

DATE: APRIL 2022
Volume 206 • Issue 206

THE DEACON'S SPIRIT

The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church



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Office Hours:
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays
from 8am—3pm

Office Closed:
Good Friday, April 15th and
Easter Monday, April 17th

Deadlines:
Bulletin: Wednesday by 8:00 a.m.
Newsletter: 3rd Thursday of the month.

Facebook:
Join us to watch a livestream service
every Sunday at 9am at
<https://www.facebook.com/wausausslc>

Worship Telecast:
Our Worship Services are telecast on
cable channel 980 on Sundays at 12pm
(this is the previous Sundays' service),
Mondays at 3pm, and Tuesdays at
10am and 10:30pm.



PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 10TH
WORSHIP
AT 9AM

Maundy Thursday
April 14th
Worship
at 6:00pm



Good Friday
April 15th
Worship at 12:00 pm
(livestreamed on Facebook)

EASTER
SUNDAY
April 17th
Worship at 9am



FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Here we are spring 2022. Spring, a time of renewal and growth. In and around SSLC there is also a feeling of renewal which will hopefully lead to growth.

On the Spiritual side of spring, we prepare to celebrate God's greatest gift to us as Christians, Easter. The suffering, death, and RESURRECTION of Christ Jesus that all who believe have the promise of life eternal. An added gift will be having the Pilgrim/St. Stephen choir adding to our Palm Sunday worship service.

As a church family, renewal and growth happen in many forms. I am sure that high on the list for many of us is our search for our next Pastor. At the time of this reading, the Call Committee will have begun interviewing pastoral candidates. This process takes time, but I feel positive that it is moving forward.

Much renewal has been completed, as well as continues in and around our facilities. Cleaning and organizing, along with disposing and recycling of materials deemed no longer useful, has given a refreshed look to many non-public areas of our buildings. Patching and painting, along with plumbing upgrades has spruced up the bathrooms. The two bathrooms off of the nursery/quilting room have been revitalized to accommodate adults by adding standard height fixtures. Technology improvements continue to evolve which will allow more virtual involvement for our committee meetings.

The Angels will be hosting the church Rummage Sale at the end of the month which will not only rid us of more of our unused furniture, but raise money which the Angles use to contribute to the missions of SSLC.

This spring also sees Covid moving into a more manageable phase (knock on wood). We see more people returning to the pews as restrictions are eased. While the ropes have been removed from the pews and masks are optional, we ask that you continue to socially distance. I would also ask that we all remain mindful of those who continue to mask as they may be compromised or just feel it is best for them.

We have much to be thankful for here at St. Stephen. Let our hearts and prayers be with our fellow sisters and brothers not only here at SSLC but around the world as many are experiencing challenges in many forms: health, hunger, war, etc.

I/We are blessed to have you all, both members and staff, continuing to support and maintain St. Stephen as a viable church family in our community. Let's keep it going.

God's peace and Happy EASTER!

Lloyd

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

St. Stephen Calendar of Events					April 2022	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 9:00 Worship 10:00 Trust Fund Comm. Mtg. 12:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 7:00 AA	4 10:00 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980	5 10:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 4:30 Personnel Comm. Mtg. 5:00 Executive Comm. Mtg. 10:30 Worship Tele. Ch. 980	6 4:00 Lenten Worship	7 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon	1	2 9:00 Stephen's Angels
10 Palm Sunday 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 7:00 AA SSLC serving Community Dinner @ 1st Presbyterian	11 3:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980	12 10:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 5:30 Congregation Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Tele. Ch. 980	13 1:00 Women's Bible Study	14 Maundy Thursday 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon 6:00 Worship	15 Good Friday 12:00 Worship NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED	16
17 Easter 9:00 Worship 10:15 Good Stewards Mtg. 12:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 7:00 AA	18 Easter Monday 3:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 6:30 Property Comm. Mtg. OFFICE CLOSED	19 10:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 10:30 Worship Tele. Ch. 980	20	21 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22	23
24 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 7:00 AA	25 3:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980	26 10:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 10:30 Worship Tele. Ch. 980	27	28 8:30 Quilting 5:30 Worship Comm. Mtg. 6:00 AI-Anon	29	30 Rummage Sale 8:00am—3:00pm

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating April Birthdays.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

