

St. Stephen's Beacon

Rev. Karen Crawford

I was visiting St. Petersburg Russia and shopping at an open air market. I approached a young woman at her kiosk and asked if she had a stacking doll of the nativity. She paused and asked me a question, "Is Jesus your friend?" "Yes, Jesus is my friend", I replied. We stood there, no longer strangers, but as two children of God. It made no difference that our native language, political beliefs, customs, or favorite foods differed greatly. What mattered was that we both walked in the light and love of Jesus and followed his teachings to love our God and love our neighbor.

God's love united us. Ours is a broken world and it is love, and only love which offers healing. This was the message that was proclaimed throughout our Diocesan Convention. Bishop Curry reminded us in his sermon at the closing Eucharist that in baptism we vow to resist evil, proclaim by word and example the Good News, love our neighbor as ourselves, and strive for justice and peace among all people. Our world is riddled with hatred, prejudice, and intolerance. Each day presents new reminders that God's children can no longer remain silent in the face of this increasing evil. At the close of the Eucharist, Bishops from Iowa, Sudan and Brechin surrounded the baptismal font and lit candles for the 11 murdered at the Tree of

Life Temple. A stark reminder of the evil in this world, and the need for each and every one of us to live out our baptismal covenant. I am haunted by the faces of those senselessly cut down in their place of worship. I grieve their loss and the seemingly endless acts of violence perpetrated against the innocent in this world and yet Monday brought hope.

I attended a vigil at The Tifereth Israel Synagogue to honor and remember the 11 lives lost. Over a thousand people gathered, believers and non believers, Jews, Muslims, and Christians. They came not only to grieve and receive comfort but to stand united against the hate which runs rampant. We stood with firm resolve to conquer hate with love. We can no longer remain silent, we can no longer isolate ourselves in our own little faith community. It is going to take every person, of every faith, working together, to stand up and say ENOUGH! We will no longer tolerate this litany of hatred and intolerance to be proclaimed. Love is the way and love will reign.

Let us pray for the
whole state
of the world.



Saturday, November 10th Fall Clean Up Please meet at 9 am to help clean the church both inside and out.

This will replace the Women & Men's Group meetings.

Meet in Latham Hall to start your morning with coffee and pastries and pick your cleaning preference. (dusting, window washing, raking, etc.) If you prefer a certain cleaning product we recommend you bring it.

Wednesday
Evening Prayer
at 5:15 PM
led by Deacon
Merle Smith



AGAIN THIS YEAR ST. NICK'S WILL BE
USING LATHAM HALL DECEMBER 3RD THRU
DECEMBER 13TH



Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, Nov. 4th turn your clock back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, Nov. 3rd.

St. Stephen's Vestry 2018

- Rev. Karen Crawford
- Rev. Merle Smith
- Steve Halstead (SW)
- Jim Tracy (JW))
- Kathy Trotter
- Rita Baker
- Nancy Henderson
- Janice Carpenter (treasurer)
- Kay Clements
- Brenda Malott

**NOVEMBER
DONATIONS
FOR THE
SALVATION
ARMY**

Soup and
crackers





LOOKING AHEAD IN NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 4 Celebration Service -One service at 9 am followed by a Celebration Potluck Brunch.

- We will celebrate All Saints' and All Souls' Day. Please PRINT the names of those you wish to be remembered during the All Saints' Litany on the card or call the church.
- We celebrate the ingathering of our time, talent, and treasures we have pledged to support the mission of this church. The service will be followed by a Potluck Brunch. Please sign up for a breakfast casserole, fruit or festive breads.

Wednesday, November 21—Thanksgiving Service at 7:00 pm

Sunday, November 25—Christ the King Sunday

LITURGICAL ROSTER

Nov. 4 All Saints' Sunday and In-Gathering Celebration
(24th Pentecost, Proper 26)
One service at 9 am

9 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
Layreader: Barry H.
Petitioner: Jason M.
Ushers: Paul & Kay K.
Counter : Paul K.

Followed by celebration brunch

Nov. 11 (25th Pent., Proper 27)

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B
Layreader: Deacon Merle S.
Petitioner: Deacon Merle S.
Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
Counter: Rita B.

Nov. 18 2(46h Pent., Proper 28 and Healing Litany)

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
Layreader: Steve H.
Petitioner: Steve H.
Ushers: Brenda M. &
Counter: Mary H.

Nov. 25 Christ the King Sunday (Last Pent. Proper 29)

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.
Layreader: Winonah M.
Petitioner: Winonah M.
Ushers: Paul & Kay K.
Counter: Paul K.



Vestry meets
Sunday, Nov. 18th
at 11:30 am
in the Undercroft

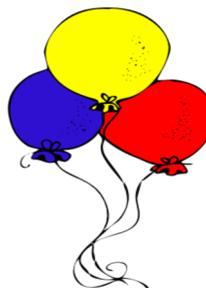
November Birthdays

8th—Darlene Koppin and Roxanne Van Ersvelde
9th—Meredith Tracy 14th—Vinnie Kotz

November Anniversaries

8th—Darlene Koppin

From your St. Stephen's family we wish you all many more!!



Dec. 2 First Advent

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
Layreader: Barry H.
Petitioner: Jason M.
Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
Counter: Janice C.

Dec. 9 Second Advent

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
Layreader: Deacon Merle S.
Petitioner: Deacon Merle S.
Ushers:
Counter: Rita B.



CURRENT FINANCIALS

	<u>September 2018</u>	<u>Year-to-date</u>
Income	\$6,558.00	\$75,844.00
Expenses	\$9,241.31	\$91,761.50
Difference	(-\$2,683.31)	(-\$15,917.50)

If you are unable to be here the Sunday you are scheduled, it is your responsibility to find a substitute or switch. Please let the office know.



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

*Our Vision: To be the hands,
feet and face of God.*



**Thanksgiving
Service Is
Wednesday,
November
21st at
7 pm**

**GIVE THANKS
TO THE LORD
FOR HE IS GOOD**

HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!!!

Outreach Opportunity

√ St. Stephen's is hosting Free Laundry Nights on Monday, November 12 and 26. Sign up to help at the back of the sanctuary.

√ Begin setting aside gently used winter clothes, blankets and coats for the upcoming clothing drive on Saturday Nov. 10. Donations may be dropped off at First Lutheran Church during office hours and may include blankets, shoes, boots and new socks and underwear which is still in the original packaging.

√ The Jasper County Ride Program is looking for volunteer drivers to take people to medical appointments. All volunteers need to be 55+ (per federal guidelines). For further information please call 641-792-6433.



Please Welcome our New Sexton!



Steve Smith

We are delighted to welcome Steve to St. Stephen's staff. He comes to us with many experiences in custodial care.

Steve worked at Skiff as an environmental service supervisor, and at one time worked with The United Presbyterian Church in Newton as their custodian.

Steve will be caring for our building on Saturdays.