

## *Our Stewardship of Talent*

	<b>July 28, 2019</b>	<b>August 4, 2019</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Liana Grove	Donavan Glasser
<b>Lector</b>	Larry Bouchat	Steve Read
<b>Cantor</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Julie Grove	Steve Read
<b>Communion</b>	Laura Wills	Carol Clelland
<b>Ushers</b>	Daryl Gochenauer* Ja 'net Gochenauer Glenn Gross	Tom Burson* Julie Grove/Austin Batchelor Ken Clelland Randy Neidig
<b>Greeters</b>	Grace Stoner	Dan Lebo
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Ja 'net Gochenauer	Ron & Brenda Kimmel
<b>Counters</b>	Rose Hlavac, Terri Myers	Tom Burson, Cheryl Neidig
<b>Nursery</b>	Carol Clelland	Sue Rodgers

## *Remembering...July 21st*

<b>Our Stewardship of Time</b>		<b>Other Designated Offerings</b>	
Sunday Worship	73	El Salvador	\$ 3070.00
Sunday School	26	Bell Tower Repair	\$ 353.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	Camping Support	\$ 100.00
<b>Our Stewardship of Treasures</b>		Baby Food	\$ 50.00
Traditional Giving	\$4725.00	Flying J Ministry	\$ 20.00
Electronic Giving	\$650.00	Kate's Kids	\$ 20.00
		Harvest Festival	\$ 16.00
		Social Ministries	\$ 15.00
		Youth Director Support	\$ 10.00
		Youth Ministry	\$ 5.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3659.50</b>
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 5375.00</b>

## The Week Ahead



Persistence in prayer evoked the admiration of Jesus and wins the attention of the Lord when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus the Lord—is to be rooted in prayer.

God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

### Sunday, July 28

9:00am           Worship  
10:30am        Sunday Church School

### Monday, July 29

6:00pm           Boy Scouts

### Tuesday, July 30

9:00am           The Breakfast Club  
7:00pm           Ed. Committee/Teachers' meeting

### Stewardship Snippet July 28, 2019

**Luke 11:2** –Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come."

*We recite these words of the Lord's Prayer frequently, asking for God's kingdom to come right now, right here on earth! As faithful stewards of God's abundance pray not only with our lips but also our hands and feet for the sake of our neighbors, for the care of creation, and for our love of God.*

### Call to Action

## Goodies

Social Ministry requests homemade cookies for our Flying J Mission beginning Thurs, September 5th. The cookies need to be bagged individually; 2 small or 1 large per bag, and left in the kitchen on the island before 6PM. An additional sign up sheet will be posted on the refrigerator. They are really a hit for our participants to enjoy something homemade. Contact Lynne Immell with your questions. Thanks, as always, for your continued support.

**Interested in becoming** a St. Stephen disciple? Interested in transferring your membership from another congregation? Interested in baptism or confirmation? Please see Pr. Matthew for details.



## Prepare the Way

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed.



We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

### Meditation and Readings for August 4

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23  
Psalm 49:1-12

Colossians 3:1-11           Luke 12:13-21

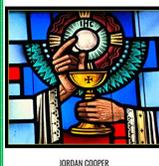
### Sunday, August 4

9:00am           Worship  
10:30am        Sunday Church School  
2:00pm           Dulcimers Practice  
5:00pm           Tapology



**Terri Myers has** delivered the registration brochure for the 20th Annual St. Stephen Women's Retreat. In that spirit, **Pastor Matthew wants to know** – is there a nascent interest within the congregation in having other retreats? He'd like to know how long? – a day, a few days, a week, etc. What time of the year is ideal? – summer, fall, winter, or spring. What type of location would be ideal? – Mountains, beach, rural, urban. Please let him know your thoughts.

LITURGICAL  
WORSHIP  
A LUTHERAN INTRODUCTION



Why do we do that? Want to learn why we do what we do in worship? Want a deeper understanding of worship? Starting today, come to the summer Sunday school and learn all about different parts of worship. We'll talk about the music, the prayers that are used, how the readings are selected, why we do what we do when we do it, etc. Come with your questions. Pr. Matthew will be leading these sessions until the fall classes begin again after Labor day.

## Prayers This Week

*Mike Kulikosky's sister, Kathy Bomberger...undergoing treatment for acute myeloid leukemia Family and friends of Marian Morrison...she passed away on July 21 Nicole Grove...suffering from pain, unable to work and*

*now in financial trouble Mike Tracey dealing with a number of health issues, including persistent cellulitis, that are affecting his mobility. St. Stephen Disciples.*



Pastor Matthew is seeking a few individuals who want to learn how to craft the prayers of the church so they fit our context. The prayer of the church are said weekly in worship. Crafting the prayers would not be a weekly commitment, but rather something that can be based on your schedule. Please talk with Pastor Matthew if you are interested in learning more about this.

### **Recognizing God in our Midst/ Thurs, September 19, 7:00-8:30PM/ St Stephen Fellowship Hall.**

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? God wants us to be aware of Christ's presence. If we want what God desires, we first learn how to recognize the presence of Christ. To do so, we slow down long enough to redirect our 'busyness' with opportunities that pay attention to Jesus' presence in our midst. Growing our awareness of Christ's presence requires a different rhythm to our life. A rhythm many of us were never taught, yet we deeply desire. In an effort to catch up to some of what the Holy Spirit is doing in your life, we invite you to take a few moments with God during this workshop. Together, we will gently become aware of where God has been with you in your own life and notice how God is moving in the lives of others. Come and see how you can encounter God in the ordinary.

