

## *Worship Assistants*

	August 26, 2018		September 2, 2018	
	8:00 am service	10:45 am service	8: 00 am service	10:45 am service
<b>Acolyte</b>	David Herb	Liana Grove	David Herb	David Herb
<b>Lector</b>	Lloyd Sheaffer	Pat Gilmore-Lee	Larry Bouchat	Stacy Schroeder
<b>Cantor</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Lynne Immell	Julie Grove	Emma Best	Steve Read
<b>Communion</b>	Caroline Sheaffer	Greg John	Maxine Montgomery	Greg John
<b>Ushers</b>	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Mary Baim Bonnie Baim	Ken Clelland* Greg John Randy Neidig	Marty Baim* Bonnie Baim Alan Gamble Greg Gross	Frank Roberto* Steve Read Judy Read
<b>Greeters</b>	Sherry Rudacille Sue Rodgers	Freda Wentz Leslie Menear	Dan Lebo	Frank and June Roberto
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Ron and Brenda Kimmel		Crystal and Sara Houser	
<b>Counters</b>	Julie Grove, Tom Burson		Parker Lee, Rose Hlavac	

<b>Attendance August 19, 2018</b>		<b>Other Designated Offerings August 19, 2018</b>	
8:00 service	47	El Salvador	\$ 342.00
10:45 service	43	Bell Tower Repair	\$ 215.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	Youth Director Support	\$ 35.00
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>14</b>	Social Ministries	\$ 105.00
		National Youth Gathering	\$ 24.00
		Kate's Kids	\$ 20.00
		IMO Bud Reed	\$ 50.00
		Social Ministries (via GGC)	\$ 10.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 801.50</b>
<b>Our Tithes; August 19, 2018</b>		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 3082.30</b>
General	\$ 1631.50		
Benevolence	\$ 625.30		
World Hunger	\$ 24.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2280.80</b>		



In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

**Sunday, August 26**

- 8:00am           Worship
- 9:30am           Combined Sunday School
- 10:45am        Worship
- 4:00pm           Flying J Dinner

**Monday, August 27**

- 6:00pm           Boy Scouts

**Tuesday, August 28**

- 9:00              The Breakfast Club

**Call to Action**

**Stewardship Snippet**

**Aug. 26, 2018**

**John 6:68** – Simon Peter answered Jesus, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life."

*We hear so many voices in our culture luring us to follow by promising us prosperity, power, fun, escape, prestige, etc. But steward disciples know that only Jesus has the words of true life, eternal life. We listen only for Jesus' words.*



Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We, having been washed in the word when we were born in the font, return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

**Readings and Meditations for Next Week**

- Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9   Psalm 15
- James 1:17-27   Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**Sunday, September 2**

- 8:00am           Worship
- 9:30am           Combined Sunday School
- 10:45am        Worship
- 2:00pm           Dulcimers Practice
- 5:00pm           Tapology



Calling all potential Confirmands and "Affirmands." Do you feel called to formally join your St. Stephen Brothers and Sisters in Christ? If so, please contact Pastor Matthew directly for guidance and more information.

**Sunday, September 30–1 p.m.** We will host, along with St. Paul Lutheran Church of Carlisle, a joint picnic at our pavilion. There will be entertainment, games, a worship service, and lots of food! Barbecue pulled pork, hot dogs, beverages, and plates with utensils will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share at our picnic themed "One Body, One Bread."



**Meet & Greet – TODAY @ 4:00pm**

**The Flying J Group** would like to invite you to help us host a Pot Luck picnic with our Friends at Flying J. With the day-to-day difficulties they face, most of our Friends are in "Survival Mode", so they have little to no time to have FUN. When we dine at Denny's with our group, we've heard such comments as, "this is really nice", or "I haven't had a sit down meal for 7 months", or "this feels like family" ~ so we thought it would be nice to take it one step further and have a End of Summer Picnic Celebration, out at the Pavilion!

We'd like to do a pot luck, picnic, where everyone will bring a dish.

We would also like to have some games planned (so if you're good at that kind of planning, let me know!). We would have to have a grill master. We will need help to set up, beforehand; and/or clean up, afterwards. If you can volunteer your services, in any way, please let Le Ewell know, by phone call or text at 717.579.5406 - (no email, please – I don't check emails). Thank you!

## Prayers This Week

*Crystal Houser and family...juggling precious time and tending to her father's illness*

*Tom Denison, Chick & Gerry's son—going through another round of cancer treatments*



### September 15th Harvest Festival

Please sign up to help at our Harvest Festival! The sign up sheets with information are on the "Plugged in bulletin board" in Fellowship Hall. We need lots of help.



Keep saving items to donate for our planned yard sale on Saturday, September 15. Things such as small working appliances, dishes, books, toys, games, linens, clothing and miscellaneous items of almost every variety are acceptable. If it is clean, not broken, and will fit into a car, bring it to church. Things that are not acceptable are: children's car seats, televisions, computers, cosmetics or suitcases. Items may be brought to Fellowship Hall Wednesday, Thursday or Friday before the Festival on Saturday, September 15.

