

# Vision of St. Stephen

## August 2019



St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
7800 Erie St. • Sylvania, OH  
(419)885-1551  
[www.ststephenlutheran.church](http://www.ststephenlutheran.church)

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

In Christ's name, we Welcome, Worship, Serve, and Grow.

"If you make disciples, you always get the church. But if you make a church, your rarely get disciples."

-Mike Breen, *Building a Discipling Culture*

Have you ever wanted to dive deeper into your faith? To gain more insight into the gifts God has given you? To get more practice at voicing what we believe?

In baptism, we are called to be disciples. We have a unique opportunity in the Toledo area to grow and to equip our members across multiple congregations.

Starting in September, Toledo Conference will launch a disciple-making program called Diakonia (pronounced dee-ak-on-ee'-ah.) Diakonia is Greek for service. This program gathers Christians together to grow and learn in order to more fully respond to the call to serve Christ. The curriculum consists of twelve courses, with six courses offered each academic year. Each course has five sessions that meet in three-hour increments on Thursday nights. Each course is taught by a different local pastor and students come from many different congregations. Weekly reading assignments and reflections are designed to relate to a topic of study and stir conversation. Tuition is \$60 per course. Scholarships are also available for all those in need of assistance.

If you're interested in this opportunity, please let Pastor Beth know or look for Diakonia materials on the bulletin board at St. Stephen.

God's peace,  
Pastor Beth

### August Contents

Spiritual Growth	2
Youth & Family	2
Women	3
Additional Opportunities	3
Outreach	4
New Members	6
Birth Announcements	7
In Loving Memory	7
Administrative News	5
Council Update	9
Church Finances	10
Prayer	11
Fun	11
Council	12
Steve's Bulletin Board	13
Celebrations	13
Volunteer Celebration	14
Calendar	15

# Spiritual Growth

## **BIBLE 101/BOOK OF FAITH**

For many, the encounter with Scripture is limited to the excerpts that are read on Sunday morning. Many of us may be somewhat intimidated and unsure of how to engage Scripture. Here at St. Stephen, we're looking to host discussion group(s) to explore the Bible together. More information on this opportunity will be coming in September. If this interests you, please speak with Pastor Beth.

## **INQUIRER'S CLASS**

Are you interested in becoming a member of St. Stephen? An inquirer's group will be held on Sunday, September 8th after the 11:00 worship. Whether you'd be becoming a new member here, transferring your membership from another congregation, or keeping dual membership, please bring your questions and interest to this meeting.

## **THIRD OF JULY THANKS**

Many thanks to all who made the Fireworks on the Lawn party a success again this year! We had a great crew to assist with providing water, popsicles, and welcome to those who gathered here to watch the fireworks. Thanks to Sally Goetz, Karen Helton, Niel Johnson, Pastor Beth, Sue and Joe Kahl, Nancy Kubiak, Ruth Moeller, Joan & Doug Paxton, Tom Pfau, Marilyn Scuralli, Joe Sansbury, Wendy Staup, Beth Thomsen, Sharon Mason, Jenny Troutman, and Lynn Tefft!

## **HIGHLAND TEACHER'S LUNCHEON**

On Friday, August 16, we'll be providing lunch for the Highland staff as they begin the school year. It is a wonderful 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 or speak with Neta Schmidt. Supplemental funds are being provided by Thrivent for this event!

# Youth and Family

## **Thanks to VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Teachers**

Thank you to Wendy Staup, Neta Schmidt, Lisa Hopkins, Gregory Weiner, Niel Johnson, Vivian Johnson and Pastor Beth for their help in making Vacation Bible School a big success! The students really looked forward to it each week!

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH EDUCATION**

Our Sunday school for kids will be starting back on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Catechism classes will resume around that time as well. Look for information to come in the Beacon and September newsletter. If you're aware of junior high students that would like to participate in catechism, please let Pastor Beth know. Thanks!

# Women

## JOY CLUB

JOY Club is going back to be meeting on Tuesday, August 20th at Ventura's on Bancroft at 12:00 PM. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. We always welcome new women to join us and if you have any questions please see Carolyn Dunlap or Pastor Beth!



## LWR QUILTING

A reminder that Monday, August 26 is our next LWR sewing day...9:30 – 2:30 or whatever time works for you. Bring a lunch if staying for the day or just join us at noon for the fellowship. We really are on a roll...no experience is necessary and we are willing to train! Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there!

