

# March, 2020

## St. Stephen Newsletter



### WORSHIP

Worship/Holy Communion Service is held each Sunday at 8:30 am

#### Members of Saint Stephen

It is that time of year again when weather conditions are unknown and play an important role in whether or not we will have church service.

If the weather is questionable, please be sure to check .

<http://www.emergencyclosingcenter.com/>

or call the church and check the message Sunday morning before venturing out. Safety is always a priority!

Thank You,

Pastor Rebecca Gordon, Marley Sharer and Vicky Hill

*“How do I get a newsletter?”*

### CHURCH BULLETIN & NEWSLETTER

#### Church Bulletin and Newsletter

\*The Church Bulletin is printed on Thursday morning, so if you have something you want in the bulletin, please put your name on the message and have it to Marley ([ststephenofantioch@gmail.com](mailto:ststephenofantioch@gmail.com) or 847-359-3359) by Wednesday morning at 9:00am

Newsletters are emailed to members before the 1st of the month. If we do not have a correct email for you, please let the office know! Several paper copies of the newsletter are printed each month and placed on the table in the Narthex. Please ask if you do not see one.

*\*Newsletter submissions are needed by the 20th each month\**

#### ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

1155 Hillside Avenue  
Antioch, IL 60062  
Phone: (847) 395-3359

#### PASTOR'S HOURS

**Rev. Rebecca Gordon, Pastor**

Mondays: Day Off

Tuesdays: 10:30am-1:00pm

Wednesday & Friday: visits and work  
out of office

Thursdays: 9am-12:00pm

*And by appointment*

#### OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday—Thursday  
8:00 am —12:00 pm

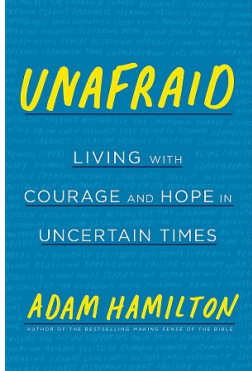
Marley Sharer, Administrative Assistant  
Vicky Hill, Treasurer

*Find us on Facebook and Instagram!*



## OUR CONGREGATION—INSIDE AND OUT

### SAINT STEPHEN'S BOOK CLUB!



#### Growing Our Faith...Study...Fellowship...Grow in Faith

Sign up for a group! Buy or borrow a book! Or read on your own!

We hope you will sign up to participate in Saint Stephen's church-wide book club this Lent!

Been worrying too much? Feeling like everything is uncertain? Looking for God in the midst of life's troubles? This book club is for you!

*"For anyone struggling with fear, worry, or anxiety, or who wonders how families and communities can live as peacemakers in troubled times, Unafraid offers an informed and inspiring message full of practical solutions.*

*Trusted pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton draws on the latest research, therapeutic insights, biblical principles, and personal experience to untangle the knots of fear and truly embrace Jesus's recurring counsel to his followers: "Do not be afraid." As a leading voice in the progressive tradition, Hamilton communicates with grace and understanding to a wide and inclusive audience in accessible language that will ring true regardless of one's religious conviction.*

From <https://www.adamhamilton.com/books/unafraid>

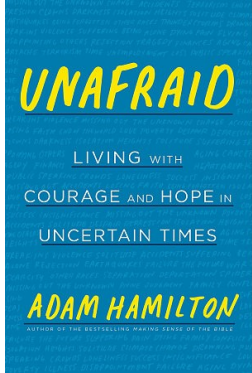
Please look for your own copy of the book. Amazon.com has several very affordable copies for about \$10! Otherwise we do have A FEW COPIES to lend—or buy for \$10 on the table in the narthex.

