



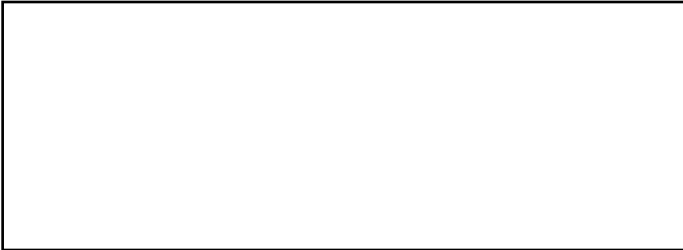
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**Church Office Hours**  
**By Appointment**

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

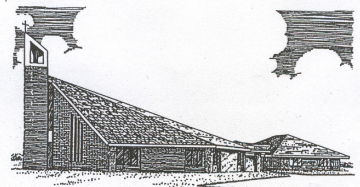


*"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as*

*stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."*

**—Martin Luther**

**St. Stephen**  
**May 2020**



## **From the Pastor's Desk...**

*"People make bad choices if they're mad, or scared, or stressed. Throw a little love their way, and you'll bring out their best."*

-One of the Trolls from the movie "Frozen."

Normally every month when I write this short devotional I usually quote scripture. I put in a bible story, a short story or picture, and some words that are meant to challenge a bit while lifting up.

This month I thought... you know, I kind of want to go with Disney. See, I had a daughter who loved Frozen when it came out. She really was the target audience for its release. As a result, I've got the entire soundtrack memorized. I think I might audition for the On Broadway version of Frozen. I've got the parts down...

This song from the trolls always struck me. These rock-figures had a patient sense of wisdom to them. And you'll see that line at the top that I point to. People make bad choices when they're mad, or scared, or stressed. Wow is that a true universal.

Perhaps that's why the Jesus story grabs me so much. Jesus is the antidote to mad, scared, and stressed. Anger. Fear. Stress. These things will never leave us. They'll always be with us. But we do have something that soothes them. That cures them when they pop their

### **Staff**

- Rev. Lyle Snyder, Pastor
- Seth Boerboom, Parish Associate
- Angie Stacken, Office Manager
- Lauren Winn, Financial Assistant
- Judy DeCramer, Organist
- Gunvar Dombek, Organist
- Mary Hauschild, Organist
- Seth Boerboom, Pianist
- Judy Hoef, 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)

heads up. Something that at least temporarily erase them until they make their appearance again.

The Coronavirus Pandemic is really, really good at getting people mad, scared, or stressed. How have you done with anger, fear, and stress during this time? If you've been like me, probably not the greatest.

Well, there's an antidote. There is a vaccine for the anger, stress, and fear that's all wrapped up in the pandemic. It's Jesus.

During the remainder of your sheltering in place, may you know the vaccine, the antidote, the cure that is Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Service



+Pastor Lyle Snyder

# PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

NOW OPEN for the 2020-2021 school year!



**St. Stephen**  
LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

*\*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](mailto:melinda.grohs@ststephenmarshall.org).

**May 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**

Well, things look much different now than when the last CANEWS went out! Shetek's staff are busy planning for several different scenarios for what camp may look like this season. Our staff and board are still hopeful that we can do some onsite programming this summer but there are a lot of unknowns. Shetek is still hiring male staff for this summer's programming. See below for more details.

**Shetek is seeking male 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/>

**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!**

Mark your Calendar 2020

Since we highlight events and programs here at camp in this section, we will be updating this in future CANEWS when we are again able to host groups and programs onsite. For now, we appreciate your prayers and also your financial support, if you are able, during this difficult time.

A reminder for us all at this time –  
 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

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

Our "Building on the Foundation" capital campaign is on hold for now. So far, we've raised over \$994,000 in gifts/pledges towards our \$1,500,000 goal! We'll be continuing the campaign efforts later this year when it is more feasible and safe to do so.

## Congregational Financial Update

We are in a different kind of time. With not meeting in person for worship on Sundays, our financial situation has taken a hit. I want to share with you more information on the congregation's financial position.

