



Worship Assistants

	December 30, 2018	January 6, 2019
Acolyte	Liana Grove	Jenna Gordon
Lector	Crystal Houser	Larry Bouchat
Cantor	N/A	Beth Lengel
Assisting Minister	Julie Grove	Tina Gordon
Communion	Maxine Montgomery	Tom Burson
Ushers	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Bill Wills Wayne Lengel	Frank Roberto* Steve Read Judy Read Greg John
Greeters	Steve and Judy Read	Grace Stoner
Altar Guild	Ja 'net Gochenauer	Ron and Brenda Kimmel
Counters	Cheryl Neidig, Tom Burson	Julie Grove, Tom Burson; Cheryl Neidig
Nursery	Cheryl Neidig	Sue Rodgers

Attendance December 23,24 2018		Other Designated Offerings December 23,24 2018	
Sunday Worship	99	Bell Tower Repair	\$ 153.50
Christmas Eve Worship	179	El Salvador	\$ 77.00
Sunday School	31	Youth Director Support	\$ 20.00
Total	309	Kate's Kids	\$ 20.00
		Social Ministries	\$ 15.00
		Dinner With Friends	\$ 10.00
		Youth Ministries	\$ 5.00
		Total	\$ 300.50
Our Tithes; December 23,24 2018		Grand Total	\$ 7873.56
General	\$ 6900.25		
Benevolence	\$ 633.81		
World Hunger	\$ 39.00		
Total	\$ 7573.06		

The Week Ahead



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

Sunday, December 30

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

Monday, December 31, new Year’s eve

6:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 1, 2019, Happy New Year

Office Closed!

Wednesday, January 2

7:00pm Choir Practice

Saturday, January 5

9:30a 4-H Creative Expressions Club

Call to Action

Stewardship Snippet Dec. 30, 2018

Colossians 3:12, 14 – As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

We all know that stewardship is about how we live so that we love God thoroughly and our neighbor as ourselves. This remarkable passage gives us a vivid image to help us get there. Wake each day and clothe ourselves in Christian character and love.

Prepare the Way



Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

Meditation and Readings for January 6

Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 6

9:00am Worship
10:30am Sunday Church School
2:00pm Dulcimers Practice
5:00pm Tapology

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.

Prayers This Week

*Kimberly, Ja 'net's daughter; recovery
continues*

St. Stephen Disciples



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.

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



Saint Egwin

You say you're not familiar with today's saint? Chances are you aren't—unless you're especially informed about Benedictine bishops who established monasteries in medieval England.

Born in the seventh century of royal blood, Egwin entered a monastery, and was enthusiastically received by royalty, clergy, and the people as the bishop of Worcester, England. As a bishop he was known as a protector of orphans and the widowed and a fair judge. Who could argue with that?

His popularity didn't hold up among members of the clergy, however. They saw him as overly strict, while he felt he was simply trying to correct abuses and impose appropriate disciplines. Bitter resentments arose, and Egwin made his way to Rome to present his case to Pope Constantine. The case against Egwin was examined and annulled.

Upon his return to England, Egwin founded Evesham Abbey, which became one of the great Benedictine houses of medieval England. It was dedicated to Mary, who had reportedly made it known to Egwin just where a church should be built in her honor.

Egwin died at the abbey on December 30, 717. Following his burial many miracles were attributed to him: The blind could see, the deaf could hear, the sick were healed.

Reflection

Correcting abuses and faults is never an easy job, not even for a bishop. Egwin attempted to correct and build up the clergy in his diocese and it earned him the wrath of his priests. When we are called to correct someone or some group, plan on opposition, but also know that it might be the right thing to do.

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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.