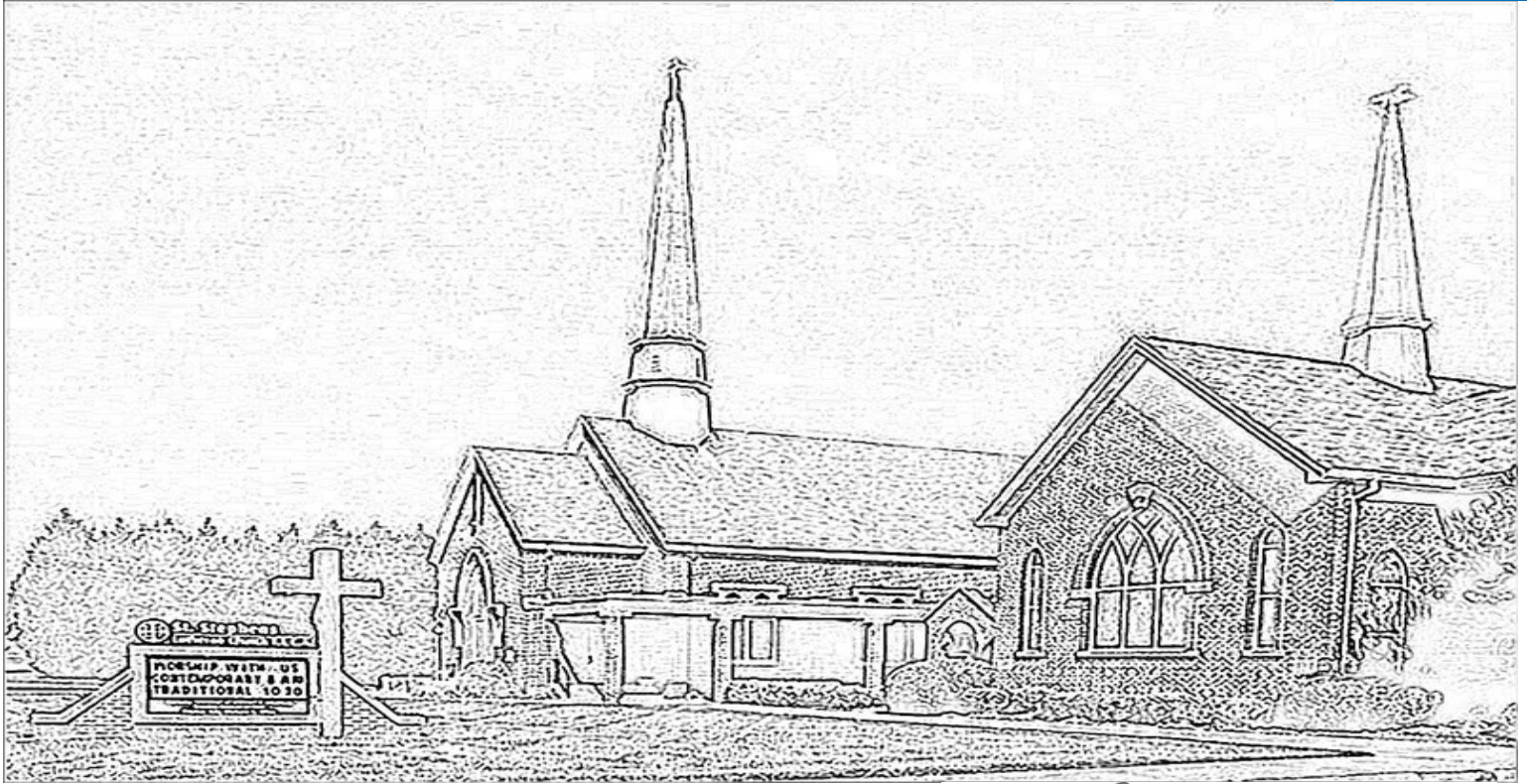




The Friendly Visitor

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA NEWSLETTER

May/June
2019
ISSUE 4/5
VOL 47



May

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June

There's a
**Seat
Saved
For
You**





Where to find it and Who to talk to....



