



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

SEPTEMBER 2026

# News & Notes

3510 72<sup>nd</sup> Street | Urbandale, IA 50322 | 515-276-4628 | [office@ststephenlutheran.org](mailto:office@ststephenlutheran.org)



**You're Invited!**

**St. Stephen's Fall Kick-off  
Celebration**

**Sunday, September 13  
10:00 a.m.**

*Outdoor  
Worship,  
Food, Fun,  
Bouncy Houses  
& More!*

*Fun For  
Everyone!*

## Fall Kick-Off Celebration – Sunday, September 13

**Join us for our Fall Kick-Off Celebration as we begin the Fall Programming year!**

It's back to school time! Which means the start of our Fall Programming year! All, young and young at heart, are invited on Sunday, September 13, to help us get the year started! The day will begin with outdoor worship (service will move to Sanctuary in the event of inclement weather) at 10 a.m., followed by a meal and fun! Bouncy houses, bubbles, chalk, face painting and more on the West lawn. Worship will be streamed live to YouTube & Facebook as usual.

### REMINDERS

- Please park in the South lot, on the street, or close to the Worship Entry doors (reserved for handicap parking)
- Bring your lawn chairs! Hats/sunglasses also recommended.
- For the meal, please bring a salad, side or dessert to share. Burgers, hot dogs, plates, silverware and napkins provided.

## Around the Church



### Welcome Beckett, Zoey and Ashton

Beckett, Zoey and Ashton were baptized at St. Stephen on August 30. They are the children of Elizabeth Dahm and the grandchildren of Greg and Leslie Dahm.



### Thank You Pastor Mark!

On August 2 we celebrated Pastor Mark Holmes as his time here as Interim Pastor came to a close. Thank you, Pastor Mark, for your presence the past seven months!

## Around the Church (continued)

### Youth Sunday August 9

Youth from the ELES group who traveled to the Apostle Islands in August did a fantastic job with the youth service they put together!



### Backpack and Bags Blessing

On August 23, students, teachers and other educational professionals participated in the annual blessing of the backpack and bags!



### Backpack Buddies

This year, St. Stephen is participating in Backpack Buddies for Urbandale Middle School. The first packing event was August 23 with 400 bags to pack! A big thank you to all who helped!



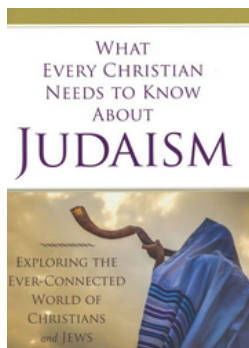
## ELES YouthTrip - Apostle Islands



## News & Events

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

The book club gathers each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the office Conference Room. Starting September 2, we are reading **What Every Christian Needs to Know About Judaism** by Rabbi Evan Moffic. All are welcome!



### Property Day Saturday, September 12 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 September 12 for any special instructions. If Saturday morning doesn't work, contact Jerry Strawman for an alternative time.

### Prayers for Healing September 20

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.



Would you like to get to know other people from the church in a relaxed and social environment? Try the monthly supper club. It is open to all adults and the only requirement is to bring an appetizer to share and your beverage of choice.

Each month supper club is hosted by a member at their home. This month, the club will meet at **6:30 p.m. on Friday, September 18**. Please let our hosts John and Jane Dieseth know that you will be attending. ([jdieseth@BPGGrp.com](mailto:jdieseth@BPGGrp.com)) We hope to see you there!



WILL NOT MEET IN SEPTEMBER

# News and Events (continued)

## August Council Meeting Highlights

- Website update: The new website will hopefully be rolled out and operational September 1.
- HVAC System repair/replacement project is progressing.
- Communication Innovators will be providing recommendations for improving acoustics in the Gathering Area.
- Wonder on the Go exceeded the fall target of 20 churches! Twenty-five churches are now enrolled.
- Blood Drive is September 12 from 8:00 a.m. to noon in Room 103/105.

## Chancel Choir



Our choir welcomes all singers, teenager through adult! Please email Jana Taylor ([jana@ststephenlutheran.org](mailto:jana@ststephenlutheran.org)) if you'd like to be added to the Choir email list!

Here is our September Schedule. All rehearsals are in the Sanctuary unless otherwise noted below.

Tuesday, Sept. 15 Rehearsal - 6:30 p.m.  
 Tuesday, Sept. 22 Rehearsal - 6:30 p.m.  
 Sunday, Sept. 27 Performance - 9:30 a.m. warm-up  
 Tuesday, Sept. 29 Rehearsal - 6:30 p.m.



**Join us on Wednesday evenings for dinner and worship!**

Wednesday evenings are relaxed, come-as-you-are gathering including a 30 minute worship service with Holy Communion. Faith formation activities begin at 6:30 p.m. with Emerge (students in grades 6-8) and ELES (students in grades 9-12) at 7:30 p.m.



Hymn Sing at the Gift Farm on August 30



Beginning September 20 - 9:00 a.m.

