

# THE VOICE

*of St. Stephen's*

October 2025 Volume 150 Issue 10



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## Services

|                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday October 5</b>            |
| <b>17th Sunday after Pentecost</b> |
| <b>10:45 am</b>                    |
| <b>Sunday, October 12</b>          |
| <b>18th Sunday after Pentecost</b> |
| <b>10:45 am</b>                    |
| <b>Sunday, October 19</b>          |
| <b>19th Sunday after Pentecost</b> |
| <b>10:45 am</b>                    |
| <b>Sunday, October 26</b>          |
| <b>20th Sunday after Pentecost</b> |
| <b>Reformation Sunday</b>          |
| <b>10:45 am</b>                    |

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## Reflections from Pastor Barry

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Dear Friends at St Stephen's,

October is upon us. I am sure I have said this before and will say it again, time goes too quickly these days. Fall is here. St. Stephen's is well into our fall activities and summer seems long ago already. The CROP Walk is upon us. Confirmation and Sunday School are a few weeks into the session. Choir and the Hand Bells are back in the swing of things. Folks are gathering for Bible Study in the Pastor's office. Come and join in!



October is also the month when we remember that we are an immigrant people who live on lands that were once occupied by the Lenni - Lenape. Our Synod states on many of its documents the following: *The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA acknowledges and honors the Lenni-Lenape, Munsee-Lenape, and Susquehannock Peoples who were forcibly removed from this area, and upon whose ancestral homelands we gather. With gratitude to God, we honor the land itself, as well as all our Indigenous siblings who have and who continue to care for this land and call it their home.* One of the books that some of us have read here at St. Stephen's was Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Kimmerer, a biologist, seeks to recapture her own heritage in this important work. I still recommend it!

On the cover of our newsletter this month is indeed some braided sweetgrass. According to the Pauite Indian Tribe of Utah: *Sweetgrass is symbolic. There are 21 strands used to make a braid. The first 7 strands represent those 7 generations behind us including: Our parents, our grandparents, our great-grand parents, and so on. Who we are and what we are is because of them. Sweetgrass helps us remember to heal and reconnect with our ancestors. The next 7 strands represent the 7 sacred teachings: Love, Respect, Honesty, Courage, Wisdom, Truth, and Humility. Though simple, these are powerful and beautiful teachings we can all learn. Sweetgrass reminds us to incorporate these teachings into our daily lives. The last 7 strands are those of the 7 generations in front of us: Our children, our grandchildren, our great-grand children and so on. Everything we do will one day affect them. Sweetgrass reminds us of our legacy we create each day.*

## Reflections from Pastor Barry– Continue

It seems to me that Jesus looked to nature and his surroundings throughout his teachings as in *consider the lilies of the field or look to the sparrows*. The Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley in his book *Becoming Rooted* reminds us as a people who follow Jesus, we are to remember that this earth we call home is of God's own creating and therefore sacred. Another book recommendation for you!

I hope you are able to be outside these fall days and enjoy this time of transition. Perhaps you will join us for the CROP walk on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Here at St. Stephen's on Sunday, October 12, we will celebrate this place at our liturgy and remember that we are on borrowed land. God has created us and all things. I am grateful to call this place home and pray that I remember that I am only a guest here for a short time and to take great care with this gift we have all been given.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Barry

# Voices of the Saints

**Theodor Fliedner** (January 21, 1800 – October 4, 1864) was a German Lutheran minister who founded in 1836, who founded Kaiserswerther Diakonie, a hospital and deaconess training center. Fliedner was born in Eppstein in Hesse, Germany. He was the son of a Lutheran minister, and studied theology at the University of Giessen and the University of Göttingen as well as at Herborn Academy. In 1821 he assumed the pastorate in the poor municipality of Kaiserswerth. When the town could no longer support the church and ministry due to an economic crisis, he undertook journeys to collect donations. Beginning in Westphalia, these travels also took him to the Netherlands and England.