# Additional Opportunities

**ALTAR GUILD** St. Stephen has identified “Worship” as one of our core values. In Christ’s name: “Praise filled worship and prayer are the foundations of our ministry”. Communion is an integral part of worship at both services.

Specific altar needs (i.e. candle filling, wine/juice purchases, laundry, seasonal color changes, etc.) have already been parceled out among the current altar group. However, various circumstances have taken a toll on those who set up for communion and clean up after each service. These circumstances have included aging, family conditions, health problems, emergencies, vacations, “sunbirds” in summer, “snowbirds” in winter, and local weather concerns. This is not a difficult job, easy to learn, and requires minimal time. Tutorials are willingly provided. If we can get a few more (especially for 2<sup>nd</sup> service clean up), it would relieve pressure on the scheduler and the few who end up doing this too frequently. Thank you to those who have stepped up to help when needed. Should any of these last minute circumstances intervene on one’s scheduled date, we are flexible and changes are easily made. Again, this is not a difficult or time consuming duty, but is absolutely necessary in fulfilling St. Stephen values on Worship. Anyone showing an interest can contact Ruth Moeller (419-885-2673 or [rmoeller@buckeye-access.com](mailto:rmoeller@buckeye-access.com)) or me. Thank you all who already honor God in this way, and to those who will take this plea into consideration. Pat Hoehing (419-882-5990 or [sylv.snail@bex.net](mailto:sylv.snail@bex.net))

## SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE

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



# Outreach

## Golfing for Scholars

Golfing for scholars is currently accepting donations, sponsorships and registrations for our outing on August 10, 2019. Come join us in supporting local scholars and check out the St. Stephen website for more information! If you are interested in volunteering please speak to Darrell Staup!



## Meal at St. Paul's

We will be helping to serve a meal at St. Paul's Community Center on Saturday, September 21. A sign up sheet is available on the bulletin board. The meal that we serve will start at 11:30 AM and go until 1:00 PM.

## Social Ministry

As part of our 2nd quarter social ministry project we have sent \$500 to support Tornado Relief in Celina, Ohio and \$500 to support the summer youth program at Redeemer Lutheran in Toledo.



## Teacher Luncheon

The teacher luncheon will be on **Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**. We'll be providing lunch for the Highland staff as they begin the school year. It is a wonderful 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.

# Outreach

## BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY



If you're looking for a new way to invite friends to church, Back to Church Sunday is what you've been waiting for! Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, is national Back to Church Sunday. Whether your friends have ever set foot in a church, or if it's been years since they've done so, they will feel welcomed here at St. Stephen! And if it's been a while since you've worshipped with us, there's no better time to come back! All are welcomed here! Each guest you bring will receive a small gift, and there's even a prize for those who bring the most guests! See you in church! You belong here!

## SALEM LUTHERAN NON-FOOD PANTRY

Salem non-food pantry is running low on their supplies! They would appreciate any type of new items that we can donate including :

- feminine hygiene products
- shampoo
- dish soap
- laundry detergent (preferably powder or pods)
- diapers
- toothpaste,
- toothbrushes
- deodorant
- new baby toys

Thank you so much for your continued support  
St. Stephen!



# New Members!

**Sharon Mason** was born and raised in Toledo and currently resides in Sylvania. The bright stars in my life are my four great nephews and one great niece ages 4-8 who live in the Chicagoland area. I treasure reading with children, walking dogs and marching along with a parade. I also LOVE football and enjoy all types of music. I feel blessed to have found such a welcoming church family at St. Stephen. Thank you to everyone!

The **McCoy family** moved here from Salem, Ohio. **Patrick** works at the Toledo Transmission Plant and enjoys bike riding and playing guitar. **Angela** will be teaching Kindergarten Prep at Little Miracles Montessori this upcoming school year and enjoys scrapbooking and Pilates. **Evin** will be in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and enjoys playing soccer and would like to learn to play drums. **Mollie** will be in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and just made the Gravity Dance Team at Inspire Devotion Dance and she also enjoys tumbling and piano. **Sarah** will be in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and enjoys dance, tumbling, and wants to learn to ride horses.

