

# Vision of St. Stephen

## January 2021



St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
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[www.ststephenlutheran.church](http://www.ststephenlutheran.church)

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### Come Renew Us

Come Lord, come to us;  
Enter our darkness with your light.  
Fill our emptiness with your presence,  
Come, refresh, restore, renew us.

In our sadness, come as joy,  
In our troubles, come as peace,  
In our fearfulness, come as hope,  
In our darkness, come as light,  
In our frailty, come as strength,  
In our loneliness, come as love.

*David Adam*

One of my favorite Christmas traditions is attending the Christmas program at Capital University, my alma mater. Each year, the university features their choirs, brass soloists, hymns sung by all in attendance, and readings to weave together a night of music celebrating Jesus' birth. This year, of course, I heard the concert via computer.

The poem / prayer written above were part of this year's program. I wanted to share them with you since they have stuck with me ever since I first heard them. Perhaps they will with you as well.

As we enter into 2021, into the season of Light, let us pray that God will act and that God will use us to act in the lives of others, answering their cry, even as God provides others to act in our lives.

God's peace to you,  
*Beth Ferne Johnson, pastor*

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# 2020

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

Adult Gathering Space

Bread Ministry

Celebration of Marriage

Hallowe'en Trunk or Treat Drive In

Increased Technology Use

Moms & Tots Program

Sensory Santa

Sing Along

Souper Bowl Sunday

St. Paul's Community Donation

Technology Updates

Thanksgiving Food Gifts

Vacation Bible School via Zoom

Christmas Donations & Gifts

Consecration Sunday Program

Drive-In Worship Sessions

Family Game Nights

Family Movie Nights

Increased Benevolence

Online Bible 101

Operation Christmas Child

Paycheck Protection Plan

Property Maintenance Upgrades

Quilting & Dedication

Saturday Morning Coffee

Children's Pageant & Choir Cantata

Friends + Family Ice Cream Social

Gift Bags + Letters for Shut Ins

Joy Group Events

Kids Movie Nights

Little Miracles School Program

Online Funeral Sessions

Online Worship Sessions

Revitalized Lending Library

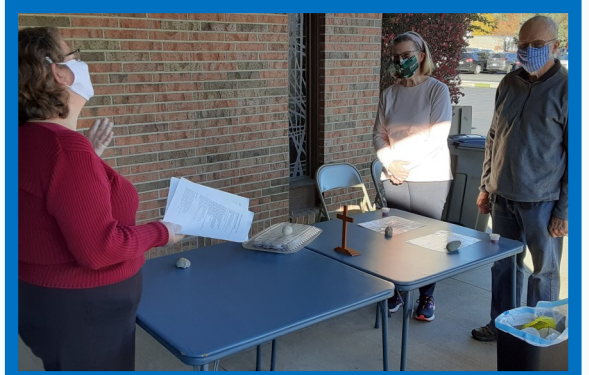
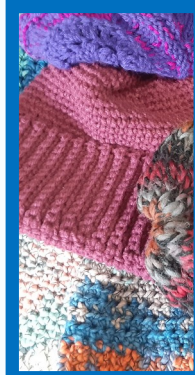
Salem Personal Care Collections

Shepherd Team

Virtual Catechism Classes

Warm Clothing Drive

Wednesday Outdoor Communion



# Spiritual Growth

## **A NEW YEAR, A NEW PRAYER LIST**

Our list of people in our prayers for Sunday morning may not be current. In an attempt to refresh it, all names on the prayer list will be suspended, beginning January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please let Pastor Beth know if the person you named continues to be in need of prayer and she will gladly add it back on our Sunday morning prayer list.

## **WALK-UP COMMUNION**

We continue to hold Communion each Wednesday from 3-6 p.m. With the cold, we have moved up the sidewalk so that those who are communing are standing between the double entry doors, while Pastor Beth is in the narthex itself.

## **WORSHIP REMINDER**

While Lucas County is “red”, as designated by the Ohio Department of Health, St. Stephen will be worshipping on-line together at 11:00 each Sunday. We’re working to have our YouTube channel stream the worship in real time, as Facebook Live does. The worship service is available on each platform throughout the week, as well.

## **BIBLE 101**

Bible 101 will start back up on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We’re planning to focus on a book study; please send suggestions to Pastor Beth before the 12<sup>th</sup> or bring them to that zoom meeting.

## **ZOOM COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**

Please join us on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 for a Zoom coffee and conversation session. It’s a chance to see people’s faces and just check in with others to see how everyone is doing. A zoom link will be sent out the week of January 18<sup>th</sup> through our One Call Now system.

# Youth and Family

## **CATECHISM**

Catechism by zoom will be held on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>. Please have your student ready with their Bible and Luther’s Small Catechism book. Thanks!

## **YOUTH EVENT**

A Youth Bible story and craft event will be held on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. Please let Pastor Beth know if you’d like to participate so she can drop off craft supplies to your house.



# Outreach

## Thank You

Many thanks to those who helped decorate St. Stephen for Christmas. Tom and Neta Schmidt decorated the sanctuary Christmas tree. Joni and Doug Tolles with Loki Williams and Ali and Rook Blossom decorated our Narthex tree. Joe Kahl and Marty McKelvey added the outside lights to the bushes on the front of the building. The lights were purchased with a Thrivent Grant written by Rich Cornell!



