



News & Notes

3510 72nd Street • Urbandale, IA 50322 • 515-276-4628 • office@ststephenlutheran.org

Come, Worship at The Table!

Jesus loved eating meals with people.

Again and again, Jesus gathered with friends and strangers to eat. Around tables in houses and picnic tables on hillsides, people who ate with Jesus received spiritual food as well as full bellies.

Tables are important! Then and now, at the table we experience welcome and belonging. We get to tell our stories and learn from the stories of others. Around the table, we knit together new friendships and deepen ties with old acquaintances.

A table is holy ground!

Beginning September 7, you're invited to **The Table on Wednesdays at St. Stephen!** All are welcome at The Table, where you'll receive spiritual food as well as a full belly.

Each Wednesday beginning at 5:15 pm, we'll share a meal in the Gathering Area. At 6:00 pm we'll gather around the Lord's Table to celebrate Holy Communion. This will be an intimate, come-as-you-are worship service, where leaders of all ages help proclaim the good news of God. After worship, you're invited to various formation activities like Emerge (confirmation) or rehearsal for the St. Stephen Praise Band.

As we set The Table together, we need you! Contact Tracy Sabus if you'd like to be on a meal team (whether once a month or just occasionally). Contact Larry Peterson if you'd like to help lead worship, serve on the Tech Team, or share musical gifts. Contact Pastor Andrea if you'd be interested in hosting a discussion group or other formation activity after worship!

We look forward to being fed at The Table, with you!



“A table is holy ground!”

Dedication — Mark your Calendars for Sunday, October 9, 2022!

This is the date when we will celebrate the completed Facilities Renewal project with a Service of Dedication during our 10:00 a.m. worship service. The Rev. Amy Current (bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA) will be our guest preacher and preside over the dedication. A reception will follow the service.



Please plan to join us on **October 9**, so that your voice can be part of our thanksgiving and praise to God!

The success of this project relied on faithful members who offered their energy, insight, and financial generosity to support the renewal of our facility for future ministry. All of these gifts, given to the glory of God, have equipped us to move forward for a renewed and expanded mission.

In a world without COVID-19, this event would have happened much sooner! Plans for the renewal of our church facility began in earnest in 2017, followed by months of master planning, fundraising, and design refinement. Construction was completed mid-2020.

Even so, the joy of our celebration is undiminished. In fact, our gratitude is enriched by nearly two years of enjoying the new space and the flexibility, warmth, and improved accessibility that it provides.

*On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love! (ELW 537)*

Pastor Andrea Myers



You're Invited!

Worship

We're Going Live!

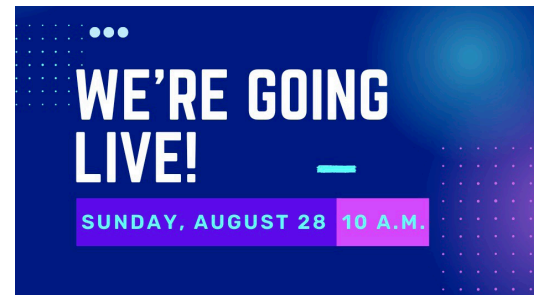
On Sunday, August 28, St. Stephen began live-streaming our Sunday 10:00 a.m. services on YouTube and Facebook! This change means our online worship participants will get to experience the richness, spontaneity, and reverent joy that are so important to the worship life of St. Stephen!

The shift to livestreaming may change how you access the service.

Please check the Friday email where we'll provide the links you'll need. Also note that you can always access our videos and livestreams via our YouTube channel and the videos section of our Facebook page. (You may want to bookmark those!)

The livestream format has a different look and feel from the previous pre-recorded services. In addition to seeing and hearing the congregation, you can see different views of the sanctuary and worship leaders. We are using a wider variety of video and sound equipment. The pacing of the service may feel slower, since our in-person service sometimes includes periods of silence for prayer and reflection.

Thank you for your patience as we made this transition! St. Stephen's tech team worked hard to iron out any hurdles ahead of time, and our volunteers dedicated themselves to learning a lot of new skills. There may be unexpected glitches and we value your understanding that we're doing our best!



