

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.

June 2016

Volume 57, Issue 6

Inside this issue:

Mission Endowment Fund News; Book Life Group; Sunday Scripture Readings **2**

Coffee Hour Notice; Second (Noisy) Offering; Community Garden News; Birthdays & Anniversaries **3**

Letter from Pastor Laura and Youth News & Events **4**

Kids Hope USA; Sunday School News; Thank You **5**

Daily Narrative Lectionary Readings **6**

Lay Minister Schedule **7**

Special Celebration; Aluminum Can Drive **8**

A Christian is someone to whom God entrusts all his fellow men.

—Dwight L. Moody



From the Pastor...

Two things.....

First..... Recently I attended the opening “community day” of the Summer Institute on Theology and Disability..... a conference that looked at disability, our theological understanding of disability, and how we as communities of faith, can minister with and to people with disabilities, both seen and unseen. It was a really good day, one that got me out of my usual element and helped me to see things differently.

Among other things, I came away with a sense of one of the benefits of being a small congregation is that we have the ability to embrace those with disabilities. We don't have any elaborate programs, but we have something maybe even more important, and that is that we provide a community of welcome, where those with disabilities are known, accepted, supported, cared-for, befriended and loved. Even more, a place where those with disabilities can contribute, share their gifts, and be a blessing to all of us.

Thank you for being that kind of a community. It's one of our gifts.

Then..... With the beginning of summer, we move into our summer worship schedule of one service at 9:30. I know that some folks really look forward to summer and worshipping together, while other folks — not so much. Let me share some thoughts.

One of the main benefits of worshipping together in the summer is that our whole community of faith is together, which is a real joy. During the rest of the year when it comes to worship, we're fragmented. First service people don't know/see second service people. Second service people don't know/see first service people. But in the summer, we come together as the one community of faith that we are. Relationships are renewed. New relationships are made. We're one..... whole.

The challenge though is that as a community of faith we don't all have the same tastes in worship. Some folks love hymns. Others can't stand them. Some folks like worship that is more lively. Others like worship that is quieter. While there is no one right or better way to worship, it's important to recognize the likes and desires of the whole community. Worship isn't simply about what “I” like and want. Worship is about the whole diverse community of faith coming together to worship.

This summer as you sing something that doesn't speak to you, remember that someone else in our community of faith loves it, and take joy in the reality that we can sing the song God has given them to sing. As you experience too much quiet, or too much “activity” for your taste, remember that someone else in our community of faith loves it, and take joy in the reality that we can provide worship that speaks to both needs. That's all a part of being a community of faith, called together by Jesus. We support and love each other in all our varied differences and preferences, and are blessed and enriched by those differences.

Blessings as we worship together this summer,
Pastor Gary



Second (Noisy) Offering

April's Second (Noisy) Offering was used toward our Synod Assembly Offering which will be split (50/50) into supporting two campaigns: Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA and Lutheran Disaster Response. A total of \$395.38 was collected Thank you for your generous help toward this important ministry.

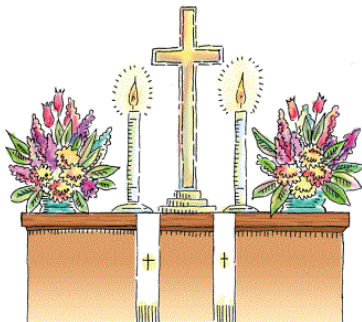


Altar Flowers

Claudia Cameron

"Oh who can make a flower? I'm sure I can't, can you? Oh who can make a flower? No one but God tis true!"

We were deeply saddened when Bauerle's Florist was no longer able to provide the beautiful altar flowers that enhanced our worship for several years.



For the past five months, I've searched for someone who was willing to provide us the same quality and keep the price at \$25.00 a week. I thought that mission had been accomplished, but, comments were made that all we were getting was carnations and daisies. Beginning MAY 29TH Rick Anthony's Flower Shoppe has agreed to provide us with a larger variety of flowers for an additional charge of \$10.00 per week with FREE DELIVERY!!

