



The First Order

St. Stephen's Parish

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NOVEMBER 2016

The Lutherans are coming! The Lutherans are coming!

Yes, it's true!

By the end of this month, we expect to be welcoming the congregation of Zion Lutheran for a time of shared space and sometimes-shared worship, while their building is being refitted for fresh ministries.

Their image is that of "camping out"! They will be camping with us, though I suspect without too many open campfires, though I'm always happy for an excuse to make s'mores... What a gift that we can share our building with these neighbors, with whom we have so much in common!

Zion's parishioners will alternate worshipping in the Auditorium, and then with us in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to worship with them upstairs any time as well. Pastor Tim and I suspect that we will also exchange clergy from time to time, so he can be with us and Joseph and I can visit upstairs. All the myriad details are being worked through as of the newsletter deadline. We will know much more come November!

HERE are ways you might want to practice hospitality in the meantime:

- If you have a friend who is a parishioner at Zion, why not extend a personal welcome? Invite your friend to come over for a tour, or other chance to visit the church during the week, when it won't be so crowded!

- Look around in church, and imagine making space for our neighbors. Think about how you would feel having to go to another church for 6 months. Is there "good" seating available? Is there somewhere new you might enjoy sitting, which would open up an aisle or center section seat?
- How would **you** like to be welcomed if we were going there for worship? Let the clergy and staff know of any ideas you have that will help our neighbors feel at home here, and welcomed from our hearts.

AND, look for some blends in our worship, perhaps a new hymn or prayer that will become a new favorite for you! It is an exciting time to share the gifts of both congregations for the months that we are together under one roof.

All Saints' Festivities will be celebrated on Sunday, November 6th!

- Please know you are welcome to contribute a family member's photo for the All Saints' altar in the Chapel.
- Feel free to come in costume, if there is a saint you would like to embody for the morning.
- Read on to find out more about the **event after church** that day: **Planning For Paradise!**

Reflections

Stewardship Festival 2016

“Where You Lead!”

This newsletter will arrive as we begin a fresh month of Stewardship activities. Here's the November calendar of events:

Sunday, Nov. 6th: All Saints' Day!

Join us after the 10am service for **Planning on Paradise**, a lighthearted opportunity to plan.....well....your funeral! Yes, that may seem shocking, but since that is one church service you will be able to plan all the details, why not do it now? On a day we honor and remember those who have gone before us, it makes sense to remember that death is a Gateway to Eternal Life. Our funerals will be one moment in time when it will comfort others to know we have chosen the details the way we want them.

We will have many booths as part of the festivities!

- Scripture: with “popular” choices, and non-traditional ones
- Hymns: Finally: pick all **your** favorites
- Living Will, Plus: we know you meant to do it by now... let us help you
- Legacy Giving: Give a gift that will keep on giving

Yes, it's a party!

Island music, drinks with little umbrellas, tiki torches~ it's Paradise! Bring your neighbor, your kids, your friends: we will have blank forms for everyone, and lots of support for you to ask questions and get answers!

November 13th: Ingathering Sunday!

Please come to any of the services this weekend, for the now-traditional singing, dancing, and celebrating as we gather in the pledge cards and thank God for the year ahead, filled with fellowship, outreach, and praise!

Advent Wreath Workshop

The Advent Wreath Workshop will take place **Sunday, November 20 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon** in the Dining Room. Please let Craig Reynolds know if you plan to attend so we will have enough supplies. (cmreyn@gmail.com | 413-822-0248 or 413-448-8276, ext. 13)

The Season of Saints

We'll be doing something new for our All Saints celebration this year. No costumes. No parade. Instead, a simple reflection and thoughtful art project – for everyone! Join us on Sunday, November 6 at the 10:00 a.m. service.

November

Happy Birthday:

- 1 Patrick Connors
- 2 Taryn Bannon (10), Amanda Delisle
- 3 Jason Westley Hassan, Jr. (10)
- 4 Sarah Novak, Jason Hassan (10)
- 5 Natalie Devitt (12), John Brendan Michael McNulty (18), Don Phipps, Bethany Renaud (12)
- 8 Jake Corcoran (17), Mackenzie Corcoran (18)
- 9 Matthew Billetter
- 10 Richard Colon
- 11 Rajiv Hanger (17), Linda Somerville
- 13 Glenn Novak, Roy Sutton (a milestone!)
- 14 Justin Devitt (8), Keil Hassan (8), Al Symonds
- 16 Lois Neumann
- 17 Charlotte Luczynski (2)
- 18 Addison DiGrigoli (10), Abigail Moon, Charles Sawyer, Peter Zuber
- 19 Martha Fickling (a milestone!)
- 21 Michelle McNeil
- 22 Elizabeth Contenta, Lily Stasiowski (11), Nikolas Viola
- 23 Gail Miller
- 24 Kristi LaMalfa, Sophia LaMalfa (9)
- 25 Brady Wesley (8)
- 26 Bette-Anne Eddy
- 27 Jim Cawse
- 29 Kaivian Duchaine (12), Evelyn Pieloch
- 30 Madyson Wesley (14)

Happy Anniversary:

- 9 Judy and Donald Lussier (1968)
- 14 Marcie and David Nevin (1968)
- 17 Elizabeth and Mark Trapani (2001)
- 21 Virginia and David Donovan (1992)
- 26 Sharon and Matt Billetter (2005)
- 27 Susan LeBourdais and David Baker (2004)
- 28 Nancy and Peter Zuber (1987)
- 30 Pam and David Aldrich (1973)



from Joseph

Lots of things going on at St. Stephen's!

