



Why do we have Stephen Ministry at First Lutheran Church?

Stephen Ministry exists to help support and respond to the pastoral needs of the members of First Lutheran Church. It's one of many ways that we care for one another as the body of Christ and as members of this congregation. Not every need can be met by the pastor, as much as he may want to do serve everyone. Stephen Ministry is a way of multiplying ministry, creating opportunities to serve, and standing beside one another through difficult and challenging times in life.

How is Stephen Ministry different from Visitation Ministry?

Stephen Ministry and Visitation Ministry at First Lutheran are both extremely valuable ministries at First Lutheran. They both meet a defined need for members of First Lutheran. Stephen Ministers are in contact with their care receivers weekly or on a frequency that works for both the SM and the Care Receiver. The care receiver is usually in the midst of a life transition and they receive care for a few months to perhaps a couple of years. The Visitation Team visits with their care receivers not less than monthly. Often these care receivers are visited until the end of life. Both ministries are a critical link to the worship community and are focused on spiritual care and support.

Who can be a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministers are caring Christian friends who listen, understand, accept, and pray for (and with) care receivers who are working through a difficult time. Any member of First Lutheran who has a compassionate spirit and is looking for a way to make a difference can be a Stephen Minister. Interested candidates will be interviewed regarding their interest in, understanding of, and commitment to SM.



How are SMs trained?

- 50 hours of training provided at First Lutheran or via zoom by the Stephen Leaders
- Ongoing continuing education at a monthly meeting with other Stephen Ministers

Who are the Stephen Ministers at First Lutheran Church?

Dave Dorenkamp
Helen Dorenkamp
Cheri Eichman
Denise Gonnerman (on LOA to do youth work)
Jim Hitchcock
Carol Platt
Konnie Snider
Carol DeSchepper
Kathy Carlson
Rolf Carlson
Holly Nystrom
Josh Carr
Tammy Carr
Pam Bonstead
Jan Larson
Beverly Walsmith

Who are our Stephen Leaders if I want more information?

Please call the church office for contact information.

Carol Platt
Tammy Carr
Carol DeSchepper