



Worship Assistants

	January 6, 2019	January 13, 2019
Acolyte	Jenna Gordon	David Herb
Lector	Larry Bouchat	Laura Wills
Cantor	Beth Lengel	Paulette Krewson
Assisting Minister	Tina Gordon	Julie Grove
Communion	Tom Burson	Ja 'net Gochenauer
Ushers	Frank Roberto* Steve Read Judy Read Greg John	Frank Roberto* Steve Read Judy Read Greg John
Greeters	Grace Stoner	Freda Wentz; Leslie Menear
Altar Guild	Ron and Brenda Kimmel	Ron and Brenda Kimmel
Counters	Julie Grove, Tom Burson; Cheryl Neidig	Julie Grove, Tom Burson
Nursery	Sue Rodgers	Maxine Montgomery

Attendance December 30 2018		Other Designated Offerings December 30, 2018	
Sunday Worship	72	Baby Food	\$ 99.16
Sunday School	12+	El Salvador	\$ 87.00
Total	84+	Bell Tower Repair	\$ 53.50
		ELCA Good Gifts (Fish Farm)	\$ 40.00
		Youth Director Support	\$ 20.00
		Social Ministries	\$ 15.00
		Youth Ministries	\$ 5.00
		Total	\$ 319.66
Our Tithes; December 30 2018		Grand Total	\$ 1829.52
General	\$ 1322.86		
Benevolence	\$ 174.00		
World Hunger	\$ 13.00		
Total	\$ 1509.86		

The Week Ahead



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.

Sunday, January 6

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

Monday, January 7

6:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 8

7:00pm Committee’s Common Meeting

Wednesday, January 9

Office Closed

10:00am Bible Study
7:00pm Bible Study
7:00pm Choir Practice

Saturday, January 12

1:00pm Vision Board Workshop

Call to Action

Stewardship Snippet

January 6

Matthew 2:11—On entering the house, the Magi saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

After traveling far to visit Jesus, the Wise Men made an offering of precious gifts. Today we respond to Jesus’ love by giving our hearts and minds to him, but also offerings from our own treasure chests.

Pastor Matthew will be out of the office from January 10-12. Please call Pastor Alex Martini, St. Peter’s, Mechanicsburg, with Pastoral emergencies. His number is 717-766-2701

The office will be closed on Wednesday, January 9. Kevin is having oral surgery that day...yeah!!!

Prepare the Way

The Baptism of Our Lord cannot help but recall our own and all baptismal blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as daughters and sons, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we “pass through the waters ... the rivers ... fire.” On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of the beloved Son of God in bread and wine.



Meditation and Readings for January 13

Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, January 13

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



Meet us at Desperate Times for our next Tapology get-together **tonight from 5-7pm**. Good food, great fellowship, and interesting topics. The topic this month is “death”. Hope to see you there!!

St. Stephen boxes

2018...The dollars are in, and they bode well for us as witnesses to another outreach program. We emptied the boxes for the last time in 2018 and tallied a stellar number: \$253.36. Added to the interim total of \$665.77 (as of 2 Dec), that gives us a total of \$919.13. Yet to add to that, \$500.00 in matching funds from Social Ministry. Finally, we just received an anonymous donation that brings the total to \$1,500-enough to purchase 6 fish farms. 'Fantastic!



Thank you! Thank you for the Christmas gift of \$75.00. Your unfailing generosity and giving spirit never ceases to amaze me. You are a warm and welcoming congregation and I consider it an honor to be able to serve you as your Office Manager. Many wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2019.

Kevin Stafford

Prayers This Week

*Xander's grandpop, John; recovering from cardiac surgery
Kimberly, Ja 'net's daughter; recovery continues*

*Kent, Ken and Carol Clelland's son; brain tumor surgery and recovery
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.

WE CAN DO IT

The Middle School Sunday Church School Class is leading the way with a Souper Bowl contest.

- This year we are having two teams which church members must sign up for to participate.
- There is Team Noodle, which will collect chicken or any noodle soup, and Team Veggie, that will collect vegetable beef soup or any veggie soup.

All donated canned soup will be given to the New Hope Food Bank.

