

Vision of St. Stephen

August 2017



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
7800 Erie St. • Sylvania, OH
(419)885-1551
www.ststephensylvania.org

Pastor: Rev. Beth Ferne Johnson
sslcpastor@buckeye-express.com
Worship: Sundays 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM
Spiritual Growth 9:45 AM

One heart, one spirit, one voice to praise You, we are the body of Christ; One goal, one vision to see You, exalted, we are the body of Christ. And to this we give our lives to see you glorified.

*-"We Are the Body of Christ"
by Scott Wesley Brown*

We are the body of Christ.

For over a year now, I've been meeting somewhat regularly with neighboring pastors: Pastor Sam Buehrer at Sylvania United Church of Christ, Pastor Tom Rand at Sylvania First United Methodist, and Pastor Nate Tuff and Pastor Melissa Micham at Olivet Lutheran, and Pastor Mary Jo Bray at First Christian Church of Sylvania. In addition to our Good Friday noon worship and cooperative Vacation Bible School, we've done a couple of neat things together.

When a garage door in Sylvania Township was graffitied, we wrote a statement condemning acts of racism and calling for peace and civility in our community.

For several years, Epworth United Methodist planned a community wide service event called 6 Super Saturdays of Serving (S4). This year, the churches along Erie Street have joined with them to promote this servant opportunity. For 6 Saturdays, from August 19 to September 23, you're invited to work together, and invite friends and neighbors to serve as well. There are lots of different projects, from helping with Bingo games to painting to tying fleece blankets to yard work. Together, we hope to make a difference for the people and agencies we're helping as well as a witness to our wider community that Christians can cooperate for a common goal. Look in this newsletter for more information.

We're also in the middle of planning a church crawl to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Plans for the day are still evolving, but mark your calendars now for Saturday, October 14. On the day before Sylvania's Fall Festival, we're planning an event that commemorates the Reformation, by traveling to the Erie street churches, as well as St. Joseph Catholic and Olivet Lutheran.

As the body of Christ, we make a witness to the world that there are more things that unite us as fellow Christians than divide us. We hope and pray that these events can and will demonstrate to our community that as Christians we're trying to live out our calling of ministry to others as we share God's love together.

God's peace,
Rev. Beth Ferne Johnson

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Spiritual Growth

WOMEN'S DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY

Women's Daytime Bible Study has resumed and is continuing in Genesis with Abraham. We meet from 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to come, even if you have never been before! If you have any questions you can contact Betty Lock or Pastor Beth.

GATHERING SPACE

This month Brian Huffman will be finishing up his series on the Beatitudes! Gathering space takes place every Sunday between our two services! Anyone is welcome to come join us!

BRAND LUTHER BOOK STUDY

Our book study group will meet again on Tuesday, August 8th, as we discuss chapters 5 and 6. We'll be thinking about how Luther's time as an "enemy of the state" helped him focus on his work as a thinker and author. See you at 7:00!

ONE WONDERFUL WORSHIP

Mark your calendars now for our one wonderful worship for Rally Day, **August 27th**. We will worship together at **10:00 AM**, then move to the fellowship hall to enjoy a potluck lunch together! Please make a special note of this change in time for worship!

Youth and Family

[SPOKE FOLK]



Thank you St. Stephen for welcoming back the Spoke Folk! The group stopped here on July 14 and shared their music and faith! Thanks to all who made and donated food to our guests! Everyone had fun and it couldn't have happened without your support!

SUNDAY YOUTH

Our Sunday classes for youth aged 4 years to 4th grade are meeting at **9:45-10:45** in the Yellow Classroom! Our teachers are Kristin Huffman, Beth Thomsen, Niel Johnson, and Libby Boldt.

5TH AND 6TH GRADE SEEKERS

Seekers will be starting up again in September on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month. We'll talk about how God's presence is with us, as it was with Bible people—inspiring them to share God's resurrection message. Look to the newsletter and Beacon for more information!

