



News & Notes

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

October Events

This will be a wonderfully busy month for St. Stephen!

Sunday, October 9

Facilities Renewal Dedication

St. Stephen's recent facilities renewal has equipped us to move FORWARD in our life and ministry. Join us as we rejoice and dedicate our new space to the glory of God. Included in our dedication will be the Sanctuary and Gathering Area, as well as our new ambo, communion table, and stained glass windows. Bishop Amy Current (Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA) will be our guest preacher and all of our musical ensembles will be sharing their gifts. Following worship, everyone is invited to a reception and the opportunity to explore our newly renovated facilities!



Property Day — Saturday, October 15

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, October 15, 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.

Sunday, October 16: Third Grade Bible Presentation

When we celebrate the baptism of a child, we promise “to place in their hands the holy scriptures.” One way St. Stephen keeps this promise, and supports children and families in their faith journeys, is by presenting third graders with a Bible of their own.



St. Stephen Supper Club

Friday, October 21

Supper Club is a purely social opportunity happening on the third Friday of each month 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, John and Jane Dieseth (jdd156@hotmail.com) know you are coming. Any questions call Carol Koepplin (515.408.1648) or email carol.koepplin@gmail.com. We would love to see you there.



NEW Christian Crafters Group Meets Again on Saturday, October 22

A new fellowship group is starting on the 4th Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. and going for a few hours in room 103/105 (please enter by the south doors). The group is NOT limited to crafters, although crafters are encouraged to bring their projects. An iron and ironing board, cutting mat and wastebaskets will be provided. You must bring your own equipment including extension cords. You can also bring a snack to share. If you require a table, you will be responsible for the set up and

tear down of that table. In addition to this opportunity, Sarah Tomjack will be knitting baby afghans during the Sunday School hour for Global Health Ministries.

Sunday, October 23: New Member Sunday

We've welcomed a number of newcomers to our St. Stephen community over the last year! This will be our opportunity to formally welcome them as they affirm their baptism during worship. Come and join in the welcome and be sure to introduce yourself after worship! (Please reach out to Pastor Andrea if you're ready to make St. Stephen your church home!)



Confirmation/Reformation

SUNDAY

October 30

We celebrate with Lucy Thomas (daughter of Anne Thomas) as she affirms her faith on Confirmation Sunday. Confirmation at St. Stephen is called Emerge, a name that reflects how our 6th-8th graders are emerging as individuals and developing a worldview and sense of identity that extends beyond their nuclear family. During the course of Wednesday classes, students explore what it means to live out their baptismal covenant as they Live among God's faithful people; Hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper;

Proclaim the good news of God through word and deed; Serve all people following the example of Jesus; and Strive for justice and peace in all the world. The culmination of the Emerge experience is to write a faith statement and assemble a story board that is displayed on Confirmation Sunday.



You're Invited!



St. Stephen Lutheran • 3510 72nd St.
Covenant Christian • 2700 72nd St.
Urbandale United Church of Christ • 3530 70th St.
are sponsoring



Wednesday, October 26 — 6:30–7:30 p.m.
at each of the three churches

This is a fundraiser for the **Urbandale Food Pantry**.

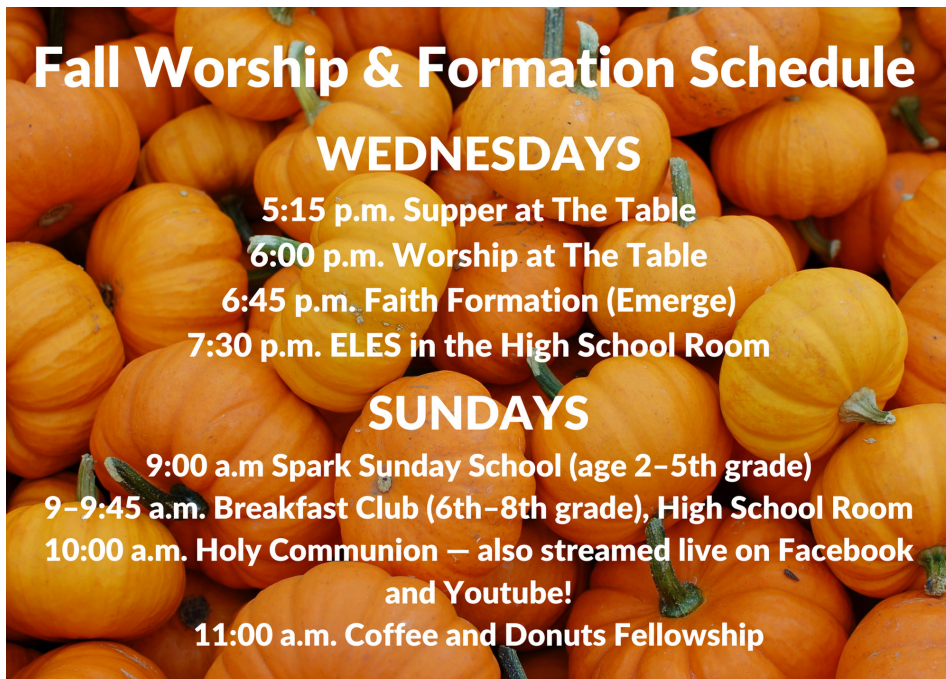
Everyone is encouraged to bring a food item or, better yet, cash!

