



## Martin Luther The Fearful Philosopher

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### Services

Sunday, October 6  
20th Sunday after Pentecost  
10:45 am

Sunday, October 13  
21st Sunday after Pentecost  
10:45 am

Sunday, October 20  
22nd Sunday after Pentecost  
10:45 am

Sunday, October 27  
23rd Sunday after Pentecost  
Reformation Sunday  
10:45 am

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## Reflections from Pastor Barry

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Dear Friends at St. Stephen's

October for us as Lutherans means that another Reformation Day is upon us. The last Sunday of October is our celebration of the day when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses- arguing against the current practices of the Roman Catholic Church of his day- on the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg.



Luther was born on November 10, 1483 and died on the 18th of February, 1546. He was a priest, theologian, author, hymnwriter, professor, and Augustinian Friar. He was also a husband and father. He was a faithful Roman Catholic as well as a declared heretic. Many agree that he was a central figure of the Protestant Reformation. Central to Luther's teaching was the understanding that salvation nor God's love could ever be earned, but rather both were simply and freely given by the grace of God.

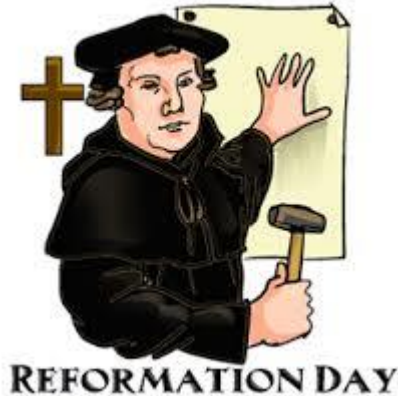
Martin Luther was also very much a man of his time and place. As a German, Luther sought to have his theological ideas as well as the scriptures conveyed in his native tongue. This was a radical idea for the day as all things religious were only in Latin. Luther was of a certain class and so his prejudices toward the poor were deep, siding with the German Princes against the peasants. Luther was also anti-semitic, again the result of an understanding of the world of his given time. Many of Luther's views would be used to continue such prejudices.

Still, the core understandings and teachings of Luther and his colleagues at the time shape our understanding of the faith to this day. Reformation is just that- looking at our history, our resources, the scriptures, our faith and making these things relevant for here and now, for this time and place. Reformation, that is re-forming is not something that is once and done but on-going. Yes, our God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow- but our God is also always doing a new thing! Paradox is also central to the way we as Lutherans can view the world and our lives- that holding together of seemingly opposing ideas in tension. That Jesus is both God and human is one of our core understandings.

St. Stephen's is always in the process of re-forming. How do we adapt for this current time? Our foundation is sure and although the world feels as if it is shifting beneath us, Jesus our Rock will always sustain and uphold us.

I hope you will join us in worship or for Bible Study or at Choir or the Crop Walk this month and share together in the great heritage that is ours!

Peace,  
Pastor Barry



# Voices of the Saints

**Henry Melchior Muhlenberg**– (Sept 6, 1711-Oct 7, 1787) was a German-born Lutheran clergyman and missionary, Born in Einbeck, Muhlenberg immigrated to the Province of

Pennsylvania in response to demands from Lutherans for missionary work in the colony. Muhlenberg was integral to the founding of the first Lutheran church body or denomination in North America, and is considered the patriarch of the Lutheran Church in the United States.

Muhlenberg and his wife Anna Marie had a large family , and they and their descendants had a significant impact on colonial life in North America as pastors, military officers, and politicians. He and Anna Maria's descendants continued to be active in Pennsylvania and national political life. Muhlenberg was minister and director of the orphanage at Groosshennersdorf from 1739 to 1741. In 1741 Gotthilf August Francke encouraged Muhlenberg to accept a call from German-speaking Lutherans in Pennsylvania . Accordingly, in 1742 Muhlenberg emigrated across the Atlantic Ocean, where he essentially organized the Lutheran Church as an institution in North America. On October 7 in the Calendar of Saints in worship books and hymnals such as the Lutheran Book of Worship, Lutheran Worship, Lutheran Service Book,, and in supplementary ecumenical common liturgies and lectionaries used by more Lutheran congregations in the United States and Canada. Muhlenberg College, an ELCA-affiliated institution in Allentown, PA is named in his honor. The "Muhlenberg Monument", named *Man of Vision* is located near the college is named in his honor. Henry Muhlenberg house was added to the National Register of Historic Places, maintained by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior. It is located in Trappe, Pennsylvania.



