

Vision of St. Stephen

August 2023



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
7800 Erie St. • Sylvania, OH
(419)885-1551
www.ststephenlutheran.church

Pastor: Rev. Beth Ferne Johnson
sslcpastor@buckeye-express.com

You Are Invited to Our (Almost) End of Summer Picnic!

When: August 27th, After worship

Where: St. Stephen Lutheran Church

What to Bring: Just you and any guests you wish! All food including pulled pork and pasta salads will be provided by St. Stephen!

We hope that you join us to enjoy good food, friends and fellowship and to mark the almost end of summer!



August Contents

Spiritual Growth	2
Outreach	3
Church Finances	4
Administrative News	4
New Baby Announcement	5
In Loving Memory	5
Prayer	6
Steve's Bulletin Board	7
Celebrations	7
Council	8
Calendar	9

Spiritual Growth

Vacation Bible School

Our last two sessions of “Wade in the Water” VBS will be held on August 2 and 9, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. We’ve been diving into Bible stories that involve water. A highlight of the 1st week was seeing a deer come close to the shelter along 10 Mile creek in Harroun Park!

ELCA Youth Gathering

Attention Parents of current students going into 8-12 grades this fall: Your student is able to attend the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this next summer from July 16-20. This gathering brings together thousands of high school aged youth from around the country and the world for faith formation, worship, service and fellowship. If you're interested in learning more, please speak with Pastor Beth. More information regarding the Gathering can be found at www.elca.org/gathering In the past few years, St. Stephen has paired with Olivet Lutheran to attend the Youth Gatherings in Detroit and Houston!

Men’s Group

Our men’s group meets for breakfast twice a month at Scrambler Marie’s on 6819 Central Avenue. The group gathers at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. In addition to general conversation, the group tries to remember to think together about the question, “Where have you seen God at work recently?”.



JOY Luncheon

Ladies, would you enjoy a lunch out with other women? We’ll be eating at Scrambler Marie’s 6819 Central Avenue on Tuesday, August 15th at noon. Kathie Tefft will be our host, so please sign up on the narthex bulletin board or let Kathie know you’re planning to join!

Jeremiah Bible Study

Our Jeremiah Bible study will be wrapping up on August 9th. We’ll be taking a brief break and then continuing with a new topic in September. If there’s a faith related idea or topic you’d like to explore with a group, please let Pastor Beth know!

Gathering Space

We’re planning to begin our Gathering Space time of learning again beginning on September 10th at 9:00 a.m. We’ll be announcing topics in our This Week bulletin insert!

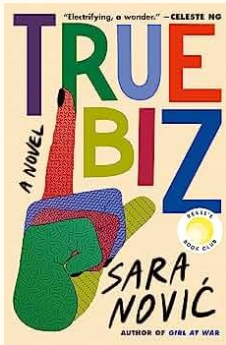
(Almost) End of Summer picnic

On Sunday, August 27th, you’re invited to stay for lunch after our worship together. Picnic food will be provided! One the menu: BBQ pulled chicken sandwiches, pasta salads and dessert!

Outreach

Prayer Shawls

Do you know someone living with a significant illness? We'd like to wrap them in prayer with a prayer shawl. Our Knit and Crochet group has been working on having prayer shawls available for St Stephen members, friends, and relatives. You can pick one up in the narthex—it comes with a page detailing more information about the purpose/meaning of the prayer shawl. If you'd like to join the group, we meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 1:00.



Book Group

Our Book Group meets next on August 24th, at 7:00 p.m., as we discuss the book *Tru Biz*, by Sara Novic. This book follows a year of seismic romantic, political, and familial shifts for a teacher and her students at a boarding school for the deaf. The title comes from this definition: *True biz* (adj./exclamation; American Sign Language): really, seriously, definitely, real-talk. All are welcome!

Fruit Of the Spirit

Thank you for everyone who donated canned fruit for our "Fruit of the Spirit" drive! We have collected 152 cups and 94 cans of fruit with Peaches and Fruit Cocktail being the most popular donation! Thank you again!



Movie Matinee

Our Movie Matinee will be on August 27th at 3:00 p.m. We'll be watching a documentary of one man's daily swim in the ocean off the coast of South Africa where he watches and learns about life and his place in the world from an unlikely creature.

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. Detailed instructions can be found on the St. Stephen website!

Administrative News

FUNERAL POLICY

Our church council has approved a funeral policy for funeral services and for funeral meals held here at St. Stephen. A copy of it is on our bulletin board in the narthex.

MEN'S BIKE NEEDED

Pastor Beth knows of a student who is looking for a men's bike to ride to high school. If you have a bike gathering dust that you no longer need, please let her know.



VOLUNTEER SIGN UP SHEET

If you have ever been interested in helping out at Sunday services we have a variety of things that anyone with a quick training session would be able to do! Feel free to ask Pastor Beth if you have any questions about specific jobs listed, and just sign up on the blue and white sheet on the bulletin board!

New Baby Announcement!

Eloise Rose Bogdan

1 Samuel 1:27

I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him.

Jake and Andrea Bogdan, together with their family, are excited to introduce Eloise Rose Bogdan, born on July 18.

