

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

AUGUST 2020

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Update From Church Council

Council met on July 22nd.

Due to recent resignations Paul Buick has taken over as Chair of council.

An update to the church finances was presented. Details are below in the financial report section of the newsletter. The 2020 budget will be revisited by the finance committee in August.

An update regarding the Technical Network Infrastructure was presented. The new secure network is ready to use as is the Wifi in the church. Separate logins have been created for staff, guests, and kindermusic. Other highlights from the report were also presented. If the technical specifications is of interest to any of our members Kathleen would be happy to forward you a copy of the report. Please contact her if that is your wish ststephens@live.ca. A small group continues to explore options for A/V systems and will have a recommendation later this month. Work also continues on the new St. Stephen website design.

The property report was also shared at this meeting. They remind us that many people are still working to keep the church in good repair. Checks are made regularly on the building. Our head gardner, Lindsay Drummond, and his team as well as our lawn cutting team have continued to make the property look its best. Thank you to all those involved!

As you can imagine much of the evenings discussion revolved around returning to in-person worship. The synod has released its [checklist for re-opening](#) and church council will be meeting every Tuesday evening in August to address the specifics. If you would be comfortable being a volunteer when in-person worship begins please contact the office to let us know.

If there are any questions regarding this update please email or call the office and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Warmest Regards,

Your St. Stephen Council

The Church office is closed at this time.

All staff are currently working from home.

Please leave a phone message or send an email if you need to reach us.

Financial Report

Dear members and friends of St. Stephen Lutheran Church,

We remain thankful for the continued financial support since church services were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely, David Warnica

Treasurer, St. Stephen Lutheran Church

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFF.	% DIFF.
FINANCIAL REPORT - JUNE 2020	JUNE	JUNE	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD
INCOME						
OPERATING (Budgeted)	\$7,801	\$11,623	\$58,460	\$74,137	-\$15,676	-21%
PROPERTY (Including mortgage)	3,438	5,150	24,189	30,900	-6,711	-22%
SYNOD BENEVOLENCE (Budgeted)	916	1,917	8,231	11,500	-3,269	-28%
BUDGETED INCOME	\$12,155	\$18,689	\$90,880	\$116,537	-\$25,656	-22%
EXPENSES						
OPERATING (Budgeted)	\$11,192	\$12,720	\$71,087	\$78,779	-\$7,692	-10%
PROPERTY (Including mortgage)	3,340	4,822	35,131	36,070	-939	-3%
SYNOD BENEVOLENCE (Budgeted)	1,449	1,917	7,520	11,500	-3,980	-35%
BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$15,982	\$19,458	\$113,738	\$126,349	-\$12,611	-10%
BUDGETED INCOME LESS EXPENSES	-\$3,826	-\$769	-\$22,857	-\$9,812	-\$13,045	



Poinsettia Campaign 2020

In view of the cancellation of all in-person social activities until the end of the year at St. Stephen (not including worship services) the poinsettia campaign has been canceled for this year. To all who have contributed to this project in any way, a hearty "thank you". Over the 14 years, we have raised over \$50,000 for various charities! We are encouraging customers to deal directly with Warren Nurseries, 111 Strange St. Kitchener 519-743-3702

~ Pastor Lloyd

St. Stephen – Addressing Food Insecurity during COVID-19

St. Stephen members have contributed \$775.00 to the food bank since April 1st 2020.

Please note that if you would like to make a financial contribution to the Food Bank during the COVID-19 pandemic you are welcome to send a cheque written to St. Stephen Lutheran Church marked for the food bank and we will pass your donation along. Alternatively, you can donate directly by credit card on their website: <https://www.thefoodbank.ca/>



July 2, 2020

Dear St. Stephen's Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your generous gift in support of the *Full Bellies. Happy Hearts.* ½ million meal challenge. Your support makes a great difference for the families in our community who are struggling to put food on the table this summer. And thanks to the generosity of the Allan Bush Investment Team, your donation has doubled in impact.

Your gift will provide more fresh, frozen and non-perishable food for our community's essential services that continue to operate during the pandemic – including hamper programs, community meals and snack programs. Your support will reach people when and where they need it the most.

We would not be able to provide this critical safety net for those in need without the help of caring people like you.

