

The Enlightener



Newsletter: The contribution deadline for the April issue of the newsletter is March 16th. Any submissions received after this date will be printed in the May Enlightener. We reserve the right to edit and condense all submissions.

Office Hours: The church office is open weekday mornings.

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!

Upcoming Events:

<p>Hospitality Potluck March 14th@5:45 Games begin at 7pm</p>	<p>ELW Bible Study & Layette Assembly March 16th @1:30pm</p>	<p>Food, Fun & Faith March 25th @5:15pm</p>
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Lenten Soup Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer

Held Every Wednesday Throughout lent. 5:30 pm doors open and dinner begins at 6:00 pm. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex to bring soup and/or dessert or to help with clean-up.



From the pastor's desk...

Every once in a while, getting away from my desk is a good thing. I have just returned from the yearly Bishop's retreat at Mount Carmel in Niagara Falls. Lutheran and Anglican rostered clergy gathered with our bishops to worship, pray, learn and take time for spiritual development in a monastic setting.

I participated in worship leadership, on the first morning, with the call to worship "Come Let Us Worship God". We sang songs of global origin, and chanted prayers that have been part of our piety for generations. We prayed for the world and prayed for you. We celebrated a "grand silence" that encouraged a complete break from all the noise that fills our lives. No talking, no cell phone texting and no working on our laptops.

The sparse setting of our cells (rooms) added to the experience as did the very traditional high church setting in the chapel, with its high vaulted ceilings, ceramic tile floor, dark wood and stained-glass windows. Candles burned brightly and music filled the air.

The view from our dining room of the Niagara River flowing swiftly by, its greenish blue hues set off by white caps and snow, the stone fences and decorative ironwork was spectacular. Seeing the awesome power and natural beauty that God displays in that place most certainly gave perspective to our place in the world.

On Sunday afternoon I left home to attend this retreat, hoping for refreshment, rest, and renewal. And I returned with much more than that. My hope and prayers are that each of you find refreshment, rest, renewal and more, as we move into the season of Lent and toward the most holy celebration of Easter.

Pastor Richard

away from my desk...

I just finished a meal with the women's cooking group that has been meeting here for the month of February while the Mill Courtland Rec Centre has had their kitchen remodeled. Last week they invited me to join them, and, as it turned out, I was hosting the area pastors for our monthly gathering and had been to lunch with them, so I declined even though it smelled fantastic.

Rihanat told me then, "Next week, you have lunch with us." Just that simple I was asked to join them, and I have to admit that I was a little apprehensive. What cultural differences might cause problems? I hope that I can understand their English. Will I be able to pronounce their names? I hope the food isn't too spicy or exotic for my taste. My goodness, I could hardly believe how my own fear and uncertainty of the "other" brings all these things to mind rather than merely accepting the offer of hospitality.

Fadhilah came out to bring me in once lunch was ready. They wanted me to go first. I told them I usually go last, and they told me, "in Nigeria the men always go first." I didn't know what to do, what went together and how, so three of the ladies told me about their favorites and I took a little of each of the dishes they had prepared and ended up with a full plate.

They thought it very funny that I waited for them to fix their plates and we all sat at a table together to eat. I sat with the mothers and we shared stories about our children. We talked about church and faith in the world today as they saw it. "It's a sad state of affairs when people turn away from God" we all agreed.

away from my desk... con't

We talked about some of their traditions surrounding food and I genuinely enjoyed the conversation we shared. They were so friendly and open about the enjoyment they find in being together. I smiled a lot and talked with the children, (they were very curious about me) and enjoyed their energy and laughter. When it was time to clean up, they packed up food for me to take home, thanked me for joining them and sent me to my office for the important work I must do.

There is something about sharing a meal. It doesn't have to be fancy or formal. There is something about conversation that happens through a meal. They asked about my family, about being a pastor, and I asked about their families and we all laughed at the stories we told. They told me about food and the connections to festival eating and asked about the origins of our church. And together we lamented that diversity was not always celebrated, or even tolerated, that great sadness has come as human beings choose to persecute rather than accept those with difference. And we wondered why people can't remember and change this. It seems to repeat over and over again in history.