April 1st

Arleen Shipway

April 4th

Gerald Hoppe

April 5th

Russell Bartelt

Bonnie Pils

April 8th

Florence Beese

Cathy Teske

April 9th

Dick Holster

April 10th

William Brandimore

Roxanne Christian

April 11th

Kyle Kershaw

April 12th

John Bandoek

Hailey Koehler

April 13th

Sandy Hintz Oestreich

Hayden Korpela

Mark Wiskow

April 14th

Emmalyn Grau

Chris Travis

April 18th

JJ Deffner

April 19th

Diane Waldinger

April 20th

Charles Deffner

April 22nd

Lydia Lenoble

April 24th

Susan Brouchous

April 25th

Dustin Wierzba

April 26th

Pamela Otradovec

Schmidty

April 30th

Emma Dahle



Anniversaries

The following couples are celebrating their April Wedding Anniversaries.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

April 6th

Jeffrey & Mary Blomquist

April 7th

Ron & Dawn Felch

April 9th

Mark & Denise Wiskow

April 12th

Don & Jane Seubert

April 16th

John & Cathy Teske

April 30th

Gary & Nan Froseth



Funeral

"...in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God..."

Betty Wimmer

March 15, 2021

But I trust in you,
O LORD, I say,
"You are my God."
Psalm 31:14 ESV



Coffee Hour

COFFEE HOUR IS BACK!!! As of now, we will be serving coffee ONLY. We are looking for volunteers to make/serve coffee for future Sundays. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the lounge.

Community Dinner

The Good Stewards Committee is busy planning the next Community Dinner which will be held on Sunday, April 10th. For this Community Dinner, we are requesting that congregation members consider baking some cookies for us to include with the meals. Please bring the cookies to church with you on Sunday, April 10th. We will have a place in the back of the Sanctuary for you to leave the cookies. If you have any questions, please ask Kelly Brown. Thank you for your consideration!

Furniture for Sale

We have identified some excess furniture in the building that we will be selling. Items are in the lounge and near the youth room. Contact Jim Von Rueden at 715-409-6829 or Sarah Lonsdorf at 715-212-2292 if you are interested.

Rummage Sale

Our annual Church Rummage Sale is back after a 2 year hiatus. If you have any treasures that you would like to donate, please bring them to church for the Angels to organize.

You can drop the items off in the basement by the 4 steps going up to where the Youth Room is. Holiday decor, kitchenware, linens, books, puzzles, games, lamps, and wall art are items that sell well. We are NOT taking adult clothing, TV's, computers, DVR's, or any large furniture. The sale will be held on Saturday, April 30th from 8am until 3pm and Sunday, May 1st from 8am until 11am, so please have your items to church by Wednesday, April 27th. Thank you for your contributions! – The Angels

St. Stephen Trust Fund

St. Stephen Lutheran Church established a Trust Fund in 1988 as an investment in our future. There are two funds invested through Vigil Trust and Financial Fiduciary in Wausau. The Trust Fund Committee is responsible for these funds and uses only a percentage of the earnings for the designated projects. The Wider Mission Fund is to support the wider mission of the Church in our community and globally. Examples would include: The Neighbors' Place, Faith in Action, Open Door, the Wausau Warming Center, Homeless Kids Fund, Lutheran World Relief, and others. The Building Preservation Fund is for the preservation of our church buildings. In the past this has included fixing the elevator, parsonage updates, and organ repair as well as other repair projects. St. Stephen is known for its generosity. Because only the interest earned on each fund is used in our outreach missions, it is important to maintain a solid investment balance. Please keep the St. Stephen Trust Fund in mind when doing your estate planning. You can designate a specific fund or project, or make a general reference to the Trust Fund.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study Group will be meeting on Wednesday, April 13th at 1pm in the Conference Room. Any women in the congregation who would like to attend are WELCOME!

Benevolence

Through your support of St. Stephen in the month of February 2022, we were able to contribute to the following ministry:

ELCA National & Synod Support \$544

This is the twelfth month of our unified budget in which we now give four and one half percent (4.5%) of our current expense receipts and loose plate offerings for benevolence. The above amount is based on the income of \$12,085 for February.

