

# 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 2019

Volume 60, Issue 7

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"There are two freedoms — the false, where a man is free to do what he likes; the true, where he is free to do what he ought."

—Charles Kingsley



## From the Pastor...

Dear Members and Friends of St. Stephen,

*The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him... (Luke 10)*

*Evangelistic mission works effectively when we are living generous, hospitable, Spirit-led, Christlike lives as missionaries to our own neighborhoods—and when the gifted evangelists in our midst join us in sharing Christ with our neighbors. That's not just good evangelism strategy. That's the biblical model. (Surprise the World by Michael Frost)*

Our St. Stephen council has just begun reading and discussing *Surprise the World* by Michael Frost. Pastor David Sprang recommended this to us when he met with the council in December. I think it's a very thoughtful book. The author developed a model that he calls "BELLS" as a simple idea his church could adopt to foster missional habits in their lives. It's not a magic bullet, the author said, but it is a handy tool for mobilizing Christians up, in, and out into mission. "Mission," the South African missiologist David Bosch says, is the alerting of people through word and action to the universal reign of God through Christ. Mission derives from God's reign, the dream God has for the world and what God is doing in the world, healing, saving, and reconciling.

This is the BELLS model: bless, eat, listen, learn, sent.

Bless: I will bless three people this week—at least one of whom is not a member of our church (engagement with neighbors)

Eat: I will eat with three people this week—at least one of whom is not a member of our church (connection with each other)

Listen: I will spend at least one period of the week listening for the Spirit's voice (a deeper experience of God's leading)

Learn: I will spend at least one period of the week learning Christ (a stronger understanding of the gospel)

Sent: I will journal throughout the week all the ways I alerted others to the universal reign of God through Christ (a framework for identifying ourselves as missionaries)

The early Christians surprised the empire with their unlikely lifestyle: sacrificial acts of kindness; loved their enemies and forgave their persecutors; cared for the poor and fed the hungry. They were the most stunningly different people anyone had ever seen. They not only proclaimed the mercy of God but also demonstrated it. Michael Frost says that our challenge in the church today is to find what similarly "questionable lives" look like in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We'll also be reading and discussing this engaging book in the Adult Bible Study class this fall. Plan now to attend. God's peace be with you all.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Erick Johnson



## Finance Matters

### *Samaritas Offerings*

Thank you for generously supporting our second offerings in May designated for Samaritas. Your gifts in May totaled \$272.

### *Clothe a Child for School*

During the month of July, our second offerings will purchase school clothes for children in our community. This is done in partnership with Christian Services of Lansing and the clothing bank at Judson Memorial Baptist Church. For more information, visit [www.christianserviceslansing.com](http://www.christianserviceslansing.com).



## Thank You!

*I wish to thank my St. Stephen Family for your prayers, cards and help as I was recovering from my back surgery. I felt surrounded by love and comfort. It made a huge impact on my physical, emotional and spiritual well being. I am so blessed to be a part of this wonderful congregation. I thank God for all of you.*

*Love, Paulette Piirainen*

THANKS  
— from the —  
HEART



8 Jay & Angie Bennett  
17 Loid & Sandy Hawkins



|    |                 |    |                  |
|----|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 1  | Missy Bennett   | 14 | Jerry Armstrong  |
|    | Lindsey Greiner | 15 | Frieda Harris    |
| 6  | Brian Miller    |    | Jim Seifert, Jr. |
|    | Richard Kettles |    | Erin Wenger      |
|    | Grace Yusten    | 21 | Helen Lyons      |
| 10 | Judy Thompson   | 24 | Harrison Ramsey  |
| 11 | Jim Dixon       | 25 | Kristin Seifert  |
| 12 | Karen Holmes    | 27 | Cole Bennett     |

## Kids Hope

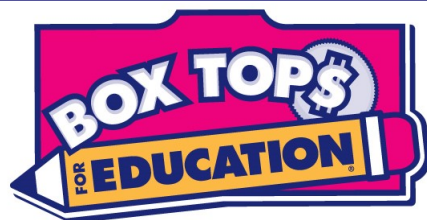
Margaret Sheffer, Director

Kids Hope always needs more mentors. We are mentors, not tutors, and Kids Hope offers us lots of training and support. This summer would be a good time to be trained as a mentor. There are children waiting at Cumberland for you. Contact Margaret Sheffer for more information ([sheffer.1283@yahoo.com](mailto:sheffer.1283@yahoo.com)).



