

The Enlightener

St. Stephen Lutheran Church



JUNE 2018

from the Pastor's desk...

A leaky roof is hardly ever referred to as a blessing. Neither is the inability to borrow funds to cover its replacement. It sounds rather foreboding, and hopeless. But in reality, both of these things have become a source of hope and blessing in seeing our community gather together to work through the adversity with such generosity.

My heart is filled with gratitude as I continue to see the response to the church's need from those of us who are here, as well as those whose life situation has them living in another community or simply unable to attend on a regular basis. The connection remains strong.

You see, the church is not just a building. Yes, we have a building, a wonderful facility that's been lovingly cared for, updated as needs changed and suited to giving us a place to gather for worship, learning, outreach and pastoral care. We provide a home for programming that offers social opportunities for youth, families, empty-nesters and for seniors. This is a place for spiritual exploration and growth. This place is a tremendous asset.

Our people are a much stronger asset than any particular building could ever be. It sounds more like the corporate line to say it, but it's true. Our community of people respond quickly and generously to the call for draught, flood, or hurricane relief. They hear and respond with compassion to needs of

refugees, stopped at borders, or rescued from dangerous conditions. And most definitely, I have seen this community respond thoughtfully and timely to the roof appeal.

I want to share just a few of the comments from some of you. "God has blessed me with the ability to make money and I want to use it to God's glory." "We've given and will continue to look again and see what more we can do for the church which has always been there for us." "I want to be sure the church is in a better place for the next generation." "This is where my faith was born and grew. I want it to be there for others in the same way." "Making a gift in memory of my loved one reminds me that the church is more than bricks and mortar, more than roof and shingles."

The signs of hope and generosity are among us in this community. You can see it and hear it in our work, gatherings and in our worship. We are greatly blessed and I feel tremendously grateful. A miracle has been happening here, where fear, dread and a leaky roof have awakened a spirited attitude of stewardship. Christ's hand has most surely reached out to touch us. May the miracle continue.

Peace and blessings to all,

Pastor Richard

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 July / August issue of the newsletter is **Friday June 15th**. Any submissions received after this date will be printed in the September Enlightener. We reserve the right to edit and condense all submissions.

Editor: Carrie Hamilton

Office Hours: The church office will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, and 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.

E.L.W. NEWS

Marillac Place Baby Bottle Campaign

St. Stephen is proud to participate in the baby bottle campaign in support of Marillac Place. For over 25 years, Marillac Place, has offered safe housing to mothers who are at risk of homelessness or losing custody of their child.

This campaign continues until Father's Day, June 17th. Tax receipts will be issued (if you complete the tag and return it with the bottle). Donations to Marillac Place should go through the baby bottle campaign (i.e. directly to Marillac place and not through your St. Stephen donation envelopes). All the proceeds from the campaign go directly to the operations of Marillac Place and have an immediate impact on their residents and their infants. For more information on Marillac Place please take a look on our bulletin board or visit www.marillacplace.ca.



Financial Report: April 2018

RECEIPTS	Actual	Budget	Difference
	YTD	YTD	YTD
OPERATING	\$ 55,544	\$ 51,761	\$ 3,784
PROPERTY	\$ 9,486	\$ 10,214	\$ (728)
Roof Repair	\$ 33,717	\$ 1,667	\$ 32,050
Mortgage	\$ 9,913	\$ 9,945	\$ (32)
BENEVOLENCE	\$ 9,062	\$ 8,786	\$ 276
YOUTH	\$ 2,749	\$ -	\$ 2,749
MEMORIAL	\$ 345	\$ -	\$ 345
E.L.W.	\$ 1,225	\$ -	\$ 1,225
QUILTING	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MUSIC FUND	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FOOD, FUN & FAITH	\$ 673	\$ -	\$ 673
TOTAL	\$ 122,714	\$ 82,372	\$ 40,341

DISBURSEMENTS

OPERATING	\$ 54,651	\$ 55,483	\$ (831)
PROPERTY	\$ 18,744	\$ 18,800	\$ (56)
MORTGAGE	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400	\$ -
BENEVOLENCE	\$ 8,489	\$ 8,597	\$ (108)
E.L.W.	\$ 1,712	\$ -	\$ 1,712
QUILTING	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MUSIC FUND	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
YOUTH	\$ 5,415	\$ -	\$ 5,415
MEMORIAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FOOD, FUN & FAITH	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200
TOTAL	\$ 97,611	\$ 91,279	\$ 6,332

Fund Balances as of April 30, 2018

OPERATING FUND	\$ 28,878
PROPERTY FUND	\$ 54,278
BENEVOLENCE FUND	\$ 1,437
MEMORIAL FUND	\$ 25,956
YOUTH FUND	\$ 1,004
E.L.W.	\$ 1,582
QUILTING	\$ 1,049
MUSIC FUND	\$ 1,117
FOOD, FUN & FAITH	\$ 712
ALL FUNDS TOTAL (Bank Balance)	\$ 116,013

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

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. Our last card group is June 12, after which we will break for the summer. If you have any questions, please speak to Larrie Brown or Larry Kennedy. **Everyone is Welcome!**



FOOD, FUN & FAITH

F3 will take place on the last Wednesday of the month in April and May. We will return in the fall in September, October, and November. Come join us! We continue to look at New Beginnings
May 30th - Bible Seaside



The children are having fun with crafts, and many adults are joining in too! The singing is the favourite thing for other children and we have all learned a little bit about Jesus' messages. We finish up our fun with a delicious meal.

