

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.

May 2017

Volume 58, Issue 5

From the Pastor...

As we move into the month of May, we are solidly in the season of Easter and I am grateful for the many signs of new life and resurrection that are all around us:

- The green grass and blossoming flowers and trees of spring that are such a welcome sight after the cold of winter.
- The promise of two of our youth, Suzy Kriser and Sarah Larkins who will be affirming their baptism this month and assuming a greater role in the life of the church.
- All of the diapers and items that were collected to support the ministry of Hannah's House.
- The excitement surrounding sending our youth to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX in the summer of 2018. At this point we have about 8 to 10 youth who are showing interest.
- The promise of those young people who are graduating from high schools and colleges.
- The beginning of "Potlucks With a Purpose" as we look for ways to build fellowship and community within the congregation.
- The growth of our Life Group ministry. Men's group, Women's group, Book group, Pub Theology. These groups have had a good beginning and we look forward to their continued growth.

We give thanks to God for all the ways that the power of the resurrection is at work in our lives, our church, and our world.

Yet at the same time I am aware of all the places that are still desperately in need of new life and resurrection:

- The continued financial challenge of funding our ministry and making sure we have the financial resources we need to carry out the ministry to which God has called us.
- The growing shortage of pastors in the ELCA and the changing dynamics of church and worship in our culture.
- The growing tensions around the world with North Korea, Iraq, Syria, Russia, and the threat of war.
- The growing refugee crisis in Syria with millions forced to seek refugee from the civil war that has raged there for years.
- The crisis in South Sudan caused by civil war and famine.
- The political unrest and tension in our country and between political parties and people with differing views.

With all of these issues, we lift up our prayers and pray for resurrection and new life, and that God will bring life out of death.

Easter brings with it not simply the gift of eternal life some day in the future, but also, and maybe more importantly, the promise and hope that God is at work to bring new life to all the places where death is at work. It's both a future promise and a present reality.

May your lives be filled with the new life of Easter,
Pastor

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Faith is like wi-fi: It's invisible, but it has the power to connect you to what you need.
—Unknown



... just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may **live a new life.** ROMANS 6:4



Congratulations to Samantha Larkins!

Samantha will be graduating from CMU on May 5th with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology. Her major was Product Design Engineer. Please help us congratulate Samantha and wish her well in her future endeavors!

The subject of income taxes has a tendency to sometimes make us cringe. Liberty Tax Service proved that there can be something positive. Yes, they collected food items from their clients and donated 136 items to the NWLL Food Bank. We can claim this as a random act of kindness!



**Food
Collection**



MAY Anniversaries



- 4 Dale & Connie Carpenter
- 10 Jim & Jennifer Lahti
- 11 Bishop & Cathy Satterlee



MAY Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Loid Hawkins | 15 Michael Benzie |
| Chett Foltyn | 15 Shaniya Lee |
| 3 Jan Becker | 17 Aaron Yusten |
| Mike Bucht | 19 Amy Larkins |
| Jasmine Zens | 21 Penny O'Brian |
| 5 Sarah Larkins | 22 Don Sheffer |
| 11 Jack Beyerhelm | 25 Malaya Jackson |
| 12 Alexander Heskitt | 27 Jacob Snell |
| 13 Lorri Yusten | 28 Erin Fedewa |
| | Katherine Kettles |
| | 29 Kelsie Bucht |

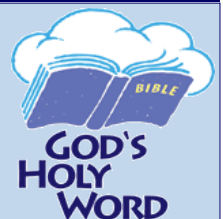
Sunday Narrative Lectionary Readings

May 7: *Saul Persecutes the Church*, Acts 8:1-25

May 14: *Council at Jerusalem*, Acts 15:1-18

May 21: *Living by Faith*, Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21

May 28: *One in Christ*, Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29





SPRING HAS SPRUNG!!!