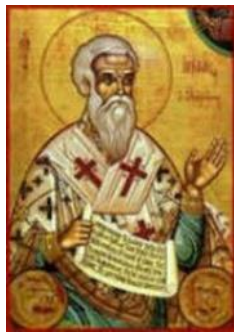
In the Netherlands he became acquainted with the ancient church office of deaconess while spending time among the Moravian Church. He returned home not only with a large financial collection for his municipality but also with new ideas about social work among the disadvantaged. He began by working among inmates at the Düsseldorf Prison, preaching the Gospel and ministering their spiritual and physical needs. He realized that the first step must be toward looking after the prisoners on their release, and accordingly, in 1833, he opened at Kaiserswerth a refuge for discharged female convicts. To better support and teach Kaiserwerth's children, he founded a school in 1835 which became the venue for a women teachers' seminar.

Fliedner developed a plan whereby young women would find and care for the needy and sick. Deaconesses took vows to care for their poor and sick charges, but they could leave their work and return to outside life if they so choosed. He also opened an infants' school and one for their teachers, a girls' orphanage, and a women's asylum.

By the time of his death in 1864, there were 30 motherhouses and 1,600 deaconesses worldwide. By the middle of the 20th century, there were over 35,000 deaconesses serving in parishes, schools, hospitals, and prisons throughout the world. He is commemorated as a renewer of society in the Calendar of Saints of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on October 4.

# Voices of the Saints

**Ignatius of Antioch** , (c.108/140), was an early Christian writer and the Patriarch of Antioch. While en route to Rome, where he met his martyrdom, Ignatius wrote a series of letters. This correspondence forms a central part of a later collection of works by the Apostolic Fathers. He is considered one of the three most important of these, together with Clement of Rome and Polycarp. Although the authenticity of his letters has been questioned, they continue to serve as an example of early Christian theology, and address important topics including ecclesiology, the sacraments, and the role of bishops.



Ignatius converted to Christianity at a young age. Tradition identifies him and his friend Polycarp as disciples of John the Apostle. Later, Ignatius was chosen to serve as Bishop of Antioch; the fourth-century Church historian Eusebius writes that Ignatius succeeded Evodius. Theodoret of Cyrrhus claimed that St. Peter himself left directions that Ignatius be appointed to this episcopal. Ignatius was called *Theophorus* (God Bearer) A tradition exists that he was one of the children whom Jesus Christ took in his arms and blessed.

Ignatius was condemned to death for his faith, but instead of being executed in his home town of Antioch, the bishop was taken to Rome by a company of ten soldiers. During the journey, the soldiers seem to have allowed the chained Ignatius to meet with entire congregations of Christians, and numerous Christian visitors and messengers were allowed to meet with him individually.

Ignatius wrote that he would be thrown to the beasts; in the fourth century, Eusebius reports a tradition that this did happen. According to a medieval Christian text, Ignatius' remains were carried back to Antioch by his companions after his martyrdom. The sixth-century writings of Evagrius Scholasticus state that the reputed remains of Ignatius were moved by the Emperor Theodosius II to the Tychaeum, or Temple of Tyche, and converted it into a church dedicated to Ignatius. In 637, when Antioch was captured by the Rashidun Caliphate, the relics were transferred to the Basilica di San Clemente in Rome.

Ignatius is honored on the Lutheran Churches on October, 17.

# Social Ministry Corner

## Past Events



Several members attended our local Operation Christmas Child Project Leader Workshop at Whitehall Bible Fellowship Church on Sept 6<sup>th</sup>. This was a great opportunity to meet fellow shoebox packers and share ideas

Some takeaway points:

- \* It's all about Jesus. Before receiving a shoebox gift each child receives a copy of The Greatest Gift. This is a Gospel booklet about the gift of salvation being in Jesus Christ alone. This booklet is printed in 100 languages.
- \* Every 24 hours  
31,020 children hear the Gospel.  
15,190 children enroll in the Greatest Journey discipleship Program after receiving a shoebox. This is a 12 lesson Bible based course  
8,930 children accept Jesus as their savior.
- \*We can each be a World Wide Missionary through the boxes we pack.



St. Stephen's supported this event by purchasing tickets for a table of 8. We joined community leaders, donors, partners and neighbors in a very meaningful gathering. This year's focus was on food insecurity. It was noted that 80,000 Lehigh Valley residents including (23,000 children) live with food insecurity.

The program highlighted the many ways New Bethany and other local agencies are tackling this crisis. The root causes of food insecurity and ideas for real solutions to ensure equitable access to fresh, nutritious food for all was discussed.

