



**ST. STEPHEN**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

Congregational Communication  
**Congregational Communication**  
Reverend Joel Petruschke

*Our Mission: We respond to Christ's love by feeding those who hunger in body, mind, and spirit.*

**Date: October 31, 2024**

**What's Happening:**

Thursday, October 31

**6:00pm** – Trunk or Treat

Sunday, November 3

**9:30am** – Sunday Church School

**11:00am** – Worship Service (Hybrid)

Monday, November 4

**7:00pm** – Boy Scouts

Wednesday, November 6

**6:00pm** – Youth Program: EMS Game

Night!

Thursday, November 7

**4:30pm** – Community Assistance Meal

Sunday, November 10

**9:30am** – Sunday Church School

**11:00am** – Worship Service (Hybrid)

Monday, November 11

**7:00pm** – Boy Scouts

**7:00pm** – Council Meeting

Friday, November 15-Sunday November 17

Boy Scouts Campout

Saturday, November 16

**5:00pm** – Dinner with Friends

Sunday, November 17

**9:30am** – Sunday Church School

**11:00am** – Worship Service (Hybrid)

**12:30pm** – Annual Congregation Meeting

**1:00pm** – Fuse Meeting

► **ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING NOTICE\***

**Sunday, November 17, 2024, following worship, will be the Annual Congregational Meeting. Please plan to attend as we will be electing council members for next year, reviewing yearly reports, updating the Proposal for a Non-Parish Shared Minister, and adopting the annual budget.**



This Sunday is All Saints Sunday. We welcome Pastor Elaine Dent as our worship leader. We will be remembering those who have entered God's kingdom with a candle lighting during the service.



### **Advent Soup and Service**

I'm looking for people to make soup for our Advent Soup and Service on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>. If you can make a pot of soup that'll feed about 20 people, please call or text me at 717-609-9009. I will bring the bread and fruit salad!

Thank you,  
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### **Thanksgiving Worship**

The Mechanicsburg Area Lutheran Churches are joining together for a joint Thanksgiving Worship. The service will take place at Trindle Spring Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 24, at 6:30 pm. To enrich our worship, there will be the opportunity for anyone who wishes to join in a joint pick-up choir. The choir will rehearse at 5:30 pm that evening before worship. All are invited to stay following the service for a time of fellowship, tasty pies, and other refreshments.



### **Update on the Bishop's Election in El Salvador**

The first ever Bishop's election was scheduled for this week. Rev. Abelina Centeno de Gomez, wife of Bishop Medardo Gomez of the Lutheran Church in El Salvador, preached to open the assembly. During that time, she had a sudden fatal heart attack. This is tragic news, and our hearts are heavy with grief for the family and friends who have gathered assembly to elect the next Bishop. The assembly is cancelled at this time. There are so many unanswered questions. What Jesus taught us to do is pray. We will, and we ask you to join us.

Don Seiple, Pastor Emeritus  
Carloine Sheaffer, Task Force Admin.



### **Youth Corner**

Attention Families! St. Stephen Church, New Kingstown, will be holding their **Fuse Meetings** on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, at 1PM**. A lunch meal is always served. Bring a side dish to share! This meeting is for kids of any age, 0-18, and the adult spiritual influencers in their life, in whatever form that is (parents, grandparents, neighbors, friends, older siblings, extended family, etc.). You don't need to attend St. Stephen Church to attend Fuse! Anyone is welcome! We will have a meal, do some activities and learn a lesson. So come Fuse with us!

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**St. Mark of Mechanicsburg is inviting us to participate!**

**CAMPFIRE IN OUR BACK YARD** The Youth & Family Ministry Committee invites youth in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades to their first campfire. The event will be held on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, at 5:30 pm in the field behind St. Mark. Hot dogs and S'mores are on the menu. Then.... **MOVIE UNDER THE STARS- NOVEMBER 1** After the youth have finished eating, family and friends are invited for an outdoor movie starting at 7:00pm. Popcorn and hot chocolate will be served. Please bring chairs and blankets. Stay tuned for additional details and the name of the movie.

Please email Amy Gimbel with expected number of attendees so they can prepare enough food,  
[amygimbel@embarqmail.com](mailto:amygimbel@embarqmail.com).

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**We will be participating in trunk-or-treat this year to hand out candy and grilled hotdogs to the trick-or-treaters in New Kingstown on trick-or-treat night, October 31<sup>st</sup>! Start planning your decorative trunks now! Sign up on the sheet on the Communication Board in the Fellowship Hall, so we can reserve a space for you to park in!**

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EMS Game Night! Youth in Grades K-12 are invited the **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month** starting **November 6<sup>th</sup>**, from **6-8pm**, to come play boards games with various local EMS personnel in the Fellowship Hall! Fill out a mixer sheet to get to know a little about them, choose from a large collection of games, and have a night of fun, friends, and socialization! All different game levels for different age groups! Are you up for the challenge? Adult sign in required for non-teens.

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Pictures and videos are in!

Pictures are posted on the **Youth Google Drive** for the **National Youth Gathering**, our annual **Cherry Crest Day**, as well as, our service day at the **Wittle Farm**! Browse the drive and take a look!

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17u419t0rghXyaSaLEnujWKp6FZzW7xJT?usp=sharing>

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Secret Santa registration is open once again! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8RSNPRT> Don't let this year be the year that you are left out of the Christian Fellowship and giving spirit! Doing good deeds for others in secret, is one of the miracles that God has granted us the ability to perform. The anticipation and excitement will help to bring a smile to both the giver and the recipient this season!

