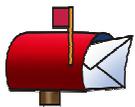


# New Spirit Newsletter



St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church New Kingstown, PA September 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.*



FROM THE  
PASTOR'S DESK

September 2017

Fall is a busy time of year.  
School is back in session,

work projects get moving, sports pick up steam, and our schedules get loaded with activities and family functions. This can be true for church as well. Often it seems like church is just another activity to be added to the ever-growing list. Life can be exhausting. And when our lives and calendars get full, we reach a point in which we need cut something – we simply run out of time and energy. Church is often the easy thing to cut.

This *is not* going to be an article from the pastor crying and moaning about how the culture has changed and why oh-why don't people prioritize church like they used to. This isn't about guilting you or shaming you into doing more. Your schedules and lives are already full. I understand and as a family of six, our fall schedule is bursting at the seams some weeks.

Let me share an alternative vision. Instead of church being yet another social activity, I envision church being something different. If we are doing church right, then church isn't something you go to – it is something that you are and are a part of and it is a part of you. That means that church isn't just another activity – it's an opportunity to encounter Jesus in our lives and to experience how Jesus is changing our lives and the lives of those around us.

That happens in a variety of ways. Some inside the church building and some outside the church building. We encounter Jesus in worship, but also in relationships and conversations we have. We encounter Jesus through

service and being served. We encounter Jesus when we gather and when we are sent. We encounter Jesus in the bible and in meals. Often, we encounter Jesus in the activities we are already doing.

Over the years, I've learned that there are three major challenges the church (Western Christianity) faces – being approachable, being enjoyable, and being relevant. Being approachable means that questions and conversations about difficult issues and the challenges we face are welcome. It means the pastor and the members of the congregation are approachable and welcoming. Being enjoyable doesn't mean that we are looking to entertain people. It does mean that people are enriched by an encounter with Jesus and the church – they are glad they came and look forward to the next encounter. And lastly, relevant doesn't mean that anything goes. It means that we deal with the challenges of life that people are dealing with.

In the coming months, there will be opportunities for celebration, bible study, Sabbath, prayer, fellowship, worship, service, and conversations about issues that matter and that occupy our minds and lives. My hope is that church shifts from something that is just a place to worship and instead becomes a community that grows together, a community where we encounter Jesus, and a community that sees how lives are changed because of this and we share that good news with those around us. In other words, we aren't bogged down by church, but rather church is something that energizes us, gives us life, and we can't wait to tell others about it and invite people to experience the same thing. We can be that kind of church.

# Leadership Ledger

The Congregational Council conducted its regular monthly meeting on August 14, 2017. The session opened with a devotional on the topic “A Partner to Help You When You Don’t Know How to Pray”; the focus of the discussion, based on Romans 8:26, assured all of us that even in the most distressing situations, the Holy Spirit will either give us the words we need to say or will pray for us.

The first business item was the acceptance of the Secretary’s minutes for the July meeting and the Treasurer’s report for July; payment of July’s bills was ratified. Vice-President Paulette Krewson reported that she is already speaking to parish members about running for Council positions at the November 19th Annual Congregational Meeting.

Pastor Matthew Best discussed several matters he hopes can become a part of our ministries as the parish moves forward, including working with St. Paul Lutheran in Carlisle in some type of cafe/pub-style ministry in the community. Council members affirmed Pastor Matthew’s desire to be available to preside at funerals of folks who may not have a religious home. During the last weeks of August and the beginning weeks of September, parish members will have the opportunity to gather in small “get-to-know-you” home meetings so the pastor and members have a chance to learn about each other.

The Educational Ministry Committee reported that camping support requests have exceeded available funds by \$1,300 (updated figure).

Council next discussed specific information to be included in the developing Pastoral Sabbatical Policy; this agreed upon items will be included in a draft of the policy to be discussed and acted upon at the September council meeting.

The Congregational Council accepted with regret Stephen Pastena’s letter of resignation as the parish organist and choir director. After serving seven years in the position, Stephen has accepted the same role at

Haven Lutheran Church in Hagerstown, MD. The congregation will have an opportunity to express its gratitude to Stephen after the 8:00 A.M. worship service on August 27, his last Sunday at St. Stephen.

