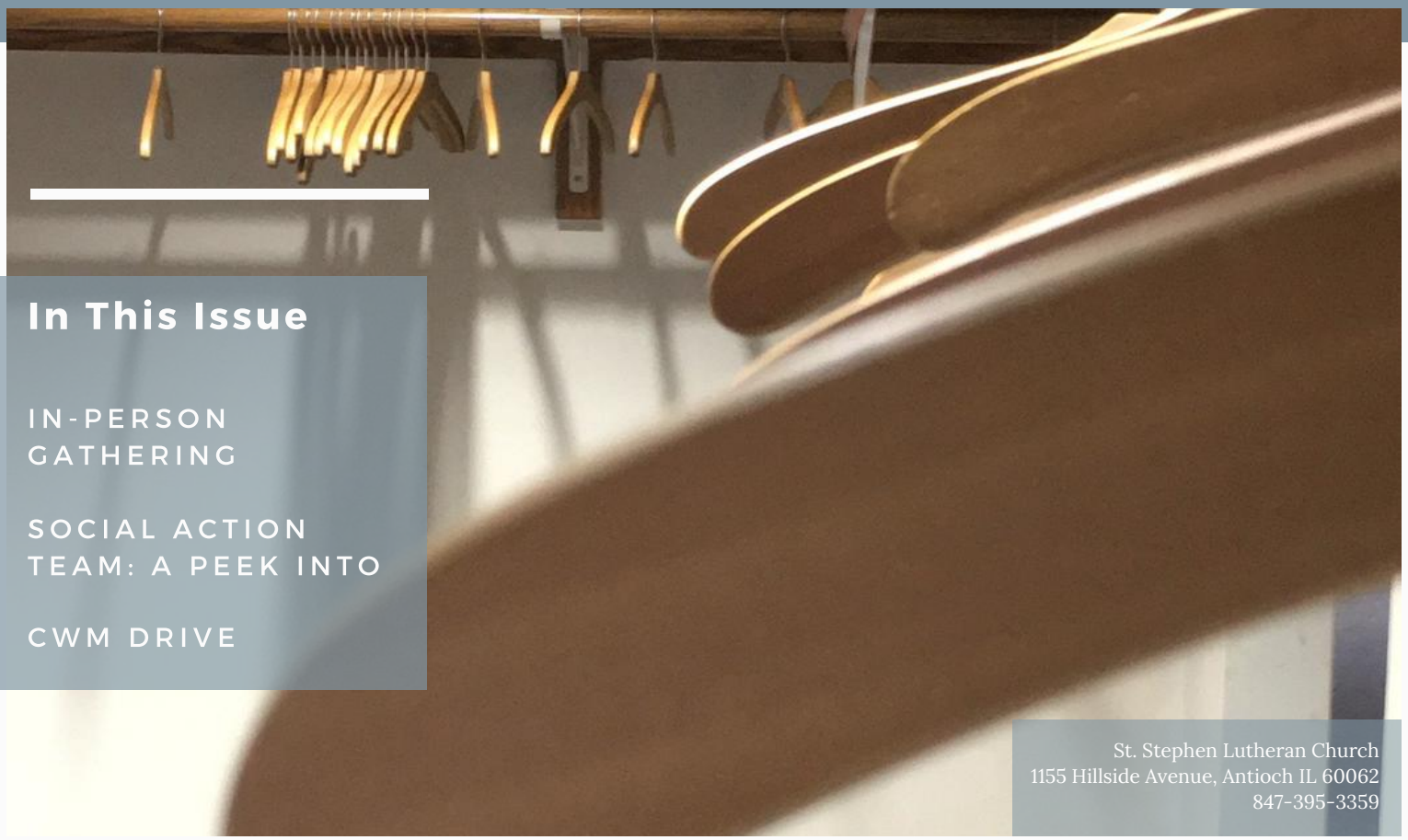
FAITH MATTERS

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



In This Issue

IN-PERSON GATHERING

SOCIAL ACTION TEAM: A PEEK INTO CWM DRIVE

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
1155 Hillside Avenue, Antioch IL 60062
847-395-3359

