

Vision of St. Stephen

November 2018

Let us come before his presence with
Thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully
To him with psalms.
Psalm 95:2 NIV

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
7800 Erie St. • Sylvania, OH
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Pastor: Rev. Beth Ferne Johnson
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Worship: Sundays 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM
Spiritual Growth 9:45 AM

Pumpkin Spice...Cheerios? Yes, I was in Kroger and succumbed...to Pumpkin Spice Cheerios. It seems that this flavor is everywhere. My husband Rob says that it's gotten so ubiquitous that by the time it's Thanksgiving and time for pumpkin pie, he's completely done with pumpkin anything.

Why Pumpkin Spice? I think for many, it reminds us of the smells of the Thanksgiving meal, it reminds us of family, it reminds us of fall leaves and colors. And, perhaps, some people just like pumpkin!

So, I'm making this a personal goal... whenever I hear/see/smell pumpkin spice, I'm going to give thanks for something, right in the moment.

This idea came to me from a grounding exercise that can be used to center ourselves to relieve anxiety. It can also help prepare us to enter into prayer.

Look around you and identify:

5 things you see

4 things you feel

3 things you hear

2 things you smell

1 thing you taste

As you pray, give thanks to God for these tangible signs of God's presence around you!

Happy Pumpkin Spice season! Happy Thanksgiving!

Peace,

Beth Ferne Johnson, pastor

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Spiritual Growth

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Please join us at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 20, as we give thanks to God for the blessings we have received. At this worship, we will also be gathering canned goods for Lutheran Social Services.

ADVENT WORSHIP

Advent worship services will be at 7:00 P.M., beginning Dec. 5.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Love to sing? Please consider joining our choir! We practice on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. We'll be working on music for our Christmas cantata. Scott is great at working with people of all musical levels and abilities—knowing how to read music is not a requirement for participation!

PRAYER RETREAT FROM SYNOD

How does prayer happen in your life and in your congregation? On Wednesday, November 7th, our synod will be having a "Call to Prayer" synod day from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Celina. Daniel Wolpert, author of *Leading a Life with God: The Practice of Spiritual Leadership*, and Trey Evert, artist of "Holy Doodles" from Crookston, MN will teach and lead small group discussion on how we model, practice, and equip spiritual leaders to practice prayer together. To sign up for this retreat please go to our synod website, nwos-elca.org to register.

CELEBRATING THE SAINTS

On November 25th, we will celebrate the saints who have died before us. Here at St. Stephen, we remember Tom Bork, Florence Kopfman, Bea Smedlund, and Chuck Williams. During worship, you'll be invited to write the names of others you know in the book of remembrance. Those names will be lifted up during the prayers of the church.

Youth and Family

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, Niel Johnson, Pastor Beth, and Libby Boldt. Our themes for November are: The First Commandment, Widow's Offering, Pilate Accuses Jesus, and the Temple is Destroyed. Please join us for learning and fun!

MOVIE NIGHT

Movie night is Sunday, November 11 from 6:00-8:30 as we watch a documentary about the best selling Christian song of all time and how/why it was made! This is a free and open event!

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be November 11th with One Wonderful Worship at 10:00 AM and potluck after our meeting. Later that night, we'll be showing a movie in our Family Movie Night series.



Women

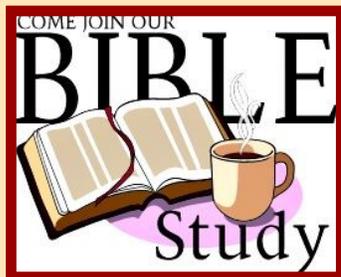
JOY CLUB

It's hard to believe but October is quickly drawing to a close, and the holidays will be here before we know it. Last year we adjusted our meeting date to the second week in the month so as not to interfere with any family plans for that month. Let's plan that way again.

We will be meeting November 13th and December 11th so we avoid those busy days in the week preceding our normal day of the month to meet for our luncheons.

On November 13th we will meet at Scrambler Marie's on Central Ave.. In December let's have a potluck here at 4228 Cranberry Lane* to enjoy a quiet luncheon. (I will try to have the Christmas decorating done by that time. Oh dear is it that close to the holiday already?)

-Carolyn Dunlap



WOMEN'S DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Daytime Bible study is continuing its 6 week study on Wednesdays from 1:00-2:30 PM through November 7. They will resume at some point next year. Please keep your eyes on the Beacon and the church website for more information. If you have any questions, speak to Nancy Pfau or Betty Lock.

Additional Opportunities

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!*



LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

St. Stephen is looking for more people who would be interested in being on church council. Council meets once a month and many different jobs are available to fit with your particular talents! If you are interested or just want to find out more information, please talk to Pastor Beth or Marilyn Scuralli!

Outreach

Noisy Offering

We kicked off the month of October with \$1362.93 collected in the Noisy offering. For the months of September, October and November the money will be donated to Sylvania Area Family Services! Feel free to drop any loose change in the Jingle Jug and thank you to everyone for their generosity!



