

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

MAY 2025

News & Notes

3510 72nd Street • Urbandale, IA 50322 • 515-276-4628 • office@ststephenlutheran.org

Easter Worship, 2025



Easter Breakfast, 2025



Community Art Project, Lent 2025



Community Art Project for Easter

Thank you to everyone who patiently adorned coloring pages and fluffed tissue-paper flowers after Wednesday worship during Lent! More than 120 separate coloring pages were combined into four huge “Alleluia” butterfly banners, and the many tissue-paper flowers now adorn the large cross used throughout the Lent season. This tradition of “flowering the cross” symbolizes the new life that emerges for us through Jesus’ death on the cross. Both the banner and the flower-filled cross will adorn our worship space throughout the Easter season, which culminates with the Feast of Pentecost on June 6.



News & Events

You're here to be light,
bringing out the God-colors
in the world.

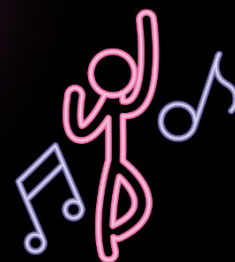
Matthew 5:14-16

Vacation Bible School 2025

June 8-11, 5:30-7:30 p.m.



GLOW



Stories, music and games for PreK
through 5th Grade.

Light meal provided.

T-shirts are available to PreK-5th
grade students.



GAMES

Register on our website or
use this QR code:



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
3510 72nd Street
Urbandale, IA 50322
www.ststephenlutheran.org

News & Events *(continued)*

Graduate Recognition, Sunday, May 11

On May 11 we recognize our high school graduates in the Class of 2025, and offer them our blessings and support as they step forward into the world. It's been truly heartwarming to witness the journey of these two seniors and the impact they've had on our congregation and community. As they embark on their next chapter, may these young adults continue to inspire others with their faith, resilience, and willingness to serve.



Graduating Seniors and their future plans:



McKenna Walker

McKenna will be attending DMACC in the fall majoring in Human Services.



Clayton Weinberger

After graduation, Clayton will take time off from school to work and follow his passion for music production.

Prayers for Healing, Sunday, May 18

Once each month, Sunday worship includes an opportunity for individual prayer for healing and anointing (the sign of the cross placed on your forehead in oil). If you wish to receive this ministry, simply proceed to one of the healing ministers once you've received communion.

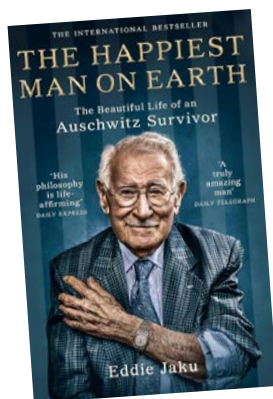


News & Events (continued)



Supper Club, Friday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.

Supper Club provides once per month informal socializing in someone's home. Open to all adults and the only requirement is to bring an appetizer to share and your beverage of choice. We will meet at **6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 16**. Please let our hosts, Ardie and Jerry Strawman (aestrawman@yahoo.com) know that you will be attending.



Brown Bag Book Club Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.

The book club gathers each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the office Conference Room. We are reading *The Happiest Man on Earth, The Beautiful Life of an Auschwitz Survivor* by Eddie Jaku. All are welcome!



Property Day, Saturday, May 17, 8:00 a.m.

We need your help to maintain and beautify our church. We typically work for 2-3 hours as needed. ***Please check the Friday email on May 16 for any special instructions.*** If Saturday morning doesn't work, contact Jerry Strawman for an alternative time.



Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly Saturday, May 17

The 2025 Synod Assembly for the Southeastern Iowa Synod will take place on **Saturday, May 17**, at Grand View University. This year's assembly will be centered around the theme Spirit, Open Our Hearts, inviting all participants to deepen their faith and commitment to serving God and one another. Please pray for those who will attend the synod assembly on behalf of St. Stephen: voting members Jeff and Julia Moats and Pastor Andrea Myers.



Worship at the Table

Worship at the Table on Wednesdays is now on a break for the summer. Wednesday worship and meals will resume in September. If you'd like to get involved with Supper at the Table (providing food or serving on the kitchen team), please contact Tracy Sabus!



Garden Help Needed

It is that time of year! If you are interested in helping with the St. Stephen gardens contact Jane Dieseth at 515-321-9023. We need help planting flowers, transplanting perennials, weeding and watering.

News & Events *(continued)*

Welcome New Members

Meet the newest members of St. Stephen, who were welcomed on March 30.



