



Congregational Communication
Pastor Matthew Best
September 21, 2022

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

Thursday, September 22

6:00pm – Emergency Council Meeting

Sunday, September 25

9:00am – Worship (hybrid)

10:30am – Sunday Church School

Tuesday, September 27

2:30pm – Stroll through Scripture

Sunday, October 2

9:00am – Worship (hybrid)

10:30am – Sunday Church School

2:00pm – Blessing of the Pets

5:00pm - Tapology

President's Perch – Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ at St Stephen,

Many thanks to all those who attended the Congregational Gathering, in-person and online, on Sunday the 18th. Much good discussion occurred and several common themes emerged; positive feelings about our outreach ministries, and suggestions for the use of our grounds and building. Attached to this email or included with your mailing are the three questions that were discussed. If you were not in attendance and wish to add your voice, please prayerfully contemplate and then complete the questions and return them to the church office, or email them to kulikosm@comcast.net.

A single-topic, Emergency Church Council Meeting is being held on Thursday, September 22, 2022 at St Stephen Lutheran at 6:00 PM. The meeting was called to address the behaviors and the treatment of people that occurred at the end of the congregation gathering on Sunday, September 18th.

Please put Sunday, Nov 6, 2022 on your calendar! Church council approved holding a Special Congregational meeting on that date for the purpose of making the needed changes to the St Stephen Constitution and By-laws so that is in harmony with the ELCA Model Constitution and By-laws and reflects the terminology used in the organizational structure approved in November of 2021. More information about the meeting

Please support the Advent fund raising event to support Tree 4 Hope's ministries in Guatemala. A daily devotional booklet for Advent, *Grounded*, along with 4 bags of Guatemalan Coffee **may be ordered by Nov 6th**. Please send your \$30 payment to St. Stephen, using any of the following methods:

- A check to St. Stephen with "Tree 4 Hope" in the memo line
- **Use Engage** from your smart phone or Internet connected device at <https://engage.suran.com/sslc/>. Select the "Miscellaneous Designated Fund (non-tax exempt) giving fund and enter \$30. Put "Tree 4 Hope" in the "Gift Memo" box on the submit screen.
- Go to PayPal@StStephenLC.org. Enter \$30 for payment amount. Use "Add a note" to provide the designation to "Tree 4 Hope."

The final order and money will be sent to Tree 4 Hope. Participants will receive the booklet and four bags of Chia Bean Guatemalan coffee, just before Thanksgiving, in time for the start of Advent. Ilona Burd is coordinating our efforts.

Council had approved being part of a joint effort with our neighbors at Trinity to help host and feed homeless families. Ilona Burd is coordinating our efforts to work with our neighbors at Trinity to provide overnight shelter and meals for up to three families who are part of the Family Promise program (<https://www.familypromisehcr.org/>). St Stephen's tasks are to provide an evening meal and a "grab-and-go" breakfast for the families. They will be sleeping at Trinity from Sunday Nov 6th through Breakfast on Sunday Nov 13th. Ilona will be providing additional information and asking people to sign up to assist this new outreach and feeding ministry. Please prayerfully ask for God's guidance in how you may use your gifts to support these families in need and Family Promise Ministry, when Ilona asks for help.

Feeding the Body

Community Assistance – This meal and time of worship will be at 5:30pm at St. Stephen on Thursday, October 6th. All are welcome. This is a great opportunity to be in community.

Community Wide Service Opportunity – There will be a community wide service project at the **New Kingstown Fire Hall** on Sunday October 9th from 10:15am to 12:15pm. The activity is a meal packaging event to feed the hungry, in cooperation with the nonprofit organization, Rise Against Hunger. This event is sponsored by Trinity United Methodist Church. If you have two hours to devote to helping others and would like to experience a fun intergenerational activity, please register for the event at <https://events.riseagainsthunger.org/TrinityNK2022>. If you do not have access to the internet, you can still sign up by calling Jane Ober as soon as possible but before the day of the event. This is a great event for individuals, couples and families. Children must be in kindergarten or older to participate. Parents must register their children including a liability waiver form if the child is under 18.

A picnic will be held at the Fire Hall's pavilion after the meal packaging and clean up are completed. Please contact Jane Ober at 717.441.1691 with any questions you may have. We hope to see you there! Thank you for volunteering! You will be the hands and feet of Jesus, and you will be blessed!

Feeding the Mind

Stroll through Scripture – for the coming week will be taking place on Tuesday September 27 because Pr. Matthew will be taking part in the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA annual Policy Council Retreat. You can watch the Stroll through Scripture from the church's Facebook page.

Tapology – is the first Sunday each month at 5pm at Desperate Times in Carlisle. This is an ecumenical group that gathers to eat, drink, and talk about a variety of topics. All are welcome. Come with a willingness to engage in conversation.

Feeding the Spirit

Blessing of the Pets – Bring your furry (and non-furry) loved ones to the church grounds on Sunday, Oct. 2 at 2pm for our annual blessing of the pets. This is a fun, interactive worship service where the pets get to be a part of worship. All, and we do mean all, are welcome. We'll be under the pavilion if it is raining.

Sunday worship – Worship begins at 9am. This is hybrid worship, meaning that we worship both in person and online at the same time. At this time, due to the lower positivity rate of COVID, masking is optional for all people who participate in person. 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.

Prayers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Request</u>
Matthew Best	Our Pastor	Recovering from long COVID related migraine headaches
Melissa Grimm	St. Stephen Disciple	Undergoing breast cancer surgery

Worship Assistants

Date	Usher Greeter	Cantor (IP)	Lector (OL)	Assisting Minister (OL)	Altar Guild	AV Support	Zoom Host	Facebook Host
9/25/22	Scott Houser	Kathy Burson	Karen Hendricks	Stacy Schroeder	Sue Rodgers	Cheryl Neidig Wayne Lengel	Mike Kulikauskas	Nicole Grove
10/2/22	Scott Houser	Beth Lengel	Carol Clelland	Jennifer Batcheler	Maxine/ Carol	Tom Burson Cheryl Neidig	Neal Warfield	Nicole Grove
10/9/22	Laura Wills	Lynn Immell	Stacy Schroeder	Matt Schroeder	Maxine/ Carol	Wayne Lengel Cheryl Neidig	Mike Kulikauskas	Nicole Grove
10/16/22	Larry Bouchat	Mike Kulikauskas	Pat Gilmore-Lee	Pat Cipolla	Maxine/ Carol	Wayne Lengel Cheryl Neidig	Neal Warfield	Nicole Grove

Blessings,



Pastor Matthew