

# News & Notes

3510 72nd Street • Urbandale, IA 50322 • 515-276-4628 • [office@ststephenlutheran.org](mailto:office@ststephenlutheran.org)

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:



## News & Events

# JAZZ IN JUNE

FEATURING THE  
TANNER TAYLOR TRIO

Thursday,  
June 26,  
6:30-  
8:00 p.m.



**Tanner Taylor (piano), Steve Charlson (bass),  
and Zane Gedler (drums)**

Bring your own lawn chair/blanket.

**Bring the family!** Drinks, sidewalk chalk and bubbles will be provided.

The trio will be set up in the west parking lot. Music will move  
inside in the event of inclement weather.

Please park in the south lot or in the area close to the  
Worship Entry doors.



## News & Events (continued)

### Youth News

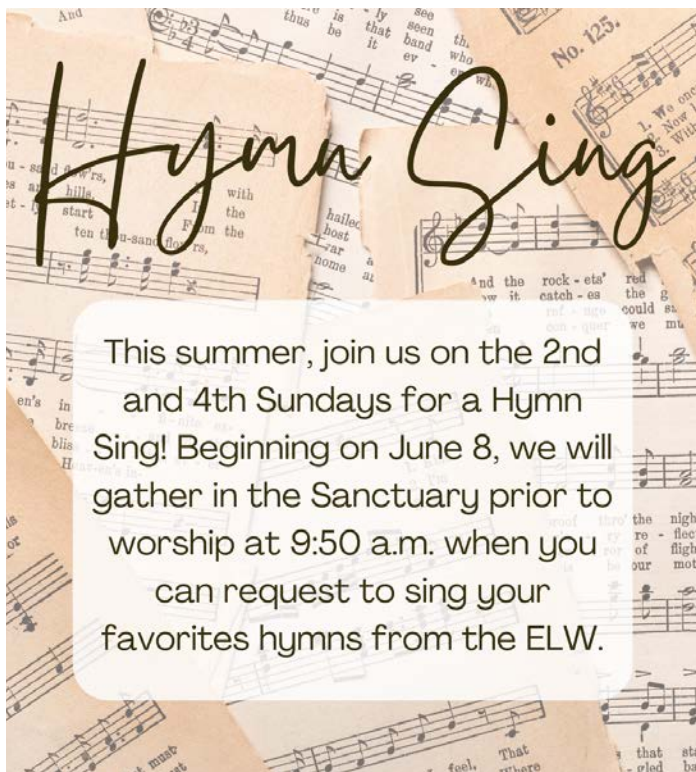
#### ELES in Chicago

ELES — Our high schoolers will be heading to Chicago for a service trip in July. During the week we will be engaging in many different activities that will surely open our hearts, including: immigration/refugee work, gardening, Bingo with the residents of a senior living facility and other things we will be ready to share about after our return. Please keep us in your prayers.

#### “Serve Your City” Middle School Camp

Our middle school students will be teaming up with Faith Lutheran and St. John’s Lutheran Church for “Serve Your City.” We will spend our time serving all over Des Moines and learning about various social services. We will serve organizations like DMARC, CFUM, Clive Community Services, and more! We will play games, do team-building activities, spend time in creation, and just be together!

There will be art making, and delicious breakfast and snacks provided! We will also take some field trips for fun activities.



This summer, join us on the 2nd and 4th Sundays for a Hymn Sing! Beginning on June 8, we will gather in the Sanctuary prior to worship at 9:50 a.m. when you can request to sing your favorites hymns from the ELW.

### Global Greens

St. Stephen is again partnering with LSI’s Global Greens program for 2025. This program connects refugees who were farmers in their

home countries to land, infrastructure, and the business coaching they need to start their own farm business. You can see the “produce” of this program on the East lawn of the church!

Please consider being a 2025 subscriber to the Global Greens Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). You’ll receive certified naturally grown vegetables raised by former refugees in Central Iowa — some of it here at St. Stephen! Subscription options include weekly or biweekly shares, and a variety of pick-up locations. For details and sign up, SCAN THIS QR CODE.



### Prayers for Healing, Sunday, June 22

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

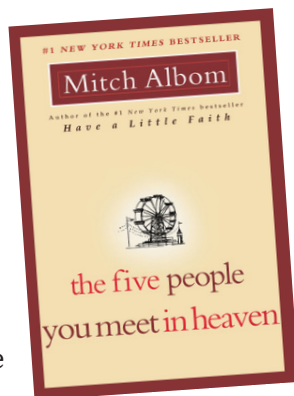


### Property Day, Saturday, June 21, 8:00 a.m.

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 June 20 for any special instructions.*** If Saturday morning doesn't work, contact Jerry Strawman for an alternative time.