# Social Ministry Corner

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

This year we had 2 service projects.

- \*We collected supplies and packed 75 school kits for LWR. These kits each contain 4 spiral notebooks, pens, pencils, a pencil sharpener, crayons, scissors, a ruler, and an eraser packed in a drawstring backpack. The kits were boxed and labeled. They will be taken to the Lutheran World Relief Ingathering at NEPA Synod on Oct 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.
- \*We also packed 100 pencil packs and made 100 rolls of school paper for our OCC shoebox packing party to be held in November. The packs contain pencils, pens, color pencils, scissors, erasers, a pencil sharpener, ruler and some fun stickers. These packs along with the paper provide much needed supplies that allow children to attend school when their parents cannot afford to buy these supplies.

## Current Events

The Social Ministry Committee will be hosting a **Soup and Bread** fellowship hour on **Sunday October 12<sup>th</sup>**. This is one week before the Crop Walk. A free will basket will be available to help support ending hunger. Any donations collected will be added to the St. Stephen's Crop Walk Team collections.

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

*Bethlehem Area*  
**CROP HUNGER WALK**

OCTOBER 19, 2025

BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

BETHLEHEM AREA CROP HUNGER WALK  
SUPPORTING CWS



2:00pm  
(Pizza Lunch at 1:00pm)  
Central Moravian Church



If you have any questions or problems signing up please get in touch with Suzanne Bachman at 610-428-7021 or you can email her at [suzbach756@aol.com](mailto:suzbach756@aol.com).

Join us for this 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary walk to support hungry neighbors at home and worldwide.

# Social Ministry Corner

## Upcoming Events



**Dates for serving at the  
Bethlehem Emergency Shelter:  
Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday  
January 17<sup>th</sup>, Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>**

Volunteers will be needed to donate food, prepare the meal, serve the meal, clean up, and serve as shower monitors. Watch for updates in the November newsletter, weekly bulletins, and eblasts.



This year we will once again be participating in the **Northeast Community Center Thanksgiving food collection**. We have been asked to provide 150 cans of green beans and 150 boxes of Mac & Cheese. Donation request cards

will be available in the narthex on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup>** –Social Ministry Meeting after the worship service

## **Ongoing Needs – Donation Bins in Narthex**

**Operation Christmas Child-** UPDATE- Items most needed- Toys for all ages but especially for the 2-4 age groups. Toy ideas for all ages-dolls, cars, trucks, blocks, travel size games, Legos, cards, puzzles, Kazoos, Whistle, harmonicas, marbles, jump ropes, jacks, dominoes. Other items such as solar calculators, crank flashlights, small notebooks, markers, and tools are great for the 10-14 age groups. We have already collected enough pencils, pens and crayons for this year. We also have a large supply of stuffed animals. A big Thank You to everyone who donated supplies.

**Kenya Health Care Initiatives-** Collecting school supplies like pens, pencils, crayons, scissors, colored pencils, sharpeners and all types of flash cards.

**Food Cart to benefit West End Food Bank-** Nonperishable food items such as canned soups, fruit, and vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, rice, cereal, mac & cheese.

# **Everyone is Welcome Pumpkin Carving October 12 at 12:30PM**



# **Blessing of the Animals October 5 at 4-5pm**



The first Sunday in October has often been set aside to remember St. Francis and for the blessing of the animals. Here at St. Stephens, you are invited to bring your pets, pictures of your pets to the front of the building. We will remember the many species and that go extinct every year as our climate and the ecology or our planet are every changing.

# **Preschool News**

## **Mary Ann Donut Fundraiser for Preschool**



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### **Mary Ann Donut Fundraiser Order Form**

**\$20 certificates include a dozen of any type  
of Donuts and a drink ( Coffee, Lattes, Hot  
Cocoa, Bottle Drinks)**

| <b>Name</b> | <b>cert.</b> | <b>amt.</b> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
|             |              |             |

