

New Spirit Newsletter



St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church New Kingstown, PA June/July 2017

We are a community of faith inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim boldly the Good News of God's loving, saving presence in the world.



President's Pen

In my January, 2017, *Patriot-News* column I wrote about my decision to respond to the predictable “How are

you?” greeting, not with the expected “Fine,” but with “I am grateful.” Reactions to my response have been engaging. No one has replied, “For what?”; more often folks have paused for a second or two and answered with something along the lines of “And so am I.” Then I can inquire with “Why is that?” or “For what are you grateful?” Then begins a brief conversation, and usually we part with smiles and a bit more liveliness in our steps.

If I were to ask “How are you, St. Stephen members?” I feel the only possible response should be “We are grateful!” Then I would quiz, “For what?” And conversation would ensue.

It has been a year since our former pastor announced her acceptance of a call to another parish. Certainly most were sad to see her move on, but no one reacted with a hand-wringing “woe is us” or “what will we do now?” St. Stephen members kept on doing what needed to be done: serving those in need; providing powerful worship experiences; being good stewards of our resources; educating spirits and minds. We are grateful.

During the challenging months of at-times frustrating experiences with an interim pastor who faced physical problems that led to parish anxiety, St. Stephen leaders worked quietly behind the scenes to ameliorate the stress and to support the pastor through her struggles. Our ministries did not stop; with God's Spirit at work, the ministries continued. We are grateful.

When it came time to assemble a call committee to formally seek a new pastor, a group of capable, faithful members offered to accept the months-long responsibilities associated with the call process. Week after week after week they gathered prayerfully to study the ministries and members of St. Stephen so that when candidates would be presented, committee members could listen intently to the voice of the Spirit to discern the appropriateness of the possible pastor. We are grateful.

Through all this time joyous music filled our sanctuary, administrative matters were addressed smoothly and professionally, building and property issues were attended to swiftly and effectively, committee work moved forward faithfully. Our new interim pastor preached prophetically and comforted members' pains and losses. We are grateful.

And now God has showered us again with blessings as God has sent to us a new shepherd, Pastor (as of his June 2 ordination) Matthew Best. Conversations with (as of now) Vicar Matthew clearly show a notable compatibility between the tenor and mission of the St. Stephen parish and his personal tenets and thinking about the Office of Word and Sacrament. God has significant plans for this parish and this new pastor. We are grateful.

So now I conclude by asking, “How are you, members of St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church?” And all God's people say

Shalom,

- *Lloyd Sheaffer.*

A Grateful Congregational Council President

Leadership Ledger

Council met May 8th, 2017. Council members accepted the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports for April and ratified the payment of April's bills.

Much of the session encompassed a discussion of the work that lay ahead in 2017 for the Congregational Council. Matters before the body include updating and revising St. Stephen's constitution to bring it in line with updated Lower Susquehanna Synod and ELCA requirements; reviewing and updating various parish policies, such as the wedding policy, facility usage policy, and so on. The Council needs to review objectively and continually the faithfulness of our various ministries and make adjustments when and where needed.

Bonnie Baim and Mary Zook will be coordinating the production of a new parish photo directory in conjunction with our 250th anniversary celebration. The Council also learned that the New Kingstown Fire Company will not be holding its annual carnival this year; instead the department will have a "Community Day" on July 29th. One idea being considered is to have the New Kingstown churches sponsor a fun/play area for children, but no concrete decisions by the fire department have been made.

Finally, we received word of two indications of the faithfulness of St. Stephen's witness to our youth. Former member Kyle Warfield, who grew up in this parish, will be consecrated as an ELCA deacon on May 21st. We also noted that since its inception, the Tara Shenk Fund, established by her parents in honor of her life, has generated over \$75,000 in interest funds dedicated to help young members of the parish and community grow in faith. All are grateful to Dave and Carol Shenk for their commitment to help children develop lives of faith and service to God.

The monthly meeting ended with reminders of the many upcoming events during May: the free community meal and the "Meet and Greet" session with Vicar Matthew Best on May 20th; the May 21st worship services led by Vicar Matthew followed by voting to accept the recommendation to extend a call to him after each worship service; and the "Fill the Truck" project also on May 21st.

The meeting closed with prayers and the extinguishing of the Christ candle.

The next Congregational Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 12, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. in the Resource Room.

On the Horizon

Kevin is taking his annual two weeks vacation this year; all in July!

He will be out of the office from July 3rd through July 7th and then again July 24th through July 28th.

The worship bulletin's will be prepared ahead of time but the office should still be open for business during the week. If you are interested in helping out, please call the office to volunteer your service!



Mechanicsburg Area Lutheran Churches present
THE WATER OF LIFE: a Bible Day Camp

WHAT

A week long "Camp Manna" experience, hosted right here in Mechanicsburg. \$150 per camper includes all materials, activities, and daily lunch. Need based scholarships are available.