# Voices of the Saints

**Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone** (c. 1181 – 3 October 1226), known as **Francis of Assisi**, was an Italian mystic, poet, and Catholic friar who founded the religious order of the Franciscans. Inspired to lead a Christian life of poverty, he became a beggar and itinerant preacher.

One of the most venerated figures in Christianity, Francis was canonized by Pope Gregory IX on 16 July 1228. He is commonly portrayed wearing a brown habit with a rope tied around his waist, featuring three knots symbolizing the three Franciscan vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. In 1219, he went to Egypt in an attempt to convert the sultan al-Kamil and put an end to the conflict of the Fifth Crusade. In 1223, he arranged for the first live nativity scene as part of the annual Christmas celebration in Greccio. According to Christian tradition, in 1224 Francis received the stigmata during the apparition of a Seraphic angel in a religious ecstasy.

He founded the men's Order of Friars Minor, the women's Order of St. Clare, the Third Order of St. Francis and the Custody of the Holy Land. Once his community was authorized by Pope Innocent III, he withdrew increasingly from external affairs.

Francis is associated with patronage of animals and the environment. It became customary for churches to hold ceremonies blessing animals on his feast day of the fourth of October, which became World Animal Day. He was noted for his devotion to the Eucharist. Along with Catherine of Siena, he was designated patron saint of Italy. He is also the namesake of the city of San Francisco.



## CHURCH FINANCE PAGE

### Operating Fund Report

Below is comparison of Operating Fund through the first eight months of 2023 and 2024:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Operating Income 106,621	\$ 107,793	\$106,621
Operating Expenses	<u>(\$ 139,126)</u>	<u>(\$160,577)</u>
Net Difference	(\$ 31,333)	(\$ 53,956)
Preschool Income	<u>+\$ 91,749</u>	<u>+\$ 64,514</u>
Net Difference	+\$ 60,416	+\$ 10,558
Operating Fund Balance August 31	\$ 281,064	\$ 279,829
Property Maintenance Fund Balance	\$ 22,721	\$ 26,345

### Ways to Contribute to St Stephens

This is a reminder that there are several methods in which you can contribute to St. Stephens. We receive contributions in many ways as noted below.

**Direct Contributions** – Place your offering in the plate during the church service.

**Mail (USPS)** – Mail your contribution to the church office.

**Drop Off** – Drop off envelope at church office. There is also a basket inside the mail slot at the front entrance where you can drop your envelope.

**Paypal** – There is a link on the church website to Paypal.

**Simply Giving** – Members can sign up to have contributions taken from a bank account or other fund on a monthly or semi-monthly basis. If interested, see Tom Hartzell or call the church office and leave a message for Tom.

**Retirement Plan Distribution** – Several members contribute direct from their retirement plan on an annual basis.

## Summer Contributions / Upcoming Projects

Contributions received during the summer months were quite low when compared to the remainder of the year. If you have not made a recent contribution of record, please consider making a contribution within the next month. Ideally, we would like to see you in church on a Sunday morning, but you can also contribute in one of the manners noted above.

The Property Committee will be overseeing the installation of a new smoke detector system in the nave over the next 30-60 days. The money to pay for this project will come from the Property Maintenance Fund. Please consider making an extra monetary contribution using the Property Maintenance envelope in your packet.

Additional projects on the horizon include lighting repairs in the nave, chimney repairs, and repairs to the slate roof. In addition, the flat roofs on the north and south ends of the building will need to be replaced. As our beautiful building ages, maintenance will continue to be needed.

