

Vision of St. Stephen

October 2021



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

Pastor: Rev. Beth Ferne Johnson
sslcpastor@buckeye-express.com

The first day of fall 2021 was one for the record books. I just saw on WTOL 11's website that Lucas County was estimated to have received 51,788,108,800 gallons of water! That's quite a bit!

Sometimes I feel that I am still paddling pretty hard to keep my head above water, trying to continue to cope with the ongoing Covid-19 worries and concerns, as well as just the normal issues of life. Perhaps you have felt the same way.

When we feel like we are drowning in anxiety and troubles, like there is little solid ground around us, where do we go?

We trust that God is faithful. God has seen countless pandemics sweep across the world, even those that were much, much worse. We, in this time, have the benefit of scientific knowledge about how the virus spreads and the gift of vaccines and the gift of ventilators and hospitals. We give thanks for God's goodness to us.

We turn to God in prayer. As we give thanks for God's presence with us, we know that we can ask for help in our struggles and concerns. We can be honest with God, knowing that God's love for us is boundless.

We take comfort in the gift of nature. Fall is often a beautiful season. We can make the effort to be fully present in it, rather than being anxious about the future and things we can't control. I ran across these suggestions on our synod's website. What appeals to you?

This fall I want to
try _____

It wouldn't feel like fall with-
out _____

2 things that will help me rest this fall
are _____

When it is winter and I am looking back on fall, what are a couple of moments I won't
want to miss?

Lastly, we can be in worship together. Whether it's in person or virtually, coming together as the body of Christ is a gift in itself. Music, prayer, the word spoken remind us of our grounding in God's love.

Peace,
Pastor Beth

October Contents

Spiritual Growth	2
Youth & Family	3
Outreach	4
Church Finances	5
Administrative News	5
Giving App	6
Prayer	7
Fun	7
Council	8
Steve's Bulletin Board	9
Celebrations	9
Calendar	10

Spiritual Growth

MASKS IN WORSHIP

With the rise in Covid-19 cases in Lucas County, we began requiring masks to be worn in the building (regardless of vaccination status) on Sept. 12th. That policy will continue for the immediate future as we strive to keep all our worshippers and visitors as safe as possible.

BIBLE 101

Bible 101 will return on Tuesday, October 5th at 7:00. Please join us at church for our initial meeting. Prior participation is not necessary! The first few weeks we'll be looking at a Bible study from Gather magazine, while we collect additional ideas for what we'd like to study this fall.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

You're invited to gather at Chick-fil-a on Central and McCord on Saturdays at 9:45 for conversation and "hanging out" with other St. Stephen's folks. We're usually there for about 45 minutes to an hour and you're welcome to come and go as your schedule allows.

JOY CLUB

We'll be meeting at Ruth Moeller's house for lunch on October 19th. Please bring a sack lunch as we enjoy each other's company at noon. If you need directions to Ruth's house, please contact the church office. We also have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to help in planning. Hope to see you there!

NEW MEMBERS

We have 6 new members who will be officially joining the congregation at our parking lot worship on October 10th! Welcome Jake and Andrea Bogdan, Mike and Karen Bogdan, and Tom and Julie D'angelo! Look for their bios in our November newsletter!

NOTICE OF OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on November 14th. At the present time, we are planning to meet in person in the sanctuary and also over zoom for those who may be worshipping at home that day. As this date gets closer, we will provide additional information about this important event.

FINAL PARKING LOT SERVICE OF THE 2021 SEASON

If you've enjoyed our parking lot worship services, we're going to have one more before the weather gets cold! Join us on October 10th for worship at 11:00 a.m., followed by an outdoor picnic of hot dogs, chips, and dessert! Bring your lawn chair and enjoy some fellowship time together!

COUNCIL MEMBERS

If you'd like to get more involved in the life of St. Stephen and aid in our decision making, we're looking for you! We are in need of 1-2 people to serve on Church Council. This is a 2 year commitment to attend a monthly meeting (of an hour or so) and help facilitate an area of our ministry. If you're interested in more information, please contact Marilyn Scuralli or Pastor Beth. Thanks!

