

St. Stephen's Annual Report 2019



St. Stephen's Staff, 2018

The Rev. Jason Churchill, Pastor

Dr. Oksana Glouchko, Cantor

Kanchalee Reeves, Communications

Coordinator/Administrative Assistant

Bonnie Kincaid, Sexton

Armand Schmidt, Assistant Sexton



A message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Dear friends in Christ,

Stepping out in faith can be difficult. Martin Luther did it in 1517. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America did it at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. This church can be bold and daring because of our scriptural and Lutheran confessional understandings. Is it easy?

No. Do we always get it right? Probably not. Where we are in error, may God correct us.

The cross is our center. Faith, grace and Scripture alone are our guides. We are church. We are compelled by the gospel and our understanding that in Christ we have been set free to love and serve the neighbor. This loving and serving of our neighbor alongside courageous and faithful leaders is what offers hope to congregations.

Over the past 18 months we have made significant strides in our work on congregational vitality. This church has multiplied its efforts and leveraged its resources to enhance vitality in congregations. Our vision continues to evolve around strengthening our relationships with God, each other and the neighbors we serve. In this way we are addressing both local and global issues by being present in our own community and proactive with issues in the broader church.

This presence is made possible in significant ways through your giving of time, talents and financial resources to our work together. The success of our recent campaign, *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, reflects the increasing

support for existing and new ministries that serve our communities here at home and others around the globe. Through regular, special and legacy gifts, \$250 million was given to support God's work. Through the spiritual practice of giving, we both acknowledge receiving God's gifts and share in God's generosity by passing on a portion to others. Together we are doing God's work in ways that we could not do otherwise.

As your congregation plans work for the coming year, I hope you will be both bold and daring, remembering God provides and desires abundant life for all. May you continue supporting God's work together with a spirit of solidarity, collaboration and generosity. We are all partners in the gospel, believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.

Stepping out in faith together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" —2 Corinthians 5:17



2018 Annual Report

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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Report of the Pastor

The Rev. Jason Churchill

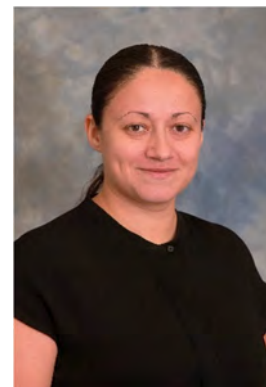


--Pastor Jason Churchill

Pastor Jason is on emergency family leave at the time of the Annual Meeting. He will share his annual report when he returns.

Report of the Music Department

Dr. Oksana Glouchko, Cantor



I have been humbled to hear from so many congregants on how musical programming at St. Stephen's has, in some way, spoken to their life and well-being in 2019. Indeed, music can serve as a conduit through which healing, encouragement, and revelation can happen.

I'm so grateful to those of you who continue to give of your time, talents and resources to Musical programming here at St. Stephen's, and it's especially touching to witness how music is now reaching more people in the city of Wilmington through our Concert Series, now in its second year, which offers all programming free to the public.

Highlights include:

- Continuing the formation of our growing Choir. In Fall 2018, the council approved to have four paid section leaders/ soloists to join our choir. This commitment greatly enhances and supports the quality of musical offerings on Sundays and special events. In September 2019, we welcomed into our musical family soprano Jazmin Salaberrios, countertenor Malcom Richardson, tenor Leon DeShields, and baritone Nicholas Calabrese.
- Christmas and Easter Services: With many hands on-board and united, these events created beautiful memories and meaningful opportunities for greater connection among members of our ministry.
- Now in its second year, *Concerts at St. Stephen's* (our primary musical outreach initiative) presents seven concerts this season featuring artists from The Metropolitan Opera, The University of Delaware, The Peabody Conservatory, Furman University, The University of Trinidad, Tel-Aviv University and the Haifa Symphony in Israel. To commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Auschwitz liberation, our last three concerts of the season usher an interfaith perspective featuring Jewish artists. In its belief that beautiful music is an inherent part of community worship, inspiring, and enhancing our appreciation of the glory of God, St. Stephen's is committed to offering all events free of charge and open to the general public. Donations from several congregants and funds collected from our free-will donation basket continue to subsidize the humble honorariums we offer our artist as well as other miscellaneous expenses related to post-concert reception and publicity materials.
- Improvements on the regular maintenance of our organ and piano.



Below is a list of a few goals for this coming year:

1. Recruitment: We are always eager to hear from people to consider getting involved with our ministry in some capacity.
2. Concert Series: With the continued success of this outreach initiative, we will soon begin planning for *Concerts at St. Stephen's* 2020-2021 season.
3. Organ Repair: Pastor Churchill and the council continue to discuss how we may begin to invest in the actual repair process of our historically significant instrument. It may be a lengthy journey, but one that, for many reasons, is necessary.
4. Musical Repertoire: In honoring the positions of St. Stephen's mission and musical history, we will continue to re-discover forgotten musical masterpieces and welcome newer excellent music in a way that broadens our scope.

Thankful for this community,

--*Oksana Glouchko*

Report of the Office Administrator

Kanchalee Reeves



As a child, I loved stories. Fairy tales, mysteries, adventures, biographies. They all captivated me. They still do. One of the reasons I like my job so much is that I get to share the stories of the people of St. Stephen's and the community that thrives here.

One of the main ways I share stories is through our social media posts on Instagram and Facebook. With the help of our photographers, Ann Warner, and Mike Lehm, I share photos about life at St. Stephen's and in our Lutheran Community Services food pantry. We are blessed with many volunteers, supporters, and donors in our community, and I try to capture that every day.

This year I interviewed volunteers, donors, and clients so they could tell you in their own words what their experiences were. This year we met Caitlin, who organized a food drive with her yoga students, Vince, who recently moved to Wilmington, who wanted to volunteer at a food pantry and a client who had been eating salsa and croutons for three days.



Their stories inspired our readers to share the posts and reach hundreds of people beyond our followers.

On Facebook, our top three posts were:

- Empty Bowl Dinner video (2,200 people reached)
- Mt. Pleasant High School citrus donation (2,200 people reached)
- Shepherd's Garden reaching 2,031 pounds of vegetable donations (1,500 people reached)

The post which generated the most clicks was the donation of 800 pounds of pork. There were 301 clicks to see the photos.

On Instagram, we had more than 200 posts and grew our followers from 76 to 122 followers.

You can help share St. Stephen's story by sharing, commenting, and liking our posts. Write a review about St. Stephen's on Facebook.



I'm learning more ways to share St. Stephen's story through the Delaware-Maryland Synod Communications Team and The Church Network, a professional association for church administrators. I look forward to sharing their ideas with you.

In addition to sharing stories, I support our food pantry. This year more than 100 volunteers served 2,590 hours. Of those volunteers, we have nine members from St. Stephen's who volunteer regularly in the food pantry. They served 397 hours last year. I'm grateful for all the volunteers for their dedication, time, and hard work. They serve families with grace and compassion.

2019 was the first full year we used a web-based program to log in client visits. Instead of getting a written referral for each visit, all clients are now entered into the program. They only need to be entered once to be eligible to receive food from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020. This was the easiest renewal we have had.

The program gives us the ability to track the number of families who visit and where they come from. In 2019, we had 9,489 visits serving 17,652 individuals –

13,210 adults and 4,442 children. Many are repeat visitors. The unduplicated individuals served was 2,860.

We mostly serve clients who live close to St. Stephen's - 57.1 percent of the families live 1 mile away, and 21.4 percent live 3 miles away.

In 2019, we went green and stopped buying plastic grocery bags. Instead, we rely on members, volunteers, and the community to donate clean, used plastic bags. We hope to encourage more clients to use reusable bags, but we still need everyone to bring in used plastic bags.

St. Stephen's outreach to the community includes hosting exhibitions of local artists and Art Loop Wilmington receptions on the first Friday of the month. In 2019 we hosted nine exhibitions, including two group shows: students from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the Pacem in Terris Traveling Youth Peace Art Exhibition, which featured art created by Delaware youth sharing their vision of peace. The artists shared work in alcohol ink, oils, watercolors and pen and ink.

Special thanks to members who provide refreshments at the Art Loop receptions. All the artists are grateful for your kindness in providing refreshments because most galleries do not provide refreshments, and they are responsible for bringing it. We look forward to hosting eight exhibitions in 2020 in March, April, May, June, September, October, November, and December.

In 2020, I look forward to using Tithe.ly, a new church management software program. We will be moving the E-Courier from MailChimp, a web-based program to Tithe.ly. It also has the ability to register guests for events, which will make payment for the Empty Bowl Dinner easier.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers in the food pantry, in the office, and at all our events. I look forward to another amazing year at St. Stephen's!

--Kanchalee Reeves, Communications Coordinator/Office Administrator



Report of the Council

Betty Sperati, Council President

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13 NRSV

This verse in the Bible is the one verse that speaks to me personally. It gives hope and positivity in a negative world. I also feel that it applies to our congregation at St. Stephen’s. Through the last decade working through God, we as a congregation have been moving forward. We are performing God’s work and showing God’s love through our actions. And it is through the hard work of our entire congregation that we are being recognized in the community for our good works.

This year as I have served you as our Congregational President, I have been working very closely with Pastor Jason, attending meetings and conferences, writing letters, speaking with members of our community and congregation, and interacting with our staff. God was giving me both the strength to accomplish what I could and giving our congregation the strength and direction we needed to carry out our missions.

I wish to thank the church council for 2019 who has been working diligently with me for you to facilitate the best possible leadership to achieve our goals. Their dedication to their commitment to St. Stephen’s and God shines forth in our church. Those members are: Carl LaPorte (Vice-President), Chris Poslock, Eleanor Turner, Kathy Wagner, Matthew Johnson, Mike Lehm (Financial Secretary), Rick Feltman, and Sharon Potter. Also, a big thank you to Carol Landry for attending the meetings as our secretary. Many of our council members not only attend our monthly meetings, but they all serve in many other capacities within our church. Some act as a liaison between the various teams and council. God has been working through us strengthening our commitments.

Our Cantor, Oksana Glouchko continues to strengthen our worship services and outreach programs through the music ministry. She works with the choir and other guest musicians to augment our quality of music during the worship service. Oksana also continues to provide us with an extraordinary concert series that is gaining in popularity and attendance.

Our St. Stephen’s Finance Team works very hard to keep our financial activates regulated and monitored. They have also continued with “Amazon Smile” and “Giving Tuesday” to help raise extra funding. Auditing continues to be on-going. The team makes sure that our budget is under control so that St. Stephen’s can continue performing our many ministries.

Our Property Team is very hard at work, continuously monitoring any needs, upgrades and repairs that become necessary for the maintenance of our extraordinary building. They struggle with the limited funding that is budgeted, but through God’s strength and support and the gifts from many



congregational members for projects, we were able to repair one major roof that caused major leaks into the building and several offices. Also, the damage to the offices was repaired.

Highlights of this past year have included sponsoring a wonderful evening during the Peace Week Delaware festivities with our Coffee for Peace with Sarah McBride as our guest speaker and our very successful 6th Annual Empty Bowl Dinner. Not only the St. Stephen's family, but many community members and establishments have attended. The Bowl dinner continues to help our food ministries.

Social Ministries continues to be a strong outreach at St. Stephen's. We continue to support Emmanuel Dining Room monthly by serving a meal during lunch, Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center with our Backpack ministry and Christmas gifts for the children, Family Promise Ministry, and our LCS Food Pantry. Our food pantry is vital to the community and we continue to help those challenged by the need for food. God has provided the strength we need to keep serving. We also held a "Noisy Change" collection campaign to support the World Hunger Relief Fund. We provided a bowling team to bowl in the annual Lutheran Volunteer Corp. bowl-a-thon. Several members also ran/walked in the annual LCS Run, the first time in many years we have had a team representing St. Stephen's. Also, the Art Loop has added much to our outreach. We also sponsored a booth in Dover at the Delaware Pride Week activities. Not only are we a Reconciling in Church, but we are continuing to live up to our calling of being inclusive in all areas of God's work through the strength we receive from God.