Can you imagine a meal at the table, where the food we eat takes us to another time and place and offers such comfort and ease? Can you imagine the loving conversation of the host who teaches us while we eat, revealing intimate stories of relationship in the here and now and offering hope for the future?

At the February 19th meeting of the newly installed church council, executive positions were elected by ecclesial ballot. We thank Terry Delion and Geoff Schmitt for their years of service and commitment to us as executive and welcome David Kruk, Paul Buick, and David Warnica, with Peggy Nickels who form our new Church Council Executive.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS 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	Geoff Schmitt	519-595-4060
Food, Fun and Faith	Lori Hansen	519-579-3223
Health and Safety	Charlene Crozier	519-579-4066
Hospitality	Jo-Anne Schwass	519-742-0520
Human Resources	Paula Sears	519-579-4417
Learning and Youth	Jessica Kennedy	519-498-8807
Mutual Ministry	Paula Sears	519-579-4417
Outreach	Maureen Jackson	519-208-5261
Property	Paul Buick	519-748-4311
Quilting Group	Wilma Peirson	519-884-4068
Faithife Financial	Pastor Lloyd Wiseman	519-576-9989
Witness and Stewardship	Suzanne Brown	519-745-3919
The Women's Prayer and Book Group	Suzanne Brown	519-745-3919

NEWLY ELECTED 2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

Chairperson	David Kruk	519-578-3594
Vice-Chairperson	Paul Buick	519-748-4311
Treasurer	David Warnica	519-208-3000
Secretary	Peggy Nickels	519-576-7376
	Terry Delion	519-500-0545
	Geoff Schmitt	519-595-4060
	Lori Hansen	519-579-3223
	Jessica Kennedy	519-498-8807
	Jim Penny	519-578-9144

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACTS

Pastor	Rev. Richard Schwass	lutheran.rich@gmail.com
Church Musician	Elizabeth Hackett	ststephenmusician@gmail.com
Office Admin.	Kathleen Robert	ststephen@live.ca
Financial Secretary	Donna Seidl	seidl@rogers.com
Accounting	Dave Warnica	wdw@warnicatech.com

If **pastoral care** is required you may call Pastor Richard at the church office 519-744-2521, or at home, 519-742-0520.

Recipe by Request:

Served at the Interfaith Discussion Feb. 9th

Honey Garlic Chicken

10-12 Chicken Legs or Thighs

¼ cup Soya Sauce

¼ Cup Honey

2 Tbsp apple cider vinegar

1 tsp Worcestershire

4 cloves garlic pressed.

Mix together and pour over chicken

(you can freeze it at this point if you wish)

Otherwise bake at 375° for an hour turning halfway through.

Remove from oven and

Pour pan juice over legs and serve.

Enjoy!

Hospitality Potluck Dinner and Games Night.
March 14th @5:45 Games at 7pm. Please sign-up on the Bulletin Board. Please also check out the posters and signups for upcoming events!

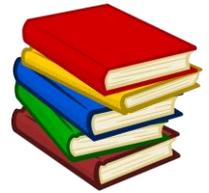
Card Group

Our Card Group meets on Tuesdays at 12:45pm. Join us 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!**



Women's Book and Prayer Group

The Women's Book and Prayer Group meets Mondays at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.. You are welcome to join us. There is always room for more!



Breakfast Program Coordinator Needed

St. Luke's Lutheran Church runs a breakfast program for 60 to 90 children each school day. The children attend Franklin Public School, which neighbours St. Luke's. There are a good number of volunteers in the program and things run smoothly, but the person in charge is looking for someone to succeed her in this volunteer position. If you are interested, please contact St. Luke's at 519-893-3826. Jan Hansen, the VP at Franklin, may be able to answer questions as well.

Happy Birthday to YOU!

Ursula Schulte Mar 2

Anita Tyrrell Mar. 8

Brian Campbell Mar. 9

Pat Raines Mar. 12

Ron Busch Mar. 19

Don Schreiber Mar. 25

Larry Schenk Mar. 27

Clayt Weber Mar. 29



ELW News

On Saturday, February 8 the ELW hosted 36 women at their yearly 'Bring a Friend' Brunch. Approximately 12 of those women were not members of St. Stephen. The speaker, Ruthanne Snider of 'Days for Girls', a charity which makes and delivers hygiene products to girls in third world countries, gave a very interesting and moving presentation. The freewill offering raised \$725.00 for 'Days for Girls'. After the speaker there was a delicious brunch.

