

# Vision of St. Stephen

## September 2024



Decorations at Church Picnic

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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*“Perhaps you have come... for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14)*

Our Wednesday Bible study is beginning a study of the Book of Esther—a woman who became queen and in so gaining close access to the king, was able to influence him to revoke an order of mass execution—thus saving the Jewish people.

Esther’s uncle, Mordecai, tells her that perhaps she has become queen just for this purpose—for such a time as this.

Perhaps you’ve heard this quote before, as it’s a relatively well known and often used to talk about unlikely people doing unlikely, yet important, work.

Here at St. Stephen, we’re entering the covenanting season—where we invite you to prayerfully consider what God has called you to do and to be in your baptism. In that sacrament, you or your sponsors made some really hefty promises.

*As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:*

*to live with them among God's faithful people,  
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in their hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture them in faith and prayer,  
so that your children may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.*

*Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?*

These promises are so big, so overwhelming, that we can’t begin to accomplish them on our own, and yet—we cannot ignore them or pretend it’s someone else’s job to be working on them. No matter what or when or where we find ourselves, we have always needed people from a variety of backgrounds to speak a word of love, of peace, of hope, and of healing to our world. We have always needed such people “for such a time as this”. And as Christians, this calling is our reason for being. Even as others share this work, we bring something unique in that we speak these needed words out of the context of Jesus’s life-giving act on the cross.

So, you’re invited to think about these things, about God’s calling, and to prayerfully consider your response to God’s invitation. During the month of September, you’re invited to bring your signed covenant forward during our worship together, placing it on the altar. If you’d prefer, you can also mail or email your covenant back to St. Stephen as well. I give thanks that, together, we’re on this journey, “for such a time as this”.

Peace, Pastor Beth

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# Spiritual Growth

## **RECOVENANTING**

During the month of September, you're invited to consider your ongoing participation in the life of St. Stephen. If you get your newsletter by email, you'll find a copy of the covenant attached. If you receive this newsletter in the mail, you'll find a paper copy included. We also will have paper copies of the covenant on the bulletin table in the narthex. During the month of September, you're invited to bring your signed covenant forward during the hymn of the day, placing it in the basket on the altar.

## **WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Our next book for conversation and study will be the Old Testament book of Esther. Come and see why Esther is the perfect person for the "times such as this." New participants are always welcome to this group that has interesting discussions about faith and life. We meet Wednesdays at 11:00 AM.

## **"The Chosen" BIBLE STUDY**

Have you heard of "The Chosen" TV series? It is a "groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus Christ, seen through the eyes of those who knew him". We'll be offering an 7 week opportunity on Tuesday nights to watch an episode of the series together and then have a discussion about it. Our discussions will be led by Jamile Shibley, a friend and former co-worker of Marilyn Scuralli's. Our first session will be on September 10<sup>th</sup> and will be from 6:30-8:00 p.m. We'll be meeting in the Gathering Space classroom off the fellowship hall, so you're invited to enter the building through our outside fellowship hall door. We hope to see you there as we think about Jesus's life and ministry together.

## **GATHERING SPACE**

Our Gathering Space time for learning returns on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Beth will be leading a study on the Sabbath—that it's not simply about keeping rules but rather about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society. This time together will be based on the book, "Sabbath as resistance" by Walter Bruggemann. Our time of questions and conversation begins at 9:15 Sunday mornings.

## **BACK TO CHURCH DAY**

On Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, we're hoping to see some new smiling faces for our worship together! All are welcome to join us for coffee and pastries before and after our worship, with time for people to connect as the summer season leads into fall.

## **CATECHISM RESUMES**

Our catechism classes will resume on Sunday, September 22 for 6-7:30 PM as students and parents meet to plan out the fall schedule. This year the students will be studying Luther's Small Catechism together! If you know of a junior high school person who would like to join this group, please let Pastor Beth know.