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Pastor: The Rev. Greg Brown
Administrative Assistant: Barbara Gilbert
Choir Director: Brent Talley
Organist: Joshua Herman
Sexton: Bobby Elmore
Council President: Gene Frye
Council Vice President: Linda Baker
Council Secretary: Kim Frankel
Treasurer: Brenda Duncan

Phone: 828-322-3211
E-mail: sselca@yahoo.com
Website: www.sselca.com
8:00 a.m.—Worship Service
9:15 a.m.—Sunday School
10:30 a.m.—Worship Service



Pastor's Page

Dear Friends in Christ:

It's not often that I'm at a loss for words, but as I contemplate what kind of words to impart to you on what is likely my last newsletter article, I feel like I'm coming up short.

So, here's a couple of things I want to share with you, particularly regarding my call process, leaving, and finally some thoughts as you move forward as a congregation.

First, I want you to know that you haven't made me mad, or scared me off, or made me unhappy. For me, the sense of call to ministry that I have has almost nothing to do with emotion, but about a deep longing to follow where God is calling. We're terribly sad about leaving, but know that this is not your doing. We're just doing our best to follow where we feel the Spirit moving us, even and especially when it feels difficult to do. When this process started, I didn't have my mobility papers active, but had to activate them in order to have a conversation with St. David. Once activated, there were certainly others who sought out interviews, and for the sake of good discernment, I talked with one other church, too, and decided that God wasn't calling me there, despite the fact that it was a great conversation and lovely people.

I know that this is sometimes hard to understand, but to me (and hopefully other pastors as well), being a pastor isn't about the job. I pray that the day I look at what I do as merely a job, that I'll have the courage to hang up my stole. In order for me to be a faithful pastor, a faithful spiritual leader, I have to listen for God's call. And I pray, that in doing my best to be faithful, it will inspire your own faithfulness to living into God's call for your life, no matter what your vocation might be.

Lastly, a couple words of wisdom (if you can count it as such from a 32 year old pastor who is still wet behind the ears... according to some). This is a wonderful congregation. Don't beat yourself up. Trust your leadership. They truly have the best interest of this congregation at heart and they have been called by God and by you to be your leaders. Lean into their wisdom for the steps moving forward. God will show you all the way. I pray that God calls a pastor to this church who will love you, who will care for you, and who will faithfully proclaim the gospel, even when it steps on your toes. The prophetic voice in your pulpit is the one who calls you out of the ruts and into a vigorous life of ministry in Christ's name.

I would be remiss if I didn't tell you—one last time—how thankful I am for each of you, that I do indeed love you. And you've been such a joy for me to be your pastor. I am blessed because of you, your willingness to try new things, and your ability to rise to a challenge. You're a blessed and a faithful people.

May peace be the journey,

Pastor Greg+

St. Stephens ELCA Council

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

April 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Linda Baker and opened with a prayer by Barry Sullivan. Twelve members were present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Pastor Greg Brown and seconded by Barry Sullivan to accept the March 2019 minutes as submitted. Voted and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Copy on file

Pastor's Report: No written report. Oral report [given](#) .

Ministry Team Reports:

Christian Education	Report on File
Congregational Life	No Meeting
Evangelism	Report on File
Finance	
Annual audit has been completed	
Property	Report on File
Social Ministry	Report on File
Stewardship	
We will have a 6 week stewardship initiative in the fall to increase giving.	
Worship and Music	Report on File
Youth	Report on File

Old Business

Attendees for the NC Lutheran Synod Assembly will be Lora Huhn and Barbara and Terry Gilbert.

The money collected at this time for the sound system is \$19,080. We still need \$2219.36 to complete the project. A motion was made by Linda Baker and seconded by Chuck Witherspoon to take \$2219.36 from Capital Improvement to finish paying for the system and repay this as more donations are received .Voted and approved.

The plastic room dividers in the rec room were pronounced unsafe by the fire inspector and have been removed.