In 2019 our weekly attendance average was 54. We welcomed nine new members into the St. Stephen's family, held two baptisms and sadly lost three very active long-time members. They were Fred Altergott, Kathleen Marshall and Lydia Turner.

Our LEAD program completed our second year. They have been hard at work meeting with community members, during more congregational assessments to help us establish how to proceed into the future as God gives us strength.

A very special thank you to our office administrator, Kanchalee Reeves. Her dedication to St. Stephen's is phenomenal and helps our congregation to function smoothly. Kanchalee's help and patience through the year has been deeply appreciated. Also, thank you to our sexton, Bonnie Kincaid and our assistant sexton Armand Schmidt for their hard work. They help to keep our facility bright and clean during the year. The work they do has blessed us.

Lastly, I want to thank Pastor Jason Churchill. Your steadfast leadership and devotion to St. Stephen's is unmatched. You display a total devotion to the congregation and community. You are tireless in your efforts to bring St. Stephen's to the forefront of God's work. We are a better congregation because of your God given gifts.

A special thank you to all the congregation for your hard work. May we continue to serve even more into 2020 in God's name.

--Betty Sperati

St Stephen's Lutheran Church Council 2019



**Pastor Jason
Churchill**



Rick Feltman



Matthew Johnson



Carl LaPorte



Michael Lehm



Chris Poslock



Sharon Potter



Betty Sperati



Eleanor Turner



Kathy Wagner

Parochial Report

New Members

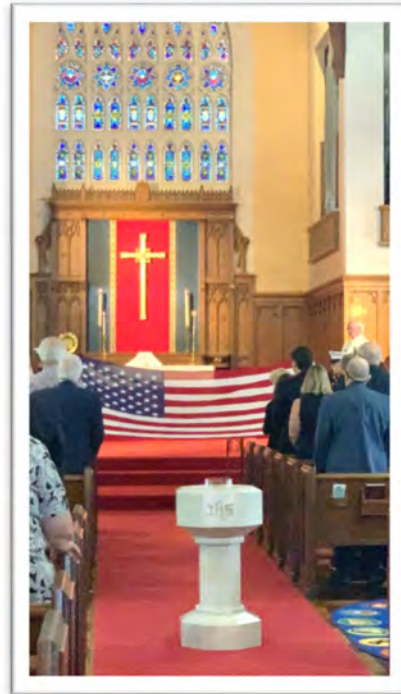
Edith Campbell
Thattiany Carreiro
Michael Farthing
Todd Gockley
Madeline Johnson
Michelle Maia
Lucy Orsetti
Sonya Rance
Ron Ridell

Baptized:

Lillith Sperati
Roland Sperati

Deaths

Fred Altergott
Kathleen Marshall
Lydia Turner



Altar Guild

Altar Guild is responsible for the care of the worship space. This includes the placement of the furnishings, appointments, and ornaments used during the worship service. Altar Guild members, with the help of non-members, also decorate the Sanctuary for high holy days, such as Christmas and Easter.

Our group is small, and we had a rough year due to retirements and member requests for limited scheduling. However, by the end of the year, we had four new members. We also have our first gentleman member!! That is groundbreaking – joining a ministry team that has only ever been the realm of women.

Thank you, Pr. Jason, for all your support of this ministry team. Thank you to the congregation also for your help decorating for Christmas and Easter and other times when there are calls for help.

Experience is not necessary to join Altar Guild. The time commitment is small. The preparation process has been streamlined over the past few years. Our goal is to be easy and efficient but correct. One example is the change to the altar flowers. Several factors went into the decision to change this process, but even with the change, we continue to have flowers on Sunday.

We pair two members up who meet Sunday morning for about 15 minutes to prepare the Altar and Chancel for worship. After the service, they reverse the process. This takes about 15-20 minutes also.



Altar Guild also provides the communion bread. Our two options are to bake a loaf of bread or pick up pita bread from the grocery store. We also have purchased gluten-free wafers available. If you don't think "full membership" in Altar Guild is right for you, but you like to bake – we have a place for you!

If you think you might be interested in joining, contact Carol – she will be glad to answer your questions.

PS The schedule is flexible. Members are always willing to pick up a Sunday if you can't make your scheduled day.

Carol Landry
carolrlandry@verizon.net
Cell: 302.559.9501

Property Team

The property team members who volunteered their time this year are Gary Gooden, Jane Conlon, Chuck Landry, Chris Poslock, John Rodammer, Doug Small, Robert Sullivan, Ken Nicholson, and Sonia Brode.

The team completed several repairs and improvements to our church facility. The following list, in no particular order, is a brief synopsis of those projects.

- The fire escape from the baptistery on the 13th Street side of the church was repainted, along with the metal rails at various points around the building.
- The exterior wood frames around the stained-glass windows on both sides of the sanctuary were repainted. The original paint had begun to peel, exposing the wood to weathering and rot. The fresh paint will protect the wood for many years to come.
- The stone around the main entrance to the narthex and sanctuary, and the stone walls around the front ground floor entrance were repointed. For the past several years, we have been repointing areas mostly around the original church building. This project is a normal part of maintaining a hundred-year-old building and will continue for the next several years.
- An intermittent leak in the sanctuary near the piano was repaired, but we are not satisfied that the repair was done properly. We may need to have this redone later.
- The roof over the front stairwell had deteriorated and had begun to leak. That small section of roof was replaced, so it should be secure for many years to come.
- The roof over Fredrick Memorial Hall had been a problem for many years because it was not installed properly. Early this fall, we inspected the roof and found that portions had deteriorated so badly that we were concerned that it would not make it through the winter without failing and causing serious damage. We asked for bids and were able to engage a contractor who replaced the black roof with a white membrane and more efficient insulation that will end the periodic water damage we have suffered over the years. As an added benefit, it will save on future heating and cooling bills.
- Gary Gooden repainted both outer doors in front of the church, the main entrance to the narthex, and the ground level entrance near the food pantry. He also painted the emergency door in the baptistery, which leads to the fire escape. When you see him, thank him for his effort.
- One unfortunate incident occurred while the Fredrick Memorial Hall roof was being repaired. Someone vandalized the project over the Thanksgiving Day weekend. Rain that Sunday caused damage to the



building. Fortunately, the roofing contractor responded quickly to our call, and the leaking was stopped. ServPro came in and dried the building, leaving no trace of mold or smell. We are awaiting bids to repair the drywall damage, and expect to be able to repair the drywall damage before spring. Insurance coverage has not yet been resolved.

- For the last two years, we have been repairing and replacing the emergency lights throughout the building. Ken Nicholson just finished the last of that work, so thank him when you see him.
- Last on our list, but certainly, not least is the repair and painting that was done by several of our members to the walls around the food pantry and the atrium outside the social hall. The heavy traffic around the food pantry had taken its toll on the walls, leaving them damaged and pretty ugly. Jane Conlon organized the team and coordinated the project. I don't have the names of all the people who volunteered, but certainly, Jane deserves our thanks

We want to thank all of those who helped and supported our efforts this year, and we look forward to more progress this year.

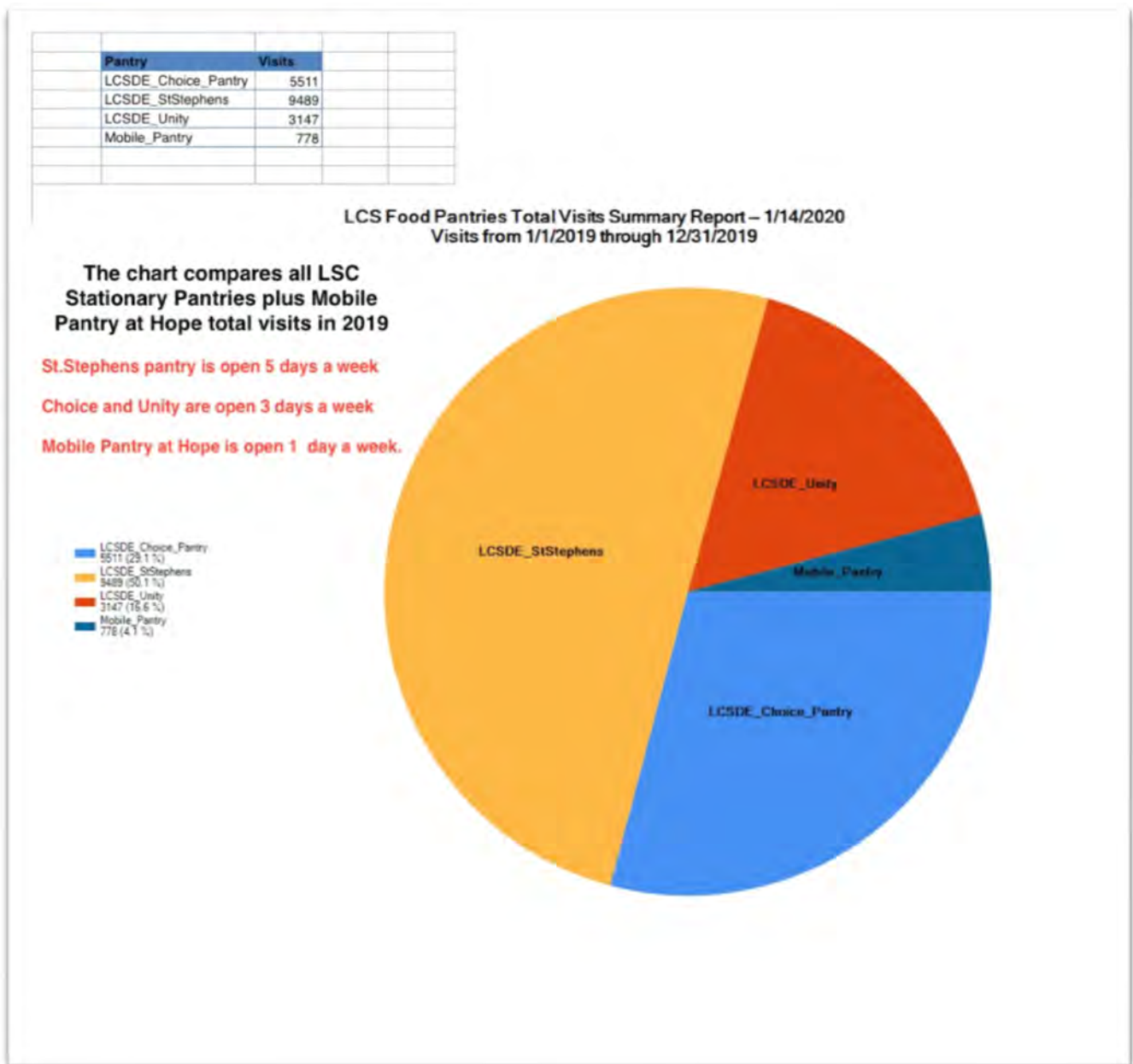
If you are interested in joining our team, contact any of the team members. You are all welcome.

--*Chuck Landry*

Food Pantry

With the implementation of a computerized check-in system for the LCS Food Pantries (LCS Choice Pantry, Unity Church, Hope mobile pantry, and St. Stephen's), statistics which were previously done by hand, are now instantly available for deeper analysis.

