

Vision of St. Stephen

July 2020



May the God of hope
fill you with all joy
and peace as you trust
in him, so that you may
overflow with hope
by the power of the
Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13

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A lot has happened since the publication of our last newsletter. In the midst of two unprecedented events, the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic/unemployment crisis, we saw rallies and protests following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. There is much to think about, much to pray about. For this month's column, I invite you to read the words of our ELCA Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, written on June 5th, as she too reflects on these events.

"Out of my distress I called on the Lord" (Psalm 118:5).

We are a nation in distress. We are a church in distress. The coronavirus has killed 103,000 of us. The virus of racism has taken hundreds of thousands more throughout our history. Now these two deadly viruses converge. Under this distress the veneer of equality has cracked and we see the pain, anger and frustration of those who have been denied the rights and dignity so many of us expect and often take for granted.

I have heard it said that slavery ended with the Civil War. Why don't people of color "just get over it." Here is the question we need to ask, "How do you get over something that isn't over?" The extrajudicial killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd that we have seen have laid open the wound in our country that has never been fully dealt with and has never healed. The officer's knee suffocating the life out of George Floyd "reminds us that blatant acts of intimidation, hatred, and violence continue" (Freed in Christ social statement, page 3).

Continued peaceful protests, vigils and demonstrations are not only legitimate but essential to move this country and this church to honest and deep self-examination. Just as the body of Christ is COVID positive, so is the body of Christ infected with racism and white supremacy. We cannot turn away from this truth. To deny it is dishonest and dangerous.

Let us stand with those peacefully protesting and acting responsibly. Looting and destruction of property does not further the cause of justice. Government has a role to uphold civil order while also a role to respect peaceful protest. There are those in law enforcement who are acting wisely, even while others have acted irresponsibly. I ask you to support the many people, including those in our church, who are working to de-escalate tensions between law enforcement, protesters and the community.

Psalm 118 continues: "I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (21-24). Christ, the cornerstone, has already broken down the wall that divides us. The time is now. This is the day.

In Christ,

Beth Ferne Johnson, pastor

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Spiritual Growth

BIBLE 101

Our online group discussion continues as we're working through Mark's gospel. We regularly have 6-7 participants, but with zoom, there's room for more! If you are interested in joining the group, please let Pastor Beth know and she'll include you in the email with our zoom meeting code! It's never too late to join in!

JULY WORSHIP PLANS

We will be offering a drive-in worship service on July 12 and July 26 (weather permitting). You will be asked to park, facing the church building, with an empty parking space between you and the next car. You're welcome to remain in your car, following along with the bulletin provided earlier in the week, for the duration of worship. You may choose to bring a lawn chair from home and place it in front of your car grill for worship. We ask that you wear a cloth face covering if you leave your car and that you keep 6 feet away from others. The building will not be open for your use, so please plan accordingly.

These drive-in worship services will be livestreamed on Facebook and will be available, as usual, on Facebook and our YouTube channel for viewing later. Our worship on July 5 and July 19 are planned to be an online only option. However, if the weather is not cooperating, we will slide our "drive-in" worship to the next Sunday. (For example, if it is raining on July 12, our drive-in worship will be held on July 19). Any postponements due to weather will be determined by Saturday afternoon and announced on Facebook and through our One Call Now.

WALK-UP COMMUNION

Walk-up Communion is offered outside under our covered walkway on Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m. for households that have been quarantining together. We are communing using wafers, and a choice of wine or grape juice, which have been prepared in a safe manner. A bulletin and instructions are available on our website under the Resources tab. This 5-7 minute service features Confession and Forgiveness, as well as Holy Communion. It is also designed to provide physical distancing. The service is very similar to how communion is shared with folks in the hospital and those unable to come to worship. If these times don't work for you or your family, please contact Pastor Beth to make alternate arrangements.

ONLINE WORSHIP

We will be hosting Sunday Worship online at 11:00 a.m. while Ohio is in phase 1 and safety procedures are in place. You can find previous worship services or tune in live on our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/StStephenSyl/>) or our YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcriagedIjTq2ljXXUnB7Q>). Feel free to send this link or share our page to friends and neighbors who might want a worship experience without leaving home!

Youth and Family

CATECHISM

We have concluded our classes for the summer and will resume in mid-August. Pastor Beth would like to thank the students and their parents for being willing to work with Zoom and Google meets to gather for class!