CATECHISM

Our catechism classes will be starting up in September 2017! If you have any questions feel free to ask Pastor Beth, or just check the Beacon for more information!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School returns this year on Sundays, July 30, August 6, and August 13th. We'll gather from 7-8:30 p.m. for a time of crafts and Bible stories.

Women

JOY CLUB

What a JOYful time the eight of us had at Round Lake in July, thanks to Netta and Tom. It was a day filled with good beach weather, wonderful food and great fellowship. An enJOYable pontoon trip around the lake was enjoyed - Thanks Tom – before we headed south to Ohio. Once again a big THANK YOU to the Schmidts for the lovely outing! Our next luncheon will be held on August 15th, keep your eyes on the Beacon for more information on where we will meet!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILTING

EXCITING NEWS: The 40 quilts made by our ladies last year are now in PERU! The night time temps up in the Andes can fall to just above freezing and because the communities struggle from chronic poverty, quilts are a blessing for their warmth and also a reminder to those struggling that they are not alone. Forty more quilts are nearing completion now because of many busy hands. Everyone is welcome to join this fellowship on the 4th Monday of each month from 9:30 – 3:00. No skills required, we train. Come for one hour or all day. The next quilting day is MONDAY, AUG. 28th. Lunch will be provided by Kingston for all who attend! As one lady put it, “We get a lot more out of our group than just making quilts!” Also, a big thank you to everyone who has been donating the beautiful fabric to our group, we really appreciate it!

Additional Opportunities

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE

Enjoy a cup of coffee and good conversation in the morning? Head over to McDonald's on Alexis at 9:45 AM every week. It is a great chance to connect and participate in fellowship! *Questions? Contact Tricia Kunkel or Pastor Beth!*



FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Led by Andrea Huffman, a group of 4-5 families has been working through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University program. The class will end in the middle of August, but we congratulate them as they move toward financial stability in their management of money.

Outreach

ST. PAUL MEAL

We will be serving at St. Paul on Sunday August 20, 2017 after the 11 AM service. 6 volunteers are needed as well as cookies. To sign up to help with either of those, please check the narthex bulletin board or contact the church office!



GOLFING FOR SCHOLARS



We are excited to have 100 golfers enjoy a fine event at Legacy Golf Course on August 12. In addition to a round of golf, we'll have baskets of items auctioned after lunch. This is the 3rd year we will raise money for the St. Stephen Scholarship Fund. If you'd like to take pictures of each team, help with the event, or help the night before, please let Darrell know. To register visit: www.ststephenlutheran.church.

HIGHLAND TEACHER LUNCHEON

On Monday, August 14, we'll be providing lunch for the Highland staff as they begin the school year. It is a nice way to give back to members of our community that enrich the lives of kids here in Sylvania. If you'd like to help serve lunch and/or clean up afterwards, please sign up on the bulletin board.



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES FOOD PANTRY

The LSS pantry is currently experiencing heavy request for food from the community. We can keep supporting this local food bank by gathering canned fruit/vegetables/soups. In August, Thrivent supplemented our gathering of these vital non perishable items with the help of Richard Cornell's action team. Thanks to Richard and to everyone who continues to donate food to our cart!



September Super Saturdays

Six Super Saturdays of Service, commonly referred to as S4, started at Epworth in August 2012 and has grown steadily with each successive year. This year, other churches are joining with Epworth to show the community the gifts that Christians can provide when we work together, across denominational lines. During the course of 6 Saturdays starting in late August, S4 devotes hundreds of collective hours to serving our neighbors right here in Toledo. Volunteer opportunities are available for all age levels and all skill levels. Some of the services we have provided are: beautify Metro Parks, serve meals in homeless shelters, make no-sew blankets with underserved children, assist with general maintenance/painting, bake cookies for prison ministry, weed/mulch/harvest community gardens, visit senior living centers, assist with local non-profit fund raisers.

