

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH PEOPLE OF CHRIST MAKING A DIFFERENCE

April 2023 Newsletter

Freedom to Imagine Celebration

WE DID IT !!! Our building loan has been paid off and it is time to celebrate!

When: April 30th at 4 PM

<u>Where</u>: We will have a celebratory service in the Sanctuary and then move outside to burn the mortgage

<u>Why</u>: Because this congregation saw a need back in 2005, stepped up to the plate over the years since, and made the seemingly impossible possible!

After the service, plan to join us for a catered dinner in the Family Life Center (Gym) and stay for a night of entertainment that is sure to be outstanding!

We are asking you to RSVP for the meal. Please RSVP to events@sslc.org.

Our 2023 Talent Show will be held in conjunction with the Freedom to Imagine Celebration on April 30th! After dinner, we will have our talent show/silent auction which will benefit the 2023 Youth Mission Trip to Puerto Rico. No tickets are required!

If you'd like to participate in the show, please sign up on the clip board located outside of the Agape Sunday School Class. There will be a rehearsal on Wednesday, April 26th beginning at 6 PM.



Holy Week Worship Services and <u>Activities</u>

April 2nd -8:30 am and 11:00 am Palm Sunday Worship 3:00 pm Living Last Supper

April 5th -12:30 pm Holy Wednesday Worship 7:00 pm Living Last Supper

April 6th -

12:30 pm and 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship 5:30 pm Family Maundy Thursday Worship

April 7th -

12:30 pm and 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship 5:30 pm Family Good Friday Worship

April 8th -10:00 am Easter Eggstravaganza

April 9th -6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 am Easter Breakfast 8:30 am and 11:00 am Easter Worship





Join WELCA for our Mother~Daughter~Friend

Afternoon of Desserts & Laughs

Featured Guest: Cherie Nelles

Jesus-Loving Humorist/Storyteller

Sunday, April 23, 2023 3:00 – 5:00pm St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Social Hall Tickets \$12 - Adults/Children* *Children will decorate a fun hat to wear and take home!

Throw on your favorile hal and join us!

"She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future." Proverbs 31:25

The Living Last Supper



Have you ever really looked at Da Vinci's famous painting of The Last Supper?

Ever wondered why the disciples appeared upset?

What had they just heard Jesus say?

You are cordially invited to a production of The Living Last Supper presented by the St. Stephen's Thespians. Come and listen to a presentation of just what might have been said. Get to know each disciple on a personal level.

> Production dates are Palm Sunday, April 2 at 3:00 pm and Holy Wednesday, April 5 at 7:00 pm.

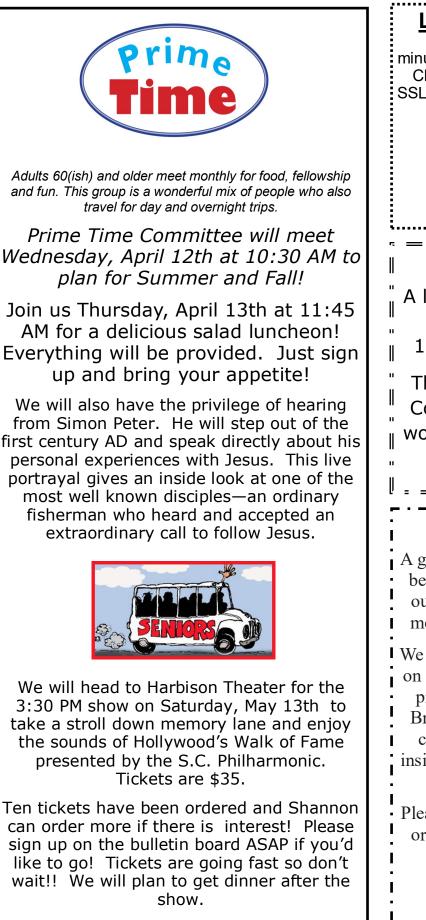
It's time to register for 2023 Lutheroad Day Camp!