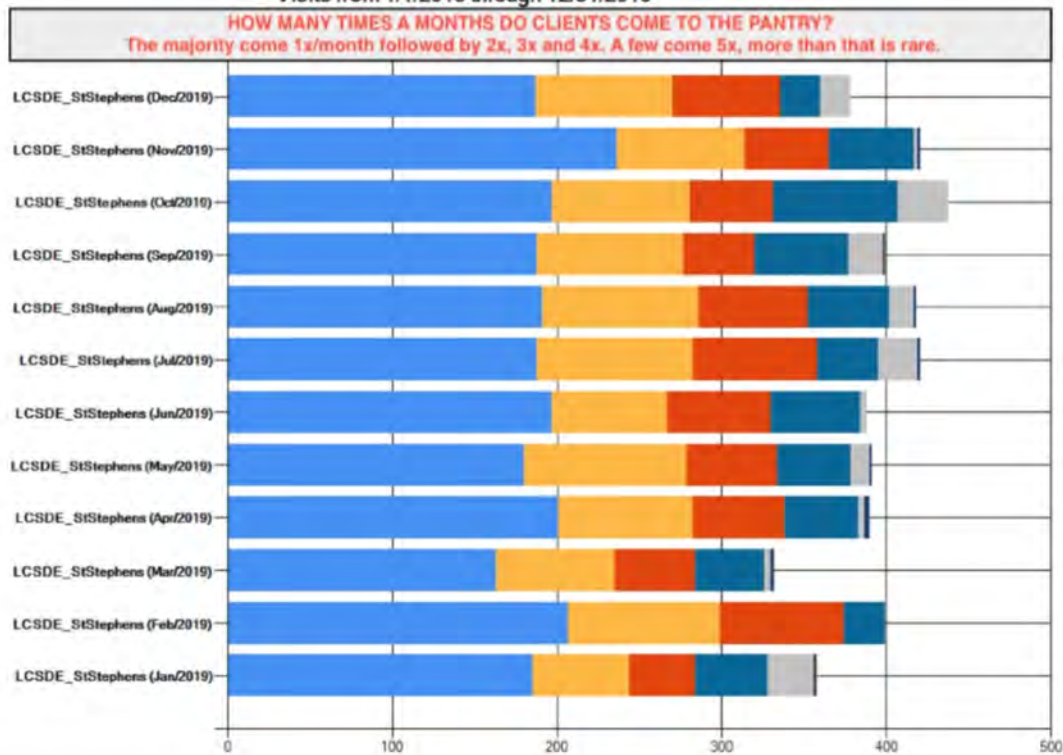
The first chart shows that St. Stephen's serves the highest number of families, partly because it is open five days a week.



This chart shows that the majority of clients of the St. Stephen’s food pantry come no more than once a month.

Pantry (Month/Year)	1x	2x	3x	4x	5x	6x	7x	8x	9x	>=10x
LCSDE_StStephens (Jan/2019)	185	59	40	44	28	1	0	0	1	0
LCSDE_StStephens (Feb/2019)	207	92	75	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
LCSDE_StStephens (Mar/2019)	163	72	49	42	4	2	0	0	0	0
LCSDE_StStephens (Apr/2019)	201	82	55	45	4	3	0	0	0	0
LCSDE_StStephens (May/2019)	180	99	55	44	12	1	0	0	0	0
LCSDE_StStephens (Jun/2019)	197	70	63	54	4	0	0	0	0	0
LCSDE_StStephens (Jul/2019)	188	95	75	37	24	2	0	0	0	0
LCSDE_StStephens (Aug/2019)	191	95	66	50	15	1	0	0	0	0
LCSDE_StStephens (Sep/2019)	188	89	43	57	21	1	1	0	0	0
LCSDE_StStephens (Oct/2019)	197	84	50	76	31	0	0	0	0	0
LCSDE_StStephens (Nov/2019)	236	78	51	52	2	2	0	0	0	0
LCSDE_StStephens (Dec/2019)	187	83	66	24	18	0	0	0	0	0

LCS Food Pantries Visits/Month By Pantry – 1/14/2020
Visits from 1/1/2019 through 12/31/2019



The computer system is working to prevent misuse of the pantry by limiting clients to one visit per week.

LEAD

We have finished the second of three years of the LEAD program. LEAD stands for Living Every Day as Disciples. LEAD is a synod-sponsored program to encourage congregations to grow in their connection with the community.

Team members are Bob Linderman, Michele Torchia, Karleen Strayer, Ann Warner, and Jason Churchill. The focus of LEAD training in the first two years is listening: listening to God in the Bible and prayer, listening to the congregation, and listening to the community.

Over the last few months, LEAD members have been able to share some of those insights with the congregation through articles in the e-Courier and presentations during the worship service. We've been working behind the scenes for quite a while, but it's time to make the congregation more fully aware of what we have been doing, and what we will be doing.

In 2018 team focused on Bible study and listening to the congregation. We heard from the congregation through a survey in spring 2018, and conversations around meals in fall 2018.

In 2019 the team concentrated on listening to the community. We have had conversations with several community leaders: a school board member, a bank manager, a state legislator, the director of Planned Parenthood, and the director of Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center. There are many more on our list that we want to talk with, but this has been a good start.

The next task for the LEAD team is to take the information we have gathered and see how the pieces fit together. How does God's message to us fit with the vision of the congregation? How does the vision of the congregation fit with the needs of the community?

Based on the information we have gathered, the LEAD team will be proposing some "adaptive experiments." The experiments will involve the congregation and allow people to see in what ways our congregation can change and grow in supporting our mission to be in the community.

During 2020, the LEAD team will also be asking members of the congregation to form a Centering Team. This is one of the final steps of the LEAD program. The LEAD team has been listening, the Centering Team, the council, and our mission teams will be asked to do. The adaptive experiments will give a sense of what we can do as a congregation, and how well it fits into the needs of the community. Council and mission teams can then continue to make plans based on that information, with the Centering Team serving as the liaison between Council and the congregation.



There is an article by Chuck Lawless (chucklawless.com) which nicely sums up what LEAD is doing, and what we will be asking the congregation to do.

Here is a summarized version of the Lawless article *9 Markers of Churches who Strongly Influence Their Community With the Gospel*.

1. They believe and teach the gospel.
2. They're not typically megachurches.
3. They genuinely ask, "If our church weren't here, would our community miss us?"
4. They ask community leaders what their community's real needs are.
5. Their members (beginning with the pastor) have chosen to live in the community.
6. They welcome all races and nationalities.
7. They often have one staff member or leader responsible for local outreach and ministry.
8. They almost naturally prayerwalk their community.
9. They serve, serve again, and then serve some more.

These markers resonated with the LEAD team. Some markers are already a natural part of St. Stephen's. We've taken on some as part of the LEAD program. Others have been part of the planning process.

As we head into the third and final year of the LEAD program, we will be asking the congregation to actively participate in programs that will result in a St. Stephen's congregation that is even more actively involved in living God's mission in the community.

--The LEAD Team

Worship 2018

Worship brings us together each week to celebrate our baptismal life as members of Christ's body, to hear the word of God, to share in Christ's meal, and to be sent into the world equipped to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

We try to provide a level of comfort for our regular worshipers, but also introduce new hymns and music styles to the worship experience. It's a valuable experience to ask the congregation to try new things and identify what does and doesn't work.



Music 2019

To enhance our in-house choir, four young musicians joined us for the regular school year. This program allows the choir to sing a wider variety of music. Singing with us in early 2019 were UD students Liana Stephen, Daniel McGinley, Leon DeShields and Nicole Boysen. Joining us in September 2019 were UD students Leon DeShields and Nicholas Calabrese, and UD graduates Jazmin Salaberrios and Malcolm Richardson.

Thank you to all of our in-house musicians who have been able to participate through the year: Sally Dudderar, Ralph Heiss, Matthew Johnson, Bob Linderman, Betty Sperati, Bill Sperati, Lynn Splittorff, Eleanor Turner, Ann Wagner, Ann Warner, Karen Weber.

Service Assistants 2019

There are many assistants each Sunday morning who help make the service flow smoothly. *Special training is not necessary, and we will show you whatever you need to know to carry out the responsibilities of the positions. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please contact the church office.*

Assisting ministers

These assistants help the Pastor during worship, including reading prayers and assisting with communion. Those who have participated as Assisting Minister have included: John Gordon, Ralph Heiss, Chuck Landry, Bob Linderman, John Rodammer, Ann Warner, and Karen Weber

Lectors

Lectors serve the worship service through reading the lessons and leading the prayers of the church. All are welcome, so consider this a group you can always join or contribute too as desired during the church calendar's needs. Lectors in 2019 included: John Gordon, Ralph Heiss, Matthew Johnson, Carol Landry, Bob Linderman, Kathleen Marshall, Sonya Rance, John Rodammer, Bill Sperati, Michele Torchia, Ann Wagner, Ann Warner, and Karen Weber,

Communion Assistant

Communion Assistants help each Sunday by helping with the distribution of the wine. Participants in 2019 included: John Gordon, Ralph Heiss, Sue Heiss, Carol Landry, Kathleen Marshall, John Rodammer, Aurora Sperati, Betty Sperati, Bob Sullivan, Henry Sullivan, Noah Sullivan, Shauna Sullivan, Michele Torchia, Ann Wagner, Ann Warner, and Karen Weber.

Ushers

Our ushers are the first to greet and welcome friends and visitors as they enter the church for services. They are our greeters and a source of information for visitors and members alike. In addition to handing out the worship bulletins, they provide special instructions during worship for activities such as the offering and communion. They also assist in opening and closing the building for each service.



Those serving as ushers in 2019 included: Rick Feltman, Gary Gooden, John Gordon, Ralph Heiss, Ursula Kroll, Chuck Landry, Carl LaPorte, Bob Linderman, Chris Poslock, Dave Potter, Sharon Potter, John Rodammer, Doug Small, Dave Potter, and Sharon Potter.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is responsible for making sure the sanctuary is ready for worship. Altar Guild members make sure that the linens and banners reflect the appropriate color for the church day or season. They also make sure that the wine and bread for communion are set out, and that the baptismal font is prepared.

Hospitality

Each Sunday after worship, we strive to provide a setting where people can chat with friends and visitors. Our hospitality hosts each week provide a variety of snacks for all to enjoy.

Sound system

Sound system assistants prepare the microphones for use each Sunday morning, and staff the sound-board during worship to turn microphones on and off as needed.

Money Counters

These assistants meet after church to count the weekly donations.

Discipleship

Stewardship Team

Throughout the year, we are witness to countless examples of stewardship. Every act which celebrates God's abundant blessings should be seen as an act of stewardship, and the pages of our congregational report show the measure of our commitment.

Your stewardship team is grateful for all of your faithful generosity, from our Food Pantry to Altar Guild, from Music to Bible Study. On our Commitment Sunday, November 24, we asked our congregation to prayerfully consider their pledges, on which we will base our plans for our continued spiritual growth.

We rejoice together in God's boundless love.

"Generosity Changes Everything" Your generosity in sharing your time, your talents, and your finances change everything we do for God's mission at St. Stephen's

On behalf of the stewardship team, John Gordon, Matt Johnson, John Rodammer, Ann Warner, Betsy Zimny,

--Ralph Heiss

Children's Sunday School

There was a group of five children who attended Sunday School in the early part of 2019. The structure of the program varied depending on who was there. Sometimes lessons and activities would occur before the worship service; other times, they would happen following the children's dismissal from the sanctuary during the sermon. The year ended with participants providing Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts for their parents.

There has been no Sunday School activity in the fall of 2019. Children participate in a Children's sermon during the worship service and are invited to stay with their parents during the entire worship service.



Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study, Mid-week Bible Study

Small and dedicated groups met regularly on Sunday mornings and Wednesday mornings to read and discuss various books and stories of the Bible.

Book Club

The monthly book club is open to anyone who wishes to join us.

