



Congregational Communication
Congregational Communication
Reverend Joel Petruschke

Our Mission: We respond to Christ's love by feeding those who hunger in body, mind, and spirit.

Date: August 6, 2025

Wednesday, August 6

6:00pm – Community EMS Game Night!

7:00pm – Boy Scouts Leader Meeting

Thursday, August 7

4:30pm – Community Assistance Meal

6:00pm – Cub Scouts

Friday, August 8

6:00pm – ROHI Church Bible Study

Saturday, August 9

10:00am – ROHI Church Youth Group

Sunday, August 10: The 9th Sunday after Pentecost

11:00am – Worship Service (Hybrid)

1:00pm – ROHI Church Worship Service

Monday, August 11

7:00pm – Boy Scouts

7:00pm – Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 13

5:30pm – Youth Program: Lessons & Legos

Thursday, August 14

6:00pm – Cub Scouts

Friday, August 15

6:00pm – ROHI Church Bible Study

Saturday, August 16

10:00am – ROHI Church Youth Group

CANCELLED – Dinner with Friends

Sunday, August 17: The 10th Sunday after Pentecost

11:00am – Worship Service (Hybrid)

1:00pm – Youth Program: FUSE!

1:00pm – ROHI Church Worship Service

Monday, August 18

7:00pm – Boy Scouts

**This week we welcome Pastor Carol Bowman
to lead us in worship.**

Youth Corner:

Attention Families! St. Stephen Church, New Kingstown, will be holding their **Fuse Meetings** on the **3rd Sunday of each month, at 1pm**. A lunch meal is always served. Bring a side dish to share! This meeting is for kids of any age, 0-18, and the supportive adult in their life, in whatever form that is (parents, grandparents, neighbors, friends, older siblings, extended family, etc.). You don't need to attend St. Stephen Church to attend Fuse! Anyone is welcome! We will have a meal, do some activities and learn a lesson. So come **Fuse** with us!

EMS Game Night!

The Community is invited to come to a Community Game Night, the **1st Wednesday of each month, from 6-8pm**. Come choose from a large variety of card and game boards, of all different age and challenge levels. Mingle with local **EMS personnel** (as available), ask questions, play games with them or each other, and enjoy some stress-free fun and entertainment! Bring your families, friends, co-workers, or come stag! This is a free, non-religious, community event. Come as you are, reservations never needed!

Lessons and Legos!

5:30-7:30pm, and occurring the **2nd Wednesday of each month!** Youth of all ages are invited to come and listen to a short lesson story and then build a Lego creation of their imagination and choosing, pertaining to the lesson story theme, to be displayed for the month within the church! Parents welcomed! Younger kiddos will need adult support.

Keep up to date on all of our family activities and events! You never have to be a member of the church to participate! Download the Parent Cue App to your phone, to stay up to date on events, announcements, notices, at home Bible scripture suggestions to use, and more! After adding the app, search for St Stephen Lutheran Church to synch up to us. Enter your child's information. Bible scriptures and materials offered, will be tailored to your child's specific age group and refresh every Sunday. Under the Church menu, you will find announcements under the News tab, a calendar of events under the Events tab, and contact info under the Ministries tab, if you have any questions for Mrs. B.

Love kids? Can you pass clearances, state and FBI background checks, and safety training? Have free time and want to help out with children's church programing? Contact me for volunteer options! Jenny @yfmd@ststephenlc.org

Our Annual Congregational Day at Cherry Crest Farms is coming up, September 13th!

A typical day at Cherry Crest has a lot to offer. There's a corn maze that covers 5 acres (2.5 miles of paths) that can be done through easy, medium, and ultimate challenge levels. In addition to the maze are other activities including many food eatery sites, pedal cars, apple blasters, paintball shooters, rope making, battle zone (think Nerf balls from a pressurized air guns), various strength tests, mat slides, bouncy pillows (child and adult sized), pig races, climbing area/playground areas.

For those that enjoy a slower pace, there is shopping, live shows, you can take a tour on the Stroudsburg Railroad (extra cost- buy tickets online in advance) which takes you on a ride about 45 minutes, back to Stroudsburg station and then off into town on a guided history tour before bringing you back to Cherry Crest, where you got on. There is also a winery and brewery on site, a petting zoo, chick hatchery, discovery barn- that teaches the history of farm equipment, life size board games, hill slides, peddle cars, strength games, playgrounds, and a wagon tour. For the little kiddies, there is also Sproutsville, which is an entire town build in miniature for the little ones to play, sitting areas for resting, hanging air chairs to relax and enjoy the views, as well as many other activities! You can see most of the activities at <https://www.cherrycrestfarm.com/attractions>.