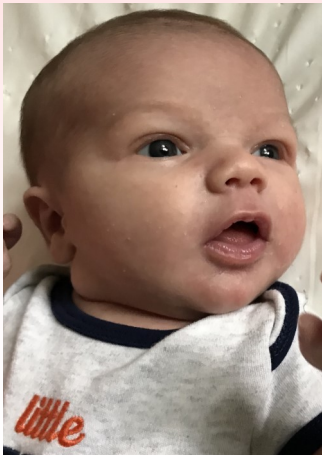
**Peggy and Craig Scholl** are excited to be joining St. Stephen. They have lived in Sylvania since December of 1994. Peggy enjoyed doing therapy work with her Irish Wolfhounds for approximately 20 years. Craig retired as the pastor of Memorial Lutheran in Toledo last June. They enjoy traveling to visit their son Karl, his wife Sara and granddaughter Veda in Marietta, Georgia; and their son John Michael, his wife Melissa and granddaughter Eleanor in Bloomfield, New Jersey. They are expecting their third granddaughter in September. They take at least two walks a day with their current dog Wally. Peggy likes to visit with friends, neighbors and family. Craig likes to play golf and do yard work. They chose to join St. Stephen because of the friendliness of the congregation they experience at the 11 am worship service and because of Pastor Beth's biblically focused messages and her heart for ministry and Jesus.

**Jenny Troutman** is 65 and married to my husband, Don, for 37 years. We are both retired registered nurses and he is on disability for lots of problems with his bones. He has a son Ryan, and 3 grandchildren, Chelsey, Seth and Noah. I was unable to have any children. I am the crazy cat lady, having way too many cats! I love to read. Since I was an only child, reading was my way to make friends and go places. I also love to make things and to shop. I used to tap dance until I got pins in my back and I used to love to travel. We lived in Florida for 34 years and moved to Sylvania two years ago so my husband could be near his mother.

# Birth Announcements

## Oakley Senci

Oakley was born on June 29, 2019 and weighed 7 pounds and 5 ounces and was 21 inches long. Ashley and Scout are his proud parents and John and Debbie Lock are proud grandparents!



## Santino Scuralli

Santino was born on July 16, 2019 and weighed 7 pounds 15 ounces and 21 inches long. Jenna and Adam are his proud parents and Marilyn and Nick Scuralli are proud grandparents!



## Olsen Huddleston

Olsen was born on July 29, 2019 and weighed 6 pounds and 11 ounces. Both him and his proud mother, Katie Huddleston are doing well!



# In Loving Memory



## Debbie Ball

Debbie Ball passed away on June 21, 2019. Debbie was the daughter of Chuck and Maxine Williams. She is survived by her husband, Mike Ball. Debbie graduated from Whitmer High School in 1969 and attended The University of Toledo. She married Mike on August 22, 1972 and moved to Las Vegas, NV, where she lived for 46 years. Debbie worked for several casinos and finished her career in the gaming sales industry. She has been worshipping at St. Stephen for the past year and recently became a full member.

# Administrative News

**One Call Now**

Hello! Are you connected to our prayer chain? If not, please e-mail Janell, or just leave a note on her desk, with your phone number and e-mail that you would like to receive St. Stephen messages on!

If you already receive the messages, but would also like text messages, use the cell phone you wish to receive the texts on and send the message “alert” to the phone number 22300. You will then receive a confirmation text message, if you don’t receive that confirmation then you would need to contact your cell phone provider to ensure your text messages are enabled.

Need a prayer request sent out? If it is during office hours then you just need to e-mail or call Janell on the office phone at (419)885-1551 and let her know what you would like your message to say. If it is outside office hours, please call Wendy Staup at (419)276-5685.

## LITTLE MIRACLES UPDATE

Little Miracles, the childcare program in our building, will be continuing their program of care for students aged K-grade 5 before and after school. They have moved their kindergarten prep program to their location on Haroun Road.

