



ST. STEPHEN

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Leadership Team,

1. **Holy Week** - Was the most powerful I've ever experience! How about you?
2. **Easter** - As Nancy Kohl said, "It's never been so good!" I really hope that's true, but more importantly, I hope that the Easter message is more than a beautiful worship service, great music, a solid sermon and traditional liturgical expression. I hope that it's the best news on the planet and the beginning of that good news being appropriated into our lives together.
3. **St. Stephen** - Is healthy and well. People are laughing together, working through conflict together and in general doing church well. We are a solid congregation, and this is a wonderful place to be both in relationship with Jesus the Christ and his church. Good stuff...
4. **New Members** - Carolyn Champagne tells me that we're growing a big class again for May. I've learned over time that you shouldn't count your chickens...well you know the rest. But it's good to have some hopeful news on the horizon.
5. **Breaking 500** - I've shared with you that we are on a plateau. It's a natural thing of course and not bad (though your pastor gets antsy with them!) But it's an opportunity to refocus and get clear about mission, vision, and values...and go to ground as a congregation re-investing in relationships, reaching out, and catching our breath. God will send us a new wave and we'll be rested and ready when it hits. What we do in the meantime is: Prepare - refocus as I just mentioned. Create as much space as we can, both in worship and in parking, and then get back to our mission...Loving God, Loving People, and Making Disciples. No rocket science here...mostly just creating space for people and being the church. The document I drew up is attached as a PDF.
6. **Confirmation** - I will be confirming 9 kids on Pentecost, May 23rd. 5 of them will be confirmed at the 9am service, and 4 of them at the 11am service.
7. **Mission Statement** - I'd like to change it. How many of you can recited our current mission statement from memory? My guess is none of us. That's a problem. It's not a mission statement unless you can easily appropriate it and remember it. I've got a suggestion...the basic thrust of our current statement said in a new and simpler way. I'll share it with you tomorrow night.

I'm keeping this Reader's Digest for you, so please sit down and read *Breaking 500*. It's the result of the appropriation of a great deal of reading. See you all soon! Onward...

Pastor Nathan