Finally, Pastor Matthew announced that his Installation Service as pastor of St. Stephen will occur on Sunday, September 24, 2017, at 4:00 P.M. All are encouraged to participate in this celebration.

The session closed with members’ prayers of gratitude and concerns.

The next Congregational Council Meeting will be held on Monday, September 11, 2017, at 7:00 P.M.

## *Your 2018 Congregational Council*

Lloyd Sheaffer, Pres.	Cheryl Neidig
Paulette Krewson, VP	Marty Baim
Tina Gordon, Sec.	Lela Ewell
Matt Schroeder, Treas.	Julie Grove
Rev. Matthew Best, Pr	Rose Hlavac
Crystal Houser	Sara Houser

## CONNECTING OTHERS INTERESTED IN WORKING IN EL SALVADOR

Twists and turns of our embracingelsalvador.org website produce some unexpected requests. Contacting us via the website provides opportunities for like-minded individuals and groups to work together on behalf of struggling Salvadorans.

It is not unusual to receive notes from our website readers asking for help, direction, and guidance. Responding to these requests keeps us on our toes. Here are a couple of recent examples.

1- A member of a mission team in NE Missouri asked for information for her group to dig a well so the area in which her team is serving can obtain clean drinking water.

2- A former Peace Corps worker assigned in El Salvador offered us a suggestion of a future storyteller for our historical memory project.

3- A group from Michigan asks to coordinate a solar cell project.

4- A regular volunteer to El Salvador from Washington state is interested in information on smokeless stoves.

5- A Lutheran couple from Wisconsin doing ongoing Salvadoran mission work who we met in San Salvador at a conference a few years ago recently asked for suggestions on initiating sewing center projects in the country.

*David runs a small sewing machine operation from his home. Today his crew is making school uniforms. We shared his information with our inquiring couple.*



# Rejoicing Spirits

## “Plenty For All” Service & Bingo!

*Matthew 14:13-21* When Jesus heard what happened to John, he left in a boat. He went alone to a place where no one lived. But the people heard that Jesus had left. So they left their towns and followed him. They went by land to the same place he went. When Jesus got out of the boat, he saw a large crowd of people. He felt sorry for them, and he healed the ones who were sick.

Late that afternoon, the followers came to Jesus and said, “No one lives in this place. And it is already late.



Send the people away so they can go to the towns and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said, “The people don’t need to go away. You give them some food to eat.” The followers answered, “But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish.” Jesus said, “Bring the bread and the fish to me.” Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish. He looked into the sky and thanked God for the food. Then he broke the bread into pieces, which he gave to the followers, and they gave the food to the people. Everyone ate until they were full. When they finished eating, the followers filled twelve baskets with the pieces of food that were not eaten. There were about 5000 men there who ate. There were also women and children who ate.



Rejoicing Spirits was pleased to welcome Cumberland Vista Group Home in addition to some of our regular worshipers. And we welcomed all sorts of new folks to Bingo, but we are getting ahead of ourselves.

Derick did our reading and Pastor Matthew lead a wonderful discussion about our reading. With the help of Brian, Pastor Matthew explained the magnitude of the leftovers. We had 12 plastic containers representing the 12 left over baskets of food after Jesus fed the crowd, starting with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish.

What God can do is miraculous. There is always plenty for all. Whether we are talking about food, love or hope; God will provide.

But, what was probably most exciting about this month’s service was the sharing of communion and blessings. And there was plenty for all!



Then, we were off to Bingo where there was another abundance of food including pizza and little hot dogs and WINNERS! We had a LOT of winners! It was wonderful to have Elizabeth and her daughter, and Freda Z. with us. A good time was had by all.

