



STEPHEN MINISTRY

MEET THE FIRST LUTHERAN
STEPHEN MINISTERS



BEV DEGEORGE

My journey with Stephen Ministry began when my husband was ill and then died. After a Stephen Minister helped me to process my emotions, I felt called by God to minister to others who are also experiencing a difficult time in their lives. That unique Christian care is why I am grateful to serve as a Stephen Minister.



KIM JANSSEN

Stephen Ministry has allowed me to use many skills that were developed during my nursing career - the ability to listen, show compassion and help others. It has also given me many gifts - the growth of spirituality, caring for others through listening to their life stories and strengthening my faith.



TRISH FLURY

I believe that making a difference for other people is both the greatest joy and the most lasting legacy in life. In Romans, St. Paul directs us to serve our Lord by showing genuine love, care and support to God's people; by rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. Stephen Ministry embodies that guidance and I am honored to be a part of it.



GAY SUTTER

I became a Stephen Minister at the encouragement of others who felt I showed God's love in my interaction with others. As a Stephen Minister, it has been a blessing and honor to provide a safe, nonjudgmental place for someone to share whatever they're going through and to walk alongside them while sharing Christ's love.



JAN WIGODSKY

Walking beside hurting people has been an honor I don't take lightly. It has been a way for me to give back for the many blessings and care that I have received. It humbles me to see the true faith and strength people have in their time of trouble. Sharing the "God moments" they experience has been truly heartwarming. My own faith has been strengthened and I've received so many blessings in return.



GORDON WOLFE

It is safe to say that everyone will face a difficult time at some point in their life. Stephen Ministry provides Christ-centered care to individuals, bringing comfort and hope to those experiencing a loss. Out of my life's journey, came my calling to become a Stephen Minister.



LINDA MAACK

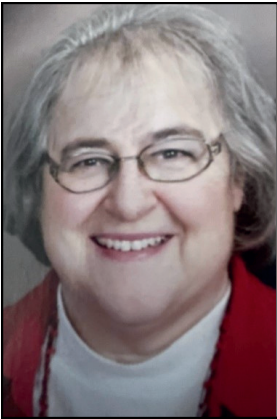
I have been in Stephen Ministry since it began in our congregation in 2008. I have had at least nine care receivers with many kinds of concerns. It is a humbling and awesome responsibility to walk with others. I feel my faith has also increased during the time we spent together. The training I received has been helpful in my work, family and friend groups, too. Many resources are available that I have been able to share with others, hopefully sharing the gospel of good news.



ROBIN WESTHOFF

“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

When I began with Stephen Ministry I had no idea how my life would be changed and no idea how I would be changed. You are called to be a listener and when you answer “here am I Lord” you will be changed. You will find that your faith deepens as you offer up your care receiver’s concerns in prayer, trusting God to provide the cure.



LINDA JENSEN

When I retired I was looking at what type of volunteer work I could do. Stephen Ministry was not on my radar, but one day a pastor asked me if I would think about becoming a Stephen Minister. I am glad that I did. I hope I have been able to lift people up showing compassion and encouragement in their time of need. I hope others will consider becoming a Stephen Minister. This is a great ministry our church offers.



FAYE DOOLITTLE (MINISTER/LEADER)

I felt a tug in my heart whenever I heard information about Stephen Ministry, but I would find reasons not to serve. Then one Sunday we sang "Here I am Lord" and I felt called to say yes. I'm looking forward to seeing whom God is calling to join this ministry and to watch as each one grows in their skills and in their trust that God is always present in their caring relationships.



AMY HARRISON (LEADER)

While serving in the Stephen Ministry, I am provided the opportunity to serve others while serving God. I no longer see a problem that needs to be fixed, rather I see a wonderful opportunity to provide support, love and encouragement to my neighbor during challenging times. We are called to walk with one another and love one another as Christ loved us. Stephen Ministry is committed to providing Christ centered care for those experiencing challenges in daily life, such as job loss, divorce, death, raising children and many other common challenges. It is important people know they are not alone, that we all experience life challenges and the First Lutheran church family is here simply to listen and love.

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING CLASS TO BEGIN IN JANUARY 2025

Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one Christian caring relationship for anyone who is going through a rough patch, pain or struggle in life. It's not a ministry of giving answers, rather it's a ministry of listening with care, asking reflective questions and "holding space" for someone else. Training is provided for caregivers. Our next Stephen Ministry training classes will begin in January, 2025. Do you feel called to this transformative caring ministry? Do you know of someone who could benefit from having a Stephen Minister? We always accept referrals. Feel free to contact Pastor Erin at pastorerin@flclincoln.org, Pastor Andrew at pastorandrew@flclincoln.org, Stephen.ministry@FLClincoln.org or call First Lutheran at 402-488-0919.