

The Enlightener

St. Stephen Lutheran Church



JULY & AUGUST 2018

from the Pastor's desk...

It's summer time. The quilters have knotted off, the card players shuffled the last deal, and plans are being made for staff holidays and summer cleaning. Committees and council have had their final meetings until fall. It's not that everything is shut down, but it seems rather different when the routines we follow change, slow down, and even stop in this season.

It does offer all of us some rather unique opportunities, though. We don't have to sit at home, missing the action of being the church. We don't have to mark the days off until all our groups start meeting again. If you have time and would like, we have some windows of opportunity to meet and do things through the summer.

Would you like to have coffee and conversation? Have you ever wondered why we do what we do, or have you other questions? Perhaps you would enjoy discussing current events -- or your kids --- or your parents. How about your hobbies?

If there is a day of the week and time that fits or even a bit of free time one day, why not give me a call and see what we can set up. If you have an idea for a particular group, we might be able to use the flexibility we have in the summer to get something going!

Schedules will be rather in flux for July and August, so rather than setting up a specific date and time, it might work well to be spontaneous and utilize our social media to invite for "pop-up" events.

There are a number of people who have asked about opportunities for programming during the summer months. Please be in touch with any of your ideas. Let's see what we can do together.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Richard

Pray, read worship, study, serve, give, and tell

These are the pillars for spiritual renewal. Summer can be a wonderful time for refreshment and renewal. If we are fortunate, there is opportunity to be closer to nature, perhaps travel, away from our routines. This can be a wonderful time for spiritual growth as well, to "be still and know God", to see the wonderful beauty of creation ripening before our eyes. To live life fully and abundantly. Summer time can begin a meaningful season of prayer. Martin Luther's Small Catechism suggests prayer in the morning as we wake and at evening before bed. I offer this one to you as a possible beginning to your summer prayer routine, but feel free to write your own or free form!

In the noise and in the silence
In the darkness and the light
Lord we thank you for your presence
Here this day and every night. Amen

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

248 Highland Road East, Kitchener, ON N2M 3W2
 phone: (519)744-2521 fax: (519) 744-2597 ststephens@live.ca
 www.ststephenchurch.ca

Newsletter: The contribution deadline for the September issue of the newsletter is **Friday July 20th**. This is a 'large mail out' where anyone who is not on our e-mail list will be mailed a newsletter. Any submissions received after this date will be printed in the October Enlightener. We reserve the right to edit and condense all submissions.

Editor: Carrie Hamilton

Office Hours: The church office will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

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 2018

Chairperson	Terry Delion	519-742-3649
Vice-Chairperson	Larrie Brown	519-745-3919
Co-Treasurers	John Land	519-570-1319
	Geoff Schmitt	519-595-4060
Recording Secretary	Carrie Hamilton	519-749-9823
Members:	Suzanne Brown	519-745-3919
	Paul Buick	519-748-4311
	Bob Channen	519-745-3054
	Lori Hansen	519-579-3223
	Jessica Kennedy	519-498-8807
	David Kruk	519-578-3594
	Peggy Nickels	519-576-7376
	Jim Penny	519-578-9144
	Paula Sears	519-579-4417

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Richard Schwass	lutheran.rich@gmail.com
Church Musician	Elizabeth Hackett	ststephenmusician@gmail.com
Office Manager	Carrie Hamilton	jchamilton@rogers.com
Custodian	Joe Seidl	seidl@rogers.com
Custodian, 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, Fund & Faith	Lori Hansen	519-579-3223
Health & Safety Representative	Charlene Crozier	519-579-4066
Hospitality Committee Chairperson	Pat Delion	519-742-3649
Human Resources Committee	Paula Sears	519-579-4417
Learning & Youth Committee Chairpersons	Jessica Kennedy	519-498-8807
	Cheryl Weichel	519-404-1023
Mutual Ministry Committee	Paula Sears	519-579-4417
Outreach Committee Chairperson	Pat Neugebauer	519-886-7684
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	Ingrid Duffy	519-744-5669
Worship & Music Committee Team Leader	Jan Hansen	519-579-3223

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

Duty Schedule for the Summer

This summer we will try something new for the scheduling of our volunteers for Sunday Morning Duties. On the bulletin board there is a sign-up sheet for you to add your name when you are available over the summer months. We anticipate that this will make it easier for everyone to work around vacation time.