Please include our prayer requests with your prayers this month:

- Jason prayed for his brother, Jessie who is in heaven
- Lonnie prayed for his Mom, Gary and his cousin Jean
- Terri offered a prayer of thanks for Rejoicing Spirits and a blessing for all
- Rose offered a prayer of thanks for all those who served and attended camps this year, especially Ben who would be starting his week at Camp Kirchenwald that day and missed RS
- Pastor Matthew thanked God for being with us all, but prayed especially for those in need of shelter, food and other basic needs
- 

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

Marge – 9/16

Sarah – 9/17

Brian – 9/18

Rejoicing Spirits would like to offer a special thank you to Randy Neidig and Emma Best for being our Bingo callers, Becky Rensel who organized all the food for this event, Terri Myers for donating food and assisting with Bingo, and to Carol Clelland for donating stuffed animals for prizes.

## Rejoicing Spirits (cont.)

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

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“I am the administrator of Cumberland Vista. The gang from Cumberland Vista joined your Sunday service, pizza and Bingo night. They all expressed the fun they had especially winning Bingo. I also understand extra food was sent home with them. It was definitely utilized and very much appreciated. Thank You so much for your hospitality!”

God Bless  
Sue Flowers  
Administrator, Cumberland Vista

*Come Rejoice With Us!*  
*Sept 10<sup>th</sup>*  
*3:45 p.m. Pre-Worship Sing-Along*  
*4 p.m. Service*

### St. Stephen Rejoicing Spirits Supports



<p>Please Help</p> <p><i>Rejoicing Spirits</i> </p> <p>Support</p> <p><i>Susquehanna Service Dogs</i></p>
<p><b>TABS FOR LABS</b></p> <p>Bring your soda pop tabs</p>

# Education

## St. Stephen youth participated in a Wet and Wacky Week at Day Camp

Sixteen campers from five local Lutheran churches enjoyed a week of bible study, worship, and games at this year's Mechanicsburg Day Camp. Led by members of the Camp Nawakwa staff, the week provided an opportunity for students who can't go to sleep-away camp to experience some of the activities and curriculum offered each summer at our Lutheran Camping Corporation camps. Each morning began with opening worship led by a pastor from one of our Mechanicsburg-area Lutheran churches. Next, campers dove into the water-themed curriculum and bible stories. Lunches were provided by members of our participating congregations, and in the afternoon, campers enjoyed a variety of fun activities including a presentation from the local water company, luau-

themed games, science and craft activities, and even an afternoon at the Mechanicsburg pool.

Campers also learned how they can help our neighbors in need. Throughout the week campers made cookie pops to thank water workers, packed over one hundred Caitlin's Smiles kits for hospitalized children, painted twenty-four wooden cross baptismal gifts, and experienced a small taste of what life is like for women around the world who travel miles to carry water home during a mini Walk for Water program. Having fun together while growing in faith, campers and staff certainly made a splash this year at Day Camp!

*By Marsha Roscoe for the Lower Susquehanna Synod*

**Sunday, September 3**

**9:30-10:30 a.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**

An intergenerational event for everyone!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

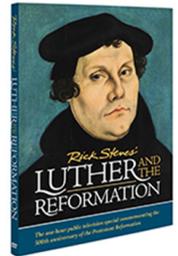
The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is not only a time for reflection on the rich history of this church, but also a chance to look forward to what lies ahead for all of us. It's an exciting time to be Lutheran as we come together with the Roman Catholic Church on the foundation of our common heritage.

Rick Steves' "Luther and the Reformation" is a wonderful resource for all of us – pastors and lay people alike – to better understand our Lutheran roots and help us in our continued journey of understanding the Gospel.

Thank you to Rick Steves for generously giving all members of the ELCA access to "Luther and the Reformation."



Sincerely,



Elizabeth Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Our individual Sunday School classes will begin on **Sunday, September 17**. We have a class for everyone and there's room for you!

Elementary School – led by Cheryl Neidig and Laura Wills (Room 201)

Middle and High School – led by Ja'net Grey and Mike Kulikauskas (Room 204)

Adult classes – led by Tom Burson (in the parlor), Greg John (upstairs) and Lloyd Sheaffer (in the classroom across from the Pastor's Office). **Yes, we have three adult classes because learning about God is for everyone, not just our children!**

## Education - Rally Day

Even if I knew  
that tomorrow  
the world would  
go to pieces, I  
would still plant  
my apple tree.  
Martin Luther

And that's what we're going to do, too! On Sunday, September 10 during the church picnic, we will be planting a tree (although not an apple tree – we don't have the right soil for that!) in honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. As we use this anniversary as an occasion to grow in our faith, so may we also watch our tree grow in our community for years to come!

On Sunday, September 10, mark your calendars for an intergenerational program from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We're celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with some special guests – Martin and Katie Luther! Let's fill the Fellowship Hall for our honored guests!



The Educational Ministry Committee is looking for additional committee members. We coordinate the various educational opportunities for the congregation – Sunday Church School, Confirmation class, Vacation Bible School, First Communion, adult Bible studies, adult book studies and intergenerational programs, as well as providing resources for the Library and promoting summer camping opportunities and scholarships.

We believe all these activities help members of the faith come to a fuller understanding of all that God

has done and continues to do for us. Our programs seek to add depth to our personal levels of faith. At the same time they prepare each of us--from the youngest child to the most mature adult--to spread the Word of God's saving grace through his Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ to all we encounter in our daily lives.

**We Want  
You To  
Help Us  
Make a  
DIFFERENCE**

If you have an interest in helping further our programming, we'd love to have you join us! We usually meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

# Thank You



Dear Pastor Matthew and Friends,

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$1,125.00 received on August 11, 2017 to support the Backpack Program of Project SHARE at the Middlesex Elementary School. With your support, Project SHARE is better able to help families experiencing food insecurity right here in the greater Carlisle area.

As part of our growing mission to meet the evolving needs of people on their journey to freedom from want, we are offering summer programs that help food-insecure children in addition to providing opportunities for volunteers to assist us with sourcing and distributing fresh nutritional foods and holding an exceptional fundraising event with proceeds that will support our mission.

- Monday evenings are our **Gleaning** nights where volunteers and recipients pick produce from partnering farms and orchards. Already gleaned this year are strawberries and lettuce with the corn and cantaloupe harvest now starting. The work is hard, but the rewards are many; all the food is FREE for our labor. Volunteers needed. For more information visit <https://projectsharepa.org/gleaning/>.

We hope that you experience some inner satisfaction, knowing that your support helps strengthen the mission of Project SHARE and our ability to better serve our more than 3,500 household neighbors in need.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Debra Hess", is written over the typed name.

Debra Hess  
Director of Development

A handwritten note in blue ink that reads "We are blessed by your spirit of generosity!". The handwriting is cursive and expressive.

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Thank you for your generous contribution of \$176.95 for baby food which was received on August 07, 2017 to support Project SHARE. With your support, Project SHARE is better able to help families experiencing food insecurity right here in the greater Carlisle area.

As part of our growing mission to meet the evolving needs of people on their journey to freedom from want, we are offering summer programs that help food-insecure children in addition to providing opportunities for volunteers to assist us with sourcing and distributing fresh nutritional foods and holding an exceptional fundraising event with proceeds that will support our mission.

## With Joy and Sadness

Stephen Pastena  
18906 Waldron Place  
Hagerstown, MD 21742

St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 266  
30 West Main St  
New Kingstown, PA 17072

To: Council President Lloyd Sheaffer, Congregational Council, Pastor Matthew Best, Worship and Music Committee chair Rose Hlavac, and all members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Dear Friends and Family in Christ,

I hereby tender my resignation as the choir director and organist of St. Stephen Lutheran Church, effective Monday, August 28th. I have accepted a position as the music director of Haven Lutheran Church in Hagerstown. This should not be taken as any kind of reflection upon St. Stephen, its leadership, or its members. This was a personal choice only. Multiple factors influenced my decision, including the commute time, beginning a permanent position in Frederick, Maryland, and the opportunity to guide another choir's musical development (as both Jim and I have done at St. Stephen).

I will always remain eternally grateful to the people of St. Stephen for your kindness, generosity, willing spirits, and love. When I first came to St. Stephen, it was a giant step into the unknown - though I have always been a regularly-attending Lutheran, and substituted occasionally on the organ, this was my first permanent position as organist. For the first several months, on many of the hymns I didn't even use the pedals! Through your financial assistance, but more importantly through your moral support and encouragement, I grew as an organist and musician. And when I took on the choir directorship, it was another great step, but this time tempered by the fact that I knew the choir and already had a working relationship. Still, again with your support I grew as a leader and as a person.

If I had to pick a theme for my time at St. Stephen, it would have to be "change is the only constant". In my seven years here we have had three pastors, four interims, three administrative assistants, and many changes in membership. Through all of that change, though, you have always been enthusiastic in following the church's mission, trusting in God's promise to provide. I will continue to think about you all, and pray for St. Stephen Lutheran Church as you continue God's work in the world. May God bless you, this church, and its mission, always.

I love you all. Thank you.

In Christ's Love,

Stephen Pastena



# Worship Assistants for September

	September 3		September 10		September 17		September 24	
	8:00 am	10:45 am						
Acolyte	David Herb	Randy Neidig	Sara Houser	Drayce Grove	David Herb	Jenna Gordon	David Herb	Randy Neidig
Lector	Larry Bouchat	Carol Clelland	Sue Rodgers	Greg John	Laura Wills	Pat Gilmore-Lee	Beth Lengel	Kathy Burson
Cantor	Beth Lengel	Art Grove	Paulette Krewson	Greg John	Lynne Immell	Kathy Burson	Maxine Montgomery	Matt Schroeder
Assisting Minister	Sara Houser	Julie Grove	Beth Lengel	Julie Grove	Crystal Houser	Tina Gordon	Lynne Immell	Julie Grove
Communion	Alan Gamble	Kathy Burson	Ja 'net Grey	Tom Burson	Daryl Gochenauer	Art Grove	Lloyd Sheaffer	Carol Clelland
Ushers	Mary Zook* Lenny Zook Scott Houser Bev Caley	Frank Roberto* Steve Read Judy Read	Mary Zook* Lenny Zook Scott Houser Bev Caley	Frank Roberto* Steve Read Judy Read	Mary Zook* Lenny Zook Scott Houser Bev Caley	Frank Roberto* Steve Read Judy Read	Mary Zook* Lenny Zook Scott Houser Bev Caley	Frank Roberto* Steve Read Judy Read
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	Crystal & Sara Houser							
Giant Gift Card Dist.	Patty Haggerty		N/A		Sally John		N/A	
Counters	Art & Julie Grove; Parker Lee							

# September 2017

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

# Special Occasions

## BIRTHDAYS



Paul Monko	9-Sep	Frank Roberto	21-Sep
Noah Wills	11-Sep	Sara Degenhardt	22-Sep
Lorraine Bock	13-Sep	Karlee Lebo	24-Sep
Carol Zeigler	16-Sep	Jennifer Batcheler	28-Sep
Samantha Damon	17-Sep	Bradley Filipovich	30-Sep
Matt Schroeder	17-Sep		

Albert & Rejenia Lewis	7-Sep	William & Laura Wills	24-Sep
Elmer & Marian Reed	15-Sep	Brian & Nikki Branch	29-Sep

## ANNIVERSARIES

St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
 P. O. Box 266  
 New Kingstown, PA 17072  
 Phone: 766-2168  
[www.StStephenLC.org](http://www.StStephenLC.org)



**Pastor:** Reverend Matthew Best  
[pastor@ststephenlc.org](mailto:pastor@ststephenlc.org)

**Organist & Choir Director:** Steve Pastena  
[music@StStephenLC.org](mailto:music@StStephenLC.org)

**Parish Office Manager:** Kevin Stafford  
[office@StStephenLC.org](mailto:office@StStephenLC.org)

**Custodian:** Michael Wogan

### E-mail Prayer Chain



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](mailto:office@ststephenlc.org). At any time, you can send prayer requests to [prayer@ststephenlc.org](mailto:prayer@ststephenlc.org)

Bob Lamp	Alzheimer's disease	Michael Smith	Cancer
Hen Yohn	Health issues	Darlene	Friend of Michael
Gail Phillippy	Ongoing Treatment		

### 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 Matthew at 717-805-7598.