

November, 2019

St. Stephen Newsletter



Don't forget to turn your clocks back on November 3rd!

WORSHIP

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

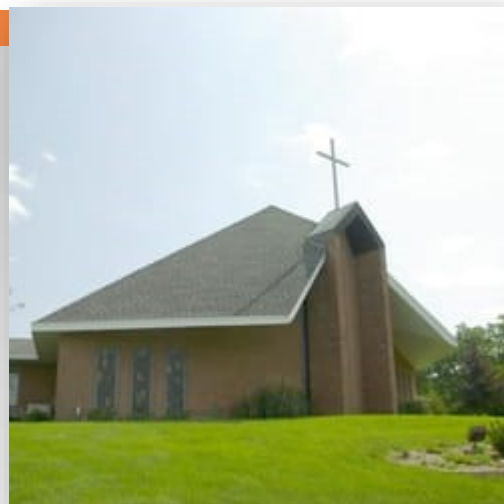
CHURCH BULLETIN & NEWSLETTER

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 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

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

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday—Thursday
8:00 am —12:00 pm

Rev. Rebecca Gordon
Pastor

Marley Sharer
Administrative Assistant

Vicky Hill
Treasurer

*Find us on Facebook and
Instagram!*



PASTOR'S PAGE



From the Pastor

Things that make for peace: Helping our Neighbor

There are many aspects to Christian peacemaking. At the heart of them all is relationship and community. Loving God and loving one another naturally lead to peace in all its forms.

In October our Shalom Team led us in a Peace Sunday worship where we were invited to consider the long history of Christian peacemaking and declare our lives as Christian peacemakers with a statement that “Hate Has No Home Here.”

The brilliance of the statement “Hate Has No Home Here” is that it is both a personal and communal declaration. It is both an intention as well as a rejection of the things that are not peace and love. I have been humbled and encouraged by your response to this endeavor. Many have taken home signs to declare their intention to be people of love and peace. Many are reading about how to be God’s people of love in Bob Goff’s book *Everybody Always*. Loving our neighbor is making peace!

One of the aspects of loving others or peacemaking is helping people in need: reaching out to the most vulnerable and empowering them with the things they need to survive. One of the ways Saint Stephen does this is through the Open Arms mission. By coming up alongside people in crisis or who are hungry we declare that God is a God of abundance and that we are called to share that abundance with everyone.

I have regular conversation with Marytherese Ambacher, the Director at Open Arms. One of the questions I often ask is what is needed most now. For many years we specifically collected diapers and wipes. Catholic charities is now helping to provide diapers through a special fund. Sheila Eisen, one of our devoted Open Arms volunteers, and Marytherese have stated that one of the biggest needs currently for Open Arms is bar soap and personal hygiene items like shampoo & conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste toothbrushes, and feminine hygiene products. We will always collect and deliver any food or hygiene item to Open Arms. So please keep bringing items in—there’s a blue collection basket by the office. We can focus our collection efforts more specifically on bar soap and hygiene items

PASTOR'S PAGE

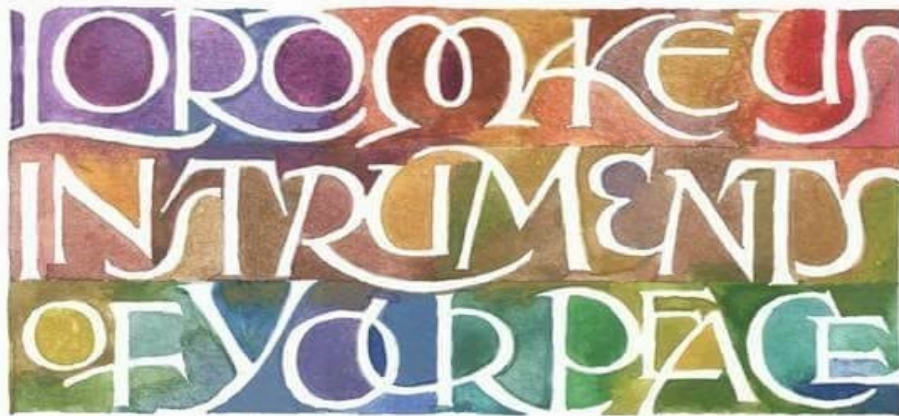
in order to help fill a gap at Open Arms. Any size is fine as some individuals without storage capacity only need the hotel sizes and other households with large numbers can use the larger sizes.