If you have signed up for flowers, the cost will now be \$35.00.

THANK YOU

Claudia Cameron, Altar Care Coordinator



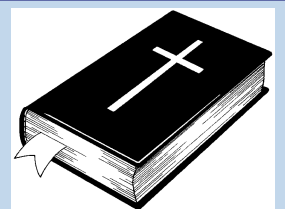
Sunday Narrative Lectionary Readings

June 5: 2 Corinthians 4:1-15, *Treasure in Clay Jars*

June 12: 2 Corinthians 4:16 – 5:10, *Walk by Faith Not Sight*

June 19: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, *Reconciliation*

June 26: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, *Generosity*



Coffee Hour Notice

Margie Bauer, Coordinator

For the months of June and August, volunteers are needed to bring food after our one service for Coffee Hour. You will also need to make coffee and have it ready and then clean up when things are winding down. This is not very difficult and does not take much time. You can make treats or they can be store bought. I will be glad to go over details with you. Please call me or email me! There is a sign-up sheet on the Serve table. Thank You! Margie Bauer, (517) 327-0335, mtpbauer@att.net.

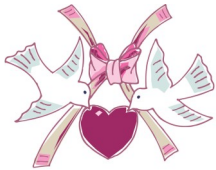


Thank You!



I'd like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, and well wishes during my hospital stay and to Pastor Bunge for his visits. They all meant so very much to me. Jim Seifert

JUNE Anniversaries



- 14 Bob & Claudia Cameron
- Brian & Lorri Yusten
- 21 Keith & Nancy Storm
- Heath & Kathy Buckley
- 22 Larry & Janet Ozanich
- 30 Doug & Sue Erickson



JUNE Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 6 Rachel Telder | 19 Gordie Larkins |
| 9 Ingrid Hall | 23 Madison Ramsey |
| Jim Lyons, Sr. | Madilyn Platte |
| Vickie Lee Borta | 25 Dale Platte |
| 10 Rachel Sturdevant | 27 Bob Cameron |
| 13 Amber McPherson | Madilyn Wilson |
| 15 Dale Carpenter | 28 Andrea Wilson |
| Gladys Collison | 29 Jennifer Lahti |
| 16 Susie Snyder | 30 Heidi Zens |
| Michael Miller | |

Youth Events

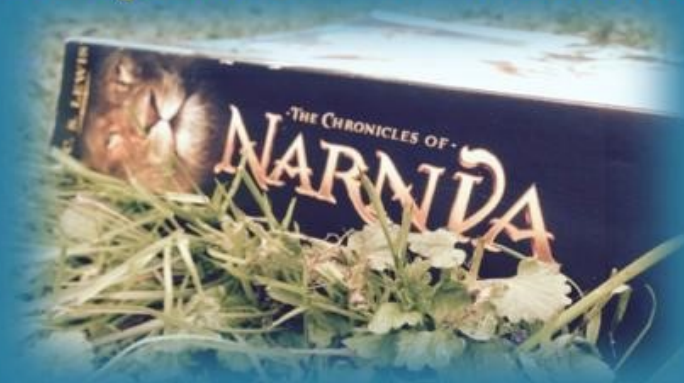
Pastor Laura Kuntz

2nd Saturday Sabbath is Saturday, June 11th
 at Calvary Lutheran- 6301 W. St. Joseph Hwy
1:00-2:00 (with time for snacks and hanging out after)

Come and see the artwork we created last month!
 Join in learning about different faith words using a game
 to help us remember what they mean.
 Take some time to step back from your busy schedule
 and spend time with some great people!



