

The Evangel

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Justified by grace, we are a Community of Servants who follow Jesus' example by living lives of service to others.

July 2017

Volume 58, Issue 7

From the Pastor...

I'm writing this on the day I returned from visiting my mom and sister in Cleveland. Yesterday, on the way back to my mom's house from the hardware store to get a part to do a plumbing repair for her, I went past the site of the church of my youth, St. Paul Lutheran Church. And as I went by, I started thinking.

When I was a child in confirmation in 1970-'72, my church was a large congregation. We had a kindergarten through eighth grade Lutheran school, and the building was built when I was a child. I remember seeing it go up. The church itself was a big brick building with beautiful large stained-glass windows and a marvelous pipe organ. And one of my memories is singing Handel's Halleluiah Chorus on Easter in our 40 voice children's choir! Think of that. a 40 voice children's choir. amazing! This was an amazing church with a tremendous ministry.

But that was the early 1970's. And yesterday, as I drove by the site of my home church, I was reminded that it is a totally different day and situation now in 2017. That big beautiful building is no more. The "new" school is no more. Instead, in place of the church and school is a CVS Pharmacy! How that came to be is a long story, and I am amazed that such a vital, flourishing congregation could so quickly cease to exist. But it illustrates the reality of our present times and situation.

We live in a world that is totally different from the early 1970's. And because of that, doing ministry in 2017 is so different from doing ministry in the 70's. What worked in the past, doesn't necessarily work now because our reality is so different. And to continue to do things "like we've always done them," is not a helpful or sustainable way of doing ministry.

But this isn't about doom and gloom. This is about newness and possibility. Our Bishop has often said of the Church that God is in the process of birthing something new. I wonder what God might be in the process of birthing here at St. Stephen? I wonder what newness God might have up God's sleeve? I wonder what might need to die in order to make room for new birth? I wonder? These are challenging times to do ministry. Times that call for creativity, flexibility, and new models for doing ministry. One little example of this. instead of Vacation Bible School, we're doing a whole congregation event this summer: The Stormy Monk/Fun With Luther on Wednesday, August 9.

This fall, your Church Council will spend some time together dreaming, envisioning, and planning. We'll spend some time listening to God and wondering in what directions God might be nudging us. I'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas. The Council would love your input. God has blessed us with challenging and exciting times in which to do ministry.

Blessings as you dream about where God might be leading us,
Pastor Gary

Planning for Fall



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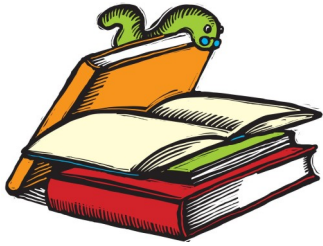
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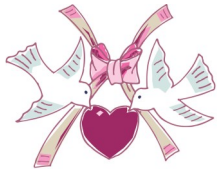
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Man is broken. He lives by mending. The grace of God is glue.
—Eugene O'Neill

Book Club**Margaret Sheffer**

Our book group is meeting July 13 at 5:15pm at The Cadillac Place corner of Creyts and St. Joe, in Lansing, to discuss the first section of *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. Join us!

**JULY Anniversaries**

8 Jay & Angie Bennett
 13 Aaron & Kate Yusten
 17 Loid & Sandy Hawkins
 22 Larry & Janet Ozanich

**JULY Birthdays**

1 Lindsey Greiner	15 Frieda Harris
Missy Bennett	Jim Seifert
2 Taylor Milnes	Erin Wenger
4 Deborah Binegar	21 Helen Lyons
6 Brian Miller	24 Harrison Ramsey
Richard Kettles	25 Ed Evert
10 Judy Thompson	Kristin Seifert
11 Jim Dixon	26 Hannah Milnes
12 Karen Holmes	27 Cole Bennett
14 Jan Clark	31 Andy Fritz
Jerry Armstrong	

Sunday Narrative Lectionary Readings

July 2: Psalm 30

July 9: Psalm 150

July 16: Ephesians 1:1-14, Spiritual Blessings

July 23: Ephesians 2:11-22, One in Christ

July 30: Ephesians 4:1-16, Unity in Christ



School Supplies for Cumberland

Margaret Sheffer, Coordinator

In August we will again be collecting school supplies for our friends at Cumberland Elementary. We received a \$250. Action grant from Thrivent Financial with which to supplement any supplies that we collect.

This year they need: black white board markers such as those made by EXPO, glue sticks, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, large Kleenex, crayons, composition notebooks (either the black and white covers or the 3 hole spiral). I will place a box in the Fellowship Hall marked "Cumberland" for the supplies.



