



**ST. STEPHEN**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

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: May 21, 2025**

Thursday, May 22  
**6:00pm** – Cub Scouts

Friday, May 23  
**6:00pm** – ROHI Church Bible Study

Saturday, May 24  
**10:00am** – ROHI Church Youth Group

Sunday, May 25: The Sixth Sunday of Easter  
**9:30am** – *Sunday Church School*  
**11:00am** – *Worship Service (Hybrid)*  
**1:00pm** – ROHI Church Worship Service

Monday, May 26  
**7:00pm** – Boy Scouts

Thursday, May 29  
**6:00pm** – Cub Scouts

Friday, May 30  
**6:00pm** – ROHI Church Bible Study

Saturday, May 31  
**10:00am** – ROHI Church Youth Group

Sunday, June 1: The Seventh Sunday of Easter  
**11:00am** – *Worship Service (Hybrid)*  
**12:30pm** – *Bible Study & light luncheon*  
**1:00pm** – ROHI Church Worship Service

Monday, June 2  
**7:00pm** – Boy Scouts

Wednesday, June 4  
**6:00pm** – *Community EMS Game Night!*

Thursday, June 5  
**4:30pm** – *Community Assistance Meal*  
**5:30pm** – ROHI Church Meal  
**6:00pm** – Cub Scouts

Friday, June 6  
**6:00pm** – ROHI Church Bible Study

Saturday, June 7  
**10:00am** – ROHI Church Youth Program  
**10:30am** – *Visitation with the Family of Kent Clelland*  
**11:00am** – *Memorial service for Kent Clelland, reception to follow*

**This week we again welcome Pastor Elaine Dent to lead us in Worship.**

## **Youth Corner:**

Attention Families! St Stephen Church, New Kingstown, will be holding their **Fuse Meetings** on the **3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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!

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### **WE ARE EXPANDING!!!!**

**EMS Game Night!** Now open to the community!! **You are invited** to come the **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, from 6-8pm**, to come play board games with various local **EMS personnel** in the **St. Stephen Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall!** Fill out a short mixer sheet to meet them, choose from a large collection of games, and have a night of fun, friends, and socialization! Wide selection of games, skill levels, and genres for different age groups! Are you up for the challenge? Come **adults!** Come **kids!** Come **teens!** Come **families!** Bring your **friends** with or meet new ones! It's a fun night for all!

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## **Lessons and Legos!**

**5:30-7:30pm**, and occurring the **2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month!** Youth of all ages are invited to come and listen to a short lesson story and then build a Lego creation of their imagination and choosing, pertaining to the lesson story theme, to be displayed for the month within the church! Parents welcomed! Younger kiddos will need adult support.

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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 my contact info under the Ministries tab, if you have any questions for Jenny.

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## **Sunday morning worship - Every Sunday at 11:00am. All are welcome and loved!**

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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 programming? Contact me for volunteer options! Jenny  
[@yfmd@ststephenlc.org](mailto:yfmd@ststephenlc.org)

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New survey to take!!! We are gauging interest for a new activity!

**Would you be interested in attending a free, monthly, community movie night, held inside St Stephen Lutheran Church, if we put it together?** It would consist of a family friendly Disney movie, some from the old school vaults that you may not have heard of, and some from modern times that are favorites! Light refreshments would be offered while you watch! Makes for a great date night or family time out of the house!

Answer on this short 2 question survey. Remember, even a "No" is an answer! So let us know, so that we can make the best decision moving forward as to what people want!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YT7YKZY>

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Our **Annual Congregational Day at Cherry Crest Farms** is coming up, **September 13!**

A typical day at Cherry Crest has a lot to offer. There's a corn maze that covers 5 acres (2.5 miles of paths) that can be done through easy, medium, and ultimate challenge levels. In addition to the maze are other activities including many food eatery sites, pedal cars, apple blasters, paintball shooters, rope making, battle zone (think Nerf balls from a pressurized air guns), various strength tests, mat slides, bouncy pillows (child and adult sized), pig races, climbing area/playground areas.

For those that enjoy a slower pace, there is shopping, live shows, you can take a tour on the Stroudsburg Railroad (extra cost- buy tickets online in advance) which takes you on a ride about 45 minutes, back to Stroudsburg station and then off into town on a guided history tour before bringing you back to Cherry Crest, where you got on.

