

THE VOICE

of St. Stephen's

November 2025 Volume 151 Issue 11



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Service

Sunday, Nov 2
All Saints
10:45am

Sunday, Nov 9
22nd Sunday after Pentecost
10:45am

Sunday, Nov 16
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
10:45 am

Sunday, Nov 23
Christ the King
10:45 am

Sunday, Nov 30
1st Sunday of Advent
10:45 am

Reflections from Pastor Barry



Dear Friends at St. Stephen's,

Once again the poorest among us are being held hostage over politics. Feed the hungry is a mandate that Jesus repeats over and over again. There are no caveats and forms to fill out or requirements for those who are hungry. No, just feed them.

We are a great nation. I firmly believe this. But more than Americans we are Christians living in America. What makes us great is our ability to show compassion and to do so with wild abandon. This is what following Jesus looks like. We are our greatest when we are serving the least among us.

SNAP, the nationwide program for addressing poverty has been a remarkable program. 62% of households across the nation who receive SNAP benefits have children. Many who benefit are our senior citizens. 37% have a family member with disabilities. Nearly 2 million Pennsylvanians benefit from SNAP. Nearly 40% of recipients are employed but simply not making ends meet. Remember many who benefit are children. The cases of fraud involving SNAP is at about 1%. Only documented immigrants are eligible for the benefit. Those who receive the benefit- meager as it is- (about 6.00 dollars per person a day, only around 11 dollars a day per household)- are healthier, not burdening our overstretched health system, more awake and able to learn, better adjusted to navigate this crazy world of ours. Should we return to the tax credits offered the poor during COVID, the poverty rate among children would be cut nearly in half. There are countless stereotypes of folks who receive these benefits. The truth is that any of us, due to job loss or a health crisis or the death of the breadwinner in our household are closer to the poverty line that we might realize.

We do much here at St. Stephen's to feed the hungriest among us. I am so grateful for you all. As our celebration of Harvest Home approaches, we are indeed fortunate to not experience the hunger that so many of our fellow citizens live with and now more than ever as benefits are being cut and the process by which one receives them becoming ever more burdensome. The cost of SNAP is estimated to be about 1.5% of the overall budget. A very small price to pay for something with such great benefit. The truth is that even if you and I gave 100% more than we already are giving, we would not come

Reflections from Pastor Barry– Continue

close to closing the gap created by the suspending of the SNAP benefits.

I am praying that as I write this, our nation will not allow 42 million of our citizens to scramble for a way to feed themselves let alone their children or their aging parents.

Feed the poor Jesus tells us. Feed them now. I always am thankful to you all for your generosity

Go in peace, remember the poor.

In Christ,
Pastor Barry

LVDSA

**LEHIGH VALLEY FOOD ASSISTANCE
RESOURCES**

For updates on the state of SNAP benefits in Pennsylvania, visit www.dhs.pa.gov/SNAP

GENEREAL RESOURCES

- Call 211 for immediate food assistance
- www.pa211.org
- www.findhelp.org
- www.panavigate.org
- www.feedingpa.org

FOOD BANKS

EASTON

- Easton Area Society of St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry: 841 Washington ST Easton, PA 18042. 610-438-4230
- Greater Shiloh Church Food Pantry: 201 Thomas Bright Ave Easton, PA 18042. 610-252-5640
- LINCS Family Center: 2400 Firmstone ST Easton, PA 18042. 484-373-6200
- Project of Easton: 330 Ferry ST Easton, PA 18042. 610-258-4362
- Trinity Episcopal Church: 234 Spring Garden ST Easton, PA 18042. 610-253-0792

BETHLEHEM

- Central Moravian Church: 73 West Church ST Bethlehem, PA 18018. 610-866-5661
- New Bethany Ministries: 333 W. 4th ST Bethlehem, PA 18015. 610-691-5602
- Trinity United Church of Christ Food Pantry: 81 E North ST Bethlehem, PA 18018. 610-691-8200
- West Bethlehem Food Bank: 514 3rd Avenue Bethlehem, PA 18018. 610-865-8216

