

From the Pastor's Desk...

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

-Romans 8:28

So we are in some interesting and weird times. A shelter-at-home order from a governor is unprecedented in our lifetime. Every generation does have their challenges and difficulties. This is for sure. This seems kind of dire and scary.

When Paul wrote the letter to the church in Rome, he was writing to a community of believers that was living in fear. They were afraid of persecution from Roman authorities. They were also living in a time of conflict—they

one another. So when Paul was writing to them, he was telling them that all things, both good and bad, will work in concert for good.

Recently a St. Stephen Member, Bart Johnson, tapped the maple trees out in front of the church. If you really think about tapping maple trees, it is a lot of things working in concert with each other to access sugar water and end up turning it into maple syrup. Weather. Temperature. Nature. Timing. Work. Heat.

It's not a simple process. But in the end, you get maple syrup. You get something valuable. You get something good. There's hope.

I think it's not unlike our interesting time with Coronavirus. Our time is complicated. Lots of things work in concert with each other.

The most encouraging thing amidst all of this, is the hope that we have. It's what comes at the end. In the end, if we are to believe the Apostle Paul, will be good. Yes, there will be challenges, pain, and even deaths. Per-



Bart & Berit Johnson tapping a maple tree.

haps people we know and love. But in the end, we will be okay. Things will be new. That is the message of the cross. That's the good news.

So when you are sheltered at home, remember your worth. Remember the love that God has for us all, and that in concert, all things will work together for good. Remember the hope that is at the end of the process.

In Christ+

Pastor Lyle Snyder



ware a church in conflict with



March 17th, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ:

Our congregation council met tonight and decided that St. Stephen Lutheran Church worship services, meals, and education will be suspended until further notice as we steward the health of ourselves and our neighbors in these times. The council will reassess the community situation on Friday March 31st, and if still needed, on a regular basis afterwards. St. Stephen Pre-school will continue to remain open at this time.

The ministry to which God has called us will continue in differing ways. We will have services online for our Wednesday Evenings (6 pm) and Sunday Mornings (9:30 a.m.). They will appear on both Facebook and YouTube. Confirmation will continue with at-home lessons. There are other ways that we plan on connecting as well.

The council will be honest with you. We are concerned about the financial impact the congregation will feel by not having regular worship services, quite possibly for an extended period of time. We would encourage you to enroll in regular/recurring electronic giving if you have not already done so. You can do so by going here: <https://tinyurl.com/huyh7> Click "**Create Profile**" to begin the process.

As we socially distance ourselves from one another, let us continue to care for our neighbors' needs with the compassion and love to which Jesus calls us. Let us further encounter this challenge and consider it an opportunity, as a different way to be church, and a different way to live out our common baptism. Jesus is the one who came "to make all things new."

If you have questions, concerns, or pastoral needs please contact us:

Pastor Lyle Snyder – (507) 828-3893 (cell)

Congregational President Daren Kesteloot (507) 829-4989 (cell)

Church Office – (507) 537-1516

Please Visit our congregation's website for updated information as it becomes available: www.ststephenmarshall.org Or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ststephenmarshall/

In Christ+

Pastor Lyle & The St. Stephen Lutheran Church Congregation Council

1301 South Fourth Street ■ Marshall, Minnesota 56258-2201

Phone: (507) 537-1516 | Fax: (507) 532-7464

Email: ststephen@ststephenmarshall.org | Website: www.ststephenmarshall.org

Lyle Snyder, Pastor

Update on Christ-United Presbyterian Merger

- At this time, most merger discussion and work has ceased at congregational and judicatory levels, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- After the pandemic concerns have been alleviated, the St. Stephen Council will be awaiting a response from the Christ-United Session to the Minnesota Valley Presbytery. The response will address a few concerns from the Presbytery. The Presbytery is their equivalent to our synod.³
- After these concerns, our council and their session will likely meet to begin initial planning, further direction, and constitutional matters.

“For a Time Such As This...” Online Giving

During the Coronavirus Pandemic, as a community of faith, we will be taking a very large hit to our income. Our income is dependent upon people showing up in the pews on a Sunday - which is a difficult venture when we don't have Sundays, and we may not for a while.