New Business

Dates for interment in the columbarium : George Barger 4/27/19

Shelba Barrett 6/28/19

Endowment request from Sarah Connelly to assist with utility payment in the amount of \$141.61. Motion was made by Pastor Greg Brown and seconded by Barry Sullivan to grant this request. Voted and approved.

Any collection items should be removed from the hallway bins each week.

Car magnets are here and are \$5 each.

Elizabeth Mauck and Lora Huhn have volunteered to work on our social media.

A motion was made by Barry Sullivan and seconded by Kim Long to hire Joshua Herman as our new organist for a salary of \$20,000 per year. Voted and approved with one no vote.

A congregational meeting will be held on May 19, 2019 at 9:15AM in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to ratify the constitution.

Request was made by Greg Whitener to use our picnic shelter and in case of rain the fellowship hall on June 2, 2019 from 12-3:30 PM. A motion was made by Barry Sullivan and seconded by Pastor Greg Brown to okay this request. Voted and approved.

A motion was made by Pastor Greg and seconded by Barry Sullivan to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Baker, Vice President

Kim Frankel, Secretary

Next meeting: May 5, 2019

Copies of the Treasurer's report and Ministry Team reports are available on request from the church council secretary.



MAY Servants of the Lord

GREETER—8:00

5 Ann Kraft
12 Regina Reece
19 Cathy Fox
26 Tiffani Bolick

LAY READER—8:00

Diane Hefner
Ann Kraft
Ramona Baker
Elaine Frye

NURSERY— 8:00

Regina Reece
Sharon Miller
Regina Reece
Cathy Ollis

WORSHIP ASSISTANT— 10:30

5 Carol Talley
12 Terry Gilbert
19 Brenda Duncan
26 Tiffani Bolick

ACOLYTE—10:30

Henley Huhn
Katie Ramsey
Mia Sexton
Hayden Huhn

NURSERY - 10:30

Barbara Gilbert
Leesa Godfrey
Pat Patton
Carolyn Haas/Kara

LAY READER—10:30

5 Phil Barton
12 Sandy Barton
19 Brenda Duncan
26 Loyd Hoke

COMMUNION ASSISTANT- 10:30

Vickie Eckard & Carol Talley

SOUND CONTROL - 10:30

5 Steve Baker
12 Greg Deitz
19 Wayne Long
26 Greg Deitz/Steve Baker

ALTAR GUILD

Judy Fincannon & Cathy Ollis

USHERS

*Chuck Witherspoon, *Kevin Ramsey, Chad Putnam, Marshall Bumgarner,
Richard Huffman, Don Crump



