



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is a system through which members of St. Paul's Church are trained and organized to help provide Christian caregiving to members of our congregation and community. This will multiply the amount of caring ministry St. Paul's can provide by giving us a whole team of skilled caregivers who are equipped to bring Christ's healing love to people who are grieving, in crisis, or experiencing other stresses in life.

Why Lay Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is based on the idea that all Christians are ministers. The responsibility for passing on God's love is for all Christians, not just for a chosen few. God has given us all gifts for ministry and called us to put those gifts to use. Stephen Ministry is a way people with special gifts for caring ministry can use those gifts to bring Christ's love to people in need.

Why Stephen Ministry?

We have many needs for care in our congregation and community: people experiencing divorce, grief, a terminal illness, loss of a job, relocation, an empty nest, retirement, hospitalization, loneliness, and many other stresses or challenges. Often people with needs suffer silently or do not request or receive the level of care they really need. It is impossible for our pastors to meet every single need of every single person. Stephen Ministry expands the care St. Paul's can offer by equipping and organizing members to provide Christian care. This gives us a larger pool of people with the gifts, skills, and calling to bring Christ's love and care to those who most need it.

Who Benefits from Stephen Ministry?

Everybody benefits from Stephen Ministry. Those receiving care from Stephen Ministers benefit because they receive prayer and support throughout

STEPHEN MINISTRY SURVEY

In order to help us assess our congregation's awareness and knowledge of Stephen Ministry, please fill out the survey below and drop in the collection plate or put in the box at the back of the sanctuary.

Please circle the number that best describes your awareness and knowledge: **1**--meaning "not at all knowledgeable or aware" to **5**--meaning "very knowledgeable or aware". Thank you!

1. How well do you understand what Stephen Ministry is and how it works?

I haven't a clue
1 2 3 4 5
I have a good understanding

2. I can list some of the basic types of needs for which a Stephen Minister could provide.

I am aware of:
a few 1 2 3 4 5 many

3. I know how to obtain the care of a Stephen Minister for myself or someone else.

I need more information
1 2 3 4 5
I have a good understanding

4. I understand the role of confidentiality between the Stephen Ministers and the care receiver.

I need more information.
1 2 3 4 5
I fully understand the need for confidentiality.

5. I understand that everyone in our congregation has a role to play in Stephen Ministry.

Who me?

1 2 3 4 5

I understand my role.

6. I understand that God can use many different types of Spiritual Gifts in Stephen Ministry.

What's a Spiritual Gift??

1 2 3 4 5

I know my Spiritual Gifts and I am using them to further God's kingdom.

7. I am/have encouraged others to seek help from a Stephen Minister.

This scares me.

1 2 3 4 5

I am comfortable doing this.

If you are interested in finding out more about how to get involved with Stephen Ministry please either call Steve Hansen (262-646-4049), Bobbie Scheuer (262-354-0033), Jeff Stache (567-1302), Carol Allen (262-468-4292), or tear off the slip below and drop in the offering plate.



Stephen Ministry

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

the crisis they face. Stephen Ministers benefit through the spiritual growth they experience from being involved in meaningful ministry. Our pastors benefit because caring ministry at St. Paul's is expanded, and fewer people will slip through the cracks. Most of all, **you** benefit from the knowledge that special care is available to you should you need it. In addition, you now have a place where you can refer a friend, neighbor, coworker, relative, or anyone else you know who is going through a difficult time so that they can receive special care when they need it most. Stephen Ministry makes St. Paul's a much more caring place.

Who Are Stephen Ministers?

Stephen Ministers are members of St. Paul's who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide high quality Christian care to individuals experiencing a crisis or challenge such as divorce, grief, loss of a job, hospitalization, relocation, or loneliness. Stephen Ministers are each assigned a care receiver and meet with that care receiver about an hour a week. This caring relationship will last for as long as the care receiver needs it. If you would like more information on how to become a Stephen Minister or to receive care from one, please call one of our Stephen Leaders listed on the back page of this insert.

How Does Stephen Ministry Work?

When someone requests a Stephen Minister, our Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator, will talk with that person, explain what Stephen Ministry is, and help determine whether Stephen Ministry is the kind of care that person needs. Our Referrals Coordinator then matches that person with one of our available Stephen Ministers. The Stephen Minister will then call that person and begin meeting with him or her for about an hour each week as long as the need is there.

Everything a care receiver says to his or her Stephen Minister is kept confidential. The Stephen Minister doesn't try to solve problem; rather, he or she listens, cares, prays, and helps the care receiver find his or her path to healing and wholeness.