BABY PLAYDATE

Please look on next months newsletter for more information on our Baby Playdate group!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be meeting on July 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 7:00 PM over ZOOM. Our theme this year is “One Earth As In Heaven” and focus on prayer and service in the world. To get the ZOOM invitation and register for VBS please call the office or e-mail Pastor Beth at sslcpastor@buckeye-express.com. Students enrolled will receive weekly bags of craft supplies dropped off on their porch. We hope that you can join us!

Women

JOY CLUB

We are suspending our meetings of JOY Club for the time being. We may explore a take-out option during the summer.

LWR QUILTING

Quilting will still continue with safety restrictions. Please RSVP to Libby Boldt at 419-356-6244 or Lboldt@bex.net, and feel free to contact her with any questions that you may have.

Outreach

Salem Non-Food Pantry

The Salem Non-Food Pantry is in need of supplies! Toothpaste, toothbrushes, natural hair care products, laundry detergent, diapers, onesies, shampoo, conditioner, hand soap, and other similar items are all needed for those in need in the community!



Kid's Movie Club

We are not going to be meeting in the first week of July in the interest of everyone's safety. St. Stephen's Kid's Movie Club is hoping to meet Thursday, August 6th at 5:00 PM. We will meet once a month at 5:00 PM on the first Thursday of the month for a movie, snacks, and discussion afterwards!

LSS Food Pantry

We continue to support the LSS Food Pantry with donations. Some suggested donations for this time of year are boxed cereals, pastas and noodles. The grocery cart is still located in the Narthex and we appreciate any non-perishable food item that is donated!



LWR Hand Towel Fundraiser

Nancy Kubiak is making kitchen hand towels and dish cloths to sell for \$3, all proceeds to be used to mail the LWR quilts to their final destinations. We will be offering them for sale, in the narthex soon. Please just keep them in mind!

Church Finances

GIVE PLUS

During this pandemic, we are offering information on how to take advantage of new ways to continue our commitment to God and His church. With social distancing and limited abilities to come together to worship at church, our ability to contribute to St. Stephen has been impacted. For those members who are comfortable with using new technologies to contribute, Vanco Services provides us with a smart phone app that we can use to make our donations. This is the same company we process our Simply Giving donations through. Select the Vanco Give Plus+ app to download.



If you have never used the app before, you need to first identify what church you want to contribute to. Entering 43560 in the zip code for this screen will bring up a list of available churches in Sylvania.

Select St. Stephen Lutheran Church from the list of available options.

On the screen, you can create an account or continue as guest. The rest of these steps are done as a guest.

Click on the '+' sign at the top of the screen to begin making a contribution.

Select the frequency of donation for single or multiple donations and select a pre-defined amount (\$25, \$50, or \$100) or enter your own amount on the line and click on the "Add" button.

Confirm that the information matches what you want for the dollar amount and frequency of donation. If you want to change your contribution, click on the garbage can icon.

Once everything is correct for your donation, click on the "Next" button.

Enter your banking and address information. Note these will be saved for future donations so you will not have to re-enter this information if you choose to continue to use the app.

You should see a confirmation page with confirmation number and amount of your donation for your records.

Thanks to John Lock for testing this and documenting the steps to follow.

SIMPLY GIVING

Since we have not been able to worship in our church building, getting our weekly donation in to church is not easy. Why not enroll now and you won't have to think about remembering to do so. 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

In Loving Memory



Cathy Hopkins

Cathy Hopkins, age 97, of Toledo, OH, passed away Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at the Kingston Residence of Sylvania. She was born March 13, 1923 in Kempton, MD, to parents Richard and Delphia (Raines) Cross. She was the youngest of 5 girls. Mary married John H. Hopkins in 1943, and he preceded her in death early this year.

Mary is survived by her sons James D. and Robert W. Hopkins; 5 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and 1 great great granddaughter.

She was laid to rest beside John at Toledo Memorial Park with her family in attendance.

Administrative News



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **August 2020** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by July 14.**

FIREWORKS ON THE LAWN

We are unable to host our annual Fireworks on the Lawn in 2020 because Sylvania has cancelled their fireworks this year. Please join us next year for this fun and festive celebration!

BUILDING AND COVID INFORMATION

Our Property Chairman, Joe Kahl, met with Hoffman & Harpst, our HVAC contractor to review our building's air handling systems for compliance with COVID safety regulations. All HVAC systems have been determined to have appropriate outside air intake. The majority of our air filtration systems exceed standards, with one unit needing minor upgrading. According to new industry standard, ultra violet light installation eliminates the vast majority of airborne viruses, however it is so new that installation costs are prohibitive.