## Save Your Labels

Margaret Sheffer



Just a reminder that we are still collecting "Box Tops for Education" for Cumberland Elementary. I know some of you collect these for your children and grandchildren, but if you don't, and would like to help Cumberland, there is a collection container on the table in the Fellowship Hall. If you don't want to clip the coupon, just place the entire label in the container and I will clip it for you. Thanks again for helping Cumberland.

## Faith Book Group

The next book the group is reading is Eleanor Oliphant is *Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. The group will meet at Paulette Piirainen's house (1231 N. Hayford, Lansing 48912) on July 24th at 6:00pm and have a potluck supper and then discussion. The group still plans to make bags for "Helping Women, Period" so please continue to bring in material and place in the box provided in the Fellowship Hall near the Serve table. If you would like to make some bags at home on your own, contact Margaret Sheffer ([sheffer.1283@yahoo.com](mailto:sheffer.1283@yahoo.com)) for a pattern.



## Food Bank Sunday is July 7



Just a reminder that Sunday, July 7, is a Food Bank Sunday. (Food Bank Sundays are the first Sunday of each month.) Please place canned and dry goods items in the Food Bank shopping cart in the fellowship hall. Much needed items are: canned tuna (lots of requests for this item), cooking oil, coffee, hot chocolate, boxed potatoes, syrup, canned fruits & vegetables. Thank you for your help with this important ministry.

