

FAITH MATTERS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Year Ahead

Our "New Normal" for 2021

For the time being, our remote Zoom worship schedule will continue. Hopefully, with the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, we may see some change in the future. When it is safe to do so, we will open our doors, and once again embrace each other. We look forward to the days of "sharing of the Peace" with a hug instead of a wave. We look forward to the days of pot lucks and coffee hours in our Fellowship Hall. For now, we will continue to live in our faith, and wave to our church family through a screen or through a phone's speaker. The Word of God knows no boundary. Even though we cannot gather in person with each other, God can gather with us -- where we are.

We will continue to sing His songs, spread His love, and share His message. We will continue to do good works, and help our neighbors. We will continue to lift each other up in prayer. And we look forward to welcome changes in the coming year.

Happy New Year! Have a blessed 2021!



CHRISTMAS 2020

Highlights



DECORATORS

Thank you to our Altar Guild and to Howard Geier and team, for decorating our worship space for Christmas Worship. Despite the fact we were unable to worship *in* the sanctuary, we could still marvel at our beautiful worship space.

MUSICIANS

Thank you to our vocalists for providing a background track for home worship. You guided our congregation through the beautiful hymns of the season.

GUEST MUSICIANS

Thank you to Annika Sundberg for joining us on Christmas Eve, to share her gifts on the Organ. Your accomplished talents were very welcome!

DID YOU MISS IT?

Just Let Us Know

If you happened to miss either the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service, please let the office know. We can make sure you have the links necessary to watch, or re-watch the services.





CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The call committee is meeting regularly by zoom. We are together in prayer and learning the call process. We are working closely with Pastor Kyle Severson from the synod office. We are reviewing candidates. We are keeping our hearts open to the movement of the Spirit among and with us. Please keep us in prayer.

- SUSAN COOK
- LORI FLADE
- ARDY LANGE
- GWEN PEARSON
- HOWARD GEIER
- DENNIS FRIEDLE
- DICK SCHLAKE

Mark Your Calendars

ITS ANNUAL MEETING TIME

Its that time again... time to prepare and plan for (and to attend) the Church's Annual Meeting. The meeting will occur via Zoom, and our office staff is currently researching and learning the new technology needed to continue confidential voting on relevant issues. Like much of 2020, 2021 will still challenge us in new ways. We hope that you, as our church family and congregation, will be flexible with us as we travel this new road. The annual meeting will be open to all current members in good standing. Reminder postcards will be sent out this week. The annual budget will be discussed and voted on. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 847-395-3359.

Treasurer's Update - November 2020

	Oct 2020	Year to Date
Tithes/Offerings (Operating Funds)	\$9,258.21	\$122,632.49
Operating Expenses	\$12,754.91	\$139,018.55
Funds Transferred to Reserve Funds	\$140.00	\$5,909.60
Mortgage Reduction	\$1,135.00	\$3,715.04

SAINT
STEPHEN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING



01.24.21



10:15 AM



Via Zoom

Link coming soon

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

Would you like to share your gifts with the congregation? Do you sing? Play an instrument? Would you like to share a recording during worship? If so, please reach out to the office via email, or contact Wendi McAlonan.

READERS & ASSISTANTS

Are you interested in an Assisting Minister role during worship? Would you like to help during services by reading the lessons and prayers? Please let us know. Unsure of what this role entails? Email the office. We will be happy to help! Wendi McAlonan and the worship team have a list of folks ready to help out, and will always welcome more!



LENT & EASTER MUSIC

In just a couple of months, we will be starting the Lenton and Easter season. Do you have a favorite Lent or Easter hymn? Email the office and let us know! We will do our best to include any requests submitted.



HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES ARE THE 20TH.

Email your story, letter, event, or announcement to the church office at ststephenofantioch@gmail.com



The Christian Wellness Ministry

CWM INFORMATION AND EVENTS

The Christian Wellness Ministry (CWM) is a tri-parish group of volunteers that organize health based activities for local residents. The CWM focuses on physical, emotional/mental, social and spiritual health. The mission of the CWM is to nurture the human spirit through health education, spiritual support, and linking the needs of the whole person to resources within the congregation, community, and healthcare system.

Services provided by CWM include: patient visits, health classes, wellness walks, medical transportation, support groups, prayer groups, telephone calls, and remote activities. Once it is safe to do so, the CWM will resume holding in-person social events like luncheons, speakers, classes, and craft groups. Would you like more information for you or a loved one? Reach out to Carol Frazier, RN: 630-399-0089.

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**"The mission of the
 CWM is to nurture the
 human spirit"**
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Go-to Meeting site:
global.gotomeeting.com/join/261771629

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



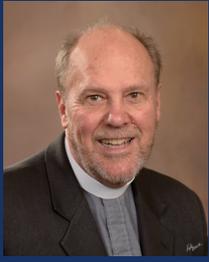
- Monday Jan 4th @ 1 pm** – Let’s Zoom – open practice to try out Zoom.
- Tuesdays & Thursdays Jan 5& 7 – March 9 & 11th @ 10am**– Bingocize – let’s play bingo and keep moving.
- Wednesdays in January @ 10 am** – World Walking – log your steps each week and we’ll use them to tour places around the world each week
- Wednesday January 6 – 2 pm** – Popcorn Worthy Movies – Guys & Dolls (1955) – Watch the movie ahead of time and then join us for a discussion, movie trivia and movie stills.
- Thursdays beginning January 7th @ 1 pm** – Stiff No More – 4 week program to help relieve stiffness in arms, hands and shoulders.
- Monday January 11th @ 10 am** – Virtual Recipe Swap Group – Let’s share some tried and true recipes or recipes that you’ve recently discovered
- Monday January 11th @ 1 pm** – Utilizing Technology for Stress Relief Part 2 – Let’s explore some more stress relief techniques using technology.
- Tuesday January 12 @ 1 pm** – Let’s Learn Something New – each month we’ll learn something new and the basics. This month we’ll learn some of the basics of American Sign Language
- Wednesday January 13th @ 2 pm** – Did you say the ‘H’ word? – This presentation will focus on myths and misconceptions existing around Hospice.

CALL KARI POHAR – 847-740-6708



Funded by:





Pastor Hours: Pr. Mark Sundberg

Hello, I am the interim pastor for St. Stephen. I am engaged half-time here. I will be at the church on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am until 3pm. On the second Monday of the month, I will be working the same hours, 10am - 3pm instead of Tuesday for that week. I am available at all times for urgent matters by phone (224-659-0091). I will *not* be returning emails, however, on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Please call or text me if you need me on those days. Saturdays I will be preparing for Sundays - working from home. I will, of course, be working more than office hours, working from home in Lake Zurich. Thank you!



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