The Amazon.com link is here for a paper or Kindle copy:

[https://www.amazon.com/Unafraid-Living-Courage-Uncertain-Times/dp/1524760331/ref=sxsts\\_sxwds-bia-wc1\\_0?cv\\_ct\\_cx=unafraid&keywords=unafraid&pd\\_rd\\_i=1524760331&pd\\_rd\\_r=564faacd-4c58-4746-9ca8-679c52892e70&pd\\_rd\\_w=j1HSm&pd\\_rd\\_wg=OwDeX&pf\\_rd\\_p=c8430d96-912c-40d1-9740-e1beca245dd5&pf\\_rd\\_r=XG1KRYFHZQ3P45ZTWNXYX&psc=1&qid=1582130953](https://www.amazon.com/Unafraid-Living-Courage-Uncertain-Times/dp/1524760331/ref=sxsts_sxwds-bia-wc1_0?cv_ct_cx=unafraid&keywords=unafraid&pd_rd_i=1524760331&pd_rd_r=564faacd-4c58-4746-9ca8-679c52892e70&pd_rd_w=j1HSm&pd_rd_wg=OwDeX&pf_rd_p=c8430d96-912c-40d1-9740-e1beca245dd5&pf_rd_r=XG1KRYFHZQ3P45ZTWNXYX&psc=1&qid=1582130953)

## OUR CONGREGATION—INSIDE AND OUT

### SAINT STEPHEN'S BOOK CLUB!



[Growing Our Faith...Study...Fellowship...Grow in Faith \(continued\)](#)

#### Groups starting in mid-late March:

(starting dates will be coordinated with the convener of the group)

**Tuesdays at 10:00 am** at Sue Hansen's home

**Wednesdays** at 10:30 in the church library

**Thursdays at 5:30pm** at Little Bean Coffeehouse (formerly Café Book) at 395 Lake Street in downtown Antioch

**Sundays after worship at 10:00 am** in the Library (if Library is occupied, meet in Double Classroom)

**OR...**start a group of your own at church or elsewhere!

**OR...**maybe you just want to get the book and **read it on your own.**

**OR...**maybe you want to **discuss on-line...**just let us know...It's easy to create a Facebook discussion group from our Facebook site (at least we think so!)

If you have questions please talk with Pastor Rebecca. We pray this reading will bless your life—as well as OUR life at Saint Stephen--in unexpected ways!

## OUR CONGREGATION—INSIDE AND OUT

*Thank  
you*

### Thank you note on behalf of Ethel Dellacecca

Hi all, As you know, my mother is unable to write or type these days, so she has asked me to express her love and appreciation in response to the thoughtful Valentine's Day card she received from her church family. Thank you so much for sending the card and for continuing to keep her in your hearts and prayers.

All the best to all of you,  
Vicki Dellacecca

### Welcome to Our Newest Members!

On Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> we will welcome 4 new members and 1 associate member to Saint Stephen. Donna Burke, Dan Hanrahan, Kelsey Plagge, Chris Welninski, and Marilyn Hall (associate). We welcome you to Saint Stephen Lutheran Church!

*Welcome*



**Metropolitan Chicago Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

On Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> Rev. Kyle Severson, Assistant to Metro Chicago Synod Bishop Yehiel Curry, will be with us in worship. He will preach and assist with worship and available to answer any questions about the synod. The word "synod" from Greek means "together with" or "together on the way." Our Metro Chicago Synod staff is together with us in ministry for the glory of God's mission in the world. We are grateful for the synod's on-going partnership with Saint Stephen in our mission and ministry in Antioch and beyond!

## OUR CONGREGATION—INSIDE AND OUT

### **CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE**

#### **UPCOMING Confirmation Dates**

Tuesday, March 17th, 6-7pm in the Library

Tuesday, March 31st, 6-7pm in the Library

Please see Pr. Rebecca with questions [rev.rijgordon@gmail.com](mailto:rev.rijgordon@gmail.com)  
or 815-403-9143



#### **Out of Town Emergency On-Call**

Pr. Rebecca will be away March 5-8. In case of an urgent pastoral emergency Pastor Jeff Koth of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ingleside will be on call. You can reach him at (224) 355-4213.

Pr. Rebecca will be away March 19-26. Pastor Doug Liston of Joyful Harvest Lutheran Church in Johnsburg will be on call in case of an urgent pastoral emergency. You can reach him at (847) 497-5452.

We welcome Pastor Steve Samuelson of Kenosha, WI to preach and lead worship on Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup>!

