

The First Order

St. Stephen's Parish

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JULY 2017

All the News that's Fit to Print!

Zion Lutheran Church ~ JULY 2nd: Help us walk our friends home, and celebrate with them!

JULY 2nd is the date!!! Join us for a DUAL SERVICE, starting at St. Stephen's at 9am, including a MID-SERVICE Procession (yes you may walk or drive!) over to Zion Lutheran's newly renovated space for their first eucharist celebration at 10.

So: FIRST half of the service starts at 9 at St. Stephen's.

SECOND half of the service continues at 10 at Zion Lutheran. **Celebratory Coffee Hour to follow!**

Berkshire Immigrant Center~

By the time you read this, "The BIC" will have moved into our 2nd floor. We are thrilled to welcome them and their work into our building and our lives. They will be eager to meet you, and help you connect with them as a volunteer, in any capacity. Be in touch with them directly, or leave them a note in our church office, to offer your time and your gifts to this good work.

The Auditorium remains multi-use space for us and others.

St. Stephen's Church School~

The Teacher's Resource Room has moved to the 3rd Floor Apartment! This bright, sunny space is a wonderful place for a cup of coffee, a children's art or craft project, or a small meeting. No longer locked, it will also be available on Sundays if a bathroom is needed during church school hours.

Our Elevator~

THANK YOU to so many who attended our Town Meeting (or who took the time to write notes and emails) to talk about accessibility ideas, thoughts, and concerns here at St. Stephen's. Your thoughts and input will continue to inform the Vestry's deliberations.

FIRST STEP: we have asked Baystate to fix the current problem ASAP, which is an outdated and un-reparable controller. They are already working on a new system for us, and we hope to see it installed by summer's end. More info will be forthcoming as we ourselves receive it.

Future Accessibility Conversations~

Fixing the elevator, as we said, is a band-aid on a bigger issue. You can anticipate more conversations in the future about our building and our community.

Capital Campaign?

There. It's been said. We are having this conversation.

Pray for the Vestry as they discern the best way forward for the parish.

Cricket +



Reflections

Did You Know?

- That Pittsfield High School Senior, **Grady Pedersen** was 8th in the 110 Hurdles; 9th in the triple jump – all in the Central/West Mass. Track and Field Division 1 Meet. And, Grady made the Track & Field Honor Roll: 2nd in 110M Hurdles, #1 in High Jump, #3 in Long Jump, and #1 in Triple Jump. Wow!!
- That the PHS Honor Rolls were published for the third quarter and included the following: on High Honors – **Mackenzie Ellis, Rebecca Hughes, Heather Macfarlane, Grady Pedersen, Makailey Cookis, Meagan Ellis**; and on Honors – **Matthew Oakes**.
- That **Nicholas Trapani** earned Honors at Reid Middle School for the third quarter.
- That **Tessa Langsdale** graduated from BART with recognition on the High honors roll, as a Student Ambassador, winner of the Adams Community Bank Scholarship, the Dalton Lampro Award for the relentless pursuit of excellence in Arts & Technology, and the John & Abigail Adams Scholarship. Congratulations, Tessa!
- That our Pittsfield High School students did us proud: **Mackenzie Ellis** (John & Abigail Adams Award, Stonehill College Award, Gold Seal of Biliiteracy); **Shyla Groat** (Pittsfield Firefighters Local 2647, Immaculata University Scholarship); **Rebecca Hughes** (Silver Seal of Biliiteracy, Harold and Myhla Hennessey Scholarship); **Heather Macfarlane** (Elks Massachusetts Scholarship, Francis J. Quirico Educational Foundation Scholarship, John & Abigail Adams Award, Kiwanis Club of Pittsfield Park of Honor Scholarship, Louise Morey Fraser Scholarship, Pittsfield Police Union Local 447 Memorial Scholarship, Champlain College Scholarship, Silver Seal of Biliiteracy, Egremont PTO Scholarship); **Grady Pedersen** (Pittsfield Co-operative Bank Centennial Scholarship); **Zachary Senecal** (American Legion Post 68 Vocational Scholarship, Lenox Community Center, Jane P. Layton Scholarship, Pittsfield Firefighters Local 2647, Pittsfield Rotary Club “Service Above Self” Vocational Award, Ron Monteleone Vocational/ Technical Memorial Scholarship)

Congratulations to all our students!!

