

New Spirit Newsletter



St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church New Kingstown, PA February 2017

We are a community of faith inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim boldly the Good News of God's loving, saving presence in the world.



Hebrews 11:1-3

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

We are more than halfway through the first month of the New Year. How were your holiday celebrations? Did you do your fun and activity driven list of things? Did you manage to spend time with friends and family? How many people are you still connecting with after those visits? If you are like me, you chose wisely who you were going to be with. You chose the movies and the meals and the gifts with love and special care. Now, that's all done, so what do you have in the works for Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, and Lent? It is going to be a long three seasons, beloved children of God. Do you have these months (weeks) planned out as well as you did the major days of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's? Well, let me help'

Decide who and what Epiphany means in your life.

Do you really know what the term means and what light is coming into your life? How is that light going to transform the relationships you are having with your family member(S). Are you going to let them know if the season is special to you, or should it be to them? Are you going to go back and explain the "Light of the World" given to you by the God who loves you unconditionally? Are you going to tell you loved ones that the light that

comes from knowing Christ in your heart shall never dim or falter? Are you going to let them help you spread that light around the family and friends that you share time and space with? Are you going to keep the light in your heart so that anyone who sees you will know that you are one of God's beloveds?

When Ash Wednesday comes, are you going to come to church to receive the ashes from the palms of Christ? Are you willing to be marked with the cross of Christ forever in your heart, so that what ever you do, all will know that you are baptized, loved, and taught God's love for all the world?

And now we begin the season of Lent...six (6) long weeks to remember the journey Jesus took for each one of us. The journey of His lifetime so that all would know that your sins have been forgiven and the things you do with your heart, head, and hands will be blessed forever with the love of God?

These next three seasons are a long period of time in the life of a Christian, importantly for us, Lutheran Christians. We have been taught, or we have learned that God only wants for us to love and respect what he has given to us. Our family, our vocations, our talents, our love, our life...everything that makes living fulfilling. So as you ponder and pray the next few seasons of the Church, I want you to know that you are **loved** always with a love that knows no boundaries. Live up to the gift you have been given. Share the love you have with those around you and always

Pastor's Pen (continued)

remember, God will always be within, without, around your spirit and your being.

God's peace be with you.

Your sister servant in Christ,

Pastor Lewis

Leadership Ledger

Council met on Tuesday, Monday, December 12th, 2016

The following actions were taken by Council

Council approved use of undesignated offerings received on Christmas Eve to be applied 50% each to our Synod Benevolence and World Hunger commitments.

Council also approved use of \$1,844.35 from the Mae Myers Memorial Fund to be used to purchase new computers for Pastor and Kevin. There will still be \$3,155.65 in the fund.

And Council is excited to announce our new officers for 2017. Lloyd Sheaffer will serve as Council President, Paulette Krewson will serve a 2nd term as Vice

President, and Tina Gordon will serve a 2nd term as secretary.

Additionally ...

Council prepared for our January retreat. The regular January Council meeting is cancelled.

Finally, Council would like you to take a moment and look around the sanctuary. Under the direction of Freda Wentz and Cheryl Neidig our Boy Scouts treated all of the wood in the sanctuary and vacuumed. They did a fabulous job. If you see one of our boys or troop leaders, Freda or Cheryl, be sure to extend a thank you as our sanctuary is all spiffed up for Christmas thanks to their hard work.

Mission Opportunity



Early this past summer, flash flooding in West Virginia caused the worst flooding the state has seen in more than a century. Would you like to help communities still trying to recover from the devastation?

The **Mechanicsburg Area Lutheran Churches** are banding together to participate in a mission trip to work on relief efforts. We are aiming to organize two groups to serve over two different weeks. All skill levels are welcome, so if you feel God might be calling you to this ministry, there will be a place for you! If you are interested in participating, either in May or July, please sign up on the flyer in the Narthex.

Treasurer

St Stephen's Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report Year ended December 31, 2016

Greeting fellow members of St. Stephen's. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide a summary of our financial results for 2016 and make a couple of comments about our budget for 2017.

We ended the year with general receipts of \$159,672 and general operating expenses of \$174,297, with left us with a shortfall for the year of \$14,625. Our operating expenses were \$17,835 less than what we had budgeted, mostly due to the Director of Youth and Family Ministry position remaining unfilled. However, our general receipts trailed well behind our budget. We do have sufficient amounts in the Reserve Fund to cover this shortfall, but by using the Reserve Fund for this purpose, the balance of that fund going into 2017 will be reduced from \$45,540 to \$30,915.

