

Vision of St. Stephen

December/January 2021/2022



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
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Pastor: Rev. Beth Ferne Johnson
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Quietly into the stable where the savior, sleeping lies
we can go, for all are welcome: shepherd, angel, poor, and wise;
What we have we bring and offer, earthly gifts for child divine,
giving that which we were given, fruits of harvest, bread, and wine.

‘Cross the threshold of creation, Jesus comes to dwell with us,
as he was in the beginning, evermore, God’s gift of love.
Now he calls us to the table; gift of love to bleed and die.
Manger here becomes an altar, stable lamb is sacrificed.

Now enthroned as King of heaven, blazing glory like the sun.
In his hands are pow’r and justice, on his lips are peace and love.
As our gifts are turned to ashes, falling down in awe we bow,
empty-handed, we adore him. “Come for all is ready now”.

Jay Beech

In these Advent days, as we prepare for Christmas, I encourage you to take a step back from the demands of the season, the hustle and bustle, the shopping and decorating, to join us for worship, either in our sanctuary or virtually. As we do so, we pray that God would remind us that all is ready—all is already done—because God’s gift is here for us, regardless of our preparations, in the manger. May we share the love of God present in this gift with each other and with the world.

Peace,
Pastor Beth

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Spiritual Growth

Facebook Focus

During the days of Advent, you're invited to take a cell phone picture of your family's Nativity and send it to Pastor Beth. If you'd like to include a note about its origin, or a favorite figure, or a favorite story that accompanies it, Pastor Beth will share those with people on Facebook. During the 12 days of Christmas, Chrismons (the cross-stitched round ornaments on the narthex Christmas tree) will be featured.

JOY Club

We will be hosted by Julie Dangelo for lunch at noon on Tuesday, December 14th. Julie will be providing an Italian dish and salad. She invited those attending to bring Christmas cookies or a dessert to share. If you're in need of her address, please call the church office or check the sign-up sheet in the narthex. On Tuesday, January 18th, we're looking for a volunteer to host us in their home. If no host emerges, we will meet at noon in the library at St. Stephen with our own packed lunch.

Gathering Space

Do you enjoy facilitating discussion? As we look to 2022, we are thinking about resuming our education hour, the "Gathering Space". However, to bring that into being, we're in need of some folks who are willing to lead that Sunday morning education time together. You wouldn't need to research and create content from scratch; there are many good resources available. If you'd like to learn more about it, please speak with Pastor Beth.

Bible 101

Bible 101 will finish our study on God working through time on Tuesdays, December 7 and 14. In January, we will begin something new on Tuesday, January 4th. During these colder months, we'll be meeting at Pat Hoehing's house. If you have an idea of a book or topic you're interested in looking at together, please let Pastor Beth know.

Advent Wednesdays

Do you love cozying up on a cold winter night? You're invited to join us over Facebook and YouTube for Advent Wednesday evening worship. As we gather virtually, we'll reflect on the mystery of God's presence that is often encountered in the darkness. Our worship services will be livestreamed at 7:00 p.m. on December 1, 8, and 15 and available on our platforms for later viewing as well.

Christmas Eve

We will have 2 worship opportunities on December 24th as we celebrate Jesus' birth. The 4:00 p.m. service will be an in-sanctuary worship and will also be live streamed on Facebook and YouTube and available thereafter on those platforms. Our 7:00 p.m. worship will be an in-sanctuary worship, but it will not be live-streamed. Communion will be served at both services.

Walk-Up Communion

During December, Walk-up communion will be held on December 1, 15, and 22 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. With the change in weather, communion will be held inside the narthex. During January, we will be meeting each Wednesday from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Youth and Family

Youth Events

We continue to have youth events on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Our December event will be held after worship (and the kid's program) on December 12th. Our January event will be held on January 9th. Pastor Beth will poll the families involved about a time that works for the January event.

Christmas Program

Our young people will be presenting a Christmas program of dance and a short skit on Sunday, December 12th during our 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Mask-Par-Aid

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2nd Annual Mask-Par-Aid!



Cars pulling in to the Mask-Par-Aid

Joe the construction worker passing out candy



Volunteers waiting to pass out candy!



Pastor Beth collecting donations for SAFS



New Member Bios!



Jake & Andrea Bogdan

Jake and Andrea have been in the Sylvania area for three years and have been part of the St. Stephan's family for over a year. They are excited to officially join! They both enjoy cheering on their favorite teams at sporting events, hiking on weekend mornings, and spending quality time with friends and family. They love their "fur baby," Bo, and are looking forward to adding to their family through adoption soon!

Mike & Karen Bogdan

Mike and Karen reside in Monclova, Ohio. Mike is the CFO at Sunshine Communities and Karen is a retired teacher who continues to sub and tutor and volunteers in the food pantry at Sunshine Communities. Mike likes to golf whenever possible and Karen enjoys daily walks with their dog Redgee. Together they love spending time with family, especially Jake and Andrea. Traveling to Florida is a favorite pastime where they spend many days by the pool or on the beach with a good book. They are looking forward to becoming grandparents someday!