Most of these volunteer opportunities take place on Saturday mornings from 9:00 am to noon. Yes, with only a 3 hour commitment, you can spend your Saturday doing something to give back to our community. Come live out your faith as we serve our God and our community together!



Thank You

ST. STEPHEN PICNIC

Thank you to everyone who brought food to the annual St. Stephen Picnic on July 23! It was a great time for fellowship and friendship and the food was amazing and delicious!



FIREWORKS ON THE LAWN

Thank you to everyone who helped to welcome our neighbors to "Fireworks on the Lawn" this year! Also a big thank you to Tom Pfau for donating his Thrivent Action Team to help make this event possible, and thanks to all who volunteered their time leading up to, during and after the event!

FABRIC DONATIONS

Our quilters are all doing a fantastic job this year! Thank you all for your time and effort in helping to send God's love around the world! Also, a big thank you to all who have donated fabric, thread, and quilting supplies to the cause this year, it is greatly appreciated!



LSS FOOD PANTRY

The LSS pantry is experiencing heavy requests for food from the community during the summer months, especially canned fruit/vegetables/soups. During the month of August, Thrivent will be supplementing our gathering of these vital non perishable items with the help of Richard Cornell's action team. Thanks to everyone who donates to the food cart and thanks to Richard for using his Thrivent grant to help!

Church Finances

June Gifts

General Fund

\$16,565

Building Fund:

\$1,375

Other Designated

\$1,740.15

July Gifts

General Fund

\$12,007

Building Fund:

\$1,185

Other Designated

\$806.52

NOTE: TOTALS DO NOT INCLUDE
JULY 30 OFFERINGS.

KROGER REWARDS

Kroger's has a rewards program that includes donating to the community. If you have not already done so, please go online to: www.krogercommunityrewards.com

Once there, sign up to have your Community Rewards directed to St. Stephen! If you would like assistance in signing up for this program, please see Marilyn Scuralli or Kathy Aldrich.



Prayer

PERSONAL PRAYERS

Those desiring prayer for ANY NEED, HEALING, or THANKSGIVING, may find two chairs BETWEEN THE SANCTUARY DOORS with a Praying Friend seated in one of the them. After receiving communion, sit in the other chair and confidentially let the prayer *friend know of your need. She/he will anoint you with oil and pray with you.*

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

St. Stephen welcomes prayer requests from the community and for family and friends. We will keep each request on for the current month, and an additional month upon request. Here are our current prayer requests:

Jill—Strength and Peace
Drake—Cancer
Joel—Kidney Failure
David Lee—Healing and Comfort
Jim—Healing and Family
Matt—Kidney Health
Joni—Comfort and Peace
Madeline—Finding a Job

Kay—Comfort and Recovery
Joyce—Comfort
Paul—Cancer
Kay—Grieving
Bea—Cancer
Jamie—Healing and Insight
Carol—Strength and Comfort

PRAYING FOR THE CONGREGATION

There will be a new praying for the congregation list coming out for the 2017-2018 year coming out soon! Check out the Beacon or next month's newsletter for more information!

Pr. Beth prays, throughout the year, for each St. Stephen family. You are encouraged to offer your prayers for each family as well. For specific concerns, please call the church office, 419-885-1551, or email Pr. Beth @ sslcpastor@buckeye-express.com. Do not leave confidential messages on the machine.

Fun

ALL IN GOOD FUN

One balmy Sunday in the South Pacific, a navy ship spied smoke coming from one of three huts on an uncharted island. Upon arriving ashore they were met by a shipwreck survivor.

He said, "I'm so glad you're here! I've been alone for more than 5 years!"

The captain replied, "If you're all alone on the island why do I see 3 huts?"

The survivor said, "Oh, Well I live in one and go to church in another."

"What about the third hut?" asked the captain.

"That's where I USED to go to church."

BIBLE QUIZ

Who is listed as the only woman judge in the Old Testament ?

