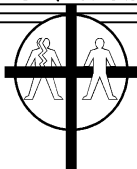


STEPHEN MINISTRY



at

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
909 W. 33rd St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
(605) 336-2942

God Cares
We Care

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

ELCA

Beginnings

Stephen Ministry is named for Stephen, about whom we read in Acts 6:1-8:1. The Apostles, led by the Holy Spirit, commissioned Stephen and others to work with them, to do acts of caring ministry.

In 1974 Dr. Kenneth Haug, who was then an associate pastor at St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Louis, began training laypersons of his congregation to be caregivers, to provide distinctively Christian care to people facing life crises. From this small beginning, Stephen Ministries gradually developed.

Our Savior's has been a Stephen Series Enrolled Congregation since 1988. There are now more than 7500 enrolled congregations, representing more than 100 denominations.

At Our Savior's since 1988, in round numbers 205 people have taken the Stephen Series class, 185 have been commissioned as Stephen Ministers, and 50 are currently active. Each Stephen Minister serves for two years, beginning with the Stephen Series class, and many continue beyond that. Stephen Ministers typically spend an hour a week with their Care Receiver, and four hours a month in Continuing Education and Supervision. 270 Care Receivers have been served in 325 Caring Relationships, ranging from a few weeks to ten years.

What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is grounded in Jesus' word to love one another. Through one-to-one caring relationships, those who are hurting receive the love and care they need to support them.

Stephen Ministry is one-to-one caring ministry by trained caring laypersons who have been commissioned as Stephen Ministers.

Stephen Ministers minister to those who are experiencing ...

- † Loneliness
- † Loss of a spouse
- † Retirement
- † Unemployment
- † Anxiety and depression
- † Childbirth or adoption
- † Hospitalization
- † Separation or divorce
- † Terminal illness
- † Grief
- † Spiritual crises
- † Chemical dependency
- † Being homebound
- † Serious illness of a relative or friend

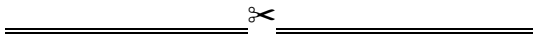
... and more

ARE YOU IN NEED OF ...

- Someone who cares?
- Someone who supports?
- Someone who listens?
- Someone who keeps confidentially?

A Stephen Minister would like to help you. Call the Church Office , 336-2942, and ask to speak with a pastor. Or return the simple form below to the Church Office.

Pastor Don Lehmann and Pastor Nadine Lehr in particular work with Stephen Ministry referrals. Your confidentiality is respected and maintained.



_____ I might be open to receiving the care of a Stephen Minister. Please call.

_____ I might be interested in taking the Stephen Series class and possibly becoming a Stephen Minister. Please provide more information.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Date _____



Stephen Ministers are Called to Be Caregivers

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

Encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them.

1 Thessalonians 5:12

God Is the Caregiver

Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you.

Psalm 55:22

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28

Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7

Therefore ... live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us.

Ephesians 5:1-2

A Stephen Minister Is ...

- ✳ a child of God who walks beside a hurting person.
- ✳ a caring Christian friend who really listens.
- ✳ a layperson who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care.

A Stephen Minister is NOT ...

- ✳ a counselor or therapist.
- ✳ a problem-solver.
- ✳ a casual visitor.