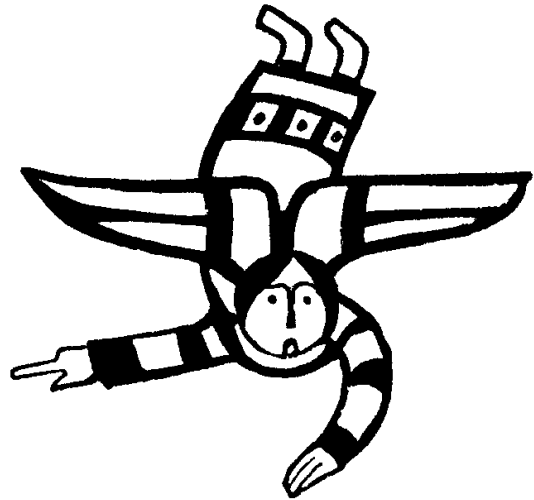
Just a Reminder

As of July 2nd, there will be only ONE SERVICE on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. The Saturday service will continue as usual at 5:00 p.m.

Thought for the Day

“Count your garden by the flowers,
Never by the leaves that fall;
Count your days by golden hours,
Don’t remember clouds at all ...
Count your age by friends, not years.”

– Dixie Willson





from Joseph

July will mark two full years at St Stephen's for me! Two years! It feels both like yesterday and like a decade ago. Just a few years ago I was beginning to learn the differences between New England and Idaho where I was raised and Texas where I went to seminary.

As we enjoy the wonderful days of summer, take time to think about what you, your family, and your friends may need to grow in the knowledge and love of God. Keep a piece of paper in a visible place with these questions:

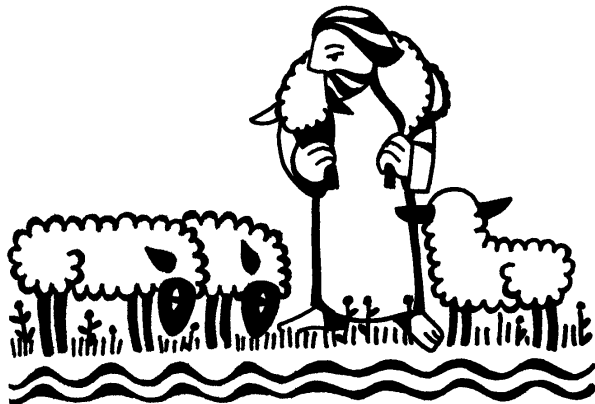
1. How do I / we understand God? Jesus Christ? The Holy Spirit? The Trinity?
2. How do I / we pray?
3. How do I / we read the Bible?
4. How do I / we love God?
5. How do I / we love our neighbor?

You notice that these are all ambiguous "how" questions. They can describe where you are right now and what you already do, and they can also suggest directions of growth. As you think about these questions this summer, take stock of your responses. What is your spiritual life like right now, and what direction do you think it is called to go? Talk about these questions with your family and friends.

As Cricket and I think about Christian formation programs for adults and families this fall, we'd like your reflections on these questions, but these are also solid questions to help you think about your spiritual life. Know where you are, see where you have been, and wonder where you will be in the future.

Peace of Christ be with you in all your summertime adventures!

Peace,
Joseph+



July

Happy Birthday:

- 2 Wendy Coakley
- 3 Samantha Reynolds (12)
- 4 Bill Gaither (97 years young!), Kira White (21)
- 5 James Donovan (19), Felyce Stetz (17)
- 6 Arysa Raeann Maloney (13), Barbara Smith
- 7 Gabriel Carrington (16), Karen Wallace
- 8 Carolyn Sawyer (a milestone!)
- 9 Janous Slonski (10)
- 10 Karla Boudreau (15), Tom Drury (a milestone!)
- 11 Paula Morey (a milestone!)
- 13 Bill Frazier, Jennifer Stokes
- 14 Mike Coakley
- 17 Joseph Farnes, Randy Thomas
- 18 Horace Harris, Olivia Roberts (11)
- 20 Austine Bodenstab, Patrick Bucier (a milestone!), Michael DiGrigoli, Shaun Kysor (19), Heather Macfarlane (18), Joan Morrow
- 22 Philip Blanchard (a milestone!), Elizabeth Chisum, Joan Kurber, Jazmyn Wesley
- 23 Trinity Cookis (20)
- 24 Jayvon Dillard (9), Sarah Fenton (17)
- 25 Lynne Blanchard
- 26 Leah Luczynski, Kay Welch
- 28 Beverly Appleton, Jennifer Laurin
- 30 Molly McNeil (10), Edie Mingalone

Happy Anniversary:

- 2 Elizabeth and David Oakes (2005)
- 11 Mary and David Adams (1964)
- 12 Karen Wallace and Jeff Pringle (1986)
- 13 Marietta and Jim Cawse (1974)
- 14 Evelyn and John Pieloch (1973)
- 17 Tonya and Robert Reynolds (1994)
- 21 Heather and Seth DiGrigoli (2007)
- 23 Jamie and Steven Bannon (2005)
- 28 Ursula and Michael Champagne (2007)
- 29 Nancy and Gary Lamoureaux (1978)

St. Stephen's Parish

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Change Service Requested

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