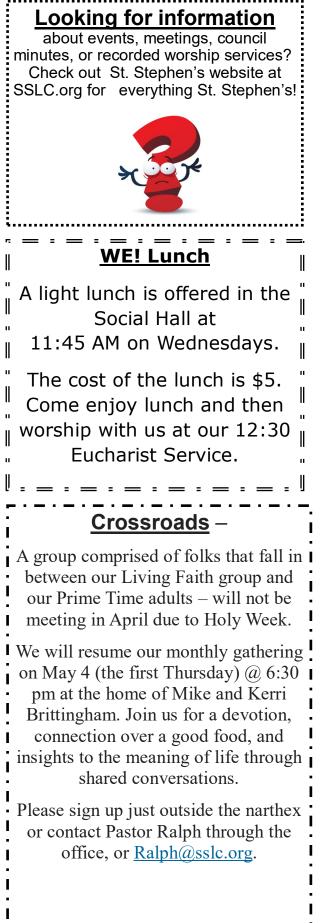
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church invites you to join us for Lutheroad Day Camp! This year, camp is scheduled for June 12-16. Registration for campers entering 1st - 6th grade for next school year (2023/2024) is now open. The cost for one week of camp is \$150.00 for the 1st child & \$130.00 for siblings.

**Register early....space is limited!

Lutheroad Day Camp is a five-day program, which allows the benefits of camp at Lutheridge to come to us! It enables children to experience a Christian camping environment without having to stay overnight away from home. Each day will be full of fun-filled activities including camp-style worship and bible study, arts and crafts, music and songs, special events and field trips! Camp will be from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Friday.

If you think your child(ren) would enjoy the fun-filled and rewarding experience of attending Lutheroad Day Camp at St. Stephen's, please return the registration form and a **<u>\$50.00</u>** non-refundable deposit (per child). Receipt of this information will enable us to reserve a spot for your child(ren). See Shannon with questions!





MISSION LEXINGTON UPDATE

Our Epiphany to Easter food drive is underway with 993 lbs. donated toward a goal of 3,500lbs. Year to date total is 993 lbs. toward a yearly goal of 17,000 lbs.

Please continue to place your food donations in the red food barrel across from the elevator in the admin wing or in the red barrel outside the Agape Sunday School Classroom.

Mission Lexington also needs plastic bags. Bring your used plastic bags to the church and Mr. Ron will deliver to Mission Lexington.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation toward the purchase of food, please make your check payable to St. Stephen's. In the remarks section write: Food purchase for Mission Lexington

Remember even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry

Thank you again for your support.

Needed items:

Canned Fruit Canned Chicken Point of contact: **Beef Stew** Peanut Butter & Jelly Ron Redd Mac & Cheese 803-360-0241 Pork & beans Chili Canned Vegetables Rice **Canned Soups** Coffee Oatmeal Grits Mission Sugar Lexington Flour Applesauce Breakfast cereals Chicken/Turkey/Beef Broth Dog food/Cat food (wet & dry)

Lutheran Men

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Please join us Monday, April 17 at 6:00pm for a meal and to hear a presentation from Tom Counts, President of South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission.

Point of contact: Ron Redd 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.

Boston Butt Fundraiser:

Lutheran Men will sponsor a Boston Butt Fundraiser Saturday May 13, 2023, the Saturday before Mother's 10 Dav between 10:00 am and 1:0010 pm. Alternate pick-up day will be Sunday May 14, after both services. The cost will be \$50.00 each. Tickets go on sale beginning Sunday March 5 through Sunday April 30. 1

Point of Contact: Ron Redd Rredd7848@gmail.com 803-360-0241.

Chat N Chew for April

Date: April 20, 2023 Time: 5:30 PM Restaurant: Grecian Gardens Hosts: Marilyn and Paul Fattman

Please join us for a fun night out!



Relay for Life

Our annual Relay for Life Event will take place on May 5th at Pleasant Hill Middle School ! That's right....it'll be Cinco de Mayo and our theme this year is Adios Cancer!

There will be a Mariachi Band, vendors, a kid zone, theme laps, and so much more! Mark your calendars and join our St. Stephen's team for a fun evening!!

If you are a cancer survivor, please check the Survivor List outside of the Agape Classroom to make sure that we have your name so we can recognize you with a luminary.

If you'd like to honor a loved one with a luminary, please fill out a form located outside of the Agape SS Classroom and return it to Shannon Burnett.