# Activities

## **FELLOWSHIP MEAL**

Would you enjoy an evening meal in the company of others? Our Fellowship Meal resumes on September 4<sup>th</sup> (normally it will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month) at 6:30 p.m. Vickie Veitch will be providing a great soup—all you need to do is bring yourself! We'll have a guided conversation around a specific question and after we're done eating, we'll share in the quick clean-up!

## **JOY CLUB**

Would you like to go to lunch with other women? Our monthly JOY club will be heading to Rosie's Italian Grille, 606 McCord Road, on September 17<sup>th</sup> at noon. Please sign up if you'd like to join!

## **BOOK GROUP**

She took on titans, battled generals, and changed the world as we know it. Who is this person? Our Book Group is finding out as we read, Becoming Madame Secretary, about the life of Frances Perkins, who served in FDR's administration as the Secretary of Labor. All are welcome to join in our book discussion—Thursday, September 26, 7:00 p.m. The Golba's recently visited her family home in Maine while they were on vacation there—and might have a photo or two to share with us!

## **PET BLESSING**

Mark your calendar for October 26 for our annual pet blessing!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

October 5<sup>th</sup> —Join a team of Volunteers to deep clean/organize the food pantry at Lutheran Social Services. We'll meet at 2149 Collingwood Blvd at 10:00 a.m. and work till 11:30ish. If you'd like to carpool there, please let Pastor Beth know.

## **ISAIAH 117, CHANGING THE WAY FOSTER CARE BEGINS**

She took on titans, battled generals, and changed the world as we know it. Who is this person? Our Book Group is finding out as we read, Becoming Madame Secretary, about the life of Frances Perkins, who served in FDR's administration as the Secretary of Labor. All are welcome to join in our book discussion—Thursday, September 26, 7:00 p.m. The Golba's recently visited her family home in Maine while they were on vacation there—and might have a photo or two to share with us!

## **SALEM LUTHERAN OFFERING**

Our picnic free will offering on August 25th generated \$119 to support the many ministries offered by Salem Lutheran in Toledo! Thank you to everyone for your generosity, and thank you for Lin McKelvey for cooking all the food!

# Outreach

## Praying for the Congregation

Our annual praying for the congregation leaflet is available now. In it you'll find that each day has been assigned a person's name or a prayer request. You're invited to pray for that person by name as we hold each other and our world up in daily prayer together.



## ST. STEPHEN HOSTING SYNOD EVENT

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, St. Stephen will be hosting a synod compensation guidelines event. At our June synod assembly meeting, new guidelines for compensation of rostered leaders were proposed and passed. This workshop provides more help as congregations explore what this means for them. St. Stephen is happy to host this 6:30 PM meeting for pastors and financial teams from across our synod.

## Music on the Lawn

Our very own Scott Ballard will be providing music for our enjoyment! Come and sing along to your favorites! Join us September 28th at 3PM. Snacks will be provided—bring a bag chair and invite a friend! (in case of rain, we will move this event inside).



## Mudhens Game

Play Ball! We'll be cheering on the Mudhens at their game on September 21<sup>st</sup>—to get the group ticket price, please sign up by September 1<sup>st</sup>! The group is likely to ride the Mud Hens TARTA shuttle (\$3 round trip) to avoid parking congestion and fees. The shuttle leaves the parking lot at the corner of Monroe and Silica at 4:00 p.m., with the game starting at 5:05 p.m. Please sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office to be added to the list.

# Church Picnic



## Administrative News

### **LITTLE MIRACLES**

Little Miracles has expanded their program housed here at St. Stephen. As in past years, elementary school kids will be here before and after the school day. Additionally, there will be kids here during the school day for a preschool Montessori based program. They will be having classes in the Sunday School hallway. Because of recent state requirements, to ensure the safety of the kids, all visitors to the Sunday school wing will need to be accompanied by Pastor Beth during school hours or have an account with Little Miracles. St. Stephen is receiving \$2,000 per month for their building usage

### **FISH MAGNETS**

If you need a magnet (they were given out in bulletins at the August 25 service) please contact the church office and we'll get one to you!