Online Worship Survey



A belated “Thank You!” to everyone who participated in our Online Worship Survey in June. A total of 83 responses were received! The goal of the survey was to understand how members are engaging with online worship ministry as we shift into

our post-pandemic normal. Here is some of what we learned from the survey.

Frequency: A largest portion of survey responses (39%) said they worship online occasionally (1-3 times over 90 days). The second largest group worships online very frequently (8+ times over 90 days). This suggests that our online worship reaches two distinct audiences (and two sets of needs?).

Reasons: Survey participants were invited to check “all that apply” and four responses rose to the top:

convenience of worshipping online, personal/household illness, concerns about COVID exposure, and being out of town.

General Comments and Suggestions: Survey participants expressed appreciation for the continued availability of the online service, especially for those unable to attend in person due to aging or health issues. Members expressed gratitude for the ability to stay connected with their church while travelling, wintering elsewhere, or dealing with schedule conflicts. A few noted their continued concerns about Covid-19 exposure. Others were quite clear that their online worship days are behind them.

Format: Members value the quality of the video and the on-screen visuals that allow them to see words and music. The variety of music styles is appreciated, though it was noted that some recorded music performances are old, and some were considered too long.

Worship

Online Worship Survey (continued)

Of the 63 comments made in the survey, 25% of them were requests that we shift to a livestream or a recorded version of the regular Sunday service. The primary reason was a desire to connect with the “regular” feel of worship at St. Stephen. A few others raised the question about whether the pre-recorded format is the easiest or most sustainable approach for staff and volunteers.

Viewership: Alongside the survey data, Council reviewed worship stats on YouTube and Facebook. In March 2021 (prior to the return of in-person worship) 80-90 households watched “live” on Sunday mornings. In May 2021 (when in-person worship had returned with masking and other protocols), viewership had dropped by half. A year later (May 2022), when covid protocols had been lifted, live viewership averaged 20 households. It’s important to note that our total reach for online worship is larger than these numbers would indicate, because videos are available to view throughout the week.

However, the live numbers are sufficient to see the general trends and are the easiest to compare across platforms.

What’s Next? Online Worship will continue to be an important ministry for St. Stephen for the future, allowing us to meet a wide range of needs within our congregation and the wider community.

We have recently completed our switch to a livestream format for online worship. This will allow online worship participants to better connect with the joy and energy of our gathered community! The livestream recording will continue to be available for those who tune in later in the week. This shift will also be beneficial as we steward staff and volunteer time. The pre-recorded service required extra (and often redundant) efforts. Valuable resources of time and energy are now being freed up for other ministry!

How Might You Serve in Worship?

We are rebuilding our rosters for worship leaders, and invite you to consider signing up! Scheduling is flexible, and is arranged several weeks in advance so that we can be sure everything is covered. “On the job” training for all of these positions will be provided. Please contact Larry Peterson (larry@ststephenlutheran.org) to volunteer and get answers to any questions. There are currently four ways for members to serve as worship leaders:

- **Ushers** – pass the offering plates and help direct people during the communion distribution. (A great opportunity for families to serve together!)
- **Communion Servers** – assist the pastor in distributing bread and wine during communion
- **Tech Desk** – run the soundboard, slides, and livestream during worship
- **Readers** – read scripture and lead our intercessory prayers.

Upcoming Events & News

Fall Worship & Formation Schedule Begins
Wednesday, September 7

WEDNESDAYS

5:15 p.m. Supper at The Table
 6:00 p.m. Worship at The Table
 6:45 p.m. Faith Formation (Emerge)
 7:30 p.m. ELES in the High School Room

SUNDAYS

9:00 a.m. Spark Sunday School (age 2-5th grade)
 9-9:45 a.m. Breakfast Club (6th-8th grade), High School Room
 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion – also streamed live on Facebook
 and Youtube!
 11:00 a.m. Coffee and Donuts Fellowship

Kick Off Sunday, September 11

Kick off Sunday for the fall programming year, September 11th, will include a commemoration of the 21st anniversary of 9/11 with the blessing and installing of the Peace Pole (created by the VBS students) in the church garden.

