



Congregational Communication
Congregational Communication
Reverend Joel Petruschke

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

Date: September 3, 2025

Wednesday, September 3

6:00pm – *Community EMS Game Night!*

6:30pm – Scouts PLC Meeting

Thursday, September 4

4:30pm – *Community Assistance Meal*

6:00pm – Cub Scouts

Friday, September 5

6:00pm – ROHI Church Bible Study

Saturday, September 6

10:00am – ROHI Church

Sunday, September 7: The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

11:00am – *Worship Service (Hybrid)*

1:00pm – ROHI Worship Service

Monday, September 8

7:00pm – Boy Scouts

7:00pm – *Council Meeting*

Wednesday, September 10

5:30pm – *Youth Program: Lessons & Legos*

Thursday, September 11

6:00pm – Cub Scouts

Friday, September 12

6:00pm – ROHI Church Bible Study

Saturday, September 13

10:00am – ROHI Church Youth Group

Sunday, September 14: The 14th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30am – *Sunday Church School*

11:00am – *Worship Service (Hybrid)*

12:00am – *Congregation Meeting (see "Other Announcements")*

1:00pm – ROHI Church Worship Service

Monday, September 15

7:00pm – Boy Scouts

Thursday, September 18

4:30pm – *Community Assistance Meal*

6:00pm – Cub Scouts

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

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! Jenny [@yfmd@ststephenlc.org](mailto:yfmd@ststephenlc.org)

Last week to sign up for Annual Alive Retreat!!!

ALIVE is the ELCA's annual synod middle-school retreat. This event is for **6th through 8th graders in the fall of 2025**. Our annual fall retreat is scheduled for **September 26-28, 2025, at Camp Nawakwa**. Cost is \$50/child. Congregations from across our synod gather with their adult advisors and youth for this traditionally early fall weekend that includes large group gatherings with singing led by our ALIVE Alumni Band, theme-centered videos and stories, and games, interspersed with small group gatherings, where youth gather with peers and a small group leader, to converse about the theme and its impact in their lives of faith.

This year's theme, 'Better Together,' comes from among other impulses, the notion of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's concept of 'beloved community' and the premise that EVERY human being has value. There is great joy in authentic community, which we strive for at our events, but we are also reminded in scripture that we are rooted in our relationship with Christ, or as the Gospel writer John reminds us,

'apart from me (Jesus), you can do nothing.' In the midst of what sociologists are now referring to as a 'loneliness epidemic' how can our gathered community help strengthen us for the work of discipleship? Scholarships available for families in need. Contact Mrs. B at yfmd@ststephenlc.org for details. We believe anyone that wants to attend, should be able to go!!

Register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/38KC2M2>. **Deadline to register: September 6, 2025.**

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 Fellowship 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>.

NOTICE OF IMPORTANT CONGREGATION MEETING AFTER WORSHIP ON SEPTEMBER 14th – The Articles of Agreement for a Non-Parish shared pastoral call with St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Enola and St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church of New Kingstown have been approved by both church councils and synod, and now need to be approved by two thirds of the congregations. We will vote on this agreement on September 14th after worship service.

Copies of this agreement, available for you to take for review, are located at the welcome center.

At this same meeting, we will also vote on nullifying the previous agreement with Mt. Zion Church of Churchtown, as they have decided to not be in agreement with us as of June this year.

ADULT SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL – Resumes September 14th at 9:30am!

COMMUNITY AID – Starting your fall cleaning early? 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.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ENOLA – Trunk-or-Treat is October 18th from 5:30-7:00pm.

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH, HARRISBURG – GermanFest: Saturday, September 6th from 11:00am-3:00pm at Our Saviour Lutheran Church: 420 N. Progress Ave. For more details (including the menu and pricing) please refer to the flier on the Communication Board in Fellowship Hall, or contact the office for a copy.

WEDDING INVITATION – Melanie and Jeffrey, who have been attending Sunday services recently with us, will be married here 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 at St. Stephen 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](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 Assistants:

Date	Supply Pastor/ Worship Leader	Usher/ Greeter	Cantor	Lector	Assisting Minister	Alter Guild	AV Support	Counters
09/07/25	Rev. Evan Houck	--	Lynne Immell	Roger Immell	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig
09/14/25	Rev. Carol Bowman	--	Lynne Immell	Pat Seiple	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig
09/21/25	Rev. Carol Bowman	--	Lynne Immell	Carol Clelland	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig
09/28/25	Rev. Carol Bowman	--	Lynne Immell	Caroline Sheaffer	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig

Prayer Requests:

Date	Name	Connection	Request
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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.
02/25/25	Karen Livingston	Member	Please pray for Karen as she is dealing with the effects of chemotherapy after cancer surgery.
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.
07/28/25	Roger Myers	Member	Roger is currently dealing with brain cancer.
08/23/25	Sherry Rudacille	Member	Please pray for Sherry and her husband. He was recently diagnosed with double pneumonia and lung cancer.

Temporary Request

08/11/25	Eudes Awouékoun	Brother and friend of Prudence Hessou.	Prudence Hessou asks that we pray, in concert with him, for the total and full recovery of his brother and friend from a long time, Eudes Awouékoun. Eudes is a young professional of 48 years old, father and a husband who was found with a stroke in his hotel room on July 18, 2025 while on a business trip in the northern part of Benin Republic where he works. Eudes is the oldest of his family and he also just recently lost his mother.
08/12/25	Tina Brennan	Friend of Dawn Putt.	Please keep Tina in your prayers. She is battling cancer.
08/15/25	Michelle Garman		Michelle has undergone abdominal surgery.
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.
09/02/25	Hazel Radabaugh	Neighbor of Pat Gilmore-Lee	Hazel is 97 and recently had surgery at Holy Spirit after falling and breaking her hip.

To all our members and friends of the Saint Stephen Lutheran parish:

As we move forward in our Spirit-led work to discern what God is calling us to do in this place, it is important for all of us to remain informed of our progress, especially as it relates to our possible relationship with Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Enola. The Congregational Council and other groups are busy with identifying what moving forward looks like for us.

In an effort to keep all of us informed, all Congregational Council monthly minutes and other reports are available on St. Stephen's website. Go to the website — www.ststephenlc.org — which will open to the home page. Click on the "About Us" link at the top of the page; on the "About Us" page, scroll to the bottom and click on the "Congregational Council Minutes and Reports" icon to be taken to the reports. [Please note: you will need to create a log-in and password to access this information.]

While you are on the website, look around at the variety of information available. Check there regularly to remain up to date on what's happening at St. Stephen.