SYLVANIA AREA FAMILY SERVICES  
*Serving the Sylvania community since 1967*

## SAFS Holiday Thanks

We received a thank you from Sylvania Area Family Services for our gifts to the 4 families in need. Thanks for your assistance in providing them with Thanksgiving and Christmas food, as well as a gift card so they could purchase a Christmas present.

## Feed Your Neighbor

Our bin is generating a donation about every 3-4 days. So far, canned corn has been the most popular item shared with the LSS Food pantry. As we move past the holiday season, please keep this vital ministry in mind! Feed Your Neighbor!



## Winter Clothing Drive

We are collecting new and gently used warm winter clothing for children and adults in the area who may be in need. You are invited to drop them off to the church office during the week. In late December we sent a carload of items to SAFS and the Giving Store Thanks for your generosity!

# In Loving Memory



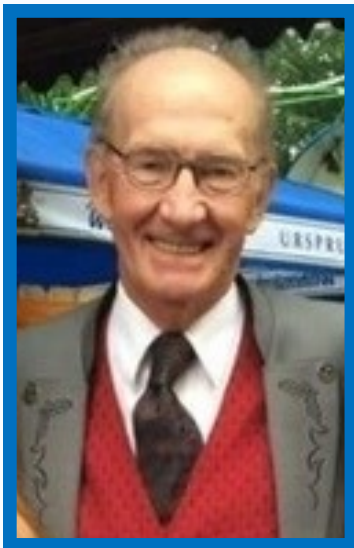
## **Mary Ann Klimesh (January 28, 1943-December 16, 2020)**

Mary Ann Klimesh of Sylvania, Ohio, died peacefully at home from ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; also known as Lou Gehrig's disease) on December 16, 2020. She was 77.

Born in New Castle, Indiana, on January 28, 1943, Mary Ann was the daughter of Reverend William and Kathryn (Hessong) Butt. Mary Ann married Don Klimesh on August 20, 1966.

Mary Ann's greatest joy was her family. Another of Mary Ann's passions was quilting. Besides making dozens of quilts for family and friends, she also greatly enjoyed and actively participated in the Lutheran World Relief quilting group at St. Stephen Lutheran Church from 2014 until February 2020. Throughout her life, Mary Ann was a tireless volunteer, proffering her time for a variety of causes.

In addition to her husband of 54 years, Mary Ann leaves behind her children, Douglas Klimesh of Ann Arbor, Matthew Klimesh of Pasadena, CA, Lia Klimesh of Sylvania, and Jessica Klimesh of Sylvania.



## **Bob Rieck (July 17, 1941-December 17, 2020)**

Robert E. Rieck, died on December 17th, 2020, of complications after contracting COVID-19. He was 79.

Bob was born July 17, 1941, to Robert and Edith Rieck. He graduated from Libbey and entered the U.S. Army in 1960.

He was a member of the American Turners, the Toledo Schwäbischer Unterstützungs Verein, and the Teutonia Choir of Toledo. For many years, Bob was the Food Chairman for the German American Festival. Bob was also a skilled bowler, often giving professional bowlers a run for their money in the Annual PBA Pro-Am Tournament. He was table tennis champ of his Army base and once played the world champion.

But most important to Bob was his family. He met his wife Nancy at a Tiedtke's party in the basement of a bowling alley. They were married on October 2, 1965. They raised their two sons in West Toledo. Later in his life, Bob loved spending time with his granddaughters, Danielle and Madison.

Surviving Bob are his beloved wife of 55 years, Nancy; sons, Brian (Kristina) and Kevin (Christine); and granddaughters, Danielle and Madison. He was preceded in death by his sister, Beverly.

# Church Finances

## GIVE PLUS

With social distancing and limited abilities to come together to worship at church, our ability to contribute to St. Stephen has been impacted. For those members who are comfortable with using new technologies to contribute, there is a smart phone app to make our donations. For complete instructions on how to use GivePlus, please see the St. Stephen website!

## SIMPLY GIVING

Have you thought about using this program of regular financial giving to our ministry here at St. Stephen? You designate the amount you would like to give on a consistent basis and how often you would like, it will be deducted from your checking or your savings account automatically. You don't have to think about getting your donation to St. Stephen, especially while we are not worshipping in our church building. Registration is easy! Give me a call at 419-654-6264 and I will mail you the paperwork. Just return it to Sally Goetz and she will handle the internal setup with Vanco to get you started.

# Administrative News

## STAFF GIFT THANK YOU

Dear friends and members of St. Stephen,

In this challenging year, your continued support of our work is especially appreciated. Thank you for your gifts during this holiday season. Thank you for your thoughtfulness as we work together to strengthen our ministry to our community and congregation.

Pastor Beth, Janell, and Scott

## LITTLE MIRACLES

Little Miracle will not be using the building until the 2021-2022 school year during Fall at the earliest.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

As always our newsletter deadline for anything you want to be added is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. So for **February 2021** Newsletter please have all your **items submitted by January 12.**



# Prayer

## JANUARY PRAYER

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.

