



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

...Where God is seen, love is felt and lives are changed!

December 4, 2020

2 Advent:

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

SUNDAY WORSHIP

This Sunday, we will have two services of **Holy Eucharist**. Communion will be wafers only.

Our livestream is at 9 a.m. on our [YouTube Channel](#). Call 865-498-6483 to listen to the service, if you do not have a computer.

Our in-person worship will be at **10:30 a.m., outside** in our Grove.

The in-person service will be canceled if the forecast shows a 60% or greater chance of rain during our worship time. **If the service is canceled we will notify the parish by 3 p.m. Saturday** via email, social media, and a message on our phone system. You may tune in to the livestream at **9 a.m.** in lieu of the in-person service. No notification will be sent if the service is on as planned.

SUNDAY SOCIAL TIME

We are hosting virtual social hours in the morning and evening on Zoom! Stop by and say hello!

[Morning Coffee Hour](#) will be at **10 a.m.** between our livestream and in-person worship services, for a brief bit of fellowship.



Morning Meeting ID:
848 0379 6165
Password: 609987

[Evening Social Hour](#) will be at **5 p.m.**, and will be available for about an hour.

Evening Meeting ID: 816 4332 4827
Password: 999944

PASTORAL CARE

JOIN US AS WE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR:

Daryl & Karen Yearwood,
Keegan, Fiona

Please include these people in your prayers.

OUTREACH FOOD BASKET MINISTRY

"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food..."
~ *Mathew 25:37*

The **Outreach Food Basket Ministry** is the oldest Outreach ministry at St. Stephen's. While what we give out and how we interact with those we serve has changed over the years, especially this year, our basic ministry of feeding the hungry hasn't changed. We receive names of families/individuals in need from the Oak Ridge Resource Center and from parishioners. This year we served 26 families and individuals and 4 Hope House units. In the recent past, we have given out baskets four times a year and we give out various things during the Winter distribution such as Christmas gift bags, gloves, socks, hats, and calendars. Books are usually given out during the Fall and Winter distribution.

In the early months of this year we shopped for food and nonfood items; some of you donated items in the shopping carts or donated money (which we accept year round). Then, on March 14th we distributed the "baskets". This was a time of fellowship not just with those who helped but with our sponsored families. On May 30th and September 26th, we distributed Aldi gift cards (the amount varied from \$100 to \$150 based on family size); each family/unit drove up to the church drive thru; gloved and masked volunteers handed them the envelope. The volunteers said the families are joyful. On December 5th, we will be distributing a Christmas card with an Aldi gift card as well as a \$25 Walmart gift card for each of the 68 children on our list (that we suggest be used for gifts or other necessities). We are also giving the families a wall calendar that can be used by the parents or their children. Please keep our families and those of us who serve this ministry in your prayers.

"...And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"
~ *Mathew 25:40*

CARE MINISTRY BEGINS THIS MONTH!

On **December 13, 2020**, at the Sunday morning worship services, we will celebrate the beginning of a new parish-wide ministry. The goal of CARE – which stands for **Connecting And REconnecting** – is to ensure that each person at St. Stephen's knows they are remembered and valued. A team of 25 trained CARE callers will each be contacting a number of parish families and individuals every month, simply to "check in." CARE calls will complement Bailey's ministry by helping identify situations where more parish help might be welcome. CARE phone calls will also help identify opportunities to celebrate joyous occasions, or just be times to talk and get to know some of our fellow parishioners a little better.

In a week or two, each parish family will be receiving a letter that provides more information about CARE. Until then, if you have questions, feel free to contact the CARE coordinators, Liz and Steve Herbes via email: liznsteveherbes@yahoo.com, or by phone: Liz: 865.228.2537 or Steve: 865.250.9123.

We're excited about this new opportunity to connect and re-connect with each other, as members of St. Stephen's parish family.



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CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

DEC. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE
1 PM AND 3 PM

Holy Eucharist, in-person worship will be outside in the grove.*

DEC. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE
6 PM

Christmas Lessons and Carols (Pre-recorded)

DEC. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY
10 AM

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist (Pre-recorded)

CHRISTMAS EVE NOTES

* Sign-ups will be sent out soon to make sure we have enough space.

** Communion bread will be delivered to households that request it.

*** The 1 PM service will be livestreamed.

**** In the event of inclement weather or cancellation due to COVID, in-person services will NOT be held and Christmas Eve will be livestreamed from the nave at 1 PM.



EYF

On Sunday, we will be making Christmas gifts! We will make cookies in a jar, hot chocolate in a bag, Christmas snacks, and more! Christmas attire is strongly encouraged.

Caroline Wood, Youth Minister
youthminister@ststephensor.org



CHILDREN'S ADVENT FAIR

The **Outdoor Advent Fair** for our **parish children and their families** is this **Sunday, December 6, 2020**, immediately following our outdoor worship. We'll have light refreshments as well as stations for making Advent wreaths, Christingles, Advent calendars, and more! Stay tuned for updates and for last-minutes adjustments due to weather and health protocols.

2021 CALENDARS NEEDED

The Outreach Committee is collecting 2021 wall calendars that nonprofits send this time of year. We plan to give them to food basket recipients and others. If you have any extra calendars to share, please place them in the church mailbox, preferably by **Friday, December 4, 2020**. Items after that will be donated to the school resource center.