Testimonials:

- + Before I had a Stephen Minister, I struggled with whether I even believed in God. Now I have seen God's love face to face through my Stephen Minister. It is life changing!
- + I was ready to give up, but my Stephen Minister wouldn't let me. He kept encouraging me and gave me the motivation to keep going.
- + Stephen Ministry really made a difference for me. I'd encourage anyone going through a tough time to consider a Stephen Minister!
- + I thank God every day for my Stephen Minister. I don't know how I could have made it through the past year without her.

John 15:12

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up....Encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone."

Stephen Leaders:

Steve Hansen	262-646-4049
Jeff Stache	262-567-1302
Bobbie Scheuer	262-354-0033
Carol Allen	262-468-4292

What Saints Do

by Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

Living as a Minority 27 + All Saints Day (obs.)
6 November, A.D. 2016
Acts 28.1-28; John 15.26-16.4a

Introduction

Paul's witness in Rome is the work of the Holy Spirit, in fulfillment of Jesus prophecy in?

CCT: The Holy Spirit bears witness to the crucified and _____ Christ.

I. Framing the Question

A. All Saints Day

Collect for All Saints' Day

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Revelation 5:12 (ESV)

¹² [the saints] saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

B. Paul's Journey to Rome

Acts 28:17–20 (ESV)

“The hope of Israel” = ?

II. What Saints Do

A. How do you bear witness as a little child?

1. _____

Luke 18:15–17 (ESV)

¹⁵ Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called them to him, saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

2. _____

Jeremiah 31:34b (ESV)

³⁴ . . . For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Repent ...

Feed the Hungry

by attending a

PRIME RIB DINNER

November 27th, 2016

Each Meal Purchased Will Feed 100 People

WHO: Open to Everyone!

WHAT: Attend a Prime Rib Dinner which includes all the fixings, desserts and beverages

WHEN: November 27, 2016 12pm

WHERE: St. Paul's Lutheran Church

210 E Pleasant Ave, Oconomowoc

WHY: Your participation in this meal provides

- ♦ jobs for special needs/hard-to-place workers
- ♦ 100 fortified rice, soy and vegetable ration packets for hungry people all over the world

COST: \$25 per meal (payable in advance)

Tickets can be purchased after any of the worship services this weekend or in the church office.





Emmaus Mercy Meals feeds the hungry both locally and overseas. We work in partnership with these companies to provide you with a delicious dinner and serve the hungry throughout the world:

Nutritious Response, Inc.—a packaging company in Poy Sippi, WI dedicated to hiring hard-to-place workers who creates the ration packets.

Minute Meals—a licensed catering company serving Camp LuWiSoMo in Wild Rose, WI who prepares and delivers your Prime Rib Dinner.

Orphan Grain Train—a Christian volunteer network that ships donated food, clothing, medical and other needed items to people in 64 different countries including the USA.

**For more information about Emmaus Mercy Meals, contact: Ben Eilbes
Email: ben@nutritiousresponse.org or Telephone: 1-888-502-1332**



Nutritious Response employees creating rice ration packets



Loading boxes full of rice ration packets for delivery by



**A school bus arrives in Haiti with ration packets of fortified rice, soy and vegetables
Thousands of meals are delivered to hungry families**

ALL SAINTS 2016

“Blessed are they...”

Karen Sjoberg

Norman Hoeft

Dolores Keller

Erika Reiner

Dorothy Schmeling

Austin Pulver

Verna Swenson

Irene Behl

Logan Rankin

Paul Goetzke

Henrietta Brehm

Edward Neitzel

James Wilson

All saints are gifts from God whose witness inspires us and whose example encourages us to greater faith and service to the Lord. More than merely remembering those who have gone on before us, we give thanks to God for their lives and faithful witness. We remember that saints are not people who live “perfect” lives but the redeemed of the Lord who responded to the Lord’s invitation with faith and trust. As the Church Militant, still struggling, we pledge to continue the struggle and fight the good fight of faith until we join the Church Triumphant—the Church in heaven.

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”

*“Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor,
for their deeds will follow them.”*



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11/1/16 - 1/31/17

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MILLER PARK, DELAVAN, MADISON, E. MADISON, PLEASANT PRAIRIE

Chili's Locations

#99999000007292

B. How do you bear witness as a youth?

1. Learn to _____

Proverbs 5:1–2 (ESV)

¹ My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, ² that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge.

2. Worship with Your _____

Hebrews 10:25 (ESV)

²⁵ [Do] not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

C. How do you bear witness in adulthood?

1. Admit _____

1 John 1:8–9 (ESV)

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. Rise after You _____

Romans 6:3–4 (ESV)

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

When you rise after you fall you are claiming your Baptismal _____...

D. How do you bear witness in elderhood?

1. Share _____

Proverbs 4:10–11 (ESV)

¹⁰ Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. ¹¹ I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness.

Take your focus off _____ and . . .

2. Prayer

James 5:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Conclusion