*Workshop presenter Deacon Marsha Roscoe desires to help others grow in faith and discipleship and serves on the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a deacon. She is currently under call with the Lower Susquehanna Synod as the Director for Mission Interpretation. In 2016, she founded Breathing in Christ. In ecumenical partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA, she is also on the staff of the Stevenson School for Ministry.*

### **Mental Health & Suicide Prevention in a Chaotic World/ Thurs, October 17 at 7:00-8:30PM/ St Stephen Fellowship Hall.**

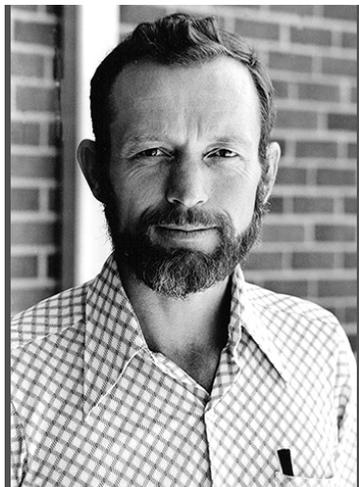
Today's world can be busy, isolating, and stressful. Anxiety, depression, and suicide rates are higher than ever before. Because of the stigma, it is often hard for individuals, as well as their friends and family members, to acknowledge when someone is at risk. This workshop will identify common warning signs (though signs are not always present) and discuss what to say and what not to say to someone who may be struggling. Participants will leave with a list of suggested steps to take to help someone they care about.

*Workshop presenter Kara Vojcsik LCSW is a school social worker and a licensed clinical social worker in private practice in Lemoyne. She has over fifteen years of experience working with youth, adults, and families in a mental health setting. Her primary focus includes anxiety, depression, suicide prevention, parenting, creating healthy families, and helping others find their voice. Kara travels to schools and community groups to do parent trainings on mental health. She has created a youth mental health alliance which won a National Award in the fall of 2018. In her spare time Kara enjoys spending time with family and friends, working out, and playing the piano. You can find out more at [www.karavojcsik.com](http://www.karavojcsik.com).*

### **Changing Your Congregation's 'Money Culture'**

In partnership with the Stevenson School For Ministry, beginning the week of August 9, Pastor Rob Blezard will offer a five-week online course on "Changing Your Congregation's Money Culture." This course looks at what our bible and our faith traditions say about money and explores a congregation's unspoken and unhealthy "money culture." Through awareness, education and best practices, you will learn how to shift the money culture. Stay tuned for more information on how to login to this online course.

## Pillars of Faith



**Blessed Stanley Rother**

On May 25, 1963, Stanley Rother, a farmer from Okarche, Oklahoma, was ordained for his home diocese of Oklahoma City-Tulsa. Having flunked out of the area seminary due to his difficulty with Latin, Fr. Rother finally accepted an invitation to attend Mount St. Mary Seminary in Maryland, where he finished his studies and was approved for ordination.

After serving in his local diocese for five years, Fr. Rother joined five priests, three religious sisters, and three laypersons to staff a Guatemalan mission in Santiago Atitlán serving the Tz'utujil people. The Oklahoma City diocese heard the call of Pope John XXIII to send missionaries to foreign lands, especially Central America. These twelve individuals felt the call, and with their bishop's approval, left the comforts of the United States to live and work in Guatemala.

By 1975, Fr. Rother was alone at his parish in Santiago Atitlán, the others having returned home for various reasons. He served the Tz'utujil people for 13 years and

won their hearts and souls. Ever the farmer, and always unpretentious and mild mannered, Fr. Rother experimented with various crops as well as fulfilling his heavy pastoral duties which included as many as five Masses in four different locations on a given Sunday and as many as 1,000 baptisms a year.

Guatemala's civil war reached the highlands and Lake Atitlán by 1980. Government troops camped on the parish farm and Fr. Rother witnessed the assassination of a number of his parishioners, including the parish deacon. Warned of imminent danger, Fr. Rother returned to the United States for three months early in 1981, to visit with his family and friends. Against the advice of his family and the local bishop, Fr. Rother returned to Atitlán to be with his people. He remembered a Sisters' community who had fled the country and later tried to return but the people asked, "Where were you when we needed you?"

On the evening of July 28, three masked men entered the rectory and shot Fr. Rother to death. His beloved parishioners mourned him repeatedly crying, "They have killed our priest." Pope Francis declared Stanley Rother a martyr on December 2, 2016. He was beatified in Oklahoma City on September 23, 2017.

### Reflection

The declaration of a blessed or saint is always a celebration of the Church as the people of God. To single out an individual for his or her holiness and service builds up the entire community of faith. But this is doubly true for the Church in the United States and in Oklahoma, as one of our own is both declared a martyr for the faith and enrolled in the ranks of those declared Blessed by the Church. May the dedication, faith, and service of Blessed Stanley Rother be a source of strength for all in this country.

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<https://www.facebook.com/StStephenLC.org>. Here you'll find up-to-minute information, upcoming events and activities, and stories of encounters with Jesus changing people's lives.