Tom & Kathy Bailey



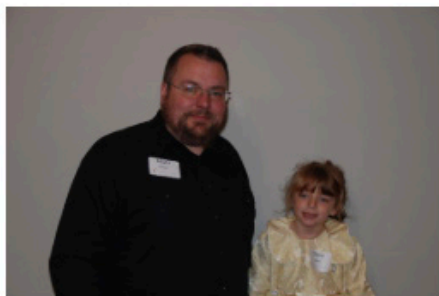
Harlan and Julie Bohnsack



Teresa Craig & Sara Huey,
Graham & Finn



Sue & Steve Johnson



Matt Kuker & Clara



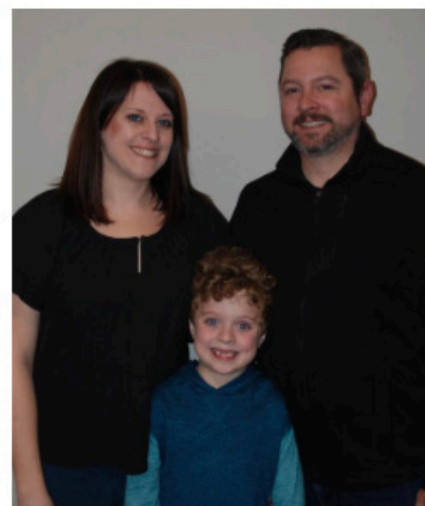
Jonnie Nordaker and
Bonnie McAninch



Colin & Tori Richard,
and Charlie



LeAnn Stubbs



Tanner & Jana Taylor,
and Lewis

Outreach

Meals for Richard Family

The Care Companions ministry group has organized a Meal Train to support the Richard family (Tori, Colin, and Charlie) as Colin recovers from a head injury. The goal is to provide an evening meal twice a week. To view dates and details, scan the QR code.



Urbandale Food Pantry Offering

It's not too late to participate in our Lent Offering to support the work of the Urbandale Food Pantry. Thus far, we have gathered **\$2,525** in gifts. Thank you! If you'd like to join in this offering, please make a gift **by May 11** on the St. Stephen website, share your gift in worship, or mail it to the church office. Make checks payable to St. Stephen with "Food Pantry" in the memo.



Do You Have Books to Donate?

St. Stephen's Free Little Library could use a few more books. If you have books at home that you would like to donate, please place them in the designated tote inside the Office Entry door. Contact the church office for assistance with an after-hours donation. Thank you in advance!

Urbandale Food Food Pantry Collection for May, 2025

In **May** we will focus on gathering **canned meats (chicken, fish), Spam, peanut butter, side dishes, shampoo, diapers-sized 4, 5, and 6**. Please place items for the Urbandale Food Pantry in the shopping carts (Gathering Area). Financial gifts marked "food pantry" are always welcome, and can be shared in worship or sent to the church office.

Free Little Pantry

Donate "dry goods" groceries by placing them in the Free Little Pantry itself. If there's not enough room in the Little Pantry, overflow can be placed in the designated tote inside the Office Entry door. Please be sure to close and latch the pantry door to keep weather and critters out.

Free Little Library

Donate books for all age groups by placing them in the designated tote inside the Office Entry door. Contact the church office for assistance with an after-hours donation.

For assistance with the Free Little Pantry or Free Little Library, please contact our team: Sarah Tomjack, Krista Dial, and Janet Davis.



Outreach (continued)

Social Ministry Report

During the month of **March**, St. Stephen collected the following items for the Urbandale Food Pantry:

13 boxes of cereal	1 canned soup
5 bags of mashed potatoes	3 pasta
7 canned vegetables	2 boxes of cookies
2 feminine hygiene products	8 toothbrushes
2 baby wipes	2 toothpaste
2 canned fruits	6 miscellaneous
6 paper towels	60 Total Items
1 peanut butter	Weighed in at 39 lbs.



God's Work. Our Hands for the Month of May — Veteran's Appreciation

We are supporting our veterans through the programs at our local VA Central Iowa Health Care System in Des Moines. They offer a variety of programs to help veterans.

Items we will be collecting:

- regular and decaf coffee
- individual wrapped applesauce
- peanut butter
- microwaveable meals
- women's slippers all sizes
- knitting supplies

All items will need to be back to St. Stephen by **Sunday, June 1**. Look for the display in the Gathering Area. Take a tag with the item listed on it. Purchase the item. Bring the item back to the Church by Sunday, June 1, and we will deliver them.



Summer Office Hours

Starting **Monday, May 19**, the church office will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (not T/W/F), 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Church Business

March Congregation Council Meeting Highlights



On Tuesday, March 25, 2025, the Congregational Council met for their regular monthly meeting. Highlights from the meeting included:

- Approving an upgraded hearing assist system for the Sanctuary. A feature of the new system is a smartphone app that will connect the sound system with Bluetooth-equipped hearing aids. In addition, six handheld receivers will be available with headphone or loop accessories. Memorial funds will be used for this purchase.
- Preliminary planning on a project to review and update church policies. Many existing St. Stephen policies are out of date and do not reflect current practices and needs. A task force is now working to review and update the Property Use Policy. Policies related to finance and accounting were referred to the Finance Committee.
- Approving the “beta test” for a potential faith formation program called “Wonder on the Go.” The ultimate goal is to share our Sunday School curriculum with other (smaller) churches that lack a Faith Formation staff member.