Everyone is always welcome!

If you are interested in helping on the day with crafts or meals, or making donations to help us out, please see Lori Hansen.

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

OUTREACH NEWS

June/July Collection for Back-to-School!



The Outreach Committee is again combining a Healthy Snack collection with Backpack items. According to Katherine, the Mill-Courtland Community Outreach Worker, 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:

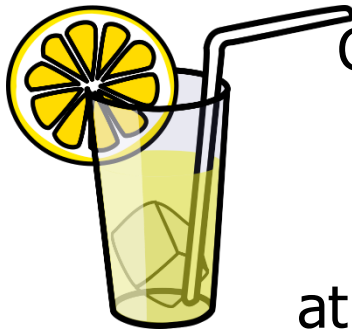
pencils erasers packs of lined paper
pens notebooks pencil crayons
math sets pencil cases duotangs
rulers backpacks pencil sharpeners

Donated items can be placed in the Back-to-School basket on the table in the Narthex throughout the months of June & July, so that they can be sorted and packaged in August, ready for school to start in September. If you would find it easier to make a monetary donation (make cheques out to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and note "Back-to-school donation" in the memo line) we can purchase items on your behalf. If you have questions or suggestions, please speak to Cindy Nietmann or Peggy Nickels, members of our Outreach Committee. **Thank you for your support!**

Grand River Ministry Area

2nd ANNUAL AREA CHURCH PICNIC

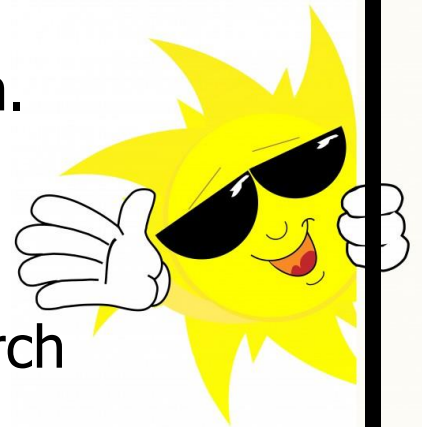
SUNDAY JUNE 3, 2018



Gathering time 10:00 a.m.

Service at 10:30 a.m.
(including Holy Communion)

at St. Luke's Lutheran Church
(317 Franklin St. N., Kitchener)



- Guest Speaker: Bishop Michael Pryse
- Worship will feature a live band "The Rocks"
 - Lunch will be served around noon
- Games and activities for adults & children including a bouncy castle for the children!
- Bring a lawn chair or blanket, a sun hat, and an umbrella (for sun or rain)



**COME AND ENJOY A DAY
OF WORSHIP,
FELLOWSHIP & FUN!**

HOSPITALITY & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Submitted by: Pat Delion, Chairperson

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.

Amish Love & Forgiveness Play

June 26th at the Walter's Dinner Theatre in Bright. Please be at the theatre at 11:30am for the Lunch before the play. Your tickets will be given to you at the theatre. If you need a ride to the Theatre, talk to Pat Delion and I can arrange car pooling to the theatre.

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.



Charlotte Bergen – June 6
Arvella Steinberg – June 8
Lloyd Stephen – June 10
Terry Dramnitzke – June 15
Myrna Goebel – June 16
Karen Weber – June 16
Mary Ann Hagen – June 17
Ralph Scheffel – June 20
Wilma Peirson – June 24
June Gardiner – June 26
Edee Schmitt – June 29
Gina Scheffel – June 30

In the Name of



Please Join Us

**Sunday May
27th @ 2:30pm**

**Bring your family and
friends to this fun
musical event to
support our outreach
project:**

**F3=Food, Fun,
Faith**

(free will donation)

**Dessert Reception to
Follow**

LEARNING & YOUTH NEWS

Sunday School Birthdays



Lauryn Everett – June 20
Addison Robert – June 25

Youth Fundraising:

Mable's labels



mable's labels

Mable's labels are tried, tested, and approved by thousands of schools, daycares, sport teams and other groups.

- ✓ Personalized, stylish, and useful products that help reduce lost items
- ✓ Laundry, dishwasher & microwave-safe
- ✓ Loved by parents and kids alike!