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

The book club gathers each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the office Conference Room. After finishing our previous book in May, we will take **June 4** off. The author of our next book, *Five People You Meet in Heaven*, Mitch Albom, will be introduced **June 11** and we will begin reading for **June 18**. All are welcome!



### 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.



### 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!



## From the Pastor

Dear St. Stephen Community,

Do you know what the following terms have in common? *Ad break, Bible thumping, breakdance, dead air, dead lifting, jean jacket, mid-century, santoku, ultra-processed, and washi tape?*

They all appeared in the *Oxford English Dictionary* for the first time in March 2024!

The English language is continually evolving. New words are created (email) or adopted from other languages (guru). Existing words gain new meanings and slang evolves (cool, beta, slay). Dictionary updates draw attention to changes that happen organically, often at a subconscious level. Our changing language also impacts the way we read and understand scripture – just consider how arcane the language of *King James Version* of the Bible (1611) feels today!

Beginning June 1, St. Stephen will change the Bible translation we use in worship. For many years we have followed the recommendation of our denomination for ELCA congregations to use the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV, 1989). We will soon begin using the *New Revised Standard Version updated edition* (NRSVue, 2021). This follows updated ELCA guidance and the end of NRSV digital licensing.

Why an “updated edition” for the NRSV? The Yale Divinity Library for New Testament studies writes: *The NRSVue reflects discoveries of ancient texts [such as the Dead Sea Scrolls] and new insights made in the 30 years since the NRSV was last revised. This newly-updated translation offers clearer, more direct, and inclusive language, and increased cultural sensitivity absent of the unintended biases of prior versions. The NRSVue includes over 10,000 substantial revisions and 20,000 minor revisions.*

I’ll offer more information and examples of those revisions in the weeks ahead. Stay tuned!

In the meantime, I want to acknowledge that the change may feel awkward at first – even startling! I remember the chagrin in my childhood congregation when we switched from the *Revised Standard Version* (RSV, 1946) to the NRSV, and “I will make you fishers of men” became “I will make you fish for people” (Matthew 4:19). At the same time, change can be energizing. In my six months of using the NRSVue in sermon preparation, I’ve found that even small updates to familiar passages help me pay closer attention to the word. I hope this will be true for you, as well.

Whatever translation we use, we will continue to keep scripture at the heart of our worship gathering, living out our baptismal promise to “HEAR the Word of God”!

Peace,



## Around the Church

### St. Stephen Celebrated Scout Sunday, April 27

Scout Sunday is celebrated by Scouts belonging to Scouting America. There are two troops represented in the St. Stephen congregation.

Scouts and Scouters of both participated in the service on April 27. At the end of the service, all Scouts and Scouters were asked to join in the Scout oath and Scout law.



*Koinonia  
Luncheon &  
Fellowship*

4/29/2025



# Around the Church

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### John Dieseth

**Worship Volunteer Roles: Mobile Camera, Reader, Create AV Desk Guides**

"I enjoy the teamwork working with other members of the congregation. In addition, I know our online audience is very appreciative of the work we do to bring them a broadcast each week. I hear it from them all the time. It makes Sunday Worship that much more meaningful both for you and for them. The system is easy to learn and all of us on the AV team would be happy to show anyone new how to use it. No special background required. If you can use a phone, you can do AV. We'll work with you!"



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Connor Moriarty

**Worship Volunteer Roles: Sound/Slides and Livestream.**

"I enjoy volunteering at church because it gives me a chance to make a positive impact on my community while strengthening my faith. It allows me to connect with others, build meaningful relationships, and be part of something bigger than myself. Volunteering also helps me develop valuable skills, like leadership and teamwork, while giving me a sense of purpose and fulfillment. It's a great way to give back and grow as a person, especially during my teenage years."



## Graduate Recognition, Sunday, May 11

On May 11 we recognized our high school graduates in the Class of 2025, and offered them our blessings and support as they step forward into the world. 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.



# Outreach

## Meals for Richard Family

The Care Companions Meal Train for the Richard family has been edited and extended, due to their ongoing needs for support. To view Meal Train dates and details, or donate a gift card, please scan the QR code (right). The goal is to provide an evening meal twice a week. St. Stephen members are also providing rides and a local Scout troop will soon be helping with yard work. Thank you to all who assist in any way, as we support the family's adjustment to Charlie's epilepsy diagnosis and Colin's continued recovery from a Traumatic Brain Injury. For additional information on Colin's healing journey, please visit his Facebook page.