A church yard clean-up will take place on Saturday, May 13 at 10:00am. Please help us make our church yard a place to be proud of. Any questions please call or email Cindy Jenks at 517-371-2043 or nanajenks@gmail.com

Educational Event--Lutherans Always Reforming: A Day of Social Change Conversation

The Publicly Engaged Church Table of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod will be hosting an educational event on Saturday, June 17, at University Lutheran Church in East Lansing. (If you have any questions about this event, please contact Miriam Bunge.) This event, *Lutherans Always Reforming: A Day of Social Change Conversation*, Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, will begin at 9:00am and conclude with Closing Worship at 3:00pm. Keynote speaker for the day will be Dr. Craig L. Nesson, Academic Dean and Professor of Contextual Theology at Wartburg Seminary and author of "Shalom Church" (among other books). A variety of workshops will also be offered throughout the day on: Immigration, Criminal Justice, Advocacy, Gender and Sexual Identity, Stewardship of the Environment, Hunger, Human Trafficking, Faith, Sexism & Justice, Anti-Racism and The Shalom Church. Child care is provided. A free will offering for lunch. Please register at MITTENSYNOD.ORG Click on "Events" and then click on "Events Calendar" and you will see "Lutherans Always Reforming: A day of Social Change Conversation."

Pedal for a Purpose Michigan 2017

This event is a 4-day bicycling tour to deepen awareness of World Hunger, challenge giving to ELCA World Hunger, and enhance physical fitness. The ride will begin and end at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mt. Pleasant and will visit 10 churches in the Bay Conference.

- ◆ May 18—Mt. Pleasant to Gladwin to Rhodes
- ◆ May 19—Rhodes to Bay City to Vassar
- ◆ May 20—Vassar to Bridgeport to Saginaw to Freeland to Midland
- ◆ May 21—Midland to Mt. Pleasant, ending at the Synod Assembly
- ◆ May 21—Pedal for a Purpose Fitness Ride (7 miles)



A small group of riders will be riding the entire route (about 225 miles) and other riders may join for a day or just a few hours. Cyclists of all abilities are welcome. A 7-mile Fitness Ride will ride from the Comfort Inn to Immanuel Lutheran and ride back with the Tour Riders.

To register or for more information, contact Rev. Erick Johnson: erickj74@gmail.com, (517-474-1877)

Contributions are welcome: Online: ELCA.org/TeamELCA (Find "Pedal for a Purpose Michigan") or make checks payable to "ELCA World Hunger," and mail to Linn Kracht, c/o St. Peter Lutheran Church, 1079 Riverside Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49015.

St. Stephen Campers



Our Annual St. Stephen's Shakedown Campout has been set for May 5-7, 2017 at Sleepy Hollow State Park. We plan, as in years past, to have a potluck on Saturday, May 6th at 2 p.m. at the campground if you are not a camper and would like to come out and join us for the afternoon. Bring a dish to pass, your own table service, and a lawn chair if you have one for the potluck. Please let Brian or Lorri Yusten know if you plan to camp that weekend, so we know how many campers to expect.

Sunday School Updates

Cindy Jenks & Miriam Bunge, Co-Coordiators

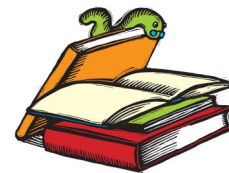
- Thank you so much for the generous outpouring of candy for the Easter Egg Hunt! The children had a great time!
- The last day of Sunday School is **May 21**. Thank you students, families, teachers, substitute teachers and helpers for a great year!



Book Club

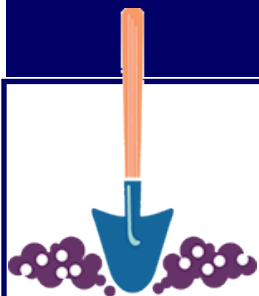
Margaret Sheffer

The book group finished Accidental Saints and will start their new book, The Zookeepers Wife by Diane Ackerman, on May 11th. We will meet two times in May, the 11th and 25th, and then go to one time a month during the summer. The Zookeepers Wife takes place in Nazi occupied Poland and, as the title implies, the main character is the wife of the zookeeper. She and her family manage to save 300 Jews. Please join us as we discuss this book. We meet at 5:15 at Cadillac Place, 516 S. Creyts, Suite C. Please contact Margaret Sheffer with any questions. (Sheffer.1283@yahoo.com)