# Worship

Installation of Sunday School teachers  
Preschool teachers



# Fellowship

Luncheon after Sept 8 service



# Social Ministry

God's work our hands





# October Happenings

**Oct 5** Doors open at 11:30pm  
Games begin at 1:00pm



**Oct 6– 2-3pm** Blessing of Animals..  
Here at St Stephen's, you are invited to bring your pets, pictures of your pets or even just their names, along with your own list of God's creatures in need of our care. We will remember the many species that go extinct every year as our climate and the ecology of our planet are ever changing. There will be brief liturgy with prayers followed by the blessing



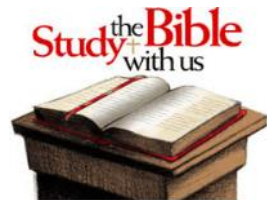
**Oct 13– Crop Walk**, Registration begins at 1pm and the walk begins at 1:30 pm on Sand Island. Here is the link to join the



<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/st-stephens-evangelical-lutheran-church>

**Oct 10,17,24 and 31 Thursday at 9:30 Bible Study**

We will be looking at four passages that define our understanding of Jesus. What passages or stories come to mind when you think about Jesus? What scripture has helped you form an image of Jesus? Pastor Barry will be looking at four such stories from the Gospel over the weeks in October. Please come join us!



# Welcome in Baptism

James David Kern on Sept 15  
Parents: Alexander and Ryan Kern



Kathy Bielinski  
Pat Hartzell  
Francine Heft  
Rose Mavis

## Birthdays for October

1-Jean Antry  
1-Eugene Heft  
6-Kenneth Mitman  
7-Evan Reese  
12-Charles Emery  
14-Janet Hosfeld  
17-Harry Hartzell  
18-Kevin Blose  
18-Kevin Meister  
20-David Miller  
21-Amanda Baughman  
23-Conrad Lentz  
24-Marjorie Carpenter  
25-Isaias Simons



## Anniversaries for October

7-John & Michelle Hoysan  
15-Reinhold & Maureen Radke  
18-Joseph & Diane Bozzelli  
24-Richard & Lisa Levick  
25-Dennis & Holly Gambler










# October 2024

St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Worship Service Assistants

## Altar Care: Jenniah Herb

Worship Service					
October 6 10:45am	TBD	Ron & Mary Jo Reed, Brody Zuber	Ron Reed	Ron & Mary Jo Reed	Sandy Beahm
October 13 10:45 am	Brody Zuber	TBD	TBD	Bill and Kym Ohmacht	Social Ministry
October 20 10:45 am	TBD	Ron & Mary Jo Reed	TBD	Ron & Mary Jo Reed	TBD
October 27 10:45 am	Maddie Zuber	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Barry J. Harte  
Secretary: Christine Baylor

Organist: John Phillips Jr  
Sexton: Shawn Barger

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Suzanne Bachman	610-974-9024	suzbach756@aol.com
Kim Bluder– VP	610-888-0365	kimberlybluder@gmail.com
Pam Hartzell	610-865-2648	psh726@verizon.net
Frank Herb	484-747-5320	jlherb52@gmail.com
Denise Lopez– President	610-462-1278	dlopez76@ptd.net
Mary Jo Reed	610-867-6276	reed2x@ptd.net
Linda Reese	610-861-5221	the-reeses@rcn.com
Herb Shellenberger	610-393-0441	hgshell@aol.com
Craig Spangenberg	484-767-3384	jlsparenberg@juno.com
Todd Siegfried	610-392-8940	jtsiegfried@msn.com

## CHURCH COMMITTEES

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Suzanne Bachman (Chair), Bonnie Gerber, Michelle Hoysan, Carla Perry, Bev Carson.

### EVANGELISM

Suzanne Bachman, Bonnie Gerber, Pat Handlovic, Dennise Lopez (Chair), Joan Neff

### FINANCE

Kim Bluder, Tom Hartzell (Chair, Treasurer), Mike Hosfeld, Michelle Hoysan, George Klose, Charles Miller, Ron Reed, Barbara Seifert-Sigmon, Mary Jo Reed

### PROPERTY

Ed Acevedo, Dwayne Gaumer, Pam Hartzell (Chair), Linda Reese, Todd Siegfried, Craig Spangenberg, Joann Spangenberg, Herb Shellenberg

### SHARED MINISTRY

Kathy Bielinski, Bonnie Gerber, Todd Siegfried, Lauren Morton

### SOCIAL MINISTRY

Suzanne Bachman, Kathy Bielinski, Kim Bluder, Bonnie Gerber, Pat Handlovic, Jeanine Siegfried, Joan Neff, Susan Vitez, Linda Reese

### WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sandra Beahm, Kathy Bielinski, Cheryl Hosfeld (Co-Chair), Mike Hosfeld, John Phillips Jr (Co-Chair), Evan Reese, Linda Reese, Mary Jo Reed, Jeanine Siegfried.