# Outreach

## Social Ministry Report



### Food Pantry - July Collection

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Peanut Butter:           | 5  |
| Bags and Cans of Beans:  | 7  |
| Cans of Vegetables:      | 9  |
| Cereal:                  | 3  |
| Bottles of Sweet Tea:    | 12 |
| Shampoo and Conditioner: | 13 |
| Toothpaste:              | 3  |
| Miscellaneous Items:     | 5  |

**Total Items Donated: 57 Items weighing 66 pounds**

## September Food Pantry Collection Items:

- Cereal
- Canned Tuna and Chicken
- Dried Fruit
- Laundry Soap - All Sizes

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 in 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 after-hours donations.



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

# Life of Faith

*September is a time to restart. Children restart school. Adults restart a more structured schedule. Hopefully all of us will restart more time with our relationships. Relationship is what God wants with each of us and calls us to have with one another.*

God has claimed each of us as His beloved child. He calls us into a relationship with Him and encourages us to live in relationship with one another. Our faith grows when we make time for God, for prayer, for worship, and for the people He has placed in our lives. How will you make time for a deeper relationship with God?



This September, St. Stephen is restarting and beginning new opportunities to grow in faith, build relationships, and enjoy being together as a family of faith.

## Sunday, September 13 – St. Stephen Kick-Off

Join us for a special day as we come together in faith, praise, prayer, fellowship, and food! Please mark your calendar and plan to be part of this special opportunity to reconnect with your church family and restart your time together at St. Stephen. Sunday School, Confirmation, Choir, and new relationship-building programs will be getting underway.



### Every Sunday, beginning September 20 @ 9:00-9:50 a.m. – Family Connection

Parents of children ages 0-12 are invited! Join us in the Gathering Area during Sunday School for the kickoff of our new group:

Family Connection is a place for parents to connect with God and with one another through:

Devotions • Prayer • Conversation • Encouragement  
Sharing the joys and challenges of raising children  
Building supportive Christian relationships

This will be a weekly opportunity for parents to grow in faith while building a stronger community of support for one another. If you are a parent of a child ages 0-12, we hope you will join us every Sunday morning.

### Every Tuesday beginning, September 22 @ 1:30-3:00 p.m – God, Games & Gracefully Aging Adults

This is a relaxed time to grow closer to God, strengthen friendships, and enjoy some fun together. Cards and Mahjong will be available, or simply come enjoy: Cookies • Coffee • Conversation • Friendship • Faith

If you are retired and would like more opportunities to connect with God and with others, please join us Tuesdays from September 22 through November 24. Come for the games, stay for the fellowship, and discover the joy of growing together in faith.

# Life of Faith (Continued)

## Sunday, September 27 – Sermon Interview

John Dieseth and Marsha Arens will share a special Sermon Interview on Sunday, September 27. This will be an important conversation for our St. Stephen family, and we would love to have everyone there to listen, support, and participate in this special time together.

- God has claimed you as His child! What Is God Calling You To?
- He knows you, loves you, and calls you into a deeper relationship with Him. He also calls us to love, encourage, and walk alongside one another.
- As September brings new routines and new beginnings, we invite you to ask: Where is God calling me to grow?
- How can I make more time for Him?
- Who is God placing in my life to walk beside me?
- How can I help strengthen our St. Stephen family of faith?

This September, let's restart our commitment to God, renew our relationships, and rediscover the joy of being together and deepen your relationship with our Lord!

**Come. Connect. Grow. Serve.**

Be part of your St. Stephen family of faith.

### Office Hours

Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Wednesday - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Thursday - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Office: (515) 276-4628

You can read updates from Pastor Andrea and Ronald at [caringbridge.org](https://caringbridge.org) after creating a free account. Pastor Andrea treasures every comment posted there. Andrea's email address: [revandreamyers@gmail.com](mailto:revandreamyers@gmail.com)

United in Remembrance.  
**United to SAVE LIVES.**

**St. Stephen Lutheran Church**  
**BLOOD DRIVE**

**SEPTEMBER 12**  
8:00am-12:00pm  
Room #103-105  
510 72nd Street, Urbandale, IA 50322

Honor the spirit of service  
by donating blood.

scan

A meaningful gift deserves a meaningful  
thank-you, our gift to every donor.

call 800.287.4903 | text LIFESERVE to 515.815.7242 | visit [lifeservebloodcenter.org](https://lifeservebloodcenter.org)



## September Anniversaries

09/02 Kevin & Kris Shay (48 yrs)  
09/03 Jeff & Julia Moats (38 yrs)  
09/04 Don & Gloria Herman (55 yrs)  
09/05 Marlin & Barb Huey (56 yrs)  
09/07 Loney & Audra Baugher (7 yrs)  
09/10 Pat & Vickie Linthicum (32 yrs)  
09/15 Bill & Cindy Scarpino (31 yrs)  
09/26 Bill & Beth Goebel (39 yrs)  
09/27 Luke & Alma Grove (18 yrs)