St. Stephen Family Checkbook

For the month of February 2022 and the year to date, the St. Stephen family checkbook looked like this:

February 1—31, 2022

What we received.....	\$19,028.
What we spent.....	(\$18,541.)
Our balance.....	\$ 487.

January 1— February 28, 2022

What we received.....	\$35,232.
What we spent.....	(\$34,194.)
Our balance.....	\$ 1,038.

Order of Importance of Memorials and Other Special Offerings

Primary Funds: Technology Fund, Current Expense Receipts, and Sustainability Trust Fund.

Secondary Funds: Bell Choir Fund, Brick Maintenance (tuck pointing), Building Improvement Fund, Choral Fund, ELCA Scholarship Fund, Good Neighbor Fund, Library Fund, Organ Fund, Quilters Memorial Fund, Parish House Alarm, and WELCA Clean Water Fund.

Other Funds: Confirmation/National Youth Gathering, Faith Enrichment Fund, Major Church Improvement, Missionary Sponsorship, Rooted in Faith (Crossways Capital Improvement) Fund, Seidel/Meyer Scholarship, Seminary Scholarship, and World Hunger.

In loving memory of Jim Seidel from Family & Friends

Seidel-Meyer Scholarship Fund – \$700

Sustainability Trust Fund – \$4610

Technology Fund – \$20

Choir Fund

In loving memory of Helen Busha – Larry Busha

In loving memory of Mike Lee – Pam Kohnhorst

In loving memory of Jim Seidel and Ali Will – Nyla Lewis, Nadine Oelke, and Abby Nochese

Current Expense Fund

In loving memory of Alvin & Betty Deffner and James & Garnett Schumacher Schenzel – Chuck & Lynn Deffner

In loving memory of Mike Lee – Chuck & Susie Johnson

In loving memory of Jim Seidel – Pam Kohnhorst

In memory of loved ones – Crystal & Randy Nielson

In loving memory of Jim Seidel – Ben & Peggy Roble

In loving memory of Dave Yolitz – Darlene Yolitz

Library Fund

In loving memory of Angie Ninnemann – Tim Gritzmacher

Seidel-Meyer Pastoral Ministry FundIn loving memory of Harold & Sue Kratwell, Kenneth & Sadie Borth, and Norm & Bertha Zietlow –
Sandy & Ron Borth and Family**Sustainability Trust Fund**

In loving memory of Jim Seidel and LaVerne Hettinga – Kelly Brown

In loving memory of Jim Seidel – Pat Erdman

In memory of loved ones – Charles & Joyce Fromfeld

In loving memory of Merritt & Shirley Gleason on their January 28th Wedding Anniversary – Deb Gleason

In loving memory of Jim Seidel – Bill Lonsdorf Sr.

In loving memory of our Son, Brandon Pippenger – Jay & Patty Pippenger

In loving memory of Chuck Shipway – Kathy Seidel

Technology Fund

In loving memory of Mike Lee – Nancy Henke

In loving memory of Mike Lee – Donna Lee

In loving memory of Laurie Hardinger, Merle Oelke, and Lawrence & Mae Oelke –
Nyla Lewis, Nadine Oelke, and Abby Nochese

In loving memory of LaVerne Hettinga – Verlyn Oelke

COUNCIL MINUTES ~ MARCH 8, 2022

7

Present: Kathy Robinson, Shauna Robinson, Lloyd Zimmer, Sarah Lonsdorf, Pat Erdman, Jim Von Rueden, Verlyn Oelke, Kelly Brown, and Jeff Blomquist. Online: Chuck Johnson.

The meeting opened at 5:30 pm with a devotion provided by Pat.

A motion was made and passed to accept the February 8, 2022 Council minutes.

Pastor's Report: No report was provided.

President's Report: A written report was provided.

Treasurer's Report: A written report was provided. We have \$22,943 in our General Fund.

Committee Reports:

Education/Youth: Education/Youth Elder is on a one year substitution by Member at Large.

Good Stewards: A written report was provided.

Property: No written report was provided. The bathrooms in the quilting area will be completed this month. This will allow for extra needed restrooms rather than changing the current designation of our bathrooms in the main hallway. There are many items in the basement of the church that have started to get musty or are deteriorating and they need to be dealt with.

Worship: No written report was provided. Sarah reported they have been meeting and are set up for services through the Easter season.