JUNE Servants of the Lord

GREETER—8:00

2 Donna/Joel Specht
9 Bill/Joyce Stinson
16 Ann Kraft
23 Regina Reece
30 ONE SERVICE

LAY READER—8:00

Elaine Frye
Marge Chandler
Gene Frye
Brent Talley
ONE SERVICE

NURSERY— 8:00

Sharon Miller
Regina Reece
Cathy Ollis
Sharon Miller
ONE SERVICE

WORSHIP ASSISTANT— 10:30

2 Cathy Baker
9 Robert Ollis
16 Tiffani Bolick
23 Carol Talley
30 Youth Service

ACOLYTE—10:30

Alyssa Corpening
Kara Ramsey
Ray Rushing
Henley Huhn
Youth Service

NURSERY - 10:30

Elisabeth Mauck
Lora Huhn
Barbara Gilbert
Carolyn Haas/Kara
Youth Service

LAY READER—10:30

2 Phil Barton
9 Sandy Barton
16 Brenda Duncan
23 Loyd Hoke
30 Youth Service

COMMUNION ASSISTANT- 10:30

Carl Baker & Judy Fincannon

SOUND CONTROL - 10:30

2 Bruce Godfrey
9 Wayne Long
16 Chad Putnam
23 Chuck Witherspoon
30 Bruce Godfrey

ALTAR GUILD

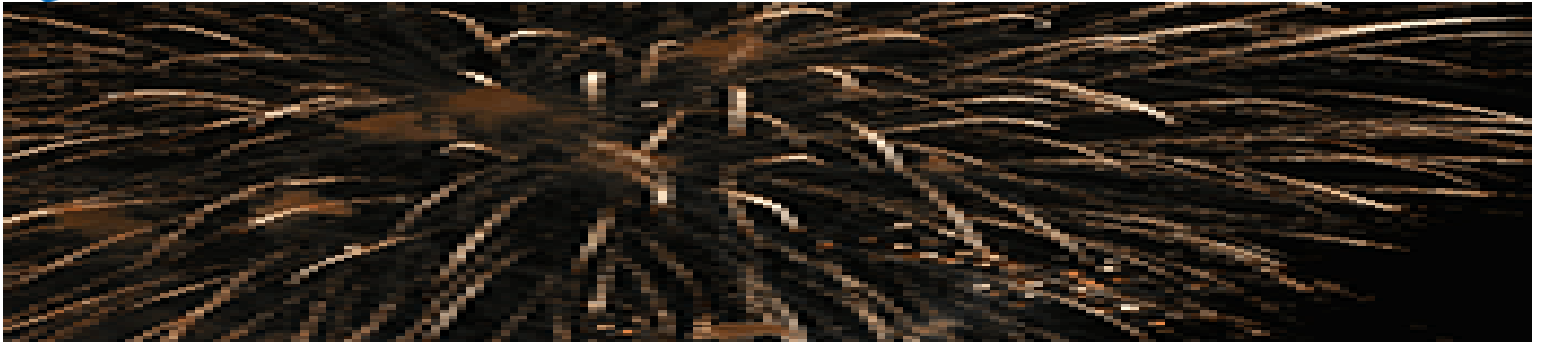
Sandra Baker & Deborah Sullivan

USHERS

*Greg Deitz, *Steve Baker, Jacky Baker, Ben Huhn,
Phil Barton, Dennis Eckard



Celebrations!



Lifting up those who celebrate
this month...

Birthdays

May

4 Hilda Eckard
5 Larry Baker, Eleanor Rushing
8 Brittany Deitz, Harold Eckard
10 Chad Putnam
11 Edith Icard
14 Tim Harris
16 Kathy Smith
21 Carla Tucker
24 Melvin Lafone
29 Samantha Godfrey
30 Janice Eckard

June

3 Pat Patton
9 Mary Alice Punch
10 Greg Deitz
11 Margaret Harris, Morgan Shook
12 Kay Lafone
13 Drew Ballard
17 Carolyn Haas
21 Judy Baker
26 Dennis Eckard
28 Amy Edwards, Diane Hefner

Anniversaries

May

6 Bill & Joyce Stinson
14 Ben & Samantha Godfrey
19 Danny & Candy Sexton
31 Gene & Elaine Frye

June

2 Charles & Sue Van Horn
3 Ken & Janice Eckard
4 Leon & Ramona Baker
Chuck & Chris Witherspoon
7 Larry & Sandra Baker
18 Kevin & Kim Ramsey
22 Allan & Kathy Powell
25 Don & Betty Ann Crump
Max & Helen Miller
26 Frank & Pat Hedrick
David Rink & Tammy Falcone

