



ST. STEPHEN
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Congregational Communication

April 17, 2024

Rev. Joel Petruschke

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

Thursday, April 18

4:30pm – Community Assistance Meal

Saturday, April 20

5:00pm -Dinner with Friends

Sunday, April 21

9:30am – Sunday School

11:00am – Worship Service (Hybrid)

Pastor's Perch

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This past Sunday in the sermon I touched upon the question, "What was Jesus doing during the forty days between the time of his resurrection and his ascension?" This was a question posed to me by one of the members at Our Saviour. It is a question to which I never had given a lot of thought. What was Jesus doing during those forty days?

In the sermon then on Sunday, I discussed the interesting phrase in Luke 24:45, which says, "Then he (Jesus) opened their minds to understand the scriptures." And so, I mentioned that during those 40 days between the resurrection and the ascension, Jesus may have given the disciples a crash course on the Old Testament, but with a new twist, that is, in light of the "Jesus revelation."

And not only was Jesus "opening the disciples' minds to understand the scriptures," but the Gospel writers were doing so as well for their respective audiences. The Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—were written, in part, to take what the Old Testament has to say and re-working it to apply it to Jesus. As I mentioned in the sermon, these are called "proof texts." So, the Gospel writers were focused as well then on opening the minds of the disciples in their day.

So let me give you some examples of what this looked like, this crash course in the Old Testament, particularly from the Gospel of Matthew:

Isaiah 7:14→Matthew 1:23 (About the child named "Emmanuel")

Micah 5:2→Matthew 2:6 (About the birthplace "Bethlehem")

Jeremiah 31:15→Matthew 2:18 (About the slaughter of the innocents)

Isaiah 40:3→Matthew 3:3 (About preparing the way of the Lord)

Isaiah 9:1-2→Matthew 4:13-16 (About Jesus home in Capernaum)

Malachi 3:1→Matthew 11:10 (About John the Baptist)

Isaiah 42:1-3→Matthew 12:18-21 (About God's chosen servant)

Isaiah 6:9-10→Matthew 13:14-15 (About why Jesus speaks in parables)

Psalms 78:2→Matthew 13:35 (Again, about why Jesus speaks in parables)

Zechariah 9:9→Matthew 21:5 (About Palm Sunday)

Psalms 8:2→Matthew 21:16 (About the praises of the Lord)

Psalms 118:22-23→Matthew 21:42 (About Jesus as the cornerstone)

Psalms 110:1→Matthew 22:44 (About Jesus as the Son of God)

Zechariah 13:7→Matthew 26:31 (About striking the shepherd and the sheep scattering)

Jeremiah 32:6-7 (as well as Zechariah 11:12-13)→Matthew 27:9-10 (About the field bought with 30 pieces of silver)

Psalms 22:18; Psalms 22:1→Matthew 27:35; 27:46 (About the crucifixion of Jesus)

We see then how what was written in the Old Testament was re-interpreted to speak about Jesus. And we see then how the Old Testament, which was the Scriptures of the Jews, came to be seen as just as important for the early Christians. The early Christians co-opted the Old Testament from the Jews, almost stealing it from them. But in truth, the early Christians were Jews, so it is not that they were stealing the Scriptures as just re-purposing the Scriptures in light of Jesus. Anyway, the process of re-interpreting was quite remarkable. And it is this re-interpreting that kept Jesus busy with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection.

In Christ, Pastor Joel Petruschke

Youth Corner

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!

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!

Stewardship Minute - We ended March with a deficit of \$11,185.00 – that puts St. Stephen in quite the pickle. I would like for us all join forces and zero that deficit out by the end of April.

We are very accustomed to when we run short, we take money from a Memorial Funds to square up. Matt has been up here a hundred times, and now I am preaching the same message that he always had... With one difference. Matt would let us rest assured that we had Memorial Funds that would cover our short fall; after hearing this for years and years, and using those Memorial Funds year after year, after year, after year, they are pretty well **depleted!** We **MAYBE** have enough Memorial Funds to sustain us for THIS YEAR, but that's it – then, we're on our own. Then, we will have to think about the doors of our little church closing! I'm not trying to scare you... but I can understand if you are, because I'm scared too.

With that, I am asking everybody to step up their giving – times are tough, and I know it! Some of us are out of work, some of us are helping our kids, some of us are helping out parents – But we need to do something, and right now! Our **ONLY** means of income, at this point, is through each of our giving. Which brings me to my...

Facilities Use Minute

1. We have a wonderful building that goes un-used for most 6 days out of 7
2. We have a spectacular pavilion and grounds for gatherings
3. And we have a “field” that costs us money for upkeep

Council is inviting you to help! We are not only inviting you, but we **NEED** your help. We need your ideas, your “thinking outside of the box” on how our facilities can generate income to sustain our Mission. Keep in mind that we have limited hands for projects, so a theme park would be great, until it's time to make it a reality. If you have an idea, we need your help to think of steps to make your idea a reality. Council is thinking about selling or leasing the field – we need your help with this, too! Is anyone a realtor? Or has used a good realtor that you would highly recommend? We're thinking a realtor may assist in getting information on what the best ideas are, for the field. So, if you have ideas, or know anyone with ideas, talk to them! Let the Facilities Use Group know what these great ideas are.

Lela Ewell, Stewardship Chair

Women's Retreat Update – Due to Terri's ongoing care for her husband, the women's retreat has been postponed indefinitely. We hope to restart the tradition at some point in the future.

All are invited to Our Saviour Lutheran Church's annual Spring Banquet, Wednesday, May 8th at 6:00pm. See the flyer and sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for details.

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. You can also find the direct link for this 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 Assistants

Date	Usher Greeter	Cantor	Lector	Assisting Minister	Altar Guild	AV Support	Counters
4/21/24		Jadam Smith	Carol Clelland	Lynne Immell	Maxine/Carol	Cheryl Neidig Randy Neidig	Lela Ewell Cheryl Neidig
4/28/24		Lynne Immell	Pat Seiple	Jadam Smith	Maxine/Carol	Cheryl Neidig Randy Neidig	Roger Immell Cheryl Neidig
5/5/24		Jadam Smith	Pat Gilmore Lee	Lynne Immell	Maxine/Carol	Cheryl Neidig Randy Neidig	Cheryl Neidig Lela Ewell
5/12/24		Lynne Immell	Roger Immell	Jadem Smith	Sue Rodgers	Cheryl Neidig Randy Neidig	Lela Ewell Roger Immell

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