This system does also have some risks. If we don't have Greeters or Ushers or Communion Assistants or Assistant Ministers, we can likely find people to help out that Sunday. However, if we don't have people willing to do Coffee Time or Counting, then we won't be enjoying coffee after service and Joe Seidl will likely end up counting every Sunday. So, if you have talents in making coffee or counting money, please be sure to add your name to our list on the bulletin board or contact Carrie during regular business hours.

Summer at St. Stephen

Although our programs tend to wind down over the summer as people go away on vacation, we would like to remind you to continue to worship wherever you might be over the summer. Also remember us here, at St. Stephen as we still need your financial support.

Our office hours will be flexible during the summer and the office will be open on an as needed basis. Please keep in mind that if you require anything at any time and no one answers your call, please leave a message as the messages are checked regularly.

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 or at home 519-742-0520 or you may email lutheran.rich@gmail.com.

Financial Report: May 2018

RECEIPTS	Actual	Budget	Difference
	YTD	YTD	YTD
OPERATING	\$ 66,364	\$ 61,947	\$ 4,417
PROPERTY	\$ 11,363	\$ 12,676	\$ (1,313)
Roof Repair	\$ 63,238	\$ 2,083	\$ 61,155
Mortgage	\$ 12,312	\$ 12,285	\$ 27
BENEVOLENCE	\$ 10,950	\$ 11,043	\$ (93)
YOUTH	\$ 3,472	\$ -	\$ 3,472
MEMORIAL	\$ 635	\$ -	\$ 635
E.L.W.	\$ 1,683	\$ -	\$ 1,683
QUILTING	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ 25
MUSIC FUND	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FOOD, FUN & FAITH	\$ 1,178	\$ -	\$ 1,178
TOTAL	\$ 171,220	\$ 100,034	\$ 71,186

DISBURSEMENTS

OPERATING	\$ 67,012	\$ 68,669	\$ (1,657)
PROPERTY	\$ 19,922	\$ 21,800	\$ (1,878)
Roof Repair	\$ 14,048	\$ -	\$ 14,048
Mortgage	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,500	\$ -
MORTGAGE	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400	\$ -
BENEVOLENCE	\$ 10,166	\$ 10,672	\$ (507)
E.L.W.	\$ 2,952	\$ -	\$ 2,952
QUILTING	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ 25
MUSIC FUND	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
YOUTH	\$ 5,415	\$ -	\$ 5,415
MEMORIAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FOOD, FUN & FAITH	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
TOTAL	\$ 138,639	\$ 120,041	\$ 18,598

Fund Balances as of May 31, 2018

OPERATING FUND	\$ 27,337
PROPERTY FUND	\$ 70,749
BENEVOLENCE FUND	\$ 1,649
MEMORIAL FUND	\$ 26,246
YOUTH FUND	\$ 1,727
E.L.W.	\$ 800
QUILTING	\$ 1,050
MUSIC FUND	\$ 1,117
FOOD, FUN & FAITH	\$ 1,217
ALL FUNDS TOTAL (Bank Balance)	\$ 131,892

For more information on our finances, please speak to Co-Treasurers John Land and/or Geoff Schmitt.

Grand River Ministry Area

2nd ANNUAL AREA CHURCH PICNIC SUMMARY

HELD JUNE 3RD, 2018 AT ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, FRANKLIN STREET, KITCHENER, ON.



The day started out with brilliant sunshine, birds chirping and airplanes swooping by as we were entertained by the melodious rhythms of “The Rocks” band. As we headed towards mid-day dark clouds threatened rain. However, God was with us and allowed the Service to go on without any precipitation! Unfortunately, we don’t have an accurate account of how many actually attended but believe it was well over the 400 mark with at least four times more

children than last year...believe the bouncy castle might have had something to do with that...it was truly successful!

