

The Enlightener

St. Stephen Lutheran Church



April 2019

from the Pastor's desk...

May the Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord's face shine upon you
with grace and mercy
The Lord look upon you with favor
and grant you peace.

It is the blessing offered at the conclusion of each service as I send you out into the world, or at least to coffee time. They are incredibly powerful words if we really listen and hear the rich meaning of those words - the intent behind them, the gift God allows and the words I often use following, "Go in peace. Christ is with you."

If you can picture it, these words are to me like the hug of a loved one: God's hug, smile and extra squeeze as we go on our way. It often will bring tears of joy to well up in my eyes.

Throughout Lent and especially through Holy Week we embrace remembering the physical nature of Christ with us in human form some two thousand years ago. We remember what it is to be God's people from Exodus to the gospels and in doing so, this blessing rings true.

With Easter resurrection comes the full reminder that Christ is with us, will have mercy on us and continue to

shine upon our lives even unto death and beyond.

I encourage you to deeply consider this blessing and what it means to you each and every time you receive it. Don't fall into the trap of thinking they are just words that end a service and send you away. They are words that begin what you are called to be; encouragement as you step out into the world. They are the hug, the smile and the extra squeeze from the one who loves us more than we could ever know.

May the true blessings of this Easter season be upon you and your families.

Pastor Richard

Have you heard? ...Just after Easter, Pastor Richard will be having surgery to repair a failing knee joint and will be recuperating on medical leave for 3-4 months. Please keep him in your prayers.

Bishop Michael has appointed an interim pastor to help us, Pastor Jim Koellner. Pastor Jim, formerly the Dean of our Grand River Ministry Area, recently retired from parish ministry and will be available as we need. Please welcome him, get to know him and help him to get to know the community here at St. Stephen.

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 phone: (519)744-2521 fax: (519) 744-2597 ststephens@live.ca
 www.ststephenchurch.ca

Newsletter:

The contribution deadline for the May issue of the newsletter is **Monday, April 22nd**. Any submissions received after this date will be printed in the June Enlightener. We reserve the right to edit and condense all submissions.

Office Hours: The church office will be open most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:30am to 12:30pm or by appointment. Please call ahead to avoid disappointment if you are planning to drop in.

Magazine Rack: Do you want to know more about what is happening here at the church? Take a moment and check out the magazine rack! There you will find:

- ✓ Newsletters from St. Stephen, St. James, The Eastern Synod and many more!
 - ✓ Eternity for Today Devotionals
 - ✓ Duty Schedule Information (schedule, contact lists, etc.)
 - ✓ Committee Information (chairpersons, members, and contact information)
 - ✓ Financial Statements
 - ✓ Pre-Authorized Debit Information
 - ✓ The Canadian Lutheran and other magazines plus lots of other information from the community
- If there is something that you would like to see available that isn't, please contact the church office.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2019

Chairperson	Terry Delion	519-500-0545
Vice-Chairperson	David Kruk	519-578-3594
Co-Treasurers	John Land	519-570-1319
	Geoff Schmitt	519-595-4060
Secretary:	Peggy Nickels	519-576-7376
	Paul Buick	519-748-4311
	Lori Hansen	519-579-3223
	Jessica Kennedy	519-498-8807
	Larrie Brown	519-745-3919
	Jim Penny	519-578-9144

Pastoral Care - *If you or someone you care about requires pastoral care, would like to be included on the prayer list, or just want to talk, please call Pastor Richard at the church office at 519.744.2521, at home 519.742.0520 or email lutheran.rich@gmail.com.*

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Richard Schwass	lutheran.rich@gmail.com
Church Musician	Elizabeth Hackett	ststephenmusician@gmail.com
Office		ststephen@live.ca
Financial Secretary	Donna Seidl	seidl@rogers.com

COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

Card Group Coordinators	Larrie Brown	519-745-3919
	Larry Kennedy	519-576-9697
E.L.W.	Donna Seidl	519-570-0272
Finance Committee Chairperson	Geoff Schmitt	519-595-4060
Food, Fun & Faith	Lori Hansen	519-579-3223
Health & Safety Representative	Charlene Crozier	519-579-4066
Hospitality Committee Chairperson		
Human Resources Committee	Paula Sears	519-579-4417
Learning & Youth Committee Chairpersons	Jessica Kennedy	519-498-8807
Mutual Ministry Committee	Paula Sears	519-579-4417
Outreach Committee Chairperson	Maureen Jackson	519-208-5261
Property Committee Chairperson	Paul Buick	519-748-4311
Quilting Group President	Wilma Peirson	519-884-4068
St. Stephen Chapter: FaithLife Financial	Pastor Lloyd Wiseman	519-576-9989
Witness / Stewardship Committee Chairperson	Suzanne Brown	519-745-3919
Women's Prayer & Book Club Contact	Suzanne Brown	519-745-3919
Worship & Music Committee Team Leader	Jan Hansen	519-579-3223

Facebook - Check out our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/groups/ststephenkitchener



You will find updates, event updates, bulletin information and much more.