Community Garden News

Cindy Jenks & Kristine Ranger, Co-Coordiators



If you are interested in a garden plot in our Community Garden, please fill out an application which are located in the Fellowship Hall on the Serve Table. Please give the completed form to Cindy Jenks or to the Church Office along with the \$10 fee. Please contact Cindy Jenks with any questions at 517-371-2043 or nanajenks@gmail.com.

Thank You!

Thank you so much for helping to make today a special one. You worked many hours and my family and I appreciate it. Thank you again for the nice lunch following Milt's Memorial Service on April 20.

Joy Jury

AND, I (Claudia Cameron) want to add a heaping helping of THANKS for all the yummy salads and desserts provided by members of our St Stephen family. With so many compliments, credit was given where credit was due. After all, I can't spell success without YOU! Claudia Cameron, Coordinator



Hannah's House Success!!

The 'stash' of goods collected for Hannah's House was delivered by Melissa Bennett, Abby Kriser, and me on Sunday, April 30. What a great gift helping those in need the St. Stephen Lutheran Church congregation has been!! The contributions, in an overview, for the Moms, included Kleenex, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, hand cream/lotion (including a good supply of Mary Kay products), soap, nail polish, and a number of other miscellaneous items.

The contribution for the Babies is where God was really at work! Contributed items included baby bottles, lotion/wash, shampoo, wipes (26 containers!), onesies, a 'pack-n-go', and two bags of beautiful knitted baby clothes and blankets (thanks 'Knitter Lynn').

But, something ALL babies need, were particularly plentiful — diapers. Not only was there a large contribution by St. Stephen, but the ELCA SE Synod Young Adult Steering Initiative 'Diaper Project' added magnificently to the diaper delivery. After a Synod meeting at St. Stephen in early March, one meeting participant, Ms. Kinda Makini (known as the 'Diaper Administrator' for the SE Synod) noticed the 'Hannah's House' signs in Fellowship Hall.

Ms. Makini inquired of Pastor Gary what the details were and, after hearing about our Sr. High Sunday School 'Hannah's House Collection' project, said she could contribute to that through the 'Diaper Project'. And, boy did she ever!!

Boxes of diapers began arriving at Church within 2 — 3 weeks. When the dust settled, the total contribution (our Church plus the Diaper Project) to

Hannah's House was:	Newborn diapers	64
	Size 1	1,063
	Size 2	868
	Size 3	915
	Size 4	343
	Size 5	280
	TOTAL:	3,533 diapers



Additionally, the March 'Noisy Collection' added a check for \$371 to Hannah's House — truly wonderful!

All items and the check were delivered to a very grateful Hannah's House Sunday morning, April 30 as the final step in this tremendously worthwhile, hugely supportive project.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
Mike Borta, Coordinator



DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS for May

Monday, May 1, *Saul Persecutes the Church*, Acts 8:1-25

Tuesday, May 2, *The Conversion of Saul*, Acts 9:1-19a

Wednesday, May 3, *Saul Preaches in Damascus*, Acts 9:19b-31

Thursday, May 4, *Peter and Cornelius*, Acts 10:1-33

Friday, May 5, *Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit*, Acts 10:34-48