The music for the morning service will include guest musician Lynne Hart on clarinet and saxophone. Director of Worship and Music, Larry Peterson, has played with Lynne on numerous occasions for worship and this will be a worship service long to be remembered! You will want to be in worship on this day for sure!

Lynne Hart has performed in the orchestras for myriad national touring shows, including A Chorus Line, The Full Monty, City of Angels, State Fair, Mame, Annie, Grand Hotel, My Fair Lady, Peter Pan,

9 to 5, Ragtime, La Cage aux Folles, West Side Story, Chicago, White Christmas, and Porgy and Bess. She has performed with The Temptations, The Supremes, The Four Tops, Natalie Cole, Ray Charles, Wayne Newton, Roberta Flack, Sheena Easton, Johnny

Mathis, and Lorrie Morgan, as well as jazz icons Louie Bellson, T.S. Monk, Clark Terry, and Buddy DeFranco.

Hart also performs with numerous Iowa groups, including Bossa Maior, The Manny Lopez Big Band, Thelonius Assault, The Iowa Vanguard Jazz Collective, Orchestra Iowa, The Five

Seasons Chamber Trio, and her own jazz quartet.

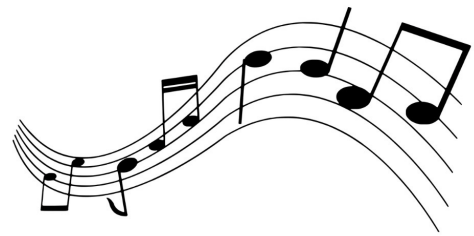
Additionally, Hart regularly performs classical recitals. She has also served in the pit orchestras for many Theatre Cedar Rapids musical productions, as well as many productions in Des Moines. She is also adjunct faculty in music at Luther College.



Upcoming Events & News (continued)

Fall Music Ensemble Rehearsals Resume August 31 and September 1

- August 31 @ 6:45-Praise Band in the Sanctuary
- September 1 @ 6:30-Chapel Chimers in the Sanctuary
- September 1 @ 6:30-Chancel Choir in the music rehearsal room



Task Day — Saturday, September 17

The Property Committee and volunteer team invite all members of the congregation to join in to keep our church looking groomed and inviting. A work day is scheduled on the third Saturday of each month. Our next work day is Saturday, September 17, starting at 8 a.m.

A few typical tasks include: mowing/trimming, adding mulch, cleaning gutters, cleaning parking lots, moving chairs/furniture, replacing lightbulbs, interior painting, minor plumbing updates and limited snow shoveling.

Those who wish to help out on other days and times can do so. Help make St. Stephen the best it can be — please contact Jerry Strawman, 515-402-3357.

Save the Date for Trunk or Treat!

Wednesday, October 26 — 6:30–7:30, Parking lot. Fundraiser for the Urbandale Food Pantry. Please decorate your trunks and provide candy. The kids will walk around to each car and get candy. Everyone is encouraged to bring a food item or better yet, cash!

Costumes encouraged for all participants and trunk decorators.



Inspire Our Schools

St. Stephen was invited to provide prayer leaders for Inspire our Schools, a gathering of prayer and blessing over our local schools, on Sunday, August 21. The event was sponsored and organized by volunteers, with the consent of the school district to gather on school grounds.

We volunteered to serve at two schools where St. Stephen has had a particular ministry presence:



Olmsted Elementary (Backpack Buddies ministry) and Karen Acres (our pre-pandemic mentoring program). Tracy Sabus prayed at Olmsted, and Marsha Arens and Peg Gilchrist prayed at Karen Acres. (Pastor Andrea was unable to attend because of Covid.) We continue to pray for students, families, teachers, staff and administration at these and all of our local schools as they begin a new school year!