HELP US CONNECT

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY CONNECTION

When Pr. Rebecca left a little over a month ago, we knew there were large (if not many pairs of) shoes to fill. One of the ministries set in motion has been our Wednesday Weedkly Connection Zoom Call. On this call, congregants come together to share joys and concerns, news, fellowship, a little biblical reflection, and prayer. As we currently are unable to meet in person, this has been a safe haven for those members needing some interaction. Weekly Connections give us just that... a connection. Someone with whom we can share news, worries, updates, and blessings. Much like a "fellowship hour" following service, this call reaches into the hearts and minds of our fellow parishioners, "checks in" on those we love, and re-affirms our committments to love our neighbors. (It also give us a time to reflect on how we can help our friends, families, and community through the other many ministries at St. Stephen.)

One thing, however, stands in the way of the continuation of this weekly call. ...VOLUNTEERS. Currently, there is a small pool of volunteers to help lead the Zoom call. However, much like the water filled kind... pools are better when deeper. The list of folks that have signed up to either host the Zoom call, or lead it (keeping folks on topic, reading a bible verse, etc) has dwindled. We have been relying on the few to feed the thousand.

We are all well aware that new technology, new "apps", and new everything brings about reservations about stepping up to lead something new. However, that "small pool" is more than happy to help talk you through the steps, and lead you through the process. This is our church. This is our connection. This is our reach into our parishioners world. Let's come together to continue this ministry. Have questions? Want to sign up for a call? 10am and 6:30 pm Wednesdays? Either? Both? Contact Ardy Lange at bjorlange@yahoo.com or call the church office 847-395-3359.

OUR VILLAGE

There is a saying, "It takes a village.." Well, that "village" takes organization and commitment. Gloria Stevens, along with Dick Schlake, Jean Olsen, Lisa Berg, and Lori Flade make up what is now called the St. Stephen Social Action Team.

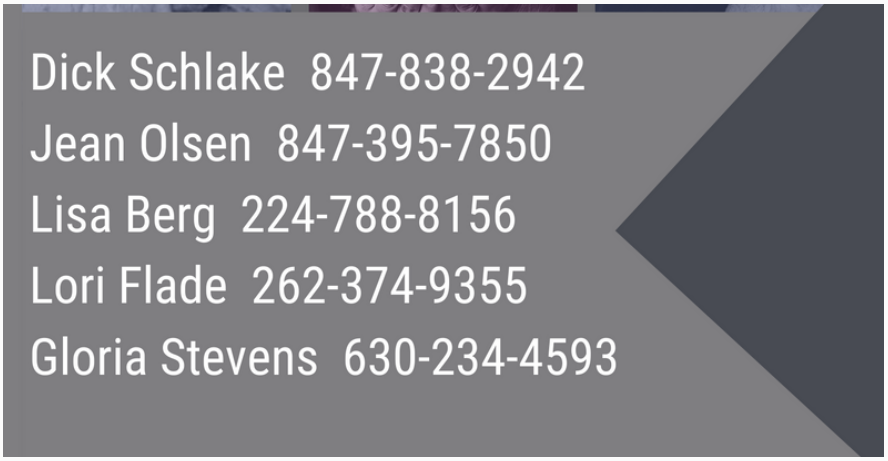
When describing this ministry, Gloria wrote:

"The Social Action Team's ministry is to keep in touch and offer help to those in our congregation who are sick or having surgery, are caregivers or elderly. Especially in this time of COVID, we want to be sure we continue to be gathered as a community. Some of you are already on our list, but if you are sick, having surgery, need to speak to a pastor or want prayers please let one of us know. We want to hear from you."

Most of us either know someone that has (or we ourselves have) been hospitalized, stuck at home, and stressed about all the things that go along with that.

How many of us can remember what it's like trying to cook dinner after a procedure, or at home with a new baby. Or, how many of us could have used a prayerful companion, or pastoral care? Someone to sit with us? Start a food train for us? A prayer chain? A phone train? This is where the Social Action Team springs into... well... action.

If you know of someone that could benefit from a little extra help, prayer, assistance, please reach out to one of the members of this team. Their phone numbers are listed here. Don't like to use the phone?



