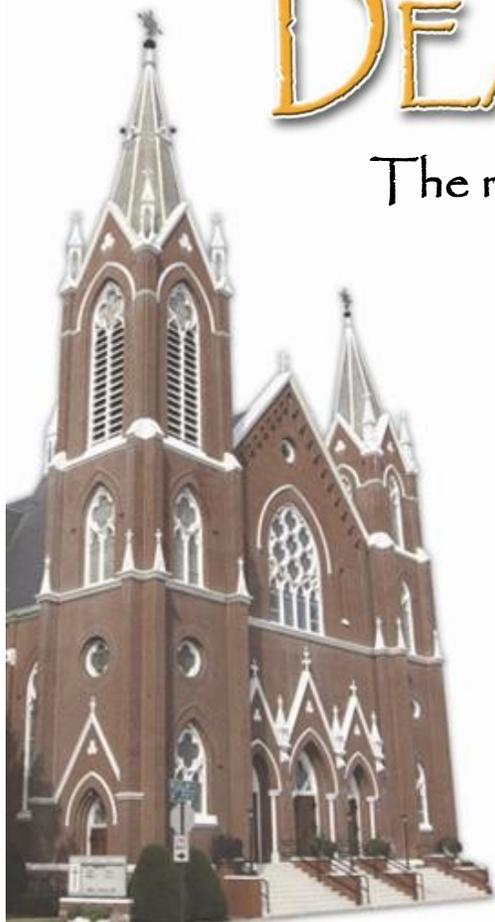


DATE: OCTOBER 2022
Volume 212 • Issue 212

THE DEACON'S SPIRIT

The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church



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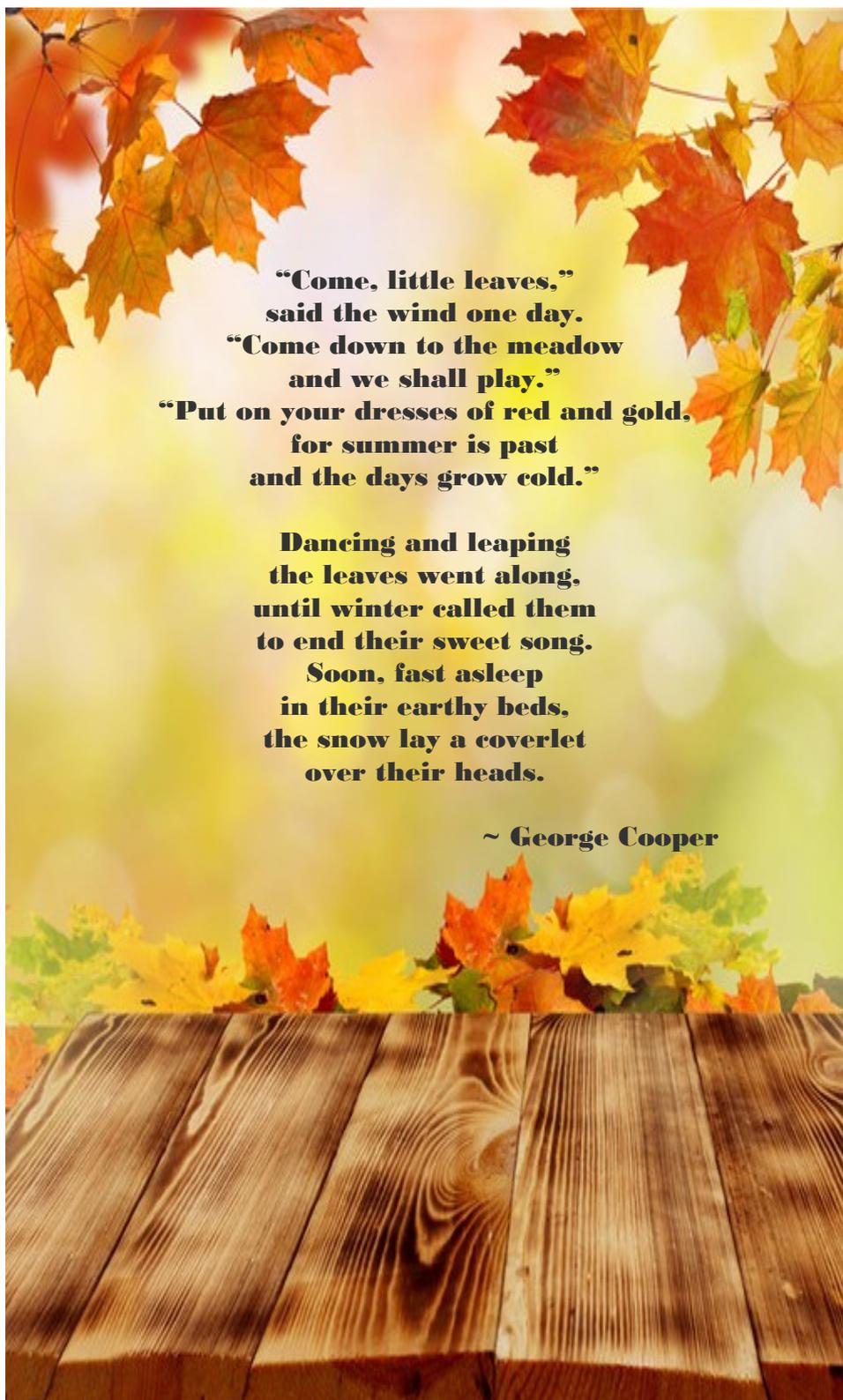
Email address:
info@sslcwausau.com

