

St. Stephen's Rambler

October 2011



¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. – Matthew 6:19-21 (NRSV)

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

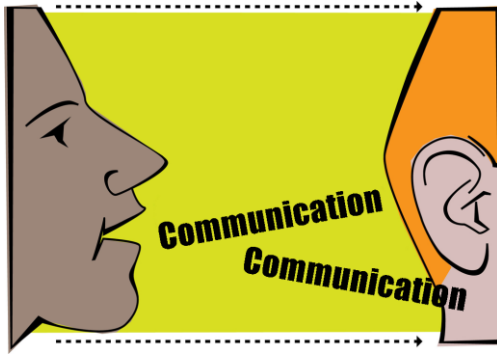
As we enter into the fall several activities loom large on the horizon; Thanksgiving, Reformation Sunday, Advent, and of course, Christmas. It is during this busy time that we also plan for our next fiscal year; discussing plans and generating a budget. Part of this process is our discussion about stewardship.

Now I know what you're thinking...when you hear the word "stewardship" you think "money," as in "here they go again asking for more of my hard-earned cash." Well, in reality no organization can function without financial support, and a congregation is certainly no exception. However, "stewardship" is much more than money – it is also our time and talents or gifts.

Not only is it necessary for a healthy congregation to have members participate in its ministries and support them financially, it is just as important for the spiritual growth of the individual member to share their God-given talent with their Christian sisters and brothers. No matter your skills or gifts, God's mission at St. Stephen's needs you.

So as you give prayerful thought to your financial offering for next year I want you to give equal (or more) thought to how you can share your time and abilities for God's work at St. Stephen's, because your time and talents are as much a treasure as money. Remember Paul's gentle teaching – "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

In His Grip,
Pastor Tracy



From Council President, Karen Shifty:

We have cell phones, email, Facebook, YouTube, ipods, ipads, iphones, etc. to stay in touch with each other. But are we really communicating? My sister and I used to be able to complete each other's thoughts; now we are lucky if we can even figure out what subject we are talking about. Lately I have experienced conversations at church where I feel like I walked into the room and missed the most important part. I've been hearing others express similar thoughts. Are we just not listening? We all need to communicate better. We need to be more complete in detail - like, "The water fountain isn't working." We need to know which one, is it spewing water all over, or does the button not go in? So think details, pay more attention to what is actually being said, and be sure to keep all those who should be in the loop informed. In other words, COMMUNICATE.

Rally Sunday at that delicious luau we seemed to be communicating well. Lots of laughter and conversations abounded. Thanks to Kathy Hinkel, Marje Hoppe, Joell Swanson, Vicki Padilla, Sandi Crosier, Colleen Campbell and Briana Pierce for the wonderful preparations. And thanks to the volunteer clean-up crew - I noticed two youths busy and the sink (Andrea and Tony Pierce) - and they looked like they were having fun. Amid the wonderful time of fellowship I hope many of you found a group or task force you would like to help out with. It's never too late to join in.

The Congregational meeting went very well. We were done in 35 minutes. We will be applying for a refinance and accumulating bids for needed repairs. The By-Laws are now consistent with the continuing resolutions. Thanks to all who attended.

The Council has gotten a nominating committee together to nominate members for the seven vacancies on the council for 2012-2013. Anyone who wishes to be nominated or to find out more about serving on the council, please contact one of the committee members: Karen Shifty, Amy Burke, Yvonne Lehman, Briana Pierce, Dan Lubben or Vicki Padilla.

Fall is here and I'm loving it. Enjoy the color and the cooler weather.

With Joy and Peace,

Karen Shifty

Needed...

A few good people to serve on the church council for 2012-2013. We will have **seven** vacancies. If you have a desire to serve your church in this way, let us know. Contact: Karen Shifty, Amy Burke, Yvonne Lehman, Briana Pierce, or Dan Lubben.

Helping those in Need

This past fall, several women from St. Stephen's attended a retreat in Estes Park at the YMCA. We read and studied Max Lucado's book, Outlive Your Life, and as a result collectively decided to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our focus is to meet our neighbors' basic human needs and provide them with hope and tools to rise out of poverty. We would like the members of St. Stephen's to join us in collecting personal hygiene items for those who are homeless or seeking employment. The items needed are:

Adult tooth brushes (greatest product need), toothpaste, dental floss, bar soap, shampoo and conditioner, combs, deodorant, body wash, shaving cream, razors, lotion, and samples.

We will collect the above items from **October 9th through October 30th.**



St. Stephen's Youth
are selling "Holy Bears"
through **October 9th**
for \$10 each.
We appreciate your support!

L3 Book Club

All are welcome to be a part of the L3 Book Club! L3 stands for Literature, Love, and Laughter. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 11:30 am at the Perkins Restaurant at Huron Street and 120th Avenue.

These are the books we have chosen:

October 4 - What She Left for Me by Tracie Peterson

November 1 - Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

December 6 - The Trouble With Angels by Debbie McComber



Prayer Shawl Ministry

October 6th at 6:00 pm

Gather your needles, hooks and yarn!

Crop Walk

On Saturday morning, October 15th, join in helping to put an end to hunger one step at a time. Registration for the 10K and 10 mile walk begins at 7:30 am, and the walk begins at 7:45. Registration for the 5K and 1 mile walk begins at 8:30, and the walk begins at 9:00. Breakfast is at 10:30.

Visit www.cropwalkonline.org to see how you can participate.



Really Bad Girls

Attention, Women! The Women's Book Study Group is going Bad !!!! Want to join us? Our first "Bad" meeting will be on Monday, October 17th at 7:00 pm at Cyndi Skillings' home. We will meet once a month. Sign up in the narthex so we can order a copy of the book Really Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Curtis Higgs for you. Questions? Call Cyndi at 303-450-0967.

Senior Luncheon

St. Stephen's Seniors will meet to share a potluck luncheon at 12:30 pm on **Tuesday, October 18th** in the Lower Level. Please bring your own table setting and a main dish, salad, or dessert to share.

All members 55 or older are invited to attend.



Mark your calendar for the St. Stephen's
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR
Saturday, November 19th
 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Missing Towels!

If you kindly took home towels from St. Stephen's for laundering, please return them as soon possible after washing. Towels are missing from the Coffee Shop, kitchen, and sacristy. Thanks for your help!



Men's Ministry

Men's Ministry Facilitator Needed: Fred Hoppe is stepping down after September 17th. Being a facilitator includes setting the agenda for the monthly meetings, moderating the meetings and making sure a breakfast is provided. Please contact Pastor Tracy if interested.

Grocery Card Purchase Program

We have a unique opportunity to help with special projects/needs at Stephen's through grocery card purchases. You receive full value for these cards and our church gains 5% of the proceeds. The key fob for Albertson's nets the church 1%. Buy the cards and/or pick up a key fob after each Sunday service in the narthex.

\$50 Sunflower Market cards are also now available!

New Stephen Ministers!

Congratulations to the following people who were commissioned as Stephen Ministers on September 11, 2011: **Colleen Campbell, Lois Ferguson, Kathi Hinkel, Barbara Sieckman, Tami Talbot, and Curt Williams.**

They completed 50 hours of training so that they can meet individually with people who are going through challenging times in their lives. They will provide a listening ear and give support. They will pray with and for the person. All interactions and names are strictly confidential.

They join the Stephen Ministers who were commissioned previously: Alan Fisser, Tami Rash, Cyndi Skillings, Ed Sears, and Catherine Williams.

If you or someone you know needs a Stephen Minister, Please contact Cyndi Skillings, Stephen Minister Leader, 303-886-9019 (a secure line) or Pastor Tracy.



LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS
An Equipping Workshop
for ALL Who Care About Hunger

Saturday, October 29th from 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
King of Glory - Loveland, CO

The Rocky Mountain Synod Hunger Network invites all who care about hunger and poverty to an "equipping workshop" on **Saturday, October 29th**, from 8:45 am to 1:00 pm, at King of Glory Lutheran Church located at 2919 North Wilson Avenue in Loveland (80537). *There is no fee for this event* but participants are asked to pre-register online as soon as possible.

Why should you be interested in this event? The goal is to give social action/mission committees, hunger/advocacy contacts, and pastors information and updates on current work here and around the world PLUS practical resources and ideas to raise awareness of the amazing work of ELCA World Hunger AND to raise money!

We are pleased to have **two** special speakers for this workshop: The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director of the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal, and Mikka McCracken, Program Director for Constituent Engagement and Interpretation.

The absolute registration deadline is Monday, October 24th but the Hunger Network encourages you to register TODAY so planners know what workshop topics are most interesting to you, how to plan for meeting space and how many lunches to order. Go to www.rmselfca.org/hunger and click on the link to register. Contact Carol McDivitt by email or phone (970-669-4090) for additional information.



FOR ALL MARRIED COUPLES: Fall is the perfect time to fall in love with your spouse all over again! Couples overwhelmingly report this as the result of attending a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend. Weekends run from Friday at 7 PM to Sunday at 6 PM and are designed to enrich ALL MARRIAGES.

The Weekend registration fee is \$45. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you and all Weekend materials are included. Toward the end of the Weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution toward continuation of the program. Sign up now while there are still openings for the **Oct 21-23, 2011 Weekend** in the Denver metro area. To register, simply go to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and sign up using your credit card.

For questions, contact Bud & Cindy Amack at 303-796-9119 or email:
CindyAmack@comcast.net.



Thank you, everyone, for the cards, calls, and visits during my stay in the hospital and in rehab for knee surgery. I am home now and doing pretty good. Thanks also to Pastor Tracy. -- Earl Domben

In Our Prayers

If you have a prayer request that you would like to submit, please contact Lois Ferguson, Member Care Council Liaison. (303-920-1040 or lois.annf@comcast.net)

October Lay Reader Lessons

All lessons are from the NRSV Bible (New Revised Standard Version)

- OCTOBER 2:** Isaiah 5:1-7 - Psalm 80:7-15 - Philippians 3:4b-14
- OCTOBER 9:** Isaiah 25:1-9 - Psalm 23 - Philippians 4:1-9
- OCTOBER 16:** Isaiah 45:1-7 - Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13] - 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
- OCTOBER 23:** Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 - Psalm 1 - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
- OCTOBER 30:** Jeremiah 31:31-34 - Psalm 46 - Romans 3:19-28



Happy Birthday!

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| October 2: Steve Corning | October 17: Euphemia Williams |
| October 3: John Nikunen | October 18: Shirley Magnuson |
| October 8: Ruben Casias-Martinez | October 19: Ella Mobeck |
| October 10: Tony Pierce, Jr. | October 26: Alekz Arnold |
| Tami Talbot | October 31: Romeo Casias-Martinez |
| October 11: Sandie Crosier | |

November "Rambler" deadline: October 15th

If you prefer to have the Rambler mailed to your home address, please contact the church office.



Please contact St. Stephen's when:

- a member of your family is in the hospital
- a family member passes away
- a new baby arrives in your family
- you would like for Pastor to call or visit
- your address, phone or email changes
- a member leaves for college/military or establishes a new residence
- your group plans to have a meeting
- you have a joy or concern to share, or feel the church can assist you in any way

CHURCH STAFF

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Pastor - Tracy Hinkel	303-452-5469 / pastor@sslu.org
Congregation President - Karen Shifty	303-469-0663 / gwi46@cs.com
Office Manager - Sara Burchard	303-452-5469/ office@sslu.org
Choir Director / Bell Choir Director - Russ Skillings	303-450-0967 / rskills@aol.com
Contemporary Worship Leader - Adrian Miller	303-255-1396 / amillers@comcast.net
Organists/Accompanists	
Janet Miller	303-431-9837 / jan7752@comcast.net
Chris Gibbard	303-255-2262 / fcgibbard@msn.com
Charles Knutson	303-860-9025 / charlesaknutson@msn.com
Youth Director	
Beth Hewes	303-653-3536 / youth@sslu.org
MINISTRY LEADERS:	
Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) - Vicki Padilla	303-452-7877 / padilla_vicki@yahoo.com
Stephen Ministry Leader - Cyndi Skillings	303-450-0967 / ciskills@aol.com
Women's Ministry	
Cyndi Skillings, Coordinator	303-450-0967 / ciskills@aol.com
Joell Swanson, Coordinator	303-452-3541

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