Tom & Julie Dangelo

Tom and Julie Dangelo met on a blind date in 1987 (Julie's Dad and one of his best friends did the fix-up!). We were married in 1989 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Sylvania. Tom and Julie have one child, a daughter, Sarah Kate. Sarah Kate is a structural engineer living in Dayton Ohio, engaged to be married to Nick Serra in May of 2022. Nick is a mechanical engineer. Julie has been a life-long Toledo native and Tom is from

Summitville, a small town in eastern Ohio. Julie has one brother and one sister, and Tom has two sisters and two brothers. Julie retired in April 2021 after 32 years as the Executive Director of Senior Centers Inc., a community center for senior citizens in downtown Toledo. Her hobbies include card making, decorative painting and gardening. Tom is the Chief Information Officer for Shumaker, Loop and Kendrick (a law firm in Toledo Ohio) and plans to retire in December 2021. His hobbies include golf, hunting and woodworking. Tom and Julie have a dog named Isabella "Izzy". She is a charcoal labrador retriever. She keeps us busy!

Outreach

Sylvania Area Family Services

Thank you to everyone for your generous Christmas donations to SAFS! The children also created these adorable turkey pops to give to the families at SAFS as well as to our shut-ins!



Winter Clothing Drive

We are collecting new and gently used warm winter clothing for children and adults in the area who may be in need. A wooden donation box will be available soon at St. Stephen or drop them off to the church office during the week. Thanks in advance for your generosity!



Feed Your Neighbor

Donations continue to be delivered to our bin. We are taking about a trunk load full of food to LSS every month. We appreciate your continued support in donations and sharing our "Feed Your Neighbor" mission!



ELCA Good Gifts

Looking for the perfect gift for someone who has everything already? How about a sheep, cow, or some honeybees? Hard to keep in Sylvania? Well, never fear....ELCA Good Gifts provides these animals to help them become self-sustaining. You can find more information at goodgifts.elca.org. If you'd like to send along a card with your gift, you'll find some available on the round table in the narthex. Janell would also be happy to mail one to your house for you to send to the recipient.



Church Finances

SIMPLY GIVING

As the year draws to a close I would like to remind our members who use this program that it is time to think about making changes to your deductions for next year. Any changes will not be processed until the date you designate on the enrollment form. There are enrollment forms in the tract rack in our narthex. You may hand the form to me, send it to my home, or give it to Janell who will forward it to me. My address is in the Membership Directory.

Thanks.

Sally Goetz, Coordinator

KROGER REWARDS

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Kroger Rewards Program! From August 1 to October 31, 2021 we received \$97.97. 22 Households participated. If you would like to participate just by shopping check out our website for instructions on how to sign up, and remember you have to resign up every year! Thank you again!

Administrative News

NEW YEAR, NEW PRAYER LIST

Our list of people in our prayers for Sunday morning may not be current. In an attempt to refresh it, all names on the prayer list will be suspended, beginning January 2nd. Please let Pastor Beth know if the person you named continues to be in need of prayer and she will gladly add it back on our Sunday morning prayer list.

PASTOR BETH VACATION

Pastor Beth will be on vacation the week of December 26th.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

If you have something that you want to include in the February Newsletter please submit your article to sslcsecretary@buckeye-express.com by January 11th. Thank you!



Prayer

December Prayer Notes

"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" (words and music by Eddie Pale & George Wyle). When I hear this song, sung of course by Andy Williams, I know Christmas is coming. I think the sentiment is so right....all the delightful things, "bells ringing, children singing" and all the happy days of anticipation have arrived. Everybody has a sense of excitement and of waiting for that wonderful day. But all the business and all the decorations tend to make us forget the real reason we celebrate Christmas. Our Savior was born and He is with us every day.....not just on Christmas. And that is the most important and most wonderful gift of all. His birth is the reason we celebrate this day. So in the midst of all the songs, decorations and activities of the holiday, let us remember and take time each day to talk to Him, the child born to be our Saviour, Jesus Christ. May you all have a most blessed Christmas! Let's pray.

~Betty Lock

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Jill—Comfort, Strength & Peace
Joel—Strength and Recovery
Jamie—Healing and Insight
Hanna C.—Strength and Healing
Chelsey—Healing & Peace
Sarah's Family—Comfort & Healing
Linda—Cancer
Zachary—Answers and Comfort
Richard—Work
Noah—Strength and Understanding
Jeff—Guidance & Understanding
Lyndsey—Healing and Comfort
Mark D—Healing & Comfort
Holt Family—Healthy Family
Julie—Patience, Peace & Guidance
Kathleen—Comfort & Healing
Joan—Healing & Comfort
Nora—Continued Healing
Phillips Family—Healing
Karen—Healing
Those with Cancer—Healing
Jeff—Grief/New Job
Roger Jr.—Pancreatic Cancer
Greg—Healing & Comfort
COVID Sufferers
Haiti Survivors
Afghanistan Refugees

Fun

ALL IN GOOD FUN

"Thanks for the electric guitar you gave me for Christmas," little Chris Cody said to his uncle the first time he saw him after the holidays. "It's the best present I ever got."