The Bogdans would like to thank the entire congregation for their thoughts and prayers over the last three years as they navigated the adoption journey, and cannot wait to introduce her in-person when possible.



In Loving Memory

Dan Gustafson



Daniel A. Gustafson 76, of Sylvania, Ohio, passed away Saturday, June 24, 2023, at Charter Senior Living, Sylvania. He was born in Toledo, Ohio, October 29, 1946, to parents Carl and Eleanor (Patton) Gustafson, and they preceded him in death. Daniel was employed as a driver with TARTA for more than 24 years before retiring. He was an avid bowler. Daniel enjoyed bowling in the Lutheran Men's Bowling League and several other leagues for many years. He was fan of the Detroit Tigers and the University of Michigan.

Daniel is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Cathy (Holmes) Gustafson; daughters, Esther (Bart) Ameling and Karin Gustafson; sister, Linda (Fred) Hesselbart; and nephew, Malachi Hesselbart. Daniel's family would like to thank the staff of Charter Senior Living for their loving care and support during this difficult time. GO BLUE!!

Prayer

Prayer Notes

Did you know our church has a **Prayer Room**? It is located behind the altar, its entrance on the pulpit side. It's not a large space, perhaps 8' x 12'. Currently it has seating for eleven and a kneeler. Over the years this room has provided space for prayer partners, Bible studies, individual prayer, private conversation/sharing. It's a welcoming spot for renewal and an escape from our busy world . . . who wouldn't welcome that?

The window of the Prayer Room is embellished with Luther's Rose, a widely recog-

nized symbol of Lutheranism designed by Martin Luther in 1516 setting forth the basic beliefs of Christians . . . the black cross is our salvation from sin because Jesus died on the cross, the red heart is Jesus' blood shed for us, and the white flower is the peace and joy we gain from our faith.

The Prayer Room is also furnished with Bibles, hymnals, devotionals, prayer books and a CD/cassette player if you wish to have some music. I had forgotten that the kneeler was in the room and it brought forth a word origin I had just learned. The word "bless" is influenced by the Hebrew word *brk* which means "to bend" which can imply kneeling. The writer of this information pictured Jesus bending down when she prays to hear her words, and has always felt something

powerful about praying while kneeling. Having been raised Catholic I did a lot of kneeling not only for prayer, but during the celebration of Mass. You may want to give it a try when in the Prayer Room . . . kneeling = strengthened faith = blessing!

Experience the **Prayer Room** when you have some time. Experience it alone or take someone with you. God wants to hear from us and He has a few things to share with us too. Embrace the quiet of the room, relax and let God direct your ways. God's power lives within each of us and is ours to use. Give yourself the time to draw upon this gift in a small moment in a new place.



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

Devon—Healing & Recovery

Ukraine

Victims of Gun Violence

Mary—Healing & Comfort

Nancy Pfau

Steve's Bulletin Board

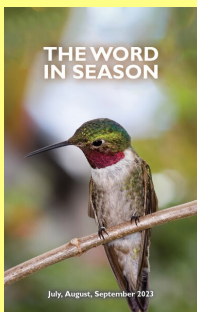
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **September 2022** Newsletter please have all your items submitted by **August 8.**

Painting with Julie Dangelo!



THE WORD IN SEASON



Word in Season

The Word in Season for July, August, and September are now at the church! If you can't make it to the building to pick one up, call the office and Janell can send you one!

August Celebrations

Baptismal Birthdays

8/1 Mollie McCoy
8/2 Kayla Kunkel
8/7 Steve Ziegler
8/15 Karen Bogdan

Birthdays

8/2 Kristi Shepler
8/4 Niel Johnson
8/5 Julie Dangelo
8/6 Kathie Tefft
8/8 Carole Huffman
8/9 Amelia Huddleston
8/10 Marsha Grouls
8/10 Bill Markin
8/16 Marty McKelvey
8/20 Eli Ballard
8/22 Sue Marvin
8/27 Wendy Staup
8/28 Jalen Ballard
8/30 Jake Bogdan
8/31 Ashley Huffman

Anniversaries

8/2 D&K Aldrich
8/5 J&L Boldt
8/21 D&C Haddix
8/22 L&L Golba
8/25 H&P Hoehing
8/27 J&L Hopkins
8/29 T&N Pfau

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.

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 11:00 AM Jeremiah Study 6:30 PM VBS	3	4	5 9:30 AM Coffee & Conversation
6 10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/ Online Worship	7 1:00 PM Knit/ Crochet Group 6:00 PM Council Meeting	8 Voting Day Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Men's Group	9 11:00 AM Jeremiah Study 6:30 PM VBS	10	11	12 9:30 AM Coffee & Conversation
13 10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/ Online Worship	14	15 12:00 PM JOY Club	16	17	18	19 9:30 AM Coffee & Conversation
20 10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/ Online Worship	21 1:00 PM Knit/ Crochet Group	22 9:00 AM Men's Group	23	24 7:00 PM Book Club	25	26 9:30 AM Coffee & Conversation
27 10:30 AM In-Sanctuary/ Online Worship (Almost) End of Summer Picnic 3:00 PM Movie Matinee	28 LWR Quilting	29	30	31		