

New Spirit New Spirit

The Newsletter of the St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 2014—January 2015



“May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!” (Psalm 29:11)

On Reign of Christ Sunday (November 23), I shared some of my struggles with the Christmas season. I lamented the pressure families feel to create Norman Rockwell memories, the overbearing weight of to-do lists, and the never-ending message that we must spend, spend, spend in order to have a “good” holiday. I stand by each of these concerns, and do believe that the promises of Matthew 25:31-46 have the power to free us from the hubbub and stress of the season. The practice and disciplines of Advent can be equally transformative and are, for me, one of the wonderful gifts of this time of year.

Advent is a season of preparation, expectation, and anticipation as we remember those who waited for the birth of Christ and we in turn watch and wait for the fulfilment of Christ’s presence as the harmony for all creation. It is a season marked by long dark nights, reflective hymns, and scriptures that challenge us to name hard truths of today even as we look forward to God’s awesome promises. Advent invites us into active waiting. As we reflect on Christ’s promise and presence in our lives today, we also eagerly anticipate the day when He will come again to draw all things to Himself; holding the “now” and “not yet” together, we are born anew as people of God, blessed to be a blessing in the world. In the midst of the commercial chaos that runs from mid-November to December 26, Advent invites us to experience moments of peace and quietness, trusting in God’s promises and surrounded by God’s presence.

The season of Advent is a gift to you, and to me. I invite you to celebrate and participate in this gift both with our congregation and in your home. Join

us for worship as we explore what it means to be an Advent people, watching and waiting for the birth of Christ. Learn the historical and scriptural backgrounds of African-American Advent spirituals by participating in Tuesday studies, at 10:00 AM or 7:00 PM. Pick up an Advent Devotional Star prepared by Gettysburg Seminary for daily scripture readings and prayers or find one online (Check out <http://www.luthersem.edu/advent/>). Set-up an Advent wreath in your home and take five minutes each day (or each week) to light a candle, read, and pray. Spend time with your family and friends creating (or re-kindling) traditions: watch Christmas movies, drive the streets to look at Christmas lights, bake cookies, enjoy God’s gift of companionship with one another. Assemble a nativity in your home and consider what watching and waiting might have meant for each character.

Advent is more than a countdown to December 25th – it is a season in and of itself. Treasure this gift of anticipation, of expectation, of wonder as we journey towards the stable of Bethlehem.

May Advent give you the opportunity to hear the angels’ voice declaring the good news of the ages “Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace to those on whom God’s favor rests”. May you experience God’s peace and love as we watch and wait for the birth of the One who is light and life for us all. And then be sure to join us for worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as we celebrate His advent among us.

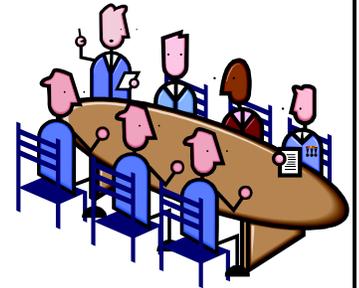
Blessings,

Pastor Caitlin

Leadership Ledger

Executive Summary Report:

Church Council met at 7 pm, Monday, November 10, 2014. Following with the Opening Prayer by Terri Laquitara and approval of October's meeting minutes; The following actions were approved by church council



Recommendation from the Worship & Music Committee to purchase of four reusable Advent Candles. Funds for the reusable Advent candles will be taking from the Memorial Contributions line item 3100.

Recommendation from Pastor Caitlin to have St. Stephens serve as a teaching parish for Gettysburg Seminarians from January of 2015 – May of 2015. To support this opportunity, funds will be taken from the Longsdorf Interest Fund in the approximate amount of \$600.

The following action **was not** approved by church council:

The recommendation from the Worship and Music Committee to hold a combined **summer** worship service from Memorial Day weekend through Rally Day in September 2015

As always, every member of Council welcomes any questions or comments from the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Laquitara,

Council President

Cafe Sessions



Discussion Notes

In this issue of December's/January's NewSpirit Newsletter you will find notes from the Café Session informal discussions that were held in November.

The topic for discussion was the possibility of having a combined **summer** worship service in 2015. The proposed combined summer worship service would begin Memorial Day weekend and end in September on Rally Day.

Church council met on November 10th. After much discussion, Church council decided *not* to have a combined **summer** worship service for 2015.

We would like to thank all of you for your responses which were very helpful in rendering a decision.

Church council has found these café sessions to be a beneficial way for congregation members to have the opportunity to discuss topics that may affect them in an informal discussion setting, opening the channels of communication allowing us to collaborate while enjoying fellowship with one another.

Terri Laquitara,
Council President

Final Café Session Comments

In Attendance:

5 council members were present: Marla Hansen, Bill Rowe, Pastor Caitlin Glass, Bill Phelps, and Marty Baim. 12 congregation members and 2 non-members attended the café session's informal discussion.

*40 members from both *first* and *second* worship service's comments are also listed in this document who could not attend the three scheduled café sessions.

Discussion Topic:

The possibility of having a combined summer worship service in 2015. The combined worship service would begin Memorial Day weekend and end in September on Rally Day.

