

Vision of St. Stephen

May 2021



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

Pastor: Rev. Beth Ferne Johnson
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Happy 52nd Birthday St. Stephen!

Worshipping together since May 4, 1969



Our original worship services at Highland!



The original St. Stephen church building



St. Stephen Lutheran Church building today!

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Spiritual Growth



Outreach Gifts

For the first quarter of 2021, St. Stephen will be providing a \$1,000 outreach gift to Salem Lutheran Church located in the Vista neighborhood of Toledo. Salem hosts outreach programs to the community, including the several meal programs, and the Personal Needs pantry. We send donations we've collected to this pantry on a regular basis.

Our Lenten Offering this spring was \$750. We will be dividing this amount between two area organizations, sharing \$325 with Lutheran Social Services Food pantry and \$325 with Sylvania Area Family Services.

Mother's Day

Do you have a great photo of you with your mom, a sister, your kids, or a favorite aunt? How about one with several generations of women? You're invited to send a favorite photo to Janell by Saturday, May 8th. She'll be created a Facebook page collage to celebrate the connections we share with the women in our lives!

"Share a Shell"

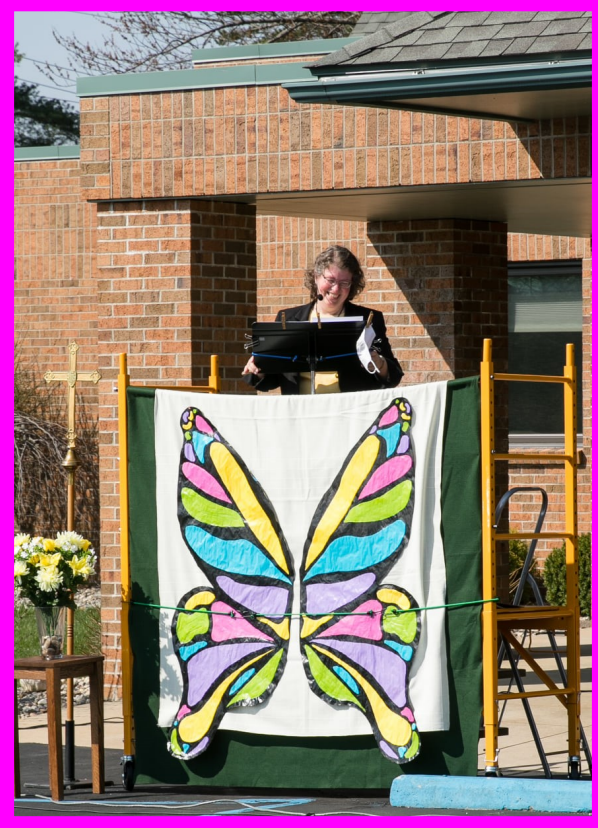
On Pentecost Sunday (May 23rd) and Memorial Day Sunday (May 30th) or anytime in between, you're invited to bring boxes of Macaroni and Cheese to help stock the Lutheran Social Services food pantry with this much requested item. If you bring a gift of Mac and Cheese at an off time, you're welcome to put it in the Feed Your Neighbor bin by the front door. Let's see how many boxes of "shells" we can gather!!



Party in the Parking Lot

On Pentecost, May 23rd, mark your calendar and plan to stay a little while after worship. We'll be providing an ice cream treat for those who are here for our parking lot worship. You're also invited to linger a little and visit with others!

Easter Sunday Drive-In Worship



Youth and Family

Catechism classes

We will have two remaining catechism sessions: one on May 2nd and the other on May 23rd, as we prepare for our young people to be confirmed on May 30th! These two sessions will be held at 12:15 p.m.

Vacation Bible School

A schedule is being developed for our summer Vacation Bible School program! Look for more information in our June newsletter

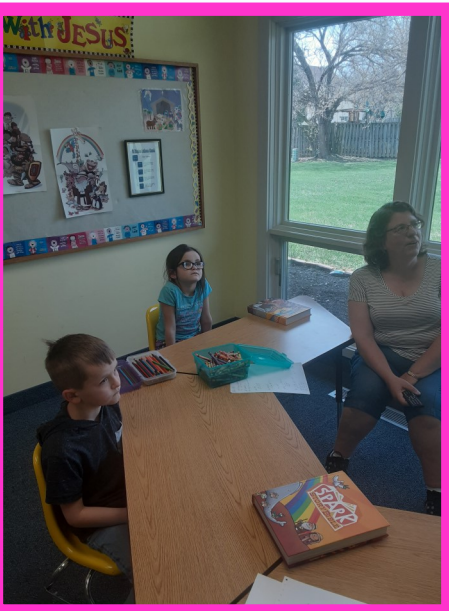
Confirmation Day!

On May 30th, four of our young people will be confirming the baptismal promises made by their parents and sponsors. Eli Ballard, Evin McCoy, Mollie McCoy, and Allison Shadle have made the best of very interesting catechism sessions. Three fourths of their classes have been held over Zoom!! (This is history making, folks!!) We're excited to share this day with them and with their families.