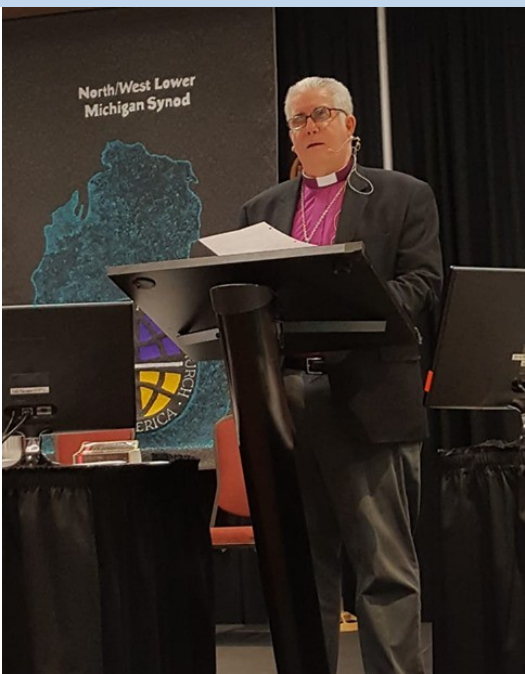


**St Stephen Lutheran Church, Lansing MI**  
**Congregation Finances as of May 31, 2019**

|  | May           | YTD           |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| General Fund Revenue   |               |               |
| Envelopes  | 10,293        | 58,517        |
| Rent   | 1,400         | 7,000         |
| Other  | 244           | 2,025         |
| Total General Fund Revenue   | 11,937        | 67,542        |
| General Fund Expenses  |               |               |
| Leadership   | 3,270         | 14,270        |
| Welcome/Worship/Nourish/Serve  | 232           | 1,455         |
| Staff  | 3,849         | 19,704        |
| Building/Facilities  | 3,375         | 22,016        |
| Administration   | 326           | 2,812         |
| Mission Support  | 1,194         | 6,754         |
| Total General Fund Expenses  | 12,247        | 67,012        |
| Net change to fund balance (revenue less expenses)                               | (310)         | 530           |
| Transfers to / from restricted funds   | 0             | 0             |
| Fund balance at beginning of month / year  | 12,776        | 11,936        |
| <b>General (unrestricted) fund balance at May 31, 2019</b>                       | <b>12,467</b> | <b>12,467</b> |
|  |               |               |
|  | May           | YTD           |
| Temporarily-restricted fund revenue  | 615           | 4,131         |
| Temporarily-restricted fund expenses   | 447           | 3,065         |
| Revenue less expenses  | 169           | 1,067         |
| Transfers to / from restricted funds   | 0             | 0             |
| Fund balance at beginning of month / year  | 16,826        | 15,928        |
| <b>Temporarily-restricted fund balance at May 31, 2019</b>                       | <b>16,995</b> | <b>16,995</b> |
|  |               |               |
|  | May           | YTD           |
| Permanently-restricted fund (endowment principle) value change                   | 418           | 1,743         |
| Transfers to / from restricted funds   | 0             | 0             |
| Fund balance at beginning of month / year  | 39,351        | 38,026        |
| <b>Permanently-restricted fund (endowment principle) balance at May 31, 2019</b> | <b>39,769</b> | <b>39,769</b> |
| <b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS - BALANCE AT May 31, 2019</b>                                 |               | <b>69,230</b> |







Bishop Craig A. Satterlee presiding at the Synod Assembly.

## Synod Assembly Mount Pleasant May 16-18, 2019



After the Bishop was re-elected, he brought his staff and family onto the stage to acknowledge and thank them. Pictured left to right: Pastor David Sprang, Pastor Chrysanne Timm, Pastor Rosanne Anderson, Attorney Dawn Brackmann, Ann Stavros, Renee Dixon, Chelsea Satterlee, and Cathy Satterlee. (Not pictured, Rebecca Bossenbroek)



Bishop Satterlee re-affirming his call to serve as Bishop in the Mitten Synod.



## NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS for July

Monday, July 1, Psalm 140, Prayer for deliverance  
 Tuesday, July 2, Jeremiah 3:15-18, Nations cease to follow their own will  
 Wednesday, July 3, Ephesians 5:6-20, The fruit of the light  
 Thursday, July 4, Psalm 66:1-9, God holds our souls in life  
 Friday, July 5, Jeremiah 51:47-58, Let Jerusalem come into your mind  
 Saturday, July 6, Zechariah 14:10-21, Jerusalem shall abide in security

### **Sunday, July 7, Luke 10:1-11, 16-20, Jesus sends out seventy disciples**

Monday July 8, Psalm 119:73-80, Living in faithfulness  
 Tuesday, July 9, Jeremiah 8:4-13, Call to faithfulness  
 Wednesday, July 10, Joshua 23:1-16, Joshua urges faithfulness  
 Thursday, July 11, Psalm 25:1-10, Show me your ways  
 Friday, July 12, Genesis 41:37-49, God saves Egypt from starvation  
 Saturday, July 13, Leviticus 19:1-4, 32-37, Mercy to the alien

### **Sunday, July 14, Luke 10:25-37, The parable of the merciful Samaritan**

Monday, July 15, Psalm 25:11-20, I take refuge in you, O God  
 Tuesday, July 16, Proverbs 19:1-17, Kindness to the poor  
 Wednesday, July 17, Ecclesiastes 9:13-18, One bungler destroys much good  
 Thursday, July 18, Psalm 15, Leading a blameless life  
 Friday, July 19, Ephesians 3:14-21, The love of Christ surpasses knowledge  
 Saturday, July 20, Genesis 14:1-16

### **Sunday, July 21, Luke 10:38-42, Choosing the better part**

Monday, July 22, Proverbs 9:1-18, The wise and foolish women  
 Tuesday, July 23, Psalm 119:97-104, God's word like honey  
 Wednesday, July 24, John 6:41-51, Whoever eats this bread will live forever  
 Thursday, July 25, Psalm 138, Your love endures forever  
 Friday, July 26, Haman's plot to kill the Jews  
 Saturday, July 27, Esther 4:1-17, Royal dignity for such a time as this

