

ST. STEPHEN SCROLL

St. Stephen Lutheran Church is a community of believers, saved by the grace of God, who are called to:

- share his love through words and actions;
- welcome others into the family of Christ.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ –

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge.”

– 1 Corinthians 1:4-5

Jason, Jack, William and I thank you for thinking of us this Christmas with such kindness and generosity. Thank you for your cards and Christmas letters. We delighted in receiving your Christmas greetings. Thank you for the kind words of appreciation, and for the delightful Christmas surprises and treats. Thank you for showering us with so much love and kindness. You truly blessed us, and we thank our Lord for you.

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” – Isaiah 43:18-19

Happy New Year! With each new year, most of us spend some time taking stock of our lives. Many of us vow to make changes. Some of us will make New Year’s resolutions (which we hope we will actually keep this year.) Some of us won’t. But no matter how we approach the year 2017, the New Year is a time for many of us to look more carefully at our lives.

As we begin 2017, I ask you to consider your call from God. God has given you marvelous gifts, talents, skills, and abilities, and God calls you to use these blessings to serve his church and his beloved people. You have been called to do God's work in this world.

You can use your gifts and talents to make this world a more loving, compassionate, merciful, and gracious place. You can do powerful things in God’s name. So I ask you, how could you use your God-given gifts and talents serve your Lord and his people this year?

Could you donate blood at the next Red Cross blood drive? Could you help at the Fern Creek/Highview United Ministries this year? Could you knit or crochet hats or scarves along with the Prayer Shawl Group? Could you help prepare the meal at the Ronald McDonald House each month or spend some time visiting with those families who are often far from home? Could you help the Creative Hands Sew Group make dresses for little girls?

Could you shovel the walks at church this winter? Or offer to help a neighbor who could use help with winter chores?

Could you pray for, send a card to, or call some of the folks on the church prayer list? Could you take an hour and visit one or two of our shut-ins?

Could you help in the nursery or serve on the church council?
Could you be a greeter, usher, lector, deacon, acolyte, or help with Holy Communion? Could you sing in the choir?



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St. Stephen
Lutheran Church
5903 Bardstown Rd.
Fern Creek, KY 40291

502-239-7778

Email:
pastorkerri
@gmail.com

**Pastor Kerri M.
McFarland
Pastor Emeritus,
Thomas D. Swasko**

*St. Stephen Lutheran Church
is a member of the
Indiana-Kentucky Synod of
the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America.*

2016 Council Members

Rod Firquin,
President
Buddy Zimmerman,
Vice President
Cheryl Markley,
Council Secretary
Julia Davis
Larry Faue
Paul Kiser
Connie Miller
Michelle Sarson
Duane Steines
Reagan Morris,
(youth rep, non-voting)

Bill Wise,
Financial Secretary
Buddy Zimmerman,
Treasurer
Ibosh Chertmanov,
Musician
Kim Thonen,
Custodian
Cheryl Markley,
Office Secretary
secretary.ststephen

**Check out
the website!**

ststephen-louisville.com

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Could you teach Sunday school, help with Vacation Bible School, or attend Sunday school?

We can all serve God and God's people in our daily lives. We can all use our unique gifts and talents to make this world a better place. We can answer God's call to be his hands in this world.

"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands – O prosper the work of our hands!" – Psalm 90:17

It is truly a delight to serve our Lord with you. May God bless you and may God prosper the work of your hands this year.

In Christ, *Pastor Kerri*



Preparation for Epiphany

Preparation for Epiphany is the next step in the holiday decorating process. Please join us **during the regular Worship & Music Committee meeting time on Tuesday, January 3rd at 6:30 pm** to take down the Christmas decorations and enjoy a little fellowship as we prepare for Epiphany. Many hands make light work!

