

CROSS + CONNECTIONS

SAINT STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2012

Table Talk

Annual Meeting



The 2012 Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sun, Jan 29 (Feb 5 snow date) following worship and fellowship @ 11.30 am. All voting members are required to attend and participate in this review of our 2011 ministry, a forecast of our 2012 ministry, and other important congregational and church-wide business.

Annual Meeting FAQ's

(frequently asked questions)

Q: Do I have to go?

R: Yes.

Q: No, really, do I have to go?

A: Yes, really.

Q: Who can attend and vote?

A: Adult disciples of Jesus who have formally made St Stephen their community of faith (who receive the Lord's sacred meal regularly and financially support the mission), as well as confirmed youth, are eligible to participate and

vote. Newcomers, visitors, and youth and children not yet confirmed may join the meeting, but not vote on church business.

Q: Isn't that Super Bowl Sunday?

A: No.

Q: Isn't it just boring reports and a lot of yadda yadda?

A: There will be reports from the various ministries and activities from the past year, but also a discussion of things to come in 2012. We will elect a new congregation council, and discuss the spending plan for our mission. We will also appoint voting members to the 2012 Synod Assembly in June (a new bishop will be elected, so this is an important role to fill).

Q: I have children...can I still go?

A: Yes! This year we will have childcare provided so everyone can attend worry free. And we'll be out before lunch. So, no excuses!

Saints Alive

The Wider Church

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (aka ELCA), bishops have pastoral oversight of large or populous geographical areas called synods (somewhat similar to a diocese structure in other traditions). Our bishops are elected to 6 year terms at an annual assembly of lay and rostered (pastors and other called leaders). Bishop Margaret



Payne will complete her second term as bishop of the New England Synod this summer, and the June Assembly will be electing a new bishop by ecclesiastical ballot (but no white or black smoke).

There are two opportunities for us to participate in gatherings with other Lutherans in our local conference and wider mission area to discuss and contribute our ideas about what qualities our next bishop should have and what direction our synod should take. Everyone who is a member of an ELCA congregation can participate. Here are two dates that are important to you:

Sun, Feb 12 @ 2:30p Trinity Lutheran Church, Worcester

A meeting of the Central Massachusetts Conference to discuss the election of a new bishop.

Sat, Mar 10 @ 9:30a Bethel Lutheran Church, Auburn

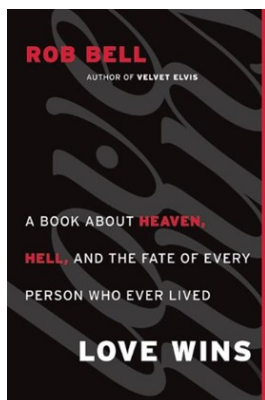
A meeting of the wider Mission Area of Conferences to discuss the election of a new bishop, nominate questions to be asked of finalists, and participate in the synod's *Doing What Matters* workshop.

Mark our calendars now, and stay tuned to more information about these two important venues that give each of us a voice.

Faith Formation

Adult Education

This month we will be rapidly concluding our First Light discussion of the matrix of Jesus, and begin our new journey through the recent and (not so) controversial book by pastor and author Rob Bell: *Love Wins: a book about heaven, hell, and the fate of every person who ever lived.* This book is available online or at the local bookstores. We will



begin discussion of the first chapter—*What About the Flat Tire*—on Sun, Jan 15. If you cannot for any reason get a copy of the book, see Pr Scott.

Re:Form Confirmation

The Confirmation Class is off for the month of Jan. Students are expected to have read *Be the Change: Your Guide to Freeing Slaves and Changing the World* by Zach Hunter. Our class resumes on Thurs, Feb 2 @ 7pm.

REACHING OUT

Food Collection

Each week we collect items to be delivered to the Marlborough and Hudson food pantries. As we have for the last two years, we will be collecting different items each month. A complete list for each month will be posted with the donation baskets. Each week, volunteers from our Senior Friends ministry deliver the goods to the respective pantries.

For January we are collecting items for a pasta dinner: dried pasta, sauce, cheese, canned pasta, etc. As you go grocery shopping each week, please remember those in need, and bring your contributions to the baskets just inside the doors to the worship space. Thank you!

2012 Food Collection by Month			
January	Pasta Dinner	July	Lunchbox Items
February	Soups & Stews	August	Lunchbox Items
March	Rice & Beans	September	Tuna Salad Fixings
April	Toiletries	October	Pasta Dinner
May	Veggie Delights	November	Thanksgiving Items
June	Juice Boxes	December	Soups & Stews

OUR FATHER'S TABLE

3rd Thursday

Our Father's Table (OFT) is an interfaith ministry to serves a free meal to neighbors in need in downtown Marlborough at the First Baptist Church. Volunteers from St Stephen provide the

food and serve on the third Thurs of each month @ 4.30-6p. This month we are scheduled for Jan 19. Look for the sign-up sheet for food and volunteers on the table in the foyer the previous Sun. See Donna Lambert for details.