We'll rent a campfire location again this year. Hotdogs, sides, and drinks provided. It's Hometown Heros weekend, so they will have the EMS vehicles to tour and explore, a parade, and more! Fireworks will be set off at 8:30pm for those that want to stay. Cost to participate is only **\$10/person**, with the church covering the rest of the ticket price. Monies may be paid to the St. Stephen Church office. Scholarships available to those in need. **Sign up by August 31st**, to participate at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3MVXYQ8>.

Dinner with Friends is a free community meal at St. Stephen Church, New Kingstown, for anyone desiring some socializing with neighbors of the community, a home cooked meal, and light hearted entertainment afterwards! It happens on the 3rd Saturday of each month. No reservation needed! Just come on in and join us! Everyone is welcome!

Bringing a group of more than 8 people? No problem! Just give us a head's up so we make enough for everyone! Call the office and leave a message at (717) 766-2168.

Resuming in September! 😊 See you then!

Annual Alive Retreat!!!

ALIVE is the ELCA's annual synod middle-school retreat. This event is for **6th through 8th graders** in the fall of **2025**. Our annual fall retreat is scheduled for **September 26-28, 2025, at Camp Nawakwa**. Cost is **\$50/child**. Congregations from across our synod gather with their adult advisors and youth for this traditionally early fall weekend that includes large group gatherings with singing led by our ALIVE Alumni Band, theme-centered videos and stories, and games, interspersed with small group gatherings, where youth gather with peers and a small group leader, to converse about the theme and its impact in their lives of faith.

This year's theme, 'Better Together,' comes from among other impulses, the notion of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's concept of 'beloved community' and the premise that EVERY human being has value. There is great joy in authentic community, which we strive for at our events, but we are also reminded in scripture that we are rooted in our relationship with Christ, or as the Gospel writer John reminds us, 'apart from me (Jesus), you can do nothing.' In the midst of what sociologists are now referring to as a 'loneliness epidemic' how can our gathered community help strengthen us for the work of discipleship?

Scholarships available for families in need. Contact Jenny at yfmd@ststephenlc.org for details. We believe anyone that wants to attend, should be able to go!!

Register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/38KC2M2>. Deadline to register: **September 6, 2025**

Nawakwa Fall Foliage Day: October 19th 1-6pm. Return to Camp Nawakwa for the afternoon, to enjoy fall activities, worship, and have a picnic supper. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet up with old friends, relive memories, or introduce new folks to camp. An evening meal is included.

Enjoy Pumpkin Painting, Crafts, Hayrides, Hiking, and More! An optional worship service is offered and I will take kiddos over to play Gaga (weather permitting) as it becomes available to us! To register to attend this event, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3MZX2YX>. Deadline to register is October 12th!

We will be participating in **Trunk-or-Treat** again this year to hand out candy and grilled hotdogs to the trick-or-treaters in New Kingstown on trick-or-treat night, October 31st! Start planning your decorative trunks now! **Sign-ups are posted on the Communication Board in the Fellowship Hall**. Be sure to sign up, so we can reserve a space for you to park in!

Registry for Secret Santa is open! Don't let this year be the year that you are left out of the giving spirit! Doing good deeds for others in secret, is one of the miracles that God has granted us the ability to perform. The anticipation and excitement will help to bring a smile to both the giver and the recipient this season!

Here's how it works. Sign up. You will be sent the name of someone else that is participating after December 1st. Choose or make a gift for that person (under a \$20 value) and wrap it up brightly. Secretly leave the present on their doorstep and leave, mail it to them, or find another safe, but creative way to secretly deliver it during the month of December. It's that simple!

Registration closes **November 30th**!

For more information and to register, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MZSFB3D>.

Other Announcements:

LONGSDORF CEMETERY – The Longsdorf Cemetery Association is in need of 1-2 more committee members. Please contact Cheryl or Randy if you are interested.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ENOLA – invites you to join us for our 2025



7:00 – 8:30 pm

St. Paul's Outdoor Pavilion, 6839 Wertzville Road, Enola

Feel free to bring a snack and beverage to share!

August 13 – *Bishop Jim Dunlop*, Lower Susquehanna Synod, as he reflects on his 12 years as bishop of our synod.

August 27 – Staff members from *Paxton Ministries*, whose mission is to shine Christ-like love into the shadows of poverty, mental illness, and intellectual disabilities, providing housing, employment and support to the most vulnerable.