"That's great," said his uncle. "Do you know how to play it?"

"Oh, I don't play it," the little fellow said. "My mom gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day and my dad gives me five dollars a week not to play it at night

BIBLE QUIZ

What does Immanuel mean?

(Answer page 10)

- A. Merry Christmas
- B. God With Us
- C. Peace on Earth
- D. Jesus Saves

Steve's Bulletin Board

If you need a copy of the list about how you would like to donate your time throughout the year, please ask Pastor Beth or call the office!



Advent Devotionals

The Advent devotionals are set out and able to be taken home by anyone who would like one!

Operation Christmas Child

We collected and blessed 95 packed OCC boxes this year!



Bible Quiz Answer:

B. God With Us

Thank You

Retiring Thanks

Many thanks to Darrell Staup for recognizing the need for a scholarship fundraiser and for bringing the Golf outing into being since 2015. With the pandemic, we've not been able to have the event for the past 2 years. If anyone is interested in taking up the event, we do have a group of folks who would be happy to work with you. Please speak with Marilyn Scuralli or Pastor Beth.

December Celebrations

Baptismal Birthdays

12/1	Jalen Ballard
12/5	Patrick McCoy
12/19	Michelle Ballard
12/21	Ashley Senci
12/23	Ashley Huffman
12/24	Kristin Huffman
12/28	Kay Bork

Birthdays

12/5	Sarah McCoy
12/4	Rich Cornell
12/6	Kay Bork
12/12	Becky Henderson
12/18	David Aldrich
12/31	Ray Hendricks

Anniversaries

12/15	Marty & Lin McKelvey
12/17	Ken & Sue Marvin



January Celebrations

Baptismal Birthdays

1/1	Rich Cornell
1/1	Tom Davis
1/1	Dave Haddix
1/1	Herb Hoehing
1/1	Pat Hoehing
1/1	Nancy Pfau
1/1	Tom Pfau
1/1	Jettie Sansbury
1/1	Joe Sansbury
1/3	Elliott Huddleston
1/22	Libby Boldt

Birthdays

1/3	Elliott Huddleston
1/5	Libby Boldt
1/6	Vickie Rygalski
1/9	Megan Cook
1/12	Kathy Ziegler
1/14	Dave Davis
1/25	Vivian Johnson
1/26	Jim Boldt
1/26	Craig Scholl
1/30	Barb Davis
1/30	Sandy Markin

Anniversaries

1/18	John & Debbie Lock
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ARE YOU OKAY?

If you find yourself in need of emergency supplies or in need of someone to talk to, please don't hesitate to call the church office and we will assist you however we can or direct you to resources that may be able to help.

Council

2021 Council Members

<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Secretary</i>	Corrie Schuppenies
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Housel

Ministry Liaisons were established as follows:

<i>Christian Education</i>	Pastor Beth
<i>Finance</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Prayer, Praise, Worship</i>	Pastor Beth
<i>Property</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Staff Support</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Stewardship/Evangelism</i>	Beth Madden
<i>Technology</i>	John Lock
<i>Youth & Family Ministry</i>	Corrie Schuppenies
<i>Social Ministry</i>	Joan Haddox

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.

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 4:30 PM Walk Up Communion 7:00 PM Online Advent Worship 7:00 PM Parkinson's Group	2	3	4 10:30 AM Greening of the Church
5 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship 12:00 PM Dance Rehearsal for Christmas Program	6	7 7:00 PM Bible 101 @ Hoehings	8 SAFS Cards Due 7:00 PM Online Advent Worship	9	10 6:30 PM Dance Rehearsal for Christmas Program	11
12 Kid's Christmas Program 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship 12:00 PM Youth Event	13	14 12:00 PM JOY Club 7:00 PM Bible 101 @ Hoehings	15 4:30 PM Walk Up Communion 7:00 PM Online Advent Worship	16	17	18 McCoy Rental
19 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship	20	21	22 4:30 PM Walk Up Communion	23	24 4:00 /7:00PM Christmas Eve Service	25
26 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship	27 <div>Pastor Beth's Vacation</div>	28 <div>Pastor Beth's Vacation</div>	29 <div>Pastor Beth's Vacation</div>	30 <div>Pastor Beth's Vacation</div>	31 <div>Pastor Beth's Vacation</div>	

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship	2	3 7:00 PM Bible 101 @ Hoehings	4 4:30 PM Walk Up Communion	5	6	7 10:30 AM Un- decorating the Church
9 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship TBD Youth Event	10	11 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Bible 101 @ Hoehings	12 4:30 PM Walk Up Communion	13	14	15
16 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship	17	18 12:00 PM JOY Club 7:00 PM Bible 101 @ Hoehings	19 4:30 PM Walk Up Communion	20	21	22
23 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship	24	25 9:30 AM LWR Quilting 7:00 PM Bible 101 @ Hoehings	26 4:30 PM Walk Up Communion 7:00 PM Parkin- son's Group	27	28	29
30 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship	31					