

Staying Connected

Always Connected to God, Each Other and the World

IN-PERSON WORSHIP- Current Safety Committee Guidelines

Our Safety Committee continues to meet every two weeks to assess steps to open areas that are not available at this time. Here's the latest updates:

- ♥ **Masks**—it is recommended that everyone wear a mask while inside the church building.
- ♥ **Sunday Fellowship Hour** has returned to in-person in Fellowship Hall including coffee and donuts!
- ♥ **Passing of peace and greetings** will be done with gestures. e.g. rather than hugs or hand shakes
- ♥ There will be an **offering basket available as people leave the church** in which their offerings can be placed.
- ♥ The **children's play area will not be available** for use at this time.
- ♥ **Holy Communion** will be practiced by congregants while remaining in the pews. Communion kits will be available when entering the sanctuary.

Love, Science, the Delta Variant and St. Stephen's

Communication from St Stephen's Safety Committee

Science tells us that the **Delta Variant** is on the rise in Dakota County. The amount of this variant is measured by four levels: Low, Moderate, Substantial and High. Surprisingly, Dakota County is ranked **Substantial**. In order to protect the unvaccinated the CDC and MDH recommends masks be worn by everyone while in a public place. Also to limit such periods of time.

Love is concern for our neighbor. We don't want to participate in the spreading of the Delta Variant so St. Stephen's is now recommending **everyone wear a mask while inside this building**.

Nobody likes this. It seems like a step away from being finished with COVID-19. It has already been a long struggle. But these steps are actually in the right direction. As we limit the spread of the virus we limit its potential to mutate while we protect our neighbors from the variant's harsh consequences.

To paraphrase Jesus, **it's all about love** so a few lines from the Love Chapter, 1st Corinthians 13:

"Love is patient. Love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

TODAY IS THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF OUR four week study of Philippians—Paul's book of joy!

We hope you have enjoyed our Philippians Sermon Series: Living a Life of Joy, and found it to be helpful and engaging. Did it bring new Joy to your life? What "keepers" did you have from your daily scripture readings? We'd love to hear your thoughts, ideas—what you liked and didn't like—we're all on this journey together!

**Living a
Life of Joy**
the book of Philippians: July 18-August 8, 2021



THURSDAY, AUGUST 12 • 6PM

Patio Party at St Stephen's

ALL are welcome –if you would like to bring anything to share please bring either salad or dessert—brats and burgers will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. Please sign up at the Connection Center. We hope you can join us!

Saturday, August 14 | 10-Noon | Luther Memorial Church "Hindsight is 2020, Lessons Light our Path"

Guest Speaker—Toni Carter
Ramsey County Board Chair—the first African American ever to serve on a county board in Minnesota
Hosted by Women of ELCA, Saint Paul Synod
Suggested Donation \$10—Check-in starts at 9:30 am
Questions: Please contact Carol Bidwell, Synod Board Member at 651-455-3441 or bidwellc846@gmail.com



Time to register for FAITH FORMATION!

We are excited about what lies ahead and look forward to serving you and your family on your faith journey! Please register as soon as possible as we are busy planning for you and your family. Registration is online. Please use this address to register <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9f3Zfi4FHMvRHuya1ebUEoWvCiiE4TDzKnk6lwphVQFbveg/viewform>. An active link was sent via email from Tracy on 8/4 as well as it will be included in the weekly St Stephen's Resources email that follows the eUpdate. The Registration form includes more important information.

St Stephen's and Salem Lutheran will work together to provide Faith Formation opportunities for our youth and families. The general Wednesday night schedule will be: 5:30-6:00 dinner for all; 6:00-6:20 Large Group learning and singing; 6:25-7:00 Small group learning (there will be an adult class offered at this time for parents/guardians).

SUNDAY MORNING: Wee Wonder (Ages 1-3 with their parents/guardians) will meet on SUNDAY MORNING at 10:40 AM. **Class will start Sunday September 19th.**

WEDNESDAY: Pre-school (4 year old) through 5th grade will meet on Wednesday night at St. Stephen's. Each class will be led by FAITH FORMATION leaders. Faith Formation will be starting on **September 15th**. There will be the potential to ZOOM into class, if necessary, but we are looking forward to being IN PERSON this year!

Confirmation age classes (6th, 7th, 8th grades) will meet on Wednesday night at St. Stephen's. Each class will be led by FAITH FORMATION leaders. Faith Formation will be starting on **September 15th**. There will be the potential to ZOOM into class, if necessary, but we are looking forward to being IN PERSON this year!

THE **3rd WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH WILL BE ACTIVITY WEDNESDAY**—so on September 15th, which is a 3rd Wednesday, we are going to FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN to pack meals for others—SEE BELOW for more information. **Faith Formation classes will begin Wednesday, September 22!**

We strongly encourage you to make Wednesday Night a family night—1 1/2 hours a week to begin or continue faith building with your family. A church can help to plant the faith seeds, but the faith seeds are nurtured and grown at home—we at St. Stephen's and Salem Lutheran want to help you be the strongest family you can be!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR A "GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS" ACTIVITY

organized by the combined efforts of our Youth Education Committee and the Missions Committee

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION and THE PEOPLE OF ST. STEPHEN'S



will be performing an act of service on
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th

at

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Leaving St Stephen's at 5:30 pm
for packing meals from 6-8 PM at the
Eagan Feed-My-Starving-Children facility!



Please register on the Feed My Children Website at this address:
<https://www.fmsc.org/get-involved/volunteer>

Once on the registration page, go to the bottom right and look for the box labeled "Looking for a specific group" enter code **Z6V4G9** and follow the directions to get registered. This is a family service time so please register your whole family. For safety reasons, children under 5 are not allowed in the packing area. In addition, **masks must be worn by all** and well as **NO jewelry** (including earrings). Acceptable masks include multi-layer cloth, non-medical disposable, or N95. All masks must fit snugly and completely cover your nose and mouth. Please note that plastic face shields worn alone, neck gaiters, and bandanas are not acceptable. A mask with a face shield is acceptable.



ST STEPHEN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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.

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

Connecting to God, each other and the world

1575 Charlton Street ▪ West St. Paul, MN 55118 ▪ Office: (651) 457-6541 www.ststephenswsp.org