NAZARETH

- Nazareth Area Food Bank: 529 S. Main ST Nazareth, PA 18064. 610-365-8869
- Second Harvest Food Bank: 6969 Silver Crest Rd Nazareth, PA 18064. 484-287-4015

CATASAUQUA

- Catasauqua Food Bank: 527 Front ST Catasauqua, PA 18032. 610-264-8366

NEW TRIPOLI

- Christ's Church at Lowhill Food Pantry: 4695 Lowhill Church Rd New Tripoli, PA 18066. 610-298-2054

COOPERSBURG

- Betty Lou's Pantry: P.O. Box 460 Coopersburg, PA 18036. 610-282-2838

ALLENTOWN

- Ecumenical Food Bank: 417 N. 14th ST Allentown, PA, 18102. 610-821-1332
- City Limits Assembly of God: 302 Ridge Ave. Allentown, PA 18102. 610-776-8656
- Grace Episcopal Church: 108 N. Fifth ST Allentown, PA 18102. 610-435-0782
- Salvation Army of Allentown: 344 N. 7th ST Allentown, PA 18102. 610-432-0128
- The Neighborhood Center: 435 N. Seventh ST Allentown, PA 18102. 610-434-5799

OLD ZIONSVILLE

- Zionsville Area Food Pantry: 5901 Kings Highway South Old Zionsville, PA 18068. 610-966-3834



Voices of the Saints

William Alfred Passavant was born in 1821 in Zelienople, Pennsylvania, he was a Lutheran minister who brought the Lutheran Deaconess movement to the United States. He is commemorated in the Calendar of Saints of the Lutheran Church on November 24.



Young Passavant crossed the Allegheny Mountains to attend Jefferson College in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. Passavant taught Sunday school. After taking a year off from his studies due to the unexpected death of his brother, Passavant entered the Gettysburg Seminary. There, he continued his Sunday School work. He also asked for the Pennsylvania Bible Society, for funds for the Protestant mission in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Passavant was ordained in 1843. He published the *Lutheran Almanac* a Sunday School hymn book. In 1844, Passavant accepted the call of a struggling Pittsburgh congregation: First English Evangelical Lutheran Church. During his time as their fifth pastor, he helped to increase the overall membership and steered the congregation towards public outreach. There Passavant organized the Pittsburgh Synod. By its second meeting, he had already established six Sunday schools, some with the help of other Protestant clergy.

While in Germany, Passavant met Pastor Theodore Fliedner who had opened a hospital and training school for deaconesses in Kaiserswerth. At Passavant's request, Fliedner brought four German deaconesses to Pittsburgh to work in the Pittsburgh Infirmary. Passavant founded many missions, and hospitals in Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, and Chicago, homes for epileptics in Jacksonville, Illinois, and Rochester, Pennsylvania, and an orphanage as well as an old peoples' home in New York. Beginning in 1866, Passavant and Louis Thiel worked to establish Thiel College. One of the last institutions Passavant founded was the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary. Many of the social welfare institutions Passavant founded would later join as the Lutheran Services in America, the largest church social program in the United States.

The house in which Passavant was born, Passavant House, is now Zelienople's local history museum and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Voices of the Saints

Ludwig Ingwer Nommensen (1834 – 1918) was a Danish Lutheran missionary to Batak lands, North Sumatra who also translated the New Testament into the native Batak language and the first bishop of the Batak Christian Protestant Church. He is considered one of the greatest missionaries of all time.. He is commemorated as a missionary on November 7 in the Calendar of Saints of the Lutheran Church.



Nommensen was born in the Nordstrand peninsula . In 1846, a horse cart rolled over his legs, crushing them. The initial prognosis was that he would be unlikely to walk again. After praying for recovery, some three years later, he was indeed ready to walk.

