



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

## **This Week at St. Stephen:**

Thursday, May 16

**4:30 pm** – Community Assistance Meal

Saturday, May 18

**5:00 pm** – Dinner With Friends

Sunday, May 19

**9:30am** – Sunday School

**11:00am** – Worship Service (Hybrid)

**1:00pm** – FUSE Meeting

Monday, May 20

**7:00pm** – Boy Scouts

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## **Pastor's Perch**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This Sunday we celebrate the festival of Pentecost. And then we are into the long green season of the church year. The color for Pentecost is red, which is meant to remind us of the tongues of fire that rested on the apostles on that first Pentecost long ago. But the Sundays after Pentecost are green to remind us of growth as in all the green things that grow in nature.

There is not a "Season of Pentecost." Pentecost is just a single day. The Sundays after Pentecost consist of what is called "ordinary time." Ordinary time is just that "ordinary." There is not much that happens in terms of high festivals. There are no great holidays like Christmas or Easter. Instead, it is just a season when we hear stories of Jesus that help us continue to grow as disciples, much like the disciples who followed Jesus during his three-year long ministry with them.

In seminary, I had a professor who described "ordinary time" like this. After a wedded couple has started their life together...after all the excitement of courting, and then getting engaged, and preparing for marriage...after all the excitement of has passed, now that two people are married and in their own place together, what do they do? And my professor said, without so much as missing a beat, "The couple looks at each other, and they get up and go for a walk."

That is pretty much "ordinary time." We have gone through all the excitement of the early part of the church year. We have had our time of preparation and celebration in Advent and Christmas. We have had our time of preparation and celebration in Lent and East. We have welcomed the baby Jesus. We have seen our Lord die on the cross and rise again. We have welcomed the gift of the Holy Spirit. And so, now what? We go for a walk. We walk with our Lord through this long green season, and we learn and we grow like the disciples did who accompanied the Lord during his earthly ministry.

One of my favorite phrases is "*solvitur ambulando*," which means, "It is solved by walking."

It was an ancient Roman belief that most problems could be solved by going for a walk and thinking through the problem. Well, maybe “ordinary time” is kind of like that. Even though salvation has been accomplished in Christ, the apostle Paul says we are to work our salvation with fear and trembling. Now, I was never sure what that meant exactly that we are to work out our salvation, if Christ has already accomplished it. But maybe it is enough to walk with our Lord during this ordinary time.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Joel Petruschke*

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## **Youth Corner**

**We are accepting donations** of small, mixed Legos for our upcoming Lessons and Legos community program! The New Kingstown community has asked St Stephen, specifically, to develop some after school programming for the local kids. In response to this, our first program will be the monthly, Lessons and Legos program, where kiddos will listen to a brief story and then build a Lego creation around the theme of that story to be displayed for that month, inside the church. To begin the program though, we will need to fill the three tubs on the stage in the Fellowship Hall with Legos. We will take care of the sanitation, just dump your Legos in the tubs! Contact Mrs. B with questions.

**Nawakwa/Kirchenwald Summer Camp registrations** are out and can be found in the pocket under the **Communication Board** in the **Fellowship Hall**. Scholarships available. Contact the church office with scholarship questions.

**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 adult spiritual influencers 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!

Registration for the **Senior High Summer Camp** is now open! Camp is for teens just graduating this year, to those going into 9th grade for the 24/25 school year. Register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HVCHFVV>. Camp runs **June 9-14**. In this year's camp, we will be learning about different jobs from biblical times and traveling to do some hands exploration of modern-day versions of some of those jobs. We'll explore what skills it takes to do those jobs, and how possible career paths can be incorporated into God's work. We start with a dinner picnic at 5PM on Sunday, where parents can say goodbye to kiddos and ask last minute questions. Families leave at 6PM. Camp ends 5PM on Friday. Tents supplied, or kiddos have option of bringing their own tents. Youth will be assigned 2 to a tent, for those that we provide. Cost is \$150 for the week. Deadline to register is **June 1st**.

**I am taking names of individuals** that would be willing to help with making the breakfasts for the Senior High Summer Camp Week. Please see or email me, if you have interest in helping out in this area!

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## For Your Information



**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=b31Ea2hnbmtxU2kvYVhxUGN6ZWdoUT09>

**You can also call 1-929-205-6099.** Once connected, just enter the Meeting ID - 410 597 064 and the password – 779080. You can also find the direct link for this on our church webpage – [www.ststephenlc.org](http://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.

### Scheduled Worship Assistants

Date	Usher Greeter	Cantor	Lector	Assisting Minister	Altar Guild	AV Support	Counters
5/19/24	Larry Bouchat	Jadam Smith	Roger Immell	Lynne Immell	Maxine/Carol	Cheryl Neidig Randy Neidig	Cheryl Neidig Lela Ewell
5/26/24	Larry Bouchat	Lynne Immell	Pat Seiple	Jadam Smith	Maxine/Carol	Cheryl Neidig Randy Neidig	Cheryl Neidig Lela Ewell
6/2/24		Jadam Smith	Pat Gilmore-Lee	Lynne Immell	Maxine/Carol	Cheryl Neidig Randy Neidig	Roger Immell Cheryl Neidig
6/9/24		Lynne Immell	Roger Immell	Jadam Smith	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

1/17/24	Tom Burson		Please pray for Tom and Kathy Burson. Tom is at Country Meadows Center continuing to recover.
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Temporary Requests

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**For information about St. Stephen Lutheran Church and its ministries anytime,  
visit the parish website anytime at**

**<https://www.ststephenlc.org/>**

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