

# *Worship Assistants*

	<b>December 23, 2018</b>	<b>December 30, 2018</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Donavan Glasser	Liana Grove
<b>Lector</b>	Pat Seiple	Crystal Houser
<b>Cantor</b>	Mike Kulikauskas	Matt Schroeder
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Lynne Immell	Julie Grove
<b>Communion</b>	Bill Wills	Maxine Montgomery
<b>Ushers</b>	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Bill Wills Wayne Lengel	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Bill Wills Wayne Lengel
<b>Greeters</b>	Ken and Carol Clelland	Steve and Judy Read
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Ja 'net Gochenauer	Ja 'net Gochenauer
<b>Counters</b>	Cheryl Neidig, Tom Burson	Cheryl Neidig, Tom Burson
<b>Nursery</b>	Steve and Judy Read	Cheryl Neidig

<b>Attendance December 16, 2018</b>		<b>Other Designated Offerings December 16, 2018</b>	
Worship	97	Field of Dreams	\$ 500.00
Sunday School	34	Social Ministries	\$ 215.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	Bell Tower Repair	\$ 173.50
		El Salvador	\$ 137.00
		Youth Director Support	\$ 20.00
		Flying J	\$ 8.00
		Youth Ministries	\$ 5.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1058.50</b>
<b>Our Tithes; December 16, 2018</b>		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 5942.05</b>
General	\$ 4168.55		
Benevolence	\$ 702.00		
World Hunger	\$ 13.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4883.55</b>		

## The Week Ahead

## Prepare the Way



Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

### Sunday, December 23

9:00am Worship  
 10:30am Sunday Church School  
 11:00am Christmas Cookie Baking  
 3:00pm Christmas Caroling

### Monday, December 24

5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship  
 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship  
 11:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

### Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day!

### Wednesday, December 26, Office Closed

7:00pm Choir Practice

### Call to Action

#### Stewardship Snippet

Dec. 23, 2018

**Micah 5:4** – And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

*Peace is the theme for the fourth Sunday of Advent. We remember that Jesus is, as Micah says, "the one of peace," the shepherd who cares for us, his flock. Steward/disciples draw near to Jesus and find peace in him.*

**"Merry Christmas and God's Peace** to all of the St. Stephen disciples!" Kevin will be taking a vacation day on December 26th. **Consequently, the office will be closed.**



On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and human-kind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

### Meditation and Readings for December 30

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26      Psalm 148  
 Colossians 3:12-17      Luke 2:41-52

### Sunday, December 30

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

**Our next Bible study** will turn back to the New Testament – to letters that we don't look at very often. We'll explore 1 & 2 Peter, as well as 1, 2, & 3 John. These are all short books in the Bible. You are invited to be a part of the conversation and study. Come once, come to all of them, come when you can. Invite a friend too. These studies are open for people who want a better understanding of the Bible, are struggling with what is in Scripture, want to learn how it applies to your life, regardless of your familiarity with the Bible. Questions are welcome and encouraged. We meet on Wednesdays. Either come at 10:30am in the church parlor or at 7 pm at Wegman's café. We will begin Wednesday, January 9 and Bible study will run until Wednesday, February 27.

**They're here!!** The 2019 Offering Envelopes are located on the table near the church entrance. As always, please pick up the envelopes for disciples that may not be able to come to the church as often as they would like.

**Last chance to sign up to help with Christmas Eve Worship!!** We are still looking for volunteers to serve in the following capacities:

Cantor	11:00pm
Assisting Min.	11:00pm
Communion	5:00pm
Greeters	7:00pm
	11:00pm
Please call (7417-766-2168) or email (office@StStephenLC.org)	
Crucifer	7:00pm
Gospel Bearer	7:00pm
Lector	11:00pm
	Kevin to volunteer!

## Prayers This Week

*Amanda Campbell*

*Kimberly, Ja 'net's daughter; recovering from surgery and on to physical therapy  
Xander's grandpop, John...recovering*

*from emergency cardiac surgery*

*Larry Ciecierski, recovering from bladder surgery  
St. Stephen Disciples*



## On the horizon...

**Christmas Cookie Baking...**The Evangelism Committee welcomes you to help bake Christmas cookies **today from 11am to 2:30pm**. We will be providing a lunch. The cookies will be put on plates for the congregation to take to give to our community service members who are working on Christmas Eve and or Christmas Day. If you would like to donate baked cookies, please drop them off on the 23rd before 1pm. Thank you for making the Holiday season a little bit sweeter for others.