PARISH LIFE

Book Club Janice Conlin

Just five of us plus LeeAnn's sister met last Friday to discuss *Saving Jesus from the Church*. Pastor was not able to attend due to the fact that his father and his wife were here for a visit. All of us present found the book thought provoking. We had several issues that we wished Pastor was there to enlighten us. Therefore, we decided to meet on Jan 6 at church to have another session on this book. This will give those of you who were unable to attend last week an opportunity to share your thoughts as well. We will meet a noon on Fri,, Jan 6 at church. Bring your own lunch. Looking ahead, the next meeting is the first Friday in February at Barbara Parente's. The book is *No Ordinary Times* by Doris Kearns Goodwin.

Congrats

Jan Birthdays

Jan 7	Kitty Hanscom
Jan 8	Lisa B.
Jan 12	Caitlyn Gogan Zachary Gogan
Jan 19	Fawn Gracey
Jan 29	Paula Blomquist
Jan 31	Aliyah Howard Micah Howard

Jan Anniversaries

Jan 13 Stacie & David LaBossiere

If your birthday or anniversary does not appear on a given month, or if there is an error, please send corrections to the church office.

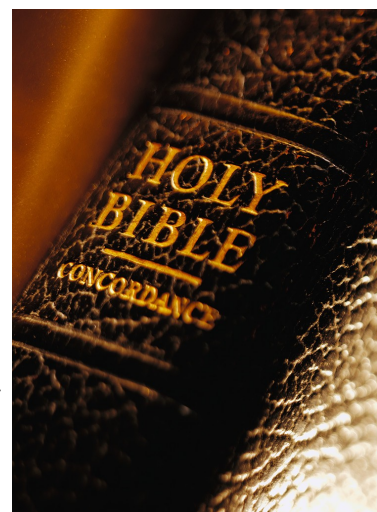
Recognizing special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, milestones or other achievements is a part of our ministry at St Stephen. Pass along any news you would like to share with your faith family so that we can all join in thanking God for such blessings.

Thanksgivings

Pr Scott would like to thank all of the disciples @ St Stephen for their kind and generous Christmas gift. Thank you for making the holiday extra special for me and my family.

Holy Humor Corner

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"



Holiday Helper Program recap

St. Stephen Holiday Helpers made Christmas happier for 43 children this year. That was the most we have ever done and it was greatly appreciated. This year we were under the United Way of Tri-County Hope for the Holiday Giving Program in Marlborough. Our city had gifts for over 600 children. Jan Conlin, Maurine Swanson, my sister, and I took the gifts to the Walker Building on Friday, Dec. 9th. On the following Monday we helped Barbara LaGrenade, the Director of Volunteerism, and others fill and check the bags that would be delivered to the families. We were very impressed with the organization of how this huge task was handled. The pictures show the basement area of the Walker Building with the gift bags lined up in numerical order.



Thank you to all of you that supported the program this year. It was a Hugh success.



January 2012

SAINT STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Name of Jesus 9.30 Worship	2	3	4	5 6-8 Scouts 7 Confirmation	6 12 Book Club @ St Stephen	7
8 Epiphany Sun 9.30 Worship 11 Faith Form 12.30 Council	9 5.45 Scouts	10	11 6.30 Bells 7.30 Choir	12	13	14
15 Winter 9.30 Worship 11 Faith Form	16	17	18 6.30 Bells 7.30 Choir	19 4.30 OFT 6-8 Scouts	20	21
22 Winter 9.30 Worship 11 Faith Form	23 5.45 Scouts	24	25 4.30 Scouts 6.30 Bells 7.30 Choir	26 4.30-6.30 LSS	27	28
29 Winter 9.30 Worship 11.30 Annual Meeting	30	31	1 February 6.30 Bells 7.30 Choir	2	3 12 Book Club @ Parente's	4

Worship Assistants Jan 2012

Date	Worship Assistant	Reader/Lector	Table Server/ Acolyte	Asst Table Server	Ushers	Table Guild
Jan 8	Judy Kellogg	Sarah Maston	Cole DuBois	Anna Ciolino	Blanchard/ Youkstetter	Anita Phelan
Jan 15	Pam Narahara	Barbara Parente	Nico Ciolino	Zachary Gogan	Kellogg/Lambert	Donna Lambert
Jan 22	Paula Blomquist	LeeAnn Brewitt	Sam Maston	Abby Maston	LaBossiere/ LaBossiere	Gerda Youkstetter
Jan 29	Anita Phelan	Fawn Gracey	Andrew Kaye	Caitlyn Gogan	Blanchard/Kellogg	Yong Hee Spiller

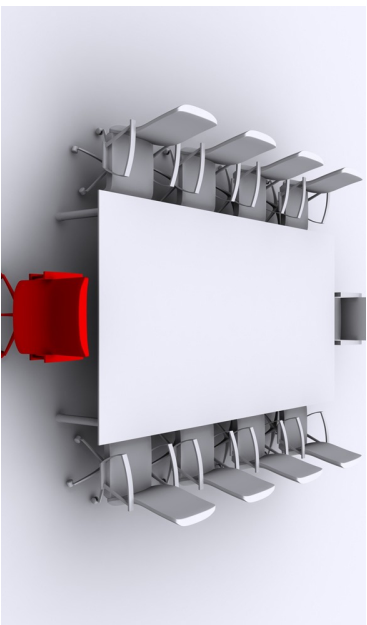


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