

# Worship Assistants

|                           | September 16, 2018        |   | September 23, 2018        |   |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
|                           | 8:00 am service           | 10:45 am service                          | 8: 00 am service          | 10:45 am service                          |
| <b>Acolyte</b>            | David Herb                | Donavan Glasser                           | Sara Houser               | Liana Grove                               |
| <b>Lector</b>             | Laura Wills               | Pat Gilmore-Lee                           | Sue Rodgers               | Julie Grove                               |
| <b>Cantor</b>             | Paulette Krewson          | Kathy Burson                              | Maxine Montgomery         | Matt Schroeder                            |
| <b>Assisting Minister</b> | Beth Lengel               | TBD                                       | Crystal Houser            | Julie Grove                               |
| <b>Communion</b>          | Ja'net Gochenauer         | Art Grove                                 | Daryl Gochenauer          | Tom Burson                                |
| <b>Ushers</b>             | Alan Gamble<br>Greg Gross | Frank Roberto*<br>Steve Read<br>Judy Read | Alan Gamble<br>Greg Gross | Frank Roberto*<br>Steve Read<br>Judy Read |
| <b>Greeters</b>           | Dolores Lebo              | Ken & Carol Clelland                      | Mary & Lenny Zook         | Le Ewell                                  |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>        | Crystal and Sara Houser   |   | Crystal and Sara Houser   |   |
| <b>Counters</b>           | Parker Lee, Rose Hlavac   |   | Parker Lee, Rose Hlavac   |   |

## Attendance September 9, 2018

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| 8:00 service         | 53         |
| 10:45 service        | 52         |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>105</b> |
| <b>Sunday School</b> | <b>35</b>  |

## Other Designated Offerings September 9, 2018

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| El Salvador            | \$ 7.00         |
| Bell Tower Repair      | \$ 38.50        |
| Youth Director Support | \$ 25.00        |
| Social Ministries      | \$ 5.00         |
| Flying J Ministries    | \$ 10.00        |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>\$ 85.50</b> |

**Grand Total** **\$ 2237.20**

## Our Tithes; September 9, 2018

|              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| General      | \$ 1927.70        |
| Benevolence  | \$ 204.00         |
| World Hunger | \$ 20.00          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$ 2151.70</b> |



Three weeks ago we heard John's gospel's version of Peter's confession of faith. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of "messiah") in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

### Sunday, September 16

8:00am Worship  
9:30am Sunday Church School  
10:45am Worship

### Monday, September 17

6:00pm Boy Scouts  
6:30pm Prayers-N-Stiches

### Wednesday, September 19

10:30am Bible Study (Parlor)  
7:00pm Bible Study (Wegman's)

### Call to Action

### Stewardship Snippet Sept. 16, 2018

Mark 8:35 – [Jesus taught,] "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?"

*Jesus debunks the prevalent lie that the more we accumulate, the happier and more secure we will be. Steward/disciples learn that when we give ourselves fully to God, we save our lives and find true joy.*

**Concerned about how we fund the ministry** that we do and what we can do about it? The Stewardship committee is looking for a dozen people that can be good stewards, and donate a "**one-time only**", 2-3 hours of time, this month to assist Pastor Matthew with research for grants and other funding sources. He has all the information you will need (websites, names, etc.), he just doesn't have the time available to conduct this research on his own. So, if you can use a computer (or smart phone) and can give up 2-3 hours this month... you are greatly needed. Please send Pastor Matthew an email (pastor@ststephenlc.org) or text/call (717-805-7598), to let him know you are willing to help. Thank you very, very much!



Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

### Readings and Meditations for Next Week

Jeremiah 11:18-20 Psalm 54  
James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37

### Sunday, September 23

8:00am Worship  
9:30am Sunday Church School  
10:45am Worship



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."



Attention prayer warriors!! We are searching for a few folks who feel called to help craft prayers of intercession that embody the life of the congregation. If you meet this description, please call Pastor Matthew to volunteer!

## Prayers This Week

*Family in distress, may be separated from  
their child  
St. Stephen Disciples*



The Annual Congregational Meeting is two months away; November 18, 2018! This year's meeting promises to be quite different from previous gatherings. As you may have discerned, St. Stephen is in the midst of uncertainty and potential changes. Your Council hears you, as we have been feeling the same. To address the issue, your council developed a series of questions that they would like you to ponder as you prepare for the Congregational Meeting. One question will be asked per week for the next several weeks. Please prayerfully consider each question. If you feel led, you may use the pew pad to voice your response to each week's question. You can also call, email or engage in one-on-one conversations with Pastor Matthew or any Council member. So, without further ado, the first question: **What is Jesus Calling us to do?** (A "calling" is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion, dynamism, and direction lived out as a response to His summons and service.)

