

ST. STEPHEN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

65 E. Street Road, Feasterville, Pa. 19053 215.357.8138

The Spirit

May 2022



Dear St. Stephen's Members and Friends,

A Scripture to mediate on during this month of May when we celebrate Mother's Day:

**"As one whom his mother comforts,
so I will comfort you." Isaiah 66:13**

Being animal lovers and zoo-keepers at various times throughout our lives (we've had fish, hamsters, birds, various bearded dragons, four dogs and now have three cats), our family receives the newsletters from the ASPCA and the Bide-A-Wee Homes (a group of animal shelters located in the metro NY area).

One edition of the Bide-A-Wee Homes newsletter had a story about mothering:

A box of puppies, around four days old, was dropped off in the waiting room of one of the offices. The puppies were so young that they did not even know how to nurse. The woman who took them home tried to get the puppies to take a bottle of puppy formula but the puppies refused. She gave the puppies to another woman who thought she might be able to get the puppies to drink. She too had no luck.

But, then a miracle occurred. The second woman had a cat who had just had kittens. When the momma cat heard the pitiful crying of the puppies, she left her kittens and laid down beside the pups, teaching them how to nurse. The momma cat saved the puppies' lives! From that time on, the puppies were able to take the puppy formula from the bottle.

Isn't this a great illustration of what being a mother is all about? Sharing who we are, caring for babies and children, teaching them the first important lessons in their lives? In God's grand design, mothers are like the cat in the story above. Mothers stand in for God who first created, gave birth to, us. Mothers receive children from God, naturally or adopted, and mothers do their best to prepare those children for life.

This month may we remember the Scripture from Isaiah as we celebrate mothers and pray God's blessing upon them.

Pastor Ahlman

President's Message

Always look ahead, towards tomorrow, the future, even the next hour.

This year is already moving fast and furious. I ask myself what else do I have to look forward to. My son's graduation from high school. My youngest joining the football team, and going to the games. My daughter starting a new job. My oldest finding a new job. VACATION.

If you're always looking behind you you may miss what's ahead and what glorious gifts God has given us. Keep your eyes open and look forward.

God bless
Jeannette

A Stewardship Note: Something to Pray about.

Frustrated that income never covered expenses, a longtime church treasurer resigned. Another member, who owned the town's grain elevator, volunteered to take over as treasurer, with one stipulation: he would not submit a report for the first year.

The puzzled Council members agreed because they knew he was an honest man. After all, the farmers all trusted him to process their grain.

By year's end, the new treasurer gave a glowing report. The church's building debt had been erased. Staff salaries had increased by 15%. The budget showed such a healthy balance, the treasurer recommended increasing giving to those in need.

When the shocked, but delighted, congregation asked for an explanation, the treasurer said, "most of you bring your grain to my elevator. When I paid you, I simply withheld 10 % on your behalf and gave it to the church in your name. You never missed it."

Imagine what we could do for God if we willingly followed God's command to return the first tenth (a tithe) of God's gifts back to God.

Yes, something to pray about indeed!

Greetings from your Call Committee!

We have successfully launched our advertising campaign in March for St. Stephen's opening. Our on-line ad was published with the United Lutheran Seminary in their Copper Cup Newsletter and with the Christian Century for one month. We are also slotted in May for a four week on-line run with the Living Lutheran. Advertising comes at an opportune time in conjunction with the graduating class of seminarians. Our advertisement highlights St. Stephen's countless attributes, contains links to our church website and Synod point of contact for ease in applicant research and submitting their Rostered Minister Profile.

Your Call Committee has received our first two candidates of the year from the Synod Committee of Deans. Our first candidate interviewed, who was from out-of-state, was a unanimous yes by the committee to move forward with an in-person interview. Following his discernment, it was his decision not to move forward with our call process. Our next interview with our second candidate is scheduled for mid-May.

***"In the same way, let your light shine before people so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven." -
Matthew 5:16***

Given the ups and downs in our journey, I personally would like to extend my thanks to the congregation, Pastor Ahlman, church leadership, Jenn, Susan, Lynn, Julie, and Andrew for your "light". Your thoughts, prayers and support are felt daily in knowing that His time is coming.