Saints and Sinners Sunday School Class

The Saints and Sinners Class encompasses adults of all ages. There is no regular curriculum. Instead we watch movies, read books, and engage in open conversation about any number of topics. Don't have a Sunday School class that feels like home? We'd love to have YOU with us! Our schedule is as follows:

April 2nd – Lenten Study Wrap-up

April 9th – No Class – Easter Sunday

April 16th – No Class – Pastor Jason Teaching New Member Class in Sanctuary

April 23rd – Easter Study on the Covenants – Noah

April 30th – No Class – Pastor Jason Participating in New Member Class in Sanctuary

SSLC Living Faith Group

This group is comprised of anyone who would consider themselves a "young adult". The definition of "young adult" is broadly defined and within the group encompasses folks of varying ages and family contexts. In short, if you want to join a group of folks that enjoy fellowship, living out their faith, and being active with other members of the congregation please come and join us!

Games and Picnic – Sunday, April 16th at 4pm

Come rain or shine on Sunday afternoon, April 16th, at 4pm for some fun games and fellowship! Here's what you need to bring: 1) corn hole boards and any other fun game stuff that you like and 2) whatever you and/or your family would like to have for dinner. We'll either gather in the front yard or in the gym, depending on the weather. Hopefully we can enjoy a nice afternoon outside on a beautiful Spring day! Please RSVP to Pastor Jason no later than Wednesday, April 12th to let me know how many to expect from your family! Hope to see y'all there!

Young Adults Sunday School:

Young Adults Sunday School meets at 9:45 am in the upstairs Chapel (2nd floor above the gym). We have just finished studying World Religions and have begun to explore several expressions of the Christian faith. We are using Pastor Adam Hamilton's book/dvd resource, <u>Christianity's Family Tree</u>. We gather to learn about God, grow in discipleship, and develop relationships. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ralph!

Ralph@sslc.org. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. – John 15:4-5

Our **Red Cross Blood Drive** will be held on Wednesday, April 19th from 2-7 PM in the gym.

Please visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code SSLC to make your appointment.



Our WNL! programs continue April 12th, 19th, and 26th!

There will be no WNL! on April 5th!!

5:00 PM - Dinner will be served

5:25 PM – 5:55 PM - Cherubs (2's – 5K) and Treble Choirs (1st-5th grade)

5:55 PM – 6:25 PM - Choir Chimes (1st-6th grade)

6:00 PM - 6:45 PM - Confirmation and Adult Bible Study

6:45 PM—Adult Choir Rehearsal (No rehearsal on April 12th)



Jr. and Sr. Youth (6th-12th grade)

April 8th - Easter Eggstravaganza

Mrs. Shannon will need all hands on deck to make this a fun event for out little friends! Please let her know if you can help. She will need you from about 9 AM—noon.

April 23rd - Youth Sunday Planning

We will not meet on the 2nd Sunday since Easter falls on the 9th! However, we will meet on April 23rd immediately after the 11 AM service. We will meet in the Sr. High Room and have lunch (sub sandwiches and chips) and plan Youth Sunday which is scheduled for May 14th! We will also be watching a short movie that will make your heart smile! Don't miss out! Please RSVP to Shannon by April 20th if you plan to attend.

We will finish up by 2 PM for anyone attending the Mother/Daughter/Friend Tea that will begin at 3 PM.

JCREW (1st-5th grade)

The Easter Egg Hunt is on its' way April 8th is the day We'll hunt for eggs and find some treats; Eat yummy goldfish and delicious sweets We'll make some crafts and have some fun Remembering that Jesus is #1

Please join us in the gym at St. Stephen's at 10:00! Bring your own basket – we'll supply the rest!

All ages up to 5th grade are welcome to participate in the egg hunt.

Remember to RSVP (Shannon@sslc.org) so we can have an estimated count!!



Notes from Aloft

As we head into Easter season and Eastertide the words that come to mind are "thank you". We have experienced so much incredible music these past few months. We've seen momentum in music ministry at an incredible high. We have seen folks supporting the Music Ministry Lenten ALMS project in such generous ways! Our children have sung in worship and rung choir chimes. Several of our ladies gathered for a lunch event to learn about music ministry and to embrace the vision. The handbell choir and the adult choir have worked so hard to prepare for Easter glory.

I am grateful for each of you and the part you play in supporting this ministry. This hymn text comes to mind as I think about gratitude and music.

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet, though far off hymn that builds a new creation. No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Susan Wilson Director of Music/Organist

SAVE THE DATE.... May Music Midday with a Meal...!