We also ended the year with contributions to Synod Benevolence of \$21,192, which was \$3,012 short of our commitment to the Synod. Council has agreed to make up this shortfall utilizing funds from investment interest income that we made during the year.

In addition to funding our operations and meeting our commitments to the Synod, we also:

- Donated over \$3,500 to the ELCA World Hunger Fund
- Donated over \$1,700 to Project Share for the purchase of Baby Food
- Gave back almost \$12,000 in local benevolence to members of our community.
- Disbursed over \$20,000 to our brothers and sisters in El Salvador.
- Spent over \$4,500 to send children and families to Church Camp.
- Spent over \$1,400 on Community Meals
- Reduced the outstanding amount of our Bell Tower self-loan by \$9,685, from \$74,654 to \$64,969.

As you can see, our congregation continues to do God's work, both in our local community and around the world.

Now that I have recapped our financial results for 2016, a few notes about the 2017 budget. I do want to note that after budget approval, I realized that we had mistakenly not budgeted for the Pastor's share of social security expense, which is required by her contract. This amount is \$4,560. However, since we have included in the budget an amount of \$14,000 for the Youth and Family Ministry position even though we won't try to fill that position until a new pastor is called, I recommended to Council that we not amend the budget. Council agreed with this recommendation.

Our general operating fund receipts and disbursements for 2017 is \$189,788, which is \$2,344 less than what was budgeted for 2016, but just over \$30,000 more than our actual general operating receipts for 2016. I realize that seems like an enormous increase. However, if all of our members increased their giving by \$3.20 per week, we could make up this difference. Therefore, I ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your general fund contributions in 2017, even by a little bit, so that we can continue the great work that we are doing at St. Stephen's.

It is a privilege to serve at St. Stephen's Treasurer. If you ever have questions about our finances, call me anytime at 717-614-5257 or email me at mschroeder@riteaid.com.

In His Service,

Matt Schroeder

Property

I have recently taken over the chairperson position. As such I would like to have a meeting with all the committee members to go over some items brought to my attention. This will be a short meeting in the fellowship hall on February 11, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.. Coffee and doughnut will be provided. If anyone has any concerns to items in the church that needs our attention I would welcome your input. Feel free to leave a message in the Property Committee Box or you may contact me at my e-mail address: tnt02@comcast.net Please put St Stephens in the subject line as I don't open e-mails I do not recognize, or home phone 486-7724. Thank You for support. *Julie Grove*

El Salvador

A TRIBUTE TO OUR TEN TRANSLATORS

As our embracingelsalvador.org website has continued to evolve, one of the upgrades we made is to translate as many of our stories into Spanish on the first of the month as possible.

We are very thankful to the volunteers who agree to do this for us. This is an arduous, time-consuming project and we try to limit each volunteer to translate only one or two stories per year.

Once in awhile the storyteller himself will translate his own story, but that is the exception. Below is a list of our present staff of translators. If you know them or see them, please thank them for their dedication and hard work.

Tony Bianchi – retired Spanish teacher at Cumberland Valley High School

Jeannette Fogarty – retired Spanish teacher at Cumberland Valley High School who happens to be Tony's sister

Juan Escobar – friend of Mandy and Danilo Gonzalez living in Ecuador

Santiago Sanchez – friend of Lloyd and Caroline Sheaffer living in Spain

Esperanza Roncero – Spanish professor at a college in New York

Brian Rude – Lutheran pastor from Canada living in El Salvador

Luis Leonard - Salvadoran friend

Jenna Knapp – Salvadoran friend

Julie Mulherin – serving as Bishop Gomez' translator

Claudia Aguirre – Salvadoran friend

Making the stories available in Spanish allows the Salvadorans and other Spanish speakers the ability to read them in their native language.

