



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: November 5, 2025

What's Happening at St. Stephen

Wednesday, November 5

6:00pm – *Community Game Night!*

6:30pm – Boy Scouts PLC Meeting

Thursday, November 6

4:30pm – *Community Assistance Meal*

7:00pm – Cub Scouts

Friday, November 7

6:00pm – ROHI Church Bible Study

Saturday, November 8

10:00am – ROHI Church Youth Group

1:00pm – Reserved

Sunday, November 9: The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

11:00am – *Worship Service (Hybrid)*

1:00pm – ROHI Church Worship Service

Monday, November 10

7:00pm – Boy Scouts

7:00pm – *Council Meeting*

Wednesday, November 12

5:30pm – *Youth Program: Lessons & Legos*

Thursday, November 13

7:00pm – Cub Scouts

Friday, November 14

6:00pm – ROHI Church Bible Study

Saturday, November 15

9:00am-3:00pm – Grief Workshop at Trindle Spring
Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg

10:00am – ROHI Church Youth Group

5:00pm – *Dinner with Friends*

Sunday, November 16: The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

11:00am – *Worship Service (Hybrid)*

12:15pm – *Annual Congregation Meeting*

1:00pm – ROHI Church Worship Service

1:00pm – *Youth Program: Fuse!*

Monday, November 17

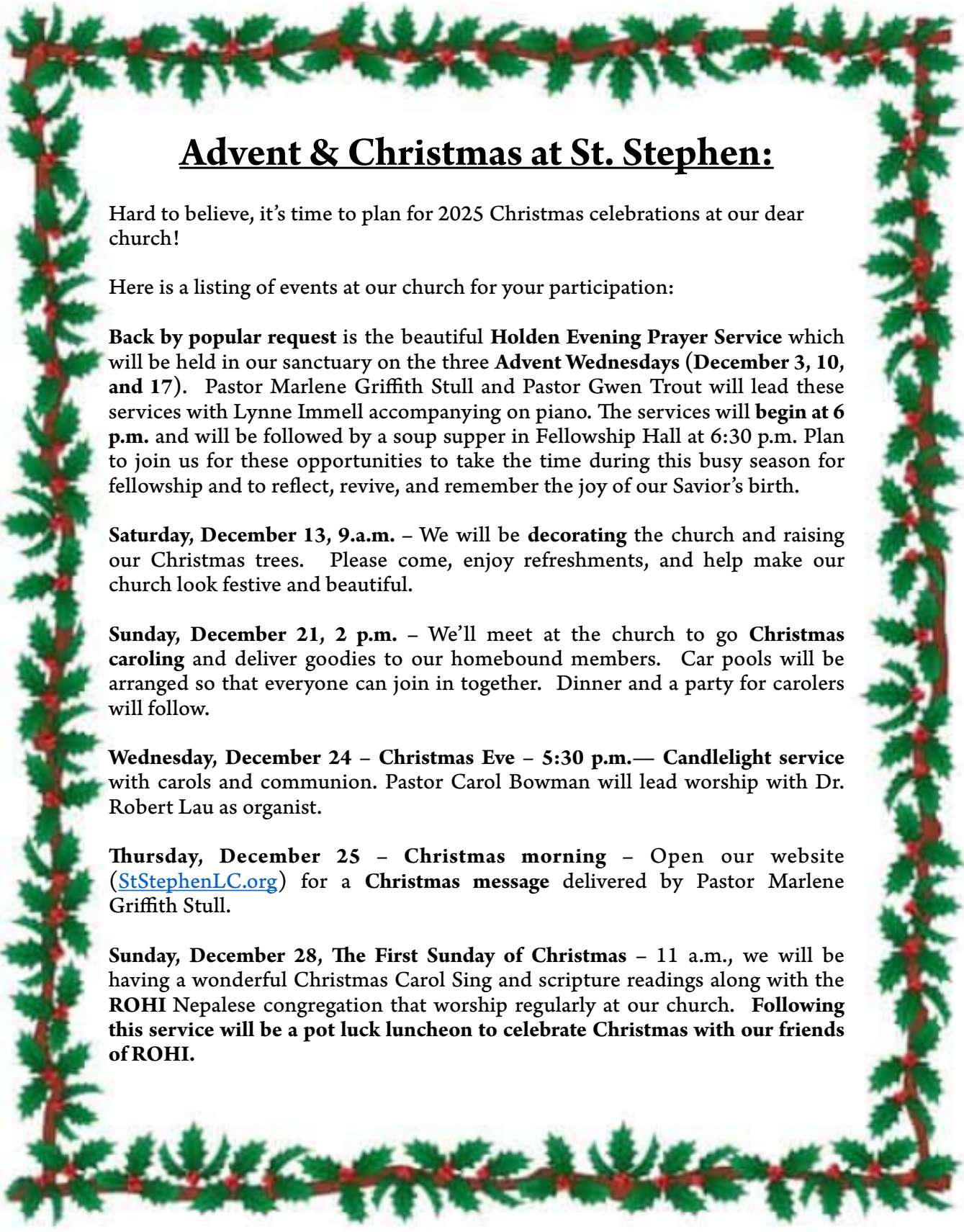
7:00pm – Boy Scouts

Thursday, November 20

4:30pm – *Community Assistance Meal*

7:00pm – Cub Scouts

**This week, we welcome Pastor Elaine Dent
to lead us in worship**



Advent & Christmas at St. Stephen:

Hard to believe, it's time to plan for 2025 Christmas celebrations at our dear church!