Youth Event

Our next youth event will be held at St. Stephen on May 16th. We'll be gathering around 12:15 for a scavenger hunt related to our Bible focus for the day.



First Communion Retreat

Amelia and Elliott Huddleston and Pastor Beth watched a short video as part of the First Communion Retreat. The siblings will be taking their first communion at a later date.

Expanded Worship Opportunities

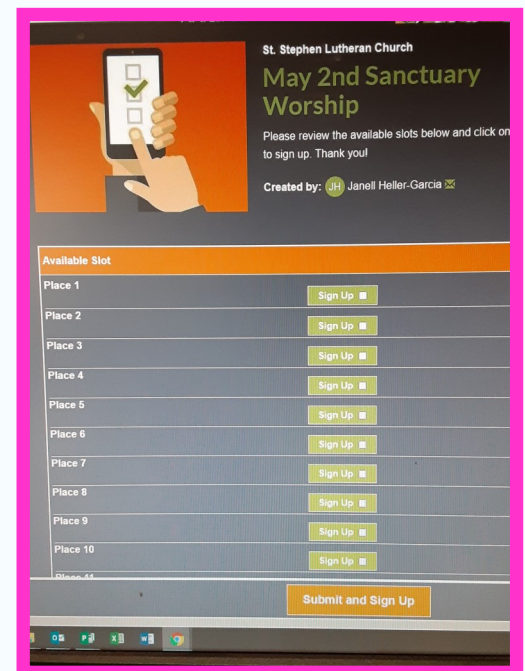
In May, we'll be offering additional opportunities to gather together for worship. Each Sunday, we'll continue to livestream our worship at 11:00 a.m. on Facebook Live and YouTube, with the worship available to view on those platforms afterwards as well.

The following options will be available while Lucas County is in the "red" category. When our county becomes "orange", adaptations may be made.

Each Sunday there will be an opportunity to gather together, either in our parking lot or in our sanctuary.

Our Parking Lot services will be held on May 9 and May 23 at 11:00 a.m. We're making 2 small adjustments to the parking lot services from last fall. If you need to use the restroom, the Fellowship hall door (north end of the building) will be unlocked and you're invited to enter and make your way to the bathrooms. (This way trips to the bathroom will not be "on camera" for all to see!). In case of bad weather, the parking lot service will be suspended and worship will be held online only. We only had to do this one Sunday last year, and we're hoping for equally good weather this year!

Our sanctuary worship services will be held on May 2, May 16, and May 30 at 11:00 a.m. Covid protocols will be in place including having a temperature check as you enter the building, safe distances between groups, wearing masks, and refraining from singing. When you arrive for worship, you will be escorted to a seat/s. Everyone will remain seated during worship. At the close of the service, you will be dismissed through the fire exit door into the fellowship hall and out to the parking lot. You're welcome to pause in the parking lot to visit with others. Since we have sanctuary spaces for 14 families, you're asked to use "Sign-up Genius" to reserve a place for each separate worship service. If you're not comfortable using the computer, you're invited to call St. Stephen by noon on Saturday to reserve a spot.



Sign Up Genius list which will be available for reserving your spot. The link will be sent out using One Call Now, our e-mail list, and will be available on our website as well!

Outreach

LWR Quilting

Attention quilters: Please come to quilt on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, after lunch. We will be ready at noon and plan to be cleaned up and ready to leave by 4:00 pm. Please rsvp to Lboldt@bex.net if you wish to tie--so we can have enough tables set up for you. Please call Libby at 419-356-6244, if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you. FYI, as of April 14, we have 15 quilts completed and 15 in some stage of completion.



Salem Non-Food Pantry

Our ongoing collection for Salem Lutheran non-food pantry could use an infusion! They are always in need of any baby supplies, natural hair care products, dry laundry detergent, toothpaste and toothbrushes, lotions, and hair styling products! They always appreciate our donations and it really makes a difference to people in need in our community!



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!



Giving Store

St. Stephen is still collecting clothing and household items for the Giving Store but we could use your help! We have been doing such a good job collecting these items we are in need of more help to deliver the items to Glenwood Lutheran. If you are ever headed near Glenwood Lutheran and would like to help get donations to them, please feel free to call the office or talk to Pastor Beth!



Church Finances

FINANCIAL STATUS (AS OF MARCH 31, 2021)

Council also wanted to let our members know how we are doing financially. Overall, we are in good standing. Finances at the end of March were as follows:

Checking Account	19,649.75	
Savings Account	19,374.43	
Capital + Maintenance		
Improvements Acct	16,250.61	(formerly Building Fund)
Scholarship Account	30,859.87	

Thank you to all our members and friends who continue to support our church and mission work. As per our budget and dedication to outreach, our Q1 \$1000 giving went to Salem Lutheran Church in Toledo, whose attendees were severely impacted with the pandemic. In addition went split our Lenten giving to Sylvania Area Family Services (SAFS) and Lutheran Social Services (LSS). We continue to support our Synod as per our approved budget. This would not be possible without your commitment and resources. Thank you once again.