You'll want to save the date and join us for three concerts held in May. Concerts begin at 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary on May 9 with Dick Goodwin and friends, May 16 with Jim Ingram and Sylvia Looney, and May 23 with Hal McIntosh and Tina Stallard. A salad and soup lunch will be provided for \$10.00 per person, prepared by Chef Andy Marchant of Cinnamon Hill Kitchen. While concerts are free, donations will be accepted for the Music Fund, to purchase drums and ORFF instruments for our children's choirs. Concerts will last approximately 30-40 minutes.

Children's Choirs and choir chimes...

Children's choirs will continue to meet at 5:25 p.m. on Wednesdays in preparation for singing on Palm/ Passion Sunday, April 2 and on Youth Sunday, May 14. The choir chime ensemble will rehearse at 5:55 p.m. Wednesdays to prepare to ring on May 14. These groups will also participate in the April 30 talent show.

Ladies Who Lunch... This is a new opportunity for ladies of the church to have fellowship and to hear about music ministry. The next lunch will be Thursday, April 25 at 12:30 p.m. The location will be announced in the weeks ahead. Please rsvp to Susan by phone 858 729 8672 or text, or by email <u>Susan@sslc.org</u> asap. All women are welcome!

Summer Music Camp... Music Camp, led by Ms. Constance Flemming, will be held July 17-21, with the musical presented in worship on July 23. Registration forms will be available soon. This camp is for children who have completed 1st grade through rising 9th graders. Children participating must be able to perform at both services on July 23. The camp runs each day from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. More details will be forthcoming.

:Upcoming Worship Music...

April 2	Caitlin Catalanotto, flutist, George Bernard, trumpeter,
•	Matthew Jones, percussionist
April 6	Joanna Taylor, flutist
April 6 April 9	Category V brass and percussion
April 23	Shannon Burnett and Jason Antley, duet
April 30	Chappell Lackore, soloist

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

<u>May 14th:</u> Graduate Recognition; Youth Sunday **If you have a high school or college graduate, please contact Shannon with their future plans!!

> <u>June 12--16:</u> Lutheridge Day Camp

June 25-28: Vacation Bible School Our Easter Eggstravaganza will be Saturday, April 8th at 10 AM.

If your child/children plan to attend, please email Mrs. Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) so we can have an estimate of how many children will be coming!

Toddler-5th grade are welcomed!



Nothing Bundt Cake Fundraiser

Who doesn't like a bundtini?!? If you've never had the mini bundt cake from Nothing Bundt Cake do yourself a favor and order some now!

Our mission trip team will be selling this heavenliness April 23rd-April 30th. The bundtinis will be available for pick-up on the afternoon of Thursday, May 4th! All proceeds will go towards our mission trip. Available flavors:

> Chocolate Chocolate Chip Red Velvet White Chocolate Raspberry Lemon Confetti Classic Vanilla Carrot Snickerdoodle Strawberries and Cream Gluten Free Chocolate Chip Cookie

> > Bundtinis are \$6 each.

See Shannon to order or talk to any of our youth that are going to Puerto Rico!

Noah Blashka, Abby Burnett, Katie Dawkins, Elizabeth Kolb, Ryan McFarland, Hallie Shealy, Lexie Taylor, Andrew Tworzyanski, and Carlee Tworzyanski

St. Stephen's 101: For New Members (and Old Ones Too!)

The Pastors and Staff at St. Stephens will be offering a class for new members and anyone else who would like to attend that will be three sessions long. Classes will be held during the Sunday School hour (9:45am – 10:45am) in the Sanctuary. The schedule is as follows:

Sunday, April 16th – Welcome and History of St. Stephen's

Pastor Jason will lead this session that will focus on getting to know a little about each other and then learning some of the history of our congregation.

Sunday, April 23rd – Lutheranism 101

Pastor Ralph will lead this class that will focus on introducing the basics of Lutheranism and how that is lived out at St. Stephen's.

Sunday, April 30th – Getting Plugged In

Our church staff will team together to introduce you to all the basics of being a member of St. Stephen's and all the different opportunities you will find to be "People of Christ Making a Difference" within and outside the walls of our congregation.

Sunday, May 7th – Welcoming of New Members

On Sunday, May 7th we will welcome new members at both services as the culmination of our time together.

Our next Women's Bible study will be "The Gospel on the Ground: The Grit & Glory of the Early Church in Acts" by Kristi McLelland. Kristi has a strong background in Biblical history and such a powerful way of explaining the Bible "through a Middle Eastern lens".

