

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:
Monday, July 4th in observance of
Independence Day

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.

Prayer for Independence Day

Dear God,
as we celebrate today
with fireworks and festivals,
help us never to forget
the reason for our joy.
Help us remember
that our rights to life, liberty
and the pursuit of happiness
were signed into our heritage
with the willing blood
of American patriots.

Most of all, help us remember
that the rights of all people
are more
than words on a document,
and that all people have rights
because you have given us
the dignity of human life.

Grant freedom to all,
and give us the strength
to protect the rights of others.

Amen.

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings, here it is July or almost July, halfway through the calendar year, preparing to celebrate the anniversary of our Country's independence (and my birthday for those of you who may have forgotten). The growing season is off and running and summer is in full swing. I am excited to open a new chapter here at SSLC as we partner with our next spiritual leader. With that comes many new opportunities as well some challenges. As humans, change always brings with it excitement as well as anxiety. But how we adapt to change is what defines the next steps. Even being part of the call process, those involved and I are not fully sure what to expect. We trust in God's guidance that we are on a path for growth, most importantly spiritual growth. Having learned from past experiences as part of the Council, my ask is this; as we welcome our next Pastor, be open to:

- Acknowledge and respect differences in individuals
- Try new things
- Give different preaching styles a chance
- Give different worship styles a chance
- Give different leadership styles a chance
- Give new ideas as they pertain to SSLC ministries a chance
- Step out of your comfort zone to suggest and be willing to lead new ministry opportunities

We cannot expect to simply keep going forward based on how things have been done for years. I am not saying we abandon the past, but rather build on it and adjust by adding in and trying new things. We can always fall back to the way it was, but who knows, given a chance we may like the new, enhanced version.

There are many churches in our area experiencing similar challenges and struggles to stay viable as congregations. If we do this right, we can rise above the trends in religion and grow in numbers as well. The responsibility for the future of St. Stephen does not merely fall in the hands of our Pastor, Council, or any one individual or group. It is up to us all to make it work.

Thank you to all of you for your continued patience, prayers, and support. A special thank you to the Lay Ministers, Deacon, Pulpit Supply Pastors, Assisting Ministers, Lectors, Communion Assistants, and the Music Ministry along with all those who help behind the scenes for keeping the Word flowing.

God's peace,

Lloyd

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating July Birthdays.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

July 4th

Lloyd Zimmel

July 8th

Kathleen Jaecks

Clara Lind

David Skola

Jim Von Rueden

July 9th

Nancy Zelich

July 11th

Ben Roble

July 12th

Barbara Brandt

July 13th

James Boerner

July 16th

Joyce Fromfeld

Walter Grau

Ramona Hanke

Sue Holster

Lisa Koch

July 17th

Charles Fromfeld

Verlyn Oelke

July 18th

Linda Salzman

July 19th

Vanessa Koehler

July 20th

Dianna Busha

July 21st

Richard Shipway

July 23rd

Annika Tordsen

July 24th

Susan Johnson

Jeffrey Will

July 25th

Sharon Hopp

July 26th

Christine Baumann

Zadra Luedtke

July 29th

Sandra Moss

Jakob Tordsen

July 31st

Cole Hannes

Beth Lind

Judy Spear



Anniversaries

The following couples are celebrating their July Wedding Anniversaries.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

July 1st

Gene & Darlene Simmerman

July 4th

Chuck & Kim Kershaw

July 10th

Duane & Elizabeth Wolfe

July 12th

Kim & Barbara Brandt

July 14th

Don & Kathy Oakland

July 20th

James & Kaitlyn Ritter

Raymond & Sharon Schirmer

July 22nd

Jim & Bonnie Von Rueden

July 24th

Russell & Julie Post

July 25th

Marko & Nancy Zelich

July 26th

Shane & Amanda Woller

July 31st

John & Elizabeth Beilke

Mark & Judy Spear



Funeral

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

David Hardinger

June 14, 2022



Dine to Donate Sundays

Want an easy way to donate money to St. Stephen Lutheran Church? Just eat at Texas Roadhouse in Wausau on Sundays!!! This is how it works: dine at Texas Roadhouse on Sunday and present our church bulletin for 10% of your food bill (not including alcohol, taxes, or gratuity) to be donated back to our church. Not valid with any other offers or on holidays. Dine in ONLY. One per table, per visit. This is a weekly, on-going program that takes place EVERY Sunday. A check will be sent to the church once a month. It's that simple!!! So, go enjoy a great meal and give back to St. Stephen.

