

## What Is Stephen Ministry?

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2, NRSV).*

Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called *Stephen Ministers*—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

### *The Blessings of Stephen Ministry*

*Stephen Ministry multiplies blessings throughout the church and community.*

- Congregations carry out Christ's commandment to "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12 RSV) in a powerful and practical way.
- Pastors have a team of gifted, trained, and committed lay caregivers ready to minister to hurting people.
- Laypeople nurture and use their gifts in meaningful ministry, growing spiritually as they serve others.
- People who are hurting have a caring Christian presence to provide emotional and spiritual support.

*In short, Stephen Ministry helps carry out the mission of the church.*



## Stephen Ministry

### Who's Involved in Stephen Ministry?

**Stephen Leaders** are church staff, lay leaders, and pastors trained to provide ongoing leadership for their congregation's Stephen Ministry. Pastor John Dut is the current Stephen Leader.

**Stephen Ministers** are congregation members trained by their Stephen Leaders to offer care to people who are hurting. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week for about an hour. Randi Arnot and Lisa Haight are the Stephen Ministers of Messiah Lutheran Church.

**Care receivers** are individuals in the congregation or community who are going through a crisis or life difficulty. Potential care receivers first meet with a pastor or Stephen Leader, who assesses their needs for care and matches them with a Stephen Minister. The caring relationship lasts for as long as the need persists.