Stay connected! Add your e-mail address to our e-mail distribution list today by sending a note to ststephens@live.ca. You can unsubscribe at any time.

CARD GROUP

Our Card Group meets on Tuesdays at 12:45pm for an exciting afternoon of Euchre or Solo. There is a voluntary fee of \$1 and light refreshments are served. If you have any questions, please speak to Larrie Brown or Larry Kennedy.



Everyone is Welcome!

Outreach News

Thanks to everyone who generously supported the **February Potato Blitz** in support of the House of Friendship. St. Stephen donated **705 lbs. of potatoes plus \$290 to this initiative**. Your help was greatly appreciated.

This year Canadian Lutheran World Relief **baling days** will be on **Monday, April 15th and Tuesday, April 16th**. The shipment will support children, the elderly and mothers who have fled the conflict in Mali and now live in the M'bera refugee camp. Over 50,000 refugees currently live in this camp.

If you would like to volunteer to either sort, fold, count, tape, weigh or load donated supplies please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the Outreach Bulletin Board. Baling Day volunteers will be working in Wallenstein at the Christian Aid Ministries building.

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Neugebauer for further details.

Saturday Suppers @ Stirling Avenue

Mennonite Church: St. Stephen provides volunteers for this community meal on the 4th Saturday of each month. There is a **sign-up** sheet on the Outreach bulletin board for anyone who would like to **help April 27th**. **Thank you** to all who have helped this year.

HOSPITALITY NEWS

Cards'n Games Night

Keep your eyes out for another Games night. There is not one planned for April, but we are finalizing plans for May. This would be a great chance to play dominoes, or your board game too.

This committee including Donna Vanderburgh, MaryAnne Hagen, Larrie Brown and Jo-Anne Schwass invite anyone interested in planning fun events to join us. Let any of us know and we will let you know when our next meeting is. Due to the 70th Anniversary events this year we will be mainly planning game nights, but we would be happy to have more input.

MUSIC NOTES

Our spirits are lifted in April with the coming of spring and the celebration of Easter. The choir is preparing special music for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Addison Robert has been learning a new song which she will sing on Sunday, April 7th. The handbells are preparing to play on April 28th.

Menno Singers have special concerts on April 6 at 7:30 pm at Rockway Mennonite Church on Onward Ave. in Kitchener and April 7 at 3 pm at Knox Presbyterian Church in Elora. This is a service entitled "**Lamentation – Prayers, Songs, and Hymns of Lament**". Donations will be gathered to support the **Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support**. It would be nice to see some familiar faces at these events! Tickets are not being sold as we are asking for donations.

Elizabeth Hackett

SENIOR BIRTHDAYS

The following are members of our congregation who are 75 years young or more. Please take a moment to wish them a happy birthday.



Janet Weber – April 5
Bob Schulte – April 6
Cora Hagen – April 17
Helen Krueger – April 17
Joanne Smiley – April 17
Tom Gimbel – April 25
Margo Schreiber – April 25
Floyd Moore – April 26
Melvin Huth – April 27
Ann Kneeshaw – April 30

E.L.W. NEWS

The congregation is invited to join the ELW on Monday, April 15th at 7:00 pm to hear our speaker, Heather Whitfield talk about "Heart to Heart". Heather is a registered nurse who will speak about her experiences with heart health. This is an important topic as many women tend to dismiss the warning signs and symptoms of cardiac events. Grace group is in charge of refreshments. Hope to see you there.

All women are invited to attend the **Women of Faith Spring Event** to be held on Saturday, April 27 at St. James Lutheran Church in St. Jacobs. The theme is "Amazing Grace: Lutheran and Indigenous Peoples Learning Together". For more information check the ELW bulletin board in the side hallway. To attend please sign the registration form on the bulletin board and give your registration fee of \$15.00 to Donna Seidl before April 12. The registration fee also includes snacks and lunch. This is always an informative and inspiring event.

Thank you to all who purchased items or gave money toward the CLWR layettes. We were able to make up 19 layettes! Thank you also to Mildred Stilling for knitting the sweaters and to Linda Buick for sewing the diapers.

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

Joint Area Confirmation Youth Activity Days are planned with activities based on grade 7 & 8 age group. However, all ages of youth are welcome to attend after confirmation. There will be lots to do that will be meaningful and great learning too.

