

# THE VOICE

of St. Stephen's

April 2026 Volume 156 Issue 4



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## Services

**Maundy Thursday**  
Thursday, April 2  
7pm

**Good Friday**  
Friday, April 3  
7pm

**Sunday, April 5**  
Easter  
10:45am

**Sunday, April 12**  
Second Sunday of Easter  
Special Music  
10:45am

**Sunday, April 19**  
Third Sunday of Easter  
10:45am

**Sunday, April 26**  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
10:45am

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Happy Easter!

On the cover of this newsletter is an ancient depiction of the women bearing myrrh to anoint the body of Jesus. The Myrrh Bearers is a common theme in iconography. The ritual was equally ancient. After death, a body was wrapped in linen cloths and laid in a tomb. For three days- usually the women- would attend to the body to lovingly care for the deceased that the body might be spared from the effects of death for at a least a few days. The effects of death, however, always worked its way. The women who went to anoint Jesus had to wait until the Sabbath was over as no work is allowed on that day. These women go to the tomb as soon as they are able and were then the first to witness this sign of resurrection - the absence of the dead body of Jesus. Depending on the Gospel narrative, the women encounter the risen Jesus and speak with him, even holding onto his feet.

It is in the performing of the ritual these women have the encounter at all. Ritual is essential in my most humble opinion for us as humans. Every human society has its rituals. Rituals mark are daily lives. Rituals may be as ordinary as a morning routine: we rise, brush our teeth, wash our face, make a cup of coffee, walk the dog, tell someone important in our lives, "I love you." Rituals are those parts of our lives that we ordinarily repeat and, in that repetition, define our lives. In doing those rituals we are often surprised and affirmed and even changed. In doing ritual, our divisions and disagreements are set aside. Rituals can be incredibly complex or ever so simple.

Week in and week in out, we gather at St. Stephen's for the rituals of our liturgy. Some days it is hard to get out of bed at all. Some days we participate and are not sure there is any meaning for us. Some days we are incredibly moved and our faith affirmed. It is the ritual that gives those days continuity. Without the ritual, I am not so sure we would feel anything at all, let alone have meaning or question that meaning. Ritual gives us the framework to live and grow and question and learn and believe and even love. Ritual takes practice!

## Reflections from Pastor Barry– Continue

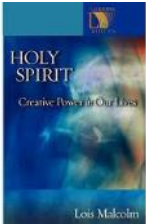
It is in the ritual for the mourning of the dead, that these women, early on that first Easter morn, discover what real life, resurrection life, is all about.

I pray that you all have a wonderful and meaningful Easter. May this Easter be a day to again discover life, real resurrection life, life filled with hope and purpose and love.

Happy Easter,  
Pastor Barry

### BOOK STUDY

The Holy Spirit, Creative Power in Lives is a short work by Dr. Lois Malcolm. The book will be the basis for our conversations around the power of God's Spirit in our lives and world. Reading the text is not necessary. A list of scripture for each week will be available for those interested in the study. Please let Chris in the office know if you are interested. Please join Pastor Barry in the study on the following Thursdays at 4:00 pm: April 23, April 30, May 7, May 14 and May 21.



Come Holy Spirit is the prayer the first Christians prayed in earnest.

### BIBLE STUDY

There is a Bible Study on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in the Pastor's Study. We will be looking at Jesus's appearance on the road to Emmaus from Luke's Gospel.

Watch for the next Thursday morning series on May 14<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> June 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> .

# Voices of the Saints



**Benedict the Moor** Benedict’s parents were slaves. They were freed just before his birth. Benedict knew only poverty. Illiterate, he was destined for the life of a shepherd. Tradition has it that Benedict would give away any of his meager wages to the poor.

Early in his life he joined a group of hermits around Palermo. These hermits followed the **Rule of Saint Francis**, Benedict began as a cook but was eventually master and then guardian of the friars in Palermo—positions rarely held in those days by a brother. In fact, Benedict was forced to accept his election as guardian. And when his term ended, he happily returned to his work in the friary kitchen. Benedict corrected the friars with humility and charity. Once he corrected a novice and assigned him a penance only to learn that the novice was not the guilty party. Benedict immediately knelt down before the novice and asked his pardon.