**We will be Christmas caroling on today.** Please meet at the church at **3:00pm**.

### **The Darkest Night Service – today at 3 pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg**

The weekend of December 21 – 23 includes the longest and darkest night of the year. It is fitting that at this time, Trinity Lutheran Church in Mechanicsburg offers an afternoon worship service for those who struggle with darkness in their lives and are experiencing grief and sadness during the Christmas holiday season. Surrounded by a world, which announces joy at every turn, and happiness with each breath, we pause to offer God our struggles, which can seem even more painful in this season of festivity. Deep in our hearts there is faith, but at times the nearness of our loss brings with it a pain that seeks to lock out the joy of the season. The hymns, lessons, prayers and readings are offered as a reminder that the joy of Christmas is intimately linked with the suffering of the Easter Cross, and given meaning by it. The candle lighting, communion, and anointing will provide visible focus of our grief and our hope. Join us and invite others to this respite from the world's happiness, in order to embrace your sense of loss, and to hear again God's promises of renewal and healing.

**Social Ministry will be hosting another Freezer Meal Day on Jan. 20.** We will purchase all ingredients ahead of time, so we just need folks to help prepare and package the casseroles. These meals are distributed to those in our congregation who are homebound or just returning from hospital stays. Bring a bag lunch to eat after the Sunday Church School hour, and we'll begin preparations after a brief lunch break, at approximately 12:15. If you are interested please sign up in fellowship hall.

**Christmas Eve Worship Opportunities. All with Communion. All with candle lighting**

Note. We are still looking for worship assistant volunteers. See page 2 for details

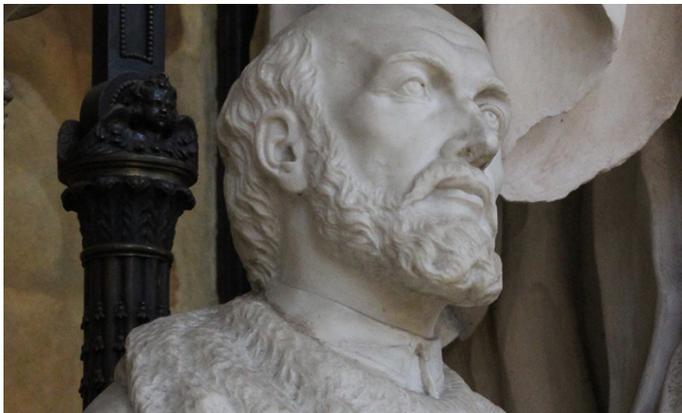
- 5:00pm Family and child oriented
- 7:00pm Special Music before the Worship service
- 11:00pm Quiet, contemplative service with incense.



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 John of Kanty

John was a country lad who made good in the big city and the big university of Kraków, Poland. After brilliant studies he was ordained a priest and became a professor of theology. The inevitable opposition which saints encounter led to his being ousted by rivals and sent to be a parish priest at Olkusz. An extremely humble man, he did his best, but his best was not to the liking of his parishioners. Besides, he was afraid of the responsibilities of his position. But in the end he won his people's hearts. After some time he returned to Kraków and

taught Scripture for the remainder of his life.

John was a serious man, and humble, but known to all the poor of Kraków for his kindness. His goods and his money were always at their disposal, and time and again they took advantage of him. He kept only the money and clothes absolutely needed to support himself. He slept little, ate sparingly, and took no meat. He made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, hoping to be martyred by the Turks. Later John made four subsequent pilgrimages to Rome, carrying his luggage on his back. When he was warned to look after his health, he was quick to point out that, for all their austerity, the fathers of the desert lived remarkably long lives.

### Reflection

John of Kanty is a typical saint: He was kind, humble, and generous, he suffered opposition and led an austere, penitential life. Most Christians in an affluent society can understand all the ingredients except the last: Anything more than mild self-discipline seems reserved for athletes and ballet dancers. Christmas at least is a good time to reject self-indulgence.

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### Please update your address books!

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Brookdale Senior Living  
1100 Grandon Way  
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Mechanicsburg, PA. 17050  
717-731-1424

P.S. Marion would love to hear from you.

Cards, call or visits are always welcome!

**Pastor:** *Pastor Matthew Best*

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**Parish Office Manager:** *Kevin Stafford*

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**Organist and Choir Director:** *Abby Best*

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**Custodian:** *Michael Wogan*

**Contact Us:**

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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.