Please decorate your trunks and provide candy. The children will walk around to each car and get treats. Costumes encouraged for all participants and trunk decorators.

For more information, contact

tracy@ststephenlutheran.org, amy.murray@urbucc.org or lstrait1822@gmail.com.

Worship



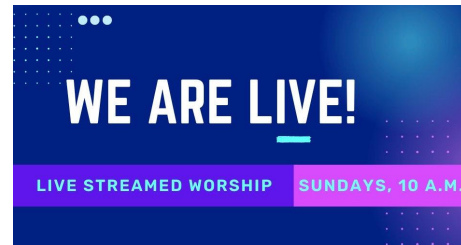
Fall Worship & Formation Schedule

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



WE ARE LIVE!

LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP SUNDAYS, 10 A.M.

We are Live Sundays!

Worship is now being livestreamed each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. To view the service on YouTube, go directly to our YouTube channel. Click “subscribe” to receive notifications when a new video (or livestream) is available. Or visit the videos section of our Facebook page to view the live video. Be sure to “like” our page to receive notifications.

Opportunities

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
- **A/V Desk** – run the soundboard, slides, and livestream during worship
- **Readers**– read scripture and lead our intercessory prayers.

“The Table” Continues Wednesdays

What are you doing on Wednesday? Join us at the Table! Supper begins at 5:15 p.m. in the Gathering Area. It’s a chance to enjoy a meal and perhaps make a new friend! Then join us at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for an informal, “come as you are” service of Holy Communion.

As we set The Table together, there will be new opportunities to connect and serve! Contact Tracy Sabus to get involved in serving the meal (whether once a month or just occasionally). Contact Larry Peterson if you’d like to serve in worship.

In the future, we hope to add an opportunity for adult faith formation after the worship service. Please contact Pastor Andrea if you’d be interested in this, especially if you have ideas or would be willing to facilitate the conversation!



Join Us at
The Table

Wednesdays

- 5:15 p.m. Supper • 6:00 p.m. Worship
- 6:45 p.m. Formation

Missions & Outreach

BackPack Buddies Update

Thank you for your amazing response to our special fall offering for the Backpack Buddies ministry!! Because of your generosity, our offering total for August and September was \$4,455. When combined with the special \$2,000 matching gift from the St. Stephen Trust Fund, this means our offering total was \$6,455.

Programs like ours fill a critical key need for students at Olmsted Elementary School who do not get enough to eat when they don't have access to free or reduced-fee lunches. Studies have shown that the positive impacts of backpack feeding programs can include improved academic performance and attendance, as well as helping low-income families become food secure.

St. Stephen has learned a lot since we launched this version of our backpack ministry during the pandemic. As we put those lessons to work, we're exploring new partnerships and resources to purchase food more efficiently and economically. This will reduce the weekly cost to feed each student and ensure the sustainability of the program for the long term.

While our special fall offering has concluded, we welcome your gifts to support Backpack Buddies at any time of 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.



God's Work Our Hands for October

Freezer meals are requested for the month of October. Please prepare a freezer meal (casserole of some sort) that can be frozen and stored here at the church. These meals will be distributed to congregation members who are ill or will be donated to the food pantry. Please include baking instructions and a list of ingredients.

Pitch In for Pantry Monthly Needs for October

Shampoo, body wash, bar soap, toothpaste & dish soap.



St. Stephen Lutheran Church Program to Benefit the Urbandale Food Pantry

Celebrations!

