

News, Notes, and Prayers

from St. Stephen Lutheran Church May 2024

Who We Are

St. Stephen Lutheran Church is God's people in The Plainfields, Piscataway, and Edison.

Staff

Pastor Frantisek Janak pastor@ststephenspnj.org
Jeanne Elmuccio, office secretary secretary@ststephenspnj.org

Congregational Council

Trecia Benjamin
Bill Cochran (President)
Jim Deene
Randy Gerling
Frank Gianneschi
Effil Hemmings
Donna Hussey
Patricia Klatt
Bob Merring
Eloise Newton (Secretary)
Rich Newton Jr. (Vice President)
Audrey Oddman

Office

3145 Park Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080
908-757-4474

What's Happening

Sundays, May 5, 12, 19, 26

10:30 a.m. + Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, May 5

11:30 a.m. Worship and Music Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 15

5:00 p.m. + St. Stephen's Pop-Up Food Pantry

Tuesday, May 21

7:30 p.m. Council Meeting

Sunday, May 26

11:30 a.m. Coffee and Refreshments Following Worship



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

3145 Park Avenue
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080
908-757-4474

Address Correction Requested

Pastor's Letter

Dear Beloved Community,

Happy Easter season to all of you! Or at least what remains of it once you read this.



We had many blessings during Lent and Holy Week – I am grateful for all that decided to participate in their own way, in person and/or online.

This time of year may be a bit quieter as there are not as many events or happenings, but we continue to praise God on Sunday and in our daily lives. We also continue our livestreaming transition from Facebook to YouTube, which should be concluded soon. For now, it is a place for accessing some older church services and you can view and subscribe to

our channel at this link: <https://bit.ly/stephen-youtube>

After the transition is concluded, the link to the YouTube livestream will also be published on our Facebook page each Sunday.

Please enjoy this newsletter and God blessings,

The Rev. František Janák

Pastor



From the Treasurer

	General Fund Income	Budget Expenses	Over/Short
January 2024	11,784.00	12,874.41	-1,090.41
February 2024	12,598.00	14,104.19	-1,506.19
March 2024	16,431.00	13,923.42	2,507.58
YTD	40,813.00	40,902.02	-89.02

Special Lenten and Easter offerings.

With \$600 in matching funds, our Lenten donation to **Society of St. Andrew** was **\$1,215.00**.

Thanks to all who so generously contributed to this important ministry.

Other Lenten and Easter memorial gifts:

- \$ 200 - Lutheran World Relief
- \$ 600 - Capital Improvements
- \$ 797.50 - Food Pantry



From the Discipleship Committee

How are you coming with your intentional word of the year?

Perhaps you've forgotten about it, or perhaps you've never picked one. No matter. It's not too late to start to work on it. Remember, this a trait or quality you and God are going to work on developing this year.

But just how to go about this, you may ask. What are some suggestions for starting points? One suggestion is that you look up your word in the dictionary and thesaurus and see if that doesn't give you some new thoughts about how to work with it. Meditate on it. Pray on it. I did this and it really gave me some new insights into a word I thought I knew all about.

Next, I will look in a concordance and see where and how the word appears in the Bible.

The Discipleship Committee welcomes any ideas and suggestions you may have. Let us know and we will share them in coming newsletters.



Social Ministry



The Social Ministry Committee will be hosting coffee and refreshments after church on April 21 in honor of the Baptism of Lily Janak, Pastor and Christine's daughter. We encourage everyone to attend this special day.

Coffee and refreshments will also continue to be served on the last Sunday of every month including during the summer months. If you would like to host any of these Sundays please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

During the month of May, we encourage any high school senior who will be attending college in the Fall to complete our Scholarship application which will be due at the end of May. Applications are available on the table in the narthex.



Church Picnic



In June we will again have our annual picnic after the Sunday church service. The exact date will be published in the Sunday bulletins during May. As always there will be hamburgers, hotdogs and sausages and we will ask that people sign up to bring a salad or dessert. Hopefully the weather will cooperate so the congregation can enjoy food and fellowship outside.

