



Congregational Communication
May 24, 2023
Reverend Joel Petruschke

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

Sunday, May 28

9:30am – Sunday School

11:00am – Worship (hybrid)

Thursday, June 1

4:30pm – Community Meal

Saturday, June 3

9:00am – Clean up and beautification day

Sunday, June 4

9:30am – Sunday School

11:00am – Worship (hybrid)

12:00pm – Light luncheon followed by Bible Study

Pastor's Perch:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Real ministry happens in the interruptions of life. This is often the case. We may be going about our daily lives, when some unexpected event causes everything to stop and we have to respond to that event.

That truism hit home for me many years back when I was busy getting ready for my day. It was a particularly busy day I remember, although I can't remember why. But then there came a knock at our door. It was our neighbor, telling me that her father had fallen and that she needed help getting back up onto his feet. So, I rushed over to her house to help her and her father, in the process putting everything else on my schedule on the back burner. Like I said, I can't even remember what was on my busy schedule, but I do remember that day because of my neighbor's need for help. Again, real ministry happens in the interruptions of life.

We can think about how Jesus interrupted the lives of those he called to follow him (Mark 1:16-20). The disciples, who were fishing along the Sea of Galilee, the lives of those fishermen were interrupted so that they could "fish for people."

And we can think about how our Lord Jesus was often interrupted in his life, so that he could respond to the needs of those around him. Jesus heals a leper who suddenly interrupts him (Mark 1:40-42). Jesus heals the daughter of a Syrophenician woman, who continually interrupts him and whom the disciples want sent away (Matthew 15:21-28). These are just a couple of examples.

God the Father in the Old Testament is also apparently meant to be interrupted. God apparently needs to be interrupted because God is quite busy doing whatever godly things God does behind the scenes. And so, the people of God are often depicted and even expected to cry out to God to get God's attention. Think about the story of the Exodus. In Exodus 3:7-8, it says, "Then the Lord said, 'I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, and I have come down to deliver them...'" God interrupts what God is doing and comes to the rescue of his people.

And so yes, I say it again, "Real ministry happens in the interruptions of life." And so, in our daily living we need to be mindful of those interruptions to our lives and not discount them as annoyances or irritations, but instead see them as the places where God may be explicitly calling us to faithfully respond with mercy and compassion.

In Christ, Pastor Joel Petruschke

Youth Corner

Future Events

June 11-16 – Youth Trip

June 25 – 12:30PM – Youth meeting

July 16 – 12:30PM – Youth meeting

August 13 – 12:30PM – Youth Meeting

September 16- Annual Congregational Day at Cherry Crest Farm

Celebration of Ordination Anniversaries

The members of Our Saviour Lutheran Church are honored to invite you to celebrate the anniversaries of ordination of Pastor John Schaertel (65 years) and Pastor Joel Petruschke (25 years) on Friday, June 9, 2023 at 6:30pm at Our Saviour Lutheran Church at 420 N. Progress Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17109.

Dinner will be potluck. Please sign up for what you plan to bring on the signup sheet in Fellowship Hall or call/email the church office.

In honor of this occasion, gifts may be made to Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region, 56 Erford Rd, Camp Hill, PA 17011.

Kindly RSVP to office@StStephenLC.org by May 31, 2023 or call the church office at (717) 766-2168.

Saturday, June 3rd, a cleanup morning will take place from 9 a.m. to noon. Bring your gardening gloves and join us in our efforts to beautify our property

June 4th, after the 11 a.m. worship service, there will be a light luncheon, followed by Bible study led by Pastor Joel Petruschke. Please plan to join us for this enlightening study.

June 11th, the 11 a.m. worship service will be held outdoors at our pavilion. There will be seating with folding chairs, at the picnic tables or you are welcome to bring a lawn chair.

Summer Camp Scholarships Available– Registration for Nawakwa and Kirchenwald summer camp is now open. Summer camp brochures are available in the camp brochure envelope in the northwest corner of Fellowship Hall. Through the generosity of present members of our congregation, and the endowed funds of those who have gone before us, we are able to offer scholarships to help make camp a reality for all who are interested. Please pick up an application from the envelope in Fellowship Hall or select [Camping Scholarship](#) for more information and a copy of the application. Deadline to apply is May 31, 2023. Contact Roger Immell at rogerimmell@comcast.net or 717.486.8933 for details.

Sunday worship – Worship begins at 11am. 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. 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
5/28/23		Lynne Immell	Roger Immell	Lynne Immell	Maxine/ Carol	Cheryl Neidig
6/4/23		Kathy Burson	Pat Gilmore-Lee	Lynne Immell	Sue Rodgers	Tom Burson Cheryl Neidig
6/11/23		Lynne Immell	Jadam Smith	Jadam Smith	Maxine/ Carol	Tom Burson Cheryl Neidig
6/18/23		Kathy Burson	Pat Seiple	Kathy Burson	Maxine/ Carol	Tom Burson Cheryl Neidig

Blessings,