- C: always attend first service and it's more heavily attended, second service people go away, prefers 8 AM service so get out earlier and go to Williams Grove flea market or other places, go along with majority, some churches have Sat. evening, more would come at 9 rather than 9:30, have we considered people leaving, issues of people having same pew
- C: talked to 2 folks at St. Marks where they went to 1 service (pastor, council person) year round, because of reduced attendance, surveyed congregation for time of service, several older folks indicated they had trouble getting to earlier service, got to interact with folks they seldom saw, drawn into more activities, looks fuller so more inviting to newcomers, successful transition, instituted 2pm service once a month, income steady or slightly improved, people didn't stop coming, pastor preferred SCS before service but is opposite, work shouldn't be deciding factor, should do what's best for St. Stephen, don't have a preference on issue so will go along with whatever is decided
- C: attend later service, 9 or 9:30 service is perfect for us, workers for 13 or 14 worshippers is demoralizing,
- C: attend Christmas day service, but don't want it to go away even though low attendance, neutral on issue,
- C: it's not about us, it's about God, what's best for St. Stephen as we follow God's call
- Non Member C: I'll be here whenever it is because I want to worship, do a lot of things here after services, promote those activities
- when added second service years ago it was without choir
- C: remember when had 1 service, went to early service because ran out of room in pews, whenever have change some are going to be disappointed
- C: folks don't like change, but we want to change for summer and then change back, second attendance at a café session, but better understand why we're doing it, keep it all year, folks can attend RS if can't make AM service
- C: 1 person came to council member that would come but prefer 9 AM
- C: get up at 5AM and hanging out till 9 or 9:30 is not going to work for me
- C: remember that we're not a mega church
- C: concerns about 1 service but not personal, lose attendance and finances and SCS attendance, if you want to meet other service people go to other service, can't come up with more pros than cons
- C: what's best for St. Stephen,
- C: may draw people that don't want to get up for 8 but also don't want to wait till 10:45

Q = Question
R= Response
C= Comment

Non Member C: long-time member at Trindle Springs, suffered attendance when went to single service for summer, good to see other service people,

*Comments from 40 members from both first and second worship services who could not attend the three scheduled café sessions are listed below:

C: 30 some years ago when we first came to St Stephen, there was only one Sunday morning worship service; (gee, how odd) then we went to 2 services, because our congregation was growing. A lot of people argued that the congregation would fall apart because there could be no friendship between the 2 groups, i.e., first service and second service, didn't obviously happen because sometime the 2 groups met between ; we have changed from first to second, or whatever;

Gee, we were attending first service for a good 10 years before most of the "old heads" got around to speaking to us; felt like we really didn't have the approval of the leadership to be there. I signed up to be a lector - yup, 10 years; Then we had to have communion every week - no matter that we just didn't have enough people to do it; One service during the summer? sure, why not? how many people show up for both services? not very many. If we have 100 in the 2 services, it's unusual. We can certainly seat 100 easily. Looking at our present budget (or lack thereof), holding 2 services at all is becoming a financial stupidity. Change is inevitable, growth is optional. When any organization or group is run by an absolute dictator, disaster is in the near future.

A long, long time ago, when I first lived in this area, I'm told by Uncle Bill and Aunt Buff Stouffer that Pastor Seiple was pastor to St Stephen in New Kingston and the Lutheran church in Newville. That meant that worship services were shared! They said that one week it would am here and pm there and next week the opposite. Just a bit of interesting information.

C: I'm in favor of it.

C: I think it's a good idea. It's a good way to get to know people who attend the other service.

C: I'm in favor of it. It gives us a break on the AC bill, worship assistants don't have to serve as often, and there's less time and stress for the pastor. It's time we start listening to the majority of the congregation's desires, instead of the VERY VOCAL minority!

C: OK but prefer 1st service

C: OK, earlier the better

C: OK any time

C: any change from 10:45 is too early – 10:45 or no show

C: OK but like to sleep in

C: OK, mid-morning fine

C: would like to keep 8:00 service, if service time changes, we will not leave church, but not later than 9:00, is this leading to permanent change?

C: I go to church because I need to, not interested in the numbers, I'll go to any service that provides my transportation

C: I ride with the Bursons. Their service is my service

C: good idea – late service

C: OK, not late

C: OK, not late, early as possible

C: 3 youth like to sleep in and prefer 10:45 service

C: OK, don't trust this as a temporary summer service

C: I come to worship time doesn't matter to me

C: OK but late

C: OK why not a matin service

C: I will adjust

C: OK, late

C: I don't go to church enough to be considered, however 10:45

C: Doesn't matter to me enjoy the worship service

C: Great idea would love to meet up with folks from the other service

C: Give us an opportunity to do more service work in the summer

C: We are all one in the eyes of God, I'm in favor great fellowship opportunity

C: Like the idea sounds good to me

C: Sounds good to me

C: Ok with it do we know what time?

C: Sounds okay what about Sunday School?

C: Ok to me, what would the time be?

C: Like the idea of sharing the service

C: Okay, not too late

C: I'm okay with it, do we know the time?

C: I'm in favor love the worship service

C: I enjoy the service either way doesn't matter to me

C: OK with me either way

C: Good idea for the summer, what time will Sunday school be?

Q = Question

R= Response

C= Comment

Prepare the Way of the Lord!: Advent and Christmas News

Advent Sup-N-Study Bible Study: “Mary Had a Baby”, based on African American Spirituals

Prepare your heart, home, and mind for Christmas with this four-week study that uses beloved African American spirituals as a springboard for learning and growth. Together, we will share in a simple soup-and-bread dinner, and then dive into the Word of God revealed in scripture, conversation, and the lyrics of these four hymns: “Mary Had a Baby”, “Rise up, Shepherd and Follow”, “Children, Go Where I send Thee”, and “Go, Tell it on the Mountain”.

