



Always CONNECTED

TO GOD, EACH OTHER AND THE WORLD

SO IN CHRIST WE, THOUGH MANY,
FORM ONE BODY, AND EACH MEMBER
BELONGS TO ALL THE OTHERS.

ROMANS 12:5



STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2020-2021



"To me, Stephen's is the 'Shelter in the Storm'. I know when I'm there, I am with God, I am with my people."

In these days of social distancing, the people of St. Stephen's continue to proclaim: In Christ, we are Always Connected!

That connection gives us a sense of being "sheltered from the storm," simply because we have a community. We are one in Christ at St. Stephen's, when we can gather and when we can't. As we rest in the shelter of each other, we find ourselves strengthened to serve and called to care. So we show up for our neighbors in need, both near and far, because we are Always Connected to them through the love of Jesus.

During this pandemic, St. Stephen's has provided that shelter from the storm through:

- ☼ Connecting people in faith by streaming live on Facebook both our Sunday worship service and our Wednesday evening meditation and reflection opportunity, "The Well";
- ☼ Boldly proclaiming Jesus' love through our hour long weekly worship broadcast on

cable TV and providing Parking Lot worship on Sundays;

- ☼ Nurturing faith in our youth through our online "Faith Formation" and to the kids in our confirmation program.
- ☼ Caring for the community by holding a blood drive, gathering goods and monetary donations toward local food drives and creating care packages for the homeless;
- ☼ Connecting our congregation and our community through weekly emails, bi-weekly mailings of church news; and conducting a Phone Tree to check-in on congregants and pray with them;
- ☼ Keeping the community safe by ensuring our church is a safe home for First Tier Workers requiring child care, for offering families the option of funeral services and providing a secure space for ISD197 and our in-house Montessori School;
- ☼ Providing ongoing fellowship and adult education opportunities via new online connections: Zooming Coffee Hour, Let's Talk, & Men's Breakfast.



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Today we renew our commitment to all these connections and we embrace a vision of a deeper life together and a wider reach to all. Together we breathe life into God's mission at St. Stephen's;

- ☀ We will energize our worship services.
- ☀ We will engage and lead our youth on their journey with Jesus.
- ☀ We will equip our staff and congregation with information and resources to build our connections ever further – our connections with God, each other and the world.

Through all of this, we will be working to further connect:

- ☀ Youth to God's Grace;
- ☀ Seniors to each other and the world;
- ☀ Our ministry with the community and the world.

With an additional \$40,000 in giving in 2021, we will take our connectivity to amazing new levels and revitalize each other in faith. St Stephen's is not meant to simply sustain our ministry - we are meant to thrive and grow our ministry excellence!

CONNECT TO OUR YOUTH!

Bringing God into the hearts and minds of our children is our priority. When they trust in Jesus and his love for us, they solidify a life built on faith, hope and love. While we are apart during this pandemic, we can keep youth connected to each other, to God, and to the world by:

- ☀ Adding a computer lab for use by young and old alike. We will forge new ways to reach more of our youth thru technology to connect them with God's message of hope and life.
- ☀ Developing new youth groups and online prayer and chat sessions to promote discussions on faith, outreach, implicit bias, inclusion and ideas to combat injustice in our world.
- ☀ Offering on and off-site, youth-led worship and retreat opportunities
- ☀ Participating in field and/or mission trips to help broaden their view of the world and put God's love into action.

CONNECT TO OUR SENIORS!

While the youth are the future, our seniors are our cornerstone. They have lived and taught us lessons of God's love, of survival, commitment and generosity. While we may not be inside God's house, we can be assistive in connecting with them more by:

- ☀ Offering tech training to bridge the connection gaps that exist.
- ☀ Connecting youth and seniors through intergenerational curriculum and programming to incorporate and engage mentoring and outreach during these days of distancing, especially around prayer, communion and fellowship.
- ☀ Build new fellowship opportunities where seniors can connect with each other and the community.

CONNECT OUR MINISTRY TO OUR WORLD

In order for us to be inviting and connected in our ministry, we must take our resources to the next level. Variety is the key to successful ministry, as needs are diverse. We do this by:

- ☀ Adding a Communication Director to the staff to manage and update social media, website, and communication and technology platforms to reach more people in innovative ways.
- ☀ Increasing our mission support overall to our local and global organizations to combat hunger, poverty and homelessness.
- ☀ Ensuring our facilities are safe, secure and functional for all organizations who use our space like the Noreen Center and church facilities for education and enrichment.
- ☀ Build online discussions around racial inequity, implicit bias and inclusion to ensure St Stephen's is a welcome home to all who wish to learn and grow in God's love.
- ☀ Sustain our excellent ministry by taking care of our staff by ensuring they have the tools and resources they need and a safe, secure facilities to work within.

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN

RANGE OF GIFTS GIVEN AND HOPED FOR



NUMBER OF HOPED FOR GIVERS 172

NUMBER OF CURRENT GIVERS 171

WITH YOUR JOYFUL, GENEROUS PARTICIPATION, YOU WILL HELP REACH OUR GOAL OF \$40,000 IN NEW GIFTS IN 2021

This chart demonstrates our current path of giving, past giving history, and how together we can reach our goal. Study the chart. See where you are now on the current giving chart. Ask yourself these questions:

- ☀ How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?
- ☀ How adequately does my offering reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I receive?
- ☀ Where would I be on the chart if I doubled my giving? And can I consider doing that?
- ☀ How much more could I give if I really wanted to?

APPEAL GOAL FOR 2021: INCREASE OFFERINGS BY \$40,000!

LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE. (1 CORINTHIANS 16:14)