Just email the church inbox at ststephenofantioch@gmail.com and the email will get sent to the appropriate person. Want to help out? Contact Gloria Stevens at 630-234-4593.

WHAT IT MEANS

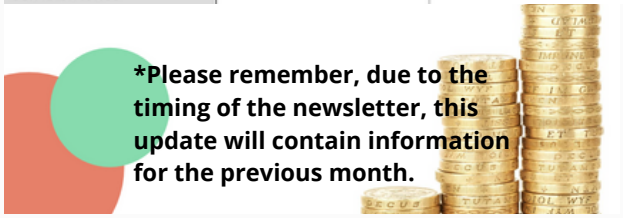
Have a story about how the Social Action Team has helped you? (Or members of St. Stephen acting in a similar fashion) Email the church office, and your (anonymous if desired) story can be shared to showcase how important this ministry is. Lets share our stories, share our experiences, and showcase what care, compassion, and Christ can do for those in a time of trial and emergency.

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

BY DONAL BARLOW

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.
In worship, we shared a "State of the Church" report, as well as sent an email out to the parish. We want to let you all know what is going on as we move forward:
1) **Worship**-- we have arranged for worship leadership by Pastor Baylor and VIcar Grafe through the end of September. Following Labor Day our worship time may change to 9:00 AM in response to feedback that we received in the survey. Check your newsletter, Facebook, and the website for further updates.
2) **Pastoral Care**-- Pastor Doug Liston from Joyful Harvest in Johnsburg will provide pastoral care for the congregation. Many of you may remember Pastor Doug as he did an internship here prior to his ordination when Pastor Ellen was with us. If you need Pastoral Care please contact Gloria Stevens (email: glorias6@sbcglobal.net or phone: (630)234-4593), or contact the church office (email: ststephenofantioch@gmail.com or phone: 847.395.3359)
3) **Next Steps** in Replacing Pastor-- Pastor Severson is our Synod liaison and is continuing to work with us to help us find an Interim Pastor. He has identified a candidate who could fit our needs who we will be contacting this week. As a council and congregation, we will need to complete a congregational profile. We will be asking you for your help with this. We will also be forming a Call Committee. We will keep you informed about this.
4) **Returning to In-Person Worship**--the Re-Opening Committee is continuing to meet. With the Worship Committee, we are looking at worshipping from the parking lot, and having the worship service originate from the sanctuary with just the leaders present. This will give us a chance to practice and work-out bugs prior to return to in-person worship. Our biggest concern and priority will be the safety of leaders and participants. We will continue to offer worship via Zoom/live stream.
5) **Office Staffing Changes-** Marley is no longer working for St. Stephen. She was pursuing full-time employment, and with Pastor Rebecca leaving it seemed like a time for a change. Erin Tetour is working for us in the office. She is working with Worship to prepare worship materials, and she is working on communication with the congregation through the weekly and monthly newsletter. She is working about 8 hours a week. We are glad that she is with us. The Personnel Committee is reviewing the job description and our needs.
6) **Property**-- we are having painting done on the exterior windows which includes stripping and reglazing of the windows. This will extend their life. We are considering doing some interior painting shortly so we will be looking for volunteers!
7) **Open Arms--** there are many people in our community who are food insecure who depend on Open Arms for food. Pre COVID we volunteered and served out neighbors on the third Thursday of each month. We have not been able to do this since March. The best way to support Open Arms is through money to help them to purchase food. We are gong to designate the third Sunday of each month as OPEN ARMS Sunday, and we encourage to add money designated to Open Arms to your offering. You can choose to give directly to Open Arms on their website too. We will report on how much money we as a congregation gives to Open Arms.
8) **Financial Report**-- we want to thank you all for your continued faithful giving to St. Stephen. This information will be in the Newsletter, but for 2020 from January 1--July 31 our giving in offerings has been $89, 211 which is about $2000 more than last year. Our expenses have increased by about $2000 compared with last year which is mostly due to salaries. We have

	July 2020	Year to Date
Tithes / Offerings (Operating Funds)	$14,013.67	$89,211.84
Operating Expenses	$13,864.26	$101,628.05
Funds Transferred to Reserve Funds	$600.00	$5,559.60
Mortgage Reduction	$415.00	$1,711.19



FROM THE COUNCIL- CONT.

only dipped into our "reserves" once this year while last year by this time we had done so twice. Weight Watchers, due to COVID, has not been using our building which represents a loss of income. Our financial situation is stable. We don't know what the future holds, but through you, God has provided. Please continue to give electronically, by mail, or by dropping off offerings at the church.