HELP Closet

What is HELP Closet? It is our local Health Equipment Lending Program. Items usually available are: hospital beds, wheelchairs, commodes, shower seats, standard walkers, canes, and crutches. There is a minimal charge to use an item from this closet. For instance, to rent a wheelchair short term (6 months) is \$30. To purchase is \$100. The closet is located at 1106 Fifth Street in Wausau, 715-843-5985.

Quilting Supplies Needed

We are in need of the following supplies for Lutheran World Relief Quilting:

1. **Flat sheets** – Any size or color (preferably not white), clean, free of stains, and no holes
2. **Fabric** – Any size or color (big enough for our Quilters to cut 6” squares or larger)
3. **Mattress Pads, Blankets, etc.** – Any size or color, as long as they are clean/washed
4. **Thread & Yarn** – Any color

If you would like to donate to this cause, bring your items to church and place them in the Nursery (at the end of the hall; last door on left). You may continue placing quilting supplies in this location throughout the year. Thank you in advance for your help!

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.

Benevolence

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

ELCA National & Synod Support \$601

This is the third 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 \$13,353 for May.

St. Stephen Family Checkbook

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

May 1—31, 2022

What we received.....	\$17,616.
What we spent.....	(\$15,420.)
Our balance.....	\$ 2,196.

January 1— May 31, 2022

What we received.....	\$88,693.
What we spent.....	(\$82,700.)
Our balance.....	\$ 5,993.

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.

MAY 2022 MEMORIALS**Current Expense Fund**

In loving memory of Krista Salas, Sister of David Skola –
Shirley Kasten

Library Fund

In loving memory of Merlin Ninnemann –
Tim Gritzmacher

Quilting Fund

In memory of loved ones –
Phyliss Ament

Technology Fund


In memory of loved ones –
Charles & Joyce Fromfeld

In loving memory of Gerry Schneck and Audrey Viergutz –
Lynn Guth

In loving memory of Mike Lee and Audrey Viergutz –
Elaine Hoppe

In loving memory of Dick Lind –
Elaine Hoppe

In loving memory of Audrey Viergutz and Ken Hopp –
Mary Beth Tolley



**THIS IS THE DAY THAT
THE LORD HAS MADE;
LET US REJOICE
AND BE GLAD IN IT.**

PSALM 118:24

COUNCIL MINUTES ~ JUNE 14, 2022

The meeting opened at 5:35 pm with a devotion provided by Chuck.

Present: Kathy Robinson, Shauna Robinson, Lloyd Zimmel, Pat Erdman, Verlyn Oelke, Pam Hackbart, and Jeff Blomquist. Online: Chuck Johnson and Sarah Lonsdorf.

A motion was made and passed to accept the May 10, 2022 Council minutes.

A motion was made and passed to accept the May 31, 2022 Special Council minutes where we worked on our compensation offer for our prospective Pastoral Candidate.

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 \$27,899 in our General Fund.

A motion was made and carried to accept these two reports.

Committee Reports:

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

Good Stewards: No written report was provided.

Property: A written report was provided. It looks like roof repair is in our future.

Worship: A written report was provided. They have had interest in the Director of Music opening; see "New Business" below.

Trust Fund: A written report was provided. Our funds were down in May. Trust approved two donations: one to Crossways and another to Faith in Action. Thank-you cards have come in from those who received previous donations.

