that, please call or email the church office and ask Janell to add your name.



Fruits of the Spirit Canned Drive

Do you have a favorite fruit? Maybe pineapple, pears, peaches or applesauce? Whatever it is, we'd like to see it here as part of our Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry Collection. We'll be matching up fruits with a fruit of the spirit mentioned in Galatians. We'll be gathering items for May and June.

Salem Non-Food Pantry

Our ongoing collection for Salem Lutheran non-food pantry could use an infusion! They are always in need of any baby supplies, natural hair care products, dry laundry detergent, toothpaste and toothbrushes, lotions, and hair styling products! They always appreciate our donations and it really makes a difference to people in need in our community!



Baker's Wanted!

Occasionally, there is a need for cookies (or similar type dessert) for a planned event, such as a funeral luncheon. We have a list of about 6 willing bakers but wonder if there are any others in the congregation who would like a chance to volunteer in this manner? If so, please let Pat know (sylv.snail@bex.net). When asked, it would be quite all right to say "no" if the timing in one's schedule is not good"

In Loving Memory



Betty Lock

On April 7, 2023, Elizabeth (Betty) L. Lock was "promoted to glory" from Sylvania, Ohio. A beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend; Betty was born March 1, 1938, in Engelwood, New Jersey to John and Emma Kenney. She passed away peacefully after a brief illness.

In 1957, Betty married the love of her life, Richard (Dick) William Lock, and they were married for nearly 58 years before his passing.

Throughout her life, Betty was actively involved with The Salvation Army and St. Stephen Lutheran Church. She also worked as an office assistant, volunteer coordinator, and a wedding planner. Betty loved to entertain and many dinner parties, holiday parties, bridge games and luncheons were hosted by Betty and her husband, Dick.

Betty is survived by her children, Albert and his wife, Song; Dorothy (Kuhl) and her husband, Kevin; John and his wife, Debbie; grandchildren, Matthew (Kuhl) and his wife, Emily; Emma (Kuhl) and her fiancée, Pete Siewruk; Kyle and his fiancée, Lacey Hymore; Ashley (Senci) and her husband, Scott; Laura; great-grandchildren, Eva and Clayton (Kuhl); Autumn and Zachariah; Oakley and Ryden (Senci); brother-in-law, David; as well as several nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Dick; and her siblings, Fred, Bill, Danny and Yvonne.

Administrative News

TRAFFIC MEETING—at Northview

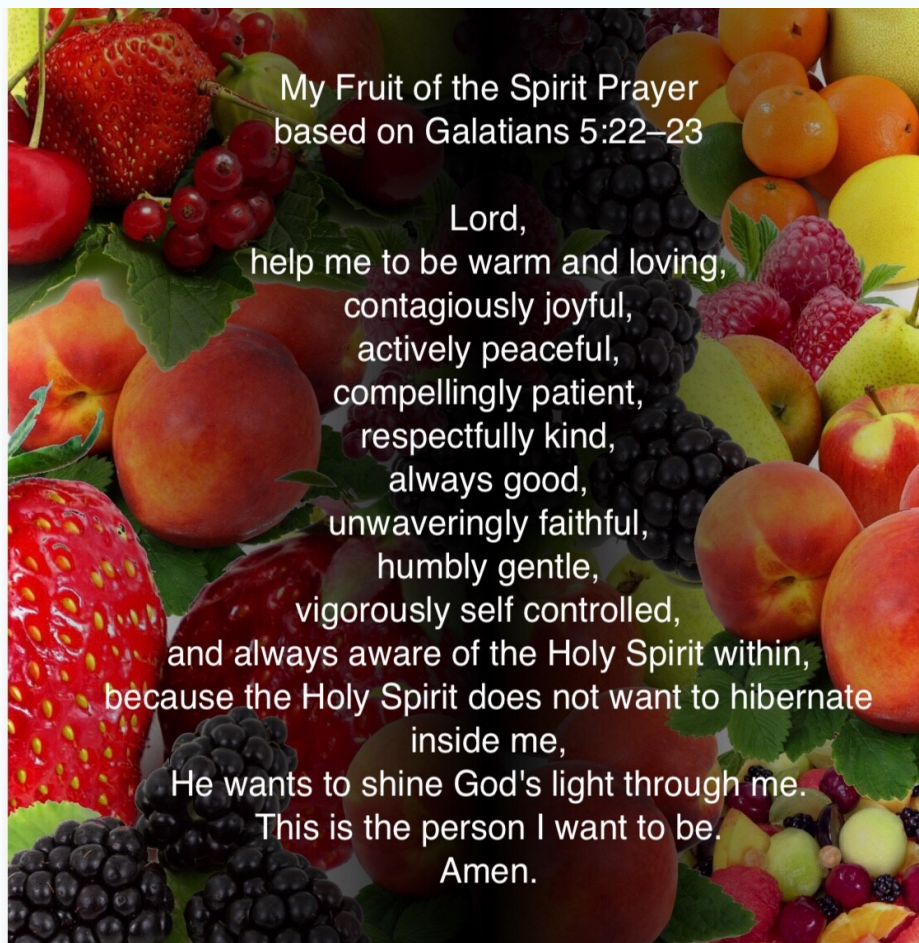
How have you been coping with finding routes with the construction in Sylvania? It has been a bit challenging at times! The people at the Ohio Department of Transportation are planning ahead for 2025/26, when the interchange of Monroe Street and SR 23 (by Ciao and Dave White Chevrolet) will be reconfigured. This will impact travels to St. Stephen for everybody coming here from the east of 23. An informational open house will be held at the Northview High School cafeteria on May 9th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. More information is on our narthex bulletin board.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **June 2023** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by May 9.**