Prayer

JULY PRAYER NOTES

How are you handling these days we are living through with the virus pandemic? Are you feeling isolated and alone? I am feeling especially blessed because I have John and Debbie right next door and I get to see them at least once a day. I miss my other children and I especially miss seeing my grandchildren. We have the wonder of the telephone and friends call to say hi each day. I never really knew how trying it could be to be in isolation. Yet, as I do spend the long hours of each day physically alone, I am so grateful that I am never truly alone.....God is always here. One of the texts I received today (a wonder of new technology which keeps us together), is 43:1-13 and I loved the verse that says: "I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name, you are mine". Talk about words of comfort for a stressful time. It also made me think of my favorite book, Romans. In chapter 8 verse 38 "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels or principalities nor powers, nor things present (a pandemic?) nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." These are scary times in our world but our faith in the ever present God of the universe says "Peace"I am taking care of you. We are never alone.

Betty Lock

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Jill—Comfort, Strength & Peace
Joel—Strength and Recovery
Jamie—Healing and Insight
Hanna C.—Strength and Healing
Chelsey—Healing & Peace
Lila & Lib—Peace & Comfort
Sarah's Family—Comfort & Healing
Linda—Cancer
Zachary—Answers and Comfort
Don—Healing
Richard—Work
Ryan—Peace & Success
Noah—Strength and Understanding
Jeff—Guidance & Understanding
Lyndsey—Healing and Comfort
Chesney's Family
Mark D—Healing & Comfort
Diane—Cancer
Amber—Migraines
Rich—Transplant Healing
Holt Family—Healthy Family
Julie—Patience, Peace & Guidance
Kathleen—Comfort & Healing
Joan—Healing & Comfort
Nora—Continued Healing

Fun

ALL IN GOOD FUN

Q:

What time of day was Adam created?

A:

Just a little before Eve.

BIBLE QUIZ

What was Matthew's original name?

(Answer page 8)

- A. Levi
- B. Matthew
- C. John
- D. Paul

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

2020 Council Members

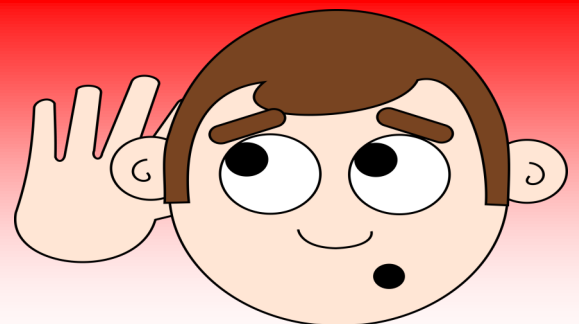
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Secretary</i>	Corrie Schuppenies
<i>Treasurer</i>	Libby Boldt

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>	John Lock
<i>Youth & Family Ministry</i>	Corrie S./Doug Paxton
<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.



Steve's Bulletin Board

LSS Food Pantry

Please be on the look out for our new LSS collection container which will be available outside in the coming weeks!



Golfing for Scholars.

The Golf Outing for GFS has been cancelled this year due to COVID, but more information on our event on August 7, 2021 will come soon!

The Word In Season

"The Word in Season" books for July, August and September are now available by the usher's table. If you would like one, please call Janell to schedule a pick up. This is a great daily resource for at home study! Please feel free to take one today!

Bible Quiz Answer:

A. Levi

July Celebrations

Birthdays

7/13 Doug Paxton
7/14 Scott Ballard
7/15 Michael Tebary
7/16 Marilyn Scuralli
7/17 Bob Rieck
7/20 Ken Marvin
7/21 Sean McKelvey
7/23 Steve Ziegler
7/24 Dave Haddix
7/27 Joe Sansbury
7/28 Nancy Rieck
7/29 Herb Hoehing
7/30 Carley Mercer

Anniversaries

7/14 Jordan & Kristi Shepler
7/22 Bryan & Carole Huffman
7/31 Nick & Marilyn Scuralli

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion 7:00 PM Zoom VBS	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> 11AM Online Worship	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 7:00 PM Bible 101	<i>8</i> 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion 7:00 PM Zoom VBS	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> 11AM Online Worship 11AM Drive-In Worship (Weather Permitting)	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Bible 101	<i>15</i> 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion 7:00 PM Zoom VBS	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> 11AM Online Worship	<i>20</i> 6:30 PM Coun- cil Meeting	<i>21</i> 7:00 PM Bible 101	<i>22</i> 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion 7:00 PM Zoom VBS	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 11AM Online Worship 11AM Drive-In Worship (Weather Permitting)	<i>27</i> 9:30AM LWR Quilting	<i>28</i> 7:00 PM Bible 101	<i>29</i> 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion 7:00 PM Zoom VBS	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	