-Howard Thurman

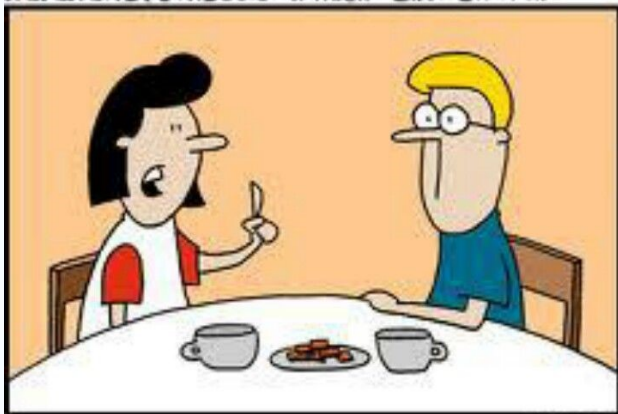
## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

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  
Don—Healing  
Richard—Work  
Ryan—Peace & Success  
Noah—Strength and Understanding  
Jeff—Guidance & Understanding  
Lyndsey—Healing and Comfort  
Chesney's Family  
Mark D—Healing & Comfort  
Amber—Migraines  
Rich—Transplant Healing  
Holt Family—Healthy Family  
Julie—Patience, Peace & Guidance  
Kathleen—Comfort & Healing  
Joan—Healing & Comfort  
Nora—Continued Healing  
Joyce—Cancer  
Phillips Family—Healing  
Karen—Healing  
Eddie—Healing

# Fun

## ALL IN GOOD FUN

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



THIS YEAR, FOR NEW YEARS, I AM RESOLVING TO DO ALL SORTS OF BAD THINGS SINCE I NEVER EVER STICK TO MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

## BIBLE QUIZ

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek word meaning what?

(Answer page 8)

- A. Manifestation
- B. Revolution
- C. Awakening
- D. After Birth

## 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

## 2020 Council Members

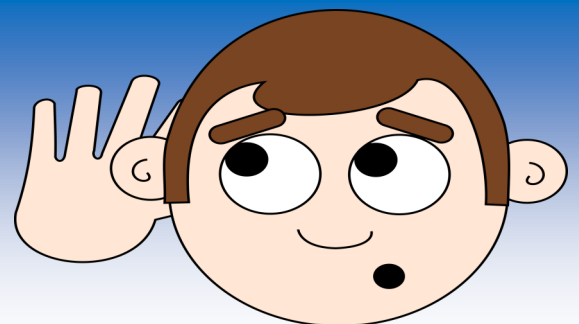
<i>President</i>	Marilyn Scuralli
<i>Vice President</i>	Joe Kahl
<i>Secretary</i>	Corrie Schuppenies
<i>Treasurer</i>	Libby Boldt/Sharon Mason

## 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
Beth Madden/ <i>Technology</i>	John Lock
<i>Youth &amp; 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

## Congratulations

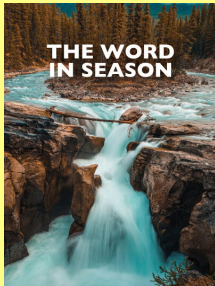
Congratulations to Beth(Thomsen) and Nick Madden on their wedding which happened December 5!

## Facebook Prayers



For the past few months, we've been inviting people to pray with us through our Facebook page. We've prayed for a variety of people and places and situations in our world. If you have a suggestion for our prayers, please let Pastor Beth know and she will include it.

## Word in Season



The Word in Season for January, February and March 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:

A. Manifestation

# January Celebrations

## Baptismal Birthdays

1/1 Rich Cornell  
 1/1 Tom Davis  
 1/1 Dave Haddix  
 1/1 Herb Hoehing  
 1/1 Pat Hoehing  
 1/1 Nancy Pfau  
 1/1 Tom Pfau  
 1/1 Jettie Sansbury  
 1/1 Joe Sansbury  
 1/3 Elliott Huddleston  
 1/22 Libby Boldt

## Birthdays

1/3 Elliott Huddleston  
 1/5 Libby Boldt  
 1/6 Vickie Rygalski  
 1/9 Megan Cook  
 1/12 Kathy Ziegler  
 1/14 Dave Davis  
 1/25 Vivian Johnson  
 1/26 Jim Boldt  
 1/26 Craig Scholl  
 1/30 Barb Davis  
 1/30 Sandy Markin

## Anniversaries

1/18 John & Debbie Lock

# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 11AM Online Worship 12PM Catechism	4	5	6 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion	7	8	9
10 11AM Online Worship	11	12 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Bible 101	13 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion	14	15	16 10:30AM ZOOM Coffee and Conversa- tion
17 11AM Online Worship 12PM Catechism	18 7:00 PM Coun- cil Meeting	19 7:00 PM Bible 101	20 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion	21	22	23
24 11AM Online Worship 12PM Youth Event	25	26 7:00 PM Bible 101	27 3:00 PM Walk Up Communion	28	29	30
31 11AM Online Worship 12PM Catechism						