Fill the Pantry



Personal care items are requested for Salem Lutheran Church and can be placed on the shelf outside the church office. Salem is requesting the following items for their pantry: toilet paper, body wash, disposable razors, toothpaste, dish washing soap, and shampoo. We would like to dedicate these items on November 18 and take them down to the Vistula neighborhood. Supplemental funds are being provided by Thrivent.

SAFS Thanksgiving Food

We are sponsoring 8 area families for Thanksgiving (and Christmas gifts, too, in the near future). With so many families having dietary restrictions, the agency will be giving away gift cards to the families that qualify, rather than food baskets themselves. For each member of the family, SAFS is allotting \$25. (A family of 3 people would receive a \$75 gift card). We'll be gathering your gifts in specially marked envelopes. The deadline for this program is November 18.



Boy Scout Donations



Boy Scout Pack 116 helped to make and set up bird feeders for our Nature Zone set up right outside of Sunday School classroom windows! Thank you boys for helping out our feathered friends before winter blows in! Please feel free to check out their colorful bird feeders and admire our Nature Zone!

Operation Christmas Child

Twenty-five years ago, Franklin Graham responded to a need brought to him by a friend and he began a ministry called "Operation Christmas Child". St. Stephen's congregation heard about this ministry and for those 25 years, we have been filling shoeboxes for OCC and the children of the world who suffer from poverty, war, terror, and natural disaster. Along with the gift items that we provide, OCC also provides a booklet "The



Greatest Journey" which tells these children and their families about the love of God. Yes, the booklets are in their own language and the lessons in that book are taught by local pastors. Many children, and many others in their villages, have come to know about Jesus and feel God's love in the gifts they receive. When I see the pictures in the paper or on the news of children around the world who have



so little and are so happy to receive such basic things as soap or a pencil, I am so grateful for the love of the "world community of Christ" to which we belong.

Will you take time this year to fill a shoe box for a child who is thrilled to receive a pencil and know that somewhere, there is someone who cares for them in Christ's name?

This year we will be having our annual packing party on November 4, after the second service and we will be dedicating the boxes at our One Wonderful Worship at 10:00 AM on November 11! We hope to see you there!

To learn more about the children and this ministry, go to www.Samaritanspurse.com.



Administrative News

Pastor Beth will be away at two different retreats during the first week of November. On Tuesday and Wednesday November 6-7, she'll be in Chicago for a conference on church renewal. She'll go straight from there to Celina, Ohio for a prayer retreat hosted by our synod. She'll be back in Sylvania on Friday, November 9th. If you're in need of pastoral care during that time, please call the church office to arrange a visit with a local pastor.

Thanks!

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 **December 2018** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by November 13.**

Church Finances

Over the last year, we've been experiencing difficulties with the toilet in the men's bathroom! In the first week of October we were able to replace the toilet completely with a newer, commercial toilet that works wonderfully!



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

4th 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, 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

"Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord in the sanctuary;

Praise Him in his mighty firmament"

Psalm 150: 1

Autumn: a time of cooler temperatures and beautiful, beautiful color. Flowers that were planted early in the season are now in abundant bloom; and the trees are putting on a glorious show of color before winter comes and strips them bare. I love this time of the year. It makes me want to "Praise the Lord!" When I sit down in the morning for my devotions, I think "Praise the Lord!" When I'm driving around running errands (I fear I am a hazard on the road at this time of year), I cannot help but want to "Praise the Lord!" for the many, many blessings He has showered on us. I think the creation, the wonder of creation is more visible at this time of year. So, if you are like me and see God in the beauty of His creation, join me in praising the Lord. Let's pray..... -Betty Lock

Our praying friend ministry will be lifted up on Sunday, November 11th as we give thanks for those serving in this role.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Jill—Comfort and Peace

David Lee—Healing and Comfort

Joel—Strength and Recovery

Bea—Cancer

Jamie—Healing and Insight

Joyce—Breast Cancer

Edie—Recovery & Healing

Chris—Voice & Healing

Joe—Comfort & Healing

Bill—Comfort & Healing

Kathy & Steve—Health

Zack—Comfort and Healing

Michael & Katie—Marriage

Chris—Health & Recovery

Paul—Health and Comfort

Anonymous—Financial Help

Karen, Tracy & Marissa—Comfort and Strength.

Pete and Family—Bring to God

Mary—Cancer

Mike—Healing

David's Family—Comfort & Peace

Sarah—Comfort & Healing

David—Heart Issues

Leduc Family—Strength & Healing

Wittenmyer Family—Peace and Strength

David—Strength and Healing

Blossom Family—Comfort and Strength

Fun

ALL IN GOOD FUN

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family.

She asked the stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?"

The stock boy answered, "No ma'am, they're dead."

BIBLE QUIZ

Matthew was a _____?

(Answer page 9)

- A. Fisherman.
- B. Carpenter
- C. Tax Collector
- D. Shepherd



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

2018 Council Members

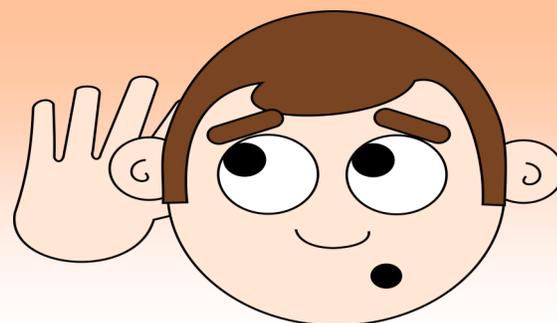
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Secretary</i>	Lin McKelvey
<i>Treasurer</i>	Libby Boldt

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/Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Technology</i>	
<i>Youth & 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

ALTAR FLOWERS

The new altar flower sign up sheet is now available on the bulletin board in the Narthex!