We will gather on for supper, study, and conversation on Tuesday evenings. Dinner will begin at 6:30 PM, with Bible study following at 7:00 PM. The Bible study will also be offered at 10:00 AM on these Tuesdays. All are welcome. *Sign-ups are appreciated on the Welcome Center.*

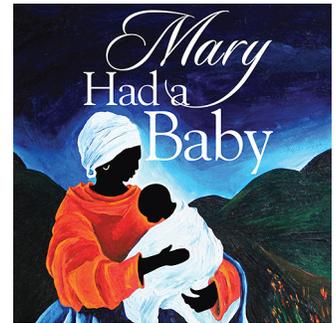
The dates for the Sup-n-Study are:

Tuesday December 2

Tuesday December 9

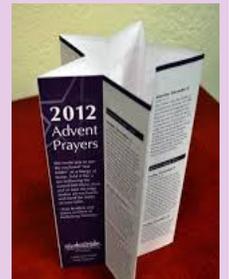
Tuesday December 16

Tuesday December 23



Advent Devotional Stars Available

Every year, the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg prepares and distributes Advent devotional stars to be used by individuals and congregations. These devotional tools, featuring scripture passages and prayers written by current and former students and faculty, help us observe the Advent season, and also keep us connected with the mission and ministry of the seminary. A limited number of these stars are available for you to pick up on the Welcome Center. Please pick up one today and make use of this valuable tool as we journey through this sacred season.



Advent Worship at St. Stephen: Sundays at 8:00 and 10:45

November 30 “Waiting in Hope”

December 7 “Walking in Peace”

December 14 “Joy on the Journey” *with the Rite of Healing*

December 21 “Love is the Way” *with Christmas Choral Cantata*

Christmas Eve at St. Stephen: Wednesday, December 24

5:00 PM Family Worship with Holy Communion

7:00 PM Worship with Holy Communion (Prelude music begins at 6:30 PM)

11:00 PM Worship with Holy Communion (Prelude music begins at 10:30 PM)

Christmas Day at St. Stephen: Thursday December 25

9:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion



Christmas Play – Dec 20th at 6:30 pm

The Best
Christmas Present



Storyline:

Left alone in the house one evening, five toys come to life and argue about which of them is the best present. Joseph proclaims that Jesus was the best present ever, but the toys are skeptical.

The toys can't believe a baby would be the best present when he wasn't even gift wrapped! As the story unfolds, the toys see that God's gift of Jesus is far more significant than they.

Interested?

Just show up! Children and adult characters are available.

Location: Fellowship Hall and Stage

Rehearsal Dates:

- *Sunday, November 23 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
- *Sunday, December 7 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
- *Saturday, December 13 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- *Sunday, December 14 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
- *Saturday, December 20 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm (Dress Rehearsal)
- **Saturday, December 20 – Christmas Play Performance: 6:30 pm** (Be at church 6:00 pm to get ready)

**Lunch will be served*

Note: Christmas Play will be held in conjunction with St. Stephen's community meal

save The Dates

Saturday, December 13th

10 a.m.

"Hanging of the Greens"

Come help us
decorate
the church!

A light breakfast will be served



Saturday, January 10th

10 a.m.

Come help us
put away
the decorations

All ages and abilities welcome for this inter-generational family event.

Bring a friend or a neighbor and begin the joyful anticipation of our celebration of our Savior's birth!



Blue Christmas Services

In every church and community there are persons who, for one reason or another, simply cannot enter into the unbridled joy of the Christmas season. Some must deal with the recent or expected death of a loved one. Some are coping with the aftermath of divorce, job loss, sickness—many different unfortunate and tragic circumstances. Christmas parties and caroling are the last things some of us want. “Blue Christmas” or “Longest Night” services are attempts to minister to the needs of such persons while still recognizing that part of the reason for Jesus’ coming was to bring hope and comfort, to heal the sick, to seek the lost, to restore the broken and broken-hearted. These services offer a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

There are at least two “Blue Christmas” services being offered in the West Shore area, and you are warmly invited to both:

Wednesday December 17 at 7:00 pm

St. Peter Lutheran Church
130 Nittany Dr, Mechanicsburg
766-2701

(Pastor Naomi Carriker)

Sunday, December 21 at 5:00 PM

St Paul Lutheran Church
6839 Wertzville Rd, Enola
697-9675

(Pastor Anne-Rose Reeves)



Save the Date: College Reunion Lunch on Sunday December 21. All current high school and college students, as well as those who have recently graduated, are invited to lunch with Pastor Caitlin at Middlesex Diner on Sunday December 22. This is an opportunity to catch up with old friends, share a bit about what life has been like, and enjoy a FREE meal! More information to come.



Education Ministry

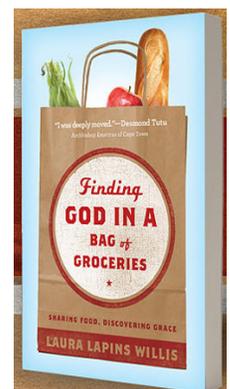
Finding God in a Bag of Groceries: Book Group Discussions

Tuesday, January 27 at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM

It’s not too late to order a book and join the conversation! The book order deadline has been extended to December 7. If you’d like to order a book through St. Stephen, please see Pastor Caitlin. You can also order the book through Amazon.

We will gather in the Parlor at the above dates and times to discuss Laura Lapins Willis’ book, and consider the ways and places God encounters us in the world.

Questions? See Pastor Caitlin.



El Salvador

January marks a year since our last trip to El Salvador. It is time once again to return in order to:

- Renew relationships with our friends in Christ
- Visit our scholarship students
- Meet and interview new prospective scholarship candidates
- Meet with university officials
- Meet with Lutheran bishop
- Meet both current and new Lutheran pastors
- Meet seminarians
- Follow-up on Rotary sanitation project

Continue our story project: This time we have had several people offer names to us that they feel will make interesting storytellers for our website. One person who used to live in El Salvador and who we have met only through e-mail is visiting at the exact same time and has offered to arrange interviews and interpret for us for several days.

We will share experiences of our visit after we return home.

Metalillito community



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
Rejoicing  **Spirits**

“We Are All Saints”

Matthew 5:1-12 *Seeing the crowds, he went onto the mountain. And when he was seated his disciples came to him.*

Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

How blessed are the poor in spirit: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Blessed are the gentle: they shall have the earth as inheritance.

Blessed are those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for uprightness: they shall have their fill.

Blessed are the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be recognized as children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

'Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven; this is how they persecuted the prophets before you.