### **Sunday, July 28, Luke 11:1-13, Jesus teaches prayer**

Monday, July 29, Psalm 55:16-23, Cast your burden on God  
 Tuesday, July 30, Romans 9:30—10:4, Christ is the end of the law  
 Wednesday, July 31, Matthew 5:43-48, Pray for those who persecute you



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



## LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR JULY

**Council Meeting**  
Sunday, July 21  
11:30 am

### St. Stephen Lutheran Church

2900 North Waverly Road, Lansing, MI 48906

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

Email: [office@StStephenOnline.org](mailto:office@StStephenOnline.org) | Website: [StStephenOnline.org](http://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

Erick Johnson, Pastor

Renee Dixon, Office Manager

Rebecca Bossenbroek, Director of Worship

[erickj74@gmail.com](mailto:erickj74@gmail.com)

[office@ststephenonline.org](mailto:office@ststephenonline.org)

[rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net](mailto:rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net)

#### Council Members

Jackie Williams-Armstrong, President

Margaret Sheffer, Recording Secretary

Rebecca Bossenbroek, Treasurer

Brian Yusten, Facility Development Team Leader

Amber McPherson, Financial Development

Gary Hansen, WELCOME Ministry Development

Julie Dartt, NOURISH Ministry Development

Claudia Cameron, SERVE Ministry Development

**\*\*Position Open\*\*** Leadership Development Team Leader

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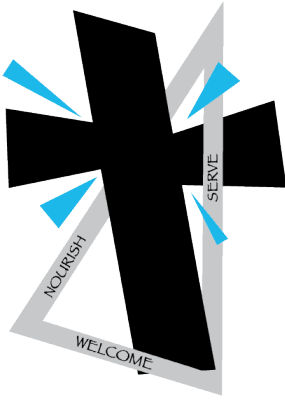
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|   | July 7   | July 14   | July 21   | July 28  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| ALTAR FLOWERS                               | Robert & Naida Schelter                        | People of St. Stephen                                       | Memory of Marian Storm Leach                    | Paulette Piirainen                             |
| ASSISTING MINISTERS<br>(Paulette Piirainen) | Mike Borta                                     | Paulette Piirainen  | Lorri Yusten                                    | John V'Soske                                   |
| USHERS                                      | Cindy Jenks & Connie Rohrer                    | <b>**Available**</b>  | <b>**Available**</b>                            | <b>**Available**</b>                           |
| GREETERS                                    | Jim & Char Seifert                             | Don & Margaret Sheffer                                      | <b>**Available**</b>                            | <b>**Available**</b>                           |
| ALTAR CARE<br>(Claudia Cameron)             | Robert & Naida Schelter for entire month.      |   |   |  |
| OFFERING COUNTERS                           | Bob Cameron<br>Claudia Cameron<br>Ruth Gaudard | Jackie Williams-Armstrong<br>Amber McPherson<br>Lynn Kriser | Angie Bennett<br>Gladys Collison<br>Erin Wenger | Bob Cameron<br>Claudia Cameron<br>Ruth Gaudard |



## **St. Stephen Lutheran Church**

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Lansing, MI 48906

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Website: [StStephenOnline.org](http://StStephenOnline.org)

DATED MATERIAL

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

### **Parking Lot Update**

The Congregation Council has tentatively scheduled two informational meetings about the progress that has been made on the parking lot funding ideas. The dates are Wednesday, July 24 and Sunday, August 4 during the Potluck with a Purpose. Please watch the announcements on Sundays for confirmation of these dates and the scheduled times.

### **Adult Education Class**

The Sunday Adult class will take a break for the summer and begin again in the fall. Please watch for announcements near the end of summer for the start date. We always welcome new participants!