Youth:

Youth group will start meeting twice a month after the 10:00 a.m. service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays to talk and share what's going on! We will meet in the Sears Room to catch up with one another.

Also it's time to think about Winterlight, the winter youth get-together at Kanuga Camp in North Carolina! It will be Tuesday, December 27 to Sunday, January 1. This year's theme is "Here [I am]". Let me know if you are interested in going! There's more information at www.kanuga.org/our-programs/youth-conferences/winter-light/

Adult Ed:

What kinds of formation opportunities would you like to see on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.? Do you feel called to facilitate conversation and formation between the services (if you would love to but feel intimidated by how to facilitate conversations, I'd be glad to help you learn how to do that!)? We're always looking for the unexpected opportunity to learn something more about God.

Peace,
Joseph+

The Eclectic Book Club

A smaller group than usual met in October, amazed and pleased by the theme of the evening provided by Linda and Don Walsh: football, from the table cloth (a football field) to the scattered pennants representing all the professional teams, to the dessert (with green grass icing, goal posts and a few players) and the take-home treats chocolate footballs! We missed Linda, as she was delayed in her return from Boston! We had our usual wine and goodies, delicious potluck supper, followed by a discussion of the book, *The Little Paris Bookshop*. The group was unanimous in their praise of the book.

For our November 4th meeting, we will read *Zealot* by Reza Aslan. Co-hosts are needed for this gathering; please let Joan Kurber know if you are able to fill this role. And for December, we will read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. Martie Ekstrom and Joan Kurber will serve as our co-hosts. Please join us!

Celtic Heritage Sunday: November 20th

Celebrate our Celtic roots this week with special liturgies, and welcome the **Berkshire Highlanders** to the 10 a.m. service!

Wear your tartan, or another plaid! Wear ALL your plaid! There will be Scottish treats at coffee hour~ Just come be part of the fun!

Maundy Laundry/Laundry Love!

This national outreach program has really taken off in our area. Throughout the year and a half we have offered it, many churches have come to help, come to learn, come to see. Other local communities are now offering Laundry Love programs, after watching the success of ours.

How can you help?

1) Donate two hours! Come from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30, or from noon- 2 p.m.

Many hands definitely make light work!

2) Donate SCENT-FREE dryer sheets, or detergent.

Scented varieties carry chemicals which set off allergies for many folks, so non-scented is best.

3) Donate a little \$\$\$\$. We typically serve 25-35 individuals/families each month, and they are very generous with their gratitude! At the end of the month, this gift of free laundry makes a big impact in their budgets. Your donation goes right back into the community, brightening the homes and lives of our neighbors.

Thank you for the support you've already given!

Come lend a hand on November 17th this month (1 week early due to Thanksgiving).

Did You Know?

- That **Judy Culver** was recognized, as owner of the Purple Plume, in the Women in Business section of *The Berkshire Eagle*. Personal note: I LOVE that store!

Please Note

Because I (your Editor, Joan!) am scheduled for knee surgery on December 7th, Connie Bullard has graciously offered to gather the information for the December *First Order*. Kindly send all material to her at cgbooks30@verizon.net. Thanks!

Practicing Gratitude with Children

Craig Reynolds
Church School Director

“‘Thank you’ is the best prayer that anyone could say. I say that one a lot. Thank you expresses extreme gratitude, humility, and understanding.” – Alice Walker

“If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is ‘thank you,’ it will be enough.” – Meister Eckhart

**It’s November. Gratitude is in the air.
Not just for adults, but for kids too.**

Research shows that grateful youngsters are happier, more optimistic, give more emotional support, and are more satisfied with their lives than their less grateful counterparts.

How can we nurture thankfulness among our children? Here are five quick – and proven – ideas...