Golden Sneakers to Dine at Mark's Feed Store

The Golden Sneakers will be dining at Mark's Feed Store in Fern Creek at 6501 Bardstown Road on **Wednesday, January 11th. We will meet at the restaurant at 11:30am.** If you plan to attend, please sign up in the narthex so that we will know who is coming. If you have questions, please call Jan Wilkins, 502-709-4706. If school is cancelled due to bad weather, we will not meet.

St. Stephen Wine Tasting

Join us for an exciting fellowship opportunity and wine tasting in the St. Stephen fellowship hall on **Saturday, January 21st from 7:00-9:30 pm.** Bring an appetizer and wine to share. If you can join us, please sign up in the narthex. Join the fun!

Youth Quake is Very Soon!

Youth Quake in Cincinnati will be on **January 13th through 15th. Tentatively**, the attending youth and chaperones, (Cheryl & Kenna Markley), will be leaving on Friday, the 13th, from the church at **4:30pm.** Try to be there earlier if possible. Watch your e-mail and phone messages for more details on timing, meals, what to bring, and cost.

Annual Reports Due Soon

All St. Stephen council members and committee chairs, please send your annual reports to me **by January 22nd** so that I can finish the 2016 annual report before I start the March 2017 newsletter. It is easiest if you send it to me in a Word document, but you can also send it to me via e-mail. If neither of those work, I can also type it for you if you give me a hand-written copy. My e-mail address is secretary.ststephen@gmail.com. Thanks! *Cheryl Markley*

Sharing Christmas Cards

There are still folders located in the narthex for members to share Christmas cards and Holiday greetings with other Saint Stephen families. Each file folder is labeled with a family name. Please remember our shut-in members and reach out to folks you haven't seen in church in a while. Check your folder, and if you see members who live close to you or relations of yours that haven't been in church for a while, please consider taking their cards to them. The folders will be in the narthex **through Sunday, January 8th.**

Annual Meeting & Chili Cook-off

Mark your calendars now for the St. Stephen's annual meeting and chili cook off to be held on **Sunday, February 19th following the 10:00 am worship service.** Please plan to attend, and bring your muffin pans so that you can try every chili recipe!

4th Qtr Special Ministries Collection

In December at St. Stephen, we held our 4th quarter special ministries collections. A total of **\$492** was collected. 50% of the money collected was sent to Fern Creek Highview United Ministries, and 50% was kept for other social ministry needs. Thanks to all who contributed!

FCHUM X-mas Holiday Cheer

St. Stephen participated in Fern Creek Highview United Ministries' (FCHUM's) Christmas Holiday Cheer Program this year. **8 baskets were created from various donations of food, and one more whole basket** was donated by one family for the program to provide needy families with food for Christmas dinner. In addition, **50 T-shirts dresses, scarves, and hats**, created by our Creative Hands Sew Group, were also delivered to FCHUM for the Christmas Holiday Cheer Program. Thank you to all who contributed for your generosity!

2017 Offering Envelope Boxes Available

The 2017 offering envelope boxes are available in the narthex. Please take the box with your name on it. If you do not see your name, please call the church office, 239-7778, so that we can give you a box and record the box number. As in the past, we included a mortgage fund envelope for each month to make it easy for you to contribute to the mortgage fund. There are also mortgage fund envelopes in the pew racks. Thanks for your continued support. We also thank Buddy & Peggy Zimmerman for placing the mortgage envelopes in each box and labeling the boxes.

We Welcome a New Baby

We welcome **Laila Marie Blackburn**, daughter of Amanda (Thonen) and Eugene Blackburn, who was born on 11/29/2016. She is a healthy 7-pound 13-ounce, 19 1/2 inch-long beautiful baby. Kim Thonen, her grandmother, and the whole Thonen family, as well as big sister Lindsey, are excited.

2017 Sanctuary Flowers and Candle Donors

Sign-up sheets for 2017 sanctuary flower and candle donors are in the narthex in the Flower and Candle binder near the literature rack. Saint Stephen's cost is \$20.00 for flowers and \$2.00 for the sanctuary candle. We hope to cover our costs with donations so that we can continue to provide flowers and candles. Please take this opportunity to honor or memorialize your loved ones in 2017. Thanks for your care & generosity.