An interest in Christian missionary work led to Nommensen's enrollment at the Rhenish Missionary Society. He was sent as a missionary to Sumatra in 1862. His first mission station was in the Silindung Valley. He experienced initial difficulties, but later succeeded in converting several local chiefs and their followers to Christianity. At first, most converts had to leave their villages and come to live with Nommensen in his Village of Peace. In 1878 he completed the first translation of the New Testament into the Batak language.

In that same year, Nommensen and his fellow missionaries, were involved in negation with the Native people and the Dutch army. Nommensen played a prominent role in serving the colonial army as an interpreter and cultural consultant.

In 1890, he moved north. Nommensen remained successful in building an indigenous Batak church. By the time of his death the church numbered 180,000 members, with 34 Batak pastors and 788 teacher-preachers. Today most Toba Batak Christians belong to the Batak Christian Protestant Church one of the largest Lutheran church denominations in Southeast Asia.

Social Ministry Corner

Past Events



Fellowship Hour

On Sunday October 12th the social ministry committee sponsored fellowship hour to benefit the CROP Walk. A light meal of soup and bread was served. A total of \$144.00 was collected. This money was added to CROP Walk Team total.

Bethlehem CROP Walk

Thank you to all those from St. Stephen's who walked in the Bethlehem CROP Walk and those who sponsored our team. We raised a total of \$555.00.

St. Stephen's had a team of 12 that participated in this year's crop walk. We met at Central Moravian Church for pizza and to hear from some of the local organizations that benefit from the money raised by the crop walk. This year's 2.5 mile walking route included rest stops at The Essentials Café and Christ UCC Church. One of the benefits of this new route was increased visibility to the public.



Social Ministry Corner



The following local and national organizations will receive funds from this year's CROP walk: Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering, the Freezer Ministry and Garden Gatherers, Essentials Café, CROP/Church World Service, MAZON, Islamic Relief USA, New Bethany, and the Lehigh Conference of Churches.

Current Events

Northeast Community Center Thanksgiving Food Collection.

We have been asked to provide 150 cans of green beans and 150 boxes of Mac & Cheese. If you took a donation request card please bring in your items by November 8th.



Operation Christmas Child Work Party

Saturday November 8th at 10:00 am

Help us fold boxes, make jump ropes and ribbon dancers, and prepare other items for the shoeboxes



Saturday, November 15 @1pm

Help us share God's love with children in need around the world. Pack a shoebox to share the greatest gift. This simple gift to a child in need will provide hope and introduce them to God's love.

**We will be collecting items for the boxes until
November 14 see page 9 for suggestions.**

Social Ministry Corner

Current Events con't



Sunday November 23rd is our 1st night to serve at the shelter.

Volunteers will be needed to donate food, prepare the meal, serve the meal, clean up, and serve as shower monitors.

Prep Meal & Kitchen for service shift—3pm to 5pm

Serve Meal and Clean up shift—5pm to 8:30pm

Female Shower Monitor— 2 shifts— 5pm to 7pm, 7pm to 9:15pm

Male Shower Monitor— 2 shifts— 5pm to 7pm, 7pm to 9:15pm

If you are interested in helping by donating items or filling a shift at the shelter contact Linda Reese 610-704-9444 or Jeanine Siegfried 610-392-3274.

Mission District Ingathering

Please read this information received from the Bethlehem-Easton Mission District.

This letter concerns the Mission District Ingathering. Over the summer, it came to our attention that, due to aging congregation members and changing community organization needs, the Ingathering process needed to be updated. Because this will take time, we will not be assigning and collecting items in 2025.

Instead, we ask that each congregation take up a second offering for the Ingathering this year. Our goal is to collect \$150 from each Mission District congregation and evenly distribute collected monies to the eight non-profit organizations we support. Checks should be mailed in by December 1, 2025.

If you would like to make a donation to help us reach our \$150 goal please make checks out to Bethlehem—Easton Mission District and place it in the offering plate or send to the church office.

