

THE VOICE

of St. Stephen's

May 2024 Volume 133 Issue 5



The Day of Pentecost has Come!

*Image from the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity,
New York*

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Services

Sunday, May 5
Sixth Sunday of Easter
10:45 am
Sunday, May 12
Seventh Sunday if Easter
Mother's Day
10:45 am
Sunday, May 19
Pentecost./ Annual Mtg
10:45 am
Sunday, May 26
The Holy Trinity
10:45 am

Reflections from Pastor Barry



A voice is a rather funny thing- do you remember when you first heard your voice recorded? “That can’t possibly be me!” We each have our own cadence in the delivery of our words. We have a particular inflection and yes we have an accent- oh, you are from the Lehigh Valley or perhaps we are better at recognizing when someone is not from here!

Tongues of fire fell upon the believers on the Day of Pentecost that folks in this body of Christ might use their voice- or better still find their voice- to proclaim the good deeds of Christ. Yes, that is to tell the story of Jesus’ love for us but even more use the voice of Jesus as your own. We, in the body of Christ speak words of forgiveness and acceptance and understanding. We engage in the hard conversations because that is how we move forward and grow in our own understanding and our faith in our daily lives. (I have found Jim Wallis’ book [The False White Gospel](#) to be one that asks the hard questions that seem relevant for today- whether I agree or not- but an important conversation for us here and now.)

The Voice of St. Stephen’s has long been the Newsletter of our Church. This edition is a fresh attempt to update that publication. Among the tools to let people know about us- and to keep us all informed- the newsletter is tried and true. We- in the office- your staff- need your input and information and photos and comments, your art and your poetry and your stories about the faith- honest! Help us to have a clear voice in communicating who we are and what we are about. We want a publication that you want to read and then share!

In this issue you will see the voice of an artist on our cover, hear the words of the voices of our past traditions, hear the words of favorite hymn out of the Moravian tradition- google the words to hear the tune. Voices that over the course of time have pointed us to the Way of Jesus.

We most certainly want your voice to be heard in our parish survey. I know I teased you back in February that the survey was coming. It is here and we be distributed in May. One survey per confirmed member- regular visitors are encouraged to fill one out as well. Please sign your copy so we know that all have participated. Thank you in advance!

The Holy Spirit is at work here. The Holy Spirit gives us our voice, the words to say and the strength to say those words. *Come Holy Spirit* we pray and the Spirit does comes. The Spirit calls, gathers and enlightens us with her gifts. May this Spirit give us the voice of love.

Blessed Pentecost,

Pastor Barry



When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each other them.

Acts 2

THE VOICE OF MARTIN LUTHER:

From the Small Catechism



The Third Article of the Apostles'

Creed: On Being Made Holy

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

What does this mean?

I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.



A VOICE FROM THE CHURCH OF THE PAST:

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416. Her life is commemorated on our calendar on Wednesday, May 8.

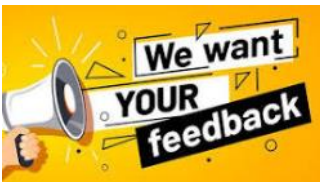
When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book,

Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

A prayer of Julian of Norwich

In you, Father all-mighty, we have our preservation and our bliss. In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving. You are our mother, brother, and savior. In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and plenteous grace. You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us. You are our maker, our lover, our keeper. Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. Amen.

Easter Service and Breakfast Sunday, March 31, 2024



Start Sunday, May 5, there will be a survey that we would like you to fill out. Please come and join us for worship and fill out the survey about the direction you want for our church. Every confirmed member will need to fill out this survey. The survey will be in the Narthex, please take one and fill out and return back to the church.



May 19, 2024



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!

May Play Day & Work Day: Saturday, May 4 at 9:00am - Work Day 11:00 am Play Day

Play Day is a good day to check out the camp's ministries and sites through games, lunch, hikes and more. If you have some time to help camp prepare for summer ministries, this is the day to join the fun! For questions, email cccamp@bearcreekcamp.org or call 570-472-3741. RSVP at bearcreekcamp.org/mayplayday

Congregation Retreat; May May 10-12

On Friday through Sunday, May 10-12, 2024, the members of St Stephen's will be participating in a worship retreat. We will be holding classes, boating on the lake, participating in a bonfire and worship services

This year the ELCA is celebrating 50 years of working to alleviate World Hunger. During the retreat at Bear Creek in 2 weeks we will be talking about hunger and ways we can help with this problem. The youth will choose a goal to strive for in relation to helping alleviate world hunger and supporting the ELCA in their work and celebrate.

Following the retreat any youth that are interested and available can assist with baking Hungry Children Cookies on Saturday, May 25th and selling those cookies to congregation members on Sunday, May 26th. Please join us that day and help celebrate with the ELCA. Thank you.