Kerri Brittingham will be leading this class and she hopes and prays you can join her in this journey together through the book of Acts. The study will begin Tuesday night April 11th, at 6:30 and will also be offered Wednesday, April 12th at 10:15.

It is a 7-session Bible study. The cost of the book is \$20.

Let Kerri know if you would like to join the group and if you would like her to order the book for you.

mbrittingham@sc.rr.com (803) 318-4599

Congratulations to the children that will be receiving their First Communion in April:

Cole Steven Cegelis William Clay Crawford, Jr. Ethan Robert Kean Mary Ella Petrusick Hollis Briggs Shealy Kenslie Ryland Shealy Myla Elizabeth Shealy Rivers McStratton Shealy

Charles Connor Van Cleef



We are overdue producing a pictorial directory! We try to do one every 3 years but it's been a bit longer than that. The last time we had a directory done, there was a lot of pressure to purchase pictures from the company (which is the way the sales people make their money). To avoid this, we are hoping to create an on-line directory that will be password protected but also can be printed out. Shannon is in unchartered territory here but she's willing to give this her best shot!

So, why are you reading this? Because we need your help!

We would like the directory to be as up to date as possible. Please send your most current information to Shannon (name, address, cell number or land line if you still have that, and email) along with a picture that you would like to use for the directory. Since Easter is right around the corner, we are hoping it is a good time to take family pictures and submit them. If you need Shannon to take a picture of the you or the family, she will be happy to!

There are quite a few updates that most likely need to be made and we only know about changes if you let us know! Please take a look at the annual report to see what information we currently have!

Order of St. Stephen's				
	8:30 AM Service	11:00 Service		
April 2 nd	A – Katy Hooker	A – Jack Jebaily		
	C – Weston Hill	C – Zachary Head		
April 9 th (Easter)	A – Connor Fink	A – Madelyn Burgess		
	C – Katie Dawkins	C – Elizabeth Kolb		
	BB – Lexie Taylor	BB – Manning Burgess		
	TB – Sophie Dickey	TB – Bryce Windham		
	TB – Ella Dickey	TB – Susannah Howell		
April 16 th	A – Shaun Wessinger	A – Thomas Brunson		
	C – Jaime Wessinger	C – Madison Summerall		
April 23 rd	A – Gracen Geary	A – Craig Lunsford		
	C – Connor Geary	C – Emory Jones		
April 30 th				
	A – Noah Oxley C – Bia Oxley	A – Jack Jebaily C – Mary Beth Stafford		

This is Us is a group that is meeting once a month (the last Thursday) at a local restaurant. This group is made up of parents of high school and college aged kids and if you fall into this category and would like more information, please reach out to Shannon Burnett or Tonya Reynolds.

<u>We look forward to seeing</u> <u>everyone April 27th at the</u> <u>Ice House in Lexington!</u>



Congregation Council Members:

Class of 2023

Michael Jebaily (843) 617-3147 Allison Van Cleef (803) 447-3002 Brian Lackore (803) 351-2585 Mike Burgess (803) 238-7426 Jessica Maxheimer (803) 422-5747

Class of 2024

Cathy Mathias (803) 238-4458 Eric Wessinger (803) 917-8771 Gregg Mills (803) 210-9761 Melissa Rawl (803) 359-2909 Sheridan Perry (803) 808-0534

Class of 2025

Christie Addy (803) 358-0120 Lisa Catalanotto (803) 960-6132 Deon Fink (803) 513-9041 Chad Geary (803) 404-2554 Myra Strock (803) 543-7130

Youth Representatives:

Lexie Taylor and Bryce Windham

Mary Keisler, Treasurer (803) 960-9155 Bill Mathias, Treasurer Emeritus

Flowers for April

April 2nd	Shannon and Abby Burnett
April 9th	Easter Lilies
April 16th	Linda and Bob Pittman
April 23rd	WELCA
April 30th	OPEN

Ushers for April April 2nd and 16th

8:30 - Eric Wessinger, Ivan Black, Pat Bowen, Bill Carroll, Aaron Rawl, Vernon Hester, Deon Fink, Blaine Richardson, Chad Geary

<u>11:00</u> - Randy Huber, Alon Cox, James Řenwick, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth, Doug Harper, Matt Martin

April 9th, 23rd, and 30th

<u>8:30</u> - Reuben Eargle, Sandy Shealy, Ron Redd, Steve Fowler, Jim Nantz, Daryl Hooker, Adam Tworzyanski

