

The Week Ahead



This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific—the demonic—nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of the holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus "until he comes." It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

Sunday, June 23

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

Monday, June 24

6:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, June 25

9:00am Breakfast Club

Stewardship Snippet

June 23, 2019

Galatians 3:28 –There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Viewing the world through the wide lens of a generous heart enables us to see the big picture of what God is up to. Like Paul, we see that in God's economy there is room at the table for everyone.

Call to Action

The altar flowers are sponsored today by Becky Rensel in memory of "my dear friend, Helen."

Please take the time to thank Lloyd Sheaffer for leading us in worship this morning. As usual, an outstanding job filling in for Pastor Matthew, who is on vacation.

Please welcome Ms. Suzanne Klinedinst to the organist's console today. Suzanne is a graduate of Lebanon Valley College with a major in Music Education and holds a Master's degree in organ performance from Kent State University. She has served as organist/director of music in New Cumberland, Mechanicsburg and Enola for over 50 years.

Prepare the Way



We have no good apart from God. That makes our Lord's call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruits: love, joy, peace, patience, and the like. This is the path of life.

Meditation and Readings for June 30

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62

Sunday, June 30

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

The first aid box on the kitchen wall in Fellowship Hall is now fully stocked. There are bandaids and gauze pads of all sizes, Tylenol (adult and children), IBP, aspirin, first aid creams and an overdose Narcan kit. The Narcan kit contains easy to follow administering instructions and no training is needed. The bottom half of the box houses the AED kit, for which training is necessary to use. (Stay tuned for future training dates!) It would be helpful for numerous people to familiarize themselves with the contents in addition to opening the flap and reading the Narcan instructions. Finally, a new blood pressure monitor sits on top of the first aid box.

Congregational Renewal – R3 Initiative!

"The R3 initiative—reFORM, reNEW, reVISION—aims to help individuals and congregations explore how God is already at work in our mission fields and grow spiritually to bring the good news of Christ to a world that needs it more than ever."(Synod Website)

We have formally applied to the Synod to participate in the R3 process. We are looking for two or three additional brothers or sisters to join the team. As a reminder, you will be asked to participate in the monthly meetings over the next 18 months and share your experiences with all of us.

The remainder of the congregation, will need to work with the R3 team, support them and pray with and for them as we move to the next chapter of St Stephen's story. Stay tuned for additional updates.

~Mike Kulikauskas

Prayers This Week

Niki Hlavac...of praise...Niki is finally on the low end of normal for hemoglobin and iron counts. Mike Tracey...ongoing serious health issues Amber Ellis, Cheryl Neidig;s niece...recovering from *successful cardiac surgery Jim, Mike Kulikauskas' friend...recovering from several health issues St. Stephen Disciples*

Be part of history...Volunteers needed to “ring the bell” to call our brothers and sisters to worship. Did you know....The history of ringing church bells dates back to AD 400. Paulinus of Nola was the first man to introduce them to the Christian church, and Pope Sabinianus sanctioned their use in AD 604. Church bells became much more common in Europe during the Middle Ages, and the Eastern Orthodox Church carried on a long history of using bells during services. Additionally, some Lutheran Churches ring the bell thrice daily to remind us to recite the Lord’s Prayer. At St. Stephen, we ring the bell to shout out the Good News to our New Kingstown neighbors. See Wayne Lengel or Steve Read for training and to sign up.

It’s Harvest Festival planning time again! The Festival will be **September 14th from 9AM-3PM**. While some preparations have been in the works for a few months, we are now in need of members, willing to head up key areas on the big day. Currently, we are looking for volunteers to be in charge of running the following areas on Festival Day: Quilt Auction, Kitchen, Kids Games, Bake Sale, Bingo, Yard Sale, Cake Walk, Horseshoe Competition, 50/50 Raffle, Parking Vendors, and Clean Up. Whether you are willing to be the “go to” person or just help out for a couple hours, contact Jenny Batcheler at troublemk@pa.net to let her know your preference. Know a possible vendor? Let her know that, too! Don’t see something you’d like to help with? No worries! We’ll be asking for other volunteers as the time gets closer or share your own ideas with Jennifer, while you’re waiting! Can’t wait to hear from you!

Youth and Family Ministry Director Position

St. Stephen is seeking applicants for the part-time (15 hours/week) position of Youth and Family Ministry Director. The applicant should have a basic understanding and agreement with Lutheran theology as well as an energetic and enthusiastic approach to the ministry. The applicant should have a certified lay professional degree or certificate issued by an ELCA-approved religious school; or willing to obtain. A detailed job description is available on request or at the church web site, StStephenLC.org. Submit resume to Tom Burson, Personnel Committee, c/o St. Stephen Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 266, New Kingstown, PA 17072. It may also be emailed to employment@StStephenLC.org.



Have you ever read a story in the Bible and wondered what happened next? What happened to Tabitha after Peter brought her back to life in Acts? Or Mary Magdalene who saw the risen Jesus first in the Gospels of Mark and John? Why don't their stories come to a resolution? All are welcome to join Tapology on **Sunday, July 7** as we discuss these questions. The event runs from **5-7 pm at Desperate Times Brewery** in Carlisle (1201 Carlisle Springs Rd). What is Tapology? It's an event that takes place on the first Sunday of each month. We meet over food and alcoholic/nonalcoholic beverages to discuss a different topic each month. Come join us for discussion, friendship, and fellowship.

Pillars of Faith



Saint John Fisher

John Fisher is usually associated with Erasmus, Thomas More, and other Renaissance humanists. His life therefore, did not have the external simplicity found in the lives of some saints. Rather, he was a man of learning, associated with the intellectuals and political leaders of his day. He was interested in the contemporary culture and eventually became chancellor at Cambridge. He had been made a bishop at 35, and one of his interests was raising the standard of preaching in England. Fisher himself was an accomplished preacher and writer. His sermons on the penitential psalms were reprinted seven times before his death. With the coming of Lutheranism, he was drawn into controversy. His eight books against heresy gave him a leading position among European theologians.

In 1521, Fisher was asked to study the question of King Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, his brother's widow. He incurred Henry's anger by defending the validity of the king's marriage with Catherine, and later by rejecting Henry's claim to be the supreme head of the Church of England.

In an attempt to be rid of him, Henry first had Fisher

accused of not reporting all the "revelations" of the nun of Kent, Elizabeth Barton. In feeble health, Fisher was summoned to take the oath to the new Act of Succession. He and Thomas More refused to do so because the Act presumed the legality of Henry's divorce and his claim to be head of the English Church. They were sent to the Tower of London, where Fisher remained 14 months without trial. Finally both men were sentenced to life imprisonment and loss of goods.

When the two were called to further interrogations, they remained silent. On the supposition that he was speaking privately as a priest, Fisher was tricked into declaring again that the king was not supreme head of the church in England. The king, further angered that the pope had made John Fisher a cardinal, had him brought to trial on the charge of high treason. He was condemned and executed, his body left to lie all day on the scaffold and his head hung on London Bridge. More was executed two weeks later. His Liturgical Feast Day is June 22.

Reflection

Today many questions are raised about Christians' and priests' active involvement in social issues. John Fisher remained faithful to his calling as a priest and bishop. He strongly upheld the teachings of the Church; the very cause of his martyrdom was his loyalty to Rome. He was involved in the cultural enrichment circles as well as in the political struggles of his time. This involvement caused him to question the moral conduct of the leadership of his country.

"The Church has the right, indeed the duty, to proclaim justice on the social, national and international level, and to denounce instances of injustice, when the fundamental rights of man and his very salvation demand it" (Justice in the World, 1971 Synod of Bishops).

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