

**St. Stephen
Lutheran Church**

290 West Gloucester
Gladstone, Oregon 97027

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The Quill

March 2018

A monthly newsletter of the congregation of St. Stephen Lutheran Church



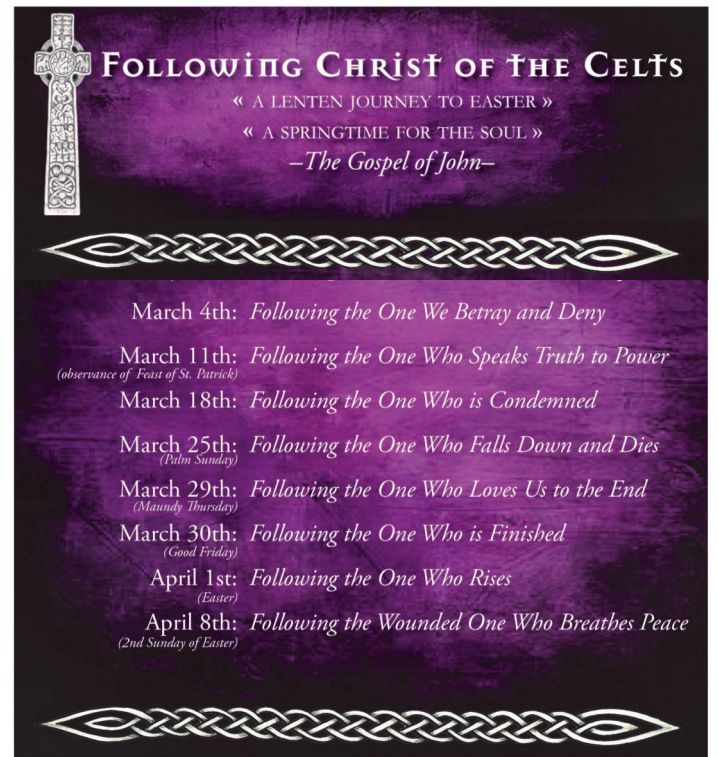
FROM THE PASTOR

Dear People of God,

The Gospel of John was the favorite of Celtic Christians (Christians who lived in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, The Isle of Mann, Brittany—in France, and in Galicia—in Northwest Spain). Why? Why were these Christians so drawn to John's gospel in particular? There may be many reasons, but I suggest they include the following:

- 1) John is called "The beloved disciple"—i.e. he is the one who, at the Last Supper, "was reclining close to" or "leaning on Jesus' breast" (John 13:23). The Celts said that meant John had literally heard the heartbeat of God! For, John wrote, that Jesus was "The Word of God made flesh" (John 1:14a).
- 2) What does one who "heard the heartbeat of God" have to reveal to us about Jesus? In many ways John presents the most human Jesus— and the most divine! John really wrestles with taking incarnation seriously. In John's Gospel "Jesus wept" (11:35) and on the cross, Jesus cried out, "I thirst" (19:28). Jesus is fully human and hallows human "flesh" (1:14a). And Jesus is divine: "all things came into being through him" and "in him was life and the light of all people" (1:3-4). Jesus is "God's child, full of grace and truth" (vs. 14b). Humanity and divinity are not at odds, but held together in love.
- 3) Jesus' promises that same love and integration for us. "God so loved the world." (John 3:16). We are also "children of God" (1:12), "born from above" (3:3), "Beloved" (I John 2:7). From "This fulness of Christ we have all received grace upon grace." (1:16). "I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly" (10:10), "that my joy may be in you and your joy may be full." The Celts embraced this "fulness" of life or wholeness in the holding together of life's seeming extremes or opposites: "light and darkness"; "sun and moon"; "sea and sky"; "heaven and earth"; "forgiveness and sin"; "brokenness and healing"; "blindness and sight"; "laughter and tears"; "flesh and spirit"; "life and death ... and eternal life"! Christ Crucified and Risen is "the Lord of the Dance!"