October Anniversaries

Oct. 3: Bob & Beth Halverson (58)
 Oct. 6: Ed & Millie Kramer (60)
 Oct. 12: Brent & Daphne Monson (20)
 Oct. 16: Bob & Nancy Kirchner (46)
 Oct. 17: Mike Newell & Barbara Knapp (24)
 Oct. 20: Jim & Barbara Guthrie (59)
 Oct. 20: Allen & Ronelva Reiman (43)
 Oct. 29: Ken & Sandy Goering (56)
 Oct. 30: Steve & Janet Davis (45)



October Birthdays

Oct. 1: Eric Tiffany and Jim Walker
 Oct. 2: Brittany Borup and Dalton Townes
 Oct. 3: Karen Fachman, Barbara Knapp and Megan Willem
 Oct. 4: Dave Kroeger
 Oct. 6: Sharon Jorgenson
 Oct. 7: Lucy Thomas
 Oct. 8: Brian Willem
 Oct. 9: Kevin Shay
 Oct. 10: Barbara Guthrie
 Oct. 12: David Bolender and Harper Henderson
 Oct. 14: Maria Hsu
 Oct. 16: Mary Middleton, Penny Twedt and Betty White
 Oct. 17: Hugh Ceaser and Beth Willem
 Oct. 18: Jeff Borup and Garrett Kroeger
 Oct. 19: Gayle Johnson
 Oct. 20: Ben Tomjack
 Oct. 21: Kathy Hoegh
 Oct. 22: Karen Ibrahim, Bob Kirchner and Brent Le Blanc
 Oct. 24: Meghan Walck
 Oct. 25: Shannon Groth
 Oct. 26: Jennie Beckley
 Oct. 27: Bev Lantz and Larry Stole
 Oct. 29: Brett Boerner, Vickie Ceaser and Adam Garman
 Oct. 30: Kyle Codner, Ardie Strawman and Clayton Weinberger
 Oct. 31: Krista Brittain-Dial and Charlotte Stole

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 Chris Lang at clang001@luthersem.edu or (515-293-2293) to refer a friend or family member, request a companion, or if you'd like to be part of the Care Companions ministry.

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.

October Calendar

Sunday, October 2, Lectionary 27 / Seventeenth Sunday
after Pentecost

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

Wednesday, October 5

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

Thursday, October 6

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

Sunday, October 9, Dedication Sunday

Lectionary 28 / Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Monday, October 10

- Women's Connection**, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 11

- Executive Committee Meeting**, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 12

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

Thursday, October 13

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

Saturday, October 15

- Property Committee**, 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 16, Lectionary 29 / Nineteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

- Spark Sunday School** (age 2-5th gr), 9:00 a.m.
- Breakfast Club**, 9:00 a.m.
- Holy Communion & Bible Presentation to 3rd Graders**, 10:00 a.m. (also live streamed on Facebook and YouTube)

Coffee & Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 18

- Council Meeting**, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 19

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

Thursday, October 20

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

Friday, October 21

- Supper Club**, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 22

- Crafting group**, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 23, Lectionary 30 / Twentieth Sunday
after Pentecost

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

Tuesday, October 25

- Finance meeting**, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 26

- Brown Bag**, 11:30 a.m.
- Supper at the Table**, 5:15 p.m.
- Worship at the Table**, 6:00 p.m.
- Trunk or Treat**, 6:30 p.m.
- Praise Band Rehearsal**, 6:45 p.m.
- Emerge Faith Formation**, 6:45 p.m.
- ELES**, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 27

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

Sunday, October 30, Lectionary 31 / Twenty-first Sunday
after Pentecost, Reformation Sunday

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

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

Staff

Pastor Andrea Myers, Senior Pastor
[*pastorandrea@ststephenlutheran.org*](mailto:pastorandrea@ststephenlutheran.org)

Pastor Chris Lang, Visitation Pastor
[*clang001@luthersem.edu*](mailto:clang001@luthersem.edu)

Larry Peterson, Director of Worship/Music
[*larry@ststephenlutheran.org*](mailto:larry@ststephenlutheran.org)

Tracy Sabus, Director of Faith Formation
[*tracy@ststephenlutheran.org*](mailto:tracy@ststephenlutheran.org)

Kris Shay, Music/Handbell Choir
[*kkshay@msn.com*](mailto:kkshay@msn.com)

Angie Zenk, Office Manager
[*angie@ststephenlutheran.org*](mailto:angie@ststephenlutheran.org)

Jane Cunningham, Communications Manager
[*cunninghamjane4@gmail.com*](mailto:cunninghamjane4@gmail.com)