(Answer page 9)

- A. Diana
- B. Esther
- C. Sarai
- D. Deborah



HANDICAPPED PARKING

We have a few people who are finding it difficult to get from their cars into the church building On Sunday mornings. In addition to the marked spaces at the front door, if we could leave the 6 spaces closest to the back door (3 on either side of the door) available to them, it would make it much easier for them to worship with us. Thank you!

Council

2017 Council Members

<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Secretary</i>	Lin McKelvey
<i>Treasurer</i>	Libby Boldt

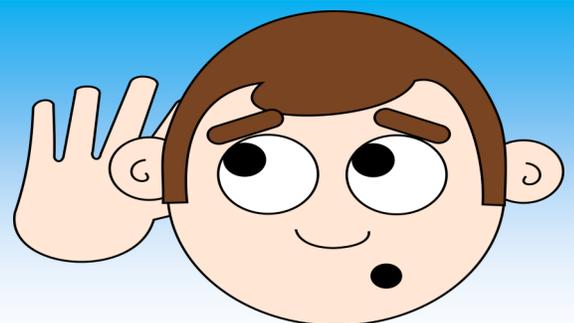
Ministry Liaisons were established as follows:

<i>Christian Education</i>	Bryan Huffman
<i>Finance</i>	Libby Boldt
<i>Prayer, Praise, Worship</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Property</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Stewardship/Staff Support</i>	Beth Thomsen
<i>Technology</i>	Shawn Murphy
<i>Youth & Family Ministry</i>	Lin McKelvey
<i>Social Ministry</i>	

We wanted to thank Kristi Shepler for her service as the Social Ministry chair on council! If you have any questions on council service please see Marilyn Scuralli or Pastor Beth!

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Hearing assistance equipment for up to 8 users available for anyone who needs help hearing the service better. Please ask Jeremy Hopkins or anyone who uses the equipment for assistance.



New Member Information

WELCOME CHRISTINE!

St. Stephen would like to welcome its newest member to the congregation, Christine Kahan! She was baptized on June 4, 2017 and we are so happy that she chose to join us!



INQUIRER'S CLASS

Are you interested in becoming a member of St. Stephen? An inquirer's group will be held on Sunday, September 10th after the 11:00 worship. Whether you'd be coming a new member here, transferring your membership from another congregation, or keeping dual membership, please bring your questions and interest to this meeting.

Administrative News

LITTLE MIRACLES RETURNS

Little Miracles, the childcare program in our building, will be returning in August with their care for K-grades 5 Highland students before and after school. The kindergarten prep program will begin here mid-school year!



CHURCH RENTAL

Want to use St. Stephen rooms? Contact the office to have your activity logged in the church calendar, which is available to view online. However, space approval is based on the secretary's calendar. Please note that set-up and clean up is your responsibility when using the building.

** Please contact the church office before you borrow tables or chairs as they may be promised for other functions. Thanks!*



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **September 2017** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by August 8.**

Steve's Bulletin Board

See the Bulletin Board in the Narthex for more information and opportunities!

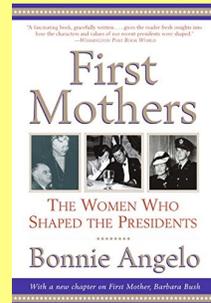
THE WORD IN SEASON



"The Word in Season" books for July, August and September are now available by the usher's table. This is a great daily resource for at home study! Please feel free to take one today!

Book Club

Our St. Stephen book group is resuming our discussions! We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month, at the King Road Library, in their conference room. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, August 17th at 7:00 p.m. We're reading First Mothers: The Women Who Shaped the Presidents, by Bonnie Angelo. This book takes a close look at the influence motherhood has had on our nation!



