

# Vision of St. Stephen

## March 2022



St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
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Pastor: Rev. Beth Ferne Johnson  
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Words from a friend and colleague of Pastor Beth, the Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen, from her FB page

Prayers are arising for peace in Ukraine.

This is good.

We -should- pray for peace.

But I'm not convinced that we should pray because we think it will change God's mind, or Putin's.

Both are already fixed, albeit in diametrically opposed ways.

God covets the well-being of all people and works through us to create it.

Putin covets more power and works through violence to create it.

Increasing the number or the earnestness of prayers will not alter God's intentions, already demonstrably and inherently bent toward peace, nor will they alter a dictator's intentions already demonstrably and inherently bent toward war.

There is no divinely necessary quorum of prayers nor tallied critical mass of sincere pray-ers essential for God to decide to act, to respond to suffering, to engage as God has already promised to do and already gone about doing.

Jesus is risen, actually, so we have a revelation in hand that God's agenda is decidedly about life and not death.

So why pray?

-We pray to show the people of Ukraine that they are neither alone nor are they forgotten: they are lifted up in our collective words of concern, outrage, and hope, and, we hope, they are thereby lifted up.

-We pray to strengthen the bonds of people around the world, reminding each other that we are all siblings, all connected, all children of God, all worthy of shalom.

-We pray to orient ourselves toward the God of peace, and away from gods of authoritarianism, of quietude, and of safe privilege.

-We pray to find courage to act in ways that our prayer-time has given us ears to hear is God's will.

-And we pray to center ourselves, finding moments both individual and collective, in which we can acknowledge:

+that we are afraid;

+that we can trust we need not be;

+that the God to whom we are praying does indeed hear our prayers;

+that this God does what God would and is doing anyway:

~be present where there is death;

~promise—not least of all though us via our prayers and the fruits they bring about—to bring peace.

~guide our feet into that way of peace.

So pray for Ukraine, of course. Then engage.

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# Spiritual Growth

## JOY CLUB

We will be meeting for lunch together on March 15<sup>th</sup> at noon. At the time of this writing, we're planning to meet here at St. Stephen, so bring a packed lunch and we'll share some fellowship together.

## ASH WEDNESDAY (March 2)

As we enter into Lent, we'll begin with a worship at 7:00 p.m. in person and livestreamed. We will be offering communion and the imposition of ashes at this service. Because Ash Wednesday worship includes Holy Communion, we will not be offering walk-up communion that day.

## LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIPS

Each Wednesday in Lent, we're offering worship at 7:00 p.m. through our Facebook and YouTube pages. As we did last year, we'll be partnering with Olivet Lutheran for these worship services. As you worship from week to week, you'll hear Pastor Nate Tuff, Pastor Melissa Micham, and Pastor Beth as they lead worship from our location and from Olivet. We'll be taking a deep dive into one of Jesus' parables that we commonly refer to as the "Prodigal Son" from Luke 15. Please join us online for our worship time together

## WALK UP COMMUNION CONTINUES

Other than Ash Wednesday, communion will be available on Wednesdays in March from 4:30-6:00 p.m.



## CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

Congratulations to the following couples who celebrated a wedding anniversary divisible by 5 and those celebrating 50+ years together from February 2021-February 2022: Ray & Marilyn Hendricks (64), Dave & Kathy Aldrich (35), Dave & Carol (45), Larry & Lynn (35), Herb & Pat (66), Tom & Nancy (51), Lynn & Kathie (30), Jim & Kay (53), Doug & Joan (40), Tom & Annetta (56), Dan & Cathy (52), Joe & Jettie (55), Bill & Sandy (51), Rick & Jackie (64), Ken & Sue (61)

Thanks to those who made cookies, assembled the bags, and provided porch deliveries: Kathy Aldrich, Tricia Kunkel, Sharon Mason, Ruth Moeller, Joe Kahl, Marty McKelvey, Doug and Joan Paxton, Joni Tolles!

