



# Stephen Ministry At Lutheran Church Of The Holy Spirit

As members of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve our community and the world by our ministry in daily life. The Stephen Ministry Series is a lay visitation and caring program involving in-depth training in communication and caring skills for a myriad of challenges and crises that families and individuals face in life. The mission of the Stephen Ministry team at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit is to provide a robust Stephen Ministry program that is available to men and women of the congregation and community that need the distinctively Christian caring that is provided by a trained Stephen Minister. In order to fulfill this mission, the Stephen Ministry team needs:

- Commitment of Holy Spirit members to be willing to have a Stephen Minister walk with them through an individual or family challenge or crisis.
- Commitment of the Holy Spirit pastors to support the program through member referrals and to provide spiritual guidance to the Stephen Ministry Leadership Team.
- Commitment of Holy Spirit members to participate as Stephen Leaders and/or Stephen Ministers, providing confidential one-on-one Christian care to members of our congregation and community.
- Commitment of the Stephen Ministers to participate in ongoing peer supervision discussions and periodic review by the leadership team.
- Facilities to provide 50 hours of training for members to become Stephen Ministers and for twice-monthly Stephen Ministry supervisory meetings.
- Periodic financial support:
  - to send Stephen Leaders to be trained and commissioned by staff of the Stephen Ministry Series
  - for Stephen Minister continuing education
  - for program awareness for the congregation and the community

## **Kitti Berkheimer**



### **Stephen Leader**

Mike and I have been members of Holy Spirit since 1980 joining shortly after we were married in June of 1980. We have three children who grew up in the Holy Spirit congregation: Jenna, Mark and Emily. I have been employed by the Parkland School District since 1999 and am currently an Administrative Assistant at Parkway Manor Elementary School. I have been a member of the Auxiliary of the Lehigh Valley Hospital for many years and twice served as President. Throughout my years at Holy Spirit I have been involved in many areas of the church life. I was a Youth

Group Advisor, Sunday School teacher, member of the Nursery School Board, mentor for the catechism program, sang in the adult choir and took part in Word for God's Children. I am currently involved in Altar Guild as a monthly chairperson, am a member of the Spirit Ringers hand bell choir, and usher. Mike and I have also been members of a small Koinonia group at Holy Spirit since the mid 1980's. I enjoy scrapbooking and spending time with our dog Boo.

## **Mike Berkheimer**



### **Stephen Leader**

Kitti and I have been married since 1980 and have been members of Holy Spirit since 1980. We have three adult children, Jenna, Mark and Emily. I came to the Lehigh Valley in 1979 following college graduation to work for Air Products and retired from there in 2016. I am currently working for Versum Materials, a company spun off from Air Products in 2016. I have had a variety of assignments in engineering, procurement and shared services throughout my career. During our earlier years at Holy Spirit, Kitti and I were involved in the youth ministry program under the spirited leadership of B.J. Weigang. I also served a 3-yr term on Congregation Council, including a year as

Council President when Al Roberts was our senior Pastor. Currently I also serve as an Usher, play in the handbell choir and assist Kitti when she is on duty for Altar Guild. I enjoy golfing, spending time with family and spending time outdoors in the warmer months of the year. I have been a Stephen Minister since 2014 and a Stephen Leader since 2015.

## Ollie Block



Ollie and my wife Sue grew up in Nebraska and met at the University of Nebraska. After graduation we moved to New Jersey where we lived for 29 years. I was an engineer and worked my entire career on waste management and water treatment for an engineering construction company. The last few years before retirement in 2009 I worked on cleaning up Department of Energy sites in Washington and Idaho. I served on the Thrivent Board in Idaho Falls and Stephen Ministry in Washington and Idaho. When we had grandchildren, who live in New Jersey, we moved back east and settled into Legacy Oaks at Macungie. We joined Holy Spirit in 2015 ago and enjoy being part of the Stephen Ministry program here.

## Susan Block



Ollie and I have recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. We have been blessed with two children: our daughter, Kari, son-in-law Scott and granddaughter Alyssa live in New Jersey as does our son, Greg, daughter-in-law Kristina and their children Ben and Rachel. We had lived in New Jersey for 29 years before we had the opportunity to move west to live and work. It was the addition of these grandchildren that brought us back east. We joined Holy Spirit in 2015 and have been part being part of the Stephen Ministry program here. We were trained and commissioned in our church in Kennewick, WA where we served for two years and continued for another nine years in our church in Idaho Falls, ID. I have taught in the area of family and child development from preschool through university. Toward the end of my career I become involved with hospice and found it to be most rewarding. I enjoy cooking and reading.

## Louise Davis



My family consists of my husband, Tom, daughters Meredith and Allison. Allison is married to Joe Cafferata and they live in Washington, DC. Meredith is married to Kris Pound and they live in Maine and have two sons, Jonathan Thomas (JT), and Drew. I am a retired reading consultant/literacy coach having spent 23 years in the Allentown School District. I do volunteer at Central Elementary School to assist my friend who teaches second grade there. My hobbies are reading and taking courses as a lifelong learner where I don't have to make up a test, score a test, give a test, record a test!