Here's how it works. Sign up. You will be sent the name of someone else that is participating after December 1<sup>st</sup>. Choose or make a gift for that person (no more than a \$20 value) and wrap it up brightly. Secretly leave the present on their doorstep and leave, or mail it to them, sometime in December. It's that simple!

Registration closes **November 29<sup>th</sup>**!

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Fuse Registration is now open for **Winterfest, January 3-5, 2025!**

Register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/62MJHPW> Winterfest will gather youth in **grades 9-12, college students** on winter break, and their congregational advisors for a weekend immersion in Christian community, focused around a central theme this year of: Fingerprints! You are a unique gift from God, marked by God with gifts that make you truly special. As a disciple of Jesus, how are you leaving a mark of Jesus' love, grace, and forgiveness on the world around you?

You can look forward to live music, faith formation conversations and teaching, social activities, games, night life, electives, large group worship, small group studies, and fun at the Wyndham Resort in Lancaster County. A quiet room is offered for those who would like to peacefully sit out of the louder activities.

A **\$50 deposit/person** is the cost for this event. Talk to Jenny about special situations requiring scholarships.

[yfmd@ststephenlc.org](mailto:yfmd@ststephenlc.org) Must register by **NOVEMBER 30, 2024**. Please consider joining us this year!

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**ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH WOULD LIKE YOUR INPUT! We are looking into the possibility of holding a quarterly, community dance for the public, after it was expressed that residents would like more opportunities to be able to get to know their neighbors and have a safe place to socialize at. Before we go through the work of holding it only to find no one attends though, we would like to gauge community interest in it first. Please go online and take our fast 2 question survey to help us determine if this is something the public would like to see us put on or not. No input is not the same as a "No" answer. It just makes us think you didn't see the survey link! So go online and let us know! Many thanks and blessings!**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JYCWSLQ>



**Sunday worship begins at 11:00am.**

This is hybrid worship, meaning that we worship both in person and online at the same time. If you worship online, please introduce yourself to others online and greet other folks that you aren't familiar with. We also invite those worshipping online to provide their own elements of bread and wine/grape juice in order to participate in communion. Accessing worship online You can attend online worship by clicking this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/410597064?pwd=b3IEa2hnbmtxU2kvYVhxUGN6ZWdoUT09>

**You can also call: 1-929-205-6099.** Once connected, just enter the Meeting ID: 410 597 064 and the password: 779080.

**Or you can find the direct link on our church webpage: [www.ststephenlc.org](http://www.ststephenlc.org).** Scroll halfway down to the link that says, "Join us online." Click the link and you'll be connected to the Zoom session.



**Worship Assistants**

Date	Supply Pastor/ Worship Leader	Usher Greeter	Cantor	Lector	Assisting Minister	Altar Guild	AV Support	Counters
11/3/24	Rev. Elaine Dent	--	Jadam Smith	Roger Immell	Lynne Immell	Maxine Carol	Cheryl Neidig Randy Neidig	Cheryl Neidig Roger Immell
11/10/24	Rev. Elaine Dent	--	Lynne Immell	Carol Clelland	Jadam Smith	Maxine Carol	Cheryl Neidig Randy Neidig	Roger Immell Lela Ewell
11/17/24	Rev. Carol Bowman	--	Jadam Smith	Pat Seiple	Lynne Immell	Maxine Carol	Cheryl Neidig Randy Neidig	Lela Ewell Cheryl Neidig
11/24/24	Rev. Carol Bowman	--	Lynne Immell	Lloyd Sheaffer	Jadam Smith	Maxine Carol	Cheryl Neidig Randy Neidig	Cheryl Neidig Roger Immell

**Prayer Requests**

Date	Name	Connection	Request
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Chronic or Long-Term Requests

1/17/24	Tom Burson	Member	Please continue to pray for Tom and Kathy Burson. Tom is at Country Meadows continuing to recover.
6/9/24	Roger Myers	Member	Roger is undergoing cancer treatment.
8/26/24	Roger Immell	Member	Prayers for Roger as doctors work on a permanent diagnosis pending his MRI report.
10/22/24	Pat Gilmore Lee	Member	Please continue to pray for strength, healing and courage for Pat who has received a cancer diagnosis. If you would like to send her a card, please use the following address: 325 Wesley Dr. Apt. 201 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
10/29/24	Joan Wiest	Member	Joans stay at Legend assisted living in Mechanicsburg has been extended through the end of November. She no longer has access to her email account, so if you would like to visit, please call the front desk at: 717-550-1200.

Temporary Requests

10/12/24	Sandra Fabian		Please pray for the family and friends of Sandra. She passed away Saturday, October 12 <sup>th</sup> .
10/14/24	Paulette Krewson	Member	Paulette has reported that she is getting much better every day.
10/15/24	Kathy Griffith	Thurs. meals & DWF participant	Please pray for Kathy as she is going through medical tests and awaiting results for possible heart issues.
10/15/24	James	Close friend of Tom Burson	Tom has asked that we pray for his close friend, James, whose son is struggling with two cancer diagnoses.
10/29/24	John Montgomery	Member	John has been admitted to a rehab facility. Please continue to keep him and his family in your prayers.
10/29/24	Eugene (Butch) Zeiders	Father of Office Admin. Susanne	Butch is back in rehab following a stroke and is expected to come home November 12. His family is thankful for all of your prayers and support.
10/29/24	Jonathan Montgomery	Son of John & Maxine	Jonathan had an archery accident a couple of weeks ago. Maxine has reported that his hand has healed.