



Congregational Communication  
March 6, 2024  
Rev. Joel Petruschke

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

Wednesday, March 6

**6:30pm** – Lenten Soup Supper

**7:00pm** – Lenten Devotional

Thursday, March 7

**4:40pm** – Community Assistance Meal

Sunday, March 10

**9:30am** – Sunday School

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

Monday, March 11

**7:00pm** – Congregation Council Meeting

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**Pastor's Perch**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When we think of saints, we usually think of the Catholic Church and all those particular persons who are prayed to in certain circumstance, like when we lose something, or when we are travelling. The Catholic Church is a little different from the Lutheran Church in this respect. Lutherans don't tend to pray to the saints. But that does not mean that we don't talk about saints.

Martin Luther understood all baptized Christians as saints. So, you should feel free to put the word "Saint" in front of your name, if you would so choose. For instance, I would be "Saint Joel." Somehow, though, that sounds a bit presumptuous.

But even though all baptized Christians are saints in the Lutheran understanding of saints, there are still persons who are lifted up on the Lutheran Calendar of Saints. For instance, this upcoming Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, the Lutheran Church remembers Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, as "Renewers of Society." In short, they are saints who are remembered for their special contribution to society. There are others on the calendar and I would encourage you to google "Lutheran Calendar of Saints."

Why do we remember specific persons as saints in the Lutheran Church? Because we are inspired by those who came before us. We give thanks for how they have blessed the Church and blessed the world. And it is not that we pray to these individuals, but we give thanks in prayer for them.

Finally, a saint is a "holy person." And the word "holy" means "to be set apart for a special purpose." So a saint is a person set apart for a special purpose. We are set apart to share the Good News of God's love in Christ Jesus. That is our mission, which we receive in baptism. The fulfilling of that calling is what makes us a saint.

So, thank you for being a saint. And may each of us continue to listen to how the Spirit is calling us to do our specific work in the world, that we may spread God's love and be a blessing in this world.

In Christ, Pastor Joel Petruschke

**Youth Corner**

Please register to participate in our free **Easter Egg Coloring Day** for all ages!

**March 23, 2024, 2:00PM**, in the **Fellowship Hall** at **St Stephen**. Whether you are adult or child, you are welcome to come socialize and color eggs! Please plan to take home all eggs that you color! We have no ability to use, store, or donate, unwanted eggs.

We will be opening this event up to the public, as well, so maybe we'll see some new faces, neighbors, or even some faces you go to school with! Bring your friends and family! Let's fill that Fellowship Hall!

The link to sign up is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/55SX5NV>

**Nawakwa Work Day Sign Ups!** As our April service activity, we will be going down to **Camp Nawakwa** to help get the camp ready for the summer camping season. Lunch will be provided by the camp. Something can be found for all ages and abilities to help with! If you have your own work gloves, feel free to bring them along. Remember to bring any body supports or braces you may want for comfort. Watch the weather and dress in layers, so you can take them off as you warm up! We will meet at **Nawakwa**, in the **parking lot**, at **9AM**, and enter together as a group, once everyone has arrived. All are welcome to participate! **April 27, 9am - 5pm**. Register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XFKY7FD>

**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!

**Senior High Summer Camp Week is in the works for 2024!** Camp is for kiddos just graduating this year, to those going into 9th grade for the 24/25 school year. This year's theme will be "God's Jobs". We will be exploring different careers of the Bible and how God can use all, even the most unlikely of jobs, to accomplish his work. We'll also be setting out for some hands-on experience of some modern-day versions of some of those jobs, learning new skills, and of course fitting in some time for friends and fun! Start marking your calendars now! Camp runs June 9-14. Cost -\$150 for the week. Scholarships will be available.

**St. Stephen Lenten Worship Services.** Join us at St. Stephen Lutheran Church for "Reflections in Lent." Our worship schedule begins with Ash Wednesday and progresses to Easter:

Soup supper followed by Devotions held each **Wednesday evening (March 13, 20) at 6:30 p.m.**

Agape meal on Maundy Thursday: **Thursday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m.**

**All Sunday Services including Easter Sunday (March 31) 11 a.m.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS!** We will be ordering potted daffodils and tulips for the Easter altar again this year. If you would like to remember or honor special persons by donating \$11.00 per plant, please fill out the attachment here or flyer placed out on Sunday morning with your donation and place in the offering plate or in Kevin's mailbox across from the Pastor's office. The deadline for orders is Wednesday, March 13.

**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=b3IEa2hnbmtxU2kvYVhxUGN6ZWdoUT09>

**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.

### **Worship Assistants**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Usher Greeter</b>	<b>Cantor</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>AV Support</b>	<b>Counters</b>
3/10/24	Larry Bouchat	Lynne Immell	Pat Gilmore-Lee	Lynne Immell	Maxine/Carol	Cheryl Neidig Randy Neidig	Cheryl Neidig Roger Immell
3/17/24	Larry Bouchat	Lynne Immell	Jadam Smith	Lynne Immell	Sue Rodgers	Cheryl Neidig Randy Neidig	Sue Rodgers Larry Bouchat
3/24/24	Larry Bouchat	Lynne Immell	Roger Immell	Jadam Smith	Maxine/Carol	Cheryl Neidig Randy Neidig	Lela Ewell Larry Bouchat
3/31/24		Lynne Immell	Carol Clelland	Jadam Smith	Maxine/Carol	Cheryl Neidig Randy Neidig	Cheryl Neidig Roger Immell

### **Prayer Requests**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Connection</b>	<b>Request</b>
<b>Chronic or Long-Term Requests</b>			
1/17/24	Tom Burson		Please pray for Tom and Kathy Burson. Tom is at Country Meadows Center continuing to recover.

### **Temporary Requests**