You can always volunteer to help fill orders at Open Arms. Volunteers are always needed. You can join our team of volunteers from Saint Stephen on the 4th Thursday of the month from 4:30-6:30pm.

When people are well fed and feel they can care for and groom their bodies appropriately their self worth and dignity increases. At least I know mine does! When people have self-esteem and dignity they can be the people God has made them to be. These are the things that make for peace...God's work that we can be a part of in our community.

The peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Rebecca Gordon



LOO OAKES
INSTRUMENTS
OF YOUR PEACE

Where there is hatred
let us sow love—
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is discord, union
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
Where there is sadness, joy

OUR CONGREGATION—INSIDE AND OUT



Treasurer's Update - Oct 2019

	Sept 2019	Year to Date
Tithes/Offerings (Operating Funds)	\$14,223.00	\$112,620.36
Operating Expenses	\$13,096.81	\$128,086.61
Funds Transferred to Reserve Funds	\$973.00	\$9,102.90

The background of the poster is a warm, autumnal scene. It features a large tree on the right side with branches extending across the top. The leaves are in various shades of orange, yellow, and red. A string of colorful triangular bunting flags hangs across the middle. The text is centered and framed by a white border. The overall mood is festive and inviting.

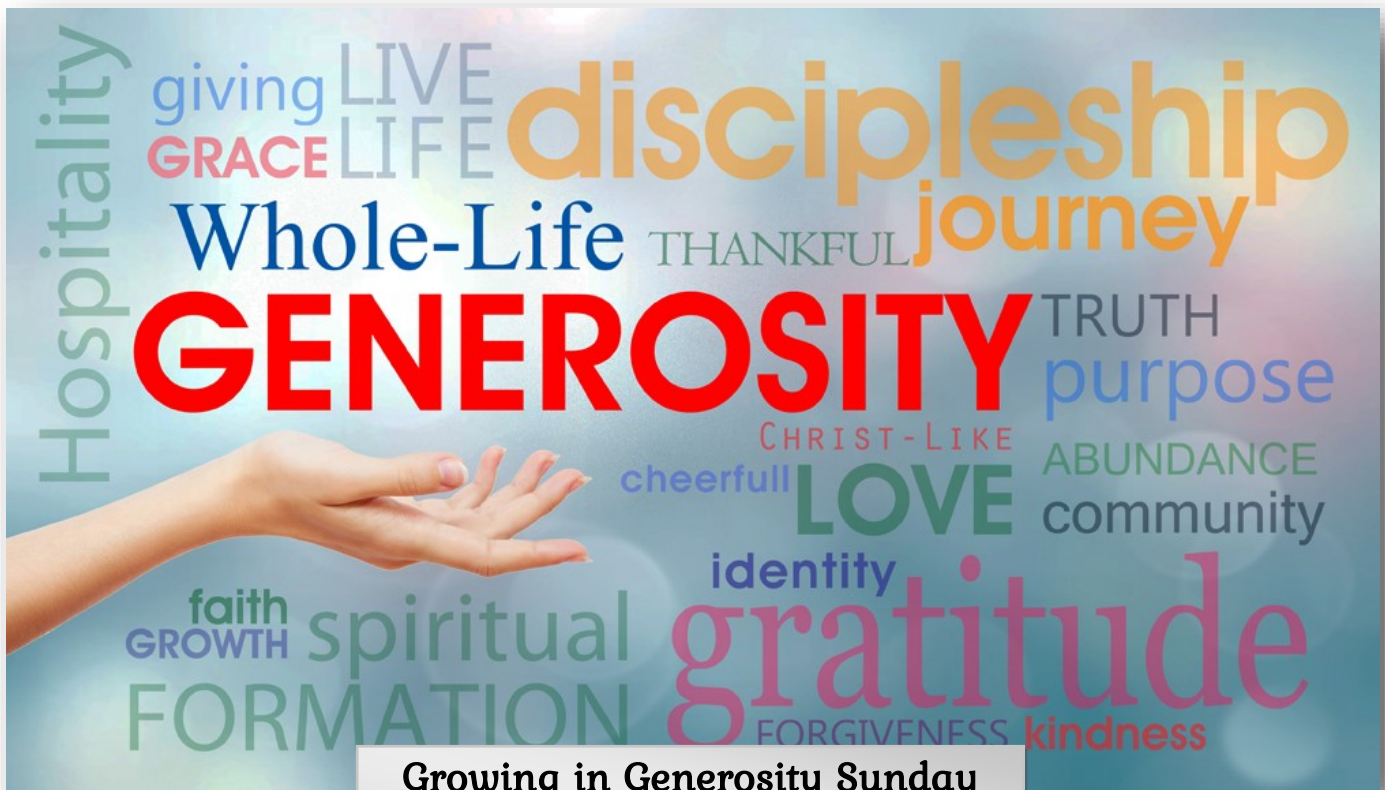
Fall CRAFT FAIR

*Join us for our
12th Annual Craft Fair & Bake Sale
Saturday, November 2nd 2019
9:00am — 3:00pm*

*Hot Dog, Chips & Soda Meal Deal in the Kitchen
★ Pick Your Prize ★ Raffle
Over 20 Vendors!*

Start your holiday shopping early!

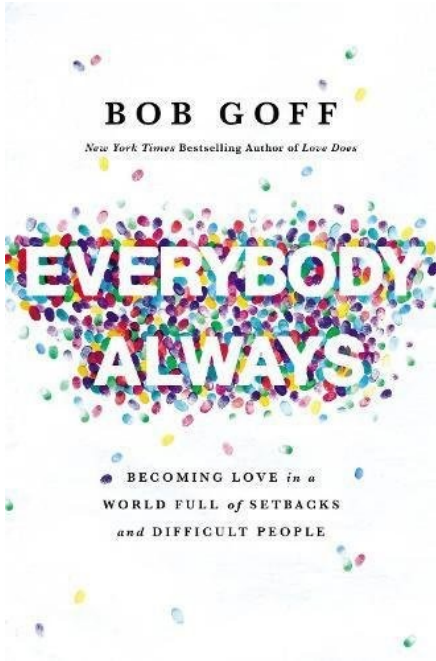
All Saints Sunday
November 3, 2019
8:30 am



Growing in Generosity Sunday
November 17, 2019
8:30 am

OUR CONGREGATION—INSIDE AND OUT

Growing Our Faith...Building Understanding and Relationship



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN A BOOK CLUB GROUP!

Join us at any gathering....

- ⇒ **Sundays after worship at 10:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall with Robin & Don
- ⇒ **Tuesdays at 10am** Sue Hansen's house
