

## St. Stephen's Beacon

*From the desk of Rev. Karen Crawford*

I pray that you are finding this Lent to be one of renewal. A time to draw closer to God, and the realization that with God all things are possible. We are challenged this Lent to open our eyes so that we may see God's face reflected in our life and all whom we meet. We are encouraged to open our ears to hear God's voice and respond to the cries of the marginalized. God asks us to open our heart so that we may love others as God so loves us. To do this we must purposely set aside time to worship, study God's word, and come together as a community.

March will provide some unique opportunities to enhance your Lenten journey. On Friday, March 9th at 5:00 pm there will be a service of the Stations of the Cross from Mary's perspective. This is a powerful service with reflections that focus not only on the crucifixion but also on the struggles we face in our own day to day lives. Our Wednesday evening Eucharist, supper, and Bible study continues through the month as well as the 9:00 am Sunday morning adult Bible study.

The call to open our hearts and serve others may be met by volunteering at the laundry nights on Monday, March 12th and 26th. The first 2018 Take Away Hunger Event will be held in Lynnville on Saturday, March 24. You are invited to join St. Stephen's packaging team. There are members of our congregation in need of a ride to church activities. If you are able to be a part of our transportation team please contact Merle Smith.

It is important to come together as a community to strengthen and renew our life together. We will have a special coffee hour following the Sunday, March 11th 10:00 am service as we relax our Lenten fast on Laetare Sunday with fruit and the traditional Simnel Cake. Saturday, March 17th is St. Patty's Day and we will honor Saint Patrick with a festive dinner. Put on some green and join us at 5:30 pm to talk some blarney and enjoy traditional Irish food. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm.

Palm Sunday leads us into Holy Week, a week of obligation. It is during this time that we walk the final steps with Jesus to the Cross. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services heighten our understanding of the sacrifice Jesus made for us and brings us more fully into the joy of the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday.

*May God bless you as continue on your Lenten journey. Karen*

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and concludes with the Holy Saturday Service.

Easter is, of course, The Great Feast and is not part of Holy Week.



### **Palm Sunday, March 25**

**8 am** with palms, no procession

**10 am** with palms and procession beginning in Latham Hall and processing through the church.

**A Prayer for Palm Sunday:** Are you ever amazed, O Lord, at our responses to the Savior? We get all excited about the parade into Jerusalem. We gather palm fronds and distribute them among those present so that they can wave them in triumph, replicating the parade and the crowd. Children sing the praises of Jesus. Adults remove their cloaks and place them on the road in front of the donkey so that he may not make a misstep. We could stay at this scene forever and enjoy the moment. But we are being called forward, through the gates of the Holy City to the Temple and from the Temple to the Cross. Be with us and give us courage to face what lies ahead. Strengthen our faith that we will remain steadfast at the time of reckoning; for we ask this in Jesus' Name. *Amen.*

**Maundy Thursday, March 29, 7:00 pm** Jesus humbly washes the feet of his disciples as a profound reminder that we are all called to serve and to share in table fellowship. In this service we will take part in both the washing of feet and communion. At the end, the altar will be stripped and the watch – our waiting with Jesus – continues in the sanctuary until midnight.

**March 30, at noon Good Friday Community Cross Walk** beginning at St Stephen's. This is an ancient practice that recalls the last events of Jesus' earthly life: being condemned to death, given his cross, his long walk to Golgotha, his crucifixion and death. There are 14 stations in all. This is a solemn time to contemplate Jesus' suffering and death.

**Good Friday Service, March 30, 7:00 pm (St. Stephen's)** Through fasting and quiet prayer, the passion and death of Jesus Christ are remembered in solemn reverence on Good Friday. There will be a reserved Eucharist.

**Holy Saturday, March 31, 9 am** This is often referred to as the Holy Sabbath and the Great Sabbath. It is an empty day, the day when Christ rested in the tomb and all creation awaited the resurrection.

**Easter Sunday, April 1, 9 am (one service)** The most holy of feast days for Christians, Easter celebrates the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Following is an enhanced coffee hour and an outdoor Easter egg for children, weather permitting.