Annual St. Stephen Ladies Christmas Tea

Approximately 35 ladies attended the Saint Stephen Ladies Christmas Tea on December 10th. The Fellowship Committee served a fabulous light lunch, and afterwards, we made bracelets for the Creative Hands Sew Group to include with their Easter dresses for needy girls.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Worshippers attending the 10 am worship service at St. Stephen on December 11th enjoyed the annual Christmas program, given by the youth and Sunday school staff. Special thanks to the Sunday school teachers, (Peggy Zimmerman, Elaine Peterson, Reagan Morris, Sean Morris, Tammy Utley, and Glenn Eisenbrey), and to Brenda Firquin, Ibosh Chertmanov, and Julia Davis, who provided the direction and music in the program.



January 2017 Servants of the Church

Sunday - 10 a.m.	1/1/17	1/8/17	1/15/17	1/22/17	1/29/17
Lector	Paul Kiser	Tammy Utley	Marilyn Mills	Connie Miller	Cheryl Markley
Ushers	Jim Clark Glenn Eisenbrey	Marcus Utley Barry Mills	Carolyn Graham Fred McBride	Pat Markley Andy Morris	Bill Wise Vivian Wise
Acolyte	Peace Kahn	Jack McFarland	Jacob Curtis	Emma Morris	Caroline Zimmerman
Communion Table	Marilyn Mills Kayleigh Kiser	Charlie Boston Phyllis Boston	Maddie Allen Buddy Zimmerman	Peggy Zimmerman Nicole Legg	Marcia Peterson Sarah Giles
Commun. Deacon	Steven Sarson	Bob Meyer	Rod Firquin	Cheryl Markley	Tammy Utley
Nursery	Morgan McCauley	Jennifer Kiser	Elaine Peterson	Carol Ochs	Connie Miller
Cantor	Bill Wise	Bob Meyer	Paul Kiser	Karen Eisenbrey	Fred McBride
Worship Coord.	Rita Sarson	Rod Firquin	Brenda Firquin	Paul Kiser	Pat Markley
Greeter(s)	Phyllis Boston	Jan Wilkins	Darlene Clark	Bill & Vivian Wise	Teta Thompson
Coffee Hr Host(s)	See you Jan. 8th!	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

As of 12/16/2016, we have many openings on the sign up sheets in the narthex to host coffee hours for January and February. Please consider sharing samples of a new recipe or your favorite grocery store snacks while we share some fellowship. Thanks to all who have volunteered in 2016!

Bad Weather Communication

Though it does not look probable at the moment, if the Saint Stephen worship services are being cancelled due to bad weather, an e-mail will be sent, and the website will be updated. We will also try to communicate through local TV stations.

God's Blessings to these January birthdays:

Greg Allen 5
Ashley Thonen 6
Tom Swasko 10
Ray Christopher 11
Genevieve Morris 13
Phil Davidson 14
Pat Markley 17



Andy Morris 17
Sophia Samora 18
Paige Zimmerman 18
Pete Gall 23
Brenda Firquin 25
Tom Neukam 25
Charles Ziemba 31

We celebrate with these couples having January anniversaries:

Glenn & Karen Eisenbrey (3rd/1981)
Sarah & Ian Schultz (25th/2014)
Rod & Brenda Firquin (29th/1983)

December Sanctuary Flower and Candle Donors

December Sanctuary Flower Donors

4th - George & Paul Morris in honor of their 47th wedding anniversary
11th - McFarland family in honor of Will McFarland's birthday
18th - Connie Clark in honor of Austin's birthday
***The cost to provide altar flowers is \$20.00.**

December Sanctuary Candle Donors

4th - Kim Thonen in honor of Megan Thonen's birthday
11th - Elaine Peterson in honor of Kaely Peterson's birthday
18th - McFarland family in honor of Will McFarland's birthday
***The cost to provide the sanctuary candle is \$2.00.**



January 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 NO Education Hr 10:00—Holy Communion 5:00—Holy Communion</p>	<p>2 6:00— Creative Hands Sew Group JCPS Break</p>	<p>3 12:30—Prayer Shawl Group 6:30—Christian Education Committee 6:30—Worship & Music Committee (Preparation for</p>	<p>4 6:30—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Epiphany of Our Lord</p>	<p>7 8:30—Weight Watchers</p>
<p>8 9:00—Education Hr 10:00—Holy Communion 11:30—Fellowship Committee 11:30—Council 11:30—Coffee Hr 5:00—Holy Communion</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 11:30—Golden Sneakers' at Mark's Feed Store 6:30—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 8:30—Weight Watchers</p>
<p>15 Ronald McDonald House Collection 9:00—Education Hr 10:00—Holy Communion 11:30—Coffee Hr 5:00—Holy Communion</p>	<p>16 ML King Jr Day JCPS Break</p>	<p>17 6:00—Finance Committee</p>	<p>18 6:30—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 8:30—Weight Watchers 7:00 - 9:30—St. Stephen Wine Tasting</p>
<p>22 9:00—Education Hr 10:00—Holy Communion 11:30—Coffee Hr 5:00—Holy Communion</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 4:30—Ronald McDonald House Visit</p>	<p>25 6:30—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26 7:00—SCC Council Meeting</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 8:30—Weight Watchers</p>
<p>29 9:00—Education Hr 10:00—Holy Communion 11:30—Coffee Hr 5:00—Holy Communion</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Upcoming Events: February 19th—Annual Meeting & Chili Cook Off March 1—Ash Wednesday</p>			

Youth Quake in Cincinnati

Return from Youth Quake

Upcoming Events:
February 19th—Annual Meeting & Chili Cook Off
March 1—Ash Wednesday

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
 5903 Bardstown Road
 Fern Creek, Kentucky 40291



Worship Services:
Education Hr (during school yr) 9:00 AM
Sunday 10:00 AM
Sunday 5:00 PM

Due date for next month's newsletter articles is always the 17th of the month before. Send to:
 secretary.ststephen@gmail.com

January 2017

St. Stephen Scroll



February 2017 Servants of the Church					
Sunday - 10 a.m.	2/5/17	2/12/17	2/19/17	2/26/17	3/5/17
Lector	Pat Markley	Steven Sarson	Ellen Ullom	Rod Firquin	Fred McBride
Ushers	Adolphus Kahn B. Zimmerman	Rod Firquin Teta Thompson	Tom Curtis Jacob Curtis	Steven Sarson Rita Sarson	Marcus Utley Barry Mills
Acolyte	Lilly Morris	Ella Markley	Lucy Zimmerman	Maddie Allen	Kayleigh Kiser
Communion Table	Brennan Summers Jennifer Summers	Sean Morris Kaitlyn Kiser	Wendi Morris Reagan Morris	Adolphus Kahn Teta Thompson	Steven Sarson Rita Sarson
Commun. Deacon	Steven Sarson	Bob Meyer	Rod Firquin	Cheryl Markley	Tammy Utley
Nursery	Cheryl Markley	Elizabeth Seifert	Teta Thompson	Jessica Allen	Julie Zimmerman
Cantor	Bill Wise	Bob Meyer	Paul Kiser	Karen Eisenbrey	Fred McBride
Worship Coord.	Rita Sarson	Rod Firquin	Brenda Firquin	Paul Kiser	Pat Markley
Greeter(s)	Carolyn Graham	Ellen & Chuck Ullom	Marilyn Mills	Bob & Cathy Meyer	Phyllis Boston
Coffee Hr Host(s)	Needed	McFarlands	Chili Cook-Off	Needed	Needed

