



## The Week Ahead



Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part today in assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

### Sunday, August 11

9:00am Worship  
10:30am Sunday Church School  
3:00pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor

### Monday, August 12

6:00pm Boy Scouts  
7:00pm Congregation Council Meeting

### Saturday, August 17

7:00pm Dinner With Friends

### Stewardship Snippet

August 11, 2019

**Luke 12:34** – “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

*Jesus continues his teaching about greed, resource management, and abundance by telling the crowd to sell their possessions and give alms. He reminds them that their treasure is the home for their hearts. Where is your heart’s home? Have you placed your trust God’s radical abundance?*

### Call to Action

**Social Ministry requests** homemade cookies for our Flying J Mission beginning Thurs, September 5th. The cookies need to be bagged individually; 2 small or 1 large per bag, and left in the kitchen on the island before 6PM. An additional sign up sheet will be posted on the refrigerator. They are really a hit for our participants to enjoy something homemade. Thanks, for your continued support.

**Interested in becoming** a St. Stephen disciple? Interested in transferring your membership from another congregation? Interested in baptism or confirmation? Please see Pr. Matthew for details.

**With the start of the new church school year in September**, we plan to expand the class offerings for our children. To enable this, we need a teacher for our pre-

## Prepare the Way

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today, in the assembly, we are surrounded by “so great a cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in the holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”



### Meditation and Readings for August 18

Jeremiah 23:23-29      Psalm 82  
Hebrews 11:29--12:2      Luke 12:49-56

### Sunday, August 18

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

K thru 2nd Grade class. Please consider this opportunity. If in doing so you feel the calling, please contact the pastor or Greg John.

**School is right around the bend.** Bring your backpacks to church on August 18th to have them blessed for the new year.



**BIBLE STUDY on the BOOK OF REVELATION**  
WEDNESDAYS, STARTING  
SEPTEMBER 11

Two locations:  
10:30 am at St. Stephen  
7:00 pm at Wegmans’s Café, Carlisle Pike

Epistles. Apocalypse. Prophecy. You may have heard about these concepts but have you ever actually read the book of Revelation? It’s full of crazy images. People have tried to interpret its meaning for centuries.

These too are trying times. It’s perhaps easy to think they are the end times. But many times in history people have lived through days as difficult as these. What can we learn in these times through the lens of the book of Revelation?

Join in a lively and broad discussion of this controversial final book of the Bible Wednesdays this fall.

While you will benefit most from attending each week, feel free to join in at any time. If you need a Bible, call the church office at 717-766-2168.

Marian Reed...recovering from surgery

Kimberly, Ja 'net Gochenauer's daughter...dealing with severe side effects from medication.

Marie Bowen, Mary Pressley's daughter...in ICU, recovering from surgery complications

Katie Therrain, Leslie Immel's friend...dealing with 4th round of cancer and is only 39 years old

St. Stephen Disciples.

### Recognizing God in our Midst/ Thurs, September 19, 7:00-8:30PM/ St Stephen Fellowship Hall.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? God wants us to be aware of Christ's presence. If we want what God desires, we first learn how to recognize the presence of Christ. To do so, we slow down long enough to redirect our 'busyness' with opportunities that pay attention to Jesus' presence in our midst. Growing our awareness of Christ's presence requires a different rhythm to our life. A rhythm many of us were never taught, yet we deeply desire. In an effort to catch up to some of what the Holy Spirit is doing in your life, we invite you to take a few moments with God during this workshop. Together, we will gently become aware of where God has been with you in your own life and notice how God is moving in the lives of others. Come and see how you can encounter God in the ordinary.

Workshop presenter Deacon Marsha Roscoe desires to help others grow in faith and discipleship and serves on the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a deacon. She is currently under call with the Lower Susquehanna Synod as the Director for Mission Interpretation. In 2016, she founded Breathing in Christ. In ecumenical partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA, she is also on the staff of the Stevenson School for Ministry.

### Changing Your Congregation's 'Money Culture'

In partnership with the Stevenson School For Ministry, beginning on **Tuesday, August 13th**, from 7:00 to 8:00pm and running for five consecutive Tuesdays, Pastor Rob Blezard is leading an online course, "Changing Your Congregation's Money Culture." This series looks at what our Bible and our faith traditions say about money and explores a congregation's unspoken and unhealthy "money culture." Through awareness, education and best practices, you will learn how to shift the money culture.

Zoom is the online software that will be used. The meeting link for Aug. 13 is <https://zoom.us/j/967563185>. There is another Zoom meeting immediately before ours, so we won't be able to start until exactly 7:00pm.

**Did you lose a key?** A small key was found with the Bell Tower offering last week. Please call or stop by the office to claim it!