I love to visit the family in Maine and in Washington, DC. I belong to Emmaus Kiwanis Club. I also attend Bible Study Fellowship sessions in Bethlehem. I have been a member of LCHS since 1979. Since joining this dynamic congregation I have participated in a variety of activities: Sunday School teacher, VBS Co-Leader, Adult Sunday School Board, Spirit Support Team, Pastoral Call Committee, Sunday Coffee Volunteer, Rejoicing Spirits Volunteer, Connections Class, Bible Study Classes, LCHS Nursery School Board, and Ministry in Daily Life Committee.

## Bill Derhammer



Stephen Leader

I am married to Fran Derhammer since 1990. We have a blended family with four children and five grandchildren who are beautiful and above average! I am retired from a career in financial services with Met Life and am enjoying every minute of retirement.

I enjoy both big and small game hunting, archery shooting, fishing, fly tying, cooking, gardening and reading. Fran and I also enjoy traveling.

I have been a member of Holy Spirit since 1990. I have served on the Stewardship Committee and now serve as an usher and communion assistant. Fran and I joined the church youth in one trip to Starks, ME participating in Project Help. Fran and I became Stephen Ministers in 2011 and went on to become Stephen Leaders in 2012.

## Fran Derhammer



### Stephen Leader

I've been married to Bill Derhammer since 1990. Our wonderful blended family includes 2 sons, 2 daughters and 5 beautiful grandchildren. I am enjoying retirement from Lehigh Valley Health Network after more than 40 years of challenging and rewarding experiences in health care. With a nursing degree and a master's degree in public health I worked in childbirth education, women's health, community health, and Marketing and Public Affairs as Manager of Community Relations.

I keep fit by walking, biking, and going to a fitness center and an aquatics center. I also love to cook, read, garden, play the piano, and travel - especially to visit our kids and grandkids in San Diego, CA

Phoenix, AZ, Portsmouth, NH and Ambler, PA. A member of LCHS since 2000, my involvement in church activities includes Stewardship Ministry Mission team, usher, communion assistant, greeter, reader, and contributor of baked goods or foods for special church events. Bill and I also experienced ministry in action with our youth and adults through Project Help in 2010. Together, Bill and I continue to grow in our faith and have been richly blessed to be part of the Stephen Ministry program, becoming Stephen Ministers in 2011, followed by becoming Stephen Leaders in 2012.

## Irv Keister



Diane and I have been members of Holy Spirit since 1983 when we came to the Lehigh Valley. We have been married for 47 years. We have 2 children, Denel and Drew, and 4 granddaughters who keep us engaged. While at Holy Spirit, I have served in numerous roles, including Sunday school teacher, youth advisor, Stewardship committee member, Long Range Planning Committee member, Usher and Chairperson of the Staff Relations committee. In addition, I served with a group of Holy Spirit members who founded the Forum for Ethics in the Workplace, a ministry in daily life organization now based at DeSales University. Professionally, I retired from PPL after 35 years. At PPL I served in senior

management positions in the Operations and Nuclear Departments. After retirement, I served as a Financial Representative with MetLife. My interests include serving the township and community where I live, traveling, sports, reading, physical exercise and playing bridge.

## Nancy McClain

I am a life-long Lutheran. I married John in 1999, a second marriage for both of us, and we moved to Green Lane in Montgomery Co. We joined LCHS in 2015 and worship at 8:45 with my daughter, son-in-law and 3 grandchildren. My son, daughter-in-law and grandson live in CA. I recently retired from Mont Co Aging & Adult services, as a care manager and investigator for Elder Protective services. I have also taught Home Economics, life skills, child development, adult literacy, GED, English as a second language and cooking classes.



In volunteering I have costumed different theatre groups, worked with hospice, Habitat for Humanity, refugee resettlement and Girl Scouts. In former congregations I participated in Women of the ELCA, taught Sunday school, youth ministry advisor, bell choir and choir member. At Holy Spirit I serve on altar guild, as a greeter, delivering flowers, VBS crafts, Hospitality committee, making costumes and with Stitch and Chat making quilts. I enjoy the M&Ms, and with John, Table talk and Venture out groups. At home I enjoy sewing memory quilts as well as quilt tops, gardening, cooking, exercise at the Y and traveling with John, especially to National parks and World Heritage sites. I am a believer in life-long learning and enjoy the many opportunities offered here and in the community. I look forward to being a Stephen Minister and serving others in that capacity, for all matter to God.

