

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Stephen Ministry continues to grow! We had a small but mighty training class this winter and held a commissioning service May 7, 2023 at Messiah Lutheran in Prince Albert for three amazing Stephen Ministers. It has been a wonderful time of learning, fellowship and exploring caring ministry on a deeper level. Most of our sessions were held over zoom but that did not detract from the sharing and the getting to know one another really well. We did manage to meet in person a couple of times. We were strengthened by the word of God, the power of prayer and the knowledge and expertise of amazing clergy and Stephen Leaders. Thank you to everyone who participated. We could not do this without all of you ♥.

The three new trainees are all seasoned faithful members of the church. They have stretched themselves, strengthened their faith, grown in skills and found what it truly means to put the results in God's hands and just focus on the process of caring. Why do we get involved in Stephen Ministry and why is it so different than other visiting programs? One student said it so well: *"I'm most looking forward to God using me to make a difference for one person at a time in a meaningful way through committed caregiving relationship. ... I have always had a hearts desire to care for others in pain, to be a healer of sorts. The compassion and empathy I feel for those who are hurting is beyond my human understanding. [Personally] with God's help, I have walked through a journey unlike most of my peers would understand.... When God heals us, he doesn't just do it because he loves us, but to bring honour and glory to His Holy name. Through all of this, God has taught and prepared me in many ways to do something like Stephen Ministries which requires much commitment, selflessness, prayer, understanding and most of all a willingness to enter into the depths of pain and suffering alongside another human being. I am grateful and honoured to step into the messiness of life.."*

Would you like to be part of our caring ministry? Each of you are part of a Stephen Ministry congregation. Please join us as we help to ease the burdens of our pastors. Our prayer lists get longer and longer every week. The need for care – active listening, walking with someone through difficult times whether it be grief, job loss, divorce, mental health struggles, are at an all time high. We are here to walk with them during these times. If you would like to join us, or want more information please contact me at the number below.

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