Sunday worship begins at 11:00am

This is hybrid worship, meaning that we worship both in person and online at the same time. If you worship online, please introduce yourself to others online and greet other folks that you aren't familiar with. We also invite those worshipping online to provide their own elements of bread and wine/grape juice in order to participate in communion.

Accessing worship online

You can attend online worship by clicking this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/410597064?pwd=b3lEa2hnbmtxU2kvYVhxUGN6ZWdoUT09>

You can also call: 1-929-205-6099. Once connected, just enter the Meeting ID: 410 597 064 and the password: 779080.

Or, you can find the direct link on our church webpage: www.ststephenlc.org. Scroll halfway down to the link that says, "Join us online." Click the link and you'll be connected to the Zoom session.

Worship Leaders:

Date	Supply Pastor/ Worship Leader	Usher/ Greeter	Cantor	Lector	Assisting Minister	Alter Guild	AV Support	Counters
08/10/25	Rev. Carol Bowman	Larry Bouchat	Lynne Immell	Caroline Sheaffer	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig
08/17/25	Rev. Carol Bowman	--	Lynne Immell	Roger Immell	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig
08/24/25	Rev. Carol Bowman	--	Lynne Immell	Carol Clelland	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig
08/31/25	Rev. Elaine Dent	--	Lynne Immell	Caroline Sheaffer	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig

Prayer Requests:

Prayer Requests

Date	Name	Connection	Request
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Chronic or Long-Term Requests

06/09/24	Roger Myers	Member	Roger is undergoing cancer treatment.
10/22/24	Pat Gilmore – Lee	Member	Please continue to pray for strength, healing and courage for Pat who has received a cancer diagnosis. If you would like to send her a card, please use the following address: 325 Wesley Dr. Apt. 201 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
12/09/24	Tom Burson	Member	Tom is recovering at Country Meadows. Please continue to pray for Tom and Kathy.
02/18/25	Roger Immell	Member	Please hold Roger up in prayer. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will sustain him as he deals with more health issues and that his spirit within and faith remains steady.
02/25/25	Karen Livingston	Member	Please pray for Karen as she is dealing with the effects of chemotherapy after cancer surgery.
04/30/25	Pastor Emeritus, Don Seiple	Member	Pastor Don continues to deal with back pain. Please pray that he is able to get relief with further treatment.
05/12/25	Sharon Lamp	Member	Please pray for Sharon as she continues to have issues with her stomach.
07/28/25	Roger Myers	Member	Roger is currently dealing with brain cancer.

Temporary Request

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06/16/25	Tom & Charlyn Larson	Friends of Clellands.	Pray for both Tom and Charlyn as they both undergo cancer treatments this week.
07/02/25	Brandi Taylor & Family	Le Ewell's daughter.	Please pray for Brandi and her family. She is currently in UPMC Harrisburg ICU with skin infections that have led to Sepsis and have required (are requiring) multiple surgeries.
07/09/25	Peyton Kent	Maxine's granddaughter, Elizabeth's daughter.	Peyton's eye is still dilated. In about 6 months, the doctors at the children's hospital will be able to determine whether or not it is permanent. Until then there is nothing more they can do. She is off of steroids, but is taking nausea medicine regularly.
07/21/25	Christine Guy	Friend of the Immells.	<p>Written as requested by Christine:</p> <p>Heavenly Father,</p> <p>We come to You with grateful hearts for the gift of life and the selfless love of Sarah, who gave her stem cells for Christine's healing. Lord, we ask for Your divine protection over Christine right now. May her body accept these new cells completely and thrive with strength and life.</p> <p>We pray that her numbers increase rapidly and steadily, showing clear signs of healing. We ask that You guard her against graft versus host disease now and forever, letting her body and the new cells live in perfect harmony.</p> <p>Lord Jesus, pour Your peace over Christine's mind and heart. Help her to keep a positive attitude rooted in Your promises, even in moments of weakness or worry. Strengthen her desire and ability to eat well and nourish her body with what it needs to rebuild and rejuvenate.</p> <p>Wrap Christine in Your loving arms, Jesus. Let Your healing blood flow through her veins, renewing her, restoring her, and making her whole. May she feel Your constant presence, courage, and comfort each day, and may Your name be glorified through her complete recovery.</p> <p>We thank You in faith for all You are doing and will continue to do in Christine's life.</p> <p>In Jesus' powerful name we pray, Amen.</p>
07/03/25	Nick	Maxine's neighbor.	Nick is dealing with a major health issue.
07/25/25	Doug Swenson	Friend of Pat Gilmore-Lee.	Doug is in Holy Spirit Hospital with some very serious medical issues.