Can you believe Rejoicing Spirits celebrated 4 years of ministry in November? Thank you all for your continued support. Every service is such a blessing. If you haven't been to a service, please consider joining us. All are welcome!



This month, Pastor Chris Frye from Chambersburg led our service. We talked about the saints of the past and our roles as saints. We even watched a very moving video of Bruce Springsteen's "When the Saints Go Marching In" (you can watch it at: http://youtu.be/r_Nrl-5Ker4) Pastor Chris reminded us to watch how each band member individually participated. We also welcomed new rejoicers Evan and his Mom this month! Grace and Ethan did a great job as our readers this month.

Thank you also to David who always helps us with setup and clean-up!

Please include our RS Prayer Requests with yours this month:

- Pastor Chris – Thanked God for Pastor Caitlin, and thanks for her completing her 26.2 mile run that morning
- Grace prayed for her Mom
- Rose – Thanked God for 4 wonderful years of Rejoicing Spirits

Thank you also to Karen Healy for serving as the Rejoicing Spirits Volunteer Coordinator. Please consider **supporting RS by volunteering your time or donating some fellowship food items for our service.** Contact Karen at: 218-8026 or bandkhealy@msn.com if you are able to help. Food items needed include: chips, pretzels, cupcakes, cookies, yogurt (for our members with swallowing difficulties), or drinks.

Please keep our birthday rejoicers in your prayers:

- Evan – Oct 7
- David – Dec 1
- Pastor Chris – Dec 3
- Biff – Dec 9
- Micah – Dec 25

Social Ministry

Our Social Ministries Team invites you to our 2015 planning meeting on Monday January 5 at 6:30 PM. At this meeting we'll select the projects and service opportunities we want to support this year. Your input, suggestions, and ideas are welcomed and appreciated. Questions? See Pastor Caitlin.



THANK YOU for your support of New Hope Ministries' Christmas Express! Once again, St. Stephen members and friends gave generously of their time, money, and shopping skills for those in need in our local community. A final count of gifts isn't yet available, but the collection box continually overflowed! THANK YOU for helping bring joy, hope, and love, to families at Christmastime.

THANK YOU for your help with Operation Christmas Child! Your generosity enabled us to stuff 50 boxes *full* of goodies for children. The boxes were blessed in worship on Sunday November 16, stuffed in Pastor's trunk, and dropped off at a local collection site the next day. Soon and very soon, they will be delivered to children around the globe.



The freezer has been restocked! Many thanks to Social Ministries and those who participated in the freezer meal event at the beginning of November. Our downstairs freezer is re-stocked with healthy homemade meals that can be picked up and delivered to anyone in need of some TLC. The Fabian family received some of these meals this week, and Amber says: ""Thank you to everyone that worked so hard on making meals for families in need. During this trying time for me and my family, it is a GREAT help. Blessings to all!" Please make use of this unique ministry!

Evangelism

FREE Congregational Community Meals

A few quotes from November's meal:

"There are many places in our community to eat throughout the month. I go to Trindle Church, St. Paul Church, and Mt. Zion Church, too....come to think of it, everywhere I eat is a Lutheran congregation! You Lutherans must really like to feed people!"

Pastor's Response: "Yes, yes we do. Our Bishop has said that our Lower Susquehanna Synod is a place where the hungry are fed, as we are fed by Christ. We are privileged to share the blessings we've received, and happy to feed all who hunger".

"The meal was delicious, thank you. But, I have to say, the community, love, and warm welcome is really what makes this special. Look around, many of us our old, with silver and white hair. We get lonely. We don't get out much. It's so nice to come and be with people." Amen!

Many thanks to all who have supported these meals throughout these seven months. We have been blessed by our guests, by the opportunity to serve, and by the experience of extending radical hospitality. **Our last meal for 2014 will be Saturday, December 20 at 5:30 PM, sponsored by our Evangelism team. If you are able to help, please let Pastor Caitlin know.**

After our December meal, we will take a break from the meals to pursue certification of our equipment and serving practices. We will simultaneously be assessing our mission as a congregation, and how God is calling us to feed the hungry in the years to come.

If you haven't made it to a Community Meal yet, please come in December and check it out!



Youth and Family Ministries

CLUB JOY JR (For Elementary Aged Youth): A schedule of events for 2014-2015 has been established! Many thanks to Brandi Smith, Lela Ewell, and Tina Gordon for their leadership of this group. Questions can be directed to Pastor Caitlin, or any of these leaders.

Third Tuesday of the Month Gatherings 6:30-7:30 will be held at St. Stephen. They will usually begin with a Bible study activity led by Pastor Caitlin (10-15 minutes) then include a craft/game and a snack. Sign-ups will be not required.

November 18 Leader: Brandi Smith

December 16 Leader: Brandi Smith

January 20 Leader: Tina Gordon

February 17 Leader: Lela Ewell

March: NONE

April 21 Leader: Pastor Caitlin

May 19 Leader: Tina Gordon

Club Joy Jr. Saturday Outings will typically occur on the first Saturday of the month, and will be held at a variety of times and places. Sign-ups will generally be requested

December 6: Christmas Caroling led by Brandi. Meet at St. Stephen at 5:00 PM

January 3: Roller skating led by Lela Location/Time TBA

February 7: Tubing led by Tina. Time/Location TBA

March: NONE

April 4: Bingo (?) led by Lela. Time/Location TBA

May 2: Bounce Plex led by Brandi. Time/Location TBA.

June 6: Mini golf led by Tina. Time/Location TBA



For High School Youth and College Student: Our Lower Susquehanna Synod's annual retreat for youth in 9th grade through college is coming soon! Join us as we gather with other young people from around the synod for a weekend of fellowship, worship, study, and community-building. This year's retreat will be January 2-4, and, once again, the cost of the event is entirely covered by our congregation. See Pastor Caitlin to sign up, or for more information. Hope to see you there!