August Celebrations

Baptismal Birthdays

8/2 Kayla Kunkel
8/7 Steve Ziegler
8/11 Diana Balduff
8/11 Rick Ritzenhaler
8/17 Bob Rieck

Birthdays

8/2 Kristi Shepler
8/4 Carolyn Dunlap
8/4 Niel Johnson
8/5 Drew McKelvey
8/6 Kathie Tefft
8/8 Carole Huffman
8/9 Amelia H. Scuralli
8/10 Marsha Grouls
8/10 Bill Markin
8/10 Shawn Murphy
8/12 Kevin Smith
8/16 Marty McKelvey
8/20 Eli Ballard
8/22 Sue Marvin
8/25 Ralph Gochenour
8/27 Wendy Staup
8/28 Jalen Ballard
8/31 Ashley Huffman

Anniversaries

8/2 Dave & Kathy Aldrich
8/5 Jim & Libby Boldt
8/20 Don and Mary Ann Klimesh
8/21 Dave & Carol Haddix
8/22 Larry & Lynn Golba
8/25 Herb & Pat Hoehing
8/27 Jeremy & Lisa Hopkins
8/29 Tom & Nancy Pfau

Bible Quiz Answer:
D. Deborah

Volunteer Celebration

	August 6, 2017		August 13, 2017	
	8:30 AM	11:00 AM	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Counter	Dave Haddix		Dave Haddix	
Council Person	Shawn Murphy	Joe Kahl		Marilyn Scuralli
Lay Assistant	Sally Goetz	Marilyn Scuralli	Dan Gustafson	Bob Rieck
Altar Prep	Mary Ann Klimesh	Nancy Rieck	Pat Hoehing	Sue Marvin
Greeters	H&P Hoehing	Joan Haddox	C&D Gustafson	
Ushers	H&P Hoehing	B&N Rieck	C&D Gustafson	C&D Haddix

	August 20, 2017		August 27, 2017
	8:30 AM	11:00 AM	10:00 AM
Counter	Tom Pfau		Tom Pfau
Council Person	Libby Boldt	Kristi Shepler	Joe Kahl
Lay Assistant	Shawn Murphy	Joe Kahl	Nancy Pfau
Altar Prep	Cathy Gustafson	Tricia Kunkel	Nancy Pfau, Joanne Johnson
Greeters	D&W Staup	Ruth Moeller	Joyce Cunningham
Ushers	D&W Staup	T&J Kunkel	K&S Marvin

Altar Flowers

Date	In Honor Of:
9/6	Kristi Shepler's Birthday
9/20	Memory of Betty Thomsen
9/27	Memory of LaVern Goetz

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Service assistants are an important part of our worship. The 2017 volunteer sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for each month. Call Cathy Gustafson (419)882-6106 with questions.

REMINDER

If you are unable to serve on your day, it is your responsibility to find a replacement and call the church office with that information.

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 3:45PM Girl Scouts 7:00PM Financial Peace University	2 6:30PM Golf Meeting	3	4	5 9:45AM Saturday Morning Coffee
6 Noisy Offering 8AM Prayer 8:30AM Traditional Worship 9:45 AM Spiritual Growth 11AM Contemporary Worship 7:00PM Vacation Bible School	7	8 Newsletter Deadline 7:00PM "Brand Luther" Book Study 7:00PM Financial Peace University	9	10 5:30PM Brownie Scouts 6:30PM Girl Scouts	11	12 8:00AM Golfing for Scholars 9:45AM Saturday Morning Coffee
13 8AM Prayer 8:30AM Traditional Worship 9:45 AM Spiritual Growth 9:45 AM 5th & 6th Graders 11AM Contemporary Worship 7:00PM Vacation Bible School	14 Highland Teacher Luncheon	15 12:00 PM JOY Club 7:00PM Financial Peace University	16	17 7:00PM Book Club @King Library	18	19 9:45AM Saturday Morning Coffee
20 Bring A Friend Sunday 8AM Prayer 8:30AM Traditional Worship 9:45 AM Spiritual Growth 11AM Contemporary Worship 12:00 PM St. Paul's Meal	21 6:30 Council Meeting	22	23	24	25	26 9:45AM Satur- day Morning Coffee
27 Rally Day 9:30 AM Prayer 10:00 AM One Wonderful Worship 11:00 AM Potluck	28 9:30 AM Quilting	29	30	31		