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 May 2019						
			1 56-8 SSLCMS BBall 6-7 ESL-Classroom	2 6-6:45 SSLCMS BBall 7 Men's BBall	3	4
5 8 Worship -Chapel 9:15 Childrens Music 9:15 Adult SS 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary	6 6 Sarah Circle CR	7 10 Mary Circle - CR 6-7 ZUMBA - Gym 7 Men's BBall	8 6-8 SSLCMS BBall 6 Centro Latino FH 5:30 Chapel Singers 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Chancel Choir	9 4-7 Medicare Workshop FH 6-6:45 - SSLCMS BBall 7 Men's BBall	10	11
12 8 Worship -Chapel 9:15 Childrens Music 9:15 Adult SS 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary	13	14 8:30 Good Cheer 6-7 ZUMBA - Gym 7 Men's BBall	15 6-8 SSLCMS BBall 5:30 Chapel Singers 6:30 Chancel Choir	16 4-6 Centro Latino End of year party FH 6-6:45 - SSLCMS BBall 7 Men's BBall	17	18
19 8 Worship -Chapel 9:15 Cong. Meeting - FH 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary	20	21 6 VBS - CR 6-7 ZUMBA - Gym 7 Youth Committee 7 Men's BBall	22 6-8 -SSLCMS BBall 5:30 Chapel Singers 6:30 Chancel Choir 6:45 Chancel Choir	23 6 Evangelism CR 6-6:45 - SSLCMS BBall 7 Men's BBall	24	25 5 Friends of Faith - Western Steer
26 8 Worship - Chapel 9:15 Children's Music 9:15 Adult SS 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary	27 <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>	28 6 SS & BC Leaders meeting 6-7 ZUMBA - Gym 7 Men's BBall	29 6-8 -SSLCMS BBall 5:30 Chapel Singers 6:30 Chancel Choir	30 6-6:45 SSLCMS BBall 7 Men's BBall	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8 Worship -Chapel 9:15 Childrens Music 9:15 Adult SS 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary 12:30-3 Hefner Reunion	3 7 Sarah Circle	4 10 Mary Circle	5 6-8 SSLCMS BBall 6-7 ESL-Classroom	6 6-6:45 SSLCMS BBall 7 Men's BBall	7 Mexican Consulate - FH	8 Mexican Consulate - FH
9 Mexico Consulate - FH ONE SERVICE 9:15 Childrens Music 9:15 Adult SS 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary COOKOUT	10 2-6:30 Red Cross Blood Drive - FH	11 10 Mary Circle - CR 6-7 ZUMBA - Gym 7 Men's BBall	12 6-8 SSLCMS BBall 6:30 Centro Latino - CR 5:30 Chapel Singers 6:30 Chancel Choir	13 6-6:45 - SSLCMS BBall 7 Men's BBall	14	15 5:30 Friends of Faith Sims BBQ
16 Happy Father's Day!! 8 Worship -Chapel 9:15 Childrens Music 9:15 SS & BC 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary	17	18 6-7 ZUMBA - Gym 7 Men's BBall	19 6-8 SSLCMS BBall 5:30 Chapel Singers 6:30 Chancel Choir	20 6-6:45 - SSLCMS BBall 7 Men's BBall	21	22
23 8 Worship -Chapel 9:15 Children's Music 9:15 SS & BC 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary 12-4 Drum FH & PS	24	25 6-7 ZUMBA - Gym 7 Men's BBall	26 6-8 -SSLCMS BBall 5:30 Chapel Singers 6:30 Chancel Choir	27 6-6:45 - SSLCMS BBall 7 Men's BBall	28	29
30 9:15 Children's Music 9:15 SS & BC 9:30 Children's SS 10:30 Worship - Sanctuary						



Remember in Prayer

In Nursing Homes:

Brookdale-Falling Creek – Ralph Baker #707

Kingston Pat & Frank Hedrick #208

Trinity Village (Lutheran Home, Springs Road) -

Earlene Newton - #902 (Dogwood), Juanita Deitz - #607, Edith Icard - #608,
Jay Lee Eckard - #118

Trinity Ridge (Mountain View) Tammy Falcone - #708

At Home: Catherine Morgan

Family and Friends: Janet Stinson, Leon Baker, Julie Kanipe, Ruth Dietz, Nancy Jo Brooks, Elbert Pope, Susan Hoke Lee, Anne Williams, Vickie Morgan, Nancy & Dee Dee Pope, Viola Gross, Beverly Edwards, Larry Cook, Mindy Herman, Susan Shelor, Anita Isenhour, Margie Isenhour, Mary Ann Wrenn, Joyce Travis, Frances Landaas, Mary Alice Punch, Joyce Odell, Kim Ramsey, Shari Dezern, Kathy Powell, Allan Powell, Donald Bumgarner, Lorene Fox