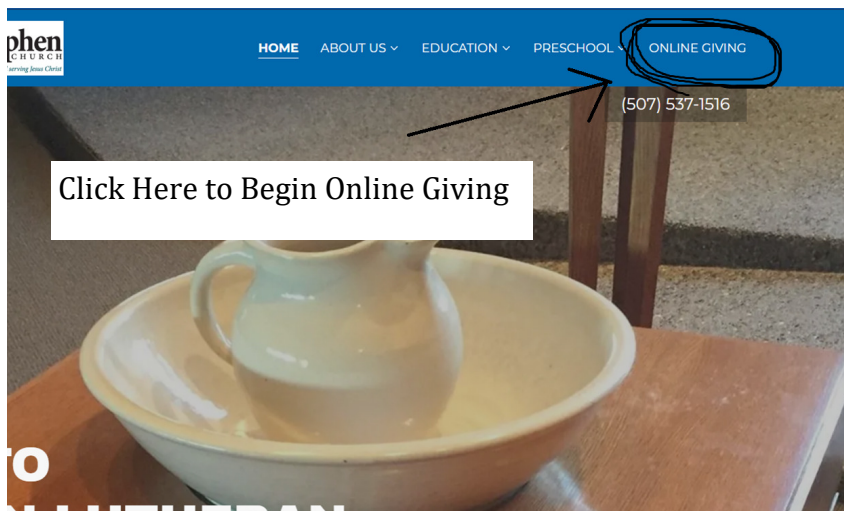
Because of this, we ask the following...

- 1) If you do not yet have online or recurring giving either through an online bill pay service or ACH payments made directly to St. Stephen, we encourage you to begin. See the instructions below or the form on the other side of this page to begin online giving!
- 2) If you already have recurring giving either through an online bill pay service or ACH payments directly to St. Stephen, we encourage you to increase your regular giving.

So how do you begin online giving? You can do so by a few ways...

- 1) You can go to the St. Stephen Webpage, click “Online Giving” and create a profile.
- 2) Complete the form on the other side of this page send to us with a voided check, either through the mail or scanned through email at ststephenmarshall.org

Thanks for your support!



Staff

- Rev. Lyle Snyder, Pastor
- Seth Boerboom, Parish Associate
- Lauren Winn, Financial Assistant
- Judy DeCramer, Organist
- Gunvar Dombek, Organist
- Mary Hauschild, Organist
- Seth Boerboom, Pianist
- Judy Hoeft, Pianist
- Melinda Grohs, Preschool Director
- Lisa Rosenboom, Assistant Teacher
- Melissa Doose, Assistant Teacher

Congregation Council

- Daren Kesteloot, President (term ends Jan. 2021)
- Jasmine Steffen, Vice President (term ends Jan. 2021)
- Josh Allerson, Treasurer (term ends Jan. 2022)
- Paula Petersen-Giles, Secretary (term ends Jan. 2021)
- Jennifer Marty (term ends Jan. 2022)
- Bill Cowden (term ends Jan. 2022)
- Abby Dubs (term ends Jan. 2021)
- Carlton Johnson (term ends Jan. 2022)
- Erin Kuehl (term ends Jan. 2022)

AUTHORIZATION FORM



The **Simply Giving** Program
endorsed by
 Thrivent Federal Credit Union™

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	ENVELOPE/DONOR #	DATE
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____ Type of authorization: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation		
Last Name		First Name
Address		
City		State Zip
Email Address		
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____	FREQUENCY OF DONATION: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – Mondays <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th	FUNDS: <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ \$ _____ Total \$ _____
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)	Routing Number: _____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: _____
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____	

If using a checking account, please attach a voided check at the bottom of this page.

Mail this completed form along with a voided check to: St. Stephen Lutheran Church
1301 S 4th St.
Marshall, MN 56258

Or, you can also email it to ststephen@ststephenmarshall.org

March Happenings....