**LITURGICAL ROSTER**



**EASTER LILLIES**  
**See Joyce Rabadeaux to place your order on Sundays, March 18 and 25 during coffee time.**

**Mar. 4 (3rd Sunday in Lent)**

**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.  
 Layreader: Deacon Merle S.  
 Petitioner: Caleb V.

Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.  
 Counter: Rita B.

**Mar. 11(4th Sunday in Lent)**

**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.

Layreader: Barry H.  
 Petitioner: Winonah M.

Ushers:  
 Counter: Lorraine W.

**Mar. 18 (5th Sunday in Lent and Healing Litany)**

**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.

Layreader: Winonah M  
 Petitioner: Steve H.

Ushers: Brenda M.  
 Counter: Mary H.

**Mar. 25**



**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.

Layreader: Barry H.  
 Petitioner: Jason M.  
 Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.  
 Counter: Janice C.

**Apr. 1 (Easter Sunday one service at 9 am)**



**9am** Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.

Layreader: Zeb Treloar  
 Petitioner: Winonah M.  
 Ushers: Paul & Kay K.  
 Counter: Paul K.

**Apr. 8 (2nd Sun. after Easter)**

**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.

Layreader: Deacon Merle S.

Petitioner: Jason M.  
 Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.  
 Counter: Lorraine W.

**We are in need of ushers, and Petitioners and those to sign up for coffee time. See Rev. Karen or Deacon Merle.**

**5:00 pm Wednesday Evening**

**Prayer/Eucharist**

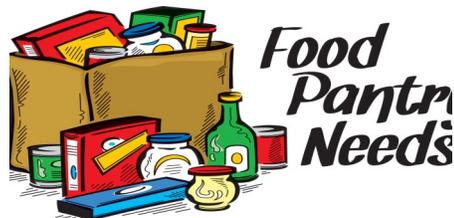
Join us on Wednesdays for prayer, soup supper, and Lenten study. Led by clergy and lay leaders.



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH**  
 Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 10th.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

9th Kathy Trotter 21st Joyce Rabadeaux  
*Happy birthday from your family at St. Stephen's*  
 NO ANNIVERSARIES



**MARCH DONATIONS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY**

Pancake, muffin, bread mixes and syrup. Also spaghetti sauce.

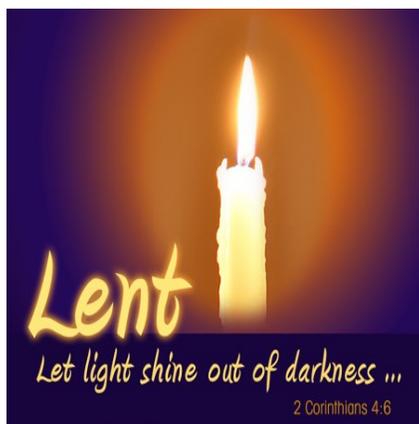


**The Vestry Meets Sunday, March 18th at 11:30 pm in the Undercroft**



	JANUARY 2018	YEAR-TO-DATE
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 6,616.90</b>	<b>\$ 6,61690</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$12,23893</b>	<b>\$12,238.93</b>
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>\$-5,622.03</b>	<b>\$-5,622.03</b>

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
223 East Fourth Street North  
Newton, Iowa 50208



Oh so  
**LUCKY**  
to have  
you!

**St. Patty's Day Party**  
**Saturday, March 17**  
**5:30 pm Social Hour**  
**6:30 pm Dinner**

Come to a St. Patrick's Day Feast and enjoy corn beef and cabbage, Irish soda bread and other wonderful Irish dishes. There will also be roast beef for the Scots. It is sure to be a fun filled evening so please RSVP sign up sheets are in Latham Hall and the Sanctuary.

*As the Irish say: May the hinges of our*



**Call to Mission**  
**Laundry Nights**  
**Mondays, March 12 and 26**  
**Newton Laundromat**  
**at 107 E 17th St. North**

We need people to serve from 4 to 6 for the first shift or 6 to 8 for the second shift.

Volunteers assist with feeding the machines quarters, organizing the food and product distribution and acting as host(ess).

Please sign up for the time you are able to help on the sign up sheet in the sanctuary or contact Merle Smith.



**Take Away Hunger**

**Saturday, March 24**

Hosted by the Friends Church in Lynnville

Barry Hurto will provide sign up sheets for this event.