Drop off at 9:00 am and pick-up at 3:00 pm at Martin Luther University College (75 University Ave W, Waterloo – use the entrance off of Bricker Street) unless otherwise stated. Lunch and snacks provided. There are two activity days remaining for this year's season.

Theme of the Day:

- April 13th, 2019- Homelessness (@ St. Matthews)
- May 11th, 2019- Trip to Six Nations

Youth Group Events:

We have three youth groups:

- ✓ **Junior Youth:** grades 3,4,5 & 6
- ✓ **Senior Youth:** grades 7,8 & 9 +
- ✓ **CLAY Youth** 14-19 years old in 2020 will meet for fundraising and other activities

Youth Group Event

- Who? Junior & Senior Youth
- What? When? TBA

J-Squad Events for April

- April 4 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
- Meet at St. Matthews
- Eat before you come
- April 25 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
- Cost: \$5 plus food
- Pin Up Arcade Bar
- 247 King St N Unit 8 Waterloo ON

We are Collecting!!!

- Buttons – all shapes & sizes
- Scrabble tiles
- Clay pots of different sizes



FOOD, FUN & FAITH continues on the last Wednesday of each month. This ministry offers an experience similar to vacation bible school on a multigenerational basis and provides a healthy meal, creative craft time, music, bible story and faith talk. Thank-you to all who have been working on this project.

Come and see the smiles on the faces of children. The pride in making and taking home a craft that will be displayed at home. Sing with them and laugh as they sing songs of faith, and discuss faith as it is to them. And sit with them to share a meal and enjoy the community gathered.

There are ways that you can help with this. Consider donating food or craft supplies. Or perhaps you have time to offer in the kitchen, or at a craft table? We can always use more joyful volunteers!

If you are interested and would like to know more about how you can help out, please talk to Lori Hansen or Kathleen Robert.



You are invited!

Celebrating

**50
YEARS**

*Please Join us for an
Anniversary Open House for*

Bill and Rochell

Sunday May 26th 2019

1pm – 3pm

Fellowship Hall

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

No gifts please. There will be a loonie/toonie jar for your contributions to
MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION

Easter Flowers

You may purchase Easter Flowers that will be ordered ahead and delivered.

Available this year:

Hydrangeas	\$15
Tulips	\$ 6
Mums	\$ 7
Calla lily	\$15
Daffodil	\$ 4
Pansy (3's)	\$ 5

See the sign-up sheet in the narthex or be in touch with Maureen J. (519-208-5261) if you would like more info

The Annual Senior's Dinner is coming up May 1 – watch for more info

Register NOW for the Women's retreat, "Joy in the Journey" May 24 – 26th at Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON -see the bulletin board for poster.

70TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS

March 31st at 2:00 p.m., please join in for an afternoon of **Gospel Bluegrass music by the Stiff Family**. They were formerly from Wellesley. They travel across Canada and the United States performing their music. We also welcome Bob Loebsock to accompany a Gospel Hymn Sing. Bob was director of music and musician at St. Stephen from 1962 – 1971

This is a fundraiser event with free will offering going to the local chapter of Autism Ontario. Guest speaker, Julie Densham will enlighten us.

Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness of this disorder and for more information you can look them up on line at Email: waterloo@autismontario.com or on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/autismontariowaterlooregion

April 2nd is "Raise the Flag Day" - World Autism Awareness Day. How fitting that we are having this fundraiser just before this. Whether autism affects you, your family or someone in your community or if you want to show your support please plan to come. Refreshments and desserts will be served afterward. This promises to be informing, uplifting and very enjoyable event.

If you are willing to provide a dessert, please sign up on the Sheet posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Thank you and Praise be to God!

Take a Trip Down Memory Lane...

To celebrate our 70th Anniversary a small team are putting together photo boards to highlight some of our special memories and events throughout our 70-year ministry here at St. Stephen.

Take some time when you are at the church to check out these wonderful mementos of our history. These will change throughout the year, so check in often.

Thank-you to Pastor Bill Shafer, Lynn Roth, and Charlotte Kruk for the many hours of work putting these photos together. See how many people you can recognize.

Confirmation Photos

We are updating our pictures in celebration of our 70th Anniversary. We are missing photos and need your help! We need confirmation photos from the following years:

1978	1996	2007
2008	2009	2011
2013	2014	2015
2016	2017	2018

70th Anniversary Fund – has been set up to help offset costs for all people wishing to enjoy events we have planned. If you wish to contribute, please include money in your offering envelope and mark your designation with the amount on the outside.