# Youth and Family

## **BONFIRE/GAME NIGHT**

Looking for a time of outdoor fun? We'll be having a bonfire on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. As we make S'mores, we'll also have some games planned for all ages. Join us for fun and laughter! In case of rain or severe cold, we're planning a "weather" date of April 1st. Please bring a bag chair!

## **YOUTH EVENT**

A time of Bible learning, crafts, and fun will be held the week-end of March 13<sup>th</sup>! More information will be shared through email.

# Holy Week

At the present time, this is our plan for worship during Holy Week:

## ***Maundy Thursday, April 14***

Live streamed and in person worship at 7:00 p.m.

## ***Good Friday, April 15***

At 12:00 p.m., St. Stephen will be hosting an in-person worship with the Sylvania Area Churches. Pastors from Olivet, Sylvania UCC, Sylvania First UMC, and St. Stephen will also be leading.

At 7:00 p.m., we will be worshipping in person and online through a service of Tenebrae.

## ***Easter, April 17***

We will be worshipping in person and online at 11:00 a.m. We're hoping to have an Easter Egg Hunt for our youth at 10:30 a.m. We will begin gathering Easter candy donations in mid-March for this event.



# Outreach

## Souper Bowl

St. Stephen collected \$621.60 for Lutheran Social Services of Northwest Ohio's food bank. We also collected 140 cans of soup! Thanks to all who contributed!! We're still waiting for the national totals from this campaign, but we hope to share them in the April newsletter.



## Green Bean & Syrup



We've offered to help support Salem. They asked for two kinds of items: cans of green beans to serve at their Tuesday evening meal and syrup and pancake mix for their Saturday morning "Just Pancakes" meal. Let us know whether you prefer sweet or savory, or breakfast to dinner with a donation of either green beans, pancake mix, or syrup.

## 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!



## Martin Luther Lutheran Church



You're invited to celebrate the 132 years of ministry Martin Luther has provided to the people of East Toledo. Their last worship service will be held on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 with a light reception following the service. We'll be holding the members in prayer that Sunday, as well. The church is located at 601 Nevada Street in Toledo.

# Church Finances

## ONLINE GIVING

For those who are comfortable using technologies to contribute, Vanco services provides us with a smart phone app (Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement) that we can use to make our donations. You can use this app to make a one time gift to St. Stephen or an ongoing gift. If you have any questions please contact the church office!

## 2021 GIVING STATEMENTS

If you had not picked up your statement at church it was mailed out at the end of February! Please review your statement, and if there are any issues don't hesitate to contact Janell in the office! Thank you for your continued support to St. Stephen and it's ministries.

# Administrative News

## NEW PICTURE DIRECTORY

Wondering who that person is, but afraid to ask? We're hoping to fix that issue! We're planning to create a new photo directory and print it out ourselves. To do this, we need some help! We're planning to take photos of people when they're here for worship on Sunday March 27 and April 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you have a really great photo of yourself or your family that you'd prefer to use, that would be great too. Please send it to Janell, [sslsecretary@buckeye-express.com](mailto:sslsecretary@buckeye-express.com), in JPEG format, with the names of those in the photo. Thanks for your help with this!

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **April 2021** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by March 8.**



# Prayer

## MARCH PRAYER NOTES

### Prayer For March

Dear Lord, we thank you for bringing us to the start of a new month. We pray that when this month is over, we will be closer to you than we are at this moment. Please bless our family and friends and keep them safely in your care. We ask for your healing hand to be upon those who are ill and we ask for your hand of provision to meet each need. We thank you in advance for all you will do. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Alice—Healing & Comfort  
Patrick—Comfort & Healing  
Denny—Healing  
Jill—Comfort, Strength & Peace  
Joel—Strength and Recovery  
Chelsey—Healing & Peace  
Noah—Strength and Understanding  
Those with Cancer—Healing  
Roger Jr.—Pancreatic Cancer  
Greg—Healing & Comfort  
COVID Sufferers  
Tornado Survivors  
Afghanistan Refugees  
Ukraine  
Imber Family  
Ferne Family

# Fun

## ALL IN GOOD FUN



www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com

## BIBLE QUIZ

How did Judas identify Jesus to soldiers?

