

STEPHEN MINISTRY MULTIPLIES MINISTRY

Pastors and Deacons will always be on the front lines of care, especially during times of crisis. But there are always more needs for on-going, one-to-one care than Pastoral Staff alone can effectively meet. Stephen Ministry provides a thoroughly biblical solution – equipping God’s people for ministry. Gifted laypeople receive training to support and extend the care that Pastors and Deacons continue to provide. Stephen Ministers reach out with God’s love to congregational members who are hurting.

WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY?

Our congregation’s Stephen Ministry equips laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. The identity of those receiving care and everything they discuss with a Stephen Minister remain private.

A STEPHEN MINISTER IS...

- ◆ A child of God who walks beside someone who is hurting.
- ◆ A congregation member who is carefully selected to serve in this role because of his or her caregiving gifts.
- ◆ A layperson with 50 hours of training in providing high-quality, distinctively Christian care.
- ◆ A caring Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports and encourages.

- ◆ Someone who meets faithfully each week with his or her care receiver for as long as there is a need.

STEPHEN MINISTERS CARE FOR PEOPLE FACING TOUGH TIMES

We all experience challenges in life – times when we could benefit from care and support. Stephen Ministers can provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty such as:

- ◆ Loss of a loved one
- ◆ Hospitalization
- ◆ Divorce or separation
- ◆ Loneliness or discouragement
- ◆ Relocation
- ◆ Unemployment or a job crisis
- ◆ A terminal illness
- ◆ Incarceration
- ◆ Aging
- ◆ Birth, adoption, miscarriage or infertility
- ◆ A chronic illness
- ◆ Recovery after an accident or disaster
- ◆ Many other life challenges

STEPHEN MINISTRY IS YOUR MINISTRY

You play an important role in our Stephen Ministry. Here’s what you can do:

- ◆ Pray for God to bring hope and healing to hurting people through our Stephen Ministry.
- ◆ Accept care from a Stephen Minister during your time of need. God doesn’t expect you to bear your burdens alone.
- ◆ If you are a compassionate person and a good listener, prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister

STEPHEN LEADERS ARE...

Trained leaders in our congregation who support and direct our Stephen Ministry. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Stephen Minister or Leader or if you have any other questions about Stephen Ministry contact:

- ◆ Deacon Ellie Schmidtke at (262) 251-2740 ext. 231 or cedellie@yahoo.com
- ◆ Pastor Meredith Bedkar Musaus at (262) 251-2740 ext. 224 or meredithm@holycrosslutheran.org
- ◆ Jill Konicek at (262) 993-4875
- ◆ Linda Schmidt at (414) 354-4187



**“Therefore encourage one another
and build up each other.”**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11