It was a “spiritual” event for all of us attending we believe,... being in one with nature, sitting in our comfortable lawn chairs and sporting our favourite hat while participating in the liturgy, the songs, the prayers, our wonderful , unrehearsed mass choir while enjoying the efforts of many of the Pastors and lay people leading us,



listening to Bishop Michael Pryse's inspiring sermon and communing together, outdoors, with our Grand River brothers and sisters ...truly an amazing experience!



After the service those in attendance enjoyed a very satisfying lunch of grilled sausages and all the trimmings and for dessert eating a freshly made apple fritter... **yum**, a great taste experience! We think most of us ended up meeting a person or two from one of "the other" congregations and already are looking forward to meeting up with them again be it at the picnic next year or another event in the Grand River Ministry Area. For any event it is the people that make the event successful...we say thank you to our Grand River Ministry Area Leadership, our picnic committee, The Bishop, all the Pastors and The Rocks Band, all those

generous people and businesses who generously donated to us and to all the volunteers... and all those folks from every congregation who came out, participated, and contributed in some way to making the day a superb success!

Feeling very blessed!
Shirley Mitchell, Chair

HOSPITALITY & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Coffee Time Supplies Needed

We need your help! If you are interested in donating supplies for Sunday morning refreshments after the 10 am service, it would be much appreciated by the Hospitality & Fellowship Committee. Supplies that are needed:

- cookies
- juice
- cream
- sugar
- sweetener
- tea



Any help you can provide is greatly appreciated.

Thank-you to the St. Stephen Chapter:
FaithLife Financial for donating the coffee.

LEARNING & YOUTH NEWS

Sunday School Birthdays

Max Gardiner – July 4
Ethan Gardiner – July 5
Alexis Carruthers–Jaques – July 16
Kaydence Weichel – July 16
Abby Weiss – July 17
Evan Benson – July 22
Kai Wilson – July 24
Bennet Delion – August 5
Sophia Grivicic – August 9
John Weiss – August 28



Youth Fundraising:

Mable's labels

Visit them at

www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com and search for 'St. Stephen Youth' to place your order.

Rhéo Thompson – Mint & Raspberry Smoothies

We still have Smoothies!

The CLAY Youth are selling Raspberry Smoothies for \$2.50 each and Mint Smoothies for \$2.00 each. These treats are available in the church office.



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.

Barry Heer – July 8
Ron Greulich – July 16
Don Smiley – July 16
Marion Schedler – July 25
Marlene Farnham – July 28
Steve Haller – August 7
Fred Litt – August 10
Norma Scharman – August 11
Marilyn Forler – August 15
Gordon Schilter – August 15
Dolores Schneider – August 16
Norma Sims – August 17
Al Goebel – August 28
Peggy Arndt – August 28
Marlene Maguire – August 28
Arlene Channen – August 29
Lloyd Wiseman – August 31



Birthday Cards

Lynn Roth has graciously taken on the role of sending our seniors birthday cards. Do you have birthday cards at home that you would like to donate? She is especially in need of cards for men. Thanks 😊

OUTREACH NEWS

June/July Collection for Back-to-School!



The Outreach Committee is again combining a Healthy Snack collection with Backpack items. The need continues to be great among low-income families in our neighbourhood. "Further job losses, and the rising costs of shelter, heat, transportation, and especially groceries often result in children coming to school with little or no lunch," Katherine explains. "Some families choose not to send their children to school rather than send them with no lunch."