. Jill Stewart, Margie Powell, Treva Sweezy, Judy Williams, Bill Stinson, Don Canaway, Harper Thompson, Wendi Gonzalez, Megan McGinness, Tim Lowrance, Ronald Ramsey, Robert Ollis, Glenn Hathcock, Annalisa Sherrill, Morgan Smith, Savannah Gardner, Don Crump, Sandy Short, Pat Woodward, Wendi Gonzalez, Mike Little, Carol Huffman, Mike Johnson

Others: All those affected by the violence in our country and abroad, All who are hungry, All who are homeless

Bereavement: The Family of Rev. Paul Christ, The Family of Ruth White, The Family of SPC Jacob Quenton, The Family of Chris Wright, The Family of Farris Reese, The Family of Kelly Shook, The Family of Tommy Falcone, The Family of Linda Richards, The Family of Ann Litton

Global Missions: Stephen Bryant, Sean Bryant, Will Duncan

Armed Forces:

U.S. Navy: PO3 Logan Miller, Little Creek, VA; IS2 Chris Powell, Jacksonville FL; CPO Matt Creech, Bahrain; UNSN Madison Patton, CA

U.S. Marines: Cpl. Andy Hance, Hawaii; Captain Nathan Carpenter; Cpt. John Teague, Kuwait; Staff Sgt. Justin Curl, Cherry Point, NC

U.S. Air Force Nathan Bridges, (Ret.- Hungary)

Please contact the church office to make changes to this list

To Our Church Family - We want to thank everyone for all the prayers that were lifted up for our recovery and healing. The many cards and offers to help in any way touched our hearts beyond words. We have thought quite often these past weeks, what would we do without faith. We are blessed to be a part of our SSLC family. Love and God's Peace, Allan & Kathy Powell

There will be a Congregational Meeting on May 19th at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall. The only business on the agenda to vote on will be a final approval of our constitution.

The Mary Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 7th at 10 am in the Conference Room.

The Sarah Circle will meet Monday, May 6th at 7 pm in the Conference Room.

Friends in Faith

May 25th - Meet at the Western Steer, 321, Newton at 5:00. Then we will go to Pin Station to play putt putt. If it rains, we can bowl.

Please call:

Camilla at 327-6613 or Roxanne at 328-8221 by Tuesday, May 21st

June 15th- We will go to Sims BBQ on June 15th. Meet at the church at 5:30.

Vans will be available to ride. Be at the church by 5 if you plan to ride together. RSVP and questions to Betty Ann Crump at 828-256-9674

Upcoming Hosts-

July - Steve & Cathy

August - Carla & Malcolm

September - Richard & Gloria

October - Carol & Brent

November - Lora & Ben

December - TBA

On Sunday, June 9th we will have one service at 10:30.

Bishop Tim Smith will be with us.

We will host a cookout following the service in the Picnic Shelter.

The Mexican Consulate will be here on sight working with folks in our community beginning on Friday and ending at lunch on Sunday. This group comes in to assist with help in many areas. Translating documents, facilitating travel, referrals for legal assistance; criminal or civil cases, immigration representation, and much more.

This group verifies citizenship before working with anyone.

We will welcome their staff for lunch at our cookout following the service.

Sunday, June 9th will also be Pastor Greg's last Sunday with us.

Come out and wish him and the family well.



We will be hosting the Blood Drive on June 10th, in the Fellowship Hall from 2:30-6.

Anyone interested in volunteering is welcome to come help out the team.

**American
Red Cross**

If you are able to donate blood be sure to drop by also.

Pastor Greg's mother was injured pretty badly in a fall on May 4th.

She is has had one surgery and is recuperating at home. Some of you have asked for her address:

Annalisa Sherrill

912 Olde Puckett Ferry Rd

Greenwood SC 29649



Register for VBS 2019!!!!

St. Stephen's ELCA

2259 12th Ave NE (Springs Rd beside CVS)

(with Millers, St. Luke's and Mt. Zion)

July 7-11

6:00-8:00

Supper served from 5:15-6:00

To register call the St. Stephen's office at 828-322-3211

Children from Toddler to 6th grade and Adult class.

Adult, Middle School and High School Volunteers needed.

Supply list coming