Missions & Outreach

BackPack Buddies Fund Drive: September 2022

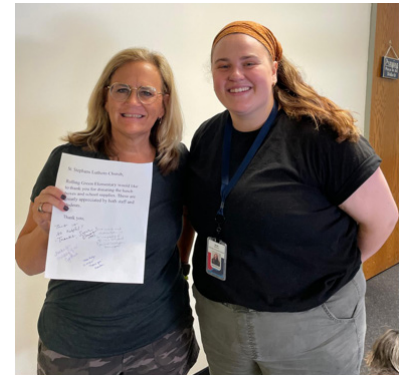
Through Backpack Buddies, Olmsted Elementary students who experience food insecurity at home receive shelf-stable food for the weekend. The cost to feed one student is about \$10, and we typically fill 100 bags per week! St. Stephen members are very generous in providing financial support for this ministry, which has become a popular and visible sign of our commitment to feeding our neighbors and supporting students as they grow and learn.

We are gathering a special offering for Backpack Buddies in September to establish a firm financial footing for the new school year. To make a gift, please make checks payable to St. Stephen Lutheran Church with "Backpack Buddies" in the memo. You can also give online by selecting the "Backpack Buddies" fund. Just announced: Your Backpack Buddies gifts will be matched by a special grant from the St. Stephen Trust Fund (up to \$2,000)!

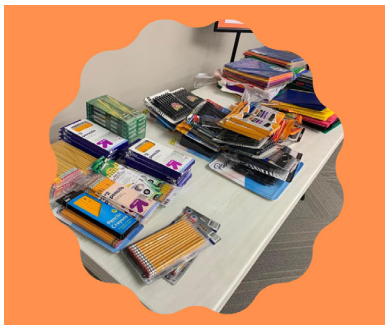
Thank you!

We recently received a request from Sarah Downs, the Facilitator of Family Outreach for Rolling Green Elementary. She told us six new students at the school needed lunch boxes and school supplies, and asked, "Can St. Stephen help?" We said YES!

Back when we collected school supplies for UCAN, we had received some cash donations as well as far exceeding our goals for pens, pencils, and folders. Those offerings were exactly what we needed to help these six students! This week, Sarah stopped by the church to deliver a thank you note from Rolling Green's principal and staff, and is pictured here with Tracy Sabus.



We Exceeded Our Goals! Thank You!



St. Stephen partnered with UCAN (Urbandale Community Action Network) to make sure children in our neighborhood and throughout the Urbandale School District have the supplies they need to begin their school year.

We are happy to announce that St. Stephen collected:

350 New 2-pocket folders (our goal was 200)

650 New black or blue ballpoint pens (our goal was 200)

750 No. 2 pencils (our goal was 400)

Collected items have been delivered to UCAN which will host scheduled shopping days where students can select items they need.

After School Program Needs Volunteers

Deb Conlon has been working over the past six months with Pastor Eugene Kiruhura and his Shalom Community Impact Center located in the Urban Heights Church at 7605 Aurora Avenue. He is passionate about helping immigrant kids to integrate and succeed in the Iowa school system. He has a program that meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-7 beginning on Sept. 13. They pick up children and bring them to the building for some fun, a snack and then a learning experience. Kids may bring their homework or come to work on reading or math skills from volunteers who have a heart to help them learn. This program needs volunteers.

Contact Eugene at 515-525-7801 for more information on his program or to volunteer. Thank you, and God bless!

Missions & Outreach (continued)

Service Learning Trip 2022

Our ELES group (high school youth) is just back from our service-learning trip to Minneapolis. One of the organizations we assisted had a name familiar to St. Stephen. It was called Loaves and Fishes! This Minnesota Loaves and Fishes ministry serves 300 meals EVERY Monday-Friday. There is no advance registration and no explanation needed to receive a meal. The ministry is based out of a church, in a neighborhood that is populated by a good size group of Native Americans.

Our job was to cook the chicken, wash, peel, dice and cook the potatoes, cut up watermelon and then assemble them into to-go containers. We arrived at 3:00 pm and had two hours to prep this meal before another group came in to hand out the to-go containers to whoever showed up that night. Again, no questions were asked! If someone needed five meals, they were given five meals. Wow, what an undertaking! This truly is the story Jesus tells us in the feeding of the 5000.