Social Ministry Corner



Upcoming Events

We will once again be working with the North-east Community Center to make Christmas a little brighter for a child by providing gifts from their wish list. We have agreed to sponsor 20 children this year. Gifts that are requested can generally be purchased at a cost of \$25 or less. Once we are given a list with the child's name, age and requests, we will place the angel tags in the narthex with directions and a due date.

Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering: Future Dates for serving- Saturday January 17th & Saturday March 28th

Social Ministry Meeting –Sunday January 11th following the worship service.

Ongoing Needs – Donation Bins in Narthex

Operation Christmas Child- UPDATE- Items most needed- Toys for all ages but especially for the 2-4 age groups. Toy ideas for all age groups -dolls, cars, trucks, blocks, travel size games, legos, cards, puzzles, kazoos, whistles, harmonicas, marbles, jump ropes, jacks, dominoes. Other items such as solar calculators, crank flashlights, small notebooks, markers, and tools are great for the 10-14 age groups. We have already collected enough pencils, pens and crayons for this year. We also have a large supply of stuffed animals. A big **Thank You** to everyone who donated supplies.

Kenya Health Care Initiatives- Collecting school supplies like pens, pencils, crayons, scissors, colored pencils, sharpeners and all types of flash cards.

Food Cart to benefit West End Food Bank- Nonperishable food items such as canned soups, fruit, vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, rice, cereal, mac & cheese.

Finance Page

Operating Fund Report

Below is a comparison of Operating Fund income and expenses through September for 2024 and 2025:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Operating Income	\$ 124,150	\$ 139,003
Preschool Income	\$ 64,514	\$ 64,700
Roof Replacement Income	<u>0</u>	<u>\$ 16,710</u>
Total Income	\$ 188,664	\$ 220,413
Operating Expenses	-(\$180,015)	-(\$190,573)
Net Difference	+ \$ 8,649	+ \$ 29,840
Operating Fund Balance Sept 30	\$ 277,921	\$ 278,289
Property Maintenance Fund Balance	\$ 20,870	\$ 9,768

ROOF REPLACEMENT FUND

Through October 19, total income received to cover the cost of the new flat roofs is \$75,638. The congregation is \$4,362 short of paying for the entire roof (\$80,000).

The Finance Committee will continue to seek contributions for roof replacement through the end of 2025. A final blitz to generate contributions will be conducted beginning later in November and into December.

Thanks to everyone who has generously contributed over and above their regular church pay giving to pay for the roof. It would be a great accomplishment for our congregation to pay off the full expense within one year.

BINGO

Thanks to all who made the recent bingo event a successful activity. Generous members contributed nice raffle baskets to bid on, and there were prizes and laughter galore. What a great event!

Revenue received from the bingo event totals \$5,453.



Dear St. Stephen's

I just want to personally thank all of the individuals who helped make the 8th Annual Gift Card Bingo a huge success. The amazing number of basket and food donations, the hours volunteers worked before, during and after the bingo, and support at the event made it a truly fun day for everyone who attended. With all of this support, we were able to raise over \$5,000 to support the music ministry of St. Stephen's. We look forward to next year's bingo.

With much gratitude
John Phillips



December 14 –Special Music
Rejoice Sunday followed by a
Christmas Luncheon.



- 5pm Children's Interactive Christmas Service**
The Night the Animals Talked
- 7pm Traditional Candlelight Communion Service**



Kathy Bielinski
Kym Ohmacht
Helene Longacre
Charles Bluder
Judy Keller and son Adam

Lisa Levick

Birthdays for November

1-Suzanne Bachman
4-James Zarzecki
8-Desmond Cainon
14-Spencer Sabo
15-Miranda Shively
18-Jayden Macon
20-James Banko
21-Bonnie Gerber
22-Diane Bozzelli
22-Elliott Paden
23-Vicki Gardner
26-Haylie Carson



Anniversaries for November

10-Mason & Ashley Castro
20-John Jr & Mellisa Phillips
23-Joseph & Donna Talaber





CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING

The annual congregational budget meeting will be held on November 23.