This collection is an excellent way for our church to connect with the local Community Centre and responding to the wider needs of the neighbourhood in which we are located. The Community Centre is grateful for our continued support. Please consider donating:

Healthy, non-perishable, individually-wrapped, peanut-free lunch snacks, such as:

apple sauce pudding
fruit cups cereal bars
small crackers (Ritz, Bear Paws, Goldfish)
dried fruits (boxed raisins, Fruit-to-go, etc.)
cheese and cracker packages

Back-to-School items such as:

pencils	math sets	packs of lined paper
pens	notebooks	pencil crayons
erasers	pencil cases*	duotangs
rulers	backpacks*	pencil sharpeners
lunch totes / bags*		(* most needed items)

Donated items can be placed in the Back-to-School bin in the Narthex until the end of July, so that they can be sorted and packaged in August, ready for school to start in September. Monetary donations can be made through your regular donation envelopes by using "Back-to-school donation" in the memo line. If you have questions or suggestions, please speak to Cindy Nietmann or Peggy Nickels, members of our Outreach Committee. **Thank you for your support!**

PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEWS

Paul Buick, Property Chairperson

Roof Repair

We are overwhelmed by your generosity and continued support for St. Stephen Church.



We have reached our initial projected target of \$50,000 but we ask you to still consider donating to the Roof Appeal. The additional funds we raise will greatly reduce the amount the Church will need to borrow to have this project completed.

If you would like to donate in memory of someone or in celebration of an event, please include this information with your donation. We will add your donation to our shingles poster that is on the bulletin board. All money donated will be counted as a regular donation and would be eligible for a tax receipt.

SING FOR SPRING

Thanks to those who were able to attend Sing for Spring this May. We were able to raise \$505 for Food -Fun -Faith. The Rocks including Josh Ehlebracht and guest steel guitarist Mary Waite, the senior choir & women's choir led by Elizabeth, our men's trio and soloist Peggy Nickels treated the audience to a fun filled show with a wide variety of music. We had a great time together learning the music for the event and will miss performing for you next spring. As my children get older I am finding that I have less time to dedicate to this event and this year's attendance confirmed that Sing for Spring has run its course. For all those who attended this year and in years past thank you for supporting our efforts. A special thanks to the Ladies of the E.L.W. who have hosted the dessert reception every year since we began. To all the performers and volunteers that have made this event so much fun to put together over the years I want to extend a very heart felt **THANK YOU!**



Kathleen Robert

MUSIC NOTES

Now that summer is approaching, I want to extend thanks to several people who have made special contributions to the music at St. Stephen.



Jamie Hamilton enhanced the Easter morning worship service with his trumpet playing. Thank you, Jamie.

Thank you to The Rocks for contributing faithfully to Sunday morning worship services once a month. A special thanks goes to Kathleen Robert for organizing another "Sing for Spring" event. Her creative and organizational abilities are much appreciated.

Thank you to Carolyn Warnica and the Handbell Ringers for contributing recently to Sunday worship services. We enjoy their beautiful music making.

The Senior Choir has contributed greatly to worship services as well. Their tireless dedication is appreciated.

For the summer months, we will have a few special musical offerings. Bethany Horst will be a soloist on June 24. On July 8, Catherine Hertel, a friend of Elizabeth Hackett's, will sing. On July 22, Elizabeth and Carolyn will play a couple of piano duets. In late August, Karen Mathiasen who recently joined the choir, will sing a solo. We will hopefully hear from Erik Hansen on the flute as well. We hope you will enjoy and support these people for their special contributions.

I will be away on July 15 and 29 and August 12. Zhanna Wohl-Yerin, former organist at St. Phillip's Lutheran will play the July services.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable summer,

Elizabeth Hackett

WITNESS & STEWARDSHIP NEWS

In May, the Witness and Stewardship Committee conducted a survey in our congregation. Our goal was to learn about the different charities that our members participate in. Our faith draws us to help others in a wide variety of ways. The following list is a compilation of the information given by our members. The results show an overwhelming commitment to service work. Well done, St Stephen!

