

St. Stephens
United Church
of Christ
Making
Disciples for
Jesus

THE INTERPRETER



"The Bote"
Feb. 2, 2012

PASTOR JACK KRAAZ, INTERIM MINISTER
MISSY HOLDORE, LICENSED LAY MINISTER
OFFICE: 715-536-7322
STSTEPHENSUCC.NET

903 E 2ND STREET, MERRILL, WI 54452

HOURS: 8 AM - 4:30 PM, MON - THU / 8 AM - 4:00 PM, FRI

PHONE: 920-229-5243
PHONE: 715-722-1361
E-MAIL: CHURCH@STSTEPHENSUCC.NET

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

9:00 *Welcomers:* Hope and Ryan Golisch
 Acolytes: Scott Wallace and Nick Bowe
 Special Music: Choir
 Nursery: Lynette and Nora Trapp
 Coffee Hour: Becky Teske and Lottie Ziemke
10:30 *Ushers:* Chelsey Dengel and Collin Grefe
 Special Music: Debbie Seeger

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JACK

At the first Worship Committee meeting I attended, someone brought up that they would like to have a college choir perform a concert in February at St. Stephens. The committee talked about seeing if a choir from Lakeland or Ripon College might come to Merrill in late winter. I did not know the members of the committee when we met that evening in September. I can remember saying, "Ahem, ahem." I raised my hand and being given the floor said, "My wife, Sarah, is the Chair of the Music Department at Ripon and directs their *Collegium Musicum* ensemble choir. If you would like, I will have a word with her." As they say, the rest is history. Sarah is bringing her delightful choir to Merrill just when we need them the most, in late winter. I do not have a press release yet but do encourage you to save the evening to be regaled by a fine choir that will stir you by the beauty of the music performed. I hope you will join me by welcoming the choir to our church on February 17, at 7:30 PM.



This Sunday in church I plan to introduce you to a new word. It is "*euthymophobia*." It is not a disease but rather a condition that anyone can experience. It is life-threatening to those who have it and can be changed through hard work and awareness. I have known many through the years who have suffered from this condition and have seen a few recover from it with persistence and a desire to be free from the condition itself. I am sure you will not want to miss being in worship at either service. The purpose of the morning is to interpret soaring on eagles wings for hurting people. Will Willimon said, God soars like an eagle—into our troubled lives. Soaring on eagle's wings will happen in a variety of ways, ways that are different for each person.

Jack



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LINK UP

MAIL US



THIS WEEK'S MEMORIALS

Memorials will be printed with the dollar figures **SHOWN** unless otherwise specified.

Memorial Fund

- \$ 5.00 in memory of Florence Shook from Lorene Hass
- \$ 12.50 in memory of Florence Shook, given anonymously
- \$ 12.50 in memory of Florence Shook, given anonymously
- \$ 20.00 in memory of Florence Shook from Dorothy Hagedorn
- \$ 20.00 in memory of Florence Shook from Caroline Froehlich

Anniversary - Capital Improvement - Roof Repair

- \$ 20.00 in memory of Florence Shook from Faye Stevenson
- \$ 20.00 in memory of Florence Shook from Gloria Kottman
- \$ 5.00 in memory of Lois Jirovec from Ruth Buck
- \$ 10.00 in memory of Florence Shook from Ruth Buck
- \$ 10.00 in memory of Petey Liberty from Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Oestreich
- \$ 10.00 in memory of Florence Shook from Elgart & Miriam Salefske

Anniversary

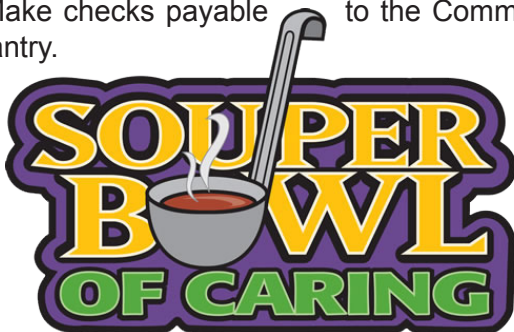
- \$ 10.00 in memory of Florence Shook from Dorothy M. Berndt

Parking Lot

- \$ 10.00 in memory of Dorothy "Petey" Liberty from Leslie & Pearl Sabatke

BRING YOUR DONATIONS THIS WEEK!

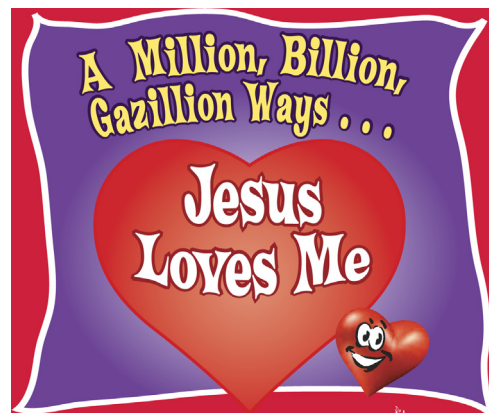
This Sunday, Feb. 5, is the Souper Bowl of Caring. Please help us have a record setting donation year and bring your gift of food or money to church this week! Make checks payable to the Community Food Pantry.