As I reflect on the week, I have been wondering: How might we imagine new ways to carry on our own Loaves and Fishes ministry here at St. Stephen? How can we expand the vision of “they need not go away; you give them something to eat”?

I know many of us are wondering after Covid . . . if, when and how Loaves and Fishes might continue. So many things have changed. Too many to simply pick up where we left off.

But here is what I know. The future is full of possibility! God has been so generous. Let’s break this place wide open! Let’s use our new space in new ways!

We have exciting plans for Wednesday night programming when it begins again September 7! Plans that involve everyone – young, old, families, and singles. I imagine a Wednesday night dinner that we all help to make happen, with many people and groups taking turns to prepare and serve. I imagine our new Gathering Area FULL of Emerge students, families, choir people, single people, community people. Imagine with me – St. Stephen providing a space where truly all are welcome, and all are fed. First, fed at the informal tables of the gathering area, and then fed in worship as we gather at the Lord’s table. Loaves and Fishes abounding!

Making this vision a reality will take all of us. It will take work, organization, people, resources. I know we can do it! I know we are the warm, inviting, welcoming place that we have always been, at least as long as I have been a part of this place.

I wonder if God is calling you to this ministry, as a participant or as one who prepares or helps serve a meal? Will you prayerfully consider how you could be included in this ministry? Talk to me or to Pastor Andrea if you’d like to learn more!

Tracy Sabus



Missions & Outreach (continued)



God's Work Our Hands Schedule for the Year

SEPTEMBER – Cash Drive for Backpack Buddies

Pitch'n In for Pantry – (shampoo, body wash, bar soap, toothpaste & dish soap)

OCTOBER – Make Freezer meals for the Food Pantry, or congregation Members

Pitch'n In for Pantry (shampoo, body wash, bar soap, toothpaste & dish soap)

NOVEMBER – Adopt a Family/UCAN & Family Promise

Pitch'n In for Pantry (Depending on current needs)

DECEMBER – Adopt a Family/UCAN & Family Promise

Pitch'n In for Pantry (Depending on current needs)

JANUARY – Mitten Tree

Pitch'n In for Pantry (Depending on current needs)

FEBRUARY – Dorothy's House

Pitch'n In for Pantry (Depending on current needs)

MARCH – Hope Ministry Casseroles and Snack Bags

Pitch'n In for Pantry (Depending on current needs)

APRIL – ELCA Good Gifts (Barnyard Animals)

Pitch'n In for Pantry (Depending on current needs)

MAY – Veterans Appreciation

Pitch'n In for Pantry (Depending on current needs)

JUNE – Drive Through for the Urbandale Food Pantry

Pitch'n In for Pantry (Depending on current needs)

JULY – School supplies for UCAN and Urbandale schools

Pitch'n In for Pantry (Depending on current needs)

AUGUST – Cash Drive for Backpack Buddies

Pitch'n In for Pantry (Depending on current needs)

Here at St. Stephen, God's Work Our
Hands is ongoing and year round.
Take a look!

Celebrations!



September Anniversaries

- 2 BRANDON & ANNA MARCOTTE (17)
- 2 KEVIN & KRIS SHAY (44)
- 3 ANNE & BEN GEIGER (5)
- 3 MARK & PAM HALL (34)
- 3 JEFF & JULIA MOATS (34)
- 4 DON & GLORIA HERMAN (51)
- 5 MARLIN & BARB HUEY (52)
- 7 LONEY & AUDRA BAUGHER (3)
- 10 VICKIE & PAT LINTHICUM (28)
- 10 BOB & BETTY WHITE (74)
- 15 BILL & CINDY SCARPINO (27)
- 17 ANDREA & RUS HEERDT (57)
- 21 CHARLIE & MINDY GUYNN (15)
- 26 BILL & BETH GOEBEL (35)
- 27 ALMA & LUKE GROVE (14)
- 27 KATE O'CONNOR & KARI ROEHR (3)
- 30 BRAD & KIM STORY (27)

September Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2 JULIA MOATS | 17 LESLIE GARMAN |
| 4 ALMA GROVE | 17 KEITH SWANSON |
| 6 MARILYN BORER | 17 ROB TORRY |
| 6 JEANNETTE HAUGEN | 20 PAM WALCK |
| 7 EMMA ANDERSON | 20 JOHN WILLIAMS JR |
| 8 BETTY TORGERSON | 22 NICK DIAL |
| 9 DEANN JONES | 23 BRIANA BORUP |
| 9 MILLIE KRAMER | 23 CATHY EDMONDSON |
| 9 ANNIE ROOD | 23 LINDA GREETHURST |
| 10 JIM RINELL | 23 KAREN HUNTLEY |
| 10 CHELSI ROBERTS | 23 DAN WALCK |
| 11 JUDY BECKLEY | 25 NICK FACHMAN |
| 11 DAVE BISHOP | 25 BETH HALVERSON |
| 11 ANN LA FONTAINE | 27 KATIE TWEDT |
| 12 JEFF HOLDORF | 28 HAYLEY DOTSETH |
| 13 GORDON JORGENSEN | 28 AARON WALCK |
| 13 ERICA NEASE | 28 DAVID WILLEM |
| 15 LARRY RICHMAN | 29 DAVE ARENS |
| 15 TRACY SABUS | 29 DEB WICKHAM |

church & ministry NOTES

CARE COMPANIONS AVAILABLE: St. Stephen's Care Companions provide support to those who are struggling, grieving, lonely, or recovering from illness. Care is provided in a way suited to the individual, and might include calls/visits, cards, or providing a ride. Please contact the church office to refer a friend or family member, request a companion, or if you'd like to be part of the Care Companions ministry: angie@ststephelutheran.org or 515-276-4628.

SUPPER CLUB: Kickoff for our year of purely social opportunity happens on **Friday, September 16** at 6:30 pm. All adults are welcome. Why not invite a friend or two to come try it out? Your only responsibility is to bring a grazing type of dish to share and your beverage of choice. Let our hosts, Donna and Dan Schroeder (donna.schroeder4@gmail.com) know you are coming. Any questions...call Carol Koeplin (515.408.1648) or email carol.koeplin@gmail.com. We would love to see you there.

WOMEN'S CONNECTION will meet on September 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Area.

DONATE BOOKS FOR OUR FREE LITTLE LIBRARY: The Free Little Library needs donations of books for all ages – children, teen, young adults, and adults. To donate, place your gently used books in the labeled collection tote inside the west entrance. Contact Krista Dial at Krista.brittain@gmail.com with questions. Thank you for your ongoing faithful support of this ministry.

JOIN OUR BROWN BAG BOOK GROUP: The Brown Bag Book Group meets in conference room 103/105 on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. For information, email Ron, and0775@mchsi.com.

PRAYER LIST: Email prayer@ststephenlutheran.org to include a name on the prayer list, or call the church office. To view the current prayer list, pick up a printed version on the music stand just outside the sanctuary or view online at: WWW.TINY.CC/STSTEPHEN-PRAYER.

September Calendar

Thursday, September 1

AA Meeting, 6:30pm
 Chapel Chimers, 6:30 p.m.
 Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 4, *Lectionary 23 / Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Holy Communion, 10:00am (also live streamed on Facebook and YouTube)
 Coffee & Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

Monday, September 5 *Labor Day*

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 6

Executive Cte. Mtg., 7:00pm

Wednesday, September 7 *Council Packet Reports Due!*

Brown Bag, 11:30am
 Supper at the Table, 5:15pm
 Worship at the Table, 6:00pm
 Emerge Faith Formation, 6:45pm
 Praise Band Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.
 ELES, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 8

AA Meeting, 6:30pm
 Chapel Chimers, 6:30 p.m.
 Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 11, *Lectionary 24 / Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Spark Sunday School (age 2-5th gr), 9:00am
 Breakfast Club, 9:00 a.m.
 Holy Communion, 10:00am (also live streamed on Facebook and YouTube)
 Coffee & Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