Sign up now for Team Noodle or Team Veggie

Start bringing in those cans of soup - Help relieve hunger in our community

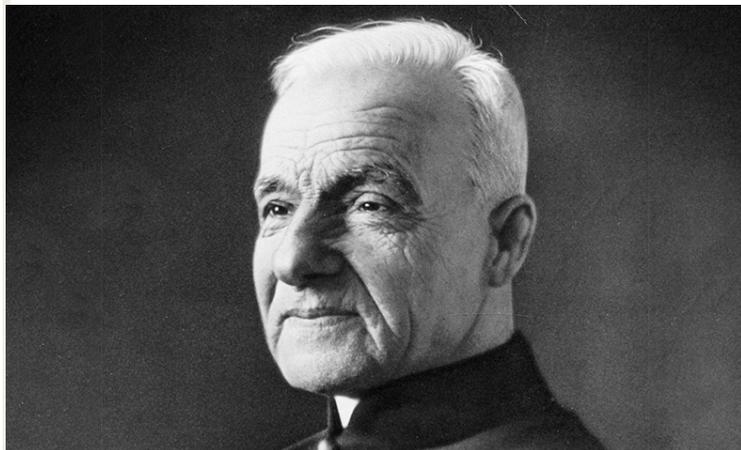
Sign up sheets for the teams with rules and status updates are on the bulletin board.
All soup can be dropped off at the table in the entryway.

The winning team gets a pizza party after Super Bowl Sunday— February 3rd—after Sunday Church School.

God's Work Our Hands

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 André Bessette

Brother André expressed a saint's faith by a lifelong devotion to Saint Joseph.

Sickness and weakness dogged André from birth. He was the eighth of 12 children born to a French Canadian couple near Montreal. Adopted at 12, when both parents had died, he became a farmhand. Various trades followed: shoemaker, baker, blacksmith—all failures. He was a factory worker in the United States during the boom times of the Civil War.

At 25, André applied for entrance into the Congregation of Holy Cross. After a year's novitiate, he was not admitted because of his weak health. But with an extension and the urging of Bishop Bourget, he was finally received. He was given the humble job of doorkeeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal, with additional duties as sacristan, laundry worker and messenger. "When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door, and I remained 40 years," he said.

In his little room near the door, he spent much of the night on his knees. On his windowsill, facing Mount Royal, was a small statue of Saint Joseph, to whom he had been devoted since childhood. When asked about it he said, "Some day, Saint Joseph is going to be honored in a very special way on Mount Royal!"

When he heard someone was ill, he visited to bring cheer and to pray with the sick person. He would rub the sick person lightly with oil taken from a lamp burning in the college chapel. Word of healing powers began to spread.

When an epidemic broke out at a nearby college, André volunteered to nurse. Not one person died. The trickle of sick people to his door became a flood. His superiors were uneasy; diocesan authorities were suspicious; doctors called him a quack. "I do not cure," he said again and again. "Saint Joseph cures." In the end he needed four secretaries to handle the 80,000 letters he received each year.

For many years the Holy Cross authorities had tried to buy land on Mount Royal. Brother André and others climbed the steep hill and planted medals of Saint Joseph. Suddenly, the owners yielded. André collected \$200 to build a small chapel and began receiving visitors there—smiling through long hours of listening, applying Saint Joseph's oil. Some were cured, some not. The pile of crutches, canes and braces grew.

The chapel also grew. By 1931, there were gleaming walls, but money ran out. "Put a statue of Saint Joseph in the middle. If he wants a roof over his head, he'll get it." The magnificent Oratory on Mount Royal took 50 years to build. The sickly boy who could not hold a job died at 92. He is buried at the Oratory. He was beatified in 1982 and canonized in 2010. At his canonization in October 2010, Pope Benedict XVI said that Saint Andre "lived the beatitude of the pure of heart."

Reflection

Rubbing ailing limbs with oil or a medal? Planting a medal to buy land? Isn't this superstition? Aren't we long past that? Superstitious people rely only on the "magic" of a word or action. Brother André's oil and medals were authentic sacramentals of a simple, total faith in the Father who lets his saints help him bless his children.

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