The Youth will be having a Tailgate Party directly after the 10:30 service. If you've been intending to donate a snack for this event, please just drop it off Sunday morning. Thanks!

SWIM DATE

The swim date last Sunday at AmericInn we felt was a success as we had 40 individuals participate. In the next few weeks we will have a card making afternoon. If you have any ideas for events please let someone know on the Social Events Committee (Sue Kunkel, Nancy Dabbert, Clint Golisch, Cheryl Kanitz, Scott Krause, Terry Krueger, Todd Osness and Brenda Rowe).



**SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUPER SATURDAY!**

DATE: FEB. 11

TIME: 1-3 PM

All kids Grades K-5th invited to attend.

*Call church at 715-536-7322
or email Sue (see link on page 1)
if you plan to come. Sign up SOON!*

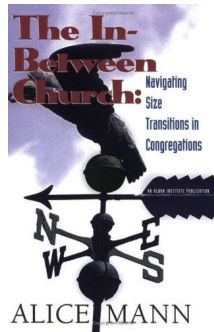
GENERAL FUND UPDATE

Weekly Need:	\$7,190.89
Weekly Receipts:	<u>5,934.77</u>
	-1,256.12



ARE WE AN IN-BETWEEN CHURCH?

Pastor Jack is up to monkey business again. Ten copies of a small book called, *The In-Between Church: Navigating Size Transitions in Congregations* were purchased. Come in any time and borrow a copy of the book to read and study. (Return it when you're done so someone else can do the same.) Jack is planning on hosting another workshop using this book by Alice Mann to talk about how churches make transitions in their size and their ministries. Jack thinks that St. Stephens may be in a plateau. That is a space where we are not sure who we are and how we want to be in the future. He plans on holding a workshop on February 25 to which all members are invited. It will be from 9AM to Noon.



ALICE MANN

USHERS' CLUB NEWS by Neal Christensen

February is already here and attendance for church for January is as follows: we had 9 services with 1,350 people attending. I hope you were in that count.

February is a busy month. February 14 is Valentine's Day; don't forget your loved ones.

Also, February 22, 2012 is Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, which means there will be extra services. Ushers are needed for the 10 AM services and the schedule is out for Wednesday evening services. Come and hear the message again and be with your church family.

There is lots of activity in our church; come and be a part of it and enjoy. See you in church.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

We'll be putting a new member class on the calendar soon. Now would be a great time to turn in any prospective member's names to the church office (715-536-7322 or use Angela's link on page 1). Feel free to mention this opportunity to anyone you know who's been considering membership or who enjoys visiting us.

DO YOU HAVE...?

Helping Hands are in need of 4, 5 qt. ice cream containers with lids and 8 oz. Cool Whip containers with lids. Thank You



HEY YOUTH! IS IT THAT TIME ALREADY?

Yes, it is time to start thinking about Summer camp. If you haven't made plans for your child or family already, ...the longer you wait, the fewer options you'll have. Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center offer wonderful kid, youth and family camps. Take advantage of the wealth of information on the web at <http://www.ucci.org>. In a few weeks there will also be catalogs floating around the church.

If you are interested in a scholarship please have the form filled out and turned in to the church office by February 28th, 2012. The scholarship forms are located in the church office.

KID'S POWER HOUR

It's A Miracle

This year during the evening Lenten worship services we are offering a fun alternative for all Sunday School age kids: **Kids' Power Hour: It's A Miracle**. Some of the things we'll be doing each week include a miracle **story** from the Bible, **activities, crafts, and recipes**. Join us on Wednesdays starting February 22 at 7 PM in the large Sunday school room next to the offices. Come early for fellowship and soup in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:15 Contact Sue Catlin with any questions (715-536-7322 or e-mail address on pg. 1).

OPEN DATES

- Altar Flowers:**
Feb. 19, 26
March 11, 18, 25
- Welcomers:**
Feb. & Mar.
- Coffee Hour:**
Feb. 26 & Mar.
- Radio Ministry**
Feb. 26
March 11, 18, 25



Sunday School classes are in need of the addresses for college students and military personnel for an upcoming care package project. Please either e-mail Sue (see pg.1) or call the office (715-536-7322) if you have an address we could use.



SCHOLARSHIPS 2012



The **Edward A. Staats and Mary Staats Scholarship** will be offered for the eleventh year. Normally, the earnings from the Staats Scholarship Fund have allowed for several meaningful scholarships to qualified students.

The requirements are that the student must be:

- A graduating high school senior, or a university or technical school undergraduate in good standing as of September 2012, who had demonstrated good scholastic standards.
- A member of St. Stephens church who has been ACTIVE AND FAITHFUL IN ITS MINISTRY.
- Meets the admission requirements and be accepted by the school of their choice before the award is finalized.

