

The Flame

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

May 2013

Our Mission Graced by the love of God through Word and Sacrament to be a caring community of believers, the fellowship of St. Stephen's is called to support one another in growth in faith, to share in the mission of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to reach out in witness and in service to the communities to which we belong, as one in the body of Christ.

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ,
Well Spring has finally sprung, and summer is fast approaching. During the summer, while our worship schedule does change, we are still active in ministry. I encourage folks to continue to worship regularly during the summer, and perhaps find a new area of ministry to be involved in — or even suggest a new endeavor for us! While we do not have Sunday School during the summer, I strongly encourage parents to bring their children to worship regularly during the summer. Our summer schedule of services begins on June 19th, with services at 8:15 and 9:30 am. There is always fellowship time following the 9:30 service, (which is shortened for the summer.)

It is important for all of us in this community of faith to be there for each other and seeing one another in worship, to know each other by name, that is so very important. I am surprised when folks don't know each other, when folks have been here for years! We have a wonderful congregation of folks who would really appreciate the caring and interesting people who worship together!

*Peace,
Pastor Christine Regan*



WORSHIP WITH US May 2013

Sunday, May 5th, 2013

The 6th Sunday of Easter

9am Holy Communion

10:45am Holy

Communion, Baptism

10:45am Sunday School

Sunday, May 12th, 2013

The 7th Sunday of Easter

9am Holy Communion

10:45am Holy

Communion

10:45am Sunday School

Sunday, May 19th, 2013

Pentecost

9am Holy Communion

10:45am Holy Communion, Confirmation

10:45am Sunday School (last Sunday School until Fall of 2013)

Sunday, May 26th, 2013

The Holy Trinity

9am Holy Communion

10:45am Holy Communion

SCHOOL SUNDAY, BIBLE STUDIES, GROUPS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Still need a Sunday School teacher for the 5th & 6th grade, can be weekly or bi-weekly. Also if anyone is interested in helping out as a teacher, aide or substitute for the rest of 2013 please contact Judy Hunter at 856-468-9798.

Feast of St. Florian, May 5th

at Christ Church, 62

Delaware St., Woodbury.

Join the Gloucester County

Fire Chiefs Association in

honoring our Firefighters

and Emergency Personnel.

Blessing of the Fire Trucks,

5 pm; Procession and

Solemn Evensong, 6 pm.

BIBLE STUDY

Monday's at 10:30 am. We are currently studying the book of Exodus. We are

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especially relating it to our Christian faith today. Please join our group for coffee and conversation.

The Bible, let's get together and watch the very popular T.V. mini series —
proposed dates;
Wednesday nights on May 8, 15, 29 from 7-9pm

CONFIRMATION

Sunday, May 19th @ the 10:45am Service

C.R.O.P Walk, Sunday May 5th. Registration is at 1:30 pm - walk starts a 2 pm. Walk starts at United Methodist Church in Mantua and ends here at St. Stephen's. Please see Jack Bryant or Louise Tucker if you need more info.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Honoring our Mothers

Would you like to participate in the honoring of your Mom on Mother's day? If so please contribute \$5 along with the name of the person/persons you wish to honor in an envelope. Flowers will be placed at the altar and a portion of the funds will go to support the Summer Lunch Box Program in honor of our Mother's. We must receive your contribution no later than May 6th! Thank you!

NEEDED: someone to take food to the Food Pantry or clothing to Jeanette's Closet. Please let the office know if you could help.

New Visions: We had a very successful day serving a noon meal at New Visions. There were over 50 people involved in cooking, donation money and serving food. Over 100 people were served. We also were able to offer seconds. Thank you all!
Our next outreach to New Visions will be Saturday, June 22nd. Mark your calendar!

Yard Sale: Social Ministries and WELCA are again teaming up to sponsor a spring yard sale on May 11th. Table rentals are \$15 (proceeds to go to Summer Lunch Box program) and are on a first come first serve. Sale is from 7:30 am till 11:30 am. We are looking for "strong" volunteers to set up at 7 and take them down at 11:30. Also WELCA would love your "junk" (another man's treasure), for their tables. You can donate these items the week of May 5th and WELCA will store them in the closet. For more information see Lenore Cronlund at the Social Ministries table.

HELP Anyone interested in serving on any of our Social Ministry subcommittees please see Louise Tucker or Lenore Cronlund. The subcommittees include: *Blood Drive, Lunch Box Fund Raising, Jeannette's Closet, GWCM Food Pantry, Servv International Fair and New Visions.* Our immediate need is for a committee to help set up for the Spring Yard Sale!