This event is open to all women and girls of St. Stephen and their friends. Hopefully next year we will see more of our St. Stephen family at this event.

The ELW outreach project for March is the compiling of layettes for third world countries. There will be a poster on the easel with suggestions as to what items are needed. If you wish to help us out, remove a tag listing the needed item from the easel, purchase the item and return it to the church by Sunday, March 15.

On Monday, March 16, at 1:30 pm, the ELW will meet for a Bible study with Pastor Richard, after which the layettes will be put together. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. Esther group is in charge.

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! If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the office or speak to Wilma Peirson. All donations of sheets (especially flannel) and pillowcases are appreciated. We hope to see you there!

Rent-A-Book – There is a bookshelf in the window alcove in the Fellowship Hall with many new books for your reading pleasure. Books can be borrowed

for \$1.00. The Youth thank you for renting books to help them attend CLAY in 2020.

Youth

Next St. Stephen Youth Activity:

Next J-Squad Youth at St. Peter's:

Who: Senior Youth (grade 7+)

Thursday March 12; Cards night at St. Peter's

Thursday April 2: Muffin baking and CLAY meeting

Thursday May 7: Bubble soccer

Joint Confirmation Session:

- March 28: (@ Mt. Zion). Interfaith/ Muslim/ Ramadan (April 23-May 23).

- May 9: 6 Nations trip

Outreach:

February was Potato Blitz month for the House of Friendship. Thank you to everyone who generously donated potatoes or money. I will have a total amount for the April Newsletter.

Peggy took a load of mitts, hats and scarves to the House of Friendship. Our Mitten Tree is constantly decorated with all manner of winter apparel. Thank you to everyone who has taken time to knit or purchase items for our tree.

There are only two Saturday Suppers left for this season. March and April will be the last two times we will volunteer. We usually seat about 150 people each Saturday and sometimes more. People can come into the Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church and get a delicious and nutritious meal. Then they can sit and visit over cups of coffee, catching up with friends. The atmosphere there is very positive. If anyone would like to know more, just speak with me. I will gladly let you know how wonderful an experience you will have if you volunteer.

In April we will be having a food drive to support the Food Bank. St. Stephens is always very generous, and I know you will do so again! We always have a day where we volunteer to sort food at the Food Bank. Watch the Outreach Committee bulletin board for more info.

Maureen Jackson - Outreach Chairperson

Music Notes:

We continue with Lenten Evening Prayer services on Wednesday evenings in March. Choir rehearsals will be held after the service, beginning around 7:45 pm.

The Rocks will play on March 8. We hope to hear the handbells on March 29.

We have received some positive comments about the choir's contribution to the services at St. Stephen. This support and affirmation is very much appreciated. It is hoped that the music is a source of blessing and healing.

Menno Singers has a concert on March 29 at 3 pm at Waterloo North Mennonite Church. It will feature songs of water, wind, and earth, including many Canadian compositions.

Elizabeth Hackett
Church Musician

After Worship @ St. Stephen: *Interfaith Learning*

We are now finished with this year's series of interfaith learning sessions that we called After Worship @ St. Stephen. At the last session an evaluation form was circulated. If you attended any of the sessions but were not able to make it to the last



one, or if you have any suggestions, please get an evaluation form from Kathleen in the office, fill it out and return it to her. The big thing that we are wondering is if we should look at doing something similar next year, and if so, what sorts of topics are we interested in.

Each of the presenters were presented with three questions as a starting point. They were:

- What would you like people outside your faith community to know about your faith?
- What are some symbols of your faith, and what do they mean?
- What are some challenges you face?

We would encourage you to consider those questions in relation to your own faith, and to discuss your answers with others, both inside and outside of the congregation.

Christian Youth Leadership



The Ontario Youth Parliament was a great success on Family Day weekend. This Christian Youth Leadership organization ran a session at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Kitchener on

Family Day weekend. They would like to thank St. Stephen for your support. In 2019 they held two weekend-long meetings at our church, and this February some of our members baked treats for them again, and others provided places for the youth to sleep at night.