OPUS is still busy!!

We start the next semi-annual schedule with a Christmas Party!

Wednesday, December 3 @ 11:00am in Fellowship Hall

We will share in a hearty meal of: Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes, Beverages, Pretzels, Chips and Cookies. We will follow by singing a couple of Christmas Carols. Finally, we will participate in a re-gifting exercise! Come join us. See Freda for details.

2015 promises to be exciting:

January 7th: We will share a meal, play a couple of games and then we will be attending a women's and children shelter.

We will have a Valentine's Party on February 4th.

With winter still holding on in March, we will warm up with an Army Heritage Center tour.

We are going to "sit back and relax" for our April meeting and listen to a speaking presentation.

Finally, we will be going to the State Police Museum on May 6th.

Stay tuned as planning continues and details emerge!

As always, call Freda for more information or to volunteer to help with the logistics.

OPUS



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Financial Report and Worship Life

Below, you will find our financial data through the end of October. As you review the data, we ask that you prayerfully consider St. Stephen in your end of year giving.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

Financial Status

October 31, 2014

Summarized Statement of Operations - YTD

	Actual	Budget	B/(W)
Operating Fund Receipts	\$ 130,116	\$ 173,620	\$ (43,504)
Operating Fund Disbursements:			
Salaries, Wages and Benefits	106,476	121,742	15,266
Property expenses	28,628	30,112	1,484
Office and admin	8,012	8,487	475
Program expenses	7,687	13,279	5,592
Other			0
Total Operating Fund Disbursements	\$ 150,803	\$ 173,620	\$ 22,817
Difference	\$ (20,687)	Deficit	

Summarized Fund Balances

Reserve Fund	\$ 73,338
El Salvador	10,462
Sara Jane Snyder (net of loan)	(44,951)
Other Memorials	42,491
Endowments	71,343
Interest and investment gains	116,466
Capital improvements	12,354
Social ministry	16,954
Other funds	\$ 11,468
Total	\$ 309,925



If you would like to sponsor altar flower arrangements in 2015, **please contact Kevin in the church office.** Often, sponsorships are made to honor loved ones, celebrate important milestones in life (such as births, adoptions, birthdays, anniversaries of wedding, adoption, baptism, confirmation), or give thanks for blessings. Flowers can also be sponsored "To the Glory of God". **The cost of sponsorship through the florist is \$30.00.** You can

also choose to sponsor a Sunday by bringing your own flowers to display (just be sure to tell Kevin that's what you plan to do). Sponsorships must be arranged by the end of the preceding month. Please plan to take your flowers home with you, or ask Pastor Caitlin for the name of someone who might like to receive them.

NEW FOR 2015: We will *not* be ordering flowers for unsponsored Sundays. If a Sunday isn't sponsored by the end of the preceding month, the altar table will either remain unadorned, or be decorated with dried wheat, gourds, etc.

We will continue to offer the opportunity to sponsor lilies at Easter, and poinsettias at Christmas.

In Case of Inclement Weather This Winter Season...

St. Stephen will use the following methods of notifications to relay information about cancellation of services (Sunday morning, Rejoicing Spirits, Lenten mid-week) and evening activities. Decisions will be made no less than 2 hours in advance.

- Email sent through the website to all members
- Message on the church answering machine will be updated
- Posting on cbs21.com
- Announcement through CBS Channel 21 News



Serving Our Community



Please be advised that on December 6th, 2013 from 5:00 pm to approximately 7:00 pm, Pennsylvania Pyrotechnic Artists, Inc. (PPA) will be setting off fireworks at the New Kingstown Fire Station. In exchange, the Township will receive a free display during the New Kingstown Festival in July. While we understand that some of you may feel that permitting PPA to set off fireworks this time of year is inconvenient, please know that allowing this practice run saves the Township and in turn you, the residents of Silver Spring over \$3,000.00 in fees that would otherwise be charged for the display in July. We encourage you to gather your friends and family together on December 7th to take advantage of the show and thank you for your understanding.



Don't bake all those holiday cookies this year! Come to the Cookie Walk at Slate Hill Mennonite Church in Camp Hill (1352 Slate Hill Rd.) Saturday morning, Dec. 6, from 9:00 - noon to purchase homemade cookies for your holiday needs. You will receive a box for a suggested donation of \$10.00 to fill with cookies of your choosing. Proceeds benefit tech4Tanzania, an organization supplying educational, medical, and technology needs for SHUCo (Southern Highlands University College) in Tanzania

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Enola; Slate Hill Mennonite Church, Camp Hill; and Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Harrisburg continue to work together as "tech4tanzania" an outreach ministry for education, technology and healthcare in south central Tanzania.



T4T has shipped more than one half million dollars worth of equipment and supplies in the last two years.

T4t has sent computer teachers, English language educators, a pharmacist and local pastors to develop partnerships in the area.

We support Lutheran pastors studying for their masters degrees at the Lutheran Theological seminary at Gettysburg

We support the IT department head at SHUCo during his masters studies at Harrisburg University of Science and Technology

We will support a Tanzanian high school grad coming to study IT at HACC in December this year.

We gather educational, technological and medical equipment and plan to ship to Tanzania in 2015

Thank YOU

As the Christmas season approaches, let us show our appreciation to our staff by offering a special collection. If you would like to contribute to this special collection, please place your monetary donations in a plain envelope and write "Special Collection for Christmas" on the front of the envelope. **The deadline for this special collection will be Sunday, December 8th.** Gift cards will be purchased and presented to our staff on or before Christmas Eve.