Explore the World of Narnia
At V.B.S. June 13th-17th from 5:30-8:15



At Calvary Lutheran Church
 jointly hosted with St. Stephen Lutheran Church
Dinner-Games-Faith Exploration each Night

We are excited to bring Calvary and St. Stephen together once again for V.B.S. June 13-17. We still have a few items and helpers that need to be secured. Can you cook a meal or bring fruit or veggies for an evening? Are you able to help in the kitchen? Please check in with Pastor Laura K. and see what help is still needed. Each night we will meet characters from *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* (In the Chronicles of Narnia). We will also watch the film in five different parts and explore themes of faith each evening. We begin with a meal at 5:30 and end at 8:15. Save the Date and Tell your friends about our V.B.S.! Postcards with this same image and more details are available at Calvary and St. Stephen. Questions? Email: Pastorlaurak@gmail.com or call (517)321-4292.

Garden of wEden

There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments.



As another year of “experimenting” gets underway, we are thankful for the many blessings that allow us to grow food at St Stephen. We look forward to providing flowers for the altar and fresh produce for the food bank, which has already started, thanks to a neighboring garden group also affiliated with The Lansing Food Bank–Garden Project. A big thank you for the donations of seed packets!!

We have already completed one of the major improvement projects for this year, which was to expand the composting system and some gardeners used our own compost to fill their beds this year.

For members of the congregation, we welcome donations of green (grass clippings, plants, etc.) or brown (straw, leaves) material, kitchen scraps and shredded newspaper to our compost system, but ask that you follow the instructions below to help us maintain our system (these instructions are also posted on site):

1. Chop or shred materials, such as large stems and roots, to speed up the composting process
2. Place new items in the green bin #1 alternating green and brown plant material with wood chips or soil in 6 inch layers. Add kitchen scraps, including coffee grounds (no meat or bones).
3. Add water until the pile is as wet as a wrung out sponge.
4. Turn the pile weekly, or when it feels cool to the touch, moving materials from the inside to the outside.
5. Every 30-45 days, remove materials from bin 1 and place into bin 2 in the middle, or “brown” section.
6. Repeat steps 1-4.
7. After another 30-45 days, remove the material from bin 2 and place into bin 3 and repeat step 5.
8. With continued maintenance, the single end bin should always be finished compost that can be added to beds as needed.

Also, we ask for everyone’s help and cooperation in keeping the storage shed neat and tidy. **When tables and chairs are used, please put them back as you found them.** We need to get 300’ of hoses out of the shed on a weekly basis to fill water barrels and it’s much easier to do when the other items are not blocking the doorway or tangled in our hoses.

For current gardeners and others wanting to volunteer in the garden, please mark your calendars for the following work dates: Wednesday, June 15, 6 pm; Saturday, July 16, 10 am; Wednesday, August 10, 6 pm and clean out on Wednesday, September 28, 6 pm.

DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS for June

Wednesday, June 1, Galatians 6:1-10, *Bear One Another's Burdens*

Thursday, June 2, Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2, *Rules for the New Life*

Friday, June 3, Philippians 2:19-30, *Timothy and Epaphroditus*

Saturday, June 4, Matthew 18:21-22, *Forgiveness*

Sunday, June 5, 2 Corinthians 4:1-15, *Treasure in Clay Jars*

Monday, June 6, Colossians 1:15-23, *The Supremacy of Christ*

Tuesday, June 7, Genesis 1:1 – 2:4, *Creation*

Wednesday, June 8, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, *Proclaiming Christ Crucified*

Thursday, June 9, Hebrews 13:1-19, *Service Well-Pleasing to God*

Friday, June 10, Galatians 6:11-18, *Final Admonitions and Benediction*

Saturday, June 11, Romans 8:31-39, *God's Love in Christ Jesus*

Sunday, June 12, 2 Corinthians 4:16 – 5:10, *Walk by Faith Not Sight*

Monday, June 13, Romans 7:14-24, *The Inner Conflict*

Tuesday, June 14, Colossians 3:1-17, *The New Life in Christ*

Wednesday, June 15, Romans 8:18-30, *Future Glory*

Thursday, June 16, 2 Peter 1:3-15, *The Christian's Call and Election*

Friday, June 17, Hebrews 11:8-22, *The Faith of Abraham*

Saturday, June 18, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, *The Gift of Love*