Come and Be a Part of the Formation of a New ELCA Social Statement

The ELCA task force on Women and Justice is working to write a social statement about the state of women and the justice issues that women face. This task force has created a study to invite ELCA congregations around the country to spend some time in conversation and learning together. They will take the feedback from these congregational conversations to help in writing the final statement, which will be released in September of 2019. This is a study for both women and men as sexism affects all of us! Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos will be hosting a series of these seven studies beginning on **Thursday evening, July 6, at 7:00 PM. The studies will take place for seven consecutive Thursday evenings** and the topics are as follows:

July 6 — Intro and Definitions, Why do we need to talk together?

July 13 — What problems do women face, and what does justice require?

July 20 — How is sexism personal, and how are we the body of Christ together?

July 27 — What does economic sexism look like, and how can we seek equity for all?

August 3 — How can we address violence against women and girls?

August 10 — Why do words and images for God matter?

August 17 — How do we challenge the misuse of Scripture against women and girls?

If you are interested in being a part of this conversation as we participate in the formation of a social statement, please contact Pastor Ellen Schoepf at 517-349-0620.

Care Group/Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

Margie Bauer, Coordinator

Because there are no Care Group Leaders for two of the groups, the following months need people to sign up for Coffee Hour:

July - September - November

This includes making coffee before service, bringing and setting out food after service, having a pitcher of lemonade & water available, cleaning up. This will not be necessary on the Sundays that the congregation is having a potluck, or special meal. There is a sign-up sheet on the Serve Table in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any question please don't hesitate to call Margie Bauer at 327-0335. She will be happy to go over any details with you. Thank you for helping with the very important ministry of hospitality.



Save the Date!



Food, Fun, Fellowship
“The Stormy Monk”/ Fun With Luther
Wednesday, August 9, at 6:00pm



This summer, rather than having our usual Vacation Bible School like we have done for years and years, we are trying something new. On Wednesday, August 9, beginning at 6:00 p.m. we are having an event for the whole congregation for all ages! In honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation the event is called *The Stormy Monk/Fun With Luther*.

We'll begin at 6:00 p.m. with a meal and then move on to the main event which includes a game, a skit starring: Ben Cox as Martin Luther, Robert Schelter as Father Luther, Frieda Harris as Mother Luther, Abby Kriser as a monk, and Mike Borta as Narrator. The evening will include prizes and learning about Luther and the Reformation.

This is not an event just for children. **This is for the whole congregation.** Please save the date and plan to come. Depending on how this goes, we are considering more of these events for next summer.

Hope you're all having a great summer!





**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

God is calling us into the world...together

At our congregation meeting on June 11, we learned of necessary modifications to our 2017 Ministry Support Plan. These included a 50% reduction in Mission Support. We reduced Mission Support from approximately 4% to 2% of general fund revenue.

Your Congregation Council understands the importance of Mission Support. Mission Support reflects our partnership with other congregations in our synod and throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As Christ's body in a hurting world, we make a more significant impact when we join together.

At our June 20 Congregation Council meeting, we adopted a motion to designate Mission Support for our second offering in June, July, September and December. Remember that our first offering each Sunday supports the ministries reflected in our general operating expenses. These gifts are applied to the commitment you made last November. Our second offering each Sunday supports ministries beyond the walls of our congregation.

Q: What is Mission Support?

A: Mission Support is your congregation's financial weekly offering that is shared with your synod and the churchwide organization. It is an undesignated gift to ELCA ministries that goes beyond your congregation. These gifts are used where the need is the greatest, and they also make it possible for the ELCA's 65 synods and the churchwide organization to keep ongoing commitments to ministry partners.

Q: What guides the churchwide organization in its decisions regarding Mission Support?

A: Churchwide assemblies – this church's highest legislative authority – guides and directs the work of the churchwide organization. The ELCA Church Council functions as the interim legislative authority between assemblies. The churchwide organization's two strategic priorities are to accompany the nearly 10,000 congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission and to build the capacity of this church for evangelical witness and service in the world to alleviate poverty and to work for justice and peace. We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together.

Q: How does my congregation benefit from Mission Support?

A: Every congregation benefits as an active partner in the ELCA's mission to share God's love with the world. *Stories of Faith in Action* is filled with powerful examples of how lives have been changed because of the generosity of ELCA members and congregations through Mission Support. This money funds the work of synods, and some of the portion of Mission Support that is shared with the churchwide organization returns back to your congregation and synod in the form of services, programs, resources or grants. Typically, more than 90 percent of a congregation's offering remains in the congregation to help pay for local ministries, outreach, salaries, utilities and the building, ensuring your congregation's vital presence in your community.

If you have questions or would like more information, see Pastor Bunge, Jackie Williams-Armstrong, or Rebecca Bossenbroek.

DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS for July

Saturday, July 1, Psalm 131

Sunday, July 2, Psalm 30

Monday, July 3, Psalm 34

Tuesday, July 4, Psalm 40

Wednesday, July 5, Psalm 57

Thursday, July 6, Psalm 66

Friday, July 7, Psalm 116

Saturday, July 8, Psalm 138

Sunday, July 9, Psalm 150

Monday, July 10, Psalm 2

Tuesday, July 11, Psalm 22

Wednesday, July 12, Psalm 25

Thursday, July 13, Psalm 50

Friday, July 14, Psalm 106

Saturday, July 15, Psalm 119

Sunday, July 16, Ephesians 1:1-14, Spiritual Blessings

Monday, July 17, Ephesians 1:15-19, Paul's Prayer

Tuesday, July 18, Ephesians 1:20-23, Paul's Prayer

Wednesday, July 19, Ephesians 2:1-3, Dying to Living

Thursday, July 20, Ephesians 2:4-10, Dying to Living

Friday, July 21, Philippians 1:3-11, Paul's Prayer

Saturday, July 22, Philippians 2:1-11 Imitating Christ's Humility

Sunday, July 23, Ephesians 2:11-22, One in Christ

Monday, July 24, Ephesians 3:1-6, Paul's Ministry

Tuesday, July 25, Ephesians 3:7-12, Paul's Ministry

Wednesday, July 26, Ephesians 3:13, Paul's Prayer

Thursday, July 27, Ephesians 3:14-15, Paul's Prayer

Friday, July 28, Ephesians 3:16-19, Paul's Prayer

Saturday, July 29, Ephesians 3:20-22, Paul's Prayer

Sunday, July 30, Ephesians 4:1-16, Unity in Christ

Monday, July 31, Ephesians 4:17-24, Old to New Life



The Narrative Lectionary readings will also be listed in each Sunday's announcements, posted on the St. Stephen website (www.StStepheonOnline.org), and found in the online version of *The Evangel*.



LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR JULY

Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 18
7:00 pm

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

2900 North Waverly Road, Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: 517-321-2244 Fax: 517-321-2632

Email: office@StStephenOnline.org | Website: StStephenOnline.org

Worship: Sundays at 10:00 am

Sunday School Class: Sundays at 9:00 am (Sept — May)

Bible Study: Sundays 9:00 -9:50 am

Church Office Hours: Monday — Friday, 9:00 am — 1:00 pm

Staff Members

Gary A. Bunge, Pastor

Renee Dixon, Office Manager

Rebecca Bossenbroek, Director of Worship

garybunge@sbcglobal.net

office@ststephenonline.org

rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net

Council Members

Jackie Williams-Armstrong, President

Renee Dixon, Recording Secretary

Luke Bunge, Treasurer

Don Sheffer, Facility Development Team Leader

Rebecca Bossenbroek, Financial Development

Margie Bauer, Leadership Development Team Leader

Cindy Jenks, WELCOME Ministry Development

Julie Dartt, NOURISH Ministry Development

Claudia Cameron, SERVE Ministry Development

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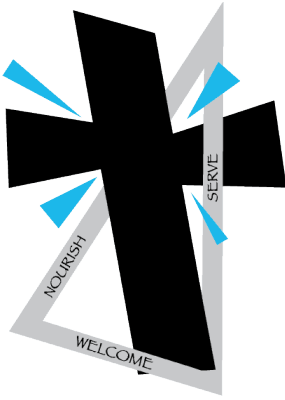
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	JULY 2	JULY 9	JULY 16	JULY 23	JULY 30
ALTAR FLOWERS	Jackie Williams-Armstrong	Jackie Williams-Armstrong	** Available **	Rebecca Bossenbroek	Ruth Gaudard
ASSISTING MINISTERS (Paulette Piirainen 256-9740)	Miriam Bunge	Paulette Piirainen	Lorri Yusten	Mike Borta	Margaret Sheffer
USHERS (Terry Greiner, 517-694-5358) (Ken Bauer, 517-327-0335)	**Volunteer Needed**	Dave Lyons & Linda Stiffler	Paulette Piirainen	Bucht Family	Mike Borta
ALTAR CARE (Claudia Cameron 323-8258)	Robert & Naida Schelter for the entire month.				
COFFEE HOUR	Mercy Care Group (Kathy Kettles) for entire month.				
OFFERING COUNTERS					



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

2900 N. Waverly Rd.
Lansing, MI 48906

Phone: 517-321-2244

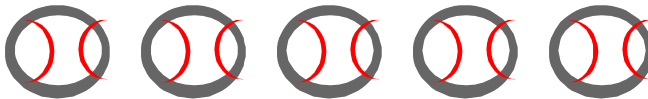
Fax: 517-321-2632

Email: office@StStephenOnline.org

Website: StStephenOnline.org

DATED MATERIAL

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT



Potlucks With a Purpose

JULY 9 (after worship) — Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Join us for grilled hot dogs and beverages (provided); bring a side dish if you like, or something you prefer other than hot dogs. Suggested side dishes: coleslaw, potato salad, grilled veggies, or whatever you think goes with hot dogs! Wear your favorite baseball team gear to church if you like—Tigers, Lugnuts, Indians, etc. Invite a friend!