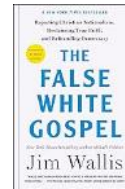
Bible Study:

May 2, 16, 23, 30
9:30 am - 10:30 am
Books of Acts



Book Study:

The False White Gospel
by Jim Wallis



Jim Wallis is a noted author and theologian who writes about the faith in the public square. How does our Christian faith intersect with our daily lives? This is the question before us. As Disciples of Jesus, if we are followers of the Way, it is a question that is impossible for us to avoid. Wallis provides some insight and direction for a good conversation. **Please join Pastor Barry on May 23rd at 7:00 pm in the Pastor's Study here at St Stephen's to discuss the book. Reading it is not required of course. Please come join us.**

Adult Formation Class

The Adult Sunday School class has been studying the Old Testament with the guidance of a book entitled 365 Devotions from Genesis through Revelations, Encountering God's Heart for you by Diane Stortz



Vacation Bible School:

Camp Firelight
July 8-12 9am –noon
Ages 4-12
Registration Deadline: June 7



CHURCH FINANCE PAGE

Operating Fund Report

Below is comparison of Operating Fund through the end of first quarter 2023 and 2024:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Operating Income	\$ 43,342	\$ 47,252
Operating Expenses	(\$ 58,005)	(\$ 45,014)
Net Difference	-\$ 14,663)	+\$ 2,238
Operating Fund Balance March 31	\$ 218,776	\$ 258,519
Property Maintenance Fund Balance	\$ 20,890	\$ 24,670

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 message for Tom.

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

Geranium Order Form

Pentecost Sunday

May 19th

Order due by:
Wednesday May 8, 2024

If you would like to order geraniums to help beautify our nave for Pentecost Sunday please fill out the form below. Return the form and payment to the church by Wednesday May 8th. Please fill out a separate form for each plant that you would like to sponsor.

For the dedication in the bulletin...

Dedicated BY _____

_____ In MEMORY of _____ In HONOR of

Dedicated TO: _____



Welcome in Baptism
Kayleigh Margaret Prentice on April 14
Parents: Edward and Megan Prentice
Godparents: Amanda Fooks and Billy Milburn



Prayers for our Sick
Kathy Bielinski

Birthdays for May

1- Jenna Hoysan	22- Christine Baylor
3-Mark Zarzecki	24- Cynthia Williams
4-Craig Israel	25- Alyssa Ehret
5-Mason Castro	26- Garrett Carson
12-Emily Walker	27- Eleanor Harte
13-Sandra Weitknecht	28- Diana Arnold
14-Clarie Larkin	29- Betty Jaxheimer
15-Brig Seitzinger	30- Michelle Hoysan
17-John Phillips III	31- Rose Zuber
18- Kenneth Whaite	
21-Marianne Hamel	
21-Allyson Zarzecki	



Anniversaries for May

5-Thomas & Haley Flatley
8-Frank & Jenniah Herb
11-Tom & Brenda Lambert
12- Ed & Sandy Acevedo
13- Alan & Sandy Beahm
15-Frank & Debra Nemia










May 2024

St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Worship Service Assistants

Altar Care: Sandy Beahm

Worship Service					
May 5 10:45 am		Ron & Marry Jo Reed, Brody Zuber	Ron Reed	Ron & Mary Jo Reed	Jeanine Siegfried and Linda Reese
May 12 10:45 am		Bonnie Gerber, Pam Frantz			Rose Zuber
May 19 10:45 am	Brody Zuber	Ron Hari	Ed Acevedo		
May 26 10:45 am	Maddie Zuber	Brody Zuber	Ron Hari	Sharon Wagner	Ed & Sandy Acevedo

Deadline for Newsletter 25th of the month prior to publication

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— Secretary	610-888-0365	kimberlybluer@gmail.com
Bonnie Gerber	610-745-0216	blg1121@yahoo.com
Pat Handlovic	610-691-0698	phandlovic@gmail.com
Pam Hartzell	610-865-2648	psh726@verizon.net
Michelle Hoysan	610-867-4709	mhoysan@ptd.net
Denise Lopez— Vice President	610-462-1278	dlopez76@ptd.net
Linda Reese	610-861-5221	the-reeses@rcn.com
Herb Shellenberger	610-393-0441	hgshell@aol.com
Jeanine Siegfried—President	610-882-9397	jtsiegfried@msn.com
Craig Spangenberg	484-767-3384	jlsparenberg@juno.com

CHURCH COMMITTEES

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

EVANGELISM

Suzanne Bachman, Tracey Beam, Bonnie Gerber, Pat Handlovic (Chair), Denise Lopez

FINANCE

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

PROPERTY

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

SHARED MINISTRY

Kathy Bielinski, Bonnie Gerber, Mike Hosfeld (Chair), Charles Miller, Todd Siegfried

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Suzanne Bachman, Kathy Bielinski, Kim Bluder, Bonnie Gerber, Pat Handlovic, Claire Larkin, Jeanine Siegfried, Sandra Weitknecht, Shirley Zeleski, Linda Reese

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sandra Beahm, Kathy Bielinski, Cheryl Hosfeld (Co-Chair), Mike Hosfeld, John Phillips Jr (Co-Chair), Evan Reese, Linda Reese

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