Join us for a summer evening of cool fun.  
**FREE**

Barbecue and Chips  
Salad  
Desserts & Drinks

DINNER WITH  
Friends  
BE OUR GUEST

FREE  
with our usual  
Fabulous Prices

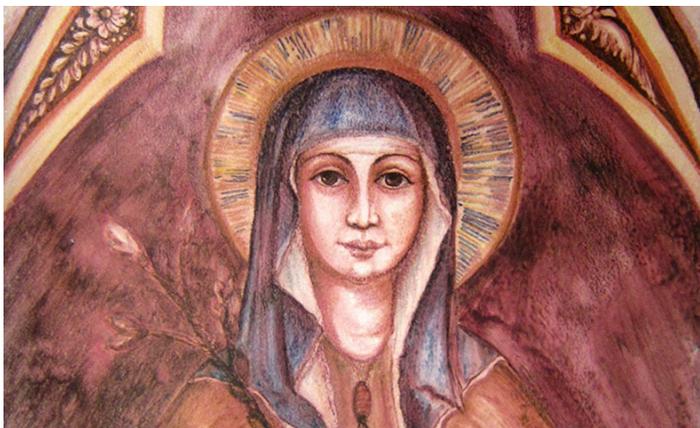
**Saturday, August 17, 2019**  
**@ 5:00 p.m.**  
**St. Stephen Lutheran Church**  
30 West Main Street, New Kingstown, PA  
(717) 766-2168

All are Welcome

### HARVEST FESTIVAL YARD SALE

Once again you are invited to participate in the yard sale at the Harvest Festival on September 14. Please begin saving items to donate for this sale. Smaller items that will fit in a car are welcome. The only items not requested are: electronics, baby and youth car seats, and broken or dirty items. Toys, knick knacks, clean clothing and kitchen items always sell well. The donations can be brought to Fellowship Hall beginning Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Sign up sheets for help with this sale are posted in Fellowship Hall. Contact Carol Clelland if you have questions or need help with bringing items in.

## Pillars of Faith



### Saint Clare of Assisi

One of the more sugary movies made about Francis of Assisi pictures Clare as a golden-haired beauty floating through sun-drenched fields, a sort of one-woman counterpart to the new Franciscan Order.

The beginning of her religious life was indeed movie material. Having refused to marry at 15, Clare was moved by the dynamic preaching of Francis. He became her lifelong friend and spiritual guide.

At 18, Clare escaped from her father's home one night, was met on the road by friars carrying torches, and in the poor little chapel called the Portiuncula received a rough woolen habit, exchanged her jeweled belt for a common rope with knots in it, and sacrificed her long tresses to Francis' scissors. He placed her in a Benedictine convent, which her father and uncles immediately stormed in rage. Clare clung to the altar of the church, threw aside her veil to show her cropped hair, and remained adamant.

Sixteen days later her sister Agnes joined her. Others came. They lived a simple life of great poverty, austerity, and complete seclusion from the world, according to

a Rule which Francis gave them as a Second Order. At age 21, Francis obliged Clare under obedience to accept the office of abbess, one she exercised until her death.

The Poor Ladies went barefoot, slept on the ground, ate no meat, and observed almost complete silence. Later Clare, like Francis, persuaded her sisters to moderate this rigor: "Our bodies are not made of brass." The greatest emphasis, of course, was on gospel poverty. They possessed no property, even in common, subsisting on daily contributions. When even the pope tried to persuade Clare to mitigate this practice, she showed her characteristic firmness: "I need to be absolved from my sins, but I do not wish to be absolved from the obligation of following Jesus Christ."

Francis always remained her great friend and inspiration. Clare was always obedient to his will and to the great ideal of gospel life which he was making real.

A well-known story concerns her prayer and trust. Clare had the Blessed Sacrament placed on the walls of the convent when it faced attack by invading Saracens. "Does it please you, O God, to deliver into the hands of these beasts the defenseless children I have nourished with your love? I beseech you, dear Lord, protect these whom I am now unable to protect." To her sisters she said, "Don't be afraid. Trust in Jesus." The Saracens fled.

### Reflection

The 41 years of Clare's religious life are scenarios of sanctity: an indomitable resolve to lead the simple, literal gospel life as Francis taught her; courageous resistance to the ever-present pressure to dilute the ideal; a passion for poverty and humility; an ardent life of prayer; and a generous concern for her sisters.

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**Pastor:** *Pastor Matthew Best*

[pastor@StStephenLC.org](mailto:pastor@StStephenLC.org)

[www.pleasepraywith.me](http://www.pleasepraywith.me)

[www.laceduplutheran.com](http://www.laceduplutheran.com)

@Laceduplutheran—Twitter

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

[office@StStephenLC.org](mailto:office@StStephenLC.org)

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

[organist@StStephenLC.org](mailto:organist@StStephenLC.org)

**Custodian:** *Michael Wogan*

**Contact Us:**

717-766-2168

[www.StStephenLC.org](http://www.StStephenLC.org)

P.O. Box 266, New Kingstown, PA 17072

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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.