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
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Gladstone, OR 97027
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- 4) And "faith" in the gospel of John is a journey. It's a verb not a noun. It's not either/or—i.e. either we have faith or we don't. In John's gospel people are continually "coming to believe". We can have questions and doubts. We can be uncertain and afraid. And Jesus meets us where we are. No where is the truth of this grace more profoundly revealed than in the resurrection story told only in John: the story of "Thomas", who was not present on the first Easter and declared, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark and my hand in the wound in his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25). So what did Jesus do? Met Thomas in his need, came to Thomas and said, "Peace be with you. Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out and touch my side. Do not doubt, but believe." (vss. 25-27). "My Lord and my God", Thomas came to say (vs. 28). And realize, in John's gospel, the Risen Christ still has his wounds. Jesus is "Wounded Lord"— another one of these seeming extremes or opposites held together... and Jesus is holding our woundedness and our suffering with great empathy and love... until the victory is also ours...and Christ is freeing us to embrace all wounds and suffering in the world with love that overcomes.

(continued on page 2)

***"ST STEPHEN is a WELCOMING Community, BELIEVING God loves everyone and all Creation,
SHARING our Spiritual journeys in service and celebration."***



- Michael Carter
- Aiden & Anna Corr
- Linda Gowen
- Hauck Family
- Gary Hauck
- Patsy Lindsay
- Kathie McNett
- Michael Moran
- Rhonda Moran
- Gerald Puppe
- Jane St. Jacques
- Chris Warhurst
- Paul Walters
- Alyce Waverly
- Lorraine Zeller
- Wayne Thorson
- Connie Rodgers
- All military personnel & first responders & Their families, especially those in harm's way

If you or someone you know needs to be put on the prayer chain, please contact:
Lois Smith, 503-473-1876,
or Helen Holden at 503-650-3094



**Volunteers
Needed**

Traditional Worship at 9am
With music Minister
Jamie Webster
Contemporary Worship at 11:15am
With music minister
Kathleen Hollingsworth

AV/Sound Techs
Office Task Volunteers
Mailing Stuffers
SON & Warming Center Volunteers
Grounds Keepers
Special Event Volunteers

Please contact the office with how you can help!



(continued from page 1)

This is the Christ of the Celts! Will you follow? That’s our theme and series for this Lenten Season as we read from the Gospel of John: “Following Christ of the Celts”. I hope to see you in Worship on Sundays, Soup Suppers and at mid week Lenten Services on Wednesdays. Don’t miss our celebration of St. Patrick—the best known Celtic follower of Christ—on Sunday, March 11th at 9am and 11:15am when our special musical guests will be the Celtic band, “Mrs. Doyle and the Teapots!” Then there’s the Irish Potato Bar and “Over the Rainbow” Auction in the evening on March 11th—a fundraiser for our youth to go to camp. Holy week begins with Palm Sunday on March 25th and we celebrate Easter on April 1st—April Fools Day—but then in the early church, St. John of Chrysostom (347-407AD) envisioned the Risen Christ laughing on Easter, that the Resurrection was God’s best joke, pulled on Satan and all the powers of evil! The Celts envisioned Christ dancing on Easter— “The Lord of the Dance!” Come celebrate with joy the Love that overcomes!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Scott

Pastor Scott Dunfee



“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (Gal. 5:22-23a)

March
4th, 6:30pm: “Generosity”
11th, 5pm: Irish Potato Bar & “Over the Rainbow” Auction
18th, 6:30pm: “Faithfulness”

April
1st, 8am-11am: Easter Breakfast
8th: Fun activity to be announced
15th, 6:30pm: “Gentleness”

NOTICE

Congregational Meeting
Sunday April 15th at 11:15 am

Right now our program year follows the school year—from September through early June. Then are summer activities. We have our annual stewardship program in the fall, when we pledge for giving in the next calendar year. Pledges go from January to December. And our Budget or Fiscal year goes from May 1st to April 30th with our annual congregational meeting in mid May.

Your leaders think it would be a good idea if the program year, pledging and our budget were all aligned—followed the same calendar. We also think it makes sense to follow the program year or school year. The Leadership Board recommends our Budget Year be changed to Oct. 1 through Sept 30th. To do that requires a congregational vote and we will meet on April 15th (after one service at 10am) for the sole purpose of voting on this change.

There will be forums on Sundays, March 18th and April 8th, for you to ask questions and share comments about the proposed change.

If approved, we will extend the current budget and the terms of officers and Leadership Board members until a congregational meeting in September to adopt a new budget, hold elections, and make our pledges for giving. The Congregation has already been asked to continue their current pledges and level of giving from 2017 until the fall of 2018. Make sense? (if not—that’s what the Forums are for!).