The committee is researching a few new ideas for possible community outreach programs. As always, we are open to suggestions from the congregation.

POP-UP PANTRY



Thanks to all who donated this month.

Suggestions to donate for this month are:

- **Pasta Sauce**
- **Apple Sauce**

We thank everyone for their continued support.

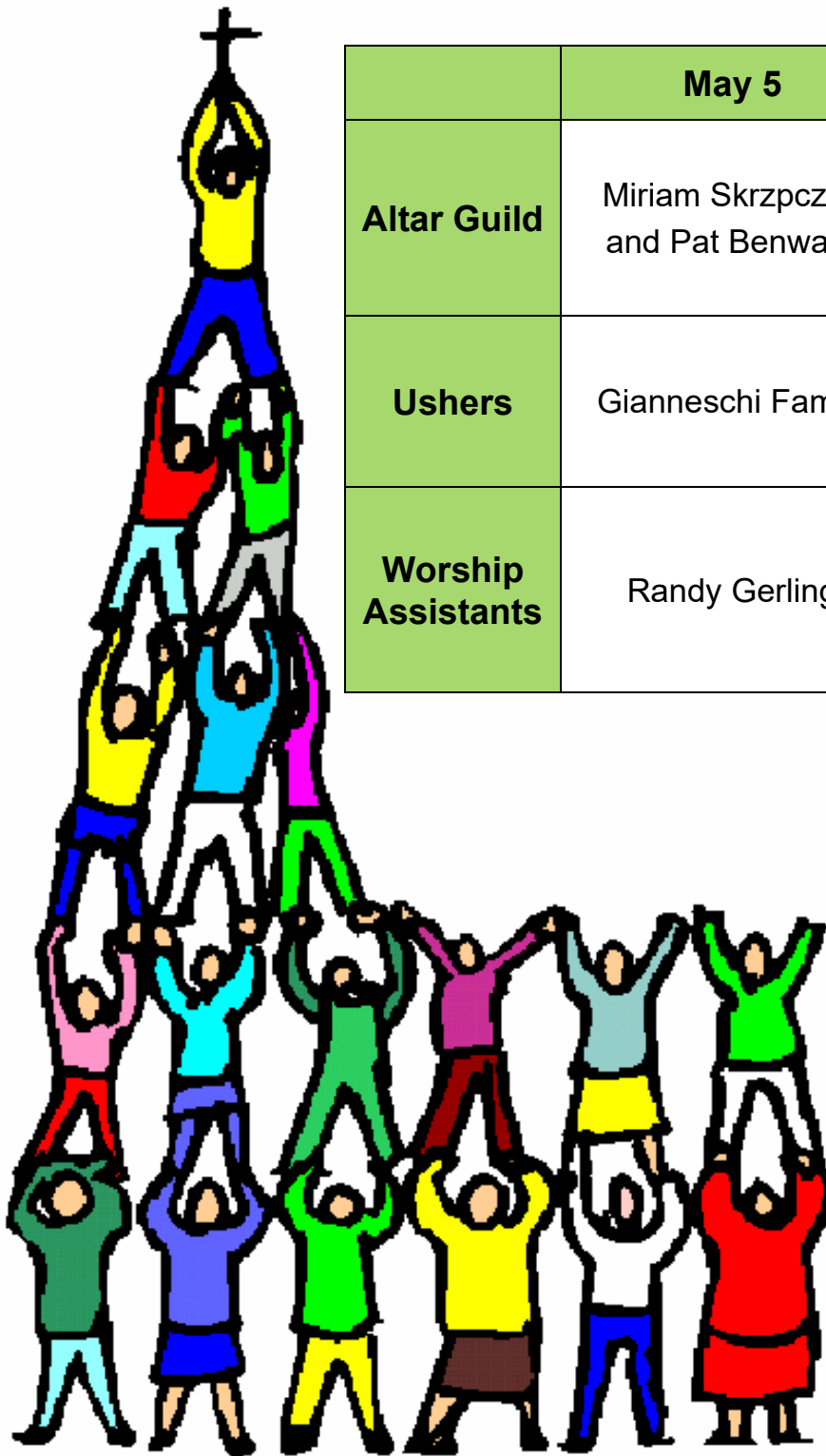
Judy Ziccardi



The Girl Scouts from Troop 65033 in South Plainfield came on Sunday March 17, with a car load of groceries to donate to the Pop-up Pantry.