Here is a listing of events at our church for your participation:

Back by popular request is the beautiful **Holden Evening Prayer Service** which will be held in our sanctuary on the three **Advent Wednesdays (December 3, 10, and 17)**. Pastor Marlene Griffith Stull and Pastor Gwen Trout will lead these services with Lynne Immell accompanying on piano. The services will **begin at 6 p.m.** and will be followed by a soup supper in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. Plan to join us for these opportunities to take the time during this busy season for fellowship and to reflect, revive, and remember the joy of our Savior's birth.

Saturday, December 13, 9.a.m. – We will be **decorating** the church and raising our Christmas trees. Please come, enjoy refreshments, and help make our church look festive and beautiful.

Sunday, December 21, 2 p.m. – We'll meet at the church to go **Christmas caroling** and deliver goodies to our homebound members. Car pools will be arranged so that everyone can join in together. Dinner and a party for carolers will follow.

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve – 5:30 p.m.— Candlelight service with carols and communion. Pastor Carol Bowman will lead worship with Dr. Robert Lau as organist.

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas morning – Open our website (StStephenLC.org) for a **Christmas message** delivered by Pastor Marlene Griffith Stull.

Sunday, December 28, The First Sunday of Christmas – 11 a.m., we will be having a wonderful Christmas Carol Sing and scripture readings along with the **ROHI** Nepalese congregation that worship regularly at our church. **Following this service will be a pot luck luncheon to celebrate Christmas with our friends of ROHI.**

Youth Corner:

Attention Community 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. Feel free to 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!

Community 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 other local residents, play games with 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!** Any age is invited to come and listen to a short story and then build a Lego creation of their imagination and choosing, pertaining to the 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 programming? Contact me for volunteer options! Mrs. B @yfmd@ststephenlc.org.

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 Community 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:

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – The Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, November 16th following worship service. The agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting will be available Sunday, November 9th! Please take a copy to review before the meeting.

COMMUNITY AID – Do you have items to donate? Remember to use St. Stephen's partner number, 10334, when donating items to Community Aid. Labels are also available for your convenience; please contact the office.

HOPE ACADEMY IN GUATEMALA – If you ordered cranberries, don't forget: this Saturday, November 8th, is pick-up at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg! Payment is due at pickup. Please feel free to contact Carol Forbes with any questions: 717-433-6718.

JOURNEYS OF PAUL IN GREECE – Travel with Pastor Evan to Greece and follow in the footsteps of St. Paul, October 17-24, 2026. One of our first stops will be Philippi (Acts 16) where God opened the heart of Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She and her household were the first Christian converts on European soil. Later we will visit a Roman-era crypt thought to be the site where Paul and Silas were imprisoned and miraculously freed by an earthquake. Contact Pastor Evan for more information about the tour: pastorevan47@gmail.com or 717-497-3742. (Brochures to view are available on the communication board in Fellowship Hall.)

MECHANICSBURG AREA LUTHERAN CHURCH (MALC) GROUP – A faith-based workshop on grief, led by Rev. Ruth Ward, will be held on Saturday, November 15th from 9:00am-3:00pm at Trindle Spring Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg. The workshop is open to everyone and all ages are welcome.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE – Order forms are located in the sanctuary (with the bulletins and announcements) and are due to the office by Sunday, November 30th!

SEMINARY FOOD BANK – Social Ministry is sponsoring a food drive again for the Seminary Food Bank to be delivered between their Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks but prior to December 17th. There is a labeled bin by the office door for donations. If it fills to capacity, please place donations in the plastic bin on the bench there. If someone wants to volunteer to deliver, contact Lynne Immell, 717-462-8625.

The items they most need in general are:

- Canola oil, olive oil, and non-stick sprays
- Pasta sauce
- Condiments (ketchup, mustard, salad dressing, etc.)
- Snacks (chips, cookies, etc.)
- Non-food items like paper towels, aluminum foil, toilet paper, dish soap, and

sponges

The food bank coordinator reports that these things will be especially appreciated in the lead up to the holidays and that your generosity is a blessing to their students!