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

I have filled you with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts.

Exodus 31: 3

For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

Romans 11: 29

Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

WELCA NEWS

Annual Yard Sale, Saturday, May 11th, 7:30 am - 11:30 am!



LETTERS

Dear St. Stephen's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your continued support of the GWCM food pantry. Your recent donation of \$999, will go toward helping those in need with in our own community. Please continue to keep us in your prayers!

GWCM

Dear St. Stephen's Friends,

This note is written to keep you informed about my dad, Bill Riskie. He has received kind cards, notes and mailings from many members and friends of St. Stephen's, and he wanted to thank you. Dad has a new address and phone number, and I know he would continue to enjoy hearing from you. Due to his eyesight issues, he is no longer able to correspond in writing, but since his mind and memory remain fairly sharp, he still enjoys conversing on the phone! Dad survived two surgeries to remove a kidney stone and a long Vermont winter...reasons to be thankful!

Current contact information for Bill Riskie: Brookside Nursing Home, 1200 Christian Street, White River Junction, VT 05001...(802)369-9851

Blessings to all, Karen (Riskie) Pawluk

karenavt09@fairpoint.net



To whomever created the beautiful First Communion collage, that is in the Narthex!

To all who organized, served and provided breakfast last week, as we welcomed our newest members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 6th, 7th & 8th Synod Assembly

June 22nd, New Visions

BULLETIN BOARD

In the Narthex a table has been set up with photos on it. Take a look and see if you recognize family or friends. Help yourself!

Memorial Garden/Columbarium We are looking for a person that would like to help in the upkeep of these areas of our church. If you are interested please contact Lou Decina at 856-415-1920.

COLUMBARIUM NICHE -

Permit for Single Inurnment \$2,250; Permit for Double Inurnment \$2500. A \$500 discount for church members till Dec. 2012. Please contact Lou Decina or Herb Budd with any questions.

If anyone would like to join a Mission Team (committee) please speak to Pastor Chris or one of the Council members.

Bug Jars If you would like to keep your bug jar to collect large bugs (remember there is a hole in the top) you can convert your coins to bills and return that way. Thanks for supporting the Malaria ELCA Campaign!

Brochures for Crossroads Camp are in the narthex.

VOLUNTEER/JOB OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in a disaster response mission trip in the future (not immediate) please speak to Pastor Chris. This will now be a cluster project.

If anyone would like to join a Mission Team (committee) please speak with Pastor Chris or one of the Council members.

Handy Helpers is a program to help senior citizens and disabled persons with small jobs around the home. Volunteers meet on the second Saturday of each month, September through June, working from 8:30 am till Noon. For further info call 856-845-1244.

SAFETY For security reasons, if you have church business, PLEASE use the office door located in the front of the church (facing Evergreen Ave.), and you will be buzzed in (even if you have a key). Please stop in the office, sign in, so we know who is in the building with us. Also please exit through the same door. Thanks for your cooperation!

The German American group is offering free German lessons on 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays from 7-8:30 pm. Meets at the church in the choir room.

Synod Companion Trip to Namibia, July 2013 . . . details to follow. Approximate travel cost is \$4000. Speak to Pastor for more info.

HELP US go green . . . by signing up for receiving your Flame via email. Sign

up in the narthex! Even if you are not interested please give us your email so we can alert you about special times, funerals, etc. . . THANKS

Check us out:
www.ststephenselca.org
or contact us via email at saintstephens@verizon.net

TOURS WITH AT DIFFERENCE "Out from Jerusalem", October 28 - November 11, 2013. Total cost is \$3999.00. For more info see the flyer on the bulletin board.



A child's perspective

A group of second-graders was quizzed about what ingredients their mothers are made of. One child said, "God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world, and one dab of mean."

To the question 'What does your mom do in her spare time?' one youngster said, 'Mothers don't do spare

time.'
When the children were asked "Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?" one child replied, "God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me."

Something beautiful
"Spread love everywhere you go; to show love for God and our neighbor we need not do great things. It is how much love we put in doing that makes our offering something beautiful to God."

—Mother Teresa

A Memorial Day Prayer



We remember, O Lord, all those men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Do not let us breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without remembering with great gratitude those who gave the last full measure of devotion - their very lives - for our benefit. May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.