(Answer page 8)

- A. Crown of Thorns
- B. A Kiss
- C. A Handshake
- D. Clothes He Was Wearing

## 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

## 2022 Council Members

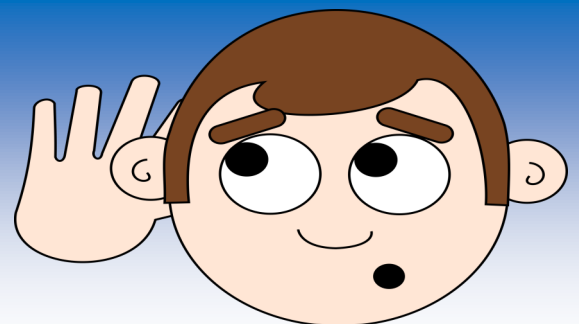
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Secretary</i>	Beth Madden
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Housel

## 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 &amp; Family Ministry</i>	Angela McCoy
<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

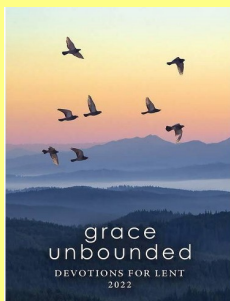
## Ushers!

Now that we have returned to weekly in person worship we are in need of ushers during our services. If you are interested sign up on the bulletin board or e-mail the office!

## In Sympathy...

A memorial luncheon was held for Dave Purney, father of Lisa Hopkins, on February 19<sup>th</sup> at the Wallbridge VFW. We extend our sympathies to Lisa, Jeremy, and her sister Penny, as well as to those lives were impacted by Dave.

## Lenten Devotional



The Lenten Devotional for 2022 are available for pick up in the Narthex! The Word in Season are also available, both are free!

Bible Quiz Answer:

B. A kiss

# March Celebrations

## Baptismal Birthdays

3/1 Jim Bork  
3/1 Linda McDonough  
3/12 Chase Mercer  
3/13 Craig Scholl  
3/17 Ken Marvin  
3/24 Beth Madden  
3/31 Sally Goetz

## Birthdays

3/1 Betty Lock  
3/2 Joe Kahl  
3/3 Annetta Schmidt  
3/4 Chase Mercer  
3/6 Jessica Klimesh  
3/8 Sharon Mason  
3/9 Jim Bork  
3/9 Amy Chauvette  
3/9 Sally Goetz  
3/14 Sue Kahl  
3/25 Kathy Aldrich  
3/25 Beth Ferne Johnson  
3/28 Garry Ward  
3/29 Beth Madden



# March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 PM Bible 101	2 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worsihp (In- person/online)	3	4	5 9:30 Coffee and Conversation
6 11AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship	7	8 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 7:00 PM Bible 101	9 4:30 PM Walk Up Communion  7:00 Lenten Worship Online	10	11	12 9:30 Coffee and Conversation
13 <b>Spring Forward Time Change</b> 11AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship	14	15 7:00 PM Bible 101	16 4:30 PM Walk Up Communion  7:00 Lenten Worship Online 7:00 PM Coun- cil Meeting	17	18	19 9:30 Coffee and Conversation
20 11AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship	20	21 7:00 PM Bible 101	22 4:30 PM Walk Up Communion  7:00 Lenten Worship Online	23	25 7:00 PM Bon- fire	26 9:30 Coffee and Conversation
27 <b>Picture Taking for Directory</b> 11AM In-Sanctuary/Online Worship	28 LWR Quilting	29 7:00 PM Bible 101	30 4:30 PM Walk Up Communion  7:00 Lenten Worship Online	31		