Visit them at

www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com and search for 'St. Stephen Youth' to place your order. More information is also on the bulletin board.

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.



Youth Group Events:

Junior Youth Grades 4-6

Senior Youth Grades 7+

St. Stephen Youth save the date for June 24th. More info to come soon.

St. Peter's Youth Group

- Thursday May 31st at 5:30pm
- Meeting at St. Luke's (317 Franklin Road, Kitchener)
- Pick up at Sky Zone for 8:30ish (150 Gateway Park Drive Kitchener)
- This is a Senior Youth event, but Junior Youth can attend with parental supervision

THE DETAILS:

Come for Food Truck supper between 5:30 - 6:30pm. Bring your friends and families. An assortment of Food Trucks will be at St. Luke's. Food items range from \$5-12. Cover the cost of your own meal.

We will carpool from St. Luke's to Sky Zone! Drivers may include: Sebastian, Kris, Emma, Fiona and Sam. Families can contact Kris directly regarding carpooling questions. Krismcgee@sympatico.ca

Sky Zone has a spring special \$11.99 for one hour including socks and a bottle of water. Unlimited jumping is \$15.99. Youth leaders will be present until 8:15pm for jumping. Our plan is to jump from 7pm-8pm. If you wish to purchase the unlimited option, and jump beyond 8pm, you will not be supervised by youth leaders. Your church may be willing to subsidize your event costs. Please speak to your youth leader or Kris for information.

You will also need to fill out a waiver: <https://www.skyzone.com/ca-kitchener>

Emergency contact information will be needed during the event. Please email or text Kris with the name and phone number of someone we can reach during the event (ex. if you are kidnapped by aliens, etc.). Your families can reach Kris at 519-505-1329 throughout the evening or krismcgee@sympatico.ca.

Please RSVP, so we aren't waiting at St. Luke's for folks who aren't coming.

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendar for Thursday, June 14th for our next gathering. Campfire and BBQ at Kris's house in St. Jacobs (91 Water Street) 6:00pm - 9:00pm.

Peace+

Jessica, Kris, and Sebastian

PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEWS

Paul Buick, Property Chairperson

Stored Items in Elevator Shaft

There are a number of items being stored in the elevator shaft in the basement. There are tables, VBS costumes and materials, items for Craft Sale etc. Access to the electrical panel is required. We are therefore asked that all items that are susceptible to mold (fabric, paper, etc.) be removed from the Elevator Shaft and stored in another location or given away. Any items still in the elevator shaft by July 1st will be disposed of by the Property Committee.

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 this month 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.



MUSIC NOTES

We will hear from the Rocks, the handbells, and the senior choir in June.

Bethany Horst will be our guest soloist on June 24. Beth teaches voice at the University of Western Ontario and Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. She also has a private studio. Beth has a busy performing schedule as well. She lives in Waterloo with her husband and daughter.

From June 14-18, I will be in New York City. I will be in rehearsals and performing with a mass choir at Carnegie Hall. I am going as a "tag-along" with the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Choir. We will be singing several arrangements of spirituals by Mark Hayes. One event I am looking forward to is seeing the play, "Come From Away". We are booked to see it on the Friday evening. The Rocks will be playing on Sunday the 17th when I am away.

'Til next time,

Elizabeth Hackett

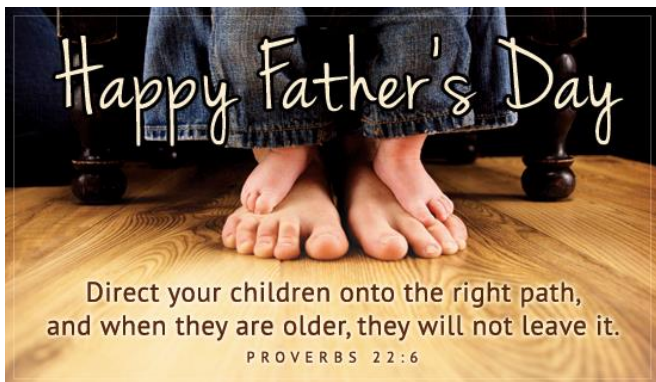
OTHER NEWS & INFORMATION

A Roof for St. Stephen

I am writing to you as a fellow member of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in support of the roof replacement fund. I do so entirely of my own initiative.

As you know, the congregation approved an increase to the existing mortgage held by FaithLife Financial which has set the maximum it will fund for our roof at \$75,000. I am driven to write to you by the following considerations.

The first is practical. Opening up the existing mortgage will incur an increase in the interest rate from 3.2% to 4.5% on the current balance of about \$290,000. By adding the \$75,000 the total increase over the next ten years alone will be \$39,000 (this is according to an accountant friend with experience in amortization and actuarial stuff). In other words, if we don't have to touch our existing mortgage, we can save the congregation \$39,000 over the next ten years – minus, of



course, the interest on any other borrowing, such as member loans, should that be necessary.