Youth and Family



ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Want to be part of a group growing your faith? Minneapolis, MN is the place for the 2022 National Youth Gathering. Youth who are in grades 8-12 this fall are eligible to go. Please speak with Pastor Beth if you're interested in attending. We will likely partner up with a local congregation for this event which will be held from July 24-28, 2022.

YOUTH EVENT

Our October Youth Event will be held on October 12 at noon, after our parking lot worship. We'll be focusing on a Bible story and doing a craft as well. Please join us!

MASK-PAR-AID

Do you love Halloween? Do you love helping a good cause? We've got an opportunity to be involved with both! The Mask-Par-Aid continues this year on Sunday, October 31st from 2:30-4:00 p.m. We're in need of candy donations and then people willing to help pass out candy to kids in their family's car! We'll also be collecting donations from cars for personal care items for Sylvania Area Family services. If you'd really like to get into the spirit of the season, you're invited to dress in costume or to decorate your car trunk for the enjoyment of those who are driving through our parking lot. We're participating with Sylvania UCC, Sylvania 1st United Methodist, and Olivet Lutheran for this event.



Outreach

Mask-Par-Aid

We will be collecting donations of personal items for Sylvania Area Family Services at the Mask-Par-Aid. We are looking for both donations of candy and people who would like to help out passing candy and collecting items during the event on October 31st from 2:30-4:00 PM. For more information on the event please look at the Youth and Family section earlier in this newsletter!



OCC Shoebox Collection

This year we will be collecting pre-filled boxes for Operation Christmas Child! Boxes are available as well as pamphlets on how to back the boxes in the Narthex! Please return your box to St. Stephen by early November.

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!



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

During the 3rd quarter of this year, our Church Council has gifted Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services with \$1,000 for resettling those coming from Afghanistan. LIRS has been welcoming folks to America beginning in the aftermath of WW1. It is the largest faith-based nonprofit dedicated to serving immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the U.S. They have helped more than 500,000 people who "have sought safety and hope in America's communities. Our history reflects our own deep immigrant roots and passionate commitment to welcoming newcomers, especially those who are most in need". For more information, visit lirs.org. St. Stephen hosted and assisted a Hmong family from Vietnam in the 1970's through LIRS.

Church Finances

SIMPLY GIVING

This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving. St. Stephen relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Please see me for details.

Sally Goetz, Coordinator

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR FINANCE TEAM

As you know, last Spring we applied for the Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) of \$25,600 which we received in June. These funds were used to supplement our income and pay our staff in 2020. This spring we provided documentation showing this was spent according to the PPP guidelines. We have since received a letter showing this loan as completely forgiven. Thanks to Libby Boldt for all her work in pulling the documentation together!

Marilyn Scuralli, Council President

KROGER REWARDS

We are pleased to report St. Stephen is receiving donations from 21 of our households who shop at Kroger and earned \$102.63 for St. Stephen between May 1, 2021 and July 31, 2021. A huge thank you to all who are participating in this 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! Also, every few years, Kroger's requires each household to re-confirm their donation choice, which you can do through the same website. Our organization number is PJ196. If you would like assistance in signing up for this program, please check our website!

Administrative News

OFFICE VACATIONS

Janell will be on vacation the week of October 10th. Pastor Beth will be on vacation from Saturday, October 23 through Saturday October 30th. If you're in need of pastoral care during her absence, please contact our secretary to arrange for a visit with a local Lutheran pastor.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **November 2021** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by October 12.**



Giving App

For a little over a year St. Stephen has been accepting online donations using the smart phone app called "Give Plus". At the end of September, Vanco will no longer support this app and has built a new one to take its place called "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement". Below are the instructions for switching over to this app, or setting up an account if you were not part of Give Plus. If you have any questions please contact the church office!

1	You can search for St. Stephen or Sylvania and select St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Sylvania, Ohio.
2	If you had used Vanco's Give Plus app, your Log In ID and Password have been transferred to this new app. Enter your info and continue. If you are new to online giving, choose "Create an Account".
3	Follow the instructions to enter your first and last name and create a password and confirm your account.
4	Enter your donation amount, the frequency, and how you would like to donate (credit card, debit card or bank account). If you would like to reuse this payment method check the "Save this payment method box". Press the blue "Give" Bar at the bottom of the screen.

Thank you so much for your generosity!

