



## PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT BY RON COVINGTON

Sunday February 1, about 2015 about 3:30 pm the hot water heater here at church went out and started leaking water. This was just minutes before Jeff Mitny stopped by church to open the cabinet doors in the kitchen. Jeff called me and I immediately went to church. Jeff and I drained the rest of the water out of the water heater then cleaned up the mess. Once that was done we started the process to acquire three estimates to replace the hot water heater ASAP.

Monday morning on Feb. 2 I was informed that effective January 1, 2015 the codes to install water heat-

ers had been changed. Now all new water heaters require an expansion tank to be installed in line with the new water tank. When the property committee arrived Monday at 5:30 pm we compared all three estimates and how soon the repairs could be completed. We took the middle estimate which was \$25 higher than the lowest estimate, because the company could be on site Tuesday Feb 3, Plus someone had to be at the church to unlock it and Wally could do that Tuesday.

Tuesday February 3, 2015, 4:30 pm the water heater is installed.

We are getting estimates on replacing our current alarm system. Jeff Mitny will check with a contact he has. We will keep you informed of the progress.

The locking hardware on both front doors is worn out and needs to be replaced. These door locks have been an ongoing problem. Jeff Althouse will get the estimate for the necessary hardware.

We have four windows scheduled to replace this Spring as soon as the weather permits. Two in the fellowship hall, one in the office and one in Pastor's office.

Our next meeting is Monday April 6, 2015 at 5:30 pm. All members are encouraged to come.

Ron Covington, Property Committee

## MISSION STATEMENT UPDATED

During the past year our Church Council worked diligently to handle many difficult issues. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their dedication to handle some of the divisive issues they were handed to discuss and move on.

One challenging but progressive issue was to make our Mission Statement more easily remembered and precise.

Our original statement was: *The mission of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Plainfield is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and to live the good news by feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, and visiting the interned.*

Our most recent statement was: *Centered in Christ, we are a caring, compassionate community providing meaningful service in the presence of God.*

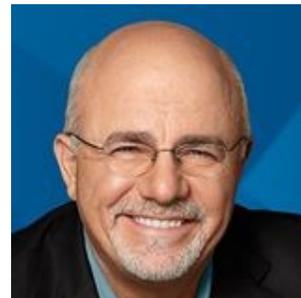
Our newly approved Mission Statement is:

***We serve God through caring and compassionate service.***



## DAVE RAMSEY FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

The life changing class taught by Dave Ramsey and the FPU teaching team on video and coordinated by Tony McMichael at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Plainfield will help you achieve your financial goals by showing you how to eliminate debt, save for the future, and give like never before. You will be challenged and motivated to make a plan for your money and change your family tree forever.



**The class begins April 8th at 7:00 PM**

You can register on the Dave Ramsey website, [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com)

At the active banner on the home page choose: Classes then in classes choose Find a Class and you should have a scroll down bar with several local classes.

**Or just type this address into your browser address line.**

[www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/org/54925/class/276028/atid/1\\_In](http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/org/54925/class/276028/atid/1_In)

**Lesson one on Wednesday April 8th will be the seven Baby Steps that guide you throughout Financial Peace University. You will also learn the three key reasons why you should save money — and why you must start Now!**

## FOOD PANTRY

The St. Stephen's Food Pantry is growing and serving more people every month. We have been blessed with great donations of food and money. We are buying from Gleaners and receiving some free food. The number of volunteers who come to help us move food orders from Gleaners and set up, serve and tear down for pantry day is amazing. I know they are all exhausted afterwards but I believe most feel blessed to have been able to help so many. We so appreciate your help and enthusiasm. We can't do it without you.

Please keep in mind that the need is ongoing so we appreciate your extra \$5 here and there to help us stay well stocked as you can see from the pictures shelves that start out overflowing look pretty sad by the time our families come through. Thank you for your continued support !



## NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

*“Lord let the church be the Church! Give her courage not to conform to the ways of the world; but keep her on beam, as the conscience of the nation, the promoter of culture and virtue, the inspiration of the saints, and the faithful custodian of religious truth! The Word is the truth. In the Name of Him Who said, “My kingdom is not of this world,” we pray. Amen.” (Laurence N. Field)*



At no time in the history of our Church has this prayer seemed more appropriate, or at least since the Reformation. 2014 has been a year of challenge and struggle for the St. Stephen's Council as we wrestled with decisions that have been made by the ELCA and the Supreme Court of our Country. The decision made by Council in November is that we welcome couples in same gender relationships to worship with us, legally married or not, however, we will not perform same gender marriages at St. Stephen's.

Now that I have addressed the question that is probably on most of your minds, I will turn to other issues we have faced this year. I thank God that He, through you, gave me such an outstanding group of Christians with whom to work. Your Congregation Council has worked diligently to advance the presence of the Body of Christ, (the Church membership), in the community and to serve you here at St. Stephen's by fulfilling your expectations and the responsibilities you have entrusted to us. We extend our heartfelt thank to our committees who provide the base and much of the creativeness, planning, and implementation of our programs and projects in the advancement of our Mission and Vision.

