

Children's Ministry

May 8 — Mother's Day

May 8 — Sun. School sings for worship service

May 22 — Last Day of Spring Sunday School

June 12 — Begin Summer Sunday School

June 13-17 — Vacation Bible School

Sunday School will share some favorite songs during the service on May 8th.
Don't miss this special treat!

Thank you, once again, to everyone who helped us achieve our Minnesota Food Share goal in March! We hope that you continue to bring donations as we have an ongoing goal to collect a greater amount of food in 2005 than we collected in 2004. In February, we were behind by 65 pounds, but following your response to our March food drive, we are ahead by 207 pounds. We cannot afford to get complaisant, or we will not meet our goal, as food shelf donations often decrease during the summer months. Please continue to donate to the food shelf!

Last year: January — 208 pounds

This year: January — 206 pounds

Last year: February — 149 pounds

This year: February — 86 pounds

Last year: March — 249 pounds

This year: March — 521 pounds

Join us at Vacation Bible School!

See the enclosed registration form for details.

Youth and Adults are invited to join us as volunteers. Refer to the display board for VBS volunteer opportunities.

Our prayers and condolences go to Jane Altendorfer on the death of her mother.

Appetizers, Snacks, Beverages St. Stephen's Cookbook

St. Stephen's women and men — we need your recipes for a new cookbook. Please leave recipes for appetizers, snacks, and beverages in the box provided in the church office now through the summer months. The cookbook will be ready for the Boutique in November.

Thank You,
Boutique Committee

CHILDREN'S SAFE HOME

WIM is collecting items for the LSS homeless shelter for teens! A list of "requested items" is on the WIM Board. Please donate only items in very good condition — you will find a box by the bulletin board for that purpose.

Don't miss "The Whistler of Norway" on Wednesday, May 11th, at 6:15 p.m. The concert is free. However, a good will offering will be taken.

Senior Choir — NO rehearsal on Wednesday, May 18th.

The next Steppingstone will go out on May 17th. Articles need to be turned in to the church office by Sun., May 15th.

ADULT FORUM

May 8 — "Introduction to Creation Science" A study and discussion of various aspects of creation. Based on the videos of Dr. Kent Hovind of Creation Science Evangelism. Led by Bruce Sheldon with videos of Dr. Kent Hovind.

May 15 — "Violence in our Society — Questions and Answers"
A forum about the Minnesota State Statutes dealing with firearms, permits and conceal to carry permits. This is not an anti, or pro, gun forum. It is intended to be informational and thought provoking about firearm ownership, and some of the root causes of violence in our society. Led by Steve Gelderman, a retired Sergeant in the Washington County Sheriff's Department.

May 22 — "A Way to View some of the Polarizing Topics Regarding Sexuality and Marriage." We've had several discussions this year about the ELCA study of Sexuality as well as the issue of the 'In Defense of Marriage' legislation. These have opened the door to some significant rifts in the community of faith. While this discussion may not heal the rift it is meant to help us think about these issues as a community, where respect, honest dialogue and a focus on foundational issues can keep the community intact, functioning well and living in love. Led by Pastor Dan

Sundays, in the Library @ 9 a.m.

A gift for all mothers on Mother's Day Sunday, May 8th

LET'S RIDE

If you enjoy motorcycling, come along! Everyone is welcome. Mark calendars NOW for Sunday, July 24th. Any and all makes and models of bikes wanted. Meet at church for the 9 a.m. service. At 10 a.m. there will be a motorcycle blessing followed by a 50 to 100 mile ride. We will stop for lunch along the way. Any questions, call Pete or Mary Lou Linder at 651-770-3791.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

At our last council meeting we discussed the idea of looking into a foundation for the church. We thought it would be good to get some advice on having a foundation at St. Stephen.

We have three representatives and one alternate for St. Stephen at the St. Paul Synod on June 2-4. They are Mike Altendorfer, Deb Nelson, Marla Amborn, and Dave Anderson.

In closing, I can speak for everyone on the council — we would like to thank all those who made the 50th anniversary day and evening gala possible. Special thanks to Keith and Matt Millard for coordinating, and making it possible to have all the former pastors and a good number of charter members present.