## Urbandale Food Pantry Offering

**THANK YOU!** Thanks to your generosity, we gathered **\$3,205** for the Urbandale Food Pantry through our Lent Offering. This offering will make a positive difference in our community as this valuable partner offers food assistance for our neighbors with dignity and compassion.



## Social Ministry Report for May, 2025

Committee members: Jane Dieseth, Tracy Sabus, Sue Koch, Leslie Dahm

### Urbandale Food Pantry Collection

For the month of April, we collected:

9 dry beans & rice	1 Velveeta cheese
2 tortillas	4 canned soup
4 Spam	3 body lotion
2 salsa	<b>34 Total items,</b>
4 canned vegetables	<b>Weight 49 lbs.</b>
7 cereals	



## Urbandale Food Food Pantry Collection for June, 2025

In **June** we will focus on gathering **toilet paper, sunscreen, cereal, canned fruit, and condiments**. 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.





# Church Business

## April Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

On April 22, 2025 the Congregational Council met for their monthly meeting. Highlights from the meeting included:

- A focus group conversation around the Life of Faith initiative, reflecting on the impact of the “Called to Relationship” sermon series and small group discussions, and the possibility for more small group discussions.
- Old Business: Proposed plans for improvements and maintenance of our church building in a cost-effective manner were presented, and Council approved a Capital Campaign for summer/fall 2025. Property Use Policy is currently under review. Review of numerous other St Stephen Policies is underway and will take more time to clarify.
- New Business: Council would like to provide opportunities for volunteer engagement and are considering the best ways to make these known to the congregation.
- Other: The new hearing assistance program has been installed



## Thank You from the Arens Family

St. Stephen family,

*We want to share our sincerest thanks for all the prayers you have sent and continue to send our family's way. Archie is doing great, and while he still has a ways to go, he has made so much progress! Thank you for every single prayer, card, hug, and gift. We are so touched by your kindness and feel so blessed to be part of this community.*

*Love, Greg, Andrea, and Archie Arens*

## 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](mailto:jana@ststephenlutheran.org)) and she can set you up to shadow one of our volunteers.



### Summer Office Hours

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

# June 2025 Celebrations

## June Birthdays

<b>June 1</b>	Chris Nelsen
<b>June 2</b>	Clara Kuker, Pat Msseemmaa
<b>June 5</b>	Shirley Fellman
<b>June 6</b>	Mary Hintz
<b>June 8</b>	Lisa Fellman
<b>June 9</b>	Kevin Dotseth
<b>June 10</b>	Peg Gilchrist, Alex Nease, Lynn Rappold
<b>June 12</b>	Missy Boerner, Avery Harding
<b>June 13</b>	Kim Story
<b>June 15</b>	Lisa Dotseth
<b>June 17</b>	Anne Guthrie, Larry Huntley, Brandon Marcotte
<b>June 18</b>	Don Herman, Dick Koepplin
<b>June 19</b>	Beth Bishop, Ben Edmondson, Colin Richard
<b>June 21</b>	John Dieseth, Sherry Schaffer
<b>June 23</b>	Gloria Herman
<b>June 25</b>	Archie Freeman
<b>June 26</b>	Emily Harding, Ruth Schlesinger



<b>June 28</b>	Bryson Quam
<b>June 29</b>	Robin Saxon
<b>June 30</b>	Adam Haugerud



## June Anniversaries

<b>June 5</b>	Steve & Sue Johnson, Janet & John Williams
<b>June 6</b>	Dick & Carol Koepplin
<b>June 8</b>	Steve & Cyndy Quam, Rob & Ann Torrey, Sue & Walter Zieman-Miro
<b>June 9</b>	Gordon & Charlene Jorgensen
<b>June 11</b>	Dave & Tara Amundson, Dale & Noreen Christians
<b>June 16</b>	Donna & Dan Schroeder
<b>June 21</b>	Allison & Adam Barlow, Ted & Julia Hoeger
<b>June 22</b>	Hugh & Vickie Ceaser
<b>June 23</b>	Steve & Dana Nelson
<b>June 24</b>	David & Diane Bolender
<b>June 25</b>	Dave & Karen Fachman
<b>June 27</b>	Dave & Beth Bishop, Art & Gayle Gustafson

# June 2025 Calendar

## Sunday, June 1, Seventh 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, June 3

**Capital Campaign Committee**, 5:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, June 4

**Brown Bag**, 11:30 a.m.  
**SSLC Band Rehearsal**, 6:15 p.m.

## Thursday, June 5

**AA Meeting**, 6:30 p.m.

## Saturday, June 7

**Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal**, 1:00 p.m.  
**Redeemed Fellowship Center**, 4:00 p.m.

## Sunday, June 8, Day of Pentecost

**Hymn Sing**, 9:50 a.m.  
**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.  
**Vacation Bible School**, 5:30 p.m.