The church is you, God's people. We want to thank everyone who has continued to help the church function and be the church in the community.

Thank you all for your faithfulness during these strange times!

Thank you to those who make phone calls and check-in on our members.Thank you for sending cards and well wishes.Thank you for the sewers.Thank you for your prayers.Thank you for Mid-Week Connection Leaders and participants.Than you for the gardeners.Thank you for generous givers.Thank you for maintaining the building.Thank you for being good neighbors and advocating for the "least of our brothers."Thank you for all of you who live out your own faith in ways that we cannot know through acts of kindness, and courage.Thank you for worshipping in community regularly.Thank you for being good neighbors and wearing your mask.Thank you Council and Leadership for your work during these times-- John, David Mc., Vicky, Dennis, Sharon, Gloria, Linda, Lori, and Dave T.

If you have questions or concerns please reach out to any of us.

Peace--Donal Barlow

ZOOM!

WORSHIP TIMES ARE CHANGING

Starting September 13th- Worship time will be at 9:00 am!

We also will be transitioning to in-person worship! Starting September 20th, we will worship together in the parking lot, observing social distances. Our goal is to have limited seating INSIDE the church starting September 27th. More details will come. Be sure to read the upcoming Wednesday Weekly and the monthly newsletters for details.

GIVING

A QUICK HOW-TO

We thank everyone for the generosity you have displayed in caring for one another and your financial gifts to the church! Offering envelopes will continue to be mailed. If you have not received yours, or would like to get new ones, please call or email the church office and leave a message.

You can mail your offering to the church with your envelope. You can also give online through our secure link on our website here: www.saintstephenofantioch.org/e-giving .

You can do a one-time donation, or sign up for recurring giving.

MIDWEEK CONNCECTIONS

Are you feeling disconnected? Missing people from church? Wanting to connect to God's Word in more meaningful ways right now? Join us on Wednesdays by Zoom for a midweek connection with each other, our faith community, and with God's Word. We'll share with each about the highs and lows of this time, share discussion around Bible passages, and pray for one another. Look for a Zoom link in your email on Wednesdays for a 10am and 6:30pm connection! Please email Ardy Lange at bjorlange@yahoo.com with questions.

WISH LIST FOR A SAFE PLACE:

Full Size Toiletries
- Lotions
- Body Soap
- Ethnic hair care products
- Deodorant
- Hair brushes
- Perfume/Body Sprays
- Hair curling irons
- Hair straighteners
- New/Unused make-up
- Hair Dryers

Baby Items
- Diapers, especially sizes 5 and 6
- Baby powder and shampoo
- Toddler clothing
- Baby wipes
- Formula
- Bottles
- Sippy cups
- Diaper rash cream

General Items
- Microwaves
- Crockpots
- Toasters
- Coffee makers
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Paper plates
- Tissues

Home Items:
- Towels
- Extra long twin sheet sets
- Comforters
- NEW pillows
- Plates/dishes/eating utensils

Cleaning Items
- Bleach
- Lysol
- Dish soap
- Disinfectant
- Laundry pods
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Trash bags
- Garbage cans
- Brooms/ Mops/ Dust pan

GIFT CARDS (Any Amount)

VISA TARGET Walmart SALLY BEAUTY

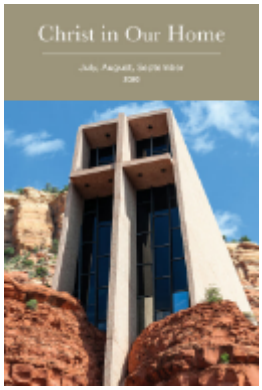
Donations that do not meet the standards and restrictions of A Safe Place will ***not be accepted.***
These include but are not limited to the following:

- Used clothing including bras and underwear, soiled, stained or ripped clothing or shoes
- Mattresses
- Used car seats
- Toys, stuffed animals
- Hotel or travel sized toiletries
- Open or expired food
- Torn, stained, soiled or heavily used linens
- Rusted, chipped, broken or soiled kitchen/ dinnerware
- Large tables and entertainment centers

Online Wish List : You may use the online order/ delivery service (www.domesticshelters.org/)

Christ in our Home: Email Edition

With the outbreaks of Coronavirus in North America and around the word, many people may be without a physical copy of *Christ in Our Home*. To assist with devotional life during this time, we are offering a limited time complementary email subscription. Sign up, and we will deliver the daily devotional to your email at 4am Central Time through September 20th. Visit our website today!
www.augsburgfortress.org/christ-in-our-home-emailsubscription

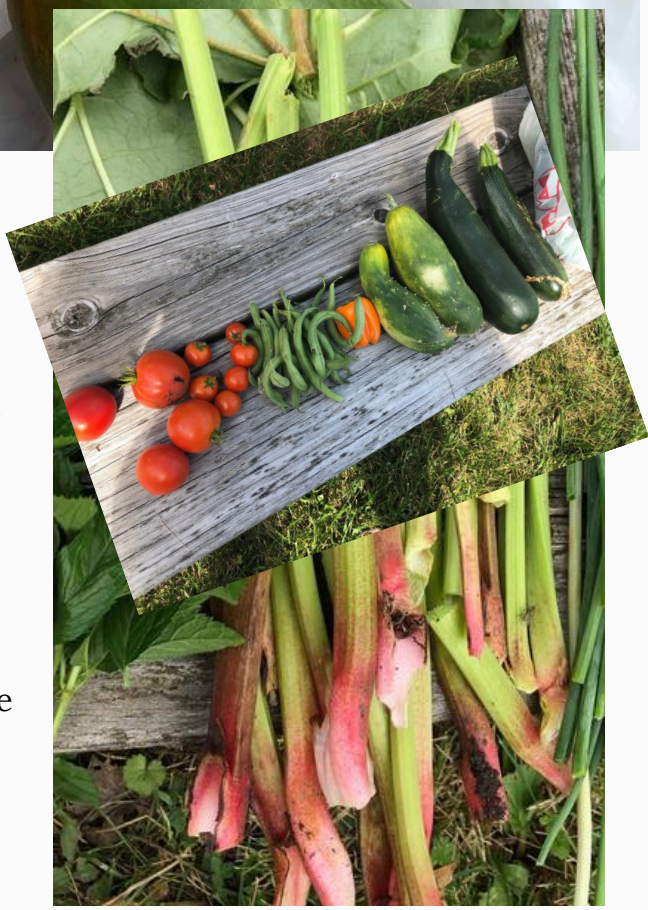


"How do I get my... Newsletter

Call or email the church office to get on the email list!

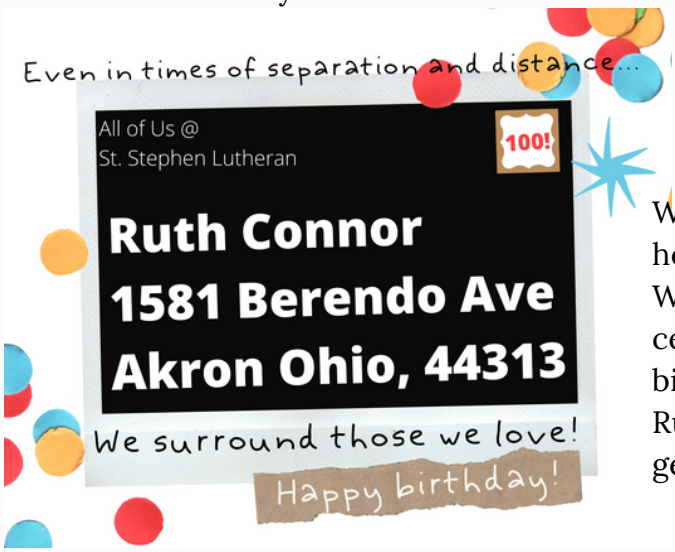
Newsletters are emailed to members before the 1st of the month. If we do not have a current or correct email for you, please let us know!