## Ann Neitz



I was born and raised in Allentown. I have always been a Lutheran. I was employed by Bell of PA/Bell Atlantic/Verizon for 20 years. Bob and I married in 1964 when he was in the Air Force. We've lived in 5 states and traveled to all 50 of them. In 1978 we returned home for good and joined Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. Our Children are Becky, Amy and Rob, and our four grandchildren are Georgie and Noelle Allan, and Samuel and James Neitz. We feel blessed to have our children and families living in the Lehigh Valley. Some of my activities at Holy Spirit have been Fellowship & Hospitality committee, Connections class, Decoration Committee and a trip to Starks Maine. I enjoy baking, sewing, reading, being a member of the Emmaus Lioness-Lions Club and "doing lunch" with the "girls" from high school.

## Dianna Olszewski



I am very excited to serve at Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit as a Stephen Minister.

A little about me - I was born and raised in Philadelphia. My parents loved to camp, so we spent weekends and summers in the great outdoors. I always felt lucky to have both city and mountain living throughout my youth. In 1999 Ryan and I were married. We met at East Stroudsburg University where I studied Marine Science and Environmental Studies. We have two kind and talented teenage children, Molly and Zac. We enjoy cheering them on at swim meets and bicycle races. We are active in many communities - volunteering at the Zionsville food pantry and Holy Spirit. I am a Girl Scout leader, and assist with the Boy Scout troop. I love fresh air and get

outside as much as possible, usually birding, kayaking, hiking, biking, or gardening. Spending time with friends rejuvenates me.

Since 1999 I have worked for Air Products in numerous roles, and in 2017, moved into Evonik Industries in Supply Chain.

I believe a smile is a simple gesture that can make a huge difference in someone's day.

## Angie Schaffer



I have been married to my husband Justin since 2002 and we have two daughters, Caroline and Mackenzie, both of whom keep us busy with school and interests. I have a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and a Certificate in Gerontology from Cedar Crest College, and my professional career working at Lehigh County Area Agency on Aging & Lehigh Valley Hospital in the Case Management Department. I've also enjoyed the flexibility of owning my own home-based business in fashion with Stella & Dot, allowing me to be home with our daughters, grow personally, and provide my grandparents with a home that surrounds them with companionship, a watchful eye, and

love, while caring for my grandfather at the end of his life. In my free time, I enjoy reading, yoga, vacationing with my family and friends. Our family began attending & joined Holy Spirit in 2012 after both of our daughters attended the nursery school program.

## Rob Smith



My wife, Sue, and I were married at Holy Spirit in 1979. Sue introduced me to Holy Spirit and I became a member in 1978. We have a married son, Ben, who lives with his wife, Valerie, in Macungie. Ben is a professional chef. Retired from Air Products after 35 years, I'm currently "working" at a retirement job for a fly fishing shop in the Poconos. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends and bicycling, fly fishing, and camping. I've been active as a Boy Scout volunteer, here at Holy Spirit and with the Lehigh Valley cycling club. I've served 3 terms as a member of our Congregational Council and am currently the convener of our Church Growth Mission Team. I enjoy assisting in worship as an usher, communion assistant and reader. I'm very pleased and proud to be part of the Stephen Ministry Team.

## Carole Wetherhold



I have been a member of Holy Spirit since 1999 following a divorce and move to Macungie. I have been a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist since 1970. I received my training for nursing and anesthesia at Lankenau Hospital in Philadelphia. I have worked locally at St Luke's Hospital and Lehigh Valley Hospital and retired 2 years ago. In 2000 I met and then married Ron Wetherhold in 2001 here at Holy Spirit. We have joined are families and now have two sons, Mark and Jason and a daughter Kathy. We have five Grandchildren, Gavin, Olivia, Nathan, Taylor and Cody. Since joining Holy Spirit I have served as Reader, Altar Guild member, and did provide for coffee hour for several years. At my former church I was a member of Altar Guild, Reader, Communion Assistant, Church counsel, Sunday School teacher, Bell Choir member and actively involved in Women of the ELCA. I currently reside in Emmaus. I enjoy outdoor activities. Biking, walking, hiking, baking, cooking, Zumba, knitting reading and many other crafts. I look forward to participating and serving as a Stephen Minister.

**Pr. Ric Elliott**



I have served as the Senior Pastor of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit since early 2004. My responsibilities include not only the normal pastoral activities such as worship leadership, preaching, teaching and visitation; but I also am the primary staff person who relates to the areas of Finance, Staff, Stewardship, Church Growth and Finance. I was ordained in 1979 and have served six Lutheran congregations in a wide variety of settings. Through the years, pastoral care and visitation has been a hallmark and strength of my ministry. I am married over forty years to Jane, a consecrated Deacon of the Lutheran Church. Jane and I have a married daughter (Jen) and son in law (Greg) and a grandson (Ian) all of whom we love dearly. I enjoy weekends at the shore with my wife, Jane, and any time we can spend with our children and grandchild. Our furry child is a Maltese/King Charles mix named Miley (Jane's maiden name).