- 1. Attend church regularly.** You knew I had to start with this! Studies show that kids who are raised with a robust spiritual life are generally more grateful than those who are not. This also makes intuitive sense to me. As Christians, our entire theological orientation is rooted in gratitude (note, for example, that the Holy Eucharist is also called The Great Thanksgiving).
- 2. Model gratitude.** How we adults live out our day-to-day lives provides lasting lessons for our kids. When we’re grateful they’re more likely to live thankful lives themselves.
- 3. Share your gratitude openly and easily.** Gertrude Stein said, “Silent gratitude isn’t very much use to anyone.” It’s not a sign of weakness to express gratitude; it’s a sign of strength – especially when we express gratitude in the presence of – or directly to – our children.
- 4. Cultivate a bias toward gratefulness.** We can’t always choose what happens to us, but we can choose our response. When we intentionally search for a grateful perspective, our kids will naturally develop this habit as well. As noted author Brene Brown observes, “I don’t have to chase extraordinary moments to find happiness – it’s right in front of me if I’m paying attention and practicing gratitude.”
- 5. Practice gratefulness as a family.** Simple family rituals can provide opportunities to practice gratefulness every day. Saying grace before meals, for example, is a simple, quick, and delightful way to be thankful together. Likewise, asking kids at bedtime, “What are you thankful for today?” is a quick way to explore gratefulness as a family. (Be sure to add your own thoughts! And try not to judge your kids’ responses. It’s not just an opportunity to express gratitude; it’s a chance to have some fun together!)

Meet Our Parishioners

Edie Mingalone

A Long Journey to St. Stephen's

Edie was born and lived in Vienna, Austria, prior to World War II. Her mother's father was Jewish, making Edie, in the eyes of Hitler's regime, one-quarter Jewish, and her mother one-half Jewish, not acceptable to the pure Aryan thinking of some at the time. Because her aunt's husband was Chief Justice, he could protect her family to some degree; however Edie was denied access to school or even the playground because of her heritage. The Roman Catholic Sisters of St. Ursula, against the local ruling, offered schooling to the disenfranchised and Edie was fortunate to get some education there.

In the winter of 1943-44, Edie's Uncle said he could no longer protect her family. His wife was active in the Resistance and moving from the area was the only choice they could make. Their first mode of transportation was a train made up of freight cars. They traveled in this to the end of the tracks, beyond which was a bombed out area. They then walked to a point where they took a second train through the mountains. Along the way, local farmers offered them milk and bread. This train was strafed and necessitated a change to a third train, again made up of freight cars. Did I mention that Edie all this time was transporting her dog? When they boarded the third train, someone threw her dog out the door. Edie jumped after it and her mother and aunt followed. Perhaps this was a good thing: the train they had jumped from was destroyed by a bomb shortly thereafter.

They were in Nazi territory, so while her mother and grandmother hid at the train station, Edie, just nine years old, set out to walk to the home of her aunt and uncle. Safely there, though unrecognized at first, Edie told where the others were and they were soon found and brought to the relative safety of the home. Across the street from the aunt's home was a POW Camp. Each morning, while walking his dog, the Uncle would drop cigarettes, soap, and the like inside the fences for the prisoners. Meanwhile, in secret, Edie was permitted to listen to the BBC on her uncle's large radio; often the mention of a name or place in connection with a story was actually a message to the Resistance.

In the spring of 1945, her aunt was told that it was safe to return to Vienna. This was not true. On her return, she was shot, along with others known to be part of the Resistance.

At the end of the war, troops were housed in various cities and homes. Her Uncle's home housed members of the French Foreign Legion; they were extremely polite and often brought food to share with the family. Edie



was blessed with an ease with foreign languages and was thus able to communicate with these 'guests.'

The prisoners across the street were released and, remembering all that her uncle had done for them, asked that he accompany them into the mountains. There he saw much of the loot that the Germans had amassed. They encouraged him to take anything he wanted – he politely refused, asking only that they find his radio. In due time, they gathered a large selection of radios from which he chose one, perhaps not his own, but who knows?

Edie's parents divorced and subsequently, her mother married a second time, to an American research chemist, also in Intelligence. They journeyed to New York City in 1950 but prior to this, during the Berlin Airlift, Edie knew her greatest joy in that she

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Eddie Mingalone

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was allowed to attend school! For her, this was the fulfillment of her dearest wish!

Eddie's religious journey was a mixed bag. She had little experience of anything to do with religion except for the nuns who had offered some schooling when it was forbidden to her because of the Jewish element in her background. Eddie married a man who was raised in the Roman Catholic Church, but because she was a second wife, the family was barred from church attendance and the Sacraments. When Eddie moved to Pittsfield, her search for a "church home" began. At the suggestion of friends, she tried one local Protestant Church and attended that church briefly, though without much enthusiasm for the pastor or congregation. Her decision to try St. Stephen's was obviously the right one. She found it friendly and, almost from the very first, felt at home. How wonderful for her and for us.

Eddie is now active on the Altar Guild, on the Hospitality Committee, in Pastoral Care, at St. Stephen's Table and with Laundry Love. In addition, she is a Greeter. She is such a welcome addition to our family and we are so grateful that she finally found her church home here!

Reminders of places where you may give with joy:

- Potatoes for the Thanksgiving Baskets
- Donations towards repairing the Elevator, and/or Laundry Love
- The Food basket near the Baptismal Font
- The box near the Allen Street Entry with personal items
- St. Stephen's Table