Marilyn Scuralli
Council President

NEW TREASURER

St. Stephen is welcoming a new Treasurer to our team. Bob Housel and his wife Judie are 2nd service folks. They live in Sylvania and have 2 sons; Patrick [Melissa] and Sean [Maria], and are blessed with 4 grandchildren (Avery, Grant, Quinn, and Henry). Bob will soon be retiring (June 30) from Owens Corning. We are thankful for his willingness to serve the church in this truly important role.

Bob has been working on the transition with Libby Boldt the past several weeks. We have a couple of administrative steps to complete but Bob is trained and ready to go. Thank you, Bob, for taking this role on!

A special thank you goes out to Libby Boldt for all her time, patience, and effort these past many years as our Treasurer and working with us through this transition period. Thank you, thank you, thank you for all you have done. You have demonstrated a true giving of your time and talent. God bless you.

Prayer

MAY PRAYER NOTES

My brother-in-law has been staying with me while waiting for his furniture to be delivered from Maine. He is moving into Alexis Gardens which has my family excited. Naturally, we have been doing a lot of reminiscing. His memory is much better than mine and it has been fun for me to dig deep in my memory to enjoy again, those long lost days. Of course, at this point in our lives, most of the people in our shared memories are gone. We believe they are in God's home.....they are in Heaven. That is such a comforting thing to be able to be confident that the ones you loved are living in God's promise. And it is a gift, too, to be able to remember all the good times we had while they were here on this earth with us. I don't know about you, but sometimes God love just seems so overwhelming. Why does God bother with us? Why did he send His Son to teach us and then to die for us and show us that life does not end with this mortal body, but continues on with Him? Sometimes, when I go to pray, I feel that overwhelming love and I can't even speak words of gratitude enough. In Sunday School, we teach our children a little chorus: "Jesus loves me, this is know. For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong, we are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so." And that calls me to prayer. 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
Lila & Lib—Peace & Comfort
Sarah's Family—Comfort & Healing
Linda—Cancer
Zachary—Answers and Comfort
Richard—Work
Ryan—Peace & Success
Noah—Strength and Understanding
Jeff—Guidance & Understanding
Lyndsey—Healing and Comfort
Chesney's Family
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
Jan—Health and Comfort
COVID Sufferers

Fun

ALL IN GOOD FUN

Sunday school teacher: Tell me, Johnny. Do you say prayers before eating?

Johnny: No, ma'am, I don't have to. My mom's a good cook.

BIBLE QUIZ

Who was King Solomon's mother?
(Answer page 10)

- A. Elizabeth
- B. Bathsheba
- C. Ruth
- D. Esther

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

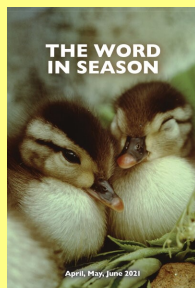
Need Help?

Need help registering for Covid-19 vaccine? Please call the church office and we'll help you fill out the form that is being requested by the Lucas County Health Department.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **June 2021** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by May 11.**

Word in Season



The Word in Season for April, May and June are now at the church! If you can't make it to the building to pick one up, call the office and Janell can send you one!

Bible Quiz Answer:

B. Bathsheba

May Celebrations

Baptismal Birthdays

5/1 Sue Kahl
 5/2 Garry Ward
 5/11 Beth Ferne Johnson
 5/14 Debbie Lock
 5/16 Clare Aldrich
 5/16 David Aldrich
 5/16 Haden Aldrich
 5/16 Kathy Aldrich
 5/16 Sam Aldrich
 5/16 Jessica Klimesh
 5/18 Jordan Shepler
 5/19 Tristan Bonde
 5/25 Cathy Gustafson
 5/29 Sue Marvin

Birthdays

5/2 Joyce Cunningham
 5/4 Kayla Kunkel
 5/4 Debbie Lock
 5/6 Tristan Bonde
 5/7 Ryann Fox
 5/18 Jordan Shepler
 5/28 Lynn Tefft
 5/29 Peggy Scholl
 5/31 Nick Scuralli

Anniversaries

5/27 Tony & Michelle Tebary

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship 12:15 Catechism	3	4 Happy Birthday St. Stephen 7:00 PM Bible 101	5 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion	6	7	8 Send Photos to Janell!
9 Mother's Day 11AM Online/ Parking Lot Worship	10	11 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Bible 101	12 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion	13	14	15
16 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship 12:15 Youth Event	17 7:00 PM Coun- cil Meeting	18 7:00 PM Bible 101	19 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion	20	21	22
23 11AM Online/ Parking Lot Worship 12:15 Catechism 12:15 Parking Lot Treats	24	25 12:00 PM LWR Quilting 7:00 PM Bible 101	26 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion	27	28	29
30 Confirmation 11AM Online/In Sanctuary Worship	31					