- ⇒ **Thursdays at 11 am** in the church library with Pr. Rebecca
- ⇒ **Thursdays at 5:30pm** at Café Book with Dick Schlake
- ⇒ **OR...**start a group of your own at church or elsewhere!
- ⇒ **OR...**maybe you simply **read it on your own.**

(from the publisher's introduction)

What happens when we give away love like we're made of it?

In his entertaining and inspiring follow-up to the New York Times bestselling phenomenon Love Does, Bob Goff takes readers on a journey into the secret of living without fear, constraint, or worry. The path toward the liberated existence we all long for is found in a truth as simple to say as it is hard to do: love people, even the difficult ones, without distinction and without limits.

Driven by Bob's trademark storytelling, Everybody, Always reveals the lessons Bob learned--often the hard way--about what it means to love without inhibition, insecurity, or restriction. From finding the right friends to discovering the upside of failure, Everybody, Always points the way to embodying love by doing the unexpected, the intimidating, the seemingly impossible. Whether losing his shoes while skydiving solo or befriending a Ugandan witch doctor, Bob steps into life with a no-limits embrace of others that is as infectious as it is extraordinarily ordinary. Everybody, Always reveals how we can do the same.

If you have questions please talk with Pastor Rebecca or someone from the Shalom Team—Robin Fallbacher, Donal Barlow, Sue Hansen, Melanie Fuhrmann, Kris Kroll, Jean Olsen, Dick Schlake.

We pray this reading will bless your life—as well as OUR life at Saint Stephen--in unexpected ways!



In the Community...by the Community...for the Community

Sunday, November 24th at 5 p.m.

Antioch Township Center

1625 Deep Lake Road, Lake Villa

Hosted by:

St. Ignatius Episcopal Church, St. Stephen Lutheran Church, & the United Methodist Church of Antioch

Suggested Offering: bar soap and personal hygiene items (shampoo, toothpaste/toothbrush, deodorant, feminine hygiene) - to be given to Open Arms Mission

A monetary offering will also be collected during the service.

If you are able, **please bring a “finger food” appetizer or dessert** to share after worship.

