

# Stephen Ministers Are Ready to Care

Are you **hurting**? Are you **struggling**? Are you **discouraged**? Are you **stressed**?  
Are you **confused**? Are you **broken**?

We all face challenges in life--times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty, such as--

- loss of a friend
- hospitalization
- divorce or separation
- loneliness or discouragement
- spiritual crises
- unemployment or a job crisis
- a terminal illness
- incarceration
- aging
- birth, adoption, miscarriage, or infertility
- a chronic illness
- relocation
- recovery after an accident or disaster
- and many more

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry: The identity of those receiving care and what takes place in each caring relationship remains private.

*"Love one another--as I have loved you."* John 13:34

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

## A Stephen Minister Is . . .

- A child of God who walks beside a person who is hurting
- A congregation member with gifts for caregiving, who was carefully selected to serve in this role
- A lay person who has received 50 hours of training in providing emotional and spiritual care
- A caring, Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages
- someone who will "be there" for his or her care receiver, meeting faithfully for about an hour each week, for as long as there is a need

## Stephen Ministry Multiplies Ministry

Pastors will always be on the front lines of care, especially during times of crisis. But there are always many more needs for ongoing, one-to-one care than pastors can effectively meet by themselves.

Stephen Ministry provides a biblical solution--*equipping God's people for ministry*. Gifted lay people are trained to support and extend the care that pastors continue to provide.

Stephen Ministers reach out with God's love to people who are hurting--both congregation and members and nonmembers alike.

*"Bear one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*  
Galatians 6:2

### Stephen Ministry in Our Congregation

- Could you benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister?
- Do you know someone else--perhaps a friend, neighbor, coworker or relative--who could benefit from Stephen Ministry?
- Are you interested in possibly becoming a Stephen Minister?

Then talk with a pastor or Stephen Leader--or contact the church office at [713-468-9443](tel:713-468-9443)--to learn more.

*Stephen Ministry is Christ Caring for People Through People*

## Daily Devotions

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***Refresh yourself with God's Word using these online resources:***

- [Daily Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries](#)
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's [Daily Bible Reading](#)
- [Daily Devotions](#) for daily Bible studies by ELCA Evangelism Partner Rev. Kerry Nelson
- [Faith Lens](#), a weekly web page bible study for youth from ELCA Youth Ministries
- [Prayer Ventures](#), an ELCA resource for daily prayer topics
- The [Bible Tutor](#) from Luther Productions
- [What the Bible Says to Us](#), an ELCA resource offering passages for reflection on a wide range of topics and personal situations