*Submissions are needed by the 20th of each month.



A GLEANERS GARDEN

Our church garden is producing and our gardeners are collecting the harvest for our neighbors in need. Our donations go locally to Open Arms Mission Food Pantry. Many thanks to our gardeners: Lisa Berg, Bobby Berg, Mary Geier, Ardy Lange, Donal Barlow, Chris Welninski, Melanie Fuhrman, Carl Fuhrmann, and Dave Telleen. However... We could use MORE help with watering, weeding and harvesting! The need for this garden has multiplied since first planted. With COVID hindering local families' abilities to fill their tables, our efforts here have become vital. Want to be a part of something special? Call Ardy Lange at 847-838-0674, or sign up online via the link in the email. We have LOTS of timeslots available for volunteers! Come help weed & water!! We need you!



HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY RUTH CONNOR!

Wendi McAlonan's mom - **Ruth-** is turning 100! Let's help Ruth Connor celebrate this amazing birthday! With COVID putting a damper on in-person celebrations, let's celebrate with a card shower! Send birthday cards directly to Ruth at the address left. Ruth's 100th birthday is the 20th of September. Let's get mailing!

Wellness Walks, August 2020
Thursdays at 8:00 am

You can see Lake County Forest Preserve maps online at www.lcfpd.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 Google search. LCFPD also has a smartphone app. Any of these walks may be shortened or cancelled if the weather poses a safety risk. During Phase 4, walkers are supposed to keep a social distance of 6 feet. This does make Fellowship more difficult, which has usually been our favorite part.

Please join us on the following dates / preserves:

September 3:

Hastings Lake, Lindenhurst. Entrance is on Gelden Road, SW of Grass Lake Rd or NE of Deep Lake Rd. Turn south into the preserve and park in the first parking area on the right. which is inside the one-mile loop. We will walk the one-mile loop plus the entrance to the loop, which is 1.2 miles total.

September 10:

Fourth Lake Forest Preserve, Lindenhurst. 19808 W. Grad Ave., Lake Villa. Entrance is at Operations and Public Safety Facility on Grand Ave, between Hwy 45 and Sand lake Rd. (Note - there is a lot of construction on Grand Ave if you approach from Hwy 83.) We will walk north along the Millennium Trail up to Sand Lake Rd, wave "hello" to Bonner Farm, and return. 1.6 miles total.

September 17:

Grand Woods North Forest Preserve, lake Villa: Entrance is on the South side of Rt 132 between Rt 59 and Fairfield Rds. 1.2 mile loop (west side), 1.4 miles total.

September 24:

McDonald Woods Forest Preserve: Entrance is located on the south side of Grass Lake Rd, just west of US Rt 45, east of Deep Lake Rd, and east of Beck Rd. We'll walk the western side of the McDonald Lake Trail Loop, to the bridge and back. 1.4 miles.

FOLLOW & LIKE!

St. Stephen online

We are online! Follow St. Stephen on Facebook and Instagram to keep up with all of the events, updates, and information for our congregation, building, council, and ministries! Want to be in the know? Like, follow, and share! @saintstephenofantioch

ON YOUR MARKS...

Sept 6 - 12, 2020

The 2020 Relay For Life will be a virtual event!! In the week leading up to the final date, there will be different videos of our event viewable every day. You can enjoy it from the comfort of your home. There will be a twillight Luminaria viewing, a slide show of Survivors and Angels, a silent auction, and much more. Proceeds raised by the Relay for Life benefit the American Cancer Society.

Lumiarias have been purchased for the following St. Stephen survivors and angels:

Be sure to Like the Facebook page for Relay For Life of Northern Lake County, and to donate online via credit card, please reach out to the team Reaching4ACure.
Thank you for supporting the American Cancer Society every year!