We read a different book each month, some with a religious theme, some without.

First Communion

Four young people in our congregation, along with their parents, went through a deliberate period of study on the meaning of communion. Though all the children have been participating in communion for some time, we celebrated with them their “first communion” in August.

Welcome, Henry Sullivan, Noah Sullivan, Kristin Carreiro, and Rachell Carreiro.

Mutual Ministry

We are in our third year of our 3-year tenure as the Mutual Ministry Committee. We continue to meet regularly and complete our mission, as outlined below. In the next few months Pastor Jason will look for our replacements.

The Mutual Ministry Committee meets once a month. Its members are Jane Conlon, Carol Landry, Dave Potter, Kathy Wagner, and Pastor Jason Churchill. The purpose of the Mutual Ministry Committee is to tend to the healthy relationship between the pastor and the people of the congregation. When there is a healthy relationship between pastor and the congregation the mission of the church thrives.

The Mutual Ministry Committee is mission-oriented, not pastor centered. This committee is not the committee that ministers to the pastor or meets the pastor’s personal, psychological, and spiritual needs for support, nor is it the committee through which the congregation filters its complaints about the pastor. Rather it is centered on growing the ministry of all baptized members of this congregation as we strengthen and grow our mission.

Ministry is the calling of all baptized members, not just the Pastor. It is our job to listen and observe what is going on within the life of the congregation and community. Our meetings consist of relationship building between members of the committee, bible study, and scanning of the life of the congregation. We share and conduct discussions of what we observe. We then share our observations and/or make suggestions to the council.

If you have any questions about our purpose, please see one of the members.

--Jane Conlon



Service/Advocacy/Justice

Evangelism and Mission

Concerts

St. Stephen's Concert Series continued in 2019.

January: Katia Kravitz, organ

January: Dina Nesterenko, violin; Oksana Glouchko, piano

February: Isai Jess Munoz, tenor; Oksana Glouchko, piano

April: Eileen Grycky, flute; Christian Taggart, guitar

May: University of Delaware Faculty Jazz Ensemble

September: David Schelat, organ

October: Alison Trainer, soprano; Oksana Glouchko, piano

November: Christoph Nichols, clarinet; Joshua Watkins, percussion

St. Stephen's also hosted the winter concert for the Music School of Delaware. Groups featured included cello ensemble, #Jazz Chorus, Small Wonders Jazz Choir, Midnight Clear rock band, and the Delaware Women's Chorus.

Delaware Pride

Delaware's first Delaware Pride Parade was held in Dover in June. St. Stephen's participated by hosting a booth. Several members of St. Stephen's helped to hand out rainbow bracelets, and information about Peace Week and Empty Bowl Dinner.



Empty Bowl Dinner

On Tuesday, October 22, the 5th Annual Empty Bowl Dinner was held, and all three seatings were SOLD OUT. Donations of food, including soup, bread, and desserts, were provided by over 20 different local restaurants, as well as churches who partner with Family Promise of New Castle County, and local bakeries.

The display of handcrafted bowls from several artisans amazed the attendees as they chose their treasure, which represented that "someone will still go hungry tonight." This year we successfully used the church sanctuary to display these bowls and register attendees.



More than 40 volunteers -- including a team of several hard-working and dedicated raffle ticket sellers -- ably lead by Sharon Potter, coordinated the collection of over 600 donations, the grouping of these items, and the creation of more than 30 baskets available for raffle. Other means of fundraising included a Visa



gift card from Thrivent (donated by Jon and Kathy Wagner) and several other donations making this a wonderful night that was enjoyed by all.

On Wednesday, October 23, a small team of volunteers opened the doors of the St. Stephen's social hall and invited food pantry clients to a Soup and Bread dinner, at which over 50 people were able to enjoy a hot meal. There was plenty of soup, bread, and desserts, so each client was able to take home a doggie bag as they left. In the end, we still had soup,

bread, and desserts leftover, some of which were given to the food pantry to give to clients, as well as the delivery of more than five gallons of assorted soups to the Sunday Breakfast Mission.

Thank you to the Empty Bowl Team who worked many hours to create this fabulous event, that brought in \$13,500 of which \$1,000.00 was earmarked to be donated to Northern New Castle County Family Promise and the remaining amount will help fund the Feeding Ministries of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.

Thank you to all those who attended, because without you, this event would not have been a success.

--Sonia K. Brode

Coffee for Peace

On September 27, St. Stephens held its 4th annual Coffee for Peace event, a part of Peace Week of Delaware. The corner of 13th and North Broom street was buzzing with outdoor music selections by Genesis and the Black Mambas. Everyone enjoyed culinary delights from local food trucks, including Uncle John's BBQ, Nude Food, and Scission Coffee.

Inside the sanctuary, Sarah McBride, the National Press Secretary for the Human Rights Campaign, joined attendees and Pastor Jason in conversation about how the presence of justice and equality can be a pathway to true peace.

The attendance of this annual event continues to grow. The community outreach is a great part of this event, which culminated in the Peace Walk on Saturday, October 28.



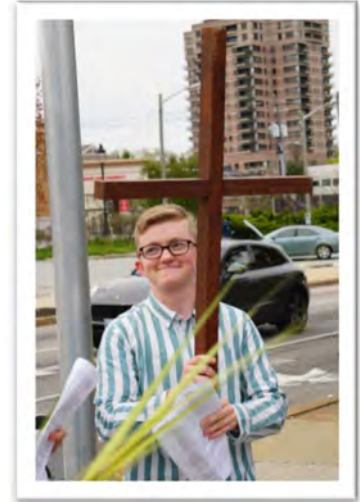
We look forward to another great event at the 2020 Coffee for Peace.

--Sonia K. Brode

Palm Sunday Walk for Justice

Members of New Castle County Lutheran Churches and other churches in Wilmington joined St. Stephen's to participate in an urban walk for Palm Sunday.

About 25 people took to the streets, distributing palms to people. They took a slightly different route than they have in the past, stopping and praying at Luther Towers, YMCA, Trinity Episcopal, Cool Springs Park, Trinity Vicinity, and Connections. Prayers were offered for the services offered at each location, and for the people who require the services.



Art Loop

On the first Friday of most months, St. Stephen's participates in the Wilmington Loop. Our Gathering Area is filled with artwork, and the public is invited in for refreshments and the opportunity to speak with the artist.



This year we welcomed:

- Linda Gunderson
- Rosemary Luckett
- Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts students
- Barrie Gregory
- Regina Katz
- Harold Ellis Howell
- Ralph Marley
- Pacem in Terris Travelling Youth Peace Exhibit
- Dolores Bartholomew

The artwork remains on display throughout the month, and the public is invited to come in during office hours to see the display.

LVC Bowl-a-thon

Each spring the local Lutheran Volunteer Corps group hosts a bowl-a-thon to benefit the program. St. Stephen's regularly sends a team of bowlers.

Lutheran Volunteer Corps is a program providing volunteers the opportunity to work with social-service agencies, while living in community with other volunteers.

Emmanuel Dining Room

On the 25th of each month (except December), St. Stephen's provides the lunchtime meal for approximately 200 individuals at Emmanuel Dining Room, located at the corner of Third & Walnut Streets in Wilmington, Delaware. St. Stephen's joins dozens of other churches and businesses in Wilmington, who provide this service for the hungry and homeless in the city. The average daily attendance for this meal is 175 to 225 people of all ages, including families with children.

Sharon and Dave Potter coordinate the volunteers from St. Stephen's who purchase and deliver the food for our monthly day of service, as well as provide desserts and help to serve the food. It is ideal to provide three servers/helpers each month, but unfortunately, we often fall short of that number. Volunteers who serve are needed from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm on the 25th of each month.

Volunteers are always needed, and cash donations are also needed to cover the cost of purchasing the food for this important ministry. The cost of the food for this meal is approximately \$200-\$225 per month, which is supported by our church budget and donations from within our congregation. As little as \$1 per EDR guest can be used to provide this meal – please consider helping!

Please contact Sharon or Dave Potter at (302) 239-3896 if you are interested in serving as a volunteer or contributing directly to the cost of the food for this ministry.

--Sharon Potter

Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center

Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center is located a mile from St. Stephen's and offers a variety of preschool and after-school programs for children in the neighborhood. We sponsored three projects to benefit Hilltop this past year:

- **Backpacks for school** – We were able to provide 30 backpacks, each containing school supplies which were filled at church and delivered to the center for distribution to the children.
- **Thanksgiving baskets** – These are not baskets (because of the number of items contained in each), but boxes with food items (minus the turkey) necessary for a family holiday feast. We provided 30 boxes.
- **Christmas Gifts** – We provide a list of children with two gifts each for the holiday. Each child requested one specific toy and provided their clothing size. These were items that the children would otherwise have to go without.



Lynn Splittorff works with Hilltop to coordinate our participation in these activities.

New Jerusalem

We continue to provide worship space for New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, which was destroyed by fire in December 2015. They have been worshipping here since February 2016.

Family Promise

Family Promise NCC envisions a community in which every family has a home, a livelihood, and the resources for lasting independence. There are 800 volunteers and over 40 congregations that help this organization assist over 100 families to end their homelessness faster, more successfully, and more cost-effective than anywhere else in Delaware.

St. Stephen's makes and serves dinner for families staying overnight at Westminster Presbyterian. This has been a job primarily done by Jane Conlon. Additional volunteers are welcome.

We support Family Promise by donating a portion of our fundraising from Empty Bowl Dinner.

The next Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community, which provides support to Family Promise, will be held at the Tubman-Garrett Park on June 13, 2020.

We are always looking for people to get involved. Please see me if you would like to get involved in cooking and serving dinners, or make a donation to their supply wish list.

--Jane Conlon

LCS Walk-Run

LCS (Lutheran Community Services) operates multiple food distribution centers throughout Delaware, including the LCS Food Pantry at St. Stephen's. The annual Walk-Run is the only fundraiser specifically to support the food programs of LCS.

St. Stephen's had a representative team this year, for the first time in many years. Thanks to the Sullivan family, Pastor Jason and Kanchalee Reeves for supporting this effort.



Mosaic of Delaware

Mosaic is a faith-based organization serving people with intellectual disabilities. St. Stephen's has a growing relationship with Mosaic as we seek ways to include them in our activities. We continue to look for ways to include Mosaic in working in the Food Pantry, and activities such as assisting at the Empty Bowl Dinner.

Bootless Stageworks

Bootless Stageworks and St. Stephen's have been partners since the spring of 2014. The partnership has resulted in material improvements to the Social Hall. Bootless continues its mission of providing challenging stage presentations. Offerings in 2019 included comedy nights, open mic nights, *Disenchanted!*, *Close Your Legs Honey*, *An Evening of Everything*, *Spice Girls Drag Tribute*, *Johnny Depp: A Retrospective*, *You've Got Red on You*, *Murderess*, and *Calendar Girls*.

Please think about joining the theater group for a fun evening of entertainment.

Food Ministries

Food Pantry

The Lutheran Community Services (LCS) Food Pantry at St. Stephen's is one of the busiest food pantries in the state of Delaware. We provide three days of emergency food provision to 800-1000 families each month. The largest source of pantry food is the Food Bank of Delaware.

Additional food comes from a contract with USDA, which delivers 11 months of the year. Private donations from churches and schools are another source of food for the pantry. St. Stephen's Second Sunday contributions of food help make it possible for us to serve our clients with a healthy variety of meat, vegetables, fruits, cereals, and pasta.

The pantry is open five days a week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 9-12, and Wednesday evening, 5-7.

Volunteers staff the pantry. We are a source of volunteer opportunities for other churches, businesses, schools, and neighborhood residents. Chuck Landry provides oversight and training of the volunteers.