SOCIAL MINISTRY FREEZER MEALS – Please help! Our supply of freezer meals to give out is running extremely low. If anyone has extra food that they would like to make a meal and bring it in, or have someone come pick it up, we can package it to help restock our freezer meals. With SNAP benefits being held back, there is more need for help in feeding our neighbors.

TRINDLE SPRING LUTHERAN CHURCH, MECHANICSBURG – *Music at the Spring* presents the award-winning Central PA folk band Big Sky Quartet on Sunday, November 9 at 3:00pm. Concerts are free and open to the public! Trindle Spring Lutheran Church: 14 State Rd. Mechanicsburg, PA

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:

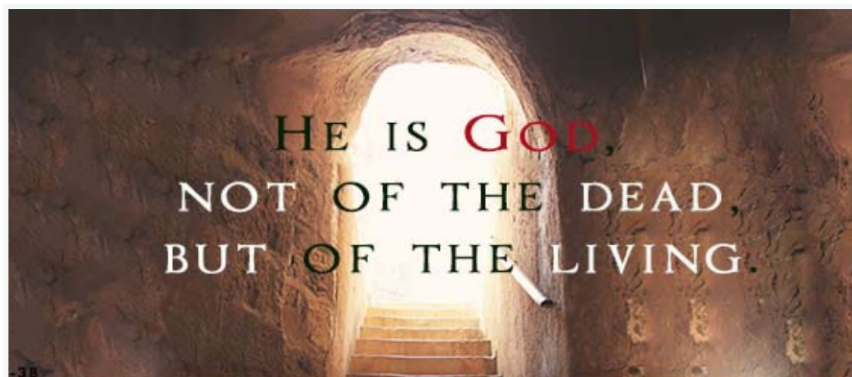
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/410597064?pwd=b3lEa2hnbmtxU2kvYVhxUGN6ZWdoUT09>

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 and Assistants:

Date	Supply Pastor/ Worship Leader	Usher/ Greeter	Cantor	Lector	Assisting Minister	Alter Guild	AV Support	Counters
11/09/25	Rev. Elaine Dent	Larry Bouchat	Lynne Immell	Carol Clelland	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig
11/16/25	Rev. Carol Bowman	--	Lynne Immell	Roger Immell	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig
11/23/25	Rev. Elaine Dent	--	Lynne Immell	Pat Seiple	Lynne Immell	Sue Rodgers	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig



Prayer Requests:

Date	Name	Connection	Request
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Chronic or Long-Term Requests

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.
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.
08/23/25	Sarah McPherson Sanderson	Former Member	The family of Sarah McPherson Sanderson is requesting urgent prayers for Sarah who has been diagnosed with a very aggressive stage 3 Breast Cancer. She begins treatment next week, Monday the 25 th , and holding them up in prayer would be appreciated. We know that God is the Master healer, and we ask that he shield her and prepare her and her family for whatever lies ahead, giving them strength and trust in Him. The family consists of Sarah, Tristan, Kyree and Everlee plus Jim and Anna McPherson, Sarah's parents. They are former members of St. Stephen. Pray that God will wrap his loving arms around them and provide for all their needs as they begin this journey together.
09/16/25	Peyton Kent	Maxine's Granddaughter	The situation with Peyton's eye has not changed. She is still taking nausea medication and had vestibular testing on September 30 th . The still do not know why her one eye has remained completely dilated.
9/22/25	Lloyd Sheaffer	Member	Lloyd is home and receiving a variety of home health care providers while awaiting more testing and input from additional medical specialists. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.
09/26/25	Fritz Heinemann	Stacy's Father	Please keep Fritz, his wife, and their family in your prayers. He was recently diagnosed with esophageal cancer.
10/04/25	Mary & Lenny Zook	Members	Lenny had a stroke and is suffering from many health issues.
11/05/25	Karen Livingston	Member	Please pray for strength and healing as Karen's cancer has progressed.

Temporary Request

09/29/25	Lou May	Ida's Sister	Lou May will have abdominal surgery in October. Please keep her in your prayers.
10/04/25	Sherry Radacille	Member	Please keep Sherry and the Rudacille family in your prayers after Charles' passing.
10/08/25	Terri Myers	Member	Please continue to keep Terri and the Myers' family in your prayers after Roger's passing.
10/15/25	Johnny & Connie Gerhart	Maxine's brother & sister-in-law	Johnny's appointment on November 3 rd went well. He will have another stent placed on November 13 th . Please continue to pray for him and his wife, Connie.
10/21/25	George Farquhar	Member	George is home from the hospital after suffering a heart attack. He is waiting for surgery to be scheduled.
11/03/25	Ida Sponsler	Member	Ida fell on Saturday and broke her cheek bone. She was transferred to Encompass Health Rehab. in Mechanicsburg after a brief hospitalization at Holy Spirit.