Jared Bot & Angie Evans
were married Feb. 29th



Lucy Marie Nath was bap-
tized on March 15th



**Melinda Grohs,
Preschool Director**



Lisa Rosenboom, Assistant Teacher
Melissa Doose, Assistant Teacher
Telephone: 507-537-1516
Email: preschool@ststephen.marshall.org

Hy-Vee Gift Cards

The Preschool Board is continuing to sell gift cards for Hy-Vee. 5% of the purchase price of each gift card will be donated back to our Preschool at no additional cost to you! These cards can be used at the grocery store as well as the gas station. Gift cards may be purchased on Sundays after worship or in the church office during the week.



This week we talked about community helpers! We had a special guest, Sheriff Wallen visited our classroom to teach us about what police officers do and how they keep us safe

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

NOW OPEN for the 2020-2021 school year!



NEW We will offer flexible full or half day preschool options!

If you would like more information or to set up a tour contact Melinda at (507) 537-1516 or melinda.grohs@ststephenmarshall.org.

April 2020



14 Keeley Island Drive
Slayton, MN 56172
507-763-3567
camp@shetek.org
www.shetek.org

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers

April highlights

- Saturday, April 18 – Pre-marriage Retreat
- Fri.-Sat., April 24-25 – Confirmation Retreat
- Saturday, April 25 – Spring Toddlers/Trees
- Saturday, April 25 – Spring Clean up day



THINK SPRING!!

Shetek is seeking summer ministry team members.

A great opportunity to develop the following lifelong skills that employers want to see on resumes!

- Creativity
- Oral communication skills
- Critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Interpersonal and Leadership skills
- Collaborative skills

To find out more and apply online – <https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/>

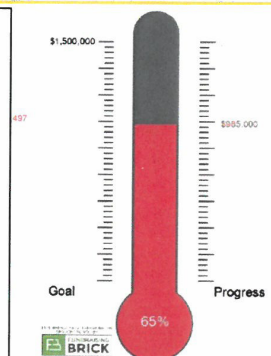
Mark your Calendar 2020

- Pre-marriage Retreat – April 18
- Confirmation Retreat – April 24-25
- Spring Toddlers and Trees – April 25
- Spring Clean-up Days – come help get camp ready for a great summer – April 25 + May 2
- Road Scholars – May 3-8
- First Day of Camp!! – June 7
- Saturday Worship at Shetek- 5:30 starting June 13
- Fun in the Sun with Waterbugs – June 13
- Golf Tournament – June 22
- Quilt Auction – June 27
- Donor Picnic – July 21
- Summer Toddlers and Trees – August 15
- Young at Heart Retreat – August 21-22

Can you help Shetek out? Here's our Wish List!

- Vehicles in good condition (Mini-vans)
- 17 foot aluminum canoes
- Flatscreen TV's
- 4 Drawer dressers
- Office supplies – reams of paper, dry erase markers
- Box fans

Here's an update on our "Building on the Foundation" capital campaign. We've raised over \$994,000 in gifts/pledges towards our \$1,500,000 goal! Check our website for more info.



Help send kids to Camp. Become a Pelican Club or Timber Society member today. Pelican Club members support the ministry with a gift of \$100 - \$499 a year and Timber Society members give \$500 or more a year. Thanks for your support!



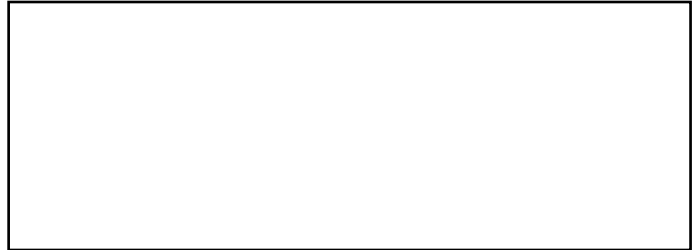
1301 South Fourth Street
Marshall, MN 56258-2201

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Marshall, MN 56258-2201

Phone: 507-537-1516 Fax: 507-532-7464
Email: ststephen@ststephenmarshall.org
Website: www.ststephenmarshall.org

Church Office Hours
Are by Appointment Only

Address Service Requested



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



***"Thus you see that in all ages
the lot of the church is the
same: it is the prey of the
ungodly, and yet the Lord
preserves it in a marvelous
manner, even against the
gates of hell."***

—Martin Luther