There is also a winery and brewery on site, a petting zoo, chick hatchery, discovery barn- that teaches the history of farm equipment, life size board games, hill slides, peddle cars, strength games, playgrounds, and a wagon tour. For the little kiddies, there is also Sproutsville, which is an entire town built in miniature for the little ones to play, sitting areas for resting, hanging air chairs to relax and enjoy the views, as well as many other activities! You can see most of the activities at <https://www.cherrycrestfarm.com/attractions>.

We'll rent a campfire location again this year. Hotdogs, sides, and drinks provided. It's Hometown Heros weekend, so they will have the EMS vehicles to tour and explore, a parade, and more! Fireworks will be set off at 8:30PM for those that want to stay. Cost to participate is only **\$10/person**, with the church covering the rest of the ticket price. Monies may be paid to the St Stephen Church office. Scholarships available to those in need. **Sign up by August 31**, to participate at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3MVXYQ8>.

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### Annual Alive Retreat!!!

ALIVE is the ELCA's annual synod middle-school retreat. This event is for 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Jenny at [yfmd@ststephenlc.org](mailto: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>.

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**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 12<sup>th</sup>!**

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## **Other Announcements:**

**BIBLE STUDY** – The Bible study scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup> has been moved to June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**BOY SCOUTS** – Fund raiser below.

**HYMN SING & PICNIC** – Join us, along with Mt. Zion and ROHI churches, on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am for a hymn sing. A pot-luck picnic will follow. Please bring your favorite dish to share!

**OFFICE HOURS UPDATE** – The office will be closed the month of June while Susanne is on vacation. Maxine will be filling in a few hours per week while she is away.

**PASTOR'S AVAILABILITY** – Pastor Marleen will be on vacation June 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL** – May 25<sup>th</sup> is the last class before summer break.

### **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](http://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
5/25/25	Rev. Elaine Dent	Larry Bouchat	Lynne Immell	Roger Immell	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Randy Neidig	Roger Immell
6/1/25	Rev. Evan Houck	--	Lynne Immell	Carol Clelland	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig
6/8/25	Rev. Carol Bowman	--	Lynne Immell	Caroline Sheaffer	Lynne Immell	Maxine Montgomery/ Becky Rensel	Cheryl Neidig/ Randy Neidig	Roger Immell/ Cheryl Neidig
6/15/25	HYMN SING	--	--	--	--		--	--

## **Prayer Requests:**

Date	Name	Connection	Request
Chronic or Long-Term Requests			
06/09/24	Roger Myers	Member	Roger is undergoing cancer treatment.
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.
05/12/25	Sharon Lamp	Member	Please pray for Sharon as she continues to have issues with her stomach.

Temporary Requests			
4/30/25	Pastor Emeritus, Don Seiple	Member	Pastor Don continues to deal with back pain after an injection. Please pray that he is able to get relief with further treatment.
4/30/25	Trudy Murray	Maxine's cousin.	Trudy is 6 months younger than Maxine and was recently diagnosed with Parkinson's.
5/8/25	Christine Guy	Friend of the Immells.	Christine was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia and has been in remission since January. She will be going for a stem cell transplant in June. Please also pray for her sisters Sarah Kotelnicki (a full match) and Elizabeth Army (a partial plus match) as they undergo the stem cell retrieval process, as well as Dr. John Mathews and the transplant team at Medical City Dallas.
5/13/25	Caroline Dick	Community Meals Participant & Volunteer	Caroline is continuing to heal from a broken kneecap.
5/13/25	Peyton Kent	Maxine's granddaughter, Elizabeth's daughter.	Peyton has been having some issues with her eyes, dizziness, and nausea. She is in the care of neurology and ophthalmology specialists who are trying to determine the cause of these issues.
5/15/25	Ida Sponsler	Member	Ida was admitted to Holy Spirit Hospital Wednesday night (May 14 <sup>th</sup> ) and is currently in the ICU.
5/21/25	Kent Clelland	Son of Ken & Carol.	Please pray for the Clelland family as they mourn the passing of Kent. A memorial service will be held for him on June 7 <sup>th</sup> at 11:00am with a reception to follow. Visitation with the family will start at 10:30am.