**Cash or check written to St. Stephen's Preschool  
All Orders due by 11/17/25**

**Valid at both Mary Ann Donut locations:  
1601 W. Liberty Street and Allentown Farmer's  
Market 1825 W Chew St.**

**Please put money and order form on Secretary's  
desk.**



Kathy Bielinski

Francine Heft

Helene Longacre

Audrey & Charles Bluder

Judy Keller and son Adam

Lisa Levick

Kym Ohmacht

## **Birthdays for October**

1-Eugene Heft

6-Kenneth Mitman

7-Evan Reese

12-Charles Emery

17-Harry Hartzell

18-Kevin Blose

18-Kevin Meister

20-John Pierog

20-David Miller

21-Amanda Baughman

23-Conrad Lentz

24-Marjorie Carpenter

25-Isaias Simmons

25-Ryder Smith

27-Ryleigh Smith



## **Anniversaries for October**

2-John & Donna Pierog

7-John & Michelle Hoysan

15-Reinhold & Maureen Radke

18-Joseph & Diane Bozzelli

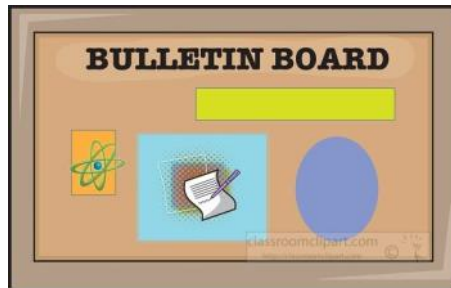
24-Richard & Lisa Levick

25-Dennis & Holly Gambler





**Come Join Us  
at Essential Café  
418 3rd Ave  
Bethlehem, PA 18018  
Thursday, October 16, 2025  
at 9:30 am**



Please check the Community bulletin board with activities that are going on in the Lehigh Valley. If you have anything you would like to share please bring it to the office. There are new things added all the time.

# ILLUMINATION

This holiday season, the IronPigs are transforming Coca-Cola Park into a spectacular light show that promises to illuminate your holidays and create a new tradition for the whole family!

Visit [www.illuminationlv.com](http://www.illuminationlv.com) for more information.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025**

**FROM 6PM – 9PM**

**TICKETS - \$13/per person**



The Nazareth Memorial Library is holding their Fall book sale on October 23-25. They are requesting donations of new or used books, CDs, DVDs and vinyl records. Their goal is to collect at least 10,000 items. If you would like to donate please bring to the office. We will be collecting until Oct 12th. If you have any question please email Kim Bluder at [kimberlybluder@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlybluder@gmail.com)

Here are the collection guidelines:

- Any age group
- Softcover or hardcover books in good condition (e.g., no torn covers or pages)
- No textbooks, bibles, encyclopedias or magazines
- Non-book items have their cases and play without issues

The book sale is on the following dates and times if you're interested in going :

- Thursday Oct 23 10am-5:30pm
- Friday Oct 24 10am-4:30pm
- Saturday Oct 25 9am-1pm



*St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran  
Church*



*Worship Service Assistants*

## Altar Care: Holly Gambler

| Worship Service        |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 5<br>10:45 am  | Lizzy or<br>Willy<br>Lopez                                                        | Todd and Jeanine<br>Siegfried<br>Suzanne<br>Bachman<br>Brody Zuber                | Mike<br>Hosfeld                                                                   | Jackson &<br>Leah Raab                                                            | Pastor Ron                                                                        |
| October 12<br>10:45 am | Maddy<br>Zuber                                                                    | Ron & Mary Jo<br>Reed<br>Todd Siegfried                                           | Ron Reed                                                                          | Ron &<br>Mary Jo<br>Reed                                                          | Social<br>Ministry<br>Committee                                                   |
| October 19<br>10:45 am |                                                                                   | Jeanine Siegfried                                                                 | Brody<br>Zuber                                                                    | Joan Neff                                                                         | Open                                                                              |
| October 26<br>10:45 am | Brody<br>Zuber                                                                    | Kim Bluder<br>Maddy Zuber                                                         | Cheryl<br>Hosfeld                                                                 | Joan Neff                                                                         | Open                                                                              |

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Barry J. Harte  
Secretary: Christine Baylor  
Preschool Director-Becky Barger

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       |
| 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 , Denise 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

Bonnie Gerber, Todd Siegfried, Lauren Morton, Mike Hosfeld (chair)

### SOCIAL MINISTRY

Suzanne Bachman, Kathy Bielinski, Kim Bluder, Bonnie Gerber, 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.