In order to apply for either scholarship, the student must:

- Submit a **written application by March 30, 2012**. Applications are available in the church office.
- Complete the **Scholarship Financial Form**, and for graduating seniors, **a copy of the FAFSA** (see a high school counselor if you need help with this requirement.).
- Submit a **personal statement** indicating your goals and aspirations and what St. Stephens has meant to you in your life.
- Include a **transcript** of your high school credits and grades, along **with a statement from your school containing your grade point average and class rank**. (See your high school counselor.)
- Submit **letters of recommendation from ALL** of these:
 - a St. Stephens, Merrill, pastor
 - your high school principal
 - one high school teacher
 - one member of the community (not a relative)

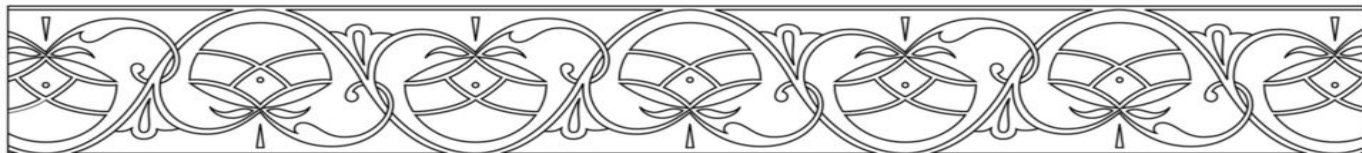
First consideration will be given to those students who meet all of the above criterion. However, the Scholarship Committee will give consideration to those undergraduate students who have been a previous recipient of a St. Stephens Scholarship, and who remain ACTIVE AND FAITHFUL TO ITS MINISTRY, and who are presently in good standing at their school as of the time of application. When applying, please note on your application the year and amount of your scholarship.

The scholarship, including dollar amounts, are awarded through the judgement of the St. Stephens Scholarship Committee. In order to protect impartiality, all names are removed from the application prior to committee review **Neither of the pastors at St. Stephens participates with the committee**.

Both scholarships will be for the school year beginning in the Fall of 2012 and will be awarded at the Baccalaureate Service held at St. Stephens this Spring.

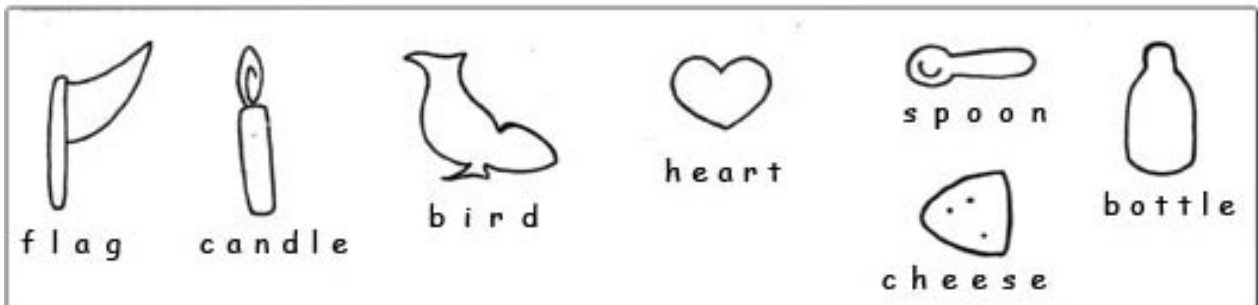
We are grateful for the foresight and generosity of the Staats family in making these scholarship funds available for worthy students from St. Stephens Church. We invite all applications by March 30, 2012.

-The St. Stephens Scholarship Committee





Can you find these hidden things in the picture of **The Good Samaritan** parable?



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CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5-11

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:00 & 10:30 Worship and Sunday School
Souper Bowl of Caring
Youth Tailgate Party after 10:30

Radio Ministry is sponsored in memory of parents Herman & Ivy Hoffman, brother Harry, sister Susie and nephew Todd Spears by Allan & Karen Diels.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

6:00 Worship Committee

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

6:00 Zumba
6:30 Al-Anon
6:30 Communications
7:00 Habitat

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

5:30 Youth Group
6:30 Choir
7:00 Confirmation

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

5:30 Special Singers

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

12:00 AA
3:00 Bell Tower



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

9:00 AA Meeting
1-3 Sunday School Super Saturday

LESSONS THIS SUNDAY

Hebrew Bible: Isaiah 40:21-31
Gospel: St. Mark 1:29-39

SERMON *Euthymophobia* Pastor Jack
(pronounced "you-thigh-mo-phobia")

HYMNS FOR THIS SUNDAY

- #579 Standing in the Need of Prayer
- #260 Let It Breathe on Me
- #568 'Tis the Gift to Be Simple
- # 77 On Eagle's Wings

Bible Trivia Answers worth 10 tickets each.

1. Why do good people do good things?
(Luke 6:45)
2. Look at Ephesians 5:9 and think about the Willie Wonka movie you've been watching. How did Charlie obey this Bible verse?

Last week's answers: 1. be kind to them 2. with life, goodness and honor 3. gentle, kind, humble, meek and patient