Genie Reed

## NEWS FROM THE PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

2014 was a most challenging year. As a Council, it became necessary to address the greatest social issue of our country, in this century thus far. We have embraced and welcomed everyone who has come through our doors. We will continue to do so in the future. We all have different interpretations of Holy Scripture. Two of us can read the same passage and come up with two different interpretations. While we may all identify ourselves as Christians, this does not mean that we all interpret Scripture the same. As a result of our various interpretations of Scripture, we have lost members on both sides of the issue. We grieve the loss of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Needless to say, it was a painful year.



2015 is a new year and a time of new beginnings and even greater challenges in ministry. Whatever the challenges and opportunities that are presented to us, we will continue to adapt and change as we see fit, using Holy Scripture as the rule and norm. We pray that God will bless us and heal the divisions among us, as we answer His call to the ministry of the Gospel in the new year.

Pastor Robert Rohrman

*Both reports were edited for space, but I felt you all needed to hear at least these parts. Melody Burks, newsletter editor*

## RUTH CIRCLE

**March 15th after service we will host a fundraising homemade Chicken Noodle dinner.** The menu includes: mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, corn, homemade rolls, and assorted desserts. Adults are \$8 and children are \$4. Pay at the door. That's still cheaper than McDonald's and you'll have fellowship and homemade food. Join us!

In December we sent gifts to Sheltering Wings, Restoring Lives West, Lutheran Family Services, Compassion International, and Heifer International. Totaling \$498. We also arranged and hosted the catered Christmas Dinner for the entire church. It was very well attended we hope you enjoyed yourself.

### Upcoming Events:

In April and May we have **Compassion Sunday on April 26th** and our **Spring Tea on May 2.** Please mark your calendar and plan on joining us for both of the events.

Our next meeting is April 2nd at 11:30 pm we invite anyone in the church who wants to help Melody Burks



## EVANGELISM

The evangelism committee is in need of additional members. It is the job of evangelism to move the gospel forward which means we strive to reach more people. This is an important committee. Please pray over your ability to help!

We have decided not to participate in the Hendricks County Fair.

We are setting up dates for Community Days to raise money for gifts for the Santa Shop. (working with Noodles and Applebee's again)

Little Caesar Pizza Sales start May 3, 2015 and ends May 31, 2015. The Ruth Circle is NOT selling pizza's this year so this is your only opportunity. We need pizzas sellers. If you are able to help pick up your materials from Genie Reed.

We are working on making our website more up-to-date and active. A small subcommittee is investigating a new computer for the church, an Internet connection for the church, and a new web hosting services. We have purchased a new domain name and may use it, but it's undecided as yet. Watch for more information in emails and the bulletins. We hope to move very quickly on this issue.

Our next meeting is March 10th. All interested

persons are invited to attend. All persons with ideas are invited. All persons who breathe invited.

Yes, please come!!



## ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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News for the Newsletter should be sent to Melody Burks at melodys451@gmail or on paper, or call my home, 317-831-5241 Announcement and Prayer Requests for the Bulletin should go to Peggy Graham by Friday each week. Home phone 317-881-8198 or E-mail address: denisgraham@prodigy.net

## FINDING THE PURPOSE OF SUNDAY SERVICE

Some people approach church the same way they seek out a new mobile phone carrier or cable provider. "Well I'm just not getting what I need any more I think it's time to move on."

If you approach church with a consumer mentality you are selling yourself short. When the knowledge you hear on Sunday morning remains between your ears and the worship becomes little more than a spectator sport you are missing the point.

The purpose of Sunday Service is not "What's in it for me?"

Sure everybody needs spiri-

tual growth, everybody needs a gathering place that brings connection with fellow believers and a weekly reminder of our moral compass according to God's word. But there's something at the heart of the matter, the true purpose of church.

Church is the one and only place that has as it's primary function the facilitation of a personal meeting with God. This happens when the church worships God in spirit and in truth.

Worship happens when your soul—the immaterial, non physical, eternal part of who you are—reaches towards God as a child reaches toward a parent.

You should be spiritually fed by Sunday service, but Sunday should Never be the only time during the week that you acknowledge God, seek out his presence, or offer up praise.

Church is not like Burger King: have it your way. It is more like Home Depot, you can do it we can help. *Church service is not a show it's a call to action.*

Until we all view church as a place to save, equip and send people out into our communities - to act as God's hands and feet - church will be marginalized as a club house for like minded consumers.

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR  
MILES MCPHERSON, FORMER  
NFL PLAYER, AND PASTOR  
OF THE ROCK CHURCH

AUTHOR OF 'MAKE YOUR  
LIFE COUNT' AND 'GOD IN  
THE MIRROR: DISCOVERING  
WHO YOU WERE CREATED TO  
BE'

