

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.

September 2017

Volume 58, Issue 9

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Any fool can count the seeds in an apple. Only God can count all the apples in one seed.

—Robert Schuller

From the Pastor...

Usually for September I tend to write about new things that are happening and beginning in the fall. . . . the class I'm leading on Sunday mornings *Who Is This Man?*, or plans for God's Work Our Hands Sunday which this year is a potluck with ethnic dishes celebrating our Community Garden, and we've invited our Community Garden families to join us.

But this year there are more important things to talk about.

I don't know about you, but I've been deeply disturbed by the events of the past couple weeks related to Charlottesville, hatred, and race. For the last couple of decades in this country, many have thought that racism was no longer a significant issue or problem. We had the politically correct movement, we elected a black President, and racial strife seemed to be the exception rather than the rule. Racism and hate were "under control."

Despite these improvements though, I've contended that racism and hate have simply gone underground. And events in the past couple of years, especially the events of Charlottesville, have shown us that racism and hate are still tragically alive and well in our country.

Unfortunately, a newsletter article isn't the best place to talk about racism and hate because we can't have any dialogue. But I still feel a need to address it because the events of Charlottesville were appalling and frightening.

To put it bluntly and plainly, racism and hate have absolutely no place in the Christian faith. All people, regardless of color, race, religion or sexual preference, are God's children, created in the image of God. And to proclaim hate or to discriminate against anyone because of their color, race, or religion is to be opposed to the teachings of Jesus, the Christian faith, and to God's very self.

I'm reminded of two quotes from a movie I saw in the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Cleveland entitled "Hate." The first is from Abraham Foxman, who has been the National Director of the Anti-Defamation League: *When you ask the question, it's a reasonable question, what causes hate, what causes bigotry? We're not born bigots, we're not born hating, but the environment is such that for all kinds of reasons, sometimes religions, sometimes frustration, sometimes anger, whatever, there's a need to blame somebody else, to blame the other, and we have been very convenient throughout history as the other. When Auschwitz was laid bare for the world to see, it was the summit of what hate can do. The gas chambers didn't begin with bricks. They began with words, they began with ugly words, hateful words and nobody stood up to say no. The "Never again," the 11th commandment that Jews etched in their being after Auschwitz, while first and foremost it says never to be silent when Jews are in pain, in fear wherever. But it's not limited to Jews. It's never again to be silent when anyone, anywhere, is in fear, intimidated, because of who they are, the color of their skin, their religion, their gender, their sexual preference, whatever. Because they are other, because they are not part of that norm, if they feel threatened, we have that obligation, that responsibility never again to be silent.*

(Cont'd. on page 2)

SEPTEMBER

From the Pastor... (cont'd.)

The second is from Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Cleveland's Fairmont Temple who was active in the 1960's civil rights movement:

"When policeman are pigs, they are fair game for the slaughterer. When Pollocks are stupid, subhuman beings, when Kikes are shrewd, or Degos or Wops are sly or murderous, if these are the ways we think of our fellow human beings, it's only one step from the epithet to contempt, and another step to discrimination, and another step to persecution, and the final step, God help us, to the gas chamber and systematic extermination."

How do we begin to say "No" to hate? How do we guard our lips in terms of what we say about or call others? How do we stand up to hate in all its many forms? And maybe the most challenging question, how do we deal with the feelings of contempt that we have within ourselves for those who are different from us?

As followers of Jesus, who welcomed all people, our calling is to say no to hate in all its many forms. It's not just the politically correct thing to do. It's central to who we are as the people of God.

Pastor

Samaritas's 83rd Anniversary Celebration Dinner

You are cordially invited to Samaritas's 83rd Anniversary Celebration Dinner at the JW Marriott in Grand Rapids on Monday, September 25, 2017, at 6:15 PM. Together, with your participation, we can continue to meet the growing need for our continuum of services that assures that children, families, and individuals of all ages and backgrounds in West Michigan have access to life-giving, professional health and human services that they need and deserve. We welcome individual and corporate sponsorships. The cost is \$50 per ticket to attend. For more information or to order tickets, contact Dollie Grant at 616-284-5704 or dgran@samaritas.org. Please RSVP by September 13, 2017. Thank you for partnering with Samaritas to serve people as an expression of the love of Christ!