## Monday, June 9

**Vacation Bible School**, 5:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, June 10

**Vacation Bible School**, 5:30 p.m.  
**Executive Committee Meeting**, 7:00 p.m.

## Wednesday, June 11

**Brown Bag**, 11:30 a.m.  
**Vacation Bible School**, 5:30 p.m.

## Thursday, June 12

**AA Meeting**, 6:30 p.m.

## Saturday, June 14

**Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal**, 1:00 p.m.  
**Redeemed Fellowship Center**, 4:00 p.m.

## Sunday, June 15, The Holy Trinity, Father'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.

## Monday, June 16

**Middle School Service Week**

## Tuesday, June 17

**Middle School Service Week**  
**Finance Committee**, 5:00 p.m.  
**Property Use Policy Committee**, 7:00 p.m.

## Wednesday, June 18

**Middle School Service Week**  
**Brown Bag**, 11:30 a.m.  
**SSLC Band Rehearsal**, 6:15 p.m.

## Thursday, June 19, Juneteenth

**Middle School Service Week**  
**Care Companions**, 5:00 p.m.



## June 2025 Calendar (continued)

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Saturday, June 21

Property Committee, 8:00 a.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

### Sunday, June 22, Second Sunday after Pentecost

Hymn Sing, 9:50 a.m.

Holy Communion & Prayers for Healing, 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, June 23

Personnel Committee, 6:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, June 24

Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, June 25

Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.

SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.

### Thursday, June 26

Jazz in June, 6:30 p.m.

AA Meeting, 6:30 a.m.

### Saturday, June 28

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

### Sunday, June 29, Third Sunday after Pentecost

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.

## Beware of Scams!

Church communities are frequently targeted by scammers exploiting your generosity and desire to help your neighbors. St. Stephen people continue to encounter two scams:

- **Gift Card Scam:** Scammers imitating Pastor Andrea send phony email and text messages asking for a “favor” or seeking “confidential and discreet assistance with a request.” The scammers are often convincing in making the matter seem urgent! The goal of the scam is to have you purchase gift cards and send them the gift card’s number. Once they have that number, the money is stolen!
- **Membership Directory Scam:** The scammer is after a copy of the membership directory. They might pretend to be a member who “lost their contacts” with a new phone, or they might pretend to be a new member. The goal is to identify targets for the gift card scam.

Unfortunately, there’s no easy way to stop scammers! The best strategy to protect our community is to learn how to recognize scams and avoid them. Always remember:

- Avoid “phishing” scams by checking the sender’s email address or phone number for accuracy. Any genuine message from St. Stephen staff will end with [@ststephenlutheran.org](mailto:@ststephenlutheran.org) (not @gmail.com). All staff phone numbers have a 515 area code.
- Pastor Andrea and members of staff will never ask you to purchase gift cards in this way.
- Never share your Online Directory login information, or other member lists.
- Another red flag is misspellings and grammar errors. Are names spelled correctly?

When in doubt, the best course of action is to ignore and delete the message, and/or block the phone number.

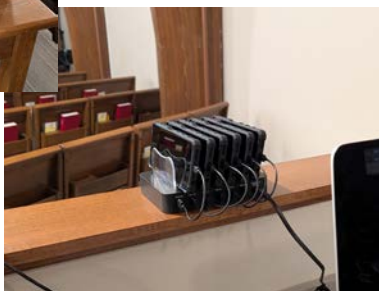
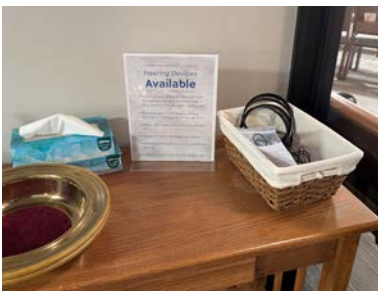
# BEWARE OF SCAMS!



**St. Stephen Lutheran Church**  
3510 72nd St.  
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.