Secondly, there are important principles at issue.

1. Maintenance, repairs, and replacements should never be mortgaged, because that's asking the future to pay for our responsibilities. We are the ones who lived under this roof while it lasted. We are the ones who celebrated faith under it. We are the ones who enjoyed food, fun and fellowship under it. (New facilities are different. There the people of the future will enjoy the benefits as much as we will and should pay their fair share of the cost.)
2. As I sat at the table at the Seniors' Dinner on Saturday May 5, I couldn't help but think that many of us are of the age when thoughts of our legacy are timely and appropriate. What do we want to leave behind? What good influence can we pass along? How can the world be a better place tomorrow because I have lived today? For me, as sure as it is for you, leaving behind a strong church is a priority. We inherited a strong church through which we have been blessed, perhaps more than we can ever know. The church has helped to shape us into who we are. It behooves us to pass along a strong church, as best we can. Surely financial stability is part of that.

Let me propose a strategy to support the roof replacement in full. We've been told that the re-roofing costs represent 4% of our total budget over the next 10 years. For example, using this formula, if your total average givings are \$20 per week, 4% over 10 years amounts to a pre-paid special one-time donation of \$416. If your total average givings are \$50 per week, 4% over 10 years amounts to a pre-paid, one-time special donation of \$1040. If your total average givings are \$100 per week, 4% over 10 years

amounts to a pre-paid, one-time special donation of \$2080. And so on – to wit, if each of us made a special donation of 4% of our weekly givings pre-paid for 10 years, the roof would be replaced – no mortgage, no other borrowing, no burdening of the future. (This assumes a total re-roofing cost of \$150,000, a tax rebate of \$10,000, and applying \$40,000 from current balances in the Property Fund and the Memorial Fund.)

Of course, as always, some can do more and some less. So, we are wise to embrace the biblical notion, as expressed by St. Paul, that we should give as we have been blessed. If you agree with me that we can and should do this debt-free, please either make your special one-time donation or make your intentions known to John Land, our Treasurer by May 31st. Thank you.

Gratefully yours,





Pastor Lloyd, Retired

P.S. You may have noticed a display in the narthex showing a goal of \$50,000. That refers to what is needed by May 31st so the roofing contract can be signed and the work requisitioned. It is by no means the maximum to be achieved by the over-all funding campaign. Let's be as generous as we can.

Shape the 21st century — reformcapitalcampaign.ca

In the years leading up to the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary has been educating record numbers of undergraduate, graduate and PhD students — pastors for congregations and lay leaders for the community. To meet the needs of students today and in future generations, the seminary's **Reform Capital Campaign** aims to raise \$1.5 million (*we have achieved 90% of this goal as of May 15, 2018!!!*) to help pay for a \$9-million renewal and modernization project. For more information (including construction update videos), visit the website **reformcapitalcampaign.ca** or contact Mr. Don Stockman, campaign chair, at 519.498.7216.

JUNE 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		F³ 	May 30 5pm Food, Fun & Faith	May 31 5:30pm Youth Event at St. Luke's then to Sky Zone 6:30pm Bell Choir	1 PD Day	2
3 Pent 2 No services at St. Stephen Area Picnic at St. Luke's (317 Franklin St. N., Kitchener) Gather 10:00am Worship 10:30am	4 10:00am Woman's Book Cub 	5 12:45 Card Group 	6 Elections Ontario to set up Polling Station at St. Stephen	7 Election Ontario Polling Station at St. Stephen 6:30pm Bell Choir	8 Church Council Meeting	9
10 Pent 2 8am Worship 10am Worship (with Bell Choir) & Sunday School	11 10:00am Woman's Book Cub 1:00pm Women's Auxiliary Meeting	12 12:45 Card Group	13 10am Worship Service @ Laurelwood	14	15 <div style="border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; background-color: #e0f0ff;"> Articles & info for the July / August Newsletter Due </div>	16
17 Pent 4 8am Worship 10am Worship (with The Rocks) & Sunday School Father's Day	18 10:00am Woman's Book Cub	19	20	21	22 7pm Euchre at St. James	23 4pm Kindermusik Graduation (Fellowship Hall)
← End of Marillac Baby Bottle Campaign		Eastern Synod National Assembly (Toronto) ends June 24th →				
24 Pent 5 8am Worship 10am Worship & Sunday School 5pm Kindermusik Student Recital (Fellowship Hall)	25 10:00am Woman's Book Cub	26 Amish Love & Forgiveness Play at the Walter's Dinner Theatre in Bright. 11:30am Lunch	27 <div style="text-align: center;"> June/July Collection for Back-to-School!  </div>	28	29	30 