In later life, Benedict was not possessive of the few things he used. He never referred to them as “mine,” but always called them “ours.” His gifts for prayer and the guidance of souls earned him throughout Sicily a reputation for holiness. Following the example of Saint Francis, Benedict kept seven 40-day fasts throughout the year; he also slept only a few hours each night. After Benedict’s death, King Philip III of Spain paid for a special tomb for this holy friar. Canonized in 1807, he is honored as a patron saint by African Americans. The liturgical feast of Saint Benedict the African is celebrated on April 4.

# Voices of the Saints



**Anselm of Canterbury** Anselm was born in 1033 in Aosta, Italy. He left home at twenty-three, and after three years of apparently aimless traveling through Burgundy and France, he came to Normandy in 1059. It was in Normandy that Anselm's interest was captured by the Benedictine ab-

bey at Bec, whose famous school was under the direction of Lanfranc, the abbey's prior. Lanfranc was a scholar and teacher of wide reputation, and under his leadership the school at Bec had become an important center of learning, especially in dialectic. In 1060 Anselm entered the abbey as a novice. His intellectual and spiritual gifts brought him rapid advancement, and when Lanfranc was appointed abbot of Caen in 1063, Anselm was elected to succeed him as prior. Under Anselm's leadership the reputation of Bec as an intellectual center grew, and Anselm managed to write about philosophy and theology in addition to his teaching, administrative duties, and extensive correspondence as an adviser and counselor to rulers and nobles all over Europe and beyond.

In 1093 Anselm was made Archbishop of Canterbury. As Archbishop of Canterbury, he defended the church's interests in England amid the Investiture Controversy. For his resistance to the English kings William II and Henry I, he was exiled twice: once from 1097 to 1100 and then from 1105 to 1107. While in exile, he helped guide the Greek Catholic bishops of southern Italy to adopt Roman Rites at the Council of Bari. He worked for the primacy of Canterbury over the Archbishop of York and over the bishops of Wales, and at his death he appeared to have been successful; however, Pope Paschal II later reversed the papal decisions on the matter and restored York's earlier status.

After his death, Anselm was canonized as a saint; his feast day is April 21. He was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by a papal bull of Pope Clement XI in 1720.

# Social Ministry Corner



Since we are no longer collecting school supplies for Kenya, the Social Ministry Committee is focusing on supporting a nonprofit partner of KHCI, Days for Girls International (DfG). Their mission is to eradicate period poverty, defined as the struggle women and girls face due to lack of access to adequate menstrual health management supplies and education. Since its inception in 2008, DfG has impacted more than 3.5 million people in over 145 countries.

Days for Girls works with local leaders to establish sustainable businesses that produce and sell DfG Kits. These kits include washable, reusable pads, a long-lasting, sustainable solution for managing periods.

The Social Ministry Committee is collecting underwear, one of the items included in these kits. In order to ensure the underwear meets cultural requirements, we're requesting monetary donations that we will use to buy suitable underwear at a reasonable price (~\$10/pack).



Donations can be placed in your weekly offering envelope; be sure to indicate on the envelope the amount of your offering to be used towards Days for Girls. Alternately, you can place your donation in one of the envelopes located in the narthex which are specific to Days for Girls. For more information on Days for Girls, please visit <https://www.daysforgirls.org/>.

# Social Ministry Corner

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday April 19** – Social Ministry Meeting following the worship service. Come see what fellow members of St. Stephen’s are doing to support those in our local, national and global communities.



## Ongoing Needs



We continue to collect items year-round in support of Operation Christmas Child (OCC) and the West End Food Bank. There is a donation bin and shopping cart in the Narthex where you can place donated items.

**Operation Christmas Child**– Collecting toys, clothing, school supplies, combs/brushes, toothbrushes and stuffed animals that are small enough to fit in a shoebox.



**We are collecting breakfast bars for a local elementary school.  
We will have a bin in the Narthex**

# Finance Page

## Operating Fund Report

Below is comparison of Operating Fund for first two months of 2025 and 2026:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
Operating Income	\$ 39,599	\$30,297
Operating Expenses	<u>-\$ 41,286</u>	<u>-\$ 42,385</u>
Net Difference	- \$ 1,687	-\$ 12,088

Note: In 2025, we received \$9,395 in contributions for the roof replacement in January and February. If roof contributions are removed, the 2025 income was \$30,204, almost exactly the same as last year.

