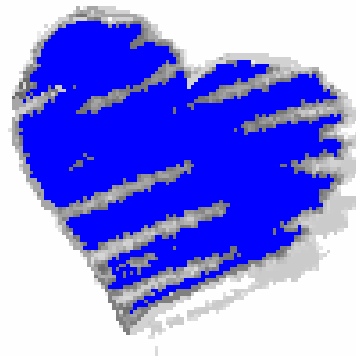


What is Stephen Ministry?

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

- *Is life more than you can handle alone right now?*
- *Are your health, attitude, or relationships suffering?*
- *Are you adjusting to a new job, a change in marital status, a serious illness, the death of a loved one, a recent move?*
- *Would you like to have someone in your life who really cares?*



Everyone goes through difficult times. Having someone to care, to listen, to share God's love with you can help you get through the confusion, stress, or loneliness you may be experiencing.

Stephen Ministers are Called to Be Caregivers

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

Encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

1 Thessalonians 5:14b

God is the Caregiver

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you.

Psalms 55:22a

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

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

1 Peter 5:7

How does the "Referrals Process" work?

- ◆ A person – either you, a relative, or a friend – is hurting and in need of Christian care.
- ◆ The Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator learns of this need for care – from the pastor, the person, or a friend, always with the person's permission.
- ◆ The Referrals Coordinator meets with the person to talk about Stephen Ministry.
- ◆ With the person's permission, the Referrals Coordinator assigns a Stephen Minister to meet on a weekly basis with the person.
- ◆ The Stephen Minister continues to provide distinctively Christian care for the person in strict confidentiality.

What is a Stephen Minister?

A Stephen Minister is ...

- ◆ A child of God who walks beside a hurting person;
- ◆ A caring Christian friend who really listens; a lay person 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

Stephen Ministry helps meet the needs of individuals who are

- ◆ *Hospitalized;*
- ◆ *Terminally ill;*
- ◆ *Bereaved;*
- ◆ *In a job crisis;*
- ◆ *New members of the church;*
- ◆ *Disabled;*
- ◆ *Homebound;*
- ◆ *Lonely;*
- ◆ *In a spiritual crisis; or*
- ◆ *Looking for a caring Christian friend*

Consider allowing a Stephen Minister to walk with you on your journey to wholeness.

*Could You
or Someone
You Know
Use a Relationship
of Christian Love and
Support
in
Their Life?
Maybe a
Stephen Minister is
God's Answer
to Prayer.*

Messiah Lutheran Church

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***Stephen Ministry
Leadership Team***

Referrals Coordinator

Linda Leister
436-8589

Training Coordinators

Jeanette Gross/ Linda Leister

Supervision Coordinator

Jeanette Gross
436-2649

Stephen Ministers

Jo-Anne Brooks
Barbara S. Geedey
Betty Gobeille
Jeanette Gross
Linda Leister
Jane Marhefka
Marilyn MaCoy
Fay McCormick
Nora Ella Singer

Messiah Lutheran Church



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**