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

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.



**“Come, little leaves,”
said the wind one day.
“Come down to the meadow
and we shall play.”
“Put on your dresses of red and gold,
for summer is past
and the days grow cold.”**

**Dancing and leaping
the leaves went along,
until winter called them
to end their sweet song.
Soon, fast asleep
in their earthy beds,
the snow lay a coverlet
over their heads.**

~ George Cooper

Pastor Karoline Schwantes/Phone: 715-370-5514/Email: prkaroline@sslwcausau.com

"Sing to the Lord a new song"

Psalm 96. And Psalm 98. And Psalm 144. And Isaiah 42.

Scripture seems to speak quite a bit about singing a new song.



Coolness seems to have arrived overnight and pumpkins have replaced summer displays. There is the hum of change in the air everywhere. It feels especially so at St. Stephen. With this change of seasons, it certainly feels like we are singing a new song. From my office, I'm starting to hear voices fill the halls as community gathers for Bible Study and Quilting. New song is definitely being heard as combined Vocal and Bell Choirs practice and soon will grace the worship of both Pilgrim and St. Stephen. I imagine this Sunday will hold plenty of joyful noise as we gather to celebrate my installation as pastor. And together we anticipate more joyful noise filling our building as we host a combined Confirmation class from Immanuel, Good Shepherd, and St. Stephen.

I too am getting used to the rhythms of this new song. Rhythms of worship, of stories shared over a cup of coffee, of remembering the sounds of new names. After a month, I'm even learning my own new name; that people are talking to me when they say "Pastor."

I'm excited about the new song that God is teaching and the many ways that we will learn it together.

Pastor Karoline

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

St. Stephen Calendar of Events					October 2022	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2</p> <p>9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 7:00 AA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 4:30 Executive Comm. Mtg. 10:30 Worship Tele. Ch. 980</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 Combined Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00am—5:00pm Worship Arts Festival 7:00 Choir Concert at Worship Arts Festival</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 7:00 AA</p>	<p>10 Columbus Day</p> <p>3:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 5:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Tele. Ch. 980</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Combined Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 7:00 AA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>3:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 5:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:00 Dartball</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 10:30 Worship Tele. Ch. 980</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 Combined Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>21</p> <p>SanguanboonBrown Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>22</p> <p>SanguanboonBrown Wedding</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 7:00 AA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 10:30 Worship Tele. Ch. 980</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00 Combined Choir NO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO SECONDARY PM</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>28</p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 Reformation</p> <p>9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 7:00 AA</p>	<p>31 Halloween</p> <p>3:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball</p>					

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating October Birthdays.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

October 1st

Ethan Holster
Pam Kohnhorst

October 4th

Sandra Stuhr

October 6th

Lynn Guth
Bill Lonsdorf Sr.

October 7th

Sharon Schirmer
Jacquelyn Schremp

October 10th

Arnie Lange
Murphy Marco
Cliff Prigge

October 11th

Kristin Phillips

October 13th

Cameron Pflanzner
Peggy Tobin

October 14th

Kim Brandt

October 16th

Jessica Fischer
John Peterson

October 17th

Alan Froehlich

October 19th

Kay Preller
Eli Schuett
Marcia Volkman

October 20th

Ron Dustan
Don Kromrei

October 22nd

Kelly Brown

October 28th

Nancy Pijan

October 29th

Kaitlyn Koehler

October 30th

Kasey Schneider



Anniversaries

The following couples are celebrating their October Wedding Anniversaries.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

October 3rd

Robert & Tamara Pusheck

October 6th

Jeffery & Dianna Busha

October 12th

Andy & Allie Ralph

October 16th

Joseph & Kristine Mohr

October 17th

William & Joanne Lewitzke
Roger & Marjorie Zweck

October 18th

Lloyd & Wendy Zimmel

October 19th

Wallace & Carmelita Lewitzke

October 21st

Daniel & Crystal Zernicke

October 23rd

Kasey & Danielle Schneider



Funeral

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

Ginny Seymour ~ August 19, 2022



Confirmation

Confirmation will be held every other Wednesday evening starting in October at St. Stephen. We will have a combined class with Immanuel and Good Shepherd. If you have youth that will participate, please contact Pastor Karoline at prkaroline@sslwausau.com or contact the church office at 715-845-7858 for a schedule and more information.