WHEN

Monday, June 19th through Friday, June 23rd
8:30am to 4:30pm
Childcare available! Monday through Friday, parents can drop off campers between 8 and 8:45am and pick up between 4:30 and 5:15pm.

WHO

Staffed by members of the Camp Manna team, this wet and wild experience is open to all children who have completed kindergarten through 5th grade as of June 18th.

WHERE

Saint Mark Lutheran Church
114 West Keller Street
Mechanicsburg, PA

Special outings will be scheduled based on the weather. Don't forget to pack your sunscreen!



A kick off celebration for campers and their families, featuring a pot-luck style dinner, will take place on Sunday, June 18th from 4:30 to 6:30pm. Call Katie Swartz at 717-766-4482 with questions or to register.

See Kevin in the office for registration information

Child Protection Training Class
Sunday, June 4, 2017
12:15 p.m.

Are you one of our Authorized Adults? Anyone who works with children in our church needs to go through our training class which covers both PA laws and our church's procedures for mandatory reporting.

Due to changes to our state laws, Pennsylvania congregations have adapted, expanded, and revised their child protection policies to comply with the law and to ensure that we are providing a safe space for all of God's children. The law expands the definition of "mandatory reporters" to include all rostered leaders, paid church employees who work with children, and volunteers over age 18 who work with children in activities and programs.

At St. Stephen, we don't want just our Sunday School

teachers and VBS volunteers to take the training – we'd actually love to have all our members be authorized, approved adults because we all care about the children in our congregation.

The Educational Ministry Committee is offering the next Child Protection Training Class in the Library on Sunday, June 4 at 12:15 p.m. (immediately following the second service).

To RSVP, contact Laura Wills at laura.wills05@gmail.com or 728-1279. If you started the process but haven't yet completed your paperwork, contact Tom Burson at TomBurson@aol.com so he can help you complete the process.

Mark your calendars!

Sunday, July 16 – Thursday, July 20, 2017
5:30 p.m. dinner, 6-8 p.m. program

We need helpers...

- in the kitchen
- at the craft table
- leading the games
- with the story telling
- teaching the songs

If you're willing to help for two hours each night or just two hours during the whole week, please see Laura Wills or Cheryl Neidig. It's a great week – you'll be glad you were part of it!



Coordinator Wanted!

The Educational Ministry Committee is looking for someone to coordinate our summer Sunday School program for our Age 3–Grade 4 class. This short-term role will plan the weekly lessons (from a provided curriculum) and find volunteers to teach each week (June 11–Sept 3). The kids in this class are so much fun to be with!

You may think, "I don't have a child in Sunday School so I don't have to do this." Remember, when we celebrate a baptism in our church, we, as a congregation, promise to love, support and pray for that child. As Christians, we have a responsibility to teach children about the Bible – not just OUR children – but all the children of our church.

Contact Laura Wills at 728-1279 or laura.wills05@gmail.com.

Rejoicing Spirits

“Let’s Get Plugged In”

Isiah 40:28-31 Surely you know the truth. Surely you have heard. The Lord is the God who lives forever! He created all the faraway places on earth. He does not get tired and weary. You cannot learn all he knows. He helps tired people be strong. He gives power to those without it. Young men get tired and fall. But those who trust in the Lord will be that grow new feathers They will run and not get weak. They will walk and not get tired.

Rejoicing Spirits was pleased to welcome nership to our service. We were blessed to for scholarships to support those with spe-

As you can see in the picture, Ben was our some in the RS stole. And Ben was a big Pastor Carol held up her cell phone, she phone” when it was unable to be turned on. We guessed Pastor Carol used it for many dif- fering, reading her bible among other things. As Pastor Carol charged her phone at Ben’s suggestion, we talked about how our spirits and soul are a lot like that cell phone. We too do too much and sometimes run out of energy and we sometimes get weighted down with worry.



Donna and Dwayne from D.R.E.A.M. Part- be able to present them with a check for \$387 cial needs continuing their education.

reader for the day and looked awfully hand- contributor to our lesson for the day. As asked what it was .. Ben guessed a “dead We talked about how it ran out of juice. We ferent things, checking email, weather, tex-

As Pastor Carol charged her phone at Ben’s suggestion, we talked about how our spirits and soul are a lot like that cell phone. We too do too much and sometimes run out of energy and we sometimes get weighted down with worry.



When Pastor Carol asked how we can get our power back, Ben knew that our best source of power was going to God. We talked about the many ways God can help us including prayers, talking to and working with our brothers and sisters in Christ. God works through them as well as us!



Please include our prayer requests with your prayers this month:

Pastor Carol prayed for a dear friend who was nearing the end of her life

She also prayers of thanks, for the ability to worship freely, and for God being present in our lives, and of- fering us power boosts!