SEPTEMBER Anniversary



8 Jack & Nancy Beyerhelm

SEPTEMBER Birthdays

3	Naida Schelter	18	Sandy Bara
	Kali Montgomery		Bishop Craig Satterlee
	Alex Holly	19	John Cox
5	June Hansen	21	Kristine Ranger
	Jordan Dixon		Brian Holmes
7	Jackie Williams-Armstrong	25	Carlos Vallin
11	Chris Miller		Eric David
12	Mike Borta	26	Brandon Stevens
13	Judy Higgins	27	Linda Stiffler
14	Madison Toomey		Donna Carl
17	Quenten Carpenter	28	Joyce Rohrer
	Virginia David	29	Nancy Storm
	Elijah Yusten		

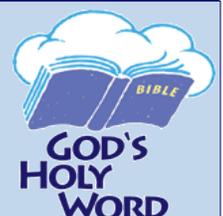
Sunday Narrative Lectionary Readings

September 3: Revelation 21:1-6, 22:1-5, Alpha and Omega

September 10: Genesis 1:1—2:4a, Creation by the Word

September 17: Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14, Binding of Isaac

September 24: Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17, Jacob's Dream



Food Bank Donation News

Northwest Lansing Lutheran Food Bank Valuland grocery stores in Lansing have selected the NW Lansing Lutheran Food Bank to be the benefactor of their 2017 SpartanNash Foundation Food Pantry Scan. The SpartanNash Foundation was formed in 2015 and is focused on providing grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofit partners in the communities they serve. At designated times throughout the year, the SpartanNash Foundation invites store guests to donate to the nonprofit partners they support through a series of retail scan campaigns. One hundred percent of funds raised by the Foundation during these initiatives go directly to the causes they support, and their company underwrites the cost of all fundraising campaigns. From **August 30 – September 10**, Valuland customers in both local stores (Waverly/Saginaw and Mt. Hope) will be asked to make a \$1, \$5, or \$10 donation to our food pantry at checkout. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pantry, and we encourage our members to consider Valuland for their shopping needs and to watch for the food bank promotional materials at Valuland during this timeframe. Judy Salminen & Marie Dumeney, Food Bank Co-Coordinators

In memory of Ben Cox's friend from Grand Ledge, Everson Guild (14), who died unexpectedly at a football practice:
Everson's mother found this among his things...

GUIDE TO BEING AWESOME

1. Ask yourself if what you're saying is helping anyone.
2. If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all.
3. Ask yourself if it is nice to not include someone. No it will hurt their feelings, so be nice and include people.
4. Be nice by giving people a high five or just tell them that they're cool.
5. Give somebody a compliment or give them a piece of pizza.
6. Help people if they are hurt or if they are sad.
7. Lastly, have fun and be who you wanna be.



Everson Guild
August 22, 2002—July 24, 2017

Hospitality at St. Stephen

Margie Bauer, Coordinator

We have a wonderful tradition at St. Stephen's of offering hospitality to each other, our visiting friends & family, and to those who happen to stop in just to check us out, each Sunday after our worship service. For several years this ministry has been coordinated by the Care Groups and it basically still is. However, since a couple of Care Group leaders have had to step down from this ministry we find about four months each year that are not covered. The remaining months for 2017 are September & November. There are several weeks that are still open and need someone to be responsible for making coffee, providing and setting out treats, and cleaning up afterward. This is not very time consuming and really makes a difference in the life of the congregation. Please consider taking a week or two! There is a sign-up sheet on the Serve table in the fellowship hall. If you have ANY questions please call Margie Bauer, 327-0335. I will be more than happy to talk to you about this very important ministry!



Kids Hope USA—Mentors Needed

We have students at Cumberland Elementary who are in need of mentors, please consider helping them by volunteering to be a Kids Hope, USA mentor. We are mentors not tutors and Kids Hope offers us lots of training and support. If you would like more information contact Margaret Sheffer at 231-215-8988 or talk to Pastor Gary, who has been a mentor for many years. Also, pictured are Kids Hope supplies purchased with Thrivent Action Money.



Pub Theology

The Pub Theology Life Group will be meeting on Thursday, September 14 and 28 at 7 p.m. at the EagleMonk Pub & Brewery at 4906 W. Mount Hope in Lansing.

Come join us for some informal conversation in a relaxed atmosphere.

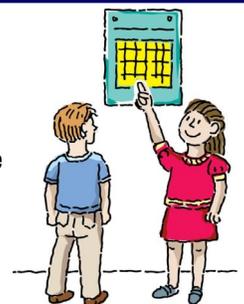
Beer, conversation, and God!