ACCKWA. AIDS committee Of Cambridge,
Kitchener, Waterloo and area
Anselma House
Block parent
Boy Scouts
Breakfast club at school
Canadian Cancer Society
Canadian Kidney Association
Canadian Lutheran World Relief
Catholic Family Counselling
Chandler Mowat Community Centre
Child care
Christian Aid Ministries
Collingwood hospital
Community library
Community ministry at St. Mark's
Driving others to appointments
Education for Change
English in the Working Environment
Evangelical Welcoming Partnership for refugees
English Conversation Café
Folding blankets
Food Bank
Girl Guides of Canada
Grand River Hospital
Habitat for Humanity
Handmade teddy bears for charities
Heart and Stroke
Help Phone Line
House of Friendship
Interfaith Grand River
Juvenile Diabetes stationary bike
Kids Mobility
Kids on the Block puppets
Kitchener Public Library
Kitchener Soccer Club
K-W Woodworking & Craft Centre
KW Hospital
Lutheran Campus Ministry
Lutheran Health Association of Canada
Lutheranch family camp
MS Society
Nutrition for Learning
Oktoberfest
Ontario Airstream club
Ontario Federation of Union Retirees
Ontario Youth Parliament
Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes
Out of the Cold at St Matthews
Packing hampers for children
Participation Lodge Grey Bruce
Personal care home
Picking up litter
Providing musical concerts in nursing homes
Regional Municipality of Waterloo historic
gardener
Rockway Seniors' Centre
Royal Canadian Legion
School library
School Parent Council
Shoveling for neighbour
Social resource
Soccer coach
St Pauls Anglican summer ministry, Muskoka
Stanley Park community association
Sterling Ave., Mennonite church Saturday
suppers
Stephen Lewis Grandmother's campaign
Strong Start for school children
St Raphael's Senior Home
St Stephen Lutheran Church - a wide variety of jobs
Storytelling Guild
Sunbeam Home development service
volunteer
Sunnyside Home
Tax rebate applicant for charities
The Raw Carrot Soup Company
Toastmasters
Townhouse condo board
Trinity Village
Tuesday Afternoon Card Club
Unionville Home Society
United Way of KW
Visiting residents in retirement homes
Walk and Roll fundraiser
Waterloo Region District School Board
Waterloo Regional Labour Council
Waterloo Regional Council of Union Retirees

WORSHIP NEWS

Children in Worship

Jesus welcomed children, and so do we. One thing that comes through strongly when we dream of the future that we want for our congregation is that we want to make a place for everyone, especially children. As part of this effort, the Worship and Music Team, with the support of Church Council, is placing cards in the pews. This idea was taken from two other local Lutheran congregations.

The cards offer practical notes for parents of young children, such as pointing out where the change tables are. For children who need a little more space to roam, we give the option of taking them to the fellowship Hall where they can be a part of worship but do it on their terms. If they choose this option, we invite them to ask an usher to open one or two of the blinds so that they can not only hear worship but see it as well.

The cards also contain some ideas for those of us who are worshipping beside parents and their children, with the understanding that part of our ministry is to make others feel welcome.

Children's Area

As we did last year, during the summer we will set up a quiet play area between the piano and the organ console. There will be a table to work on activities and some pillows for lounging.

St. Philip's has also donated some activity bags for our children. We are thinking that this will be available to children throughout the year. The bags contain a box of cheerios, a pad of paper and some crayons, finger puppets and an activity of some sort. They are hanging on a wooden stand at one of the entrances to the sanctuary. Children can grab one as they come in and return it to the stand at the end of worship.

OTHER NEWS & INFORMATION

beadonor.ca



Trillium
Gift of Life
Network

Réseau
Trillium pour
le don de vie

Organ and Tissue Donation: The Facts

Today, in Ontario, there are over 1,500 people waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. This is their only treatment option, and every 3 days someone will die because they did not get their transplant in time.

But you can help. When you register your consent for organ and tissue donation, you let those waiting know that you would help them if you could.

One donor can save up to 8 lives through organ donation and enhance the lives of up to 75 more through the gift of tissue.

Age alone does not disqualify someone from becoming a donor. The oldest organ donor was over 90 and the oldest tissue donor was over 100. There's always potential to be a donor; it shouldn't stop you from registering.

Your current or past medical history does not prevent you from registering to be a donor. Individuals with serious illnesses can, sometimes, be organ and/or tissue donors. Each potential donor is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

All major religions support organ and tissue donation, or respect an individual's choice.

Organ and tissue donation does not impact funeral plans. An open casket funeral is possible.

Visit www.beadonor.ca for more information and to register.