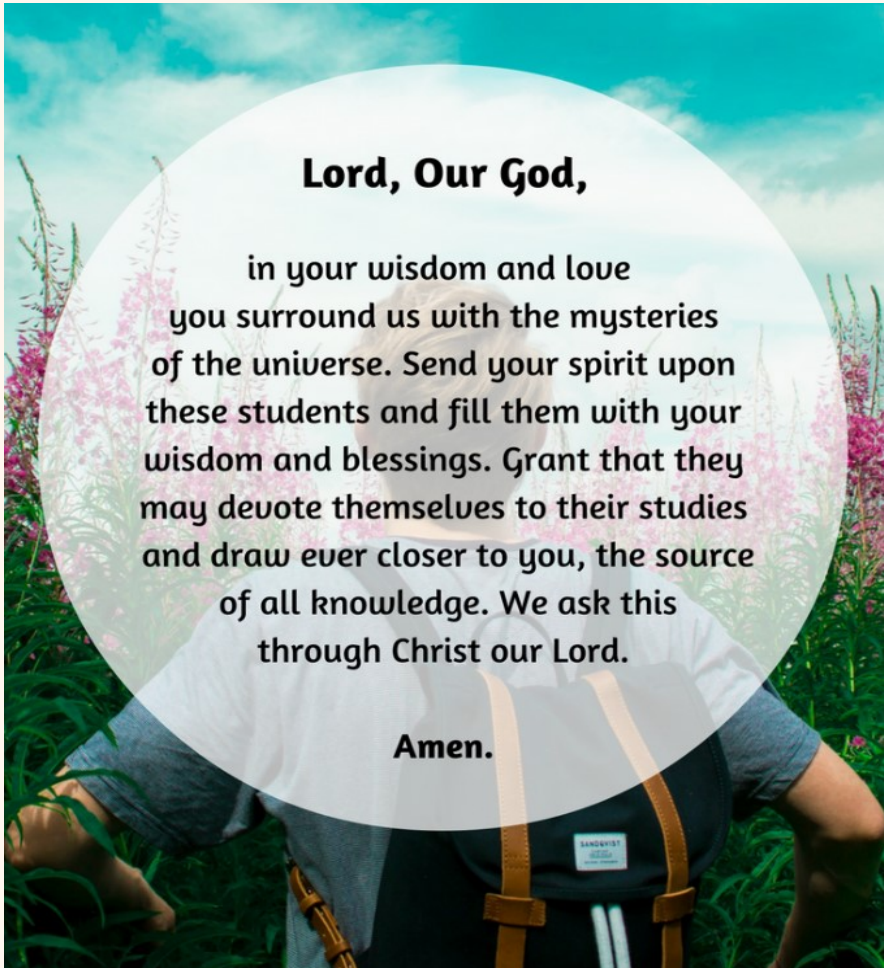
### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **October 2024** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by September 10.**



# Prayer

## SEPTEMBER PRAYER NOTES



**Lord, Our God,**

in your wisdom and love  
you surround us with the mysteries  
of the universe. Send your spirit upon  
these students and fill them with your  
wisdom and blessings. Grant that they  
may devote themselves to their studies  
and draw ever closer to you, the source  
of all knowledge. We ask this  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

*Tracey—Healing*  
*Wolf—Stomach Cancer*  
*Richard—Healing*  
*Dave—Comfort & Healing*  
*Lisa—Peace*  
*Jessica—Answers & Healing*  
*Gary—Stroke & Recovery*  
*Tre—Healing*  
*Laura—Healing & Comfort*  
*Noah—Upcoming Surgery*  
*Judie—Healing*  
*Ann—Healing & Comfort*  
*Irina—Healing & Comfort*  
*All victims of trauma and war*

# Fun

## ALL IN GOOD FUN

Why did the little boy walk next to the same  
girl every day at bible school?

He was told to walk by Faith!

## BIBLE QUIZ

How many days was Lazarus buried in his  
tomb before Jesus resurrected him?