#### Office Hours **DURING LENT** for Pastor Rebecca Gordon

Regular Office Hours

Mondays: Day Off

**Tuesdays: 10:30am-1:00pm**

**Wednesdays: 9am-1:00pm**

Thursday & Friday: visits and work out of office

*And by appointment*

\*Please always call the office first to make sure Pr. Rebecca is in\*

Pr. Rebecca is also available by email and phone

[rev.rijgordon@gmail.com](mailto:rev.rijgordon@gmail.com), 815-403-9143 (c), 847-223-1847 (h)

OUR CONGREGATION—INSIDE AND OUT

***“FEAR NOT: HAVE COURAGE!”***



**JOIN US FOR OUR MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES**

**WEDNESDAYS, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1 2020**

**12:00pm**

**worship**

**6:15-6:50pm**

**simple supper (Fellowship Hall)**

**7:00pm**

**worship**

**Find hope and strength in meditations from**

**Living Unafraid:**

**Lessons on Hope from 31 of the Bible's Most Loved Stories**

**by Adam Hamilton**

**St. Stephen Lutheran Church—1155 Hillside Ave, Antioch, IL 60002**

**Looking Ahead...Holy Week**



# Holy Week

**Palm Sunday- April 5, 2020**

8:30 am Worship & Communion with Procession of the Palms

**Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020**

Hand Washing, Holy Communion, & Stripping of the Altar  
12 noon & 7 pm - Worship

**Good Friday, April 10, 2020**

12 noon & 7pm - Worship

**Easter Sunday. April 12, 2020**

7:00 am & 9:30 am  
Worship & Communion

**Easter Brunch**

Fellowship Hall - 8 am – 11am



## OUR CONGREGATION—INSIDE AND OUT

Our 2020 Saint Stephen Lutheran Church Council was installed on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. We thank them for their diligent service! We especially thank Dennis Friedle and Vicky Hill for their dedicated service as they rotate off council.



### **The 2020 Saint Stephen Lutheran Church Council**

#### **Returning Council Members**

John Cook  
Dave Telleen  
Donal Barlow  
Sharon Gregory

#### **New Council Members**

Linda Andersen  
Lori Flade  
Dave McAlonan  
Gloria Stevens

#### **Council Officers**

##### **President**

Donal Barlow

##### **Vice President**

John Cook

##### **Secretary**

Dave McAlonan

##### **Treasurer**

Vicky Hill

##### **Assistant Treasurer**

Sharon Gregory

##### **Financial Secretary**

Dennis Friedle



## OUR CONGREGATION—INSIDE AND OUT



### **Treasurer's Update - Feb 2020**

	<b>Jan 2020</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Tithes/Offerings (Operating Funds)	<b>\$11,214.00</b>	<b>\$11,214.00</b>
Operating Expenses	<b>\$14,865.24</b>	<b>\$14,865.24</b>
Funds Transferred to Reserve Funds	<b>\$720.00</b>	<b>\$720.00</b>
Mortgage Reduction	<b>\$305.00</b>	<b>\$305.00</b>

***Please remember, due to the timing of the newsletter, this update will contain information from the previous month.***

## OUR CONGREGATION—INSIDE AND OUT



### Music and Worship During Lent

During Sunday services in Lent, the congregation will be singing ELW Setting 2. We have this music loaded onto our church website's Media page if you'd like to sing along:

<https://www.saintstephenofantioch.org/media> . We most recently sang Setting 2 in 2018.

Wendi McAlonan has once again chosen some glorious hymns during our season of Lent. Thank you to Wendi for prayerfully choosing our Gathering, Communion and Sending hymns every month.

For our 12:00 Noon Midweek Lenten services, those gathered will sing a different "old favorite" hymn every week, acapella! This is one of the only times we sing hymns unaccompanied at St. Stephen. It is wonderful to really hear voices singing praise to God. Thank you to Howard Geier for offering to play Preludes at each of the midweek Lenten services.

Our 7:00pm Midweek Lenten services will feature much of the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. This is a favorite at St. Stephen. It is easy to find videos of people singing this liturgy on YouTube, if you use the internet. My favorite version is posted by HoldenVillage.

