



Congregational Communication
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Reverend Joel Petruschke

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

Date: October 1, 2025

Wednesday, October 1
6:00pm – *Community EMS Game Night!*
6:30pm – Scouts PLC Meeting
Thursday, October 2
4:30pm – *Community Assistance Meal*
7:00pm – Cub Scouts
Friday, October 3
6:00pm – ROHI Church Bible Study
Saturday, October 4
12:00pm – *Helt Wedding*
Sunday, October 5: The 17th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30am – *Sunday Church School*
11:00am – *Worship Service (Hybrid)*
1:00pm – ROHI Church Worship Service
Monday, October 6
7:00pm – Boy Scouts
Wednesday, October 8
6:00pm – *Youth Program: Lessons & Legos*
Thursday, October 9
7:00pm – Cub Scouts
Friday, October 10
6:00pm – ROHI Church Bible Study
Saturday, October 11
10:00am – ROHI Church Youth Group
Sunday, October 12: The 18th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30am – *Sunday Church School*
11:00am – *Worship Service (Hybrid)*
1:00pm – ROHI Church Worship Service
Monday, October 13
7:00pm – Boy Scouts
7:00pm – *Council Meeting*
Thursday, October 16
4:30pm – *Community Assistance Meal*

**This week we welcome Pastor Evan Houck
to lead us in worship.**

Pastor's Perch:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

October brings with it Reformation Day! I know that department stores are not selling any Reformation Decorations nor are there many big Reformation parties. The parade through town is not focused on Reformation. But while the culture focuses on Halloween, the Church still does focus on reformation in October.

This year I think it is worth pondering more what Reformation means. The term comes from the Latin "reformare" meaning to shape again. So, it is re-forming something or reshaping something that already exists. Of course we use it in reference to reshaping the Church. Reforming the Church was really important in the 1500s but it continues to be important today as well.



Today the threat is not just a theological one – which there is always a need to return to scripture and prayer to keep us focused on the gospel – but also a very practical one. We need to consider reshaping the Church today because many of our old systems no longer work. At one time, we had many people seeking churches to attend; now we need to give people a reason to come and worship with us. At one time we worried about having enough programs for children and youth; now we need ways to connect with youth and help them grow in their faith. Once we were more concerned with having enough space for all of our church activities; now we must prayerfully consider how to be good stewards of a space which is larger than we need.

The reality is that the Church is always in need of Re-Formation, but it is hard work. It relies on us being faithful learners and interpreters of God's Word. It depends on us having enough faith to move forward trusting the promise of Immanuel (God with us). Reformation also takes the voices of those we agree with and those we disagree with to help us see the hopeful future that God has in store for us. It never means giving up the Church all together but reshaping for our reality.

Let's spend this October dreaming about what the reshaped Body of Christ looks like in our time and place.

Happy Reformation Month!
Pastor Marleen

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!

EMS 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 local **EMS personnel** (as available), ask questions, play games with them or 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 programing? Contact me for volunteer options! Mrs. B @ yfmd@ststephenlc.org.

Nawakwa Fall Foliage Day: October 19th 1-6pm. Return to Camp Nawakwa for the afternoon, to enjoy fall activities, worship, and have a picnic supper. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet up with old friends, relive memories, or introduce new folks to camp. An evening meal is included. Enjoy Pumpkin Painting, Crafts, Hayrides, Hiking, and More! An optional worship service is offered and I will take kiddos over to play Gaga (weather permitting) as it becomes available to us! To register to attend this event, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3MZX2YX>. Deadline to register is October 12th!

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:

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 – St. Peter Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg, is once again sponsoring a cranberry sale for the month of October. The bags are 3 lbs. for \$10 from Whalen Farms of Shamong, NJ. Pickup will be at St. Peter in Mechanicsburg, or St. Paul's in Littlestown. Payment is due at pickup. Please feel free to contact Carol Forbes with any questions: 717-433-6718. Scan the QR code, or use the link below to order:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3bBOLA6zUyKOLhmjRWvBNzP8xfeJq7bgIT1J20WQYVvaWdA/viewform)

[1FAIpQLSc3bBOLA6zUyKOLhmjRWvBNzP8xfeJq7bgIT1J20WQYVvaWdA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3bBOLA6zUyKOLhmjRWvBNzP8xfeJq7bgIT1J20WQYVvaWdA/viewform).



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 sight 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.

SILVER SPRING TWP. COMMUNITY EVENTS – *Fall Fest* @Stony Ridge Park on Saturday, October 4th from 10:00am – 4:00pm. There will be food trucks, games for kids, DJ and live music, vendors, and more!

– *Costume Crawl* @Stony Ridge Park on Monday, October 27th @6:00pm. Games, DJ, Photobooth, and more!

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH, MECHANICSBURG – A Blessing of the Pets will be held on Sunday, October 5th at noon in St. Mark's backyard. Bring your pet(s) in a crate/cage, or on a leash for a brief service of blessing. Invite friends or family who have pets to join us, too. If your pet is too anxious to come out in a group, contact Pastor Marleen for a visit and private blessing.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ENOLA – Trunk-or-Treat is October 18th from 5:30-7:00pm. Everyone is welcome to come as trick-or-treaters and/or volunteers to help with the event: you can set up your vehicle or assist with games, food, etc. To Sign up, go to: <https://tsu.me/trunktreatchurch>. If you have questions, please contact Ann at 717-697-9675, or at stpaulsenola@yahoo.com.

WEDDING INVITATION – Melanie and Jeffrey, who have been attending Sunday services, will be married at St. Stephen on Saturday, October 4th at noon. While their reception is limited to a small number of family and friends, Melanie and Jeffrey are extending an open invitation to the congregation to join them for the ceremony here as a *Thank You* to everyone for making them feel welcome.

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
10/05/25	Rev. Evan Houck	--	Lynne Immell	Roger Immell	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig
10/12/25	Rev. Laura Ramsey	--	Lynne Immell	Pat Seiple	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig
10/19/2025	Rev. Carol Bowman	--	Lynne Immell	Carol Clelland	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig
10/26/25	Rev. Carol Bowman	--	Lynne Immell	Roger Immell	Lynne Immell	Sue Rodgers	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig

Prayer Requests:

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.
02/18/25	Roger Immell	Member	Please hold Roger up in prayer. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will sustain him as he deals with more health issues and that his spirit within and faith remains steady.
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	Sherry Rudacille	Member	Please pray for Sherry and her husband. He was recently diagnosed with double pneumonia and lung cancer.
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.
09/18/25	Roger Myers	Member	Roger is now in hospice care. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers at this time.
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.

Temporary Request

09/08/25	Karen	George's Girlfriend	Karen is still not doing well after surgery her surgery on September 4 th .
09/16/25	Peyton Kent	Maxine's Granddaughter	The situation with Peyton's eye has not changed. She is still taking nausea medication and is scheduled for vestibular testing on September 30 th at the children's hospital in Pittsburgh. The still do not know why her one eye has remained completely dilated.
09/16/25	Nick	Maxine's Neighbor	Nick had surgery for prostate cancer and is now waiting to see if he has to go through chemo or hormonal therapy.
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.
09/29/25	Eugene (Butch) Zeiders	Office Admin. Susanne's Father	Butch is home after a brief hospital and rehab stay. Please keep him and his family in prayer as they navigate his recent diagnosis.
09/29/25	Lou May	Ida's Sister	Lou May will have abdominal surgery in October. Please keep her in your prayers.