Congratulations to Mia Hansen for being elected the 2021 Minister of Finance!

If you know of anyone aged 14 to 21 who might be interested in attending, have them check out www.oyp.on.ca. Registration for next year will open in the late fall.



My Perspective - When we are Jesus for each other

A sign on a church in our community read “when we are Jesus for each other.” I saw it as I drove home from the grocery store one day and it made me think, *When am I Christ for someone else?* I know when I’m not, and yet there are times that I do feel I act as a good neighbour ought, not expecting the same thing in return.



How about you? ... Our friends will often do things for us in exchange, but perhaps there’s a time when even they need to be the receiver, especially when it’s hard.

In the middle of January, a woman came from Mauritius, a tropical country where it can be cool in evenings, but never cold enough to snow. Zareen was coming to work for a year... and she would land in the middle of our Canadian winter. She’d been here in the fall. And they do not sell winter wear on that island.

I contacted a friend who’d also met Zareen ... during her previous work session. We hatched a plan to take Zareen shopping ... for winter clothing, warm coat, boots, mittens and hat. Zareen was excited when I told her.

As it turned out, the weather turned very cold the evening Zareen arrived. She felt that winter chill. The next morning the snow started coming, with cold icy wind. And all she had on her feet was a pair of canvas sneakers. ... my friend had a coat and boots that had been her mother’s and were still like new. Delighted with her new coat and boots,... we headed for the mall to fill in a few other gaps. ... Our guest would also be warm and cozy. We even got a photo of her clearing snow off the car in the parking lot. ...She would be dressed appropriately for our winter weather. And we all enjoyed our time together. Well maybe not driving in those conditions so much, but we travelled safely and slowly that day.

Your act could be buying a bag of potatoes for a food blitz for a local shelter, or sending good used clothing ... to an organization that helps the working poor... Taking soup to a friend who’s just had surgery and must rest. ... And maybe someday, it will be you who needs the help. Be willing to accept as well, for that's the way gifts work.

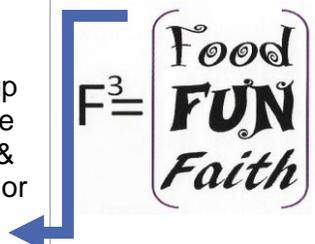
We still have to take care of our family and manage our finances well, so we can pay our own bills. ... How will your “being Christ” look?

To read the entire post, go to <https://twgauthors.blogspot.com/2020/02/when-we-are-jesus-for-each-other.html>

MARCH 2020

Sunday Services at 8am and 10am. Sunday School offered during the 10am service.

Holden Evening Prayer Service Wednesday Evenings at 7:15 though Lent.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Lent 1	2 Women's book and prayer group 10am 7:30 Bell Choir	3 9:30am Quilting 12:45pm Card Group	4 6pm Lenten Soup Supper & Service Senior Choir Practice	5	6	7 Daylight Savings time change. 
8 Lent 2 Rocks Sunday	9 Women's book and prayer group 10am 7:30 Bell Choir	10 9:30am Quilting 12:45pm Card Group	11 10am Service at Laurelwood 6 pm Lenten Soup Supper & Service Senior Choir	12	13	14 Potluck hosted by Hospitality 
15 Lent 3 March Break Begins	16 Women's book and prayer group @ 10am 1:30 ELW Layette Assembly & bible study 7:30 Bell Choir	17 9:30am Quilting 12:45pm Card Group	18 6pm Lenten Soup Supper & Service Senior Choir Practice	19 Council Meeting 7pm	20	21
22 Lent 4 Worship and Music Meeting after 10am service	23 Women's book and prayer group 10am 7:30 Bell Choir	24 9:30am Quilting 12:45pm Card Group	25 5pm Confirmation Youth meets. 6pm Lenten Soup Supper & Service With Food, Fun & Faith. Then Senior Choir Practice	26 	27	28 Confirmation Session at Mt. Zion
29 Lent 5	30 Women's book and prayer group 10am 7:30 Bell Choir	31 9:30am Quilting 12:45pm Card Group	Important April Dates; April 5 th - Palm Sunday, April 10 th - Good Friday, April 12 th -Easter April 26 th - Earth day service.			