God Bless,
Mike Altendorfer

Youth

Sunday, May 15th All Youth
11:45 a.m. – Youth Forum Barbeque

Tuesday, June 7th All Youth
1st Tuesday of each month and thereafter...meet at Buffalo Wild Wings in Maplewood at 5:33 p.m. for fun and fellowship.

Sunday, June 12 TIM Team
Last TIM Team Meeting until the fall.

Thursday, June 23 Senior High
Golf & BBQ

Sunday, June 26 Confirmation Youth
Confirmation Picnic

Saturday, July 2 Senior High
Bag groceries at Cub Foods - 10-5 p.m.

Monday, July 4 All Youth
Glow Necklace fundraiser

Tuesday, July 5 All Youth
Buffalo Wild Wings

July 11-15 All Youth
Summer Blast

July 13-17 Senior High
Sonshine Music Festival

Wednesday, July 27 All Youth
Valley Fair

Tuesday, August 2 All Youth
Buffalo Wild Wings

August 5-12 TIM Team Training/Bible Camp

August 18-21 All Youth
Wisconsin Dells Trip

August 27 All Youth
Summer end celebration

NEWS FLASH! St. Stephen's Senior High is now called "D.O.C. 912"!!! Ask a youth what it means.

Youth

We are forming a "Summer Youth Choir", rehearsal time to be determined. Please contact Deb Nelson for additional information.

The Youth raised over \$1,024 for the 30-Hour Famine that was held at church the weekend of April 22-23. This means that 30 kids will have enough food for a month! Clay H., Ami W., and Martha C. raised over \$600! The Youth Ministry would like to thank Mary Beth S., Keith M. and John R. for chaperoning – their efforts contributed to the success of this event. During the famine they also performed acts of service for the city of Maplewood and the Hennepin County Medical Center.

May 15th – 11:45 a.m. - the official last day of youth forum. We will be having a BBQ outside the youth room. Please bring \$3 and your appetite. Make sure you sign up on the youth board!

Opportunities at St. Stephen

You will notice a new information sheet in the bulletin providing opportunities for members of St. Stephen to help out with specific needs.

Those committee members or members of any of our church organizations can submit their specific need request by Tuesday p.m. of any week. Please keep all explanations fairly brief and include a contact name and number. The requests may be emailed to: renee@visi.com Please type or write request in desired format to facilitate information transfer. Direct any questions regarding this to: Renee Gilbertson, 651-653-0479
Evangelism Committee

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION-APRIL 10

What a day it was! All six pastors, who have served this congregation, were present as we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Stephen the Martyr. The celebration was a wondrous combination of memories and visions for the future. The worship services were attended by Easter-like crowds, and the evening gala was so completely sold out that an extra room had to be secured.

Long hours were put in by those who worked to find up-to-date addresses of former members, by the church musicians, by the staff, by those who put together pictures and other memorabilia. Many thanks are in order to Keith Millard and the Fiftieth Anniversary Committee who pulled all these efforts together.

While many motifs wove their way in and out of the day, the creative tension between seeing this as the last service of the first fifty years and, at the same time, the first service of the next fifty years, demonstrated again, that this is a congregation not only with a tradition, but also with a vision.

Thanks to all who participated! Thanks be to God for all who have served their Lord and the Church during the past fifty years. Thanks be to God for all who will worship, study, fellowship, serve, and reach out in the coming half century.

FINANCIAL REPORT THROUGH MARCH

CURRENT FUND

Receipts: \$87,458.99
Expenses: \$97,253.98
Shortfall : (\$ 9,794.99)

BENEVOLENCE

Receipts: \$10,032.49
Expenses: \$ 8,508.46
Balance : \$ 1,524.03

Thank you for faithful stewardship during the first quarter of 2005. With summer approaching, it is important to keep current during the coming months.

TANZANIA MISSION DINNER

On Saturday, April 30th, about 80 people from St. Stephen and other synodical congregations participated in our annual mission dinner. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship as people interested in the Tanzanian mission gathered for an authentic Tanzanian meal, a little music, and the opportunity to hear the effects of our ongoing Tanzanian mission from Pastor Don & Eunice Fultz and Dr. Richard Lubawa, Dean of the Iringa Diocese. People felt encouraged to continue our congregational support of Lukani as well as ongoing support for over 20 students in secondary school, and looked forward to our 2007 mission trip to Tanzania. We want to thank all those who helped put this dinner together along with those who joined us in support of the Tanzanian mission.