Council Members Needed

As we enter a new chapter in our church's history, please prayerfully consider becoming a part of our family's leadership team. The 2023 Council is looking for candidates for the following positions: Vice President/President Elect, Secretary, Good Stewards Elder, Property Elder, Members-at-large, and 2 Trust Fund Committee members.

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.

Fleece Blanket Project

Stephen's Angels are starting to collect fleece for tying blankets that will be given to children that go to the Child Advocacy Center. The CAC is a safe place for children and adolescents who may have been abused. Professionals at the CAC evaluate and investigate cases of abuse and help the child and families feel safe.. There are several ways to help if you are interested. You can donate a fleece blanket kit(s) (smaller size) and let one of the Angels tie the blanket for you, you can buy a kit and do the tying yourself, or you can donate money for the Angels to buy kits. We have found that using the kits saves us a lot of time. The fleece blankets will need to be completed by the end of November. Knowing that we can give the young children who are going through a tough time a little bit of comfort with a cuddly blanket is very rewarding. As always, thanks for your support of this project that benefits the children of north central Wisconsin.

Good Stewards Committee News

The Good Stewards Committee has two remaining activities for 2022: the Coats for Kids Drive which will start in early October and run through the first week of December and the Community Dinner on Sunday, November 27th. Watch the Sunday bulletins for more details.

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.

Benevolence

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

ELCA National & Synod Support \$506

This is the seventh 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 \$11,513 for August.

St. Stephen Family Checkbook

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

August 1—31, 2022

What we received.....	\$16,625.
What we spent.....	(\$17,860.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 1,235.)

January 1— August 31, 2022

What we received.....	\$136,723.
What we spent.....	(\$125,136.)
Our balance.....	\$ 11,587.

Order of Importance of Memorials and Other Special Offerings

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

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering

The kits and mission quilts being assembled for Lutheran World Relief from St. Stephen and other area churches will be gathered and loaded for shipment on **Saturday, October 1st from 8am until noon**. This ingathering will take place at the Kolbe trailer parking area at the corner of Third Avenue and Bopf Street (one block south of Thomas Street in the yard). The address is 143 West Thomas Street, but is only accessible if driving east on Thomas Street.

St. Stephen has a long, proud history of not only making large numbers of quilts and kits for Lutheran World Relief, but also volunteering our time and efforts to make sure this material gets to where it can do the most good. Please mark your calendars with this date for helping this great cause. An hour or two of your time helps, as many hands do make light work!

You can contact Verlyn Oelke at 715-359-8274 or 715-551-0546 with any questions.

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.

Silent Auction

The first part of November the Angels will be sponsoring a Silent Auction with the proceeds going towards property upkeep: fixing outside shed, carpeting for the front steps, LED tube lights, new thermostats, etc. If anyone would like to create a basket for the auction or donate gift cards to put in a basket, that will need to be brought to church by Saturday, November 5th. The baskets will be put on display for bidding on Sunday, November 6th and then again on Sunday, November 13th when bidding will be completed and the baskets rewarded to the highest bidder. In the past, some of the popular baskets have included food and beverages. The Angels welcome any donations.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped with God's Work Our Hands! Pastor Karoline and congregation members enjoyed a morning of fellowship while we cleaned our beautiful church sanctuary and chapel.

Welcome

A warm WELCOME to Delores Kessel, our new Director of Music at St. Stephen. Delores currently accompanies the adult vocal choir and shares her keyboard talents at worship services here and at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. We are excited to have her join our worship and music team!

Women's Bible Study

The Women of St. Stephen will have a Bible Study on Wednesday, October 12th at 1pm in the Conference Room. All women of the church are welcome to attend!

Worship and Arts Festival

Soli Deo Gloria, a Worship and Arts Festival, will be held on Saturday, October 8th from 9am until 5pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1410 Rogers Street, Stevens Point, WI. Specialists will share their knowledge on: *The Art of Worship*, *Crafting Words for Worship*, *The Artful Sanctuary*, *Online Worship Strategