

# Staying Connected

*Always Connected to God, Each Other and the World*

## Current Worship Opportunities during COVID-19 Pandemic

### SUNDAYS 9:30 AM Worship Options

**In person in Sanctuary** – limited to 25 must RSVP see below for more information

**Online** Live streamed on St. Stephen's Face Book

**From your car** in either parking lot. Broadcasted via 87.9 FM / Communion brought to car

### WEDNESDAYS 6:30 PM Online "The Well" St. Stephen's Face Book

### WEEKDAYS Varying times Channel 16—Comcast (Sunday 9:30 am Service Recorded)

### Special Congregational Meeting via Zoom—Sunday, Nov. 15, 11 AM

It has a simple purpose – to vote on the Congregational Council's recommendation to extend to Pastor Tim Thompson a "settled call" as our Associate Pastor for Discipleship.



This does not change Pastor Tim's job description – it would mean we do not have to renew it every three years. This call will be co-terminus with Pastor John's; in other words – when Pastor John leaves Pastor Tim would offer his resignation. This is a simple decision with added complications because of COVID.

By now all members should have received a letter from our Executive Committee outlining the steps that need to be taken and a paper ballot. Please contact the church office if you did not receive yours.

**PLEASE DO NOT MAIL IN YOUR BALLOT—YOU MUST PARTICIPATE IN THE ZOOM MEETING and then VOTE.** The Zoom Meeting ID number is 380-950-620 Password: 55118 or call 301-715-8592 use same ID number and password.

Thank you for your continued witness to faith and your support of God's work through St. Stephen's.

### In Person Worship Returns to St. Stephen's

Our first in-person worship service since COVID (we have missed 34 Sundays!) will be Sunday, November 8th, 9:30 am. The Safety Committee and the Congregation Council have approved a very conservative start.

- \* **Attendance is limited to 25 people.**
- \* **Reservations are required.** RSVPs can be made online through SignUpGenius or by contacting the church office. For SignUpGenius use the active link on our "Weekly Resources and Active Links" email. If you prefer to type in the link is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945ADA822AAFb6-inperson>
- \* **Keep coats in the pew** with you.
- \* **Do not socialize in the Narthex.**
- \* **There will be no singing**—humming is encouraged.
- \* **The service will be broadcast to both parking lots at 9:30am** received on FM 87.9 (Communion will be delivered to cars.)

**We welcome you to worship in whatever way you are comfortable: Facebook, DVDs, Parking Lot, Public Access Television, or in person.**

### Communion

#### Communion during the 9:30 a.m. broadcasted Worship Service

You are invited to share communion at home, during the service, alone or with those around you. If you would like communion we invite you to prepare by having wine or juice and bread ready. (We will have little communion kits available in the office to help but any wine, juice and bread will work.)



#### Communion by Appointment—COVID protocols will be followed

We have set aside dates and times for individuals or their households to make an appointment to receive prayer and communion with Pastor John. Reservations are required! To make a reservation, please use our SignUpGenius schedule at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945ADA822AAFb6-holy>. Or contact the church office at 651-457-6541 we will assist you to schedule an appointment.

**The dates and times available for Communion by Appointment** (sessions are scheduled every 20 minutes)

Wednesday, **November 18 5-6pm** • Monday, **November 23 10-11am** • Monday, **November 30 2-3pm**

## Faith Families

This coming week we will be learning about Joseph's Rise to Power

**Read** chapter 5 in *All of Us: God's Story for You & Me* or Genesis 39 and 41. How did Joseph's life change? Talk about a time when your family experienced a big change.

**Pray** "help my family" prayers this week, focusing on your extended family. Choose a different person to pray for every day.

**Make** food to share. Joseph was responsible for gathering food for the famine. Make or purchase a snack that you can give to neighbors or friends.



### Loaves and Fishes

So much has changed in last eight months, but one thing that hasn't changed is our call as Christians to feed hungry people.

The **Loaves and Fishes program** provides one of the ways we can answer that call. Each month a group of dedicated volunteers from St. Stephen's serves a meal to hungry people at St. Matthew's church. As you can imagine the number of people in need of a meal is increasing.

Periodically we must come to you to raise the funds for these meals. If you are able to help, please mail a check in to the church, **written to St. Stephen's with Loaves and Fishes** on the memo line. Thank you for helping us feed hungry people in our community.

### Introduction to Centering Prayer Starts Tuesdays, November 10, 9-10:30am (on Zoom)

**"Be still and know that I am God."**  
Psalm 46:10

Centering Prayer is a receptive, deep method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of the experience of God's presence within us. It presents ancient Christian teachings in an updated form. Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer; rather it casts new light on them. This method of prayer is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ. Through the regular practice of Centering Prayer, many people discover the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, self-control.

The co-presenters are the Reverends Luna GebbenGreen and John Keller—friends of Pastor John.

The Introduction series will be on Zoom for four Tuesdays, 9:00-10:30am November 10<sup>th</sup> - December 1<sup>st</sup>. Each meeting will include a 20 minute Centering Prayer session. Participants are encouraged to read Thomas Keating's book, *Open Mind, Open Heart*, between sessions. You can register for free at the [minnesotacontemplativeoutreach.org/enrichment](http://minnesotacontemplativeoutreach.org/enrichment).

### Contemplative Prayer and Study continues via Zoom

**2nd and 4th Wednesdays - November 11**

(Due to the Thanksgiving holiday we will not meet on the 25th)

St. Stephen's Zoom Room 7-8 pm  
Zoom Meeting ID: 380-950-620 Password: 55118

### Men's Renewal Group Non-Breakfast Breakfast

**Every other Friday. Our next gathering is Nov. 13**

8-9am Fellowship Hall

Social distancing and mask wearing observed

### Virtual Walk to End Hunger

**November 26 @ 10:00 am - 10:30 am | \$25**

**Give Back Before Giving Thanks**

This Thanksgiving – stay home, give back and give thanks. The annual Walk to End Hunger event held on Thanksgiving morning is going virtual in 2020! Join us for this tradition from the comfort of your own home – or wherever you might be celebrating the holiday. The online half hour program will kick-off at 10am with a kid's program full of activities and fun for kids of all ages immediately following. Registration is \$25 for adults; free for youth. Register at <https://event.walktoendhunger.org/event/wteh2020/>. For more information, visit [www.walktoendhunger.org](http://www.walktoendhunger.org).

Neighbors, Inc., is one of the food relief organizations to collaborate on and benefit from the walk. A big thank you to all of the individuals who've walked for Neighbors in the past.



**ST STEPHEN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Connecting to God, each other and the world*

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**Thank You for your Support of our St. Stephen's Ministries ♥**

By Mail | Online thru St Stephen's website | GIVE+Text (Text 844-907-2702) | GivePlus Vanco Mobile App

**PLEASE NOTE:** Links included in the eUpdate are not active—watch for a separate email that contains resources available and active links all in one handy document.