Youth & Family Ministries

We are going to start a new chapter in our Youth and Family ministry. Since we have been without a director for some time. I am hoping for our youth and family that we can start a new family oriented program with more activities at the church and with outings for the whole family. At this time I have a few ideas and would like to discuss them with any of the church members that would be willing to work with me toward this short and long term goal. I will be having a meeting at St Stephen's Church in the fellowship hall on February 18, 2017 9:00 a.m. this is for all of the family young and old. Light refreshment will be served. I would welcome any ideas, you can talk to me directly or leave a message in the Youth and Family Ministry box or contact me at tnt02@comcast.com please put St Stephens in the subject line as I don't open e-mails I do not recognize, or I can be reached at 486-7724. Let's all come together to help get this new chapter off the ground! Thank You for your support. Julie Grove

Houston, we have a Gathering! If you're already suffering from the winter blahs, you'll perk up when you start to think about the sultry summer weather in Houston that we'll be experiencing in the summer of 2018 at the next ELCA Youth Gathering! The Gathering will take place June 27-July 1, 2018, but our planning for the trip begins now! If you are an adult who is interested in attending the Gathering this year, there will be a special leadership meeting scheduled in January to start to organize our group. You do NOT need to have youth attending the Gathering to join us as an adult. Please contact Katie (or Pastor Lewis) asap to let her know of your interest so that she can inform you of the meeting date. Youth who are interested in attending the Gathering should also let Katie know of their interest and plan to attend an informational meeting with their parents on Sunday, February 26 at 12:30 at St Stephen Lutheran Church. If you have questions about the Gathering or have any interest in the trip at all, we'd love to see you there!

On the Horizon

Circle **May 21 2017** on your calendars. That is the annual Memorial Day Flag Ceremony at Longsdorf Cemetery! As always, this is a tri-team event, with members of St. Stephen, Troop 180 and Trinity

United Methodist Church leading the way. Stay tuned for more information. Contact Parker Lee, 697-2149 with questions!

This month we are highlighting our middle school class. This small group of St. Stephen's students have been on the go.

For the past year and a half they have been very busy not only learning about the bible but also about community service

and what Jesus's asks of them to go forth and do. Some of the things that they have done are:

- Creating blankets for adults and children for New Digs
- Making special Cross Plaques with a specific bible verse for new residents at New Digs to hang on a wall.
- Designing new pictures with "God Loves You" in various picture frames for the children and adults at New Digs to put on their dressers or tables.
- Sent our shut-ins Christmas Cards
- Going to Gettysburg for a Horseback trip and visiting and learning about the Lutheran Seminary
- Deciding and painting the "Daniel in the Lions Den" Mural in our room. This project is still in progress
- In progress, painting wall pictures
- In progress - the Baby Food Sunday School Chal-

lenge. Results in March.

- At the end of every Sunday School class we pray for our church and specific people in need.

If you would like to stop by and visit us to see what we are up to next, we welcome you to stop by.

2016 Stephen Boxes

Since 2005 our Sunday School classes have been making weekly offerings to our Stephen Boxes. The intent of the program is to encourage everyone to give regularly to support those in need, just as St. Stephen did. Then, on the Feast of Saint Stephen (December 26 or the closest Sunday to that date), the contributions are tallied and donated to a person or group who has a great need at that time.



In 2016, our Sunday School participants donated **\$653.83!** The Educational Ministries Committee decided to support Lutheran World Relief in their efforts to improve education and agricultural development to countries in need. **THANK YOU to all of our participants!**

Thank You

Thank you to all of those who helped take down our lovely Christmas decorations! Coffee, donuts and fellowship abounded. Roger Immell was a bit camera shy.



I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the congregation for your prayers and support during my ongoing illness. It is difficult to put into words how blessed and thankful I feel. Your cards, notes, prayers, visits, and other generosity have been greatly

appreciated. I thank God for the love and support of our Christian community.