Second Sunday

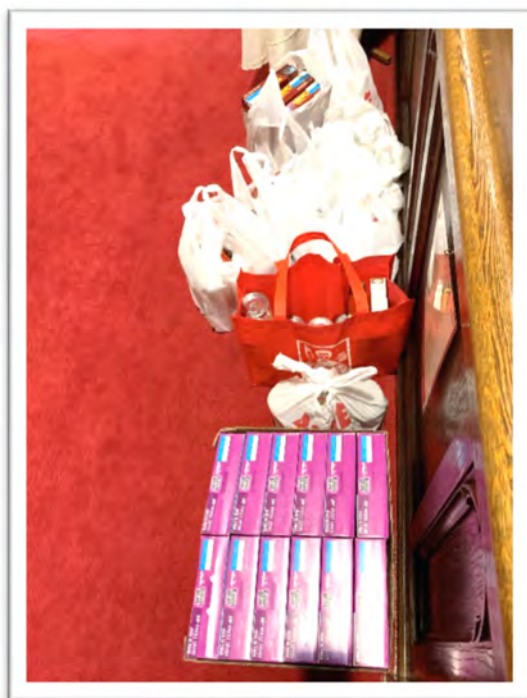
Second Sunday reminds us of the abundant blessings we receive from God. We encourage the congregation to donate nonperishable food on the second Sunday of each month. These collected items are used to restock the shelves of the food pantry. If everyone participated, whether by bringing one item or a bag of food, the impact on our food pantry would be wonderful. Although many people think of the hungry during the months between November and January, the needs of the hungry are all year.

Food Packing

Each Monday and Wednesday, volunteers pack bags, stock shelves, and clean our food pantry; so that the volunteers who operate the pantry during its service hours can distribute the food more efficiently. Also, this cleaning, restocking, and pre-packing enables us to serve more people, and the lines can be kept to a minimum. Volunteers include St. Stephen's members and members of the community.

World Hunger Fundraiser

This year we participated in raising funds for the ELCA World Hunger program. Through "noisy change" collections on two Sundays in the spring, we raised over \$500. This money was added to the donations of other churches throughout the synod at the Synod Assembly.



Kitchen Renovation Project

The kitchen renovation project has a blueprint of the design. After a presentation to the Food Bank of Delaware, we are now working together to become a shared venture to expand the project design to include the kitchen as a teaching and feeding location. This will help connect the clients of the food pantry with an opportunity to learn as well as provide cooked meals for their family.

Although final implementation of this project is in the future, we are very hopeful that we can create a space that marries together our feeding ministries.

We are looking forward to the future.

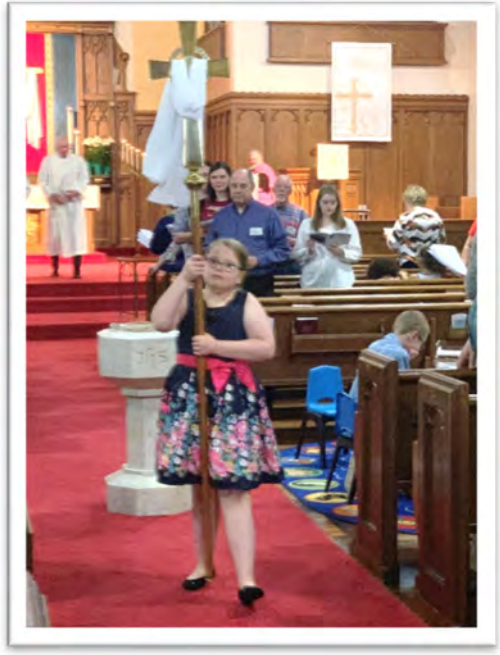
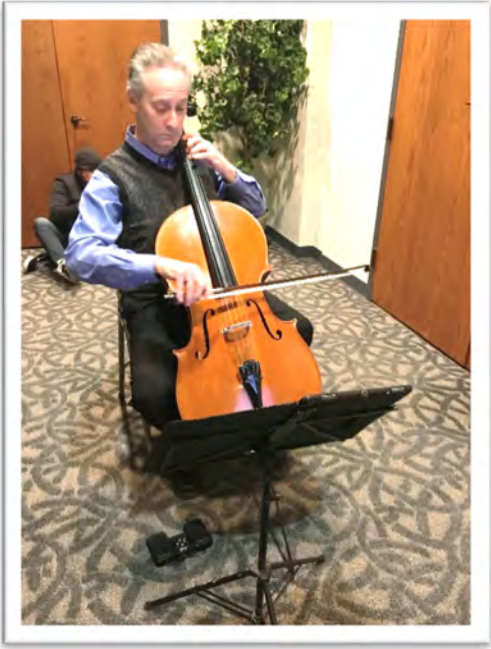
Thank you for all your support in helping to make this critically meaningful project happen.

--*Sonia K. Brode*

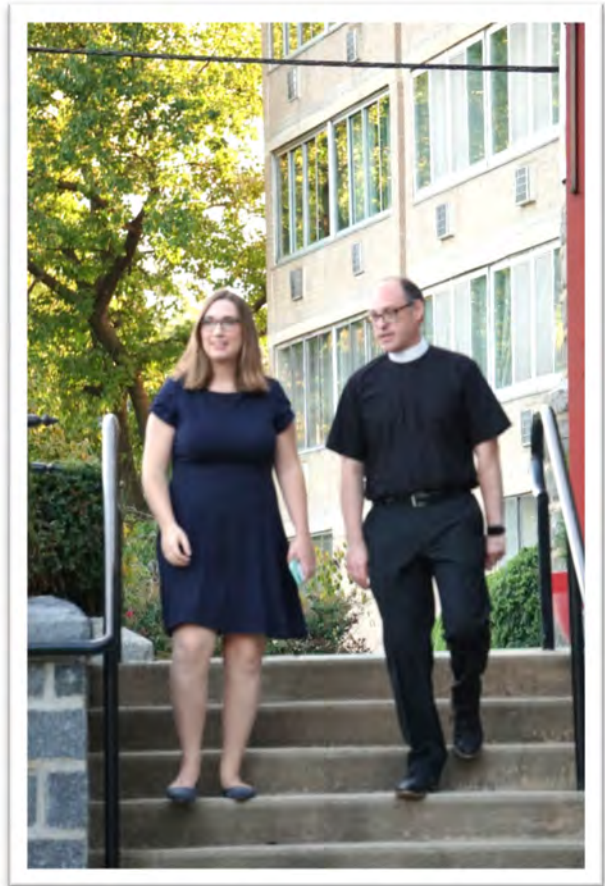


St. Stephen's in Pictures



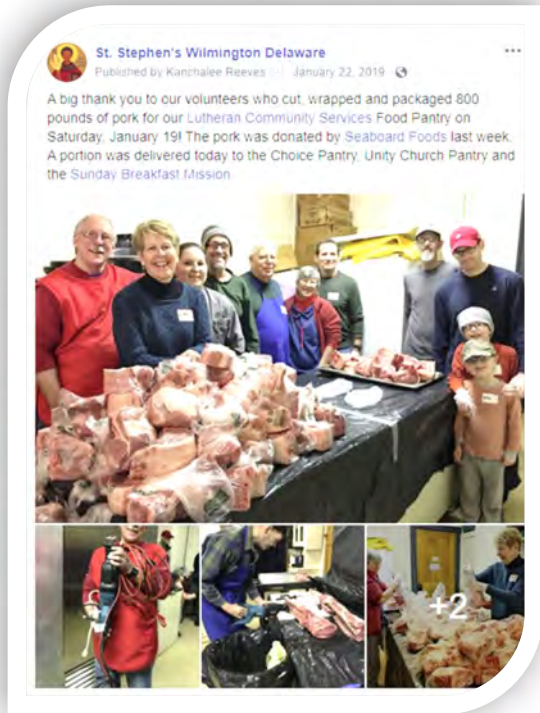






Touched by the Food Pantry

This is a small sampling of the over 100 postings that Kanchalee Reeves, our Communications Coordinator, makes to Facebook and Instagram during the year. The postings show the life that passes through our LCS Food Pantry at St. Stephen's, and how the pantry reaches throughout the city, often in ways we can't imagine.



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware
Published by Kanchalee Reeves · February 26, 2019

A big thank you to the 8th graders from Wilmington Friends School who helped to unload our USDA delivery of food for our Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry! They unloaded three pallets of nonperishable and frozen food today. They also unloaded two pallets leftover from our Food Bank delivery yesterday. We're grateful for their time, energy and hard work!

St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware
Published by Kanchalee Reeves · January 24, 2019

A big thank you to our neighbor Sarah Fisher Rogatz for her donation of food and toiletries to our Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry this morning! She cleaned out her pantry when she saw a Facebook post about pantries needing food during the government shutdown. We're grateful for her generosity during these uncertain times.

Donations are welcome when the pantry is open 9 am-noon Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and 5-7 pm Wednesday.

St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is with Linda Ulmanis.
Published by Kanchalee Reeves · January 28, 2019

Happy Birthday to Don! He is 92 today and has been volunteering at our Lutheran Community Services Food pantry for more than 20 years. He volunteers every Friday. We love seeing his smile and listening to his stories. Many thanks for your dedication!

St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware
Published by Kanchalee Reeves · February 12, 2019

So grateful to members of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church for their donation of more than 300 food items to our Lutheran Community Services food pantry! They answered our request for much-needed juice, cereal, soup, and peanut butter, as well as many other staples.

We served 63 families for a total of 116 individuals today, double our usual number because we were closed yesterday. Food was flying off our shelves! Many thanks to our volunteers who worked nonstop serving clients, packing groceries, stocking our shelves and unloading our Food Bank of Delaware delivery!

St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is at St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware. Published by [ststephaldc](#) [?] · March 27, 2019 · Wilmington · 🌐

A big thank you to the 8th graders from Wilmington Friends School who helped to unload our USDA delivery of food! They unloaded two pallets of nonperishable and frozen food today. They also packed groceries and bagged potatoes and apples. We're grateful for their time, energy and hard work!

#lcsde @wilmington_friends #thankyou #volunteer #grateful #Delaware #inwilm #wilmde #wilmingtondelaware #wilmingtonlove #netde @ St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware

St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is at St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware. Published by [Kanchalee Reeves](#) [?] · April 25, 2019 · Wilmington · 🌐

A big thank you to the 8th graders from Wilmington Friends School who helped to unload our USDA delivery of food for our Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry! They unloaded three pallets of nonperishable and frozen food today. They also stocked shelves and packed groceries. We're grateful for their time, energy and hard work!

#thankyou #volunteer #grateful #Delaware #inwilm #wilmde #wilmingtondelaware #wilmingtonlove #netde

St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware Published by [Kanchalee Reeves](#) [?] · May 2, 2019 · 🌐

Many thanks to the Lower School students at The Tatnall School for their donation of 275 food items to our Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry at St. Stephen's! We're grateful for the generosity of the students and their families. Every year the lower and upper school hold a food drive for our pantry. They help many families who are food insecure in our community.

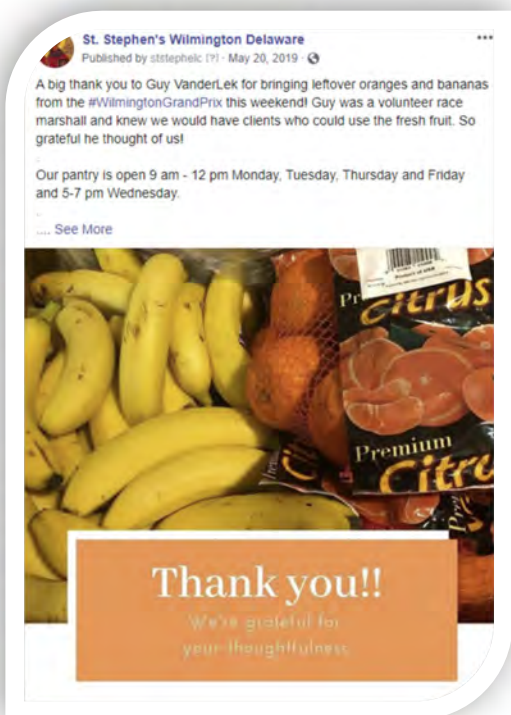
Thank you, Tatnall!