(Answer page 10)

- A. 1
- B. 4
- C. 6
- D. 14

## 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

## 2024 Council Members

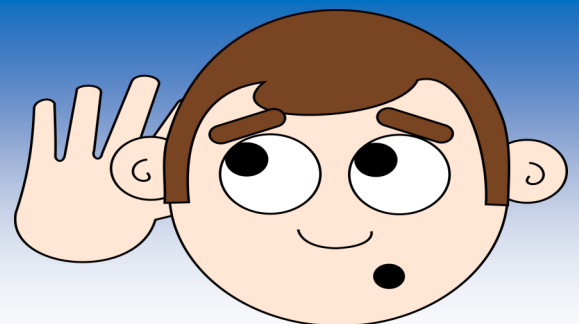
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Tom Dangelo
<i>Secretary</i>	Lin McKelvey
<i>Treasurer</i>	Kathie Tefft

## 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>	Tom Schmidt
<i>Staff Support</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Stewardship/Evangelism</i>	
<i>Technology</i>	Tom Dangelo
<i>Youth &amp; Family Ministry</i>	Lin McKelvey
<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

## Volunteer Sign Up Sheet

If you would like to help with worship, a new volunteer sign up is available in the Narthex on the bulletin board! Thank you!

## CONGRATS!

Preston Hendricks and Alicia Gangwer will be united in marriage on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Their wedding at Sauder Village will be officiated by Pastor Beth. Preston is the son of Sue and Scott Hendricks, our previous church secretary. Preston and Alicia are regular worshippers with us online! You're invited to hold them in prayer as they begin this new stage in their life together.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the "Bread of Life" collection for LSS Food Pantry!

Bible Quiz Answer:

B. 4

## September Celebrations

### Baptismal Birthdays

9/1 Marty McKelvey  
9/17 Marilyn Scuralli  
9/28 Joan Haddox  
9/30 Niel Johnson

### Birthdays

9/2 Darrell Staup  
9/5 Patrick McCoy  
9/14 Lisa Hopkins  
9/22 Aaron Ziegler  
9/25 Ruth Moeller  
9/28 Jackie Cornell

### Anniversaries

9/2 T & J Dangelo  
9/6 L&K Tefft  
9/8 S&A Senci  
9/8 C&P Scholl  
9/9 S & M Ballard  
9/14 J&K Bork  
9/27 S&K Ziegler



# September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Re-covenanting</b> 10:30 AM In Sanctuary/ Online Worship	<b>2</b> <b>Labor Day—</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>3</b> 3:00 Walk-Up Communion	<b>4</b> 11:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Fel- lowship Meal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation
<b>8</b> <b>Re-covenanting</b> 10:30 AM In Sanctuary/ Online Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Newsletter</b> <b>Deadline</b> 3:00 Walk-Up Communion 6:30 “The Cho- sen” Bible Study	<b>11</b> 11:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Synod Event	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> *Rehearsal (Offsite)	<b>14</b> 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation *Hendricks Wed- ding (Offsite)
<b>15</b> <b>Back to Church Sunday</b> <b>Re-covenanting</b> 9:15 AM Gathering Space 10:30 AM In Sanctuary/ Online Worship *Fellowship Before & After Worship	<b>16</b> 1:00 PM Needler’s 6:00 PM Coun- cil Meeting	<b>17</b> 12:00 PM JOY Club @ Rosie’s 3:00 Walk-Up Communion 6:30 “The Cho- sen” Bible Study	<b>18</b> 11:00 AM Bible Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation 4:00 PM Mudhens Game
<b>22</b> <b>Re-covenanting</b> 9:15 AM Gathering Space 10:30 AM In Sanctuary/ Online Worship 6:00 PM Catechism	<b>23</b> LWR Quilting	<b>24</b> 3:00 Walk-Up Commu- ion6:30 “The Chosen” Bible Study	<b>25</b> 11:00 AM Bible Study	<b>26</b> 7:00 PM Book group	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:30 AM Coffee and Conversation *Hall Rental
<b>29</b> <b>Re-covenanting</b> 9:15 AM Gathering Space 10:30 AM In Sanctuary/ Online Worship	<b>30</b>					