## September Birthdays

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 09/02 Julia Moats      | 09/16 Mya-Lisa Gude      |
| 09/04 Alma Grove       | 09/17 Keith Swanson      |
| 09/05 Noah Amundson    | 09/17 Pam Walck          |
| 09/06 Jeannette Haugen | 09/20 John Williams, Jr. |
| 09/07 Emma Anderson    | 09/22 Nick Dial          |
| 09/08 Julie Bohnsack   | 09/23 Cathy Edmondson    |
| 09/08 Betty Torgerson  | 09/23 Linda Greethurst   |
| 09/09 Deann Jones      | 09/23 Karen Huntley      |
| 09/10 Chelsi Roberts   | 09/23 Dan Walck          |
| 09/11 Judy Beckley     | 09/24 Gail Espe          |
| 09/11 Dave Bishop      | 09/25 Beth Halverson     |
| 09/12 Jeff Holdorf     | 09/27 Katie Trunnel      |
| 09/13 Gordon Jorgensen | 09/28 Aaron Walck        |
| 09/15 Larry Richman    | 09/29 Dave Arens         |
| 09/15 Tracy Sabus      | 09/29 Deb Wickham        |



# September Calendar

## Tuesday, September 1

- + Lifeline Screening, 8:00 a.m.

## Wednesday, September 2

- + Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.
- + SSLC Praise Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

## Thursday, September 3

- + AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- + Chapel Chimers, 6:30 p.m.

## Saturday, September 5

- + Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsals, 1:00 & 4:00 p.m.

## Sunday, September 6

### 15th Sunday after Pentecost

- + Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.
- + Coffee and Donuts
- + Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.
- + Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

## Tuesday, September 8

- + Executive Committee, 7:00 p.m.

## Wednesday, September 9

- + Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.
- + Finance Committee, 1:00 p.m.
- + Supper at the Table, 5:15 p.m.
- + Worship at the Table, 6:00 p.m.
- + SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
- + Emerge, 6:30 p.m.
- + ELES, 7:30 p.m.

## Thursday, September 10

- + AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- + Chapel Chimers, 6:30 p.m.

## Saturday, September 12

- + Property Day, 8:00 a.m.
- + Blood Drive, 8:00 a.m.
- + Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsals, 1:00 & 4:00 p.m.

## Sunday, September 13

### 16th Sunday after Pentecost Fall Kick-off

- + Outdoor Worship, 10:00 a.m.
- + Potluck 11:00 a.m.
- + Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

## Tuesday, September 15

- + Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, September 16

- + Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.
- + Supper at the Table, 5:15 p.m.
- + Worship at the Table, 6:00 p.m.
- + No SSLC Band Rehearsal
- + Emerge, 6:30 p.m.
- + ELES, 7:30 p.m.

## Thursday, September 17

- + Care Companions, 4:00 p.m.
- + AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- + Chapel Chimers, 6:30 p.m.

## Friday, September 18

- + Supper Club, 6:30 p.m.

## Saturday, September 19

- + Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsals, 1:00 & 4:00 p.m.

## Sunday, September 20

### 17th Sunday after Pentecost

- + Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
- + Family Connection Parent Group, 9:00 a.m.
- + Holy Communion (w/healing prayers), 10:00 a.m.
- + Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- + Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.



## Tuesday, September 22

- + God, Games & Gracefully Aging Adults, 1:30 p.m.
- + Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
- + Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

## Wednesday, September 23

- + Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.
- + Supper at the Table, 5:15 p.m.
- + Worship at the Table, 6:00 p.m.
- + Trust Fund Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- + SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
- + Emerge, 6:30 p.m.
- + ELES, 7:30 p.m.

## Thursday, September 24

- + AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- + Chapel Chimers, 6:30 p.m.

## Saturday, September 26

- + Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsals, 1:00 & 4:00 p.m.

## Sunday, September 27

### 18th Sunday after Pentecost

- + Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
- + Family Connection Parent Group, 9:00 a.m.
- + Chancel Choir Performance Warm-up, 9:30 a.m.
- + Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.
- + Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.
- + Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

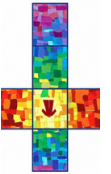
## Tuesday, September 29

- + God, Games & Gracefully Aging Adults, 1:30 p.m.
- + Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, September 30

- + Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.
- + Supper at the Table, 5:15 p.m.
- + Worship at the Table, 6:00 p.m.
- + SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
- + Emerge, 6:30 p.m.
- + ELES, 7:30 p.m.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
3510 72nd St.  
Urbandale, IA 50322  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# Fall Programming Dates!

**Wednesdays**

**Beginning September 9**

Supper at the Table - 5:15 p.m.

Worship at the Table - 6:00 p.m.

SSLC Praise Band Rehearsal - 6:30 p.m.

EMERGE - 6:30 p.m.

ELES - 7:30 p.m.



**Beginning**

**September 20**

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.