ADULT FAITH FORMATION
Learn more about the Celtic Saints who followed Christ
Sundays at 10:30am in the library

March 4th: St. Columba of Iona
March 11th: St. Kentigren of Glasgow
March 25th: St. David of Wales

Led by Pastor Scott Dunfee

meet-N-eat
Silver Saints: Mar.. 21st, 11:30am @TBD
Men's Breakfast: Mar. 17th, 8:30am @TBD
Women's Breakfast: Mar. 24th, 8:30am, @ Shari's in the Oregon City Shopping Center

The friendship phone ministry needs more callers! This twice yearly commitment includes, calling congregation members & attending meetings twice a year. If you are interested, contact the office.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Preschool, Youth and Family Ministries, Holidays in United States									
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Mar 2018 (Pacific Time)		
9am - Praise Pals 9am - Traditional 10:15am - Kids Club @ 11:15am - Contemporar 2pm - Jamie Webster @ 6:30pm - Confirmation/	7pm - Worship Team	10am - Quill Packaging 10:30am - Strings Plus 12pm - Cluster Pastors	9:30am - Bible Study @ 4:15pm - Praise Pals 6pm - Soup Supper 7pm - Holden Evening 7:30pm - Handbell	9:30am - Quilters @ 6:45pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - CCC Practice					
9am - Traditional 10:15am - Kids Club @ 11:15am - Contemporar 6:30pm - Confirmation/	7pm - Worship Team	GS Senior Center 10:30am - Strings Plus 12pm - Cluster Pastors	8:15am - Bible Study @ 4:15pm - Praise Pals 6pm - Soup Supper 7pm - Holden Evening 7:30pm - Handbell	5:30pm - Executive 6:45pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - CCC Practice	Quill Deadline	9:30am - Citizens			
Daylight Saving Time 9am - Traditional 10:15am - Kids Club @ 11:15am - Contemporar 5pm - Potato Bar & 5pm - Potato Bar & 6:30pm - Confirmation/	7pm - Worship Team	10:30am - Strings Plus 12pm - Cluster Pastors 7pm - Leadership	9:30am - Bible Study @ 4:15pm - Praise Pals 6pm - Soup Supper 7pm - Holden Evening 7:30pm - Handbell	9:30am - Quilters @ 6:45pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - CCC Practice		8:30am - Men's			
9am - Traditional 10:15am - Kids Club @ 11:15am - Contemporar 6:30pm - Confirmation/	7pm - Worship Team	GS Senior Center 10am - Quill Packaging 10:30am - Strings Plus 12pm - Cluster Pastors 7pm - Bunco @ in	8:15am - Bible Study @ 11:30am - Silver Saints 4:15pm - Praise Pals 6pm - Soup Supper 7pm - Holden Evening 7:30pm - Handbell	6:45pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - CCC Practice		8:30am - Women's 10am - TOPS @			
Palm Sunday 9am - Traditional 10:15am - Kids Club @ 11:15am - Contemporar	7pm - Worship Team	10:30am - Strings Plus 12pm - Cluster Pastors	9:30am - Bible Study @ 4:15pm - Praise Pals 7pm - Handbell Choir	Maundy Thursday 7pm - Service of Holy	Good Friday 9am - Service of the 7pm - Service of the				

Worship Assistants for the Month of March 2018					
Ministers, thank you for serving! If you cannot serve on the day assigned, it would be appreciated if you could find a replacement and let the church office know so it can be changed in the bulletin. Thank you!					
		March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
Sermon Topic		Setting 3	Good Shepherd	Setting 3	Good Shepherd
Flowers			Scott Dunfee in memory of Janet & their 42nd wedding anniversary	In memory of Edie	
Greeters	9:00 am	Carston & Diane Berrreth	Lori Downs & Douglas Buchner	TBD	TBD
	11:15 am	Bill & Eileen Johnson	Lois Smith	Coralie Van Gorder	George & Cheryl Ridlon
Ushers	9:00 am				
	9:00 am				
	11:15 am	Tom O'Neill	DJ Becker	Steve Domine	Don Cox
	11:15 am	Steve Domine	Jere Applebee	Polly Domine	Sandie Cox
Readers	9:00 am	Emily Boleyn	Barb Carter	Brian Yapko	Marie Reitz
	11:15 am	Don C	Bill J	Emily Boleyn	Cheryl R
Cantor	9:00 am	Bill Peck	Doug Boleyn	Abigail Graves	Jacob Lundgren
Assistant Ministers	9:00 am	Doug Boleyn	Rob Kugler	Emily Boleyn	Barb Carter
	11:15 am	La Rae A	Don C	Bill J	Audrey W
Communion Assistants	9:00 am	Rob K./Judy W.	Barb C./Barb G.	Doug B./Bill P.	Rob K. Judy W.
	11:15 am	Jill M/Audrey W	Polly D/Tessa D	Sue R/Emily B	Connie C/Cheryl R
Communion Music	9:00 am	OPEN	Mrs. Doyle's Teapots	OPEN	OPEN
Offering	9:00 am	Choir	Choir	Choir	Choir
	11:15 am				
Sound	9:00 am	Sid Toll	Emily Boleyn	Sid Toll	Errol Rivers
	11:15 am	Andrea	Tessa D	Andrea	Tessa D
Audio-Visual	9:00 am	Abigail Graves	Jacob Lundgren	Errol Rivers	Sid Toll
	11:15 am	Tessa D	Andrea	Tessa	Andrea
Prayer Minister	9:00 am	Bonnie Beisell	Linda Schmuck	Bonnie Beisell	Linda Schmuck
	11:15 am	Sally L	Bill J	Eileen J	Sally L
Fellowship Café	Snacks	Jill Messecar & Colleen Emmons	Vonnie Ballew & Jessica Toll	Del Smith & Carol Ransom	Jane St. Jacques
	Set-up	Bonnie Beisell	Bonnie Beisell	Bonnie Beisell	Bonnie Beisell
	Host	Kathie Todd	Kathie Todd	Kathie Todd	Kathie Todd
	Clean-up			Del Smith	
Bread Baker		Jill Messecar	Nadine Hermann	Del Smith	Jerry Groner
Wine	For the month	Herb Ketterling & Christa; Chuck & Brenda Smith			
Altar Guild	For the month	Angela Gifford & TBD			
Tellers		Jill and Audrey	Polly and Nadine	Coralie and Polly	Sue and Cheryl



IN LOVING

Memory



Cliff Hjelt

died January 23, 2018

Ruth Huessy

died January, 2018



IS YOUR
INFO UP
TO DATE?

Lately, we have been receiving lots of returned mail. Please take a moment to update your personal information, via email (sslc@sslcgladstone.org) or via our website (sslcgladstone.org). Did you know that it will also save the church money? We pay double for every letter that is returned to us! So not only would this update ensure that you receive all of your mail and email, but it would save the church some money! Just take a second to send us your current email, mailing address and phone number.



FEBRUARY UPDATE FROM THE

LEADERSHIP BOARD

- We opened with a devotion from The Lutheran Handbook: “How to Cope with Loss and Grief.”
- We reviewed the Treasurer’s report and it was noted that we were caught up on the past due bills. We reviewed the current status of the “Shrink the Debt” campaign and it was noted that we had received over \$6,000. A great thank you to everyone for helping us get back on track. We are close to our goal of \$8,000.
- We also discussed the memorial funds and how they are meant to be used.
- We discussed the staff reports
- We then talked about the Executive Meeting where three ministry teams were identified that we wanted to focus on to help revitalize the congregation. The three teams that were identified are: Stewardship
Welcome and Outreach
Youth and Christian Education
- We discussed more about our 65th Anniversary and the “Refirement Celebration” on April 15th. We will be doing a potluck. More details and signups will be coming for that.

The preschoolers have been very busy since their Winter Break. We have been learning about snow and animals that spend their lives in snow and ice. We’ve been talking about the clothes we should wear in the snow, too. One of our favorite books in January was “The Mitten” by Jan Brett – the illustrations are just beautiful!! Maybe we will have some snow by the time you read this article. 😊

Now we are planning our Valentine parties and working on all kinds of projects using hearts – so we can show our families and friends how much we love them. And, of course, we are beginning to look forward to spring projects, spring walks and playing in our playground.

Yes, spring is just around the corner and preschool registration for the 2018-2019 school year will begin in early March.

We are planning to offer two classes next year. We will have a Tuesday/Thursday morning (9am to noon) “3 year old” class and a Monday/Wednesday/Friday morning (9am to noon) “4s/Pre-K” class.

Encourage your friends and family to call the preschool at 503-656-3035 or email us at preschool.sslc@gmail.com. They can also check out our website at www.ststephenpreschool.webs.com.

Our Annual Plant Sale Fundraiser will begin mid-March, so start planning!

Lori Funk,
Preschool Director

The Quill is a monthly publication of St. Stephen Lutheran Church
290 W. Gloucester St., Gladstone, OR 97027
Telephone: 503 656-8194 • sslc@sslcgladstone.org
www.sslcgladstone.org

Pastor

Minister of Music & Worship (9:00am)

Min. of Music & Worship (11:15am)

Minister of Youth & Families

Congregation President

Vice President

Executive Assistant & Quill Editor

Administrative Assistant

Treasurer

Finance Secretary

Bell Choir Director

Praise Pals/Youth Worship Team Director

Nursery Attendant

Parish Nurses: Marie Reitz, RN (Ret); Barb Carter, RN (Ret); Eileen Johnsen, RN (Ret)

Quill Support Team: Bonnie Beisell, Nanette Breznan, Herb Ketterling, Marie Reitz, Sue Robinson, Lois Smith, Marie Fosberg

Rev. Dr. Scott Dunfee

Jamie Webster, PhD

Kathleen Hollingsworth, DMA

Tessa Dailey

Jill Messecar

Jason Fosberg

Jennifer Fosberg

Sarah Domine

Connie Cook

Sue Robinson

Emily Boleyn

Audrey Weintz

Alex Kaster

3

St. PATRICK

COME CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE MOST FAMOUS CELTIC FOLLOWER OF CHRIST!

SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH
9AM (TRADITIONAL) & 11:15AM (CONTEMPORARY)

SPECIAL MUSICAL GUESTS
CELTIC BAND
MRS. DOYLE AND THE TEAPOTS



FOLLOWED BY:
IRISH POTATO BAR & "OVER THE RAINBOW AUCTION"
5-7PM

St. Stephen Lutheran Church • 290 W. Gloucester St., Gladstone, OR 97027 • 503.656.8194
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SOUP, CELTIC SAINTS & CANDLELIGHT PRAYER

« WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT »
« FEB. 21ST – MAR. 21ST »
–Soup Supper at 6pm, Holden Evening Prayer at 7pm–

Enjoy a good bowl of soup and the nourishing fellowship of Friends in Christ.
Learn about a Celtic Saint to encourage you on your spiritual journey

March 7th: *St. Columba*
March 14th: *St. Kentigern*
March 21st: *St. David*

Enter into the warm light and soft singing, peaceful prayer and gentle presence of Christ.
“From this fullness we receive grace upon grace”
(John 1:16)
– a springtime for the soul –

Bible Study

The 1st and 3rd Wed. mornings of every month

- 8:15am—In people's homes (see bulletin)
- Contact: Diane Berreth (656-5761)

The 2nd and 4th Wed. mornings of every month

- 9:30am in church Library
- Contact: Marie Reitz (655-2710)



Do you love social media? Are you good with computers? Do you just like to tool around the internet? If this sounds like you, then you may be the perfect fit for our new volunteer position. We need an individual (or two) to be our Social Media Guru.

This position requires a weekly update to the front page events section on our website and updates on social media to inform the community about our upcoming events. If you're interested, please contact the office.



Backpack Buddies We put Grace in action!

We are a cooperative ministry of Gladstone schools and churches, providing 100 underfed families per week with food in their time of need!

This month we are gathering:

- Peanut Butter: in plastic jars, no glass please
- Spaghetti sauce and noodles
- Hearty soups & chili
- High grade tuna and Chicken
- Mac and Cheese

Look for the Backpack donation tub in the narthex

ST. STEPHEN YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES PRESENTS POTATO BAR & AUCTION

11 MARCH

\$10
\$5 UNDER 6 YRS

5-7 PM
IRISH POTATO BAR & SILENT AUCTION
PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE CONFIRMATION/YOUTH GROUP

290 W GLOUCESTER ST. GLADSTONE • 503.656.8194 • SSLC@SSLGLADSTONE.ORG

DON'T FORGET TO WEAR GREEN!