Sunday School News

Sunday school will begin on Sept. 10 from 9am-9:45am. We will have three classes: Kindergarten-Grade 4 (taught by Julie Dartt and meets on the middle level in the first room to the left), Grade 5-Grade 8 (taught by Brian Yusten and meets on the mid level in the lounge) and Grades 9-12 (taught by Mike Borta and meets in Pastor Gary's office).

We will have registration in the hallway on Sept. 10 at 9am.





REFORMATION 500 A CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

The greater Lansing area ELCA churches are planning a celebration of the arts to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Scheduled to begin at 3:00 PM on the afternoon of October 29, this event will take place at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lansing. The celebration will include a hymn festival, food, activities for kids, and art work created by ELCA members.

We are encouraging artists from various ELCA congregations to submit their work so we can display it in a gallery setting at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. And, if they so desire, we are encouraging artists to consider allowing their creations to be sold, with all proceeds going to support Samartias.

If you wish to contribute an artistic rendering for this occasion, please plan to deliver your artwork to Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 28, beginning at 10:00 AM. We will be setting up the displays that morning.

For more information, please contact Pastor Ellen Schoepf at Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos.

Phone: 517-349-0620

Email: prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org

TLC (Tuesday Ladies in Community Group)

Margie Bauer & Miriam Bunge

Our TLC-Tuesday Ladies in Community group (Women's Bible Study) will be meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 7pm at Paneras in the Mall. Thereafter we will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7pm at Paneras. We will be continuing our study on "Faith-Confidence and Doubt in Daily Life". We would love to have you join us!

Altar Flowers

According to our financial records, there are many weeks where flowers have been dedicated to loved ones for which the church has not been reimbursed. If you signed up for flowers any time this year, would you kindly check your records to see if you have reimbursed the church? It's an easy oversight, so please know that you are not alone. Flowers are \$35 per week and can be taken home after the worship service to enjoy. Thanks, and by the way, there are still two dates available (November 26 & December 3). Thanks again.

Book Club

Margaret Sheffer



You are invited to join the book group on September 26 to discuss this month's selection, *Hillbilly Elegy*, by J.D. Vance. We're meeting at 5:30 at Paulette Piirainen's home, 1231 N. Hayford. This is a potluck, so please bring a simple dish to pass.

Coming in October. In October the book group is going to read *Bloody Skies* by Melvin W. McGuire and Robert Hadley in which our own Wayne Leshar is mentioned. Wayne has kindly offered to help with the discussion about experiences during WWII. Since many members of the congregation have already read the book, we are inviting all interested members to attend. We're hoping that many more people will take the opportunity to read the book between now and October (date to be determined) and join us. The book is available on line. If there are questions please contact Margaret Sheffer 231-215-8988 or Pastor Gary.

St Stephen Lutheran Church
 2900 N Waverly Rd
 Lansing MI 48906
 (517) 321-2244

Congregation Finances
 as of July 31, 2017

	JULY	YEAR TO DATE
General Fund Revenue		
Envelopes	15,420	94,139
Rent	2,800	9,800
Other	229	2,722
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE	18,449	106,661
General Fund Expenses		
Leadership	9,108	66,233
Welcome/Nourish/Serve	317	3,234
Staff	2,969	21,376
Building/Facilities	1,511	16,511
Administration	390	6,021
Mission Support	0	3,125
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	14,296	116,500
Revenue less expenses	4,153	(9,839)
Transfers to / from restricted funds	0	(2,103)
Fund balance at beginning of month / year	(21,075)	(4,980)
Fund balance at July 31, 2017	(16,922)	(16,922)

Photos from The Stormy Monk Event



We had a wonderful meal, followed by a fun quizbuster type game with prizes, and then a skit performed by some of our own St. Stephen members, and the skit even included sound effects. It was a wonderful all-age event!



Applause!

Photos from our “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” Potluck!

(More on following page.)



People were encouraged to wear their favorite team attire.



Good ballgame type food, fun, and fellowship!