**Office will be closed
Thursday, November 27 and
Friday, November 28**



**Come join us for Fellowship on
November 20 at 9:30am
at 418 3rd Ave
Bethlehem, Pa 18018**

Poinsettia Order Form



All our 6.5 Pots for \$7.00
Due date Friday November 14

Plant#1 ☐ Red ☐ White ☐ Pink
 ☐ Red w/white speckles ☐ Marble-white w/pink

Dedicated by _____

Check one _____ in Honor _____ in Memory of

Dedicated to _____

Plant#2 ☐ Red ☐ White ☐ Pink
 ☐ Red w/white speckles ☐ Marble-white w/pink

Dedicated by _____

Check one _____ in Honor _____ in Memory of

Dedicated to _____



*St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran
Church*



November

Worship Service Assistants

Altar Care: Jeanine Siegfried

Worship Service					
All Saints Nov 2 10:45 am	Maddy Zuber	Ron & May Jo Reed Kim Bluder Aiden Hanley	Ron Reed	Ron & Mary Jo Reed	Kayla & Lisa Levick
Nov 9 10:45 am	Brody Zuber	Scott Albanese Jeanine Siegfried Maddy Zuber Todd Siegfried	Ed Acevedo	Open	Janice, Freya RoseAnn
Nov 16 10:45 am	Amyiah/ Nina	Scott Albanese Todd Siegfried Brody Zuber Jeanine Siegfried	Todd Siegfried	Open	Open
Nov 23 Christ the King 10:45 am	Brody Zuber	Scott Albanese Aiden Hanley Maddy Zuber Ed Acevedo	Kim Bluder	Open	Open
Nov 30 1st Sunday of Advent	Maddy Zuber	Ron & Mary Jo Reed Suzanne Bachman	Ron Reed	Ron & Mary Jo Reed	Open

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Barry J. Harte
Secretary: Christine Baylor

Organist: John Phillips Jr
Sexton: Shawn Barger

CHURCH COUNCIL

Suzanne Bachman	610-428-7021	suzbach756@aol.com
Kim Bluder– VP	610-888-0365	kimberlybluder@gmail.com
Pam Hartzell	610-865-2648	psh726@verizon.net
Rich Israel	484-894-3345	rwisrael@outlook.com
Denise Lopez– President	610-462-1278	dlopez76@ptd.net
Mary Jo Reed-Secretary	610-867-6276	reed2x@ptd.net
Linda Reese	610-704-9444	the-reeses@rcn.com
Herb Shellenberger	610-393-0441	hgshell@aol.com
Craig Spangenberg	484-767-3384	jlsparenberg@juno.com
Todd Siegfried	610-392-8940	jtsiegfried@msn.com

CHURCH COMMITTEES

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Suzanne Bachman (Chair), Bonnie Gerber, Michelle Hoysan, Carla Perry, Bev Carson.

EVANGELISM

Suzanne Bachman, Bonnie Gerber, Pat Handlovic , Dennise Lopez (Chair), Joan Neff

FINANCE

Kim Bluder, Tom Hartzell (Chair, Treasurer), Mike Hosfeld, Michelle Hoysan, George Klose, Charles Miller, Ron Reed, Barbara Seifert-Sigmon , Mary Jo Reed

PROPERTY

Ed Acevedo, Dwayne Gaumer, Pam Hartzell (Chair), Linda Reese, Todd Siegfried, Craig Spangenberg, Joann Spangenberg, Herb Shellenberger

SHARED MINISTRY

Bonnie Gerber, Todd Siegfried, Lauren Morton , Mike Hosfeld (chair)

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Suzanne Bachman, Kathy Bielinski, Kim Bluder, Bonnie Gerber, Pat Handlovic, Jeanine Siegfried, Joan Neff, Linda Reese

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sandra Beahm, Kathy Bielinski, Cheryl Hosfeld (Co-Chair), Mike Hosfeld, John Phillips Jr (Co-Chair), Evan Reese, Linda Reese, Mary Jo Reed, Jeanine Siegfried.