JULY 2015

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.

2015 Council Members

Brenda Firquin, President

Buddy Zimmerman, Vice President

Cheryl Markley, Council Secretary

Rod Firquin,

Rec. Secretary (non-voting)

Larry Faue, Andrea Goebel, Paul Kiser Connie Miller Michelle Sarson Duane Steines Kenna Markley,

(youth rep, non-voting)

Bill Wise, Financial Secretary Buddy Zimmerman,

Treasurer

Hank Evans, Pianist/Organist

Kim Thonen,

Custodian Cheryl Markley,

Office Secretary secretary.ststephen @gmail.com

Check out the website! ststephen-louisville.com

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.

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

- 1 John 3:17-18

Did you know:

- 25% of Kentucky's children live in poverty?
- 1 in 5 children in our own community lacks enough food to live an active, healthy lifestyle?
- 62% of JCPS students receive reduced price breakfast and/or lunch (0 to 40¢) every school day?

In addition, those in elementary school receive a "backpack" every Friday afternoon with nutritious food for the weekend, but that is only DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. In the summer those children must rely on other sources like the Food Pantry at Fern Creek-Highview United Ministries. Unfortunately the Food Pantry inventory is at the lowest during the summer. During those times the amount of food a family receives is much less than during the rest of the year. This summer we want to make sure every child served by the FCHUM Food Pantry has as much food as possible.

You are invited to join our VBS families in sharing God's incredible love with the world. Our VBS service project this year is to collect foods like canned pasta, macaroni and cheese, canned meat, and soup for the Fern Creek/Highview United Ministries during the month of July.

The need for these items is great. So let's see what we can do. Let's see how many cans and boxes we can gather and see how many folks we can help feed.

May God bless you and keep you today and always.

In Christ – Pastor Kerri

"Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor." – Proverbs 22:9



Vacation Bible School Service Project and Details

The Vacation Bible School theme this year is "Hometown Nazareth", and our VBS service project this year will be "Helping Out in Our Hometown". As Pastor Kerri indicated, we will be collecting foods like canned pasta, macaroni and cheese, canned meat, and soup for the Fern Creek/Highview United Ministries during the month of July. We will be placing these items in and around the "well" in our VBS "hometown". Help us fill it up for those in need!

As a reminder, VBS is **Sunday through Thursday**, **July 5th through 9th** this year. Don't forget to invite family and friends, **Ages 4 through the completion of 6th grade**. A **light supper will be served for the kids and volunteers from 5:30-6:00 pm, and VBS will begin at 6:00 pm**. Please check the VBS sign up sheets in the narthex to see if there is still help needed in supplying suppers, craft supplies, or snack supplies. Thank you in advance for your help.

St. Stephen's Sew Group

A sewing group has been organized at St. Stephen to make dresses out of gently used or inexpensive new T-shirts and other scrap fabric for needy girls in Kentucky. We need people to help, but you do not need to know how to sew. If you cannot sew, you can help us cut or organize fabric. The Sew Group will meet the 1st Monday of the month, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, and the following Saturday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. You do not have to attend both. *July will be an exception because Vacation Bible School meets that week.

Month	Day	Time	Day	Time
July*	Mon, 13 th	6-8 pm	Saturday, 18th	10 am – 2 pm
Aug	Mon, 3 rd	6-8 pm	Saturday, 8th	10 am – 2 pm
Sept*	Mon, Aug 31	6-8 pm	Not Meeting	Deb S. on vacation
Oct	Mon, 5 th	6-8 pm	Saturday, 10 th	10 am – 2 pm
Nov	Mon, 2 nd	6-8 pm	Saturday, 7th	10 am – 2 pm
Dec	Not Meeting in December			

Also, the sew group is in need of the following donations:

- All-purpose thread White and Black (in sets of three)
- Cotton/Cotton Blend Fabric 1 yard or more Print or solid colors. (Smaller pieces are acceptable for piecing.)
- Children Hangers
- T-Shirts Children Sizes 2T 14 Girls
- Lace (flat or gathered)
- Does anyone have a cheap (in price) source for fabric and lace.
- Cash donation to purchase thread, fabric or T-shirts.

If you are a garage sale person, this is the perfect place to find little girls T-shirts. Any sleeve length will work. If there's a spot, it needs to be where we can applique something over the top. If anyone has questions, please contact Deb Steines at <u>920-203-3010</u> (cell) or <u>debbie.steines@gmail.com</u>.

Budget Status Update To Be Presented

The St. Stephen Congregation Council promised to keep the congregation informed about our budget status. Our mid-year status will be presented to the congregation during the announcements after the 10:00 am worship service on Sunday, July 12th. Please plan to attend. Council members will answer questions at coffee hour following the worship service.

Golden Sneakers Are Taking a Break

The Golden Sneakers are taking a break for the rest of the summer. In September, we will have a meeting to share ideas for outings and activities for the coming seasons. Please use the rest of the summer to think of fun places to go or things to do. Watch future newsletters for details. See you in the fall!

Thank You, Suzanne

Suzanne Hansen made the new altar cloth for the sanctuary. Thank you to Suzanne for this beautiful addition to our worship space.

Directory Update

The St. Stephen 2015-2016 address and phone directory will be printed in July and available in the narthex soon. Copies will be mailed to shut-ins. If you would like a copy and are not able to make it to church, please call the church office, 239-7778, and let us know that you would like it to be mailed.

Rachel Clark Graduates

Rachel Clark graduated from Seneca High School in June. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

Thanks to Blood Drive Participants

St. Stephen and the American Red Cross Blood held a blood drive on June 23rd. **16 donors attempted to donate, while 15 were successful.** Thank you for your generosity. The next blood drive at St. Stephen will be in November.

"Kentucky Tasting" Supper Club

If you attended either the Big Band Supper Club last September or the Mardi Gras Supper Club in February, you surely know how much fun can be squeezed into two hours! Our next event is the "**Kentucky Tasting**" on **Saturday**, **July 25**, **7:00** – **9:00** pm. Plan now to join us!

Both of these events were smashing successes – and we expect the Kentucky Tasting will be as well. This evening event will be somewhat different as it is being held as a *fundraiser*. The proceeds will be split between our own Social Ministries and the Fern Creek Highview United Ministries (FCHUM).

The theme will be decidedly Kentucky with opportunities to taste some of what Kentucky has to offer in the way of food and beverage. We are looking for volunteers to help us put together some exciting samplings of Kentucky's best, including Jam cake, Derby pie, homemade biscuits, fresh Kentucky produce dishes (such as, *tomato, cucumber, and onion salad* or anything else that is made from locally grown produce) as well as Kentucky bourbon and local Kentucky wine. If you would be willing to donate and share any of these items, please let Brenda Firquin, Johna Wilson, or Rita Sarson know. And if you have a suggestion for something else you would like to share, please let us know that too! There will be signup sheets in the Narthex for donations of food and beverage.

Once again the music will be provided by Hank and company – only this time the focus will be Bluegrass! The theme will be much more casual, so feel free to wear your favorite jeans, plaid shirt, cutoffs, tee shirt, or sundress – think *country picnic!* You can expect to see mason jars, crocks, daisies, checkered tablecloths and bandanas!!

Tickets will be available soon and will be limited until our Fellowship Hall is at capacity. The cost will be \$10 per person in advance and \$12 per person the day of the event. This is sure to be a great time! Invite your family and friends, and join us for laughter, great food, and some foot-stomping music. Feel free to bring your own libation – and maybe consider sharing it with others! *Mark your calendar now!*

July 25, 7:00 pm, "Kentucky Tasting" Supper Club

God's Work Our Hands Sunday

This is a day the ELCA has dedicated for all congregations to serve the community and share God's love. The dedicated date for this is **September 13**, **2015** but can be done any Sunday during the month of September. We are hoping to be a part of this wonderful opportunity to serve others. While planning this event, we are reaching out to the congregation for suggestions on how we can serve. It could be opening our doors for a free meal or volunteering at Wayside Christian Mission or The Healing Place, etc. We are open to any and all ideas and would love to hear from you! Please contact Michelle, 303-0896, or Rita Sarson, 303-0890.

Thank you, Michelle Sarson

Blessing Bags Are Back

Do you ever see a homeless person and wish there was something you could do? Maybe you're not comfortable handing them money, but you feel guilty not doing something. Try giving a Blessing Bag. Blessing Bags can be carried in your purse or left in your car. This is a simple way to show that you care and to provide some needed supplies. We are asking for donations of the items listed below so that we can assemble Blessing Bags for you to share with the needy in the community. Everything should fit in a small freezer bag.

Toothbrush & Toothpaste (combo pack) Small comb Tylenol (individual packet of 2) Razors

Bars of soap Antibacterial Wipes
Tissues Bandages

Deodorant Juice Boxes
Snack size bags of peanuts Crackers

Granola Bars

We will be collecting these items through the month of July for distribution in the months of July, August, and September. Thank you! Evangelism Chair, Rita Sarson

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Congregational Council Meeting June 17, 2015

The meeting of the congregation council was called to order on Wednesday, June 17, 2015. This meeting was necessary due to lack of a council quorum for the regularly scheduled meeting.

A quorum was established. Members present: Brenda Firquin, Cheryl Markley, Connie Miller, Andrea Goebel, Larry Faue, Buddy Zimmerman, Michelle Sarson, Rod Firquin (recording secretary). Members absent: Duane Steines, Kenna Markley, Paul Kiser, Pastor K. McFarland

The meeting was called to order and prayer was offered by council president B. Firquin.

Secretary's Report: R. Firquin

The minutes of the May meeting were printed in the June newsletter. No changes were made. M/S- B. Zimmerman/A. Goebel to accept minutes as printed in the June newsletter. Carried.

President's Report: B. Firquin

The average weekend attendance for the previous 5 weeks is reported at 75.

Pastor's Report: Pr. McFarland (reported by B. Firquin)

- 1. New members will be welcomed on June 28. Teta Thompson will be welcomed as a new member and by baptism, Stephen Gomah and Rebecca Grace Kahn. We welcome these newest members to our congregation.
- 2. Pr. McFarland will be on vacation July 17-25.
- 3. St. Stephen continues to have wide ranging discussions with the congregations of St. Alban and Messiah/Trinity. The discussions are lively and touch on many issues facing those congregations. The next meeting will be held on June 24 at St. Stephen beginning at 7:00 p.m. All are welcomed.

Financial Reports: B. Zimmerman

The May 2015 Treasurer's Report was presented to the council. The finance committee did not meet in May but will meet in June. M/S-L. Faue/C. Miller to accept the report as presented. Carried.

See report at the end of the minutes.

Old Business:

- The congregation will be updated on the financial status of the church through the first half of the current year on July 12. A member of the financial committee will present information to the congregation at the close of the morning worship service. The congregation is invited to stay after the information session for coffee and fellowship sponsored by the council. Members will be available for questions/suggestions.
- 2. Building and grounds chair, Rod Firquin, will contact HVAC provider to check the AC for the courtyard room.

New Business:

- 1. A \$5,000.00 donation was made by a member to be paid directly to the principle of the mortgage and to purchase new round tables for the fellowship hall. The tables (6) will be purchased from Sam's Club at a cost of \$99.00 each(\$594.00) leaving the remaining amount, \$4,406.00, to be paid directly to the principle. The council wishes to thank the anonymous donor for their generous gift. No motion or council action needed since this was a designated donation.
- 2. Council discussed the timeline for payment to the principle. The finance chair informed the council the payment would lower the amount of interest deducted from each payment, thus increasing the monthly amount paid toward the principle each month. M/S-B. Zimmerman/C. Markley to make the payment to the principle as soon as possible to begin the savings noted. Carried.
- 3. The council discussed how the old round tables will be dispensed with when the new tables are purchased. A recommendation was made to ask G. Eisenbrey if some could be used in the confirmation classroom, to ask Sunday School teachers if any are needed in any classroom, and to ask FCHUM if any are needed at the center before the tables are disposed of.
- 4. A council member brought a concern voiced by a congregation member about the number of inserts in the weekly bulletin. The concern was the cost of the inserts and how confusing the inserts sometimes were. After discussion, the council believes the information given in all forms to the congregation is important. The council believes members should have various ways to get important information; newsletters, e-mails, text messages, website, announcements at worship, prayer chains, and bulletin inserts. It was noted at this time, half way through the year, the office budget is within expectations. If members have specific suggestions about what should be eliminated from the inserts on a weekly basis, please communicate those suggestions to Pr. McFarland or council president, Brenda Firquin.

Church Committee Reports:

Finance: C. Markley

See report at the end of the minutes

Evangelism: R. Sarson- reported by M. Sarson

- 1. Supplies for the "Blessing Bags" will be collected in the near future for distribution in July, August, and September. Watch for information on this effort to support the needlest in the community.
- 2. The SYNOD's outreach program "God's work, our Hands" will be kicked off in September. We are looking to the congregation for suggestions on we can participate as a congregation in this community outreach effort. Contact Michelle Sarson or Rita Sarson with ideas.

Fellowship: C. Miller

1. The committee will help in preparation, distribution, and clean-up of the meals for VBS. Volunteers are needed to supply the meals for the five nights of VBS. A sign-up is in the narthex.

Worship and Music: B. Firquin

- 1. A joint music event with the choirs of St. Stephen, St. Alban, and Messiah/Trinity has been delayed until a later date.
- 2. A new altar cloth has been made and donated by Suzanne Hansen. It is a beautiful addition to the sanctuary. Many thanks to Suzanne for her donation and her handiwork.
- 3. The committee has had an ongoing discussion of the printed directions for reception of communion by worship attendees. At this time the committee does not recommend any changes until new worship booklets are printed due to cost associated with the change. There also is some disagreement with the "official" ELCA stance on who should be invited to receive communion at services. If you have strong feelings on this issue, please discuss with Pr. McFarland or a worship/music committee member.
- 4. The church website has been updated. Please take a look at it, and if you have suggestions, contact Brenda Firguin.
- 5. The 500 year anniversary of the Reformation will be during 2017. The committee will be discussing how St. Stephen can recognize this important event in the Lutheran faith.
- 6. The upcoming "Kentucky Tasting" event, July 25 from 7:00-9:00 p.m., was discussed. It will be a fundraising event with proceeds split with FCHUM. The cost will be \$10.00 per person. Kentucky foods, spirits, and fun will be on the menu for the evening. Hank Evans and his band of talented musicians will provide the music. Look for information in coming weeks and mark this evening on your "must do" calendar.

Property and Grounds: R. Firquin

- 1. The wheels on the tractor moving deck have been replaced.
- 2. The large bushes in front of the old narthex and the rental house have been removed. The new landscaping cost was donated by a member and the new plants have been planted. Mulching will take place soon after some weeds have been killed in the beds. Many thanks to Jack McFarland for his assistance in planting the flower beds.
- 3. The push mowers, which were donated, are not in the best of working shape. Both the self-propelled mowers are either not running properly or the self-propelled drive on one is not working. M/S- Zimmerman/Goebel to use the remaining amount of the land-scaping donation, if the donor approves, and any additional amount from maintained budget to purchase a new self-propelled mower. The Property & Grounds chair should purchase as soon as possible. Carried.
- 4. It was brought to the attention of the P/G chair that the house next to the rental property has been sold to a "technology business". The building is currently being gutted and remodeled to work for this company. It is good to have the property occupied again as this adds to the security of the entire area. At this time, the P/G chair sees no negative impact on the church or the property we own.

Christian Education: A. Goebel

1. VBS is will be July 5-9 and all is going well in the planning of the week. Volunteers for evening dinners are needed. If you wish to volunteer as a leader or assistant for one of the groups, see A. Goebel. We look forward to a wonderful week.

Social Ministry: R. Firguin/Pr. McFarland

1. The annual Red Cross Blood drive sponsored by St. Stephen will be Tuesday, June 23 from 3:00 to 7:00p.m. Please encourage fellow workers and family members to give the life giving gift of blood.

The council will not meet in July. The next meeting will be August 9 following the 10:00 a.m. service. M/S- Faue / Sarson to adjourn. Carried.

Treasurer's Report:

May 2015	Republic checking	memorial	social min.	mortgage fund	mission plus	property annex
Beginning Balanc	e 7,694.97	1,924.77	328.65	4,318.27	11,296.28	11,010.04
Deposits	22,089.33	50.00	273.67	2,634.00	0	600.00
Disbursements	15,853.38		15.00	1,076.00		925.00*
Interest					4.80	
Adjustments						
Ending Balance	13,930.92	1,974.77	587.32	5,876.27	11,301.08	10,685.04

Note: The current mortgage is \$149,639.07. *tree/landscaping removal

July 2015 Servants of the Church

Sunday - 10 a.m.	7/05/15	7/12/15	7/19/15	7/26/15	8/02/15
Lector	Sean Morris	Elizabeth Seifert	Julia Davis Karen Eisenbrey		Susan Johnston
Ushers	Tom Curtis	Steven Sarson	Jim Clark	Marilyn Mills	Carolyn Graham
	Mikayla Curtis	Rita Sarson	Pat Markley	Barry Mills	Glenn Eisenbrey
Acolyte	Lilly Morris	Jack McFarland	Brennan Summers	Brennan Summers Ella Markley	
Communion Table	Reagan Morris	Adolphus Kahn	Steven Sarson Paul Kiser		Barry Mills
	Michelle Sarson	Deb Steines	Rita Sarson	Kayleigh Kiser	Marilyn Mills
Commun. Deacon	Steven Sarson	Kenna Markley	Rod Firquin	Needed	Cheryl Markley
Nursery	Elizabeth Seifert	Jessica Allen	Needed	Needed Morgan McCauley	
Cantor	Bill Wise	Paul Kiser	Karen Eisenbrey Fred McBride		Bill Wise
Worship Coord.	Paul Kiser	Pat Markley	Rita Sarson Rod Firquin		Brenda Firquin
Greeter(s)	Jan Wilkins	Johna Wilson	Darlene Clark Bill & Vivian Wise		Carolyn Graham

For this season:	before 07/12	before 07/19	before 07/26	before 08/02	before 08/09
Grass Mowing	Needed	Sean & Andy Morris	Needed	Needed	Sean & Andy Morris

God's Blessings to these July birthdays:

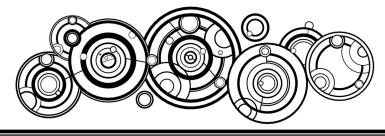
Maxine Swasko Jennifer Summers	3 5
Reagan Morris	6
Tammy Utley	12
George Morris	13
Sabrina Samora	13
Pat Waskom	13
Marie Pfau	14



Herb Warren 16
Peggy Zimmerman 17
Rick Edwards 24
Lilly Morris 25
Dale Chapman 28
Stacy Simpson 28
Melody Harrel 30

We celebrate with these couples having July anniversaries:

Lewis & Nicole Legg	(1st/2006)
Tom & Maxine Swasko	(1st/2000)
Matt & Lori Young	(2nd/1994)
Dale & Liz Chapman	(7th/1956)
Tom & Brandie Curtis	(11th/1998)
Charles & Valerie Ziemba	(11th/1959)
Elizabeth & Bob Seifert	(18th/2014)
Gregg & Deb Leard	(20th/1985)



June Sanctuary Flower and Candle Donors

June Sanctuary Flower Donors

7th - Gary & Suzanne Hanson in memory of Suzanne's dad, Keith Miller

21st - Jason & Pr. Kerri McFarland in honor of their anniversary 28th— Barry Mills in honor of Marilyn Mills' birthday

*The cost to provide altar flowers is \$20.00.

June Sanctuary Candle Donors

7th - Elaine Peterson in honor of Adam Peterson's birthday
21st - Pat & Cheryl Markley in honor of their anniversary
28th - Elaine Peterson in honor of Bryce Peterson's birthday

*The cost to provide the sanctuary candle is \$2.00.



July 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Upcoming Events: September 13th—First Day of Sunday School		1	2	3	4 8:30—Weight Watchers	
5 10:00—Holy Communion 11:30—Fellowship Committee 5:00—Holy Communion	6	7	8	9	10	11 8:30—Weight Watchers
Vacation Bible Scho	ool: "Hometown	Nazareth". Light dinner @ 5	5:30 pm. VBS (@ 6:00 pm.		
12 10:00—Holy Communion 11:30— Congregational Budget Update 5:00—Holy Communion	13 6:00 - 8:00— St. Stephen Sew Group	14 6:30—Worship & Music Committee	15	16	17	18 8:30—Weight Watchers 10:00 - 2:00—St. Stephen Sew Group
19 10:00—Holy Communion 5:00—Holy Communion	20	21	22	23	24	25 8:30—Weight Watchers 7:00—KY Tasting
26 10:00—Holy Communion 5:00—Holy Communion	27	28 4:30—Ronald McDonald House Visit	29	30	31	



Please sign up to mow grass! (See the bulletin board in the narthex.)



Please turn church thermostats to 85°F if not using the building.



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

July 2015 St. Stephen Scroll

August 2015 Servants of the Church									
Sunday - 10 a.m. 8/02/15 8/09/15 8/16/15 8/23/15 8/30									
Lector	Susan Johnston	Bob Meyer	Cathy Meyer	Jan Wilkins	Bailey Goebel				
Ushers	Carolyn Graham	Bill Wise	Andy Morris	Ellen Ullom	Adolphus Kahn				
	Glenn Eisenbrey	Vivian Wise	Fred McBride	Kenna Markley	Buddy Zimmerman				
Acolyte	Lucy Zimmerman	Rachel Utecht	Kayleigh Kiser	Ellerie Seifert	Jacob Curtis				
Communion Table	Barry Mills	Charlie Boston	Buddy Zimmerman Peggy Zimmerman		Andy Morris				
	Marilyn Mills	Phyllis Boston	Madeline Allen	Nicole Legg	Lilly Morris				
Commun. Deacon	Cheryl Markley	Steven Sarson	Kenna Markley	Rod Firquin	Tammy Utley				
Nursery	Jennifer Kiser	Carol Ochs	Elaine Peterson	Cheryl Markley	Connie Miller				
Cantor	Bill Wise	Paul Kiser	Karen Eisenbrey	Fred McBride	Bill Wise				
Worship Coord.	Brenda Firquin	Paul Kiser	Pat Markley	Rita Sarson	Rod Firquin				
Greeter(s)	Carolyn Graham	Ellen Ullom	Marilyn Mills	Bob & Cathy Meyer	Charlie & Phyllis Boston				
For this season:	before 08/09	before 08/16	before 08/23	before 08/30	before 09/06				
Grass Mowing	Sean & Andy Morris	Needed	Summers/Kiser	Needed	Needed				