Weather has been an issue impacting church attendance and contributions to date in 2026. Please be sure to catch up with any contributions missed due to inclement weather. Unfortunately, the church has needed to pay more snow removal costs and heating costs this year due to the harshness of the winter.

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### THRIVENT CHOICE – March 31 Deadline

Many members and friends of St. Stephen's direct their Thrivent Choice dollars to St. Stephen's.

**If you are a Thrivent policyholder and have accumulated Choice dollars for 2025, you must direct these dollars by March 31, or lose the opportunity for your 2025 dollars.** If you have directed your Choice dollars to St. Stephen's in the past, please check the Thrivent website or call your local representative to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars to St. Stephen's.

If you know anyone that may be a Thrivent policyholder (whether a church member or not), please remind them of the deadline and ask them to support St. Stephen's. The church has received in excess of \$2,000 from Thrivent policyholders in recent years.

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Kathy Bielinski  
Kym Ohmacht  
Helene Longacre  
Gordon Maule

Lisa Levick  
Eleanor Harte  
Debra Perry  
Lisa Todd

## **Birthdays for April**

**2-Jenna Hoysan**  
**3-Lynette Meister**  
**5-Cole Flatley**  
**6-Donna Copenhaver**  
**7-Donna Talaber**  
**9-Michelle Keen**  
**9-Joan Neff**  
**10-Travis Beahm**  
**12-Maureen Radke**  
**13-Kathy Bielinski**  
**14-Anyla Hanley**  
**14-Janelle Perry**  
**15-Brenda Lambert**  
**15-Tom Lambert**  
**19-Michael Hosfeld**  
**21-Jennifer Zarzecki**  
**22-Marian Kordopatis**  
**24-Carla Perry**  
**30-Frank Eckley**



## **Anniversaries for April**

**21-Dwayne & Jamie Gaumer**



## Easter Schedule

**Maundy Thursday**  
**Thursday, April 2**  
**7pm**

**Good Friday**  
**Friday, April 3**  
**7pm**

**Easter Breakfast**  
**Sunday, April 5**  
**9am**

**Easter Service**  
**Sunday, April 5**  
**10:45am**



**Come join us for Fellowship on**  
**Thursday, April 16**  
**at 9:30am**  
**at 418 3rd Ave**  
**Bethlehem, Pa 18018**








*St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran  
Church*



*Worship Service Assistants*

April 2026

Altar Care: Jeanine Siegfried

Worship Service					
Maundy Thursday April 2 7pm	open	Scott Albanese	open	open	no Fellowship
Good Friday April 3 7pm	open	Scott Albanese	open	open	No Fellowship
April 5 10:45 am Easter	Noah Yonney	Suzanne Bachman	Todd Siegfried	Ron & Mary Jo Reed	Easter Breakfast
April 12 10:45 am	open	Scott Albanese Todd Siegfried	Jeanine Siegfried	open	open
April 19 10:45 am	open	Scott Albanese Jeanine Siegfried	open	open	open
April 26 10:45 am	Jackson Raab	Ron & Mary Jo Reed Klim Bluder	Kim Bluder	Ron & Mary Jo Reed	open

## CHURCH STAFF

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

Organist: John Phillips Jr  
Sexton: Shawn Barger

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Suzanne Bachman	610-428-7021	suzbach756@aol.com
Kim Bluder– VP	610-888-0365	kimberlybluder@gmail.com
Pam Hartzell	610-865-2648	psh726@verizon.net
Rich Israel	484-894-3345	rwisrael@outlook.com
Denise Lopez– President	610-462-1278	dlopez76@ptd.net
Mary Jo Reed-Secretary	610-867-6276	reed2x@ptd.net
Linda Reese	610-704-9444	the-reeses@rcn.com
Craig Spangenberg	484-767-3384	jlsparenberg@juno.com
Todd Siegfried	610-392-8940	jtsiegfried@msn.com

## CHURCH COMMITTEES

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

### EVANGELISM

Suzanne Bachman, 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  
Shellenberger

### SHARED MINISTRY

Todd Siegfried, Lauren Morton , Mike Hosfeld (chair)

### SOCIAL MINISTRY

Suzanne Bachman, Kathy Bielinski, Kim Bluder, Pat Handlovic  
Jeanine Siegfried, Joan Neff, 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.