- At the end of March, our checking account balance was at \$137,083.69. What does this mean? It means that while we have some cash reserves, we are still concerned for our overall financial picture.
- Prior to March, our monthly needs were about \$27,000/month. A little more than half of our income occurs in regular ACH deposits (deducted monthly or weekly, about \$14,000/month). This means the remainder of our income was usually raised by our regular Sunday morning offerings. It is our hope that we increase this. By the time of the newsletter update, we've taken in an additional \$1,370/month in regular ACH deposits.
- In March, our council decided to eliminate the position of office manager. This will result in additional savings. It'll likely result in some additional work for me, our finance manager Lauren, as well as volunteers. The council decided to continue on the office manager's health insurance for 6 months.
- We received the Paycheck Protection Program Loan in the amount of \$34,892.48. We believe a large portion of this (about \$28,000) will be forgiven in the form of a grant.
- I am slowly calling every family unit in the congregation. I may make a direct appeal for you to being or increase online/regular giving.

So what does this all mean put together? It means first, we are concerned about our finances at the church. We have enough funds to make our payroll, but without an increase in regular giving, our congregation will be in difficult shape. And to be truthful, our council was concerned about our financial position for the past couple of years even before the pandemic. Second, it also means we are hopeful. We do have the financial resources amongst our families in the congregation, and I think in the future, we're on our way to a more solid financial footing.

I think the words of God in the book of Jeremiah (29:11) say it best:

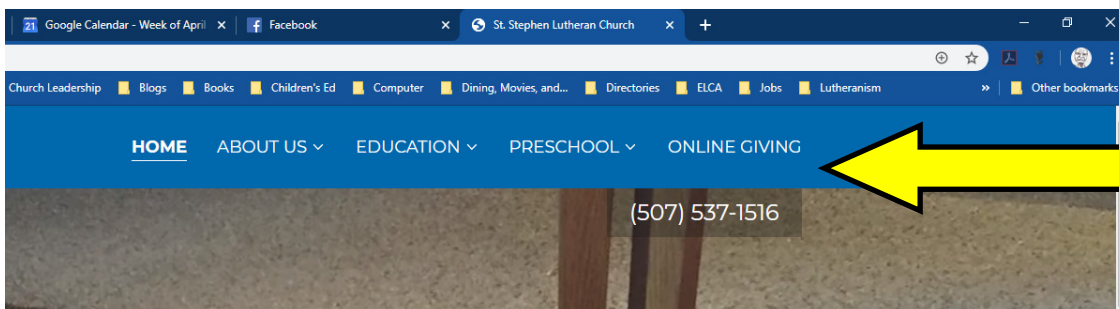
*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."*

Our future with hope is not just about our congregation, not just our finances, but for our entire lives in the love we have from God.

+Pastor Lyle, on behalf of the Church Council Executive Team (President Daren Kesteloot, Vice-President Jasmine Steffen, Treasurer Joshua Allerson, and Secretary Paula Petersen-Giles).

## Ways to Begin Online Regular Giving!

- 1) On the St. Stephen Website - go to [www.ststephenmarshall.org](http://www.ststephenmarshall.org). Click on "online giving" then "create profile" and follow the instructions.



To begin regular giving, click here on our website!

- 2) Consult with your bank about "Online Bill Pay." Many banks can send a regular check directly to the church.
- 3) Complete the form below and mail it to the church!

## AUTHORIZATION FORM



The **Simply Giving** Program  
endorsed by



<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>	<b>ENVELOPE/DONOR #</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____		
<b>Type of authorization:</b> <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		
<b>DATE OF FIRST DONATION:</b> ____/____/____	<b>FREQUENCY OF DONATION:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – Mondays <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 <sup>st</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FUNDS:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  <b>AMOUNTS:</b> \$ _____ \$ _____  <b>Total \$ _____</b>
<b>CHECKING / SAVINGS</b>	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: _____ <b>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</b>  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.*