QUILTING GROUP

The Quilting Group meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. There are a variety of tasks that are done including organizing and piecing together material, hand stitching, tying, machine sewing and many others. **You don't have to be a sewer to be part of this dynamic group!** We hope to see you there!

Donations of **Sheets & Pillow Cases** are always needed and greatly appreciated.

WOMEN'S BOOK & PRAYER GROUP

The Women's Book and Prayer Group meets Mondays at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to join us. Discussion is always lively, either about the current book or any other topic that seems to present itself. There is always room for more!

Rent-A-Book: Books can be borrowed from the book cart in the Fellowship Hall. Please put your loonie in the jar and return the book when you are done. Proceeds are directed to support our Youth Ministry.



WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS

Lenten Soup Suppers

Please join us as we gather at 6pm for a potluck soup supper **each Wednesday** during lent **until April 10th**. Following supper, we move into the sanctuary at 7:15pm for Holden Evening Prayer. Enjoy the peaceful melody, hear the Word and experience the comfort of community fellowship that is shared.



There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board where you can sign up to bring your favourite soup or dessert and we can always use a hand with clean-up after supper.

Come and be part of this Lenten gift!

Holy Week Activities April 14th -21st

Palm Sunday -The "Rocks" will sing and shout, palm branches wave and our children will participate in sharing the gospel news of Jesus entering Jerusalem!

Maundy Thursday-We gather at 5:30 to share a special meal of ceremonial foods and take time to remember God's people from Exodus to the Gospel.

Following this meal, we retreat to the sanctuary for prayer from the psalms and to prepare our worship space for the most solemn of all holy days, Good Friday.

Good Friday -Remembering the Cross and the Crucifixion of Christ at 11am

Easter Sunday

7:30 am Sunrise Service

8 am Easter Breakfast

10 am Resurrection Service

Please let us know that you are coming for Easter Breakfast! There are sign-up sheets available to help us to prepare adequately.

OTHER NEWS & INFORMATION

Bridges Vacation Bible School

"To Mars and Beyond: Explore where God's Power Can Take You!"

July 8 to 12, 2019 at Martin Luther University College from 9am to 4pm each day.

For more information visit:
bridgesvbs.weebly.com

updates: www.facebook.com/bridgesvbs

more info: bridgesvbs@gmail.com

volunteers: bridgesvbs.volunteer@gmail.com

Used Batteries

If you have been collecting used batteries (of all kinds) faithfully, but don't know where to dispose of them in a stewardly fashion.....here is the answer for you..... Place them in the 'used batteries' drawer in the Narthex. They will be taken to Laurentian Hills Christian School in Kitchener, where senior students sort them for their final destination – an official recycling center. Plus it's a fundraiser for the school! This is a win-win-win and it helps a Christian school!

Photo Directory

Our Photo Directory is now being published using PowerChurch. If you would like a copy, please let us know.

Photos can be added / changed any time you want and when the directory is printed an updated photo will appear. To submit a photo:

- email it in to us at ststephens@live.ca
- bring it in on a memory card or CD
- send / bring in the printed picture and we will scan it into the computer

Thank-you to everyone who has submitted pictures thus far.

APRIL 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 10:00am Woman's Book Club	2	3 6pm Soup Supper 7:15 Holden Evening Prayer 8pm Senior Choir	4 6:30pm Bell Choir	5	6
7 8 am Worship 10am Worship & Sunday School	8 10:00am Woman's Book Club	9 9:30 Quilting 12:45 Card Group	10 10am Worship service @ Laurelwood Ct, 6pm Soup Supper 7:15 Holden Evening Prayer 8pm Senior Choir	11 6:30pm J-Squad @ St. Peter's 6:30pm Bell Choir	12	13 9am – 3pm Joint Area Confirmation Youth Activity @ St. Matthew's
14 Palm Sunday "Rocks" 8am Worship 10am Worship & Sunday School H O	15 10:00am Woman's Book Club CLWR Baling Day L Y	16 9:30 Quilting 12:45 Card Group CLWR Baling Day	17 W E	18 5:30 Maundy Thursday Meal 7:30 Prayer service 8pm Senior Choir E K	19 11am Good Friday Service	20 10-11am Easter Egg Hunt and Activities
21 Easter Sunday 7:30am Worship 8am Breakfast 10am Worship & Sunday School	22 10:00am Woman's Book Club Articles & info for May Enlightener are due today!	23 9:30 Quilting 12:45 Card Group 7pm Church Council	24 5:15pm Food, Fun & Faith	25 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Senior Choir	26	27
28 8am Worship 10am Worship & Sunday School	29 10:00am Woman's Book Club	30 9:30 Quilting 12:45 Card Group				