This service of prayer and thanksgiving will feature a combined choir; a drama; blessing of hand-made scarves, hats, mittens, and other warm items to those in need; fellowship; and light refreshments served after worship.

Appropriate for all ages.

This is a time for the community to come together in gratitude for the way God has blessed us this year, to participate in the power of prayer for each other, and to share out of our abundance with those who are in need. You don't need to attend a church – everyone is invited to come and bring a friend or neighbor!

****Pastor Rebecca is looking for a few people to help with the Community Thanksgiving Service. Specifically we need people to serve as hospitality: people to welcome and greet others as they come, and people to help with light refreshments afterward. Please let Pr. Rebecca know if you are interested.****

OUR CONGREGATION—INSIDE AND OUT

FAITH 5 is an all-generations “Sunday School” will be held 10:00-10:30am in the Double Classroom, adjacent to the Fellowship Hall, each Sunday, unless otherwise indicated. All ages are welcome to join us to share in God’s story on our faith journey on any Sunday you can!



CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

UPCOMING Confirmation Dates

Wednesday, November 6, 6-7pm in the Library

Wednesday, November 13, 6-7pm in the Library

Wednesday, November 20, 6-7pm in the Library

Please see Pr. Rebecca with questions (rev.rjgordon@gmail.com, 815-403-9143)

OUR CONGREGATION—INSIDE AND OUT



Stewardship and Generosity Sunday (November 17)

It has been wonderful to watch St. Stephen mobilized over the past few weeks. The people of St. Stephen have answered the challenge to give to reduce the mortgage debt. The people of St. Stephen have answered the call to help feed poor children by bringing food to fill backpacks. It has been wonderful to see!

Over the past few months, stories have been shared about St. Stephen and mission. We have heard from Mary about the joy that she experiences through serving at the Golden Gems celebrations. We heard from Ardy and Carol about the joy and satisfaction that they feel when they visit shut-ins bringing communion, fellowship, and connection to those who can't join us on Sunday. Dick and Dave talked about how volunteering to clean the church each week brought them closer to God by serving in a simple and humble way. Wendi shared how much sending cards and warm wishes to our members who are experiencing illness means to her. We continue to serve the less fortunate each month at Open Arms. We were God's Hands as we packed back packs for Lutheran World Relief and helped the residents at Rainbow Lake Manor. We have many others, or hidden gems, who step up to serve God and others in important and meaningful ways. God is at work in this place! God is at work in our acts of service, kindness, and generosity!

In the next few weeks we will hear how important St. Stephen is in the lives of our members. We will hear how important their relationship with God is. And how important St. Stephen is in their individual faith journeys.

Each week we are nourished as we gather in this place to worship together. We are nourished as we gather in fellowship. Nourished as we gather to study the word and discuss books. We are nourished and blessed as we serve others in big, and small, ways.

Over the next few weeks, we are being asked to prayerfully consider our giving to St. Stephen for the next year. We are called to give to God what he has given to us in proportion to what we have been given by Him. Giving to God is an act of love. We are asked to be faithful, intentional, and systematic in our giving. Our gifts allow St. Stephen to continue to do God's work in this community, and in the world. As our faith grows, so too does our giving of both our treasure and of our time. As Luther stated, where our treasure goes so goes our heart. Our financial gifts, and our energy, allow St. Stephen to continue to grow in faith and mission. We are asked to prayerfully consider increasing our giving as we are able.

On Sunday, November 17 we will present our "Estimate of Giving" Cards at the altar. We will gather to enjoy an Ice Cream Social after the service (yes, ice cream for breakfast!)

Thank you for your continuing and ongoing support of St. Stephen and for prayerfully considering growing in your giving our church.

The Stewardship Team (David McAlonan, Melanie Fuhrmann, Ardy Lange, Donal Barlow and Pastor Rebecca Gordon)

OUR CONGREGATION—INSIDE AND OUT



Evenings of Peace and Prayer

The Shalom Team would like to welcome the congregation and community to three **Evenings of Peace and Prayer** during Advent. These 6:00pm Tuesdays will be simple, about an half hour long, with a few options for prayer aloud and silent prayer.



This is a great opportunity for spiritual reflection as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ. Please join us on **December 3, 10 and 17 at 6:00pm – 6:30pm** for some quiet contemplation and prayer.

Please let the church office know if you need a ride.