Monday, September 12

Women's Connection, 7:00pm

Tuesday, September 13

Council Meeting, 7:00pm

Wednesday, September 14

Brown Bag, 11:30am
 Supper at the Table, 5:15pm
 Worship at the Table, 6:00pm
 Praise Band Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.
 Emerge Faith Formation, 6:45pm
 ELES, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 15

Care Companions, 5:00pm
 AA Meeting, 6:30pm
 Chapel Chimers, 6:30 p.m.
 Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, September 16

Supper Club, 6:30pm

Saturday, September 17

Task Day, 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 18, *Lectionary 25 / Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Spark Sunday School (age 2-5th gr), 9:00am
 Breakfast Club, 9:00 a.m.
 Holy Communion, 10:00am (also live streamed on Facebook and YouTube)
 Coffee & Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

Monday, September 19

Dedication Planning Team, 6:30pm

Tuesday, September 20

Finance Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 21

Brown Bag, 11:30am
 Supper at the Table, 5:15pm
 Worship at the Table, 6:00pm
 Praise Band Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.
 Emerge Faith Formation, 6:45pm
 ELES, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 22

AA Meeting, 6:30pm
 Chapel Chimers, 6:30 p.m.
 Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 24

Crafting group, 1-2 p.m., room 103/105

Sunday, September 25, *Lectionary 26 / Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

SEIA Fall Theological Conference
 Spark Sunday School (age 2-5th gr), 9:00am
 Breakfast Club, 9:00 a.m.
 Holy Communion, 10:00am (also live streamed on Facebook and YouTube)
 Coffee & Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

Monday, September 26

SEIA Fall Theological Conference

Tuesday, September 27

SEIA Fall Theological Conference
 Trust Fund Committee, 6:30pm

Wednesday, September 28

Brown Bag, 11:30am
 Supper at the Table, 5:15pm
 Worship at the Table, 6:00pm
 Praise Band Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.
 Emerge Faith Formation, 6:45pm
 ELES, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 29

AA Meeting, 6:30pm
 Chapel Chimers, 6:30 p.m.
 Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
3510 72nd St.
Urbandale, IA
50322

Greetings Fellow Parishioners!

The seasons are starting to change and there is a sense of excitement in the air within our church as we kick off the program year and prepare for our facility dedication. This is also a good time to check in on how St. Stephen is doing financially compared to our goals. You can see in the chart that a little beyond halfway through the year, we have had income of \$240,000 compared to expenses of \$260,000 for a net loss before the mortgage payment of almost \$20,000. We were budgeting to be at a loss of \$9,900 at this point in time. We've been managing expenses and we benefited from some final pandemic relief, which is being set aside for special projects. However, to provide ongoing quality programming for members and our community, we hope to make up the current shortfall in budgeted member contributions by year end. We are blessed to have talented staff to aid us and a beautiful facility in which to prepare to carry out our missions. Thank you to everyone for your support in making those missions happen.
Alma Grove, St. Stephen Treasurer

	Actual	Budget	Better (Worse)
Income	\$ 240,291.60	\$ 271,658.31	\$ (31,366.71)
Expense	\$ (259,882.98)	\$ (281,542.38)	\$ 21,659.40
Net Loss from Operations	\$ (19,591.38)	\$ (9,884.07)	\$ (9,707.31)
Mortgage Payment	\$ (7,415.09)	\$ (7,415.09)	\$ -
Covid Relief	\$ 68,026.35		\$ 68,026.35

Staff

Pastor Andrea Myers, Senior Pastor
pastorandrea@ststephenlutheran.org

Pastor Chris Lang, Visitation Pastor
clang001@luthersem.edu

Larry Peterson, Director of Worship/Music
larry@ststephenlutheran.org

Tracy Sabus, Director of Faith Formation
tracy@ststephenlutheran.org

Kris Shay, Music/Handbell Choir
kkshay@msn.com

Angie Zenk, Office Manager
angie@ststephenlutheran.org

Jane Cunningham, Communications Manager
cunninghamjane4@gmail.com