

Dear friends, since God so loved us,
we also ought to love one another.
No one has ever seen God; but if
we love one another; God lives in
us and his love is made complete
in us.

1 John 4:11-12

To Love Is To Listen

For more information, please contact:

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hopecare
to love as Christ first loved us

Hope Lutheran Church
(701) 235-6629
Stephen Ministry
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What is
Stephen
Ministry

*When someone is in
need of care...*

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

Everyone goes through difficult times. Having someone to care, listen, and 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 one another and build each other up. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

God Is the Caregiver

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you. Psalm 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 - who is hurting and in need of Christian care is referred to Stephen Ministry.
- The Stephen Ministry Coordinator learns about this need for care from the pastor, the person, or a friend. This is 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 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 extensive 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's a need

A Stephen Minister is NOT . . .

- A counselor or therapist
- A problem-solver
- A casual visitor



Stephen Ministry Meets the Needs of People

Ministries to those who are experiencing:



- Loss of a loved one
- Hospitalization
- Retirement changes
- Loneliness or discouragement
- Unemployment or job crisis
- Spiritual crises
- Birth, adoption, miscarriage, or infertility
- Separation and divorce
- Recovery after an accident or disaster
- A terminal illness
- Incarceration

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