MINISTRY HANDBOOK

The 2018-2019 Ministry Handbook is now available! A few hard copies are available at the usher's table and a digital copy will be available online. If you are still in need of a copy please don't hesitate to contact Janell to request a paper copy. Thank you!

THE WORD IN SEASON



"The Word in Season" books for Oct., Nov., Dec. 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:

C. Tax Collector

November Celebrations

Baptismal Birthdays

11/1 Mike Gilley
 11/1 Marian Luck
 11/1 Aaron Ziegler
 11/3 Lin McKelvey
 11/11 Becky Henderson
 11/14 Joyce Cunningham
 11/24 Amelia H. Scuralli
 11/24 Jerry Pratt
 11/26 J.T. Chauvette
 11/26 Kristi Shepler
 11/27 Beth Sterba

Birthdays

11/1 Stephanie Russell
 11/3 Marilyn Hendricks
 11/13 Michelle Ballard
 11/18 Laureen Gilley
 11/18 Jerry Pratt
 11/19 Linda McDonough
 11/26 Pamela Taylor

Anniversaries

11/12 M&A Mercer
 11/13 T&A Schmidt
 11/15 D&C Gustfson
 11/21 M&L Gilley
 11/21 B&S Markin
 11/30 R&J Cornell

Recipe Corner

Bean Soup

Shared by Jeremy & Lisa Hopkins

2 48 oz. jars great northern beans--undrained
2 ham shanks or ham hocks--shanks have more
meat but hocks have more flavor
1 cup diced carrots
1 cup diced celery
1 onion, diced
1 or 2 bay leaves

¼ teaspoon dried thyme
¼ teaspoon dried marjoram
1 teaspoon dried parsley
¼ teaspoon black pepper
Cooking Oil
Water

Directions:

1. Sauté carrots, celery, and onion in cooking oil until soft, in a big soup kettle.
2. Add shanks and/or hocks. Add water to almost cover.
3. Add herbs and spices
4. Bring to a boil and simmer for 1 hour.
5. Remove shanks/hocks to cool. When cool, remove meat from bones and return to pot.
6. Add beans with liquid to pot. Heat to almost boiling and then simmer for 30 minutes.
7. Remove bay leaves before serving. **Serve with cornbread.**



November Volunteer Celebration

	November 4, 2018		November 11, 2018
	8:30 AM	11:00 AM	10:00 AM
Counter	Marilyn Scuralli		M&L McKelvey
Council Person	Bryan Huffman	Joe Kahl	Neta Schmidt
Lay Assistant	Libby Boldt	Bob Rieck	Beth Thomsen
Altar Prep	Mary Ann K.	Sue Marvin	Cathy Gustafson
Greeters			Conrad Helton
Ushers			P&H Hoehing
Praying Friend	Wendy Staup		Wendy Staup

	November 18, 2018		November 20, 2018	November 25, 2018	
	8:30 AM	11:00 AM	7:00 PM	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Counter	M&L McKelvey		Beth Thomsen	Beth Thomsen	
Council Person	Bath Thomsen	Kathy Aldrich		Libby Boldt	Marilyn Scuralli
Lay Assistant		Marilyn Scuralli			Beth Thomsen
Altar Prep	Carol Brown	Tricia Kunkel	Pat Hoehing	Nancy Pfau	Sue Marvin
Greeters					
Ushers					

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Service assistants are an important part of our worship. The 2018 volunteer sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for each month.

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.

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 9:45AM Saturday Morning Coffee
4 Noisy Offering 8AM Prayer 8:30AM Traditional Worship 9:45 AM Spiritual Growth 11AM Contemporary Worship 12 PM OCC Packing Party	5	6	7 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Choir Practice	8	9	10 9:45AM Saturday Morning Coffee
Pastor Beth on Retreats						
11 OCC Box Dedication 9:30AM Prayer 10AM One Wonderful Worship 11AM Annual Meeting 12PM Potluck 6PM Movie Night	12	13 Newsletter Deadline 12:00 PM JOY Club	14 7:00 PM Choir Practice	15	16	17 9:45AM Saturday Morning Coffee
18 Bring a Friend 8AM Prayer 8:30AM Traditional Worship 9:45 AM Spiritual Growth 11AM Contemporary Worship	19 6:30 PM Council Meeting	20 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Worship	21	22  Happy Thanksgiving	23	24 9:45AM Saturday Morning Coffee
25 Christ the King Sunday Celebrate the Saints 8AM Prayer 8:30AM Traditional Worship 9:45 AM Spiritual Growth 11AM Contemporary Worship	26 7:00 PM Worship Committee	27	28 7:00 PM Choir Practice	29	30	