Melanie Fuhrmann, for the Shalom Team

GET INVOLVED



Wellness Walks, October 2019 Tuesdays at 8:00am

You can see Lake County Forest Preserve maps online at www.lcfd.org/preserves. This takes you to an interactive mapping system. The old print maps (.pdf) are within the internal menus, but they can more easily be found with a Google search. LCFPD also has a smartphone app. Questions: Call Melanie Fuhrmann at 847-703-0890 or Ken Church at 847-651-1940. Any of these walks may be shortened or cancelled if the weather poses a safety risk.

Nov. 5: Ethel's Woods Forest Preserve, Antioch: NEW TRAIL, FINALLY OPEN! Entrance and parking are on Miller Road, east of Route 45. a new entrance drive on Miller Road leading to a 25-car parking lot. A 0.7-mile section of the Millennium Trail runs along the western edge of the preserve. Other public access improvements to the 500-acre preserve include toilets, a 0.8-mile gravel loop trail (background in photo) and four scenic overlooks. See the restored North Mill Creek (foreground in photo), no longer dammed up as the former Rasmussen Lake. 1.5 miles total.



GET INVOLVED

Open Arms

NO OPEN ARMS IN NOVEMBER

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday

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



[Window Washing Event](#) November 9, 2019 at 10:30 till ?

Bring your favorite window washing / cleaning tool/ supplies and skills. Let's bring in the light.
For information please contact **Dennis 847-909-4325**.

Men's Breakfast!

Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 8:30am



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.



November 5th 11:30am **Intro to Digital Photography;** **Fremont Township, 22385 W Route 60, Mundelein.** This 4 week class goes over camera basics and shows you how to increase your photo taking skills. Space is limited! Sign up today!

November 8th 12:00pm **Senior Book Club; 1628 Deep Lake Road, Lake Villa.** Read the book "Runaway" by Peter May (Available at the Grayslake Library front desk) before the meeting and join us for a book discussion. Lunch is available

November 15th 10:00am **Cooking on the Bright Side; Assisi Homes of Gurnee, 3495 Grand Avenue, Gurnee** Join us for this cooking demo where the recipes will use fresh, inexpensive and easy ingredients. Don't like to cook, but like to eat? That's ok! Come for the food and watch how everything is made!

December 6th 12:00pm **Senior Book Club; 1628 Deep Lake Road, Lake Villa.** Read the book "A Christmas Peril" by J A Henrickus (Available at the Grayslake Library front desk) before the meeting and join us for a book discussion. Lunch is available

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



Antioch Event Calendar

November 29th Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting

STAY INFORMED

From our community...The Patch

211 Helpline Launched In Lake County For People In Need

Here's how to access the 211 helpline and the services you can get.

By Rebecca Bream (Hughes), Patch Staff

Sep 26, 2019 1:15 pm ET

A 211 First Responders Card (United Way of Lake County)

LAKE COUNTY, IL — People across Lake County now have access to a 24-hour information and referral helpline thanks to the launch of 211 services, United Way of Lake County announced Tuesday. In a release sent to Patch, United Way said 211 is a free, confidential helpline that provides a central access point to health and human service providers in Lake County. 211 provides referrals and correct, concise information 24 hours a day, seven days a week to critical resources.

"Through 211, the people of Lake County will get the help they need, when they need it," said Kristi Long, President and CEO of United Way of Lake County, said in the release. "United Way of Lake County is proud to fulfill this decades-long vision, joining with the Lake County government and our many community partners to deliver a best-in-class, robust solution for Lake County—the largest county in Illinois to implement 211."

Here's how to access 211:

- Call 211 or text your zip code to 898211.
- Experienced, trained resource navigators/specialists at the 211 contact center will guide you to the help you need.
- The comprehensive 211 service is multi-lingual with English and Spanish-speaking staff, as well as interpretations to more than 150 languages.

"United Way of Lake County's new 211 service is a huge asset for Lake County, offering an efficient, safe, and confidential place where community members can instantly get access to the resources and information they need," said Megan McKenna, Director of Strategy & Development at Mano a Mano Family Resource Center, in the release. "Mano a Mano is honored to have been part of the planning process and grateful to United Way of Lake County for its leadership on this project."

211 also helps service providers find the right solution in one call, which helps reduce the time agencies spend redirecting calls to other agencies and more time addressing needs of their own clients, the release said. In turn 211 reduces the ultimate cost of services and makes sure money is spent most efficiently over time, United Way of Lake County added.