NEED HELP? DIAL 211

ABOUT 211 LAKE COUNTY

Lifeline's 2-1-1 help hotline is a **FREE and confidential** service that helps people in Lake County find the health and human service programs they need, 24/7, 7 days a week. Here is a list of services provided:

- **Basic Human Needs Services:** Food Banks, Shelter, Clothing, Financial aid, Utility Assistance
- **Physical and Mental Health Services:** Healthcare, Medicaid, Medicare, prenatal care, children's health insurance, crisis intervention, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol treatment, intervention/rehabilitation.
- **Older Adult Services:** Adult day care, Meals on Wheels, respite care, home health care, transportation, nutrition, senior centers.
- **Employment and Income Services:** Support, job training, job search, education, and public assistance.
- **Children, Youth, and Family Childcare Services:** After-school programs, family resource centers, camps & recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, protective services.
- **Volunteering:** Opportunities to volunteer and to donate
- **Community / Government:** Times, locations of city council meetings; information about community events, how to contact government offices and officals.
- **Events / Occurrences:** Updates about emergency situations (power outages and community-wide issues).

WANT TO DO MORE?

HOW TO HELP GLOBALLY

Check out the following outreach partners to donate time, money, and blood.

United Way

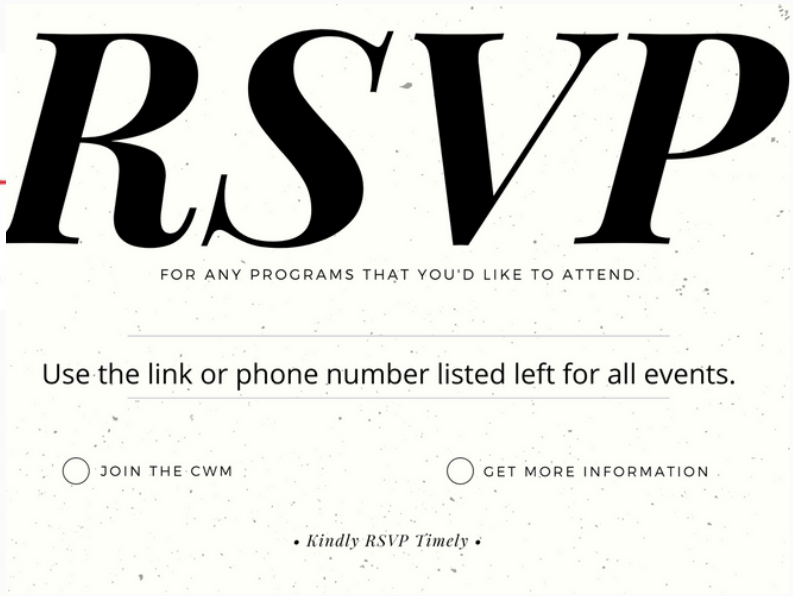
vitalant (Formerly Life Source)

Gurnee Donation Center
5250-1 Grand Ave
Gurnee, IL 60031

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

CWM
CHRISTIAN WELLNESS MINISTRY

The CATHOLIC CHARITIES
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Go-to Meeting site:
global.gotomeeting.com/join/261771629

Or by phone: 786-535-3211
Access code: 261-771-629

FALL 2020 EVENT LIST

- Wednesday Sept 2 @ 10 am – Explore Africam – Let's watch some live cams from around the world!
- Thursdays beginning Sept 3 @ 9:30 am – Chair Yoga
- Friday Sept 4 @ 1 pm – Virtual Book club – Read "Tagged for Death" by Sherry Harris before the meeting date and join in for a group discussion on the book.
- Wednesday Sept 16 @ 1 pm – Senior Wordsmith writers Group – Like to write and want to get feedback on your writing? Bring a piece of your work to share and receive feedback.
- Monday Sept 21 @ 2 pm – Leaf and Flower Pressing – Let's learn more about the techniques to pressing flowers and leaves.
- Tuesday Sept 22 @ 2 pm – Fall Prevention facts – It's Fall Prevention week and we'll be talking about facts about falling and ways to prevent falls
- Wednesday Sept 23 @ 10 am – Robberies, Holdups and Shootouts: True Crimes of Lake County
- Wednesday Sept 23 @ 2 pm – Fall Hazard Check List and Hazard Spotting Game
- Thursday Sept 24 @ 2 pm – Let's Talk With A Pharmacist – Let's talk with a pharmacist to hear the importance of managing our medications correctly and learn tips and things to ask at the pharmacy.
- Friday Sept 25 @ 2 pm – Cooking With Kari – Pumpkin Spice Latte