Peace and Blessings,

Gail Phillippy

Worship Assistants for February

	February 5		February 12		February 19		February 26	
Acolyte	8:00 am Sara Houser	10:45 am Randy Neidig	8:00 am David Herb	10:45 am David Herb	8:00 am Sara Houser	10:45 am Jenna Gordon	5:00pm David Herb	7:00/11:00pm David Herb
Lector	Sue Rodgers	Stacy Schroeder	Lynne Immell	Tom Burson	Crystal Houser	Bob Hansen	Larry Bouchat	Julie Grove
Cantor	Beth Lengel	Art Grove	Paulette Krewson	Greg John	Lynne Immell	Kathy Burson	Maxine Montgomery	Matt Schroeder
Assisting Minister	Crystal Houser	Julie Grove	Beth Lengel	Julie Grove	Lynne Immell	Julie Grove	Crystal Houser	Julie Grove
Communion	Alan Gamble	Julie Grove	Lloyd Sheaffer	Carol Clelland	Crystal Houser	Art Grove	Caroline Sheaffer	Julie Grove
Ushers	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Bill Wills Wayne Lengel	Ken Clelland* Ira Ewell Greg John Doug Tobin	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Bill Wills Wayne Lengel	Ken Clelland* Ira Ewell Greg John Doug Tobin	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Bill Wills Wayne Lengel	Ken Clelland* Ira Ewell Greg John Doug Tobin	Dan Lebo* Laura Wills Bill Wills Wayne Lengel	Ken Clelland* Ira Ewell Greg John Doug Tobin
Greeter	Ron & Brenda Kimmell	Frank & June Roberto	Larry & Laura Treaster	Ira & Le Ewell	Marty * Bonnie Baim	Earl & Lorraine Bock	Sherry Rudacille Sue Rodgers	Freda Wentz Leslie Menear
Altar Guild	Frank & June Roberto							
Counters	Ryan & Patty Haggerty							

February 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5 8:00a Worship 9:30a Legacy Workshop 10:45a Worship 2:00p Dulcimer's practice			1 6:00p Quilting 6:00p Chimes Rehearsal 6:30p Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	2 9:00a Quilting	32	4 9:30a 4-H Creative Expressions Club
12 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship 4:00p Rejoicing Spirits	6 6:00p Boy Scouts	7 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p HUG Christmas Party	8 6:00p Quilting 6:00p Chimes Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	9 9:00a Quilting 6:30p Book Study	10	11
19 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship 3:00p Troop 180 Court of Honor	13 6:00p Boy Scouts 7:00p Congregation Council Meeting	14 10:00a Bible Study	15 6:00p Quilting 6:00p Chimes Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	16 9:00a Quilting 6:30p Book Study	17	18 8:00a Men's Breakfast 5:00p Community Meal
26 8:00a Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship	20 6:00p Boy Scouts 7:00p Evangelism Committee Meeting	21 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Worship & Music Committee Meeting	22 6:00p Quilting 6:00p Chimes Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	23 9:00a Quilting	24	25
27 6:00p Boy Scouts	28 9:00a The Breakfast Club 10:00a Bible Study 7:00p Education Committee Meeting					

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
 P. O. Box 266
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 Phone: 766-2168
www.StStephenLC.org



Interim Pastor: *Pastor Rochelle Lewis*
pastor@ststephenlc.org

Organist & Choir Director: *Steve Pastena*
music@StStephenLC.org

Parish Office Manager: *Kevin Stafford*
office@StStephenLC.org

Custodian: *Michael Wogan*

Special Occasions



ANNIVERSARIES

Gerry Denison	4-Feb	Sandra Bower	18-Feb
Freda Zeigler	5-Feb	Elisabeth Hansen	18-Feb
Dolores Lebo	7-Feb	Miles Stoner	18-Feb
Heidemarie Bucher	10-Feb	Nancy Zullo	19-Feb
Dennis Weigel I	10-Feb	Lori Radle	20-Feb
Sharon Stover	13-Feb	Pastor Lewis	20-Feb
Randy Neidig Jr.	14-Feb	Lloyd Sheaffer	22-Feb
Stacy Schroeder	14-Feb	Cindy Borzilleri	23-Feb
Emmitt Fabian	15-Feb	Leslie Immell	23-Feb
Sally John	16-Feb	Beth Atkins	26-Feb
		Lynne Immell	26-Feb

Ryan & Patty Haggerty	11-Feb
Benjamin & Kathy Burson	14-Feb
Mandy & Danilo Gonzalez	27-Feb

Prayers



If you would like to be added to the email prayer chain list (to receive notifications of prayer requests throughout the week), you can sign up with Mike Kulikauskas, or by emailing office@ststephenlc.org. At any time, you can send prayer requests to prayer@ststephenlc.org

Bob Lamp	Alzheimer's disease
Hen Yohn	Health issues— Keep On!

Hospital Admissions



Please let the church office and/or Pastor Lewis know when you or a loved one becomes a patient in the hospital or other health care facility. Federal HIPAA regulations do not permit health care providers to release personal information such as this without your expressed permission and none of the area health care facilities contact us about your admission. A phone call to either the church office (766-2168, during Office Hours) or to the Pastoral Care number (717-579-5209, at any time) will help the Pastor respond to you with care, prayer, and support.