Rose offered a prayer for Mike who is suffering from brain cancer and prayers of thanks for all mothers and for D.R.E.A.M Partnership

Beth lifted prayers of thanks for Laura’s returning health, Michael’s upcoming graduation from Seminary

Chuck offered prayers for the Steven’s family

We celebrated birthdays this month! Please keep our birthday Rejoicers in your prayers:

Ben May 2

Rose May 8

Beth June 5

Please consider supporting RS by volunteering your time or donating some fellowship food items for our ser- vice. Contact Becky Rensel at 766-6478 or becren2007@gmail.com if you are able to help. Food items need- ed include: chips, pretzels, cupcakes, cookies, yogurt (for our members with swallowing difficulties), or drinks.



Come Rejoice With Us!
June 11th
3:45 p.m. Pre-Worship Sing-Along
4 p.m. Service



Susquehanna Service Dogs will be attending, come and learn more about this wonderful program!

New Spirit June/July 4

CRISPAZ IS RECOGNIZED

We at St. Stephen's are proud to be associated with CRISPAZ (Christians for Peace in El Salvador), a non-profit faith-based organization dedicated to building bridges between the country's poor and communities from the U.S. and elsewhere through mutual accompaniment.

The University of Scranton is another group in partnership with CRISPAZ whose faculty and students make two annual immersion trips to El Salvador a year. That school recently honored CRISPAZ by presenting it with their Pedro Arrupe S. J. Award recognizing it for its distinguished contributions to mission and ministry.

Francisco Mena Ugarte, executive director for CRISPAZ, traveled to Scranton to accept this award on behalf of his organization. We were honored to be invited to this occasion.

We work closely together with CRISPAZ on our various projects including our story project giving it validity. Working in conjunction with other groups who also support El Salvador around the country helps us build a larger network and vision to draw support. We value the connections we make and continue to expand our ministries by working in tandem with other groups to give one another strength.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in supporting the Salvadoran ministries.



Thank you for your recent and generous donations of \$100.00 and \$275.56 for baby food received on May 05, 2017. It is comforting to know that we can count on you. Access to nutritional foods by both adults and children is a major goal of Project SHARE in fulfilling its mission of providing foods, programs and partnerships that *meet the evolving needs of people on their journey to freedom from want*. Your support enables us to strengthen, grow, and enhance our programs and service to best address the ever-present issue of hunger. God things continue to happen here at Project SHARE. From all of us at Project SHARE and on behalf of the recipients who are touched by your generosity, many thanks!



Worship Assistants for June

	June 4		June 11		June 18		June 25	
	8:00 am	10:45 am						
Acolyte	David Herb	Randy Neidig	Sara Houser	Carly Gordon	David Herb	David Herb	David Herb	Jenna Gordon
Lector	Melinda Bailey	Carol Clelland	Sue Rodgers	Tina Gordon	Laura Wills	Pat Gilmore-Lee	Pat Seiple	Kathy Burson
Cantor	Beth Lengel	Art Grove	Paulette Krewson	Greg John	Lynne Immell	Kathy Burson	Maxine Montgomery	TBD
Assisting Minister	Sara Houser		Beth Lengel		Crystal Houser	Tina Grove	Lynne Immell	
Communion	Maxine Montgomery	Kathy Burson	Ja 'net Grey		Daryl Gochenauer	Art Grove	Lloyd Sheaffer	Carol Clelland
Ushers	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Bill Wills Wayne Lengel	Earl Bock* Victoria Bock Steve Read Frank Roberto	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Bill Wills Wayne Lengel	Earl Bock* Victoria Bock Steve Read Frank Roberto	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Bill Wills Wayne Lengel	Earl Bock* Victoria Bock Steve Read Frank Roberto	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Bill Wills Wayne Lengel	Earl Bock* Victoria Bock Steve Read Frank Roberto
Greeter	Dan Lebo	Frank & June Roberto	Bev Caley Stephanie Sauve	Steve & Judy Read	Dolores Lebo	Ken & Carol Clelland	Alan & Dawn Gamble	Earl & Lorraine Bock
Altar Guild	Ja 'net Grey							
Counters	Art & Julie Grove; Parker Lee		Art & Julie Grove; Parker Lee		Art & Julie Grove; Parker Lee		Ryan & Patty Haggerty; Parker Lee	

June 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 7:00p Private Event	3 9:30a 4-H Creative Expressions Club 2:00p Private Event
4 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship 12:15p Child Protection Class 2:00p Dulcimer's practice	5 6:00p Boy Scouts	6	7 7:00p Stewardship Cmte Meeting	8	9	10
11 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship 4:00p Rejoicing Spirits	12 6:00p Boy Scouts 7:00p Congregation Council Meeting	13 4:30p Social Ministries Committee Meeting	14	15	16	17 8:00a Men's Breakfast 5:00p Community Meal
18 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship 5:00p MALC Confirmation	19 6:00p Boy Scouts 7:00p Evangelism Committee Meeting	20 7:00p Worship & Music Committee Meeting	21	22	23	24
25 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship	26 6:00p Boy Scouts	27 9:00a The Breakfast Club 7:00p Education Committee Meeting	28	29	30	

July 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 9:30a 4-H Creative Expressions Club
2 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship 2:00p Dulcimer's practice	3 6:00p Boy Scouts	4 Independence Day	5 7:00p Stewardship Cmte Meeting	6	7	8
9 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship 4:00p Rejoicing Spirits	10 6:00p Boy Scouts 7:00p Congregation Council Meeting	11 4:30p Social Ministries Committee Meeting	12	13	14	15 8:00a Men's Breakfast 5:00p Community Meal
16 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship 5:30p VBS	17 5:30p VBS 6:00p Boy Scouts 7:00p Evangelism Committee Meeting	18 5:30p VBS 7:00p Worship & Music Committee Meeting	19 5:30p VBS	20 5:30p VBS	21	22
23 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship	24 6:00p Boy Scouts	25 9:00a The Breakfast Club 7:00p Education Committee Meeting	26	27	28	29
30 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship	31 6:00p Boy Scouts					

Special Occasions

June

Grant Foxx	1-Jun	Dante Sanders	17-Jun
Phyllis Harmon	2-Jun	Sherri Filipovich	18-Jun
Beth Lengel	5-Jun	Harry Bucher	19-Jun
Le Ewell	6-Jun	Carrie Lewis	20-Jun
Robert Hansen	7-Jun	Stacey Teitman	20-Jun
Wayne Lengel	7-Jun	Anthony Radle	21-Jun
Michael Weigel	7-Jun	Nicholas Schroeder	23-Jun
Gage Clelan	12-Jun	Barb Foxx	25-Jun
Paulette Krewson	16-Jun	Carol Clelland	28-Jun
William Wills	16-Jun	Jayden Brown	29-Jun
Jenna Gordon	17-Jun	Alan Gamble	29-Jun



July

June Roberto	3-Jul	Pat Lee	21-Jul
Scott Houser	5-Jul	Scott Lewis	22-Jul
Dianne Wyland	5-Jul	Rebecca Rensel	23-Jul
Brenda Sanchez	6-Jul	Camara Grimm	24-Jul
Bill Rowe	11-Jul	Michael Tracey	26-Jul
Allison Schroeder	11-Jul	Emalyn Clelan	27-Jul
Joan Wiest	16-Jul	Sherry Wiest	27-Jul
Mike Krausse	18-Jul	Dawn Gamble	28-Jul
		Trisha Noonan	28-Jul

ANNIVERSARIES

June

Larry & Laura Treaster	1-Jun	Keith & Melinda Bailey	15-Jun
Parker & Pat Lee	5-Jun	Ken & Deb Ochs	15-Jun
Christine & Jonathan Stallkamp	9-Jun	Michael & Leslie Menear	16-Jun
Roger & Lynne Immell	12-Jun	Jeffrey & Andrea Holtz	24-Jun
Don & Pat Seiple	12-Jun	Jesse & Laura Ramsey	27-Jun
Bill & Butch Rowe	14-Jun	Robert & Marla Hansen	28-Jun

July

Richard & Phyllis Harmon	7-Jul	Derek & Amber Fabian	10-Jul
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St. Stephen Lutheran Church
 P. O. Box 266
 New Kingstown, PA 17072
 Phone: 766-2168
www.StStephenLC.org



Interim Pastor: *Reverend Carol Bowman*
pastor@ststephenlc.org

Organist & Choir Director: *Steve Pastena*
music@StStephenLC.org

Parish Office Manager: *Kevin Stafford*
office@StStephenLC.org

Custodian: *Michael Wogan*



If you would like to be added to the email prayer chain list (to receive notifications of prayer requests throughout the week), you can sign up with Mike Kulikauskas, or by emailing office@ststephenlc.org. At any time, you can send prayer requests to prayer@ststephenlc.org

Bob Lamp	Alzheimer's disease
Hen Yohn	Health issues
Michael Smith	Cancer
Darlene	

Hospital Admissions



Pastoral Care in Times of Emergency or Crisis. If you need emergency pastoral care, please call the St. Stephen office at 766-2168 (leave a voice mail if necessary), or call Pastor Carol at 717-495-9435.

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE ORDINATION OF ST. STEPHEN'S NEW PASTOR, VICAR MATTHEW BEST, AT THE SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT AT THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD ASSEMBLY.



THE SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE HIGH CENTER AT MESSIAH COLLEGE, GRANTHAM, PA.



Please come to support Vicar Matthew as he prepares to become our pastor on June 26.