Once again, thank you for your compassionate support of The Food Bank and the families we serve.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions about your gift in action, if you would like more information about how to support The Food Bank, or if there is anything else you'd like to share.

Sincerely,

Wendi Campbell, CEO



St. Andrews Food Cupboard

A few individuals from St. Andrews have begun packing and delivering food to our neighbours. They are operating from their homes as their church remains closed at this time.

If you are interested in donating food to the St. Andrews food cupboard please contact them directly by email: Craig Love clove@uwaterloo.ca to arrange your drop off.



Alternatively, Suzanne Brown is collecting on their behalf. 19 Old Maple Lane, Kitchener, is a drop off spot for donations on Saturday morning between 10 AM and noon or any other time with just a knock on the door.

Prayer Group From Carolyn Wilker:

"I've felt the need to start a prayer group for St. Stephen's during this covid time. We'll meet Monday evenings each week, beginning at 7:00 p.m. and wrapping up by 7:30 p.m. at the latest. Please sign in 10 minutes early (6:50) to make sure you're online before we begin.

We'll do a check-in first to see how folks are getting along, and then pray together for whatever requests you bring.

The church has an account for online rooms that are secure. For those who do not have a computer connection who would like to join in, you have the option of phoning in (meaning you are heard but not seen)."

Please see directions below to join the prayer group.

If you would like to join virtually on a computer, tablet or smartphone and have not used 'Gotomeeting' before please go to:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/782782021> and install the app. Please contact the office if you have any questions regarding this process.

Then after 6:45pm Monday evenings click the link below to join the call. (link will be the same for every Monday evening)

<https://www.gotomeet.me/StStephen1>

If you prefer - you can also dial in using your phone.
Canada: +1 (647) 497-9373 Access Code: 782-782-021

MY PERSPECTIVE: What's That Growing in my Garden?

The parable of the sower is rich in imagery for anyone with a garden. Anyone who has ever planted knows about weeds. They take on a life of their own, growing in the best tilled and prepared soil. They're just there, coming up alongside the seeds and the small plants we set in. Some we can pull up without uprooting the plants we intend to grow, and others not so easily.



This year I planted tomato, squash plants and herbs, and the rest were seeds—zucchini, carrots, beets, peas and beans. Usually I'd buy cucumber and zucchini plants, or seeds, but there were none to be found. Ah, well, I had some zucchini seeds, I'd plant them.

Most things came up from the carefully planted seeds in my raised beds—the peas, beans, beets and thin wispy carrot tops. The tomatoes grew well too. But no zucchini plant ever showed its leafy little head.

Then one day, there appeared a particular kind of plant, well two of them. Tucked in by one tomato plant and in the space that was left in that same bed. I scratched my head. I had not planted seeds there.

I figured it was seed from compost, but which plant? I'd let them grow and see what happened. I transplanted one of them to where the zucchini should have been and left the other one where it was.

The tomatoes sprouted little blossoms, and my mystery plant only got bigger. I had to give it more room, so I cut the netting around it and let one long reaching branch spread out on the ground outside the bed. Soon there were more branches to join it.

Last evening as I spread extra mulch around the raised beds, I saw the fruit of that one giant plant—a pumpkin, fat and green hiding under the giant leaves. Judging by all the blossoms, we might have a pumpkin for each member of our family once it's done growing.

Surprises, that's what we get in gardening. A little like these strange Covid-19 times, some of the things that happen are good, still a positive in the middle of complications and uncertainty. Take those as blessing and balance it with the hard stuff. We'll get through it, our Creator and us together.

<https://www.storygal.ca/2020/07/30/whats-that-growing-in-my-garden/>

World Day Against Human Trafficking In Persons, July 30

On Thursday, July 30, the ELCIC joins in lifting up World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. This international day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013, [the same year the ELCIC National Convention committed to addressing human trafficking.](#)



United Nations International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Posted: July 24, 2020 | Filed Under: [Circle for Reconciliation and Justice](#), [Newsletters](#)



Dear Friends,

August 9, 2020 is the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, as declared by the United Nations. It also happens to fall on a Sunday this year.

For those of you looking for resources to help augment your worship or your online presence in other ways, please see the links below.

<https://easternsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/ResourcesNationalIndigenousPeoplesDay2020-1.pdf>

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day>