NEWS  
LETTER

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **September 2018** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by August 13.**



# Council Update

## Council Update

This is an update to our congregation on some project work Council has underway for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this year. This continues our efforts to follow up on outcomes of our survey results last year with focus on communication and growth for our congregation. This particular project is 3 fold:

1. Bread Ministry. This has been up and running for awhile under the lead of Amy Chauvette and is working quite well. Our thanks to all the volunteers involved in organizing, baking bread, and delivering it to our visitors.
2. Pastoral Partners – This team is now led by Lynn Golba with accountability to ensure all members are connected in some manner. Liaisons have been assigned to each family group to ensure prayer, support, and needs are being met by this congregation. If you have not been contacted by your liaison please let Lynn know to ensure we have not missed anyone.
3. Shut In/s – This team has been formed and led by Lin McKelvey and will be a support to Pastor Beth to ensure our members who are unable to attend, are covered with prayer, one on one conversation, and communion.

These 3 teams are key to ensuring we are effectively connecting with each of you for any prayer or additional concerns/needs you may have. We would like to thank Amy, Lynn, and Lin for their leadership in ensuring these teams are operating successfully. And thank you as well to all the team members involved in making a difference here at St. Stephen.

Marilyn Scuralli

Council President

# Church Finances

## Simply Giving



Summertime, Vacations, Bar-B-Q's, Swimming, Ball Games, Day trips.....a fun time to be with family and friends. Why not enroll now and you won't have to think about remembering to get your offering in to St. Stephen's if you are away. You can set up deductions from your checking or savings account in either weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly amounts; and it is never taken out earlier than you specify even if a holiday falls on your regular specified date. In this case it will be taken out the next business day after the holiday. See me for an application.

**Sally Goetz, Coordinator**



## NOISY OFFERING

For the month of June we were able to collect \$64.60 and in July we collected \$102.91 that will go to the St. Paul Community Center! Check out the upcoming beacons for info on what we collect in August, the last month of the year we will be collecting for St. Paul!

## KROGER REWARDS

Kroger's has a rewards program that includes donating to the community. These funds are vital in support of four ministries:

1st Quarter donations are presented to the Quilting Group for Lutheran World Relief

2nd Quarter is used for the St Paul's Community Center Project

3rd Quarter supports our Operation Christmas Child Program

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter is used for our Sylvania Area Family Services Christmas Outreach

A huge thank you to all who are participating in this supportive program. If you have not already done so, please go online at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com), and 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

## Betty Lock's Prayer Notes

Jesus said, "Whoever listens to you listens to me." John 10:16 (The Word in Season, July 2)

This devotional really caught my attention. The author talks about the difference between "listening and hearing". Now, as you all know, I am 'hearing impaired' to put it nicely....sometimes I really struggle to hear you!! There is a distinction between hearing (it's harder sometimes) and listening. We all know what hearing is but "listening" is something we have to work hard at and, when you have hearing loss, you have to work very hard at listening. Just as we all have to pay attention to listening in order to hear, we also need to pay attention and invest the time and effort to listen to God. How do we do that? Well, fortunately, we don't have to depend on how well our ears structure works. He has given us the ability, if we take the time to use it, to listen by reading His Word... the Bible. He also speaks to us when we turn to him in prayer, when we join together in worship and when we are willing to share His love with others. I, for one, am very grateful I don't have to depend on my physical hearing when I need to listen to God. I just have to pay attention: did the sermon in worship have a message for me this week?; did I hear Jesus say encouraging words to someone struggling; what did Jesus say to me when I read my Bible this day? Join me in "listening" and "hearing" God as we join together....let's pray.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Jill—Comfort and Peace  
Jamie—Healing and Insight  
Joel—Strength and Recovery  
Jenny—Comfort and Healing  
Jennifer—Marriage and Comfort  
Chris—Surgery  
Hanna C.—Strength and Healing  
Don—Comfort and Healing  
Chelsey—Success  
Jan—Strength During Detox  
Zack—Strength and Healing  
Sarah—Comfort and Healing  
David—Heart Issues  
Patricia—Healing and Strength  
Linda—Cancer  
Zachary—Answers and Comfort  
Madeline—Comfort and Guidance  
Richard—Work  
Anne—Liver Failure  
Lyndsey—Healing and Comfort

# Fun

## ALL IN GOOD FUN

If Mary had Jesus, and Jesus is the Lamb of God, does that mean that Mary had a little lamb?



## BIBLE QUIZ

Paul was shipwrecked on what island?