Trust Fund: A written report was provided outlining the investment results and funds distributed this month.

A motion was made and carried to accept these reports.

Old Business:

- Memorial Fund Review – There is no change to the priority order this month. Technology Fund is still number one, Current Expenses are number two, and Sustainability Trust Fund is number three.
- In-person worship will continue, **we ask you mask as you are comfortable and please watch online if you are ill. We are going to remove the pew ropes, but ask that you continue to distance from others and be mindful of those who have masked and may have compromised health issues.** Please continue to be mindful of your church family.
- Transition update – We have heard from the Synod that there is a potential candidate. The Call Committee is meeting to work on our interviewing process.
- We tabled discussion about the Good Neighbor Fund disbursement.
- We tabled the discussion on our Wedding Policy updates.
- The Parsonage Lease Extension is pending. No decision has been made.
- Little Scholars is looking to extend their contract with us. We will work with them to figure out terms.
- We tabled our discussion on how to proceed doing nominations as a Council in the coming year.
- We had further discussion on our conferencing technology. Council approved allowing Dick Lind and Jeff Blomquist to use up to \$750 to purchase items necessary last month, and Jeff will make the necessary purchases.

New Business:

- **A motion was made and carried** to approve February bills.
- **A motion was made and carried** to allow the serving of coffee along with fellowship after services. We will hold off on serving food at this point.
- Discussion took place about the current sound issues in church. Some members have related that they have difficulty hearing and we continue to work on the situation. The headphones have seemed to work well, but we will also be making people aware of the Loop System in our Sunday bulletins.
- **A motion was made and carried** to use our Choral Fund to help pay for some new music purchased at Pilgrim which allows our members to sing with them for Holy Week services.
- **A motion was made and carried** to accept the following requests for transfer from St. Stephen: The Griesman Family to Trinity Lutheran in Stevens Point and Jennifer Hoffman to St. Andrew Lutheran in Wausau.

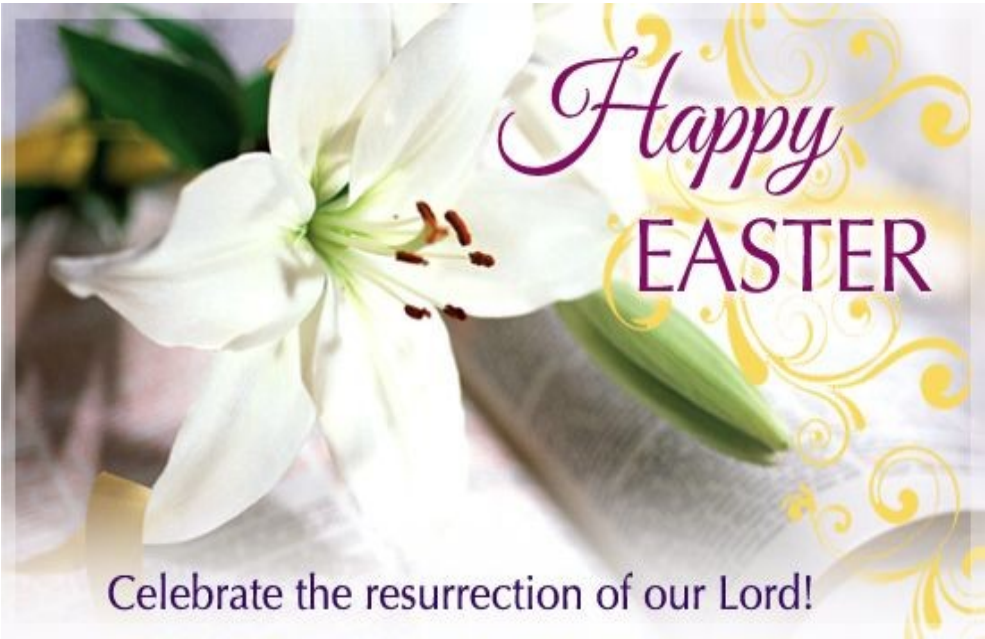
Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12th at 5:30 pm with Sarah providing devotions.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Erdman, Council Secretary

What's Inside...

From Our Council President.....2
Calendar of Events.....3
Anniversaries & Birthdays.....4
Congregation Notes.....5
January Memorials.....6
Council Minutes.....7



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