The girls took the time to place all items where they belonged. Many Thanks to the Girls for their generosity and help to people in need.

St. Stephen's Pop-Up Pantry



	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Altar Guild	Miriam Skrzpczak and Pat Benward	Sharon Gianneschi and Judy Ziccardi	Bob and Cathy Newman	Patty Newton and Mary Flannary
Ushers	Gianneschi Family	Newman Family	Gerling Family	Swartz Family
Worship Assistants	Randy Gerling	Frank Gianneschi	Bill Cochran	Effil Hemmings

May Servant Leaders

Offering Counters:

- 1st Sunday of the Month - Pat Klatt/Judy Ziccardi
- 2nd Sunday of the Month - Bob Newman/Randy Gerling
- 3rd Sunday of the Month - Linda Nietman/Linda Hansen
- 4th Sunday of the Month - Miriam Skrzypczak/Frank Gianneschi
- 5th Sunday of the Month - Craig and Jane Busch

Easter Sunday 2024

Christine and Lily





WEDNESDAYS AWAY

May 1st, 2024 and June 5th, 2024

Join us for Wednesdays Away, a time of spiritual renewal hosted by Cross Roads throughout the year. Our time together includes prayer and conversation, led by a spiritual director and focusing on a different spiritual practice or theme each month. These retreats are open to all people interested in exploring new faith practices. Attend one or attend all—and be sure to invite friends to join you.

Learn more and register at: <http://www.crossroadsretreat.com/wednesdays-away/>

OPENING DAY

Saturday, May 18th, 2024

Join us for “Opening Day at Cross Roads,” a fun work-day event. Individuals, youth groups, families, and congregational groups are invited to come to camp to volunteer with a few projects as we get camp ready for the summer season.

It will be a day of fun, fellowship, and giving back to camp. There will be projects for all skill levels. If you have special skills or tools (chainsaws, leaf blowers, etc.) please bring them with you! Work begins at 9:00 am with a free lunch at noon. We expect to wrap up around 3:00 pm. We can’t wait to see you there!

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

OPEN HOUSES

May 4, 2024 and June 8, 2024



Come and visit Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center for one of our open houses this spring! Learn all about our summer and year-round opportunities. Take a tour of camp, hear stories about summer camp, ask questions of our staff, and finish with a delicious lunch in the dining hall.

These are especially great opportunities for families interested in sending their children to camp for the first time (or attending Family Camp together) or for retreat leaders interested in one of our many buildings that are open year-round. These tours start at 10:30 am from the Lodge and conclude after lunch at noon. Please register by the Monday before the date attending.

Learn more and register at: <https://www.crossroadsretreat.com/open-houses/>

May 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		--	May 1 10:00am ACC recording	2	3 5:00pm ACC	4 10:00am IESDAC
5 10:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:30am Worship and Music Meeting 5:00pm ACC	6	7	8 10:00am ACC recording	9 10:00am Meeting of the South Plainfield Ecumenical Council of Christian Churches	10 5:00pm ACC	11 NJ Synod Assembly 10:00am IESDAC
12 Mother's Day 10:30am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Newsletter Items Due 5:00pm ACC	13	14	15 10:00am ACC recording 5:00pm Pop-Up Food Pantry	16 	17 5:00pm ACC	18 10:00am IESDAC
19 10:30am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Newsletter distributed 5:00pm ACC	20	21 7:30pm Congregation Council Meeting	22 10:00am ACC recording	23	24 5:00pm ACC	25 10:00am IESDAC
26 10:30am Worship with Holy Communion 11:30am Coffee and Refreshments 5:00pm ACC	27 	28	29 10:00am ACC recording	30	31 5:00pm ACC	Jun 1