<u>11:00</u> - Otis Rawl, Gregg Mills, Hunter Mills, G Kolb, Mike Burgess, Myra Strock, Manning Burgess, Roy Windham

Lay readers

	8:30 service	11:00 service
April 2 nd	Palm Sunday	Palm Sunday
April 9 th	Christy Hooker	Myra Strock
April 16 th	Brant Taylor	Renate Chappell
April 23 rd	Jamie Early	Ray Smith
April 30 th	Janice Buff	Ken Howell

Communion Assistants

	8:30 service	11:00 service
April 2 nd	Marian Fowler, Steve Fowler Communion at the rail	Myra Strock, Peggy Sherman Communion at the rail
April 9 th	Shannon Burnett	Shannon Burnett
April 16 th	Sandy Shealy	Benjie Rhoad
April 23 rd	Ann Clark	Ed Smith
April 30 th	Jane Kennedy	Heyward Addy

Recyclers

April 2nd	The Head Family
April 9th	Jennifer Howell
April 16th	Gary and Julie Angus
April 23rd	Sarah Kolb
April 30	Bonnie Long

	St. Stephen's Lutheran Church	place	
<u>Office Hours:</u>	119 North Church Street	stamp	
8 AM-4 PM Monday - Thursday	Lexington, SC 29072	here	
<u>To Reach us:</u> Phone: 803-359-6562 FAX: 803-951-0738 Crisis Care Line: 803-808-6471 Website: <u>www.sslc.org</u>	"Return Service Requested"		
<u>Pastor</u> Jason T. Antley <u>Jason@sslc.org</u> <u>Pastor</u> Ralph G. Hill <u>Ralph@sslc.org</u>			
Director of Family Life Ministries Shannon Burnett <u>Shannon@sslc.org</u> 359-4175 Parish Administrator			
Tonya Reynolds <u>Tonya@sslc.org</u> 359-6562/808-6489			
<u>Director of Music/Organist</u> Susan Wilson <u>Susan@sslc.org</u>	For our guests our Ministries includes		
Preschool Director Kimberly Peterson <u>Kimbely@sslc.org</u>	Sunday School: Classes for Nursery age-adults; meets at 9:45 each Sunday		
359-4369 <u>Organist Emeritus</u> Sylvia Looney	Wednesday Night Live! (WNL!): A time for fellowship over dinner and then faith development through Confirmation and Adult Bible Study; Our musical groups for children (Cherubs and Treble Choir (5:25-5:55 pm) and Choir Chimes (5:55-6:25 pm) and our liturgical dance group, Wings of Worship (6:30-7 pm), meet as well in the Fall.		
	The Adult Choir: Rehearsal on Wednesday at 6:45 PM		
Commention Council Officers	Handbell Choir: Rehearsal on Monday at 6:30 PM		
Congregation Council Officers President - Michael Jebaily Vice President - Gregg Mills	Junior High (6th, 7th & 8th grades) & Senior High Youth (9th - 12th grade for planned activities	<u>s):</u> meet regularly	
Secretary - Allison Van Cleef Treasurer - Mary Keisler Treasurer Emeritus - Bill Mathias	J-Crew: (1st - 5th graders) meet monthly for planned activities		
Treasurer Emericus - Din Mathias	Lutheran Men: Meet on the 3rd Monday each month at 6:00PM in Social Hall informative speaker	for a meal and	
	WELCA: Various groups of women meet monthly, commit themselves to grow gifts, and support one another in ministry and action.	n faith, affirm their	
Mission Statement: Gathering all generations to nurture	Preschool: An extension of the ministry for our church & the community for ch 4 years of age. Class hours are 9:00AM - 12:00 Noon Early bird drop-off avail		
Christ-like discipleship Our Vision:	Prime Time: Adults 60 and older meet monthly for food, fellowship and fun. The wonderful mix of people who also travel for day and overnight trips.	nis group is a	
To be a place of hope	Crossroads: Compromised of adults between "This is Us" and "Prime Time" t fellowship and service	hat get together for	
	This is Us: This group has children in high school and college and gets togeth for fellowship and food.	ner once a month	
	Living Faith : This group is comprised of folks somewhere between our Sr. Hig This is Us group, encompassing people of varying ages and family contexts. A between adult only and family friendly.		
	Young Adults: This group is for young adults (college age and up) and newly couples just starting out that will gather together to build community and offer of fellowship.		