We're grateful for your donation!

St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is at St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware. Published by [Kanchalee Reeves](#) [?] · September 26, 2019 · Wilmington · 🌐

A big thank you to Tim, Greg and Leonardo for unloading our monthly U.S. Department of Agriculture delivery for our Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry at St. Stephen's! They unloaded 139 cases of nonperishable food and 39 cases of frozen meat and shredded cheese.

#foodinsecurity #endhunger #thankyou #volunteer #Delaware #inwilm #wilmde



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware
Published by Kanchalee Reeves [?] · June 3, 2019

Many thanks to Acme Markets on Concord Pike for their donation of 10 crates of milk and chocolate milk to our Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry today! They also donated 16 crates to the LCS Choice Pantry. A big thank you to our volunteers Melissa for picking up the milk and Steve for unloading the crates!

Our pantry is open 9 am - 12 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm Wednesday.

#foodinsecurity #endhunger #thankyou #donation #grateful #Delaware #inwilm #wilmde #wilmingtondelaware



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware
Published by Kanchalee Reeves [?] · May 24, 2019

Food Pantry volunteer Sonya Rance donated dozens of books from her library to our Lutheran Community Services food pantry book shelf. "I read lots of books," she said. I love reading. That's my passion. I'm happy to do it because it lightens my load."

Book donations for food pantry clients are always welcome!

... See More



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is with Lutheran Community Services and Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.
Published by Kanchalee Reeves [?] · July 18, 2019

Janice was so happy she came to our Lutheran Community Services food pantry today. "I love fresh vegetables," she said. "I love all kinds - squash, cucumbers, tomatoes." We were able to give her some of each from the Shepherd's Garden at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. They dropped off 60 pounds of fresh vegetables today!

Donations are always welcome whenever the food pantry is open.

Our food pantry is open 9 am to noon Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7... See More




St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware
Published by ststephelic [?] · July 1, 2019

Many thanks to Kristie, Nancy and Emma for their help this morning renewing our clients eligibility to receive food at our Lutheran Community Services food pantry! Clients need to renew their eligibility once a year starting July 1. Everything went smoothly and clients said it was quick and easy!

Our food pantry is open 9 am to noon Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm Wednesday.

... See More




St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware
Published by Kanchalee Reeves · 71 · August 26, 2019

The Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry at St. Stephen's is one of the largest pantries in Wilmington. Today was our busiest day this month! Our volunteers served 71 families - 118 people, which included 86 adults and 32 children.

Our pantry provides 3 days of emergency food for 800-1,000 families each month.

Donations are always welcome. Our pantry is open 9 am-noon Monday, Tuesday, Thursday Friday and 5-7 pm Wednesday.




71 FAMILIES

THE FAMILIES SERVED TODAY INCLUDED
118 PEOPLE - 86 ADULTS AND 32 CHILDREN

St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is with Lutheran Community Services and 2 others.
Published by Kanchalee Reeves · 71 · September 9, 2019

A big thank you to St. Stephen's for their donation to our Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry and to Change the Cycle - Delaware! They provided many needed items, such as cereal, canned vegetables and canned soup for our pantry and tampons and pads for low-income individuals. St. Stephen's is a Change the Cycle collection site throughout September.

Donations are always welcome. Our pantry is open 9 am - 12 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm Wednesday.




St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware
Published by ststephdc · 71 · July 12, 2019

A big thank you to Marilyn Maguire for her donation of cereal, canned vegetables, pasta and sauce to our Lutheran Community Services food pantry today!

Donations of nonperishable food are always welcome whenever the food pantry is open. We still need canned vegetables.

Our food pantry is open 9 am to noon Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm Wednesday... See More



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is with Lutheran Community Services and Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd at St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware.
Published by Kanchalee Reeves · 71 · July 22, 2019

Thank you to Ron and Karen from the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd for delivering 55 pounds of vegetables from the Shepherd's Garden to our Lutheran Community Services food pantry today! The donation included patty pan squash, spaghetti squash, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, yellow squash, greenpeppers, jalapenos, chili peppers, and naan. Fresh vegetables always go quickly!

And a big thank you to our neighbor Corey for his donation of Ice drinks, Spam, pork & beans, tuna l... See More



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware
Published by Kanchalee Reeves [?] · October 14, 2019

A huge thank you to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church for the donation of more than 100 items to our Lutheran Community Services food pantry! We received much needed canned vegetables and cereal. The pantry distributes approximately 26 cases of canned vegetables and 17 cases of cereal and breakfast items every week.
Donations are always welcome whenever the food pantry is open.
Our food pantry is open 9 am to noon Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm Wednesday... See More



*Thank You
St. Stephen's!*
More than 100 items donated

St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. ...

Published by Kanchalee Reeves [?] · October 24, 2019 · Wilmington

A huge thank you to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd for storing 4 boxes of frozen USDA chicken and ham for our Lutheran Community Services food pantry! We ran out of freezer space and they graciously offered to store it in their freezer temporarily. Special thanks to our volunteer Leonardo for delivering it!

Our food pantry is open 9 am to noon Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm Wednesday.

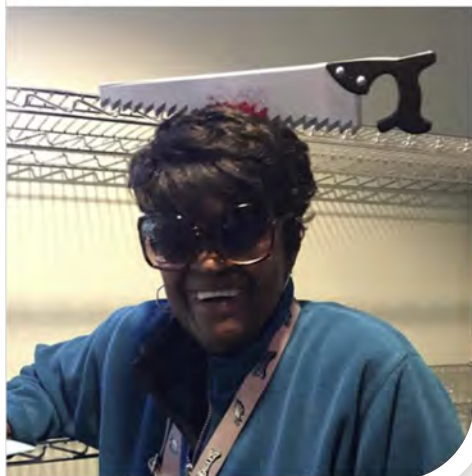
#foodinsecurity #endhunger #thankyou #netde #Delaware #inwilm #wilmd... See More



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is with Lutheran Community Services. ...

Published by Kanchalee Reeves [?] · October 31, 2019

"The kids loved this at the school bus. They're all taking pictures. It is Halloween!"
Are you dressing up today?
Our Lutheran Community Services pantry is open 9 am - 12 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm Wednesday. No costumes required!... See More

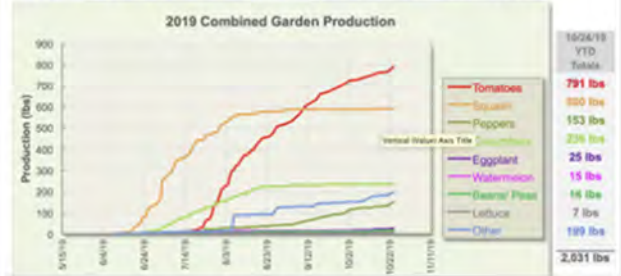


St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware ...

Published by Kanchalee Reeves [?] · October 24, 2019

That's an amazing milestone! Many thanks to all the gardeners for providing fresh produce for the St. Stephen's Food Pantry clients!

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Garden Production



The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Shepherd's Garden

October 24, 2019

Like Page

Ladies and gentlemen, with today's harvest, the Shepherd's Garden has produced over 1 ton of food for the food pantry at St Stephen's. Thank you to all who make this possible!
Food is Love! ❤️❤️❤️

St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is at St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware.

Published by Kanchalee Reeves [?] · December 23, 2019 at 11:22 AM · Wilmington

A big thank you to Tim, Greg, Ellen, Kaye and Nicole for their help unloading our monthly USDA delivery for our Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry at St. Stephen's! They unloaded 178 cases of nonperishable food and 15 cases of frozen meat and shredded cheese. They also helped to pack bags and stock our shelves.








St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is with Lutheran Community Services.

Published by Kanchalee Reeves [?] · November 4, 2019 ·

A big thank you to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church for their donation to our Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry! And thanks to our volunteer Trudy for counting the donation!

Donations are always welcome. Our pantry is open 9 am - 12 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm Wednesday.

... See More









St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is with Lutheran Community Services and Concordia Lutheran Church.
Published by Kanchalee Reeves (7) · November 22, 2019

A big thank you to Concordia Lutheran Church for their donation to our Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry!

Donations are always welcome. Our pantry is open 9 am - 12 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm Wednesday.

... See More





Thank you Concordia!

St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is with Lutheran Community Services.
Published by Kanchalee Reeves (7) · December 13, 2019 at 12:17 PM

"I've been helping this elderly couple. I've been buying them food and taking them to St. Patrick's but they only have salad and bread today. They didn't eat yesterday. The wife has bone cancer. But now my husband had a stroke. He can't work. We have less money to buy them food."

Donations are always welcome. Our Lutheran Community Services food pantry is open 9 am-noon, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm on Wednesdays.... See More



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is at St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware.
Published by Kanchalee Reeves (7) · November 21, 2019 · Wilmington

"I've organized this food drive each November because I was inspired by the Empty Bowl Dinner at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. My neighbor Sharon Ragsdale Potter invited me to the dinner a few years back, and I was impressed by how much the St. Stephen's community helps the hungry. (The dinner was delicious, too!)"



My yoga students at the Hockessin Activity Center (at the PAL) are so kind, that I knew they'd help me gather more food for the pantry. Their generosity and enthusiasm made this food drive a success the last three years! We believe everyone should have access to hearty, healthy food.

Thank you to the many compassionate yoga students at Hockessin Rec Center, my husband Orest for helping me deliver the donations, and to Sharon for introducing me to St. Stephen's community. Thanks, of course, to those of you who run the pantry!

Happy Thanksgiving!"

Food donations are always welcome. Our Lutheran Community Services pantry is open 9 am-noon, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm on Wednesdays.

#foodinsecurity #endhunger #endfoodwaste #thankyou #volunteer #Delaware #inwilm #wilmde

Thank you Center + Hockessin Activity Center yoga students!

St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is with Lutheran Community Services.
Published by Kanchalee Reeves (7) · November 12, 2019

"I was homeless. I was on the street. I slept under the bridge, at the bus stop on Rodney Square. I was at the mission and the YMCA. I kept applying and I got an apartment. God provided. I didn't give up on me. I come here every week. This is the only way I can eat. I take it one day at a time. You just pray."

Our Lutheran Community Services food pantry is open 9 am - 12 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm Wednesday.

#foodinsecurity #endhunger #endfoodwaste #Delaware #inwilm #wilmde #wilmingtonde #wilmlove



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is at St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware.

Published by Kanchalee Reeves [P] December 3, 2019 · Wilmington

JoAnn Gross from Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware picked up coat donations today! The Lutheran Campus Ministry students in partnership with FISH (Fellowship in Serving the Hungry), will distribute them to those in need in the Newark community. Many thanks to everyone who donated to the coat drive!

#donation #coatdrive #thankyou #Delaware #inwilm #wilmde



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is with Chris Poslock and Lutheran Community Services.

Published by Kanchalee Reeves [P] December 10, 2019

Our volunteers brought some holiday cheer to our clients today! They handed out peanut butter fudge and an easy recipe. It takes one 16 oz jar of peanut butter, 2lb confectioners sugar and 1 lb of margarine. Over medium low heat, melt the margarine and then blend in the peanut butter until melted and smooth. Remove from heat and fold in sugar until smooth. Spread in 9-inch square pan. Use paper towel to absorb excess margarine Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight.

Thanks to Chris Poslock for the recipe and the fudge and Sonya for handing out the yummy fudge!

Our Lutheran Community Services pantry is open 9 am-noon, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm on Wednesdays. We will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

@icsde #peanutbutterfudge #donation #endhunger #foodinsecurity #thankyou #Delaware #inwilm #wilmde #ststephc



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is with Karen Weber and Lutheran Community Services.

Published by Kanchalee Reeves [P] November 13, 2019

"I go to book sales, the 2nd & Charles free bin and I weed out my own library. I look for kid books. Anything that increases literacy. I try to get books for adults. It's good for kids to see parents reading."

Karen Weber has been donating books to our Lutheran Community Services food pantry for more than five years. "I needed to get rid of books. I asked LCS if I could put in a bookcase." They said yes and she has been keeping the bookshelf well supplied ever since then. Sh... See More




St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is with Lutheran Community Services.

Published by Kanchalee Reeves [P] December 6, 2019

"I've been eating salsa and croutons for 3 days. I went November 22 to get a food stamp card. The person was new and didn't do it right. I kept going back. They needed an electric bill then a rental agreement. They kept needing something else. It's supposed to come next week. My story isn't worse than anyone else's. Thank you so much for helping me. I'm sorry I'm crying."

Our Lutheran Community Services food pantry is open 9 am-noon, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm on Wednesdays.

#donation #endhunger #foodinsecurity #thankyou #Delaware #inwilm #wilmde



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is at St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware.
 Published by Kanchalee Reeves [?] · December 17, 2019 at 11:22 AM
 Wilmington

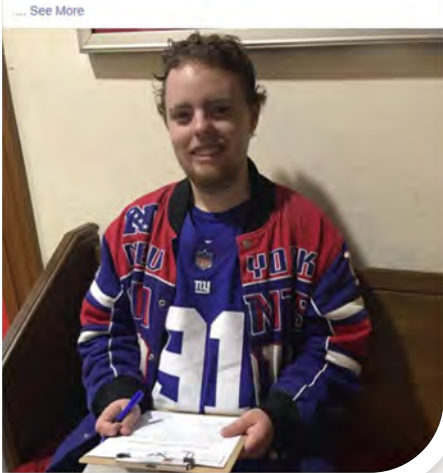
Many thanks to The Pilot School for their donation of 650 nonperishable food items to our Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry! We were especially thrilled to receive 196 jars of baby food because we ran out. We're grateful for the generosity of the students and their families.

#foodinsecurity #endhunger #thankyou #grateful #donation #volunteer #Delaware #inwilm #wilmde #wilmingtondelaware #netde #ststephc



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware
 Published by ststephc [?] · December 9, 2019 at 12:48 PM

"You guys are the nicest people. I started losing faith in myself. I had 4 deaths in the family. My grandfather died in 2018. My uncle died in 2018. My grandfather Norman died. He used to drive me here. My dog died in 2018. He had bad arthritis. My grandmother died in 2019. I'm falling on hard times and want to get involved. I really want to make a difference. I have a great love for the community. I want people to love each other. People can be very judgmental."



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware
 Published by ststephc [?] · November 18, 2019

A big thank you to Jason for bringing used plastic bags for our Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry! He also brought a box of cereal for a family with children.

We use plastic and brown paper bags so clients can bring home food to their families. LCS would rather spend money on food instead of plastic bags! Please recycle your plastic and paper bags by bringing them to our pantry.

The pantry is open 9 am-noon, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm on Wednesday... See More



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware
 Published by Kanchalee Reeves [?] · December 4, 2019

Many thanks to the Delaware Sportsmen Against Hunger program, which encourages hunters to share their harvest by donating venison to Delawareans in need. Today, DNREC's Division of Fish and Wildlife delivered six boxes of venison to the Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry at St. Stephen's. That's 300 pounds of deer meat! Our clients look forward to this delivery every year. We're grateful for their support!

#donation #endhunger #foodinsecurity #thankyou #Delaware #inwilm #wilmde #venison #sportsmenagainsthunger



St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware is with Sue Loney and 3 others.
 Published by Kanchalee Reeves [?] · November 26, 2019 ·

A big thank you to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Salem United Methodist Church- Newark, Delaware and Wesley Methodist Church of Ghana for their donations to our Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry today! All three churches are regular donors to our pantry. We're so grateful for their ongoing support.

See More

St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware
 Published by Kanchalee Reeves [?] · November 27, 2019 ·

Vince likes to see space used efficiently. So when he saw a spot to stack food on the side, he volunteered to cut a pallet in half so we could store more food for our Lutheran Community Services food pantry. Thank you, Vince!

St. Stephen's Wilmington Delaware
 Published by Kanchalee Reeves [?] · November 14, 2019 ·

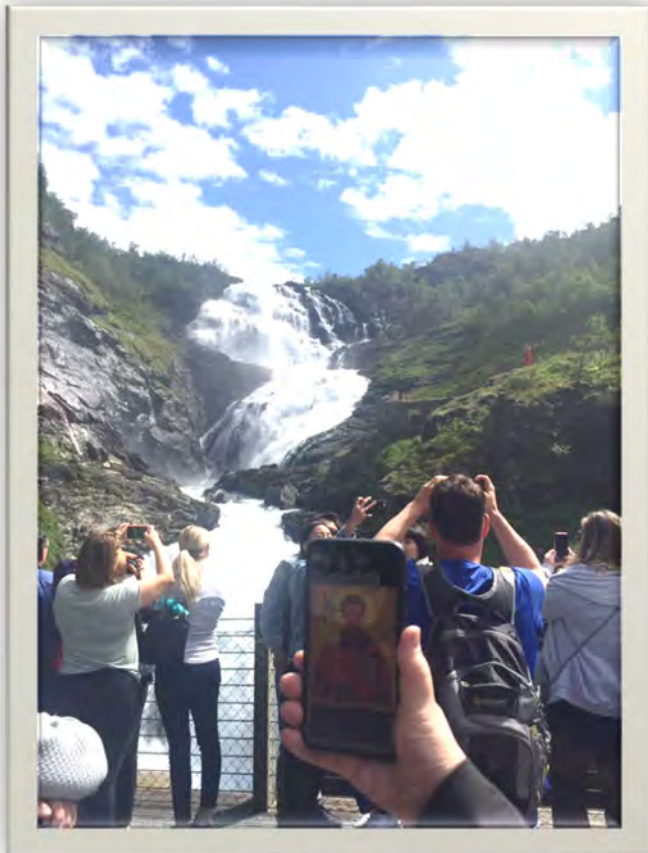
Thank you to the anonymous donor who left books at our door for our Lutheran Community Services Food Pantry bookshelf! One of the books was immediately picked up when the pantry opened this morning.

Book and food donations are always welcome! The pantry is open 9 am-noon, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 5-7 pm on Wednesdays.

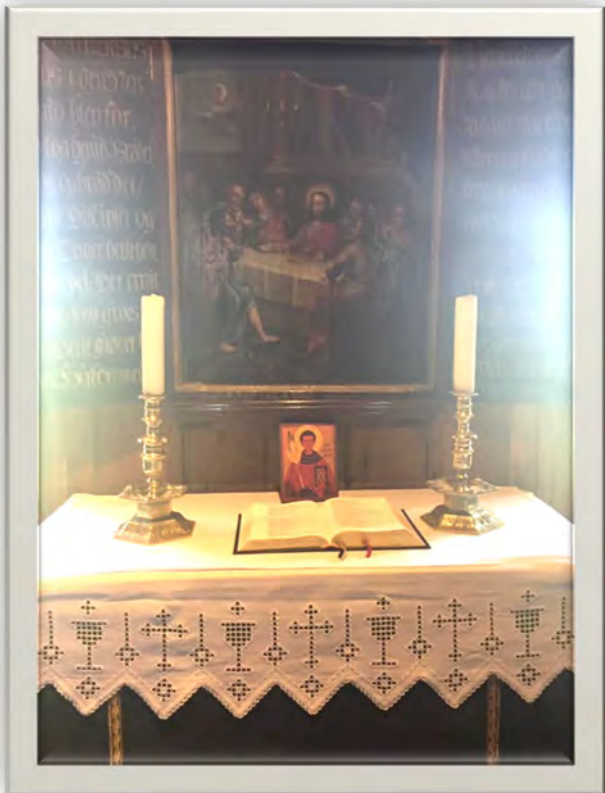
#booksofinstagram #booklover #booksbooksbooks #foodinsecurity #endhunger #endfoodwaste #thankyou #volunteer #Delaware #inwilm #wilmde #wilmingtonde #wilmlove

Where was #FlatSteve in 2019?

Scandinavia and The Baltics







Broadway



Stonewall



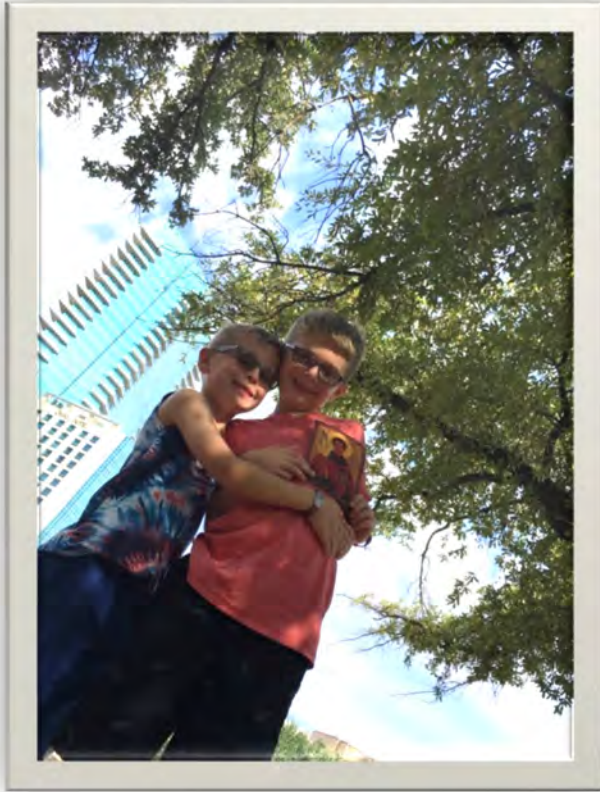
Art Loop



Delaware Pride



Fort Worth



Synod Assembly



Wilmington



Gettysburg



Illinois/Indiana



Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center

2019 was a year of renovation and upgrades at Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center! All planned capital improvement campaign projects were completed. Equipment that ranged from 20 to 30 years old was replaced. The 24-year-old playground and the 30-year-old gym roof were replaced. The fire panel and approximately 25 windows that were over twenty-five-year-old were also replaced. Renovations were made to the 30-year-old main kitchen. Contributions from Welfare Foundation, Crystal Trust Foundation, and the Crestlea Foundation made the renovations and upgrades possible.

The Lutheran Churches continued to be the backbone of overall agency operations. Funding from individual churches continued to be a major asset to overall operations. Representatives from local churches continued to serve as Board members. The churches provided complete Thanksgiving baskets to over 250 families. In addition, they, along with the City of Wilmington, Toys for Tots, and Parents of African Americans at Tower Hill School (PAATHS), helped to make it possible to provide Christmas gifts to over 200 Hilltop children.

The Early Childhood Education Program continued to operate five days a week from 7:00 am through 5:30 pm. Our partnerships with the University of Delaware's New Directions Early Head Start program, the State of Delaware's Department of Education Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), the State of Delaware's Department of Services for Children Youth and their Families (Office of Child Care Licensing), Division of Social Services (Purchase of Care), Delaware Stars for Early Success, United Way of Delaware, Red Clay Consolidated School District, and the Foster Grandparent Program made it possible for Hilltop to provide these programs to infants, toddlers, preschool children, and their families.

Hilltop's Youth Services Program for school-age children continued to provide educational enhancement activities and a safe haven for our participants. The services include: before and after school care for children ages 5-12, summer camp, and an evening program for children ages 9 through 18 years of age.



These programs were made possible through the State of Delaware's Grant in Aid Program, the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (Extended Hours Program and the Office of Child Care Licensing), Division of Social Services (Purchase of Care), the State of Delaware's Criminal Justice Council, Delaware Stars for Early Success, the State of Delaware's Department of Education (Child and Adult Care Food Program), the City of Wilmington's Department of Parks and Recreation, Laffey McHugh, Kenny Family Foundation and the Summer Learning Collaborative.

Our goals for 2020 include: maintaining and increasing overall funding, beginning the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation process, developing a scholarship program to support families, increasing the endowment fund to offer scholarships for college-bound students, increasing the number of Hilltop students going to college and enhancing community development programs.

Thank you to all of the organizations, churches, programs, and foundations that support the children and families of the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center! We look forward to your continued support in 2020 to continue our mission.

--Michelle J. Williams Executive Director

Family Promise



2019 In Review

When families lose their homes, they shouldn't have to lose each other. Family Promise® NNCC keeps families together when they experience homelessness — and helps them quickly move back into their own housing.

Each year, 1 in 30 children in Delaware experience homelessness. These are families like Brittney's, pictured here. Brittney left Delaware to follow her former husband to Missouri with the hope he would fulfill his promise to "change." She quickly found out that the violence only grew worse and her life and the lives of her children were in constant danger.



Like any other parent, Brittney did everything she could to keep her children safe. She filed a "Protection From Abuse" and for divorce. Her now ex-husband, in retaliation emptied their joint bank account, leaving Brittney penniless and nowhere to go in an unfamiliar state. Rather than return to her abuser Brittney fought on for the safety of herself and her children.

Supporters like you gave Brittney a safe haven: Family Promise® NNCC. She could keep her family together while receiving safe shelter, home-cooked meals, and warm hospitality. Just as her abuser was granted visitation in Missouri despite her PFA, Brittney returned to Delaware with her children and entered the Hospitality Network. Brittney got sole custody of her children, her old job as a Paraprofessional back, and quickly moved into housing. Brittney says she is "forever grateful for all of the love, support and shelter that was provided to me".

Ten years of Providing Hope and Empowering Families



It's been ten years since Family Promise opened its doors and began operating the Hospitality Network. The impact was immediate and apparent. Seeking to ensure all families experiencing homelessness are able to stay together, we have expanded each year since.

Now, with multiple shelter and community based programs, we're serving more families than ever thought possible. Over these past ten years we have served more than 650 families, a feat that would never have been possible without the support of St. Stephens Lutheran Church. **Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our mission!**

2019 by the numbers at Family Promise® NNCC

171	613	84%	38.6	44.9%	53	2,000+
Families served	Individuals served	Positive outcomes <i>(DE avg: 46%)</i>	Average days at Family Promise® NNCC <i>(DE avg: 102)</i>	% of all homeless families we served in Delaware	Partner congregations	Volunteers

About Family Promise® of Northern New Castle County

Family Promise® NNCC prevents and end homelessness for families by engaging faith-based congregations, volunteers, and donors. We keep families together, serving moms, dads, and children of all ages, and families of all sizes. We envision a community in which every family has a home, a livelihood, and the resources for lasting independence.

Registered 501(c)3
Delaware charity

(302) 998-2222
familypromisede.org

2104 St. James Church Road
Wilmington, DE 19808

Our Services



Food Security

Need:

- In Delaware, 1 in 6 Children are food insecure
1 in 8 Adults
- 138,000 in DE receive SNAP benefits
- Limited access to fresh produce
- Multiple health consequences of food insecurity

2019 Service Levels:

- 24,950 Households served
- Network of 14 food distribution sites
- Enough food to create 500,000+ meals
- Food bank of Delaware's Largest customer
- Onsite garden to provide fresh produce



Smoking Cessation

Need:

- 17%+ of adults in Delaware smoke
- Health care costs of \$532 million and lost productivity cost of \$391.2 million per year

2019 Service Levels:

- Pharmacy Benefit Manager Delaware Quitline
- Improve health outcomes
Quit rates above national avg.
- Savings of \$2,500/yr. for a pack-a-day smoker
- 6,100 free products distributed



Our Services (Cont.)



Homelessness Prevention

Need:

- Rental housing is expensive
- Income going to housing costs can be 50% - 70%
- Any unexpected expense becomes an emergency
- Cost of prevention trivial compared to homelessness

2019 Service Levels:

- 248 Households per year (541 people)
- Rent / Mortgage, utilities, security deposits
- Financial Counseling
- Follow up calls (70% stable)



Clothing Distribution

Need:

- For work and job interviews
- To enhance overall self-esteem
- For changing weather conditions
- For children's growing needs

2019 Service Levels:

- 2,568 individuals received 14,020 lbs. of clothing



Let's Create Success

3

Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD

Serving with and among the young members of Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD continues to be a privilege and a gift. The students inspire me, challenge me, and increase my hope in the midst of a world that often brings dire news. Their hearts for service, their earnest care for one another, and their desire to grow in faith in Jesus, all while sharing deeply and openly with each other, is a true joy to see. This year we are blessed by an international element to our group, including graduate students from Tanzania and Brazil. What a wonderful reminder of the global nature of the body of Christ in the world!

This spring, we said farewell and Godspeed to nine amazing graduates, Chris, Greta, Hannah, Jacob, Janelle, Kayla, Larissa, Leah, and Maria, many of whom had been core members of LCM throughout their college experience. Their long-term investment in LCM and FISH blessed our ministry, and they are much missed as they pursue graduate studies, begin their vocational journeys, and travel the world in their lives beyond UD.

Some of the highlights of 2019 included a student retreat at Hack's Point, Maryland in the spring; our Senior Honor Night at the chapel in May; an ecumenical hayride in November; and our Advent celebrations, including Tuesday worship, with the bishop presiding. LCM students gather weekly for dinners, worship, thoughtful discussions, and Bible study; this fall, we resumed our study of the Gospel of Mark. LCM members remain active in service, volunteering with FISH (our monthly food program, in cooperation with Lutheran Community Services and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Newark) and helping with your congregation's Empty Bowl dinner in the fall. This year, the students were excited to provide financial support for Empty Bowl as well, by means of their stewardship of the interest from the ministry's endowment account. Our student Executive Board members and Peer Ministers work beautifully together to plan events, to encourage and support one another, to oversee the student group's finances, and to influence and bless others' lives through their service and leadership on campus, with FISH, and in the wider world. I am grateful for the opportunity to know them, as well as to work and worship beside them.



Our LCM fall fundraiser was hosted this past November by Grace Lutheran Church in Hockessin. Bishop Bill Gohl joined us as our keynote speaker, sharing his characteristic humor, warmth, and advocacy for campus ministry. It was wonderful to see the spirit of camaraderie and fellowship that evening, with nine different congregations represented in our midst, as well as many LCM alumni returning to join us for the event. We were both grateful and excited to raise over \$15,000 through donations and pledges. What a blessing!

Our ministry succeeds because of teamwork and shared care, which was highlighted this spring during our Ministry Site Review. The review team celebrated the many contributors who cooperate in tending to the needs of LCM at UD: our gifted and deeply committed Ministry Site Coordinator, JoAnne Gross; our faithful Directing Committee and FISH Committee members; our great student leaders; our invested alumni; the generous members of local congregations who prepare meals, provide financial support, and keep us in prayer; and our openhanded

and deeply appreciated donors. In addition, we are truly blessed to have a supportive bishop and synod, who advocate for us and who provide significant grant support.

We are grateful for your congregation's ongoing support for the sake of this ministry with and among amazing students, to the glory of God. Please continue to pray that Lutheran Campus Ministry can be a welcoming circle for students and a bright light for Christ in our campus community and beyond!

--*Mindy Holland, Chaplain*

302-368-3078; chaplain@lcmde.org

Beyond the Wall: Making All Things New



When have you discovered newness in life through Christ? Did you have to step out in faith to do so? Perhaps you had to let go of your will and accept God's will. This

is a major turning point in the faith journey of many people. There are examples in Scripture about Job (Job 29-30), Elijah (I Kings 19:4-14), Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:1-2) and the women at the tomb (Luke 23:55 – 24:5). Consider the story of the rich young man (Matthew 19:16-26, Mark 10:17-31, Luke 18:18-30). He approached Jesus with a simple question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." When the young man heard this, he was very sad and walked away, because he was very rich. Given the choice, he found it difficult to forsake wealth in this world for the promise of God and eternal life.

Sometimes there are barriers or walls that complicate trying something new or stepping out in faith. What walls or barriers have you encountered? Consider the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10), who wanted to witness Jesus preaching but was too short to see past the crowd. After Zacchaeus climbed a tree, Jesus called out to him and invited himself to lunch in Zacchaeus' home. We know what Jesus said to Zacchaeus,

and he was a different person afterward. He had changed from wanting wealth and success in this world to desiring significance through a life of faith. When have you, or your congregation, chosen success over significance? Perhaps when using numbers or the size of your facilities as a measure. Moving toward significance usually means sacrificing success. In what areas of ministry is your congregation seeking significance today?

Stepping out in faith may be a personal choice for a short time but usually involves accompanying others. As members in the body of Christ, we are not called to meet our own needs alone. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) calls us to go beyond our barriers and bring the message of Jesus Christ to others. This helps us grow beyond a Christian enclave to become servants of Christ and a serving community. In what ways has your congregation moved from an enclave to a servant community?

Overcoming barriers and walls to make things new involves stepping out in faith. It means shaking loose from lethargy and moving out from sheltered comfort. In the process we break the chains of sin that hold us back and divide us from making us one in Christ. When we share in the distress of God's heart to do the kingdom's work, we are in tune with God's will, choosing significance over success and becoming a servant community. This is when we feel the vitality of our faith and the power of the Holy Spirit. May you experience this newness in Christ in and through your ministry.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING **OPENING LITURGY**

Litany

- L. Gathering together as God's people in this place, may we always be aware of your presence in our midst.
- C. Lord, may we always be aware of your presence.
- L. Knowing that the Word is our light, may we continue to grow in our scriptural and confessional understandings.
- C. Lord, may our minds continue to grow in your word.
- L. Recognizing that stepping out in faith is not easy, we ask that you give us strength, O Lord, to listen and be bold and daring.
- C. Lord, give us the patience to listen and the strength to be bold and daring.
- L. While we strive to know ourselves and your will for us, may we build our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- C. Lord, help us to build faith-filled and healthy relationships with others.
- L. Recognizing that we are often the ones asking, "And who is my neighbor?" may we open our eyes, ears and hearts to all those in the community in which we live.
- C. Lord, may we always be open to those in the community in which we live.
- L. Recognizing the importance of Moses, the prophets and disciples, may we work together to accompany and raise up leaders for your church.
- C. Lord, may we have the insight, encouragement and skills to raise up courageous leaders.
- L. Recognizing the many gifts you have entrusted to us, may we use these gifts to do your work in the world today.
- C. Lord, may we use the gifts entrusted to us to do your work.

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl-wind, as on Pen - te -
 2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your
 3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from
 4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's

cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;
 pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,
 leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,
 rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,

past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,
 let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,
 for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;
 may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;

there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!
 kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!
 make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!
 claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

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 Music: John Hughes
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- L. Let us pray. As we strive to be your church of the present and the future, may we nurture a spirit of collaboration and solidarity. May we all be partners in sharing the gospel and believing in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world.
- C. Amen.