Sunday, June 19, 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, *Reconciliation*

Monday, June 20, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, *Reconciliation*

Tuesday, June 21, 2 Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1, *The Temple of the Living God*

Wednesday, June 22, 2 Corinthians 7:2-16, *Paul's Joy at the Church's Repentance*

Thursday, June 23, 2 Corinthians 8:16:24, *Commendation of Titus*

Friday, June 24, 2 Corinthians 9:1-15, *The Collection for Christians at Jerusalem*

Saturday, June 25, 2 Corinthians 10:1-18, *Paul Defends His Ministry*

Sunday, June 26, 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, *Generosity*

Monday, June 27, 2 Corinthians 11:1-15, *Paul and the False Apostles*

Tuesday, June 28, 2 Corinthians 11:16-33, *Paul's Sufferings as an Apostle*

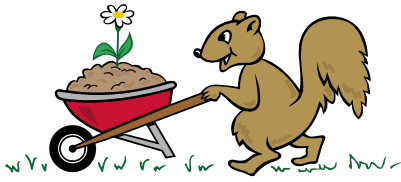
Wednesday, June 29, 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, *Paul's Visions and Revelations*

Thursday, June 30, 2 Corinthians 12:11-21, *Paul's Concern for the Corinthian Church*



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 JUNE



Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 28
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

Traditional Worship: Sundays at 8:30 am

Sunday School Class: Sundays at 9:45 am (Sept — May)

Contemporary Worship: Sundays at 11:00 am

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

Staff Members

Gary A. Bunge, Pastor

Laura Kuntz, Children/Youth/Young Adult Pastor

Renee Dixon, Office Manager

Rebecca Bossenbroek, Director of Worship

garybunge@sbcglobal.net

pastorlaurak@gmail.com

office@ststephenonline.org

rebeccabossenbroek@comcast.net

Council Members

Jay Bennett, 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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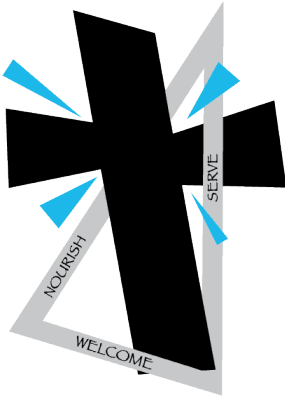
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	JUNE 5		JUNE 12		JUNE 19	JUNE 26
ALTAR FLOWERS					Ken & Margie Bauer	Community Garden
ASSISTING MINISTERS (Paulette Piirainen 256-9740)	9:30am	Miriam Bunge		Diane Singletary	Brian Yusten	Paulette Piirainen
USHERS (Terry Greiner, 694-5358) (Ken Bauer, 669-2301)	9:30am	Mark Bolla		Bob & Claudia Cameron		Ken & Margie Bauer
ALTAR CARE (Claudia Cameron 323-8258)		Bob & Claudia Cameron (June 5, 12, & 19) and Margaret Sheffer (June 26).				
COFFEE HOUR		(Volunteers needed)				



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Lansing, MI 48906

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Fax: 517-321-2632

Email: office@StStephenOnline.org

Website: StStephenOnline.org

DATED MATERIAL

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

Aluminum Can Drive

Our middle and high school youth will be travelling to Chicago from June 25th-30th. They will be working with three other youth groups on service projects as well as enjoy fun conversations and experiences about faith, and learning about the city of Chicago, and also about how we are called serve on another as Christians. To help fund this trip, our youth will be collecting aluminum cans (returnables). Please bring cans to St. Stephen and place them in the round tub in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for helping fund our youth ministries!