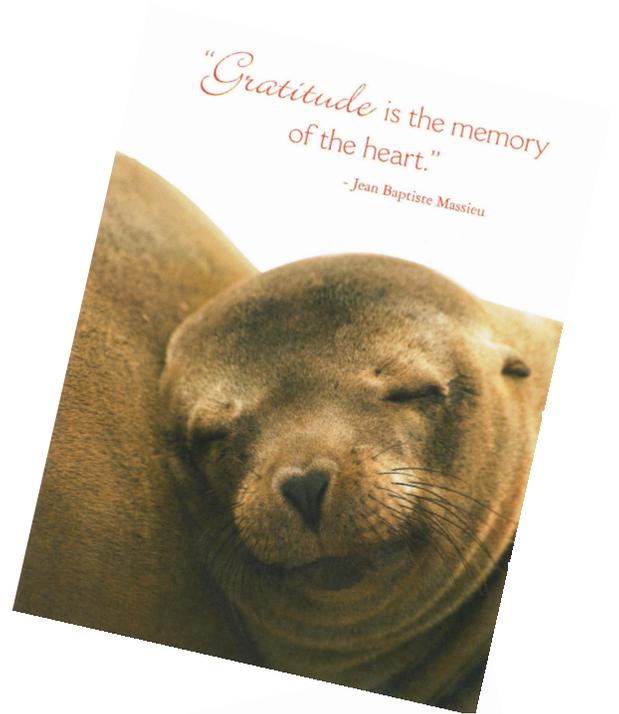
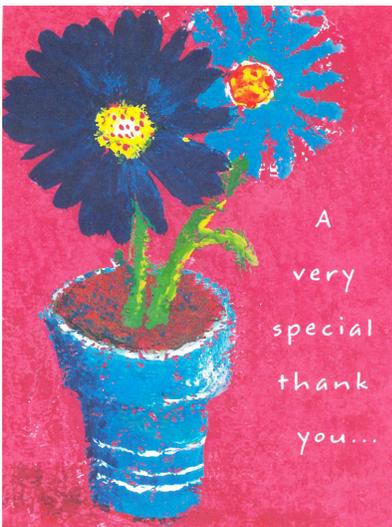
Social Ministry Committee and Congregation of
St. Stephens -

Thank you all very much for your prayers
and gifts I have received down here! I can't
tell you how much I appreciate this package
of "goodies" especially at this time of the
year when exams and papers fill every day.

I wish you all a Happy Halloween and
hope to see everyone during Thanksgiving
break in a few weeks (which can't
come soon enough!)

Sincerely,

Noah Willis



A heartfelt Thanks
for all you have done.

...for being
so very
thoughtful!

Thank you for
the box of goodies.
It made my day.

Love
Cami Grim

Janine Gunn

November 03, 2014

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
PO Box 266
New Kingstown, PA 17072

Dear Pastor Caitlin and Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,340.00 to Project SHARE! We are very grateful for your generosity as we are in the midst of a very tight budget with donations being very low. We are still getting much produce from local farmers and orchards. Our gleaning season is a very busy and productive one. We have been enjoying the smell of homemade applesauce being made by our dedicated kitchen volunteers for our holiday dinner.

Eight recipients will graduate from the Super Cupboard cooking instruction this week. I remember one young woman in class with a baby about a year old who was afraid to use her oven and stove because of the pilot light. So, she never cooked. She ate at a convenience store. She was able to overcome her fear and now can feed her young daughter and herself. You make these victories possible by supporting the work here at Project SHARE. Not only do you help us have the tools and space to work with people and the food to share, but your gift helps us focus on transformation - helping people get unstuck and on their feet.

It is that time of year where we are collecting Giant sales receipts dated October 2014. Giant will give us \$1 for each gas receipt and grocery receipt we collect, up to \$5,000. They may be mailed or delivered to SHARE at the above address. We are also collecting Thanksgiving bags and turkeys which should be delivered to us by November 17, 2014. A monetary gift may be made instead of buying the food, \$18 for the cost of a dinner bag and \$14 for a turkey.

We are truly blessed by your caring. It is especially humbling to see how the community comes together with SHARE to feed the hungry. May your family be as blessed during this harvest season as we have been. Thank you again.

Sincerely,



Elaine Livas
Executive Director
717.249.7773

Dear Pastor Caitlin and Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$453.92 to Project SHARE! We are very grateful for your generosity as we are in the midst of a very tight budget with donations being very low. We are still getting much produce from local farmers and orchards. Our gleaning season is a very busy and productive one. We have been enjoying the smell of homemade applesauce being made by our dedicated kitchen volunteers for our holiday dinner.

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Sincerely,



Elaine Livas
Executive Director
717.249.7773



5 North Orange Street
Suite 4
Carlisle, PA 17013
www.projectshare.net

Lord, Hear Our Prayers

St. Stephen Prayer Chain Did you know that, in addition to the prayers printed in your bulletin, our congregation has an email prayer chain? This email list receives and sends out prayer requests whenever members hear of a person or family in special need of prayer, and we want YOU to be a part of it! If you would like to be added to the email distribution list (to receive requests), please email Becky Rensel (becren2007@gmail.com). If you would like to add a prayer to the prayer chain, please email Becky, or Pastor Caitlin (pastor@ststephenlc.org) or call the church office. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry! *If you would rather receive a phone call than an email, please call Becky (766-6478) and she will add you to the phone tree!*