The church exists for Jesus and the unfolding of the Kingdom of God. Jesus invites us, as disciples to participate in the unfolding of that Kingdom. The church **is not** a membership club; membership implies privileges whereas discipleship implies service. How is Jesus calling us to live as disciples? How is Jesus inviting us to live out the faith that God gives us right here in New Kingstown?

**St. Stephen offers several ways to give, including electronically.** Giving can be done using your credit/debit card or checking account. You can direct your contributions to specific areas of interest. Giving can be made using any of the following ways:

- Cash or check as in the past
- Online at **StStephenLC.org** web site using the  
Donate button on bottom of home page
- Text the dollar amount to 717-259-2393
- Use the GivePlus app on a smart phone



See pew cards and flyers for specific information on the various methods.

**Fall is in the air!** Soon, the dog days of summer will be history and we'll be warming up to hot cocoa to keep the evening chill at bay. We are looking for volunteers to decorate the Sanctuary for the autumn season. Contact Pastor Matthew or Beth Lengel for details!

**There will be a "Teen" worship service** on Sunday, Sept. 23 from 6-7pm at Little Amps Coffee Shop on Green St., Harrisburg. This will be an opportunity for young people to gather and worship together in a relaxed setting. Please let Pr. Matthew know if you are interested in participating and/or carpooling

**The St. Barnabas Fashion Show and Luncheon** is scheduled for **Nov. 4 at 12:30** at the Camp Hill Radisson, costing \$30. This is the main fund-raising event for the inner city summer camp for Harrisburg youth. Some of you may remember that a large group of us went a few years ago to watch Pastor Caitlin's modeling debut! It is always a fun event that supports a good cause. In addition to a nice meal it includes a silent auction, so bring your checkbook! If you are interested in going, please contact Sally John at 761-5329 or beachdogs4@verizon.net by Sept. 30.

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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### St. Cyprian of Carthage, Bishop and Martyr

Cyprian was born around 200 AD in North Africa, of pagan parents. He was a prominent trial lawyer and teacher of rhetoric. Around 246 he became a Christian, and in 248 was chosen Bishop of Carthage. A year later the persecution under the Emperor Decius began, and Cyprian went into hiding. He was severely censured for this (unjustly on my view -- see Mt 2:13; 10:23; 24:16).

After the persecution had died down, it remained to consider how to deal with the lapsed, meaning with those Christians who had denied the faith under duress. Cyprian held that they ought to be received back into full communion after suitable intervals of probation and penance, adjusted to the gravity of the denial. In this he took a middle course between Novatus, who received apostates with no probation at all, and Novatian, who

would not receive them back at all, and who broke communion with the rest of the Church over this issue, forming a dissident group particularly strong in Rome and Antioch. (Novatus, somewhat surprisingly, ended up joining the party of Novatian.) Cyprian, who held the same position as the Bishop of Rome on the treatment of the lapsed, wrote urging the Christians of Rome to stand with their bishop.

Later, the question arose whether baptisms performed by heretical groups ought to be recognized as valid by the Church, or whether converts from such groups ought to be rebaptized. Cyprian favored re-baptism, and Bishop Stephen of Rome did not. The resulting controversy was not resolved during Cyprian's lifetime.

During the reign of the Emperor Valerian, Carthage suffered a severe plague epidemic. Cyprian organized a program of medical relief and nursing of the sick, available to all residents, but this did not prevent the masses from being convinced that the epidemic resulted from the wrath of the gods at the spread of Christianity. Another persecution arose, and this time Cyprian did not flee. He was arrested, tried, and finally beheaded on 14 September 258. (Because September 14th is Holy Cross Day, he is usually commemorated on a nearby open day.) We have an account of his trial and martyrdom.

Many of his writings have been preserved. His essay *On the Unity of The Catholic Church* stresses the importance of visible, concrete unity among Christians, and the role of the bishops in guaranteeing that unity. It has greatly influenced Christian thought, as have his essays and letters on Baptism and the Lord's Supper. He has been quoted both for and against the Roman Catholic claims for Papal authority.

**Pastor:** *Pastor Matthew Best*

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Please visit and like our **Facebook** page:

<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.