Other plans at this time for the festival include the 2:45 p.m. auction of a beautiful quilt called "Country Crossroads" (which can be viewed on the church's website) a bake sale (which we are asking you to donate an item), lunch by donation, homemade/artisan craft vendors, service groups displays, the Blood Mobile, and children's activities. We have excited leaders for this festival, but we need your help. PLEASE SIGN UP

I would like to offer a "**Special Thanks**" to those who helped with the back pack project for the homeless: Jennifer Batcheler, who sewed an awful lot of them;

Ron and Brenda Kimmel; who joined with me and cut a whole bunch of fabric;

Parker Lee and Crystal Houser: who went to the store and bought clothes line;

Evan, Jack, Russ, Maddie, Molly, Emma: members of the Youth Group Sunday School at the UMC who learned to sew a back pack for us during their Sunday School time.

*Pat Gilmore-Lee*



**Rally Day 2018** - Please plan to join us as we kick off St. Stephen's Fall 2018 Sunday Church School program on **September 9th at 9:30 AM** in Fellowship Hall. Learn more about this year's program, participate in a few inter-generational activities, and enjoy the fellowship.

**Are you artistically talented?** Do you have a creative side yearning to be released? Are you energized by working with minimal guidance? Pastor Matthew is looking for someone to build the quarterly *Anastasis* newsletter. He will remain responsible for collecting the articles but is looking for someone who can combine his vision with the articles to create visual representation of the ministry that is being accomplished through the St. Stephen disciples, under the Holy Spirit's guidance. Please contact Pastor Matthew to express your interest.

**Alert!** Pastor Matthew will not be having lunch at the pavilion next Thursday, August 23. The last "Lunch with the Pastor" for the summer will be Thursday, August 30.

**The Autumn Bible Study** this year will focus on the book of Daniel. The study begins on Wednesday, September 12th at 10:30am in the Parlor or 7:00pm at the Wegmans Café. Come on out!

**"Attention all Choir Members** and all who want to become a choir member! Fall practices resumes on Wednesday September 5 at 7:00pm. I "hear" that you will be there!!"  
~Abby

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday, 9:00am—2:00pm

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.

## Pillars of Faith

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### Saint Monica

The circumstances of Saint Monica's life could have made her a nagging wife, a bitter daughter-in-law, and a despairing parent, yet she did not give way to any of these temptations. Although she was a Christian, her parents gave her in marriage to a pagan, Patricius, who lived in her hometown of Tagaste in North Africa. Patricius had some redeeming features, but he had a violent temper and was licentious. Monica also had to bear with a cantankerous mother-in-law who lived in her home. Patricius criticized his wife because of her charity and piety, but always respected her. Monica's prayers and example finally won her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Her husband died in 371, one year after his baptism.

Monica had at least three children who survived infancy. The oldest, Augustine, is the most famous. At the time of his father's death, Augustine was 17 and a rhetoric student in Carthage. Monica was distressed to learn that her son had accepted the Manichean heresy—"all flesh is evil"—and was living an immoral life. For a while, she refused to let him eat or sleep in her house. Then one night she had a vision that assured her Augustine would return to the faith. From that time on, she stayed close to her son, praying and fasting for him. In fact she often

stayed much closer than Augustine wanted.

When he was 29, Augustine decided to go to Rome to teach rhetoric. Monica was determined to go along. One night he told his mother that he was going to the dock to say goodbye to a friend. Instead he set sail for Rome. Monica was heartbroken when she learned of Augustine's trick, but she still followed him. She arrived in Rome only to find that he had left for Milan. Although travel was difficult, Monica pursued him to Milan.

In Milan, Augustine came under the influence of the bishop, Saint Ambrose, who also became Monica's spiritual director. She accepted his advice in everything and had the humility to give up some practices that had become second nature to her. Monica became a leader of the devout women in Milan as she had been in Tagaste. She continued her prayers for Augustine during his years of instruction. At Easter 387, Saint Ambrose baptized Augustine and several of his friends. Soon after, his party left for Africa. Although no one else was aware of it, Monica knew her life was near the end. She told Augustine, "Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled." She became ill shortly after and suffered severely for nine days before her death.

Almost all we know about St. Monica is in the writings of Saint Augustine, especially his Confessions.

### Reflection

Today, with Google searches, online shopping, text messages, tweets, and instant credit, we have little patience for things that take time. Likewise, we want instant answers to our prayers. Monica is a model of patience. Her long years of prayer, coupled with a strong, well-disciplined character, finally led to the conversion of her hot-tempered husband, her cantankerous mother-in-law and her brilliant but wayward son, Augustine.

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<https://www.facebook.com/StStephenLC.org>. Here you'll find up-to-minute information, upcoming events and activities, and stories of encounters with Jesus changing people's lives.