Name	Comments
John Teitman	Military & former pastor of St. Stephen.
Sarah Wyche	Military
LyNette Clements	Very weak (Kathy Burson's mother) Keep On!
Dan Schillinger	Seizures (Sandy Granberg's Brother) Keep On!
Clara Schillinger	Alzheimer's (Sandy Granberg's Mother) Keep On!
Adryon Marrero-Boyd	Military. Keep On!
Jacob Smith	Deployed to Afghanistan. Keep On!
Bob Lamp	Alzheimer's— Keep On!
Sharon Lamp	Caring for Bob Lamp— Keep On!
Hen & Gen Yohn	Keep On!
Tom Toone	Cancer patient; undergoing chemotherapy— Keep On!
Marcia Lamp	Keep Marcia Lamp in your prayers as she has had surgery--she is recovering at home and in a lot of pain.
A Young Man	An update for the young man who had kidney cancer surgery a few weeks ago. He has had one internal bleed which they were able to stop. He knew has an aneurism that requires surgery, which will take place today in Georgia, where he lives. Please pray for him and his family as they go through this very scary time. The young man with kidney cancer came home from the hospital but now is running a fever. Lynne requests prayers for healing from this latest complication. Treatment has not been decided upon yet
Rebecca--friend of Rose Hlavac	Rose would like prayers for a co-worker, Rebecca and family. Rebecca lives in Brooklyn with her 3 children ages 9-12. Her husband passed away on Thursday of a heart attack. He was a very physically fit young man, he taught Yoga amongst other things. This has obviously taken the family by complete surprise.
Prayers for Buffalo	Lela would like to add Buffalo to the prayer chain. 'I know as many people there as I do here, and my heart breaks for my family, friends and neighbors. The new concern is flooding this weekend, when the weather warms. Thank God, the Buffalo area knows how to handle snow.' We'll pray for those who have been evacuated and for the families of those who have lost their loved ones.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

For the Month of December

Carol Scheffer 1-Dec
 Bill McCormick III 6-Dec
 Amber Fabian 9-Dec
 Biff Healy 9-Dec
 Kyree Marrero-Boyd 10-Dec
 Fred Farabelli 19-Dec
 Glenn Foxx 19-Dec
 Marcia Lamp 19-Dec
 Jay Livingston 20-Dec
 Stephanie Sauve 20-Dec
 Garrett Treaster 20-Dec
 Nikolaus Lewis 22-Dec
 Benjamin Burson III 23-Dec
 Peggy Weigel 23-Dec
 Kaitlyn Treaster 26-Dec
 Barbara Gordy 27-Dec
 Daniel Seiple 28-Dec
 Gerald Beam 30-Dec

For the Month of January

Olivia Hoke 3-Jan Tina Gordon 18-Jan
 Norman Stoner 4-Jan Carol Shenk 19-Jan
 Pat Seiple 5-Jan Kenneth Wyland 19-Jan
 Christine Stallkamp 7-Jan Leah Farabelli 21-Jan
 Glenn Gross 8-Jan Mason Haggerty 22-Jan
 Adryon Marrero-Boyd 9-Jan Robert Lamp 22-Jan
 Kenneth Wiest 9-Jan Dean Rodgers 22-Jan
 Cheryl Neidig 10-Jan Cory Sauve 22-Jan
 Cookie Beam 13-Jan Barbara Beaver 27-Jan
 Greg John 13-Jan Marianne Stoner 28-Jan
 Heather Robbins 15-Jan James Grimm 29-Jan
 Dennis Filipovich 16-Jan Sarah Marrero-Boyd 29-Jan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

For the Month of December

Matt & Stacy Schroeder 4-Dec
 Randy & Cheryl Neidig 6-Dec
 Bob & Eleanor Conrad 10-Dec
 Lee & Ginny Buzilow 12-Dec
 Frank & June Roberto 27-Dec

For the Month of January

Wayne & Beth Lengel 7-Jan
 Richard & Patricia Lingle 19-Jan
 Harold & Sandra Bower 21-Jan
 Paul & Eugenia Monko 24-Jan

Happy Anniversary

Worship Assistants for December

	December 7		December 14		December 21		December 28	
	8:00 am	10:45 am						
Acolyte	Sara Houser	Randy Neidig	Kaitlyn Treaster	Victoria Bock	David Herb	Levi Kuhn	Kaitlyn Treaster	Levi Kuhn
Lector	Beth Lengel	Biff Healy	Jim McPherson	Bill Phelps	Lynne Immell	Pat Gilmore-Lee	Bonnie Bain	Carol Clelland
Assisting Minister	Beth Lengel	Terri Laquitara	Lynne Immell	Terri Laquitara	Beth Lengel	Terri Laquitara	Beth Lengel	Terri Laquitara
Cantor	Beth Lengel	Art Grove	Paulette Krewson	Greg John	Lynne Immell	Kathy Burson	Maxine Montgomery	Matt Schroeder
Communion	Alan Gamble	Bill Phelps	Laura Wills		Lloyd Sheaffer	Julie Grove	Brenda Sanchez	Kathy Burson
Ushers	Larry Treaster* Laura Treaster Wayne Lengel	Ken Clelland* Ira Ewell Josh Brown Ryan Haggerty	Larry Treaster* Laura Treaster Wayne Lengel	Ken Clelland* Ira Ewell Josh Brown Ryan Haggerty	Larry Treaster* Laura Treaster Wayne Lengel	Ken Clelland* Ira Ewell Josh Brown Ryan Haggerty	Larry Treaster* Laura Treaster Wayne Lengel	Ken Clelland* Ira Ewell Josh Brown Ryan Haggerty
Greeter	Alan & Dawn Gamble	Brian & Marcy Posey	Larry & Gail Phillippy	Robert Hansen	Bill & Laura Wills	Ken & Carol Clelland	Larry & Laura Treaster	Bill & Esther Phelps
Nursery	Caroline Sheaffer		Laura Wills		Laura Wills		Sue Rodgers	
Altar Guild	Mary Zook & Terri Laquitara							
Counters	Bob & Marla Hansen; Al Lewis							
Flower Delivery	N/a		Rose Hlavac		Esther Phelps		Terri Laquitara	

