

FAITH MATTERS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH



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MORTGAGE REDUCTION RESULTS

Everything comes from Him, everything happens through Him, everything ends up in Him. Always. (Romans 11:33)

We have joyfully joined in the stewardship of our physical property by reducing our mortgage principle during this challenge. This will enable us to accomplish more towards our mission to help those who are hurting. From Romans Chapter 11; "Have you ever come on anything quite like this extravagant generosity of God, this deep, deep wisdom? It's way over our heads. We'll never figure it out... Everything comes from him; Everything happens through him; Everything ends up in him. Always glory! Always praise! Yes. Yes. Yes." Our results of our 2020 Mortgage Reduction Matching Challenge have shown this year's challenge to be a tremendous success thanks to the generosity of all of you. Since the start of the campaign on October 11th, our church has received a continuous stream of

donations, and as of November 21, the close of the program, we have received a total of \$12,100.00. Thanks to our generous benefactors, our gifts have been matched by a donation of \$15,000. This results in a total reduction of our mortgage principal by \$27,100.00. Based on the information provided by Vicky Hill, it is estimated that as a result of our mortgage principle reduction it will shorten the term; allowing us to become mortgage free from 10+ years down to approximately 6 years. Your actions of faith and generosity will enable Saint Stephen to fulfill our mission more completely, to work with our community, and share the Word of Christ. We are grateful to God for all God's blessings. Thank you from your Committee Members: Vicky Hill, Dennis Friedle, Ardy Lange, and David McAlonan.



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"We cannot survive without your generosity."

Remote Giving

When the "New Normal" Keeps Changing

Once again, the safety of our flock requires us to meet remotely. Just when we were "getting the hang of" the new in-person guidelines, we are back to Zoom worship only. The one thing that doesn't change, is the church's reliance on financial giving.

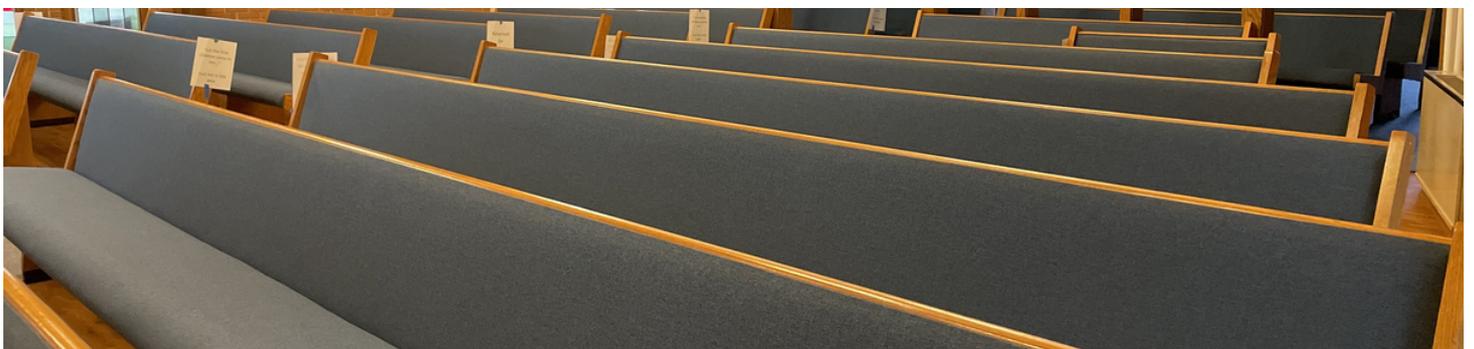
For the safety of all, offerings will revert back to mail or electronic giving only. Envelopes will continue to be mailed to the members' addresses. (If you don't have envelopes and would like some, please email the office.) Mailed to the church, these monetary gifts will be discretely and confidentially processed. Additionally, E-giving (giving online) is available through the church website at ststephenofantioch.org, and can be set up as a one time gift, or a continual donation.

Thank you once again for your continued support of our parish! We cannot survive without your generosity.

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

***Please remember: Due to the timing of the Newsletter, these numbers represent the previous month.**



CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

A Blessing of Donated Goods



DONATIONS POURING IN

A global pandemic is not enough to stop the crafters from St. Stephen and UMCA. These amazing fiber artists utilized their God given and self-honed talents, their own finances, and hours and hours of their time to create goods to give to total strangers in our local communities. Gifts that ease suffering, provide warmth of spirit, aid in grieving, or maintain health will be donated to area hospitals, NICU wards, homeless shelters, and food banks in Lake County. These donations were blessed by Pr. Mark during service on 11/22/2020, and will now be on their way to their specific locations. Thank you to our team of dedicated crafters, sewers, crocheters, knitters, quilters, and all of those learning along the way.

GRAND TOTALS

- 16 Crochet blankets
- 9 Crochet NICU blankets
- 13 Quilts
- 15 Masks
- 23 Knitted beanies
- 96 Knitted NICU beanies
- 18 Angel gowns
- 2 Angel bloomers
- 21 Angel baby ornaments



CARING FOR OUR OWN

Volunteer Opportunities at St. Stephen



CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

Calling all musicians, praise teams and choirs, readers and prayer ministers, and those ever-valuable worship technology teams...The Metro Chicago Synod worship team will be compiling a service of Lessons and Carols on the First Sunday after Christmas (December 27). If you are interested in submitting a video recording of congregational song, please email Matt Haider (mhaider@oursaviours.org). He will work with you to determine an appropriate selection for the readings. If you are interested in volunteering for another portion of the service, please email Pr. Christina Garrett Klein (pastorcklein@gmail.com). While there is ample opportunity to participate, it is possible that not everyone who responds will participate this time around as we are intentional about lifting up folks from around the synod. Submissions will be due by December 7th. Thank you for helping us tell the story and share the good news this Advent and Christmas season.

ALTAR GUILD

Our Altar Guild sets the stage for our beautiful in-person worship. Dressing the altar, hanging tapestries, arranging flowers, gathering candles-- all of these play an integral part of our worship experience. Remembering Christmases and Easters past, the altar guild fills our senses with fresh greenery, poinsettias, Easter flowers, advent wreaths, and great hanging linens.

And now, our altar guild needs you. Additional volunteers are needed to help with setting up Sunday services and special events. Do you have a monthly day you can help out? Or can you help out twice a year? "Many hands make light work", so help lighten the work load of a team of amazing parishioners. Call Sharon Gregory at 847-721-0309 to let her know how you can help out this amazing team. Help keep our worship beautiful, and be a part of something wonderful.



FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Do you have a favorite Christmas Carol? Is there a hymn that "makes Christmas" for you? We want to hear from you! Since we are unable to meet together to sing in person, we want to try to boost everyone's Holiday Spirit. Please email the church office if there is a particular Christmas Hymn you would like played. *We cannot guarantee everyone's request will be met, but we will certainly try! Likewise, if you would like to perform during the Christmas season, please let us know that as well! We will do our best!



CARING FOR OUR OWN (CONT)

Volunteer Opportunities at St. Stephen



LOOKING FOR "CARL CARE" HELP

Dear St. Stephen: I'm asking my "community" for help. Between our church friends, parents of other special-needs young adults, homesteading & gardening friends, civic and community group acquaintances, neighbors, and more... there are people who can directly help, and others that know who else might be able to. Since Melanie's passing, I'm facing a significant challenge in putting together a workable "Carl Care" schedule which would allow me to return to work on a full-time basis. I thought that with enough time (by Thanksgiving), I could weave things together myself, but it's not happening so I'm "shaking the tree" a bit harder. For those of you who don't know Carl,

he's a 24YO young man with moderate autism. (Wearing a blue shirt in the photo.) He's quite "mellow" and reserved; a quiet household would be a good fit. Pretty self-sufficient (including bathroom needs), no dangerous or destructive habits, not at all violent, loves to please, and works great with daily checklists/schedules. It's not "big money", but it's easy and "work-from-home". For someone in a household with a COVID-related job loss, or an "empty-nester", or a retiree looking for some easy extra income, it might be just the thing... especially if only one or two days/week! In short, here's what I'm looking for, at least through the end of April. (This would all be paid BTW):M/W/F: 6am – 10am. Carl to be dropped-off w/care-giver at 6am, go back to sleep until 8:30-9am, eat breakfast, watch a little TV until caregiver brings him to his day program in Round Lake Beach IL at 10am. That's it for the day! - Possible Option 1: Non-travel. Carl is picked-up at approx. 9:45am by another special-needs participant on their way to the same day program. Tue/Thurs: 6am – 3pm. Full day with Carl. 6am drop-off, sleep, breakfast, and basically "hang-out at your house" until I pick him up at 3pm. He'll bring his tablet (and laptop, if he can share your wi-fi), breakfast & lunch, a puzzle or puzzle book, and sometimes a DVD. Extra points if you have a treadmill, exercise bike, etc. If you need a partner for UNO or other simple game, he's it! Carl would also love to go along if you take a daily walk, walk your dog, or do an exercise video. Please think about it if you're at all local to the Round Lake Area, or pass this to someone who is who might be a good fit. Thank you for your consideration of this request! Contact me via email/phone with questions or offers: thefuhrmanns@sbcglobal.net 847-744-0890



The Women's Network of LSSI Invites You to its Virtual Advent Gathering

The Women's Network of LSSI invites you to meet virtually on Zoom on Thursday, December 3, 10:30 a.m. This annual Advent gathering invites guests to answer the question "What brings special warmth and meaning to you at Christmas?" An object passed down through generations and brought out at Christmastime? A tradition, perhaps a favorite Christmas carol, a treasured Christmas cookie recipe? Come and share! Please RSVP to Ann Klicar annk75@att.net by Monday, November 30 to receive the Zoom link. The Women's Network and guests will contribute to purchase gifts for children served in Chicago and Rockford program offices in LSSI's Children's Community Services programs this Christmas. Click on one of these links to donate.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/ChristmasRockford>

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/ChristmasAugustana>



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



Catholic Charities Senior Book Club



Friday, December 6th @ 12 pm

Antioch Township

1625 Deep Lake Rd Lake Villa

Lunch Available | \$6 asking donation | Open to seniors 60+

Read: A Christmas Peril by J A Henrickus

CALL KARI POHAR-847-740-6708

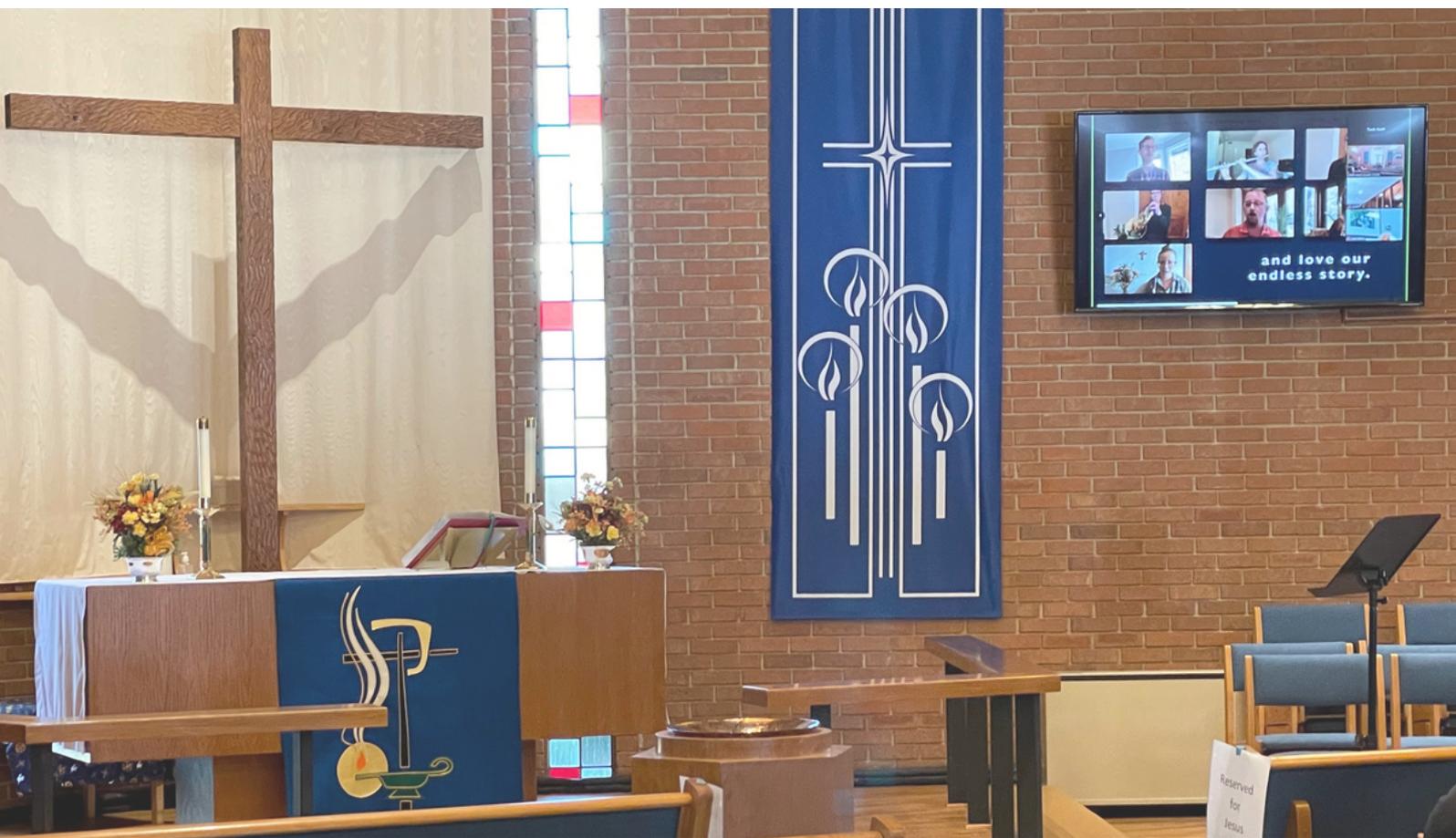
Funded by:



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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