DAILY NARRATIVE LECTIONARY READINGS for September

Friday, September 1, Revelation 15, Angels with Seven Plagues

Saturday, September 2, Revelation 16, Bowls of God's Wrath

Sunday, September 3, Revelation 21:1-6, 22:1-5, Alpha and Omega

Monday, September 4, Revelation 17, Woman and Beast

Tuesday, September 5, Revelation 18, Fall of Babylon

Wednesday, September 6, Revelation 19, Rejoicing in Heaven

Thursday, September 7, Revelation 20, A Thousand Years

Friday, September 8, Revelation 21:7-27, A New Jerusalem

Saturday, September 9, Revelation 22:6-21, Closing

Sunday, September 10, Genesis 1:1—2:4a, Creation by the Word

Monday, September 11, Genesis 2:4b-25, A Second Account of Creation

Tuesday, September 12, Genesis 3:1-13, The First Sin

Wednesday, September 13, Genesis 3:14-24, Punishment

Thursday, September 14, Genesis 4:1-16, Cain Murders Abel

Friday, September 15, Genesis 4:1-26, Beginnings of Civilization

Saturday, September 16, Genesis 18:1-15, A Son Promised to Abraham and Sarah

Sunday, September 17, Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14, Binding of Isaac

Monday, September 18, Genesis 24:1-27, Choosing of Rebekah

Tuesday, September 19, Genesis 24:28-49, Choosing of Rebekah

Wednesday, September 20, Genesis 24:50-67, Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah

Thursday, September 21, Genesis 25:19-28, The Birth of Esau and Jacob

Friday, September 22, Genesis 25:29-34, Esau Sells His Birthright

Saturday, September 23, Genesis 26:1-33, Isaac and Abimelech

Sunday, September 24, Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17, Jacob's Dream

Monday, September 25, Genesis 27:30-40, Esau's Lost Blessing

Tuesday, September 26, Genesis 27:41-28:5, Jacob Escapes

Wednesday, September 27, Genesis 28:6-9, Esau Marries Ishmael's Daughter

Thursday, September 28, Genesis 29:1-14, Jacob Meets Rachel

Friday, September 29, Genesis 29:15-35, Jacob Marries Laban's Daughters

Saturday, September 30, Genesis 30:1-24, Rachel's Jealousy



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 SEPTEMBER



Council Meeting
 Tuesday, September 19
 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

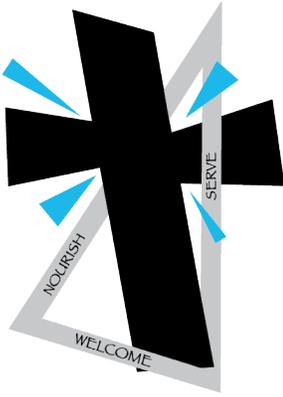
Council Members

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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mtpbauer@att.net
nanajenks@gmail.com
juliedartt@gmail.com
cameronw6216@sbcglobal.net



	SEPT 3	SEPT 10	SEPT 17	SEPT 24
ALTAR FLOWERS	Robert & Naida Schelter	The Larkins family	Norma Jenks	Paulette Piirainen
ASSISTING MINISTERS (Paulette Piirainen 256-9740)	Margaret Sheffer	Miriam Bunge	John V'Soske	Lynn Kriser
USHERS (Terry Greiner, 517-694-5358) (Ken Bauer, 517-327-0335)	**Volunteer Needed**	Mike Borta & Paulette Piirainen	Robert & Naida Schelter	Bob & Claudia Cameron
ALTAR CARE (Claudia Cameron 323-8258)	Char Seifert for the 9th and 23rd and Claudia Cameron for the 3rd and the 16th.			
COFFEE HOUR	***Volunteers Needed***			



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



Puzzle Exchange

There is a table in the Fellowship Hall for puzzles that people are finished with. Feel free to take or leave one!



September 10th—“God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday —Community Garden Celebration/Potluck



This event is our “Fall Fest” and will celebrate our community garden. We will invite our gardeners and their families, and are asking for dishes that celebrate our heritage and ethnicity. Invite a friend!

Our Community Gardeners have grown a wide variety of produce including onions, cilantro, bok choy, zucchini, corn, eggplant, cucumbers, tomatoes, broccoli, wax beans, green beans, collard greens, lettuce, kale, peppers, peas, spinach, yellow squash, beets, swiss chard, patty pan squash, and much more. We have a weekly harvest and have donated over 600 pounds of produce to our Food Bank from early June through early October the past four years. This year alone we have grown and donated to date: 17 pounds of lettuce, 6 pounds of kale, 25 pounds of cucumbers, 13 pounds of cabbage, 53 pounds of zucchini, 3 pounds of broccoli, 8 pounds of green beans, 3 pounds of yellow squash, 7 pounds of patty pan squash and assorted onions, peas, swiss chard, and much more to still harvest through September. Over these four years, we have grown in our partnership with Coronado Gardens Apartments by meeting new people and sharing our garden’s bounty.