Worship Assistants for January

	January 4		January 11		January 18		January 25	
	8:00 am	10:45 am						
Acolyte	David Herb	Jadam Smith	David Herb	Brendan Krausse	Kaitlyn Treaster	Angel Smith	David Herb	Hayden Krausse
Lector								
Assisting Minister	Beth Lengel	Angel Smith	Lynne Immell	Pat Gilmore-Lee	Sara Houser	Angel Smith	Beth Lengel	Pat Gilmore-Lee
Cantor	Beth Lengel	Art Grove	Paulette Krewson	Greg John	Lynne Immell	Kathy Burson	Maxine Montgomery	Matt Schroeder
Communion	Sue Rodgers	Art Grove	Ja 'Net Grey	Carol Clelland	Darryl Gochenaur	Julie Grove	Lloyd Sheaffer	Roger Immell
Ushers	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Bill Wills	Tom Burson* Bob Hansen Julie Grove Grant Foxx	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Bill Wills	Tom Burson* Bob Hansen Julie Grove Grant Foxx	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Bill Wills	Tom Burson* Bob Hansen Julie Grove Grant Foxx	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Bill Wills	Tom Burson* Bob Hansen Julie Grove Grant Foxx
Greeter								
Nursery	Laura Wills		Sue Rodgers		Carrie Lewis		Laura Wills	
Altar Guild	Cheryl & Korra Neidig							
Counters	Terri Laquitara & Cheryl Neidig							

December 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 6:00p Boy Scouts 6:00p Stewardship Meeting	2 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Chimes Rehearsal 6:30p Advent Sup –N- Study	3 11:00a OPU S Luncheon 6:00p Quilting 6:00p Children's Choir 7:00p New Spirit Choir	4 9:00a Quilting 4:30p Adult SCS serve @ Project Share 6:30p Private Function	5	6 10:00a Private Function 5:00p Club JOY Jr
7 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship 12:30p Christmas Play practice 2:00p Dulcimers practice	8 6:00p Boy Scouts 7:00p Congregational Council Meeting	9 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Chimes Rehearsal 6:30p Advent Sup –N- Study	10 6:00p Quilting 6:00p Children's Choir 7:00p New Spirit Choir	11 9:00a Quilting	12	13 10:00a Hanging of the Greens 12:00p Christmas Play practice
14 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Confirmation Class 10:45a Worship 12:30p Christmas Play practice 3:30p Rejoicing Spirits	15 6:00p Boy Scouts 6:30p Evangelism Com- mittee Meeting	16 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Chimes Rehearsal 6:30p Advent Sup –N- Study 6:30p Club JOY Jr	17 6:00p Quilting 6:00p Children's Choir 7:00p New Spirit Choir	18 9:00a Quilting	19 6:00p Snitzing	20 9:30a 4-H Creative Ex- pressions Club 12:00p Christmas Play dress rehearsal 5:30p Community Meal 6:30p Christmas Play
21 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Confirmation Class 10:45a Worship 12:15p High School and Col- lege Student Breakfast	22 6:00p Boy Scouts	23 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Chimes Rehearsal 6:30p Advent Sup –N- Study	24 5:00p Family Worship Christmas Eve Service 7:00p Worship w/Holy Communion 11:00p Worship w/ Holy Communion	25, Merry Christmas 9:30 Worship with Holy Communion 	26	27
28 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship	29 6:00p Boy Scouts	30 9:00a The Breakfast Club 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Chimes Rehearsal	31 6:00p Quilting 6:00p Children's Choir 7:00p New Spirit Choir			

January 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 9:00a Quilting	2	3 9:00a Ed. Committee Meeting 12:00p Club JOY Jrr
4 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship 2:00p Dulcimers practice	5 6:00p Boy Scouts 6:30p Social Ministries Committee Meeting	6 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Chimes Rehearsal 6:00p Stewardship Committee Meeting	7 11:00a OPUS 6:00p Quilting 6:00p Children's Choir 7:00p New Spirit Choir	8 9:00a Quilting	9	10
11 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship 3:30p Rejoicing Spirits	12 6:00p Boy Scouts 7:00p Congregational Council Meeting	13 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Chimes Rehearsal	14 6:00p Quilting 6:00p Children's Choir 7:00p New Spirit Choir	15 9:00a Quilting	16	17 9:30a 4-H Creative Ex- pressions Club
18 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship	19 6:00p Boy Scouts 6:30p Evangelism Com- mittee Meeting	20 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Chimes Rehearsal 6:30p Club JOY Jr 7:00p Worship & Music Committee Meeting	21 6:00p Quilting 6:00p Children's Choir 7:00p New Spirit Choir	22 9:00a Quilting	23	24
25 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship	26 6:00p Boy Scouts	27 9:00a The Breakfast Club 10:00a Bible Study: Finding God in a Bag of Groceries 6:00p Chimes Rehearsal 7:00p Bible Study: Finding God in a Bag of	28 6:00p Quilting 6:00p Children's Choir 7:00p New Spirit Choir	29 9:00a Quilting	30	31

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 266
New Kingstown, PA 17072
Phone: 766-2168
www.StStephenLC.org
Return Services Requested

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Carlisle, PA

Permit Number 51



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Pastor

Pastor Caitlin Glass

pastor@StStephenLC.org

Parish Office Manager

Kevin Stafford

office@StStephenLC.org

Youth & Family Ministries Director

youth@StStephenLC.org

Organist

Steve Pastena

Custodian

Michael Wogan

Website

<http://www.StStephenLC.org>



Advent Worship at St. Stephen: Sundays at 8:00 and 10:45

November 30 "Waiting in Hope"

December 7 "Walking in Peace"

December 14 "Joy on the Journey" *with the Rite of Healing*

December 21 "Love is the Way" *with Christmas Choral
Cantata*

Christmas Eve at St. Stephen: Wednesday, December 24

5:00 PM Family Worship with Holy Communion

7:00 PM Worship with Holy Communion (Prelude music
begins at 6:30 PM)

11:00 PM Worship with Holy Communion (Prelude music
begins at 10:30 PM)

Christmas Day at St. Stephen: Thursday De- cember 25

9:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion