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 Expense Fund is 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. Pew ropes have been removed, but we ask that you continue to distance from others and be mindful of those who have masked and may have compromised health issues. Communion will continue as is for the time being.** Please continue to be mindful of your church family.
- Transition update: A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, June 26th following our 9 am service to approve the candidate chosen by our Call Committee.
- **A motion was made and carried to offer the Director of Music position to Delores Kessel at a monthly stipend of \$200.**
- 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 are still working with them to figure out terms. They are currently up to date on their rent.
- A new computer has been purchased for Bill, Nancy's is on hold, and if we call a new pastor, one will be ordered to fill their needs.
- We continued our discussion on how to proceed doing nominations as a Council in the coming year.
- There will be no updates to our Constitution at this time.
- We will be working on a Mutual Ministry Committee if the Call for our Pastor is approved. Some members of the Call Committee have volunteered to be part of the Mutual Ministry Committee on an interim basis.
- We are still working on our updated Funeral Meal Policy.
- We are looking for additional people to be Sunday Custodians.

New Business:

- **A motion was made and carried** to approve May bills.
- Shauna and Kathy Robinson attended the Synod Assembly on our behalf. Kathy gave a brief report on the assembly. There will be a written report posted on the hallway bulletin board.
- Staff meeting report – Kathy shared some items talked about at the meeting. It was suggested that we look at some sort of welcome meal to introduce the congregation to our new pastor if they are approved. A reminder that Nancy will be on vacation from June 24th – July 4th.
- **A motion was made and carried to approve the transfer of Ron and Sally Kleppen to Mt. Olive Lutheran.**

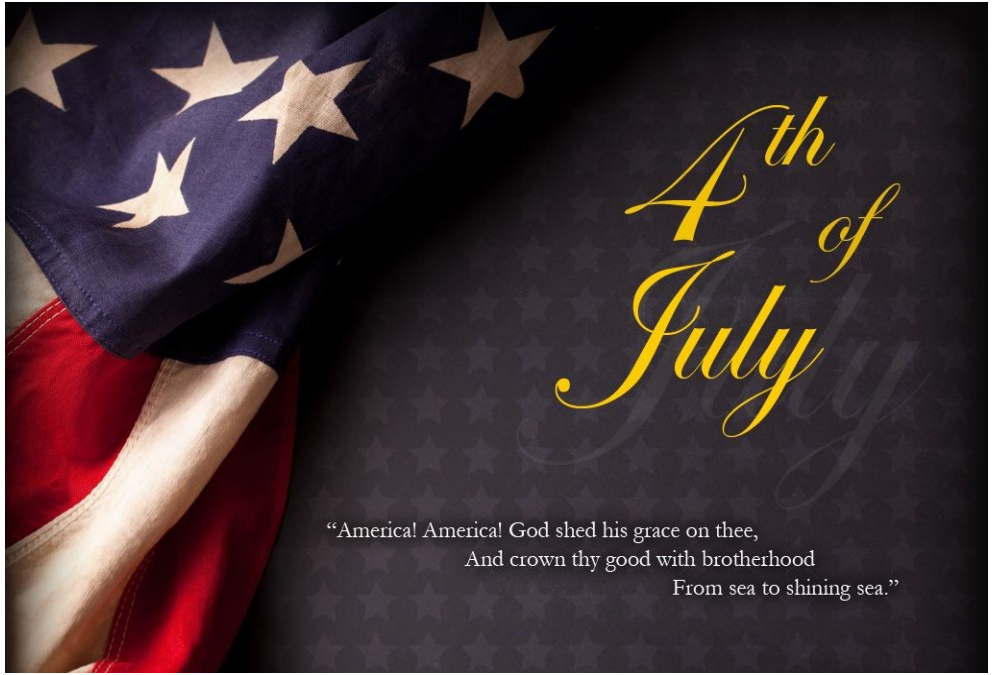
We usually do not meet in July, but have a tentative meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 12th at 5:30 pm if needed, with Chuck providing devotions.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Erdman, Council Secretary

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