Prayer

OCTOBER PRAYER NOTES

This morning I was reminiscing (something we old folks seem to do a lot!) about the seminars I attended years ago with Richard Foster teaching on prayer. I remember he talked about “the dark night of the soul”. I think perhaps I thought of that because we are going through a “dark night” right now with this pandemic. Every day we hope and pray that our friends and family are safe and not suffering from this virus. When I was having my devotions I read the following:

“As an adult, I still feel intimidated by the dark sometimes – Darkness comes when I don’t understand what’s happening around me, when the future seems so uncertain, when I face decisions that confuse me, or when circumstances tempt me to doubt the certainty of God’s love and care. That’s when I need to remember that Jesus has rescued me from the power of darkness. Every kind of darkness.” (Dianne Neal Matthews)

It would be easy to become discouraged right now but then I remember that we have the Light of Christ and He always changes the darkness to light. My favorite Scripture verse says it allRomans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose”. 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
COVID Sufferers
Haiti Survivors
Afghanistan Refugees

Fun

ALL IN GOOD FUN

Be ye fishers of men.



You catch 'em,
He'll clean 'em!

BIBLE QUIZ

How long did Manasseh reign?

(Answer page 10)

- A. 25
- B. 40
- C. 55
- D. 60

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

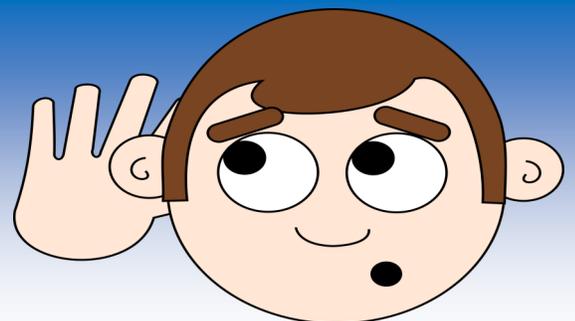
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Secretary</i>	Corrie Schuppenies
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Housel

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.



Steve's Bulletin Board

Thanks to Sidney and Xander for their work on the shed! Also thank you to Thrivent for the action team which paid for the materials!

Dear friends,
Thank you all so much for your love, and support during the final weeks of Nick's life. He was so grateful for all of you during his time here. Please know you are all near and dear to our hearts and we thank you for all the care we received. May God bless you all.

The Scuralli Family

October 2nd

A memorial service will be held for Mary Ann Klimesh on October 2nd. Worship will be at 11 AM followed by lunch at 12 PM.

Bible Quiz Answer:

C. 55

October Celebrations

Baptismal Birthdays

10/1 Kayla Marchant
10/2 Carol Haddix
10/11 Megan Cook
10/14 Evin McCoy
10/21 Kathy Ziegler
10/23 Wendy Staup
10/25 Eli Ballard

Birthdays

10/7 J.T. Chauvette
10/12 Angela McCoy
10/17 Tom Schmidt
10/20 Tina Williams
10/28 Lin McKelvey
10/28 Allison Shadle
10/29 Dan Gustafson
10/29 Kristin Huffman

Anniversaries

10/3 D&J Paxton
10/4 R&C Schuppenies
10/16 D&W Staup
10/20 D&B Davis

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9:45 AM Coffee and Conversation 11 AM Klimesh Memorial
3 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship	4	5 7:00 PM Bible 101	6 6:30 PM Girl Scouts	7	8	9 9:45 AM Coffee and Conversation
10 New Member Service 11AM Drive-In Worship/ Online Worship Picnic Following Worship 12pm Youth Event	11	12 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Bible 101	13	14	15	16 9:45 AM Coffee and Conversation
Janell's Vacation						
17 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship	18 7:00 PM Coun- cil Meeting	19 12 PM JOY Club 7:00 PM Bible 101	20 6:00 PM Girl Scouts 6:30 PM HOA Meeting	21	22	23 9:45 AM Coffee and Conversation
24 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship	25	26 LWR Quilting	27 7:00 PM Park- inson's Meeting	28	29	30 9:45 AM Coffee and Conversation
Pastor Beth Vacation						
31 Reformation Day 11AM In Sanctuary/Online Worship 2:30 PM Mark-Par-Aid						