The financial report showed February 2025 income (\$37,281) was close to what was expected in the 2025 Ministry Plan. However, expenses (\$44,783) were higher due to continuing education purchases for staff. This is an example of ministry expenses that are paid all at once, whereas the Ministry Plan budgets them over 12 months. With the mortgage, the total net loss for the month was \$8,705.

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Worship Volunteers Needed for AV Desk!

We have so many wonderful worship volunteers each week! One area where we could use some additional assistance is the AV Desk. The AV team is responsible for:

- Monitoring the sound and advancing the slides for the screens/livestream
- Running the livestream to Facebook and YouTube
- Setting up and using the mobile camera for use in the livestream

The AV Desk volunteers are supplied with a guide each week, which has all the information needed for the service. If you are interested in joining our AV Team, please talk with Jana Taylor (jana@ststephenlutheran.org) and she can set you up to shadow one of our volunteers.

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Are you 70 1/2 Years Old this Year?

When you reach the age of 70 ½, you are eligible to make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from your IRA.

- Qualified Charitable Distributions can be made from a traditional IRA, inherited IRA, rollover IRA or an inactive SEP or SIMPLE IRA. Inactive SEP or SIMPLE IRAs are no longer receiving contributions.
- The funds are directly transferred to the qualified charity or charities you choose from your IRA.
- An individual can contribute up to \$108,000 per year. The amount of the distribution is not included in taxable income or deductible as a charitable contribution.
- For those who are at least 73, this amount may apply to your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). It also reduces the value of your IRA to reduce future RMDs. Note the age for QCD eligibility is lower than the current RMD age.

When you consider your charitable donations for 2025, this may be another option for you. Consult your tax or financial advisor for the best strategy for you.

May 2025 Celebrations

May Birthdays

May 2 Barb Huey
May 4 Tanya Kruse, Andrea Myers, Michelle Weinberger
May 5 Mike Newell
May 8 Lyle Pohlman, Connor Story
May 10 Scott Quam
May 14 Don Rumelhart
May 16 Steve Quam, Megan Woolworth
May 19 Katherine Chapman, Larry Hunt, Shaun Quam
May 20 Maxine Andrews, Julia Hoeger, Bryan Townes
May 24 Kathy Codner, Marybeth Lytle, Allen Rappold, Chris Zinselmeier
May 26 Marlys Maahs, Donna Schroeder



May 27 Ryan Walker
May 28 Gavin Freeman
May 29 Ronald Myers
May 30 Brent Arntzen



May Anniversaries

May 12 Brett & Missy Boerner
May 16 Audrey & Curtis Jones
May 17 Steve & Marlys Ruth
May 21 Chris & Deb Nelsen
May 25 Nick Dial & Krista Brittain-Dial
May 27 Bob & Gayle Johnson
May 31 Gentry & Krista Cairo

May 2025 Calendar

Thursday, May 1

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, May 2

Private Event (Sanctuary), 3:30–8:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 3

Private Event (Sanctuary), 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 4, Third Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 12:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 5:00 p.m.

Monday, May 5

Personnel Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. on Zoom

Wednesday, May 7

Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.

SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, May 8

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 10

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 11, Fourth Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 12:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13

Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14

Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.

SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, May 15

Care Companions, 5:00 p.m.

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Trust Fund Committee, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, May 16

Supper Club, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 17

Property Committee, 8:00 a.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 18, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 12:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 20

Finance Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

Facility Policy Task Force, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21

Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.

SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, May 22

Private Event (Sanctuary), 6:00 p.m.

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 24

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 25, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 12:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 27

Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 28

Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.

SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, May 29

AA Meeting, 6:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 31

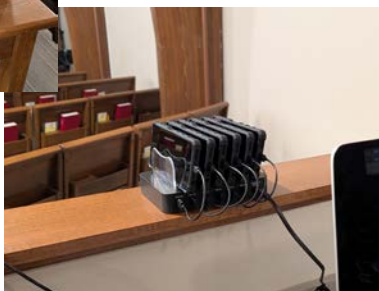
RFC/SSLC Partnership Meeting, 11:00 a.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

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Urbandale, IA 50322
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

New Hearing Devices for Worship

In April, Communication Innovators installed our new hearing assistive devices for worship. These devices have replaced the old headsets and are essentially a smartphone, which connect to headphones, ear bud or a loop. We will also have information available soon about additional options for installing an app on your phone, or using bluetooth headphones. Please see specifics below, or ask an usher for assistance on Sunday mornings.



Hearing Devices Available

- Select your preferred headset from the basket: ear bud, headphones or loop (loop is for use with hearing aid).
- Plug headset in to hearing device (jack is on the bottom of the device).
- Press right side button to turn screen on.
- Press ST-STEPHEN-HEAR on screen.
- Press red speaker icon to un-mute the sound.
- Adjust volume and you're ready to go.