Besides music, we have two new friends preaching during March! On March 1, Pastor Kyle Severson, the Assistant to our new Bishop, will offer a sermon. Then on March 8 and 22, Pastor Steve Samuelson from Kenosha will fill in for Pastor Rebecca.

On behalf of the Worship Team, I pray that your season of Lent is filled with the Holy Spirit.

*Melanie Fuhrmann*

# THANK YOU!

Saint Stephen Lutheran Church's 2020 Collection

raised:

## \$405 and 224 lbs. of food

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



February 2, 2020

## Thank you!!

For **Souper Bowl Sunday** ([www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org)) you assisted the Confirmation youth in collecting 224 pounds of nonperishable food and baby items as well as \$405 for **Open Arms Mission** ([www.openarmsmission.org](http://www.openarmsmission.org))! This year we collected more food and hygiene items than in our previous 4 years and doubled our financial giving!!

## What is the Souper Bowl!?

Since 1990, young people have been leading the charge and inspiring others to collect dollars and food weeks leading up to the Big Game. Teaming up with local partners, these groups give 100% of donations to local charities, changing the nation's largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring.

(from [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org))

## OUR CONGREGATION—INSIDE AND OUT



### **Join us!**

*WHO:* The People of St. Stephen Lutheran Church

*WHAT:* Serving Our Neighbors in Need

*WHERE:* **Feed My Starving Children**

at their packing warehouse at

**742 East Park Ave. in Libertyville**

*WHEN:* **Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

**from 6-7:30pm (arrive by 5:45pm)**

**[www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org)**

This Lent we invite you to come learn about the ministry of Feed My Starving Children and pack meals! If you'd like to participate go to <https://www.fmsc.org/join-group?joincode=138MKM> and give the code 138MKM to join the group OR give you name and email address to Pastor Rebecca to get registered Thank you!

## GET INVOLVED



### **An Invitation from Saint Ignatius Episcopal Church for Sunday Evening Vespers in Lent**

**If you enjoy praying Psalms,  
hearing Lenten Scriptures,  
singing a praiseful Hymn, and  
offering Prayer  
in the company of good people . . .**

**If you are moved by evening shadows,  
flickering candles,  
a scent of incense, and  
the sound of bells . . .**

**You are warmly invited to gather at  
St. Ignatius, 500 Depot Street, at 6pm  
any or all of the Sundays of Lent,  
March 1st through April 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**Everyone welcome!  
Praying timeless and treasured  
Evening Prayers at "Vespers."**

## GET INVOLVED



The following classes will be offered through Catholic Charities, Council on Aging and the Christian Wellness Ministry (CWM). A small donation would be appreciated but if unable, seniors will not be denied registration or entry into any of these classes.

**March 10th 12:00pm What Happens When the Paychecks Stop?, 203 E. Lake Shore Drive, Round Lake Park.** Join us for a presentation by Casey Torrey from Edward Jones who will discuss the impact of transitioning from working to being retired.

**March 24th 9:00am—4:00pm Benefit Access Application Sign Up, 757 Main Street, Antioch** Get one on one help to sign up for a very popular benefit (discounted license plate sticker and/or ride free program). Call for your appointment today. Walk ins will be taken as time permits.

**March 24th 2:00pm Legal Basics, Fox Lake District Library, 255 E. Grand Ave., Fox Lake.** Join us for a presentation on legal basics.

Questions? Call Kari Pohar at Catholic Charities at 847-740-6708. Or Carol Frazier for CWM at 630-399-0089

## Open Arms

Next opportunity to volunteer is March 26, 2020  
4:30—6:30pm

*\*\* Please collect bar soap and personal hygiene items and put them in the collection bin in the Narthex \*\**



Please join us together with the men of the United Methodist Church for the monthly Men's Breakfast on **Saturday, March 21st** at 8:30 am United Methodist Church.

Please let any male friends or family members that may be interested. All are welcome!

If you have questions or ideas for other things to bring, please contact Dennis Friedle (847-909-4325) or Dave McAlonan at (847-563-0582).