Prayer

MAY PRAYER

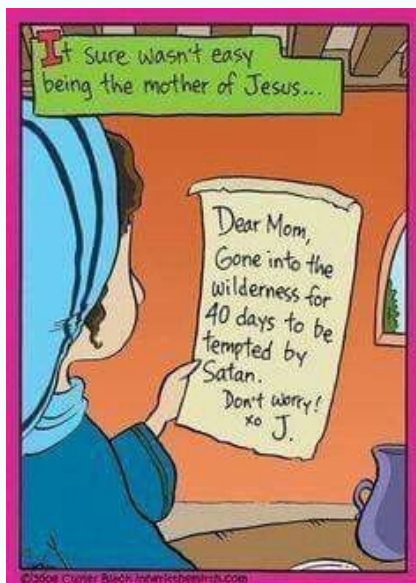


COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Carrie—Healing
Alice—Healing & Comfort
Chris—Peace & Comfort
Imber Family—Comfort & Healing
Those with Cancer—Healing
Greg—Healing & Comfort
Olivia—Healing & Comfort
Shannon—Comfort & Peace
Dave—Healing & Comfort
Devon—Healing & Recovery
Afghanistan Refugees
Ukraine
Victims of Gun Violence
Stephanie & Layla—Healing
Lin— Comfort & Healing
Mary—Healing & Comfort
Judie—Healing & Comfort
Lock Family—Comfort
Beth—Healing

Fun

ALL IN GOOD FUN



BIBLE QUIZ

Who was John the Baptist's mother?
(Answer page 10)

- 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

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 & 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!

Wedding Blessings

We pray for God's continued blessing for Amber Bartolet and Chase Mercer as they are married here at St. Stephen on May 6th! Please



keep them in prayer as they begin this new stage in their life together!

Altar Thanks



The altar guild would like to thank, Sharon Mason, Sharon Sorenson and Ruth Moeller for their extra efforts on Easter Sunday!

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

Birthdays

5/2 Joyce Cunningham
5/4 Kayla Kunkel
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
5/27 Tony & Michelle Tebary

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1:00 PM Knit\Crochet Group	2	3 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 Communion	4 Happy Birth- day St. Stephen	5 6:30 Mercer/ Bartolet Re- hearsal	6 2:00 Mercer/ Bartolet Wed- ding 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
7 9:00 AM Gathering Space 10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship	8	9 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast	10 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 Communion	11	12	13 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
14 Mother's Day 9:00 AM Gathering Space 10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/ Online Worship	15 1:00 PM Knit/Crochet Group 6:00 PM Council	16 12PM JOY Club	17 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 Communion	18	19	20 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
21 9:00 AM Gathering Space 10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship	22 LWR Quilting	23 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast	24 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 Communion	25 7:00 PM Book Group	26	27 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
28 9:00 AM Gathering Space 10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship	29 Office Closed	30	31 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:00 Communion Scholarship Application Deadline			