Faithfully Submitted,
Ron Wos – Call Committee Chair

***Thank You
To Vasily, Holly, to our choir and friends
and to our bell choir for beautiful,
beautiful Easter music!***



Cantus Novus - Free To Be

Cantus Novus, **including our own Julie Leinhauser**, is thrilled to be able to sing for live audiences again this spring. In celebration and thanksgiving but aware of the challenges that still lie ahead, the theme for this season is Veritas, who, in Roman mythology is the goddess of Truth.

Veritas—Free To Be features Craig Hella Johnson's *Considering Matthew Shepard, A Choral Suite*, with orchestra and percussion. The program also celebrates freedom and peace with works from the 19th through the 21st century.

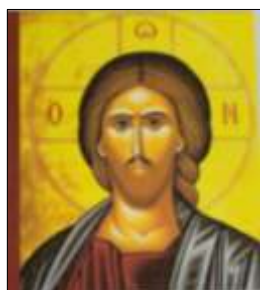
To purchase advance tickets (cost \$25 each) visit our website cantusnovus.org. No tickets will be sold at the door)

Friday, May 6, 8 pm,

Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury, PA

Saturday, May 7, 8 pm,

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Doylestown, PA



*Dear St. Stephen's
Lutheran Church*

Please accept our thanks for your thoughtful gift to our church – aid to Ukraine. Your continuing support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for remembering us at this time

St. Vladimir VOC in Philadelphia



FRIDAY THE 13TH

No ladders,
no broken mirrors,
no black cats.

Just Ice cream!!

Join us for another great outdoor ice cream social. Details to follow.



Volunteers Needed

Saturday afternoon, May 14th is the day of the annual Postal Workers Food Drive. We need strong arms to help with unloading the boxes of food and to bring them into Fellowship Hall.

We will also gather on **Saturday, May 21st** to help sort all the can goods collected by the local letter carriers. Come and bring a friend to help re-stock our food bank. We need all the help we can get, even if it's for an hour. Every little bit helps. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall, 9:00 AM.

ADOPT A SIGN



In an effort to let people know how we feel about our Wonderful St. Stephen's Church, our Evangelism Group has purchased signs for you to place on your front yard for the world to see. Signs will be available in the Narthex before and after 9:30 Worship Service. Donations are welcome...the signs cost \$10.00 each.

And these signs will accompany those who believe in My name. Mark 16:17

St. Stephen's Lunch Bunch Thursday, May 19th

Our meeting will be held at 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Please remember that there are only 20 parking spaces for our use in the lower parking lot.

Following our business meeting we will be entertained by Jim Laurie, pianist,,,, singer and one-man band. The entertainment will cost \$8.00 per person.

Our lunch will be held at Maggio's Restaurant, located in Hampton Square, 400 Second Street Pike, Southampton, PA 18966, where you will be able to select your luncheon from the menu. Since we have a smaller group now, you can select whatever you like, however, you will pay for your meal and tip directly to the waitress.

Also, for those of you who have not already paid, it's time for our membership drive, the cost is \$10 per person for 2022.

Please make your check out to St. Stephen's Lunch Bunch and mail it to:

Elaine Bohanan
531 E. Pine Street
Feasterville-Trevose, PA 19053

Bring a friend!

PLAY BALL!

Chris is back in action



HOPE LODGE

Thanks to those who sent meals to residents and a special thanks for the newly remodeled kitchen made possible by contributors like St. Stephen's



Maunday Thursday Reminder



Our Easter Clean-up Crew

Be sure to extend a word of gratitude for all the hard work in cleaning our grounds and making our church beautiful for Easter.

A Glorious Easter at St. Stephens



**Thanks to our
Altar Guild**

**And to our
Tomb-makers**



**And our
Easter Angels**



Sunrise Service



Good Morning Moon



We're Thankful for... Communion at Table



**And to our
Easter Children**



**He has Risen!
He has risen indeed!
Yes! Yes! Yes!**



**And a full sanctuary (but always
room for more!).**

**Thanks to all those behind the
scenes volunteers – you know
who you are...and so do we!!**