(Answer page 13)

- A. Cyprus
- B. Malta
- C. Singapore
- D. Palau



## **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**

## **2019 Council Members**

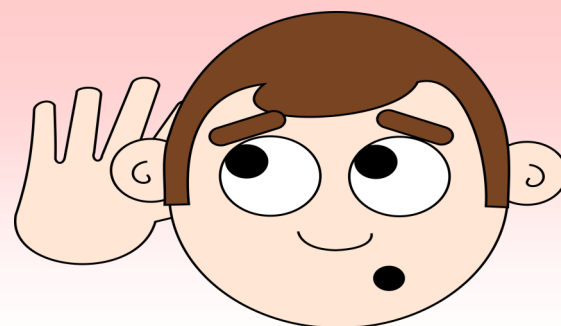
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Secretary</i>	Lin McKelvey
<i>Treasurer</i>	Libby Boldt

## **Ministry Liaisons were established as follows:**

<i>Christian Education</i>	Pastor Beth
<i>Finance</i>	Libby Boldt
<i>Prayer, Praise, Worship</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Property</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Stewardship/Staff Support</i>	Beth Thomsen/Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Technology</i>	
<i>Youth &amp; Family Ministry</i>	Kathy Aldrich
<i>Social Ministry</i>	Anetta Schmidt

## **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.



# Steve's Bulletin Board

1st Communion!



For anyone who has not picked up their financial statements in the narthex, please do so soon. If you would like your statement mailed to you, please contact the church office!

## THE WORD IN SEASON



"The Word in Season" books for July, Aug. and Sept. 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!

Bible Quiz Answer:

B. Malta

# August Celebrations

## Baptismal Birthdays

8/1 Mollie McCoy  
8/2 Kayla Kunkel  
8/7 Steve Ziegler  
8/11 Rick Ritzenthaler  
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

## Birthdays

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 D&K Aldrich  
8/5 J&L Boldt  
8/20 D&M Klimesh  
8/21 D&C Haddix  
8/22 L&L Golba  
8/25 H&P Hoehing  
8/27 J&L Hopkins  
8/29 T&N Pfau

# August Volunteer Celebration

	August 4, 2019		August 11, 2019	
	8:30 AM	11:00 AM	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
<b>Counter</b>	Beth Thomsen		Dave Haddix	
<b>Council Person</b>	Libby Boldt		Libby Boldt	
<b>Lay Assistant</b>	Tristan Bonde	Marilyn Scuralli		Marilyn Scuralli
<b>Altar Prep</b>	Wendy Staup	Lynn Golba	Cathy Gustafson	Nancy Rieck
<b>Greeters</b>	C&D Gustafson			
<b>Ushers</b>	C&D Gustafson			
<b>Praying Friend</b>				

	August 18, 2019		August 25, 2019	
	8:30 AM	11:00 AM	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
<b>Counter</b>	Dave Haddix		Dave Haddix	
<b>Council Person</b>	Libby Boldt	Marilyn Scuralli		Kathy Aldrich
<b>Lay Assistant</b>		Bob Rieck	Nancy Pfau	
<b>Altar Prep</b>	Pat Hoehing	Nancy Rieck	Nancy Pfau	Corrie Schuppenies
<b>Greeters</b>				
<b>Ushers</b>				
<b>Praying Friend</b>				

# August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 Vacation Bible School	2	3 9:45AM Saturday Morning Coffee
4 <b>Noisy Offering</b> 8AM Prayer 8:30AM Traditional Worship 9:45 AM Spiritual Growth 11AM Contemporary Worship	5 6:00 PM Worship Meeting	6	7 7:00 PM Shep- herd Meeting	8	9	10 9:45AM Saturday Morning Coffee  1:30 PM Golfing for Scholars
11 8AM Prayer 8:30AM Traditional Worship 9:45 AM Spiritual Growth 11AM Contemporary Worship	12	13 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	14	15	16 11:30 AM Highland Teacher Luncheon	17 9:45AM Saturday Morning Coffee
18 <b>Teacher Appreciation</b> 8AM Prayer 8:30AM Traditional Worship 9:45 AM Spiritual Growth 11AM Contemporary Worship	19 6:30 PM Coun- cil Meeting	20 12:00 PM JOY Club	21	22	23	24 9:45AM Satur- day Morning Coffee
25 8AM Prayer 8:30AM Traditional Worship 9:45 AM Spiritual Growth 11AM Contemporary Worship	26 9:30 AM Quilting	27	28	29	30	31 9:45AM Satur- day Morning Coffee