Saturday, May 6, *Peter in Prison*, Acts 12:1-19

Sunday, May 7, *Ethiopian Comes to Believe*, Acts 8:26-39

Monday, May 8, *The Death of Herod*, Acts 12:20-25

Tuesday, May 9, *Barnabas and Paul Commissioned*, Acts 13:1-3

Wednesday, May 10, *The Apostles Preach in Cyprus*, Acts 13:4-12

Thursday, May 11, *Paul and Barnabas in Iconium*, Acts 14:1-7

Friday, May 12, *Paul and Barnabas in Lystra and Derbe*, Acts 14:8-20

Saturday, May 13, *Return to Antioch in Syria*, Acts 14:21-28

Sunday, May 14, *Council at Jerusalem*, Acts 15:1-18

Monday, May 15, *The Conversion of Lydia*, Acts 16:11-15

Tuesday, May 16, *Paul and Silas in Prison*, Acts 16:16-40

Wednesday, May 17, *Paul Sails for Rome*, Acts 27:1-12

Thursday, May 18, *The Storm at Sea*, Acts 27:13-38

Friday, May 19, *The Shipwreck*, Acts 27:39-28:16

Saturday, May 20, *Paul Preaches in Rome*, Acts 28:23-31

Sunday, May 21, *Living by Faith*, Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21

Monday, May 22, *Welcome to the Galatians*, Galatians 1:1-12

Tuesday, May 23, *Paul Defends His Apostleship*, Galatians 1:18-24

Wednesday, May 24, *Paul and the Other Apostles*, Galatians 2:1-10

Thursday, May 25, *God's Promise to Abraham*, Galatians 3:10-18

Friday, May 26, *The Purpose of the Law*, Galatians 3:19-22

Saturday, May 27, *Paul Reprimands the Galatians*, Galatians 4:8-20

Sunday, May 28, *One in Christ*, Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29

Monday, May 29, *Hagar and Sarah*, Galatians 4:21-5:1

Tuesday, May 30, *The Nature of Christian Freedom*, Galatians 5:2-15

Wednesday, May 31, *Works of the Flesh*, Galatians 5:16-21



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 MAY



Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 15
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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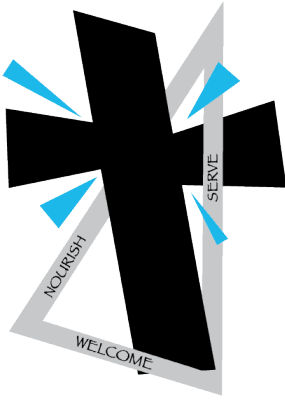
nanajenks@gmail.com

juliedartt@gmail.com

cameronw6216@sbcglobal.net



	MAY 7	MAY 14	MAY 21	MAY 28
ALTAR FLOWERS	Robert & Naida Schelter	Carlos & Judy Vallin	Carlos & Judy Vallin	Don & Margaret Sheffer
ASSISTING MINISTERS (Paulette Piirainen 256-9740)	Cindy Jenks	Paulette Piirainen	Brian Yusten	Miriam Bunge
USHERS (Terry Greiner, 517-694-5358) (Ken Bauer, 517-327-0335)	Robert & Naida Schelter	Mike Borta	Dave Lyons & Linda Stiffler	Bob & Claudia Cameron
ALTAR CARE (Claudia Cameron 323-8258)	Cindy Jenks for entire month.			
COFFEE HOUR	Hope Care Group (Julie Dartt) for the entire month.			
OFFERING COUNTERS	Angie Bennett Gladys Collison Gloria Kandle	Jackie Williams-Armstrong June Hansen Abby Kriser	Claudia Cameron Ruth Gaudard Erin Wenger	Bob Cameron Claudia Cameron Ruth Gaudard



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DATED MATERIAL

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT



Potlucks With a Purpose

St. Stephen is beginning a new fellowship ministry! It's called Potlucks With a Purpose. Our objective is fellowship, food, fun and learning. Each month, on the first Sunday (if possible), there will be a different sponsor, with a dish to pass. So far, on May 7th there will be a potluck immediately following the service that will include a "Hymn Sing". It's going to be fun! On June 4th, the potluck will include information about the seasons of the Church year and Altar care. Hint: there might be a (fun:-) test!

If you have an idea going forward, or if you would like to sponsor a potluck with your group or ministry, please talk to any council member. There have already been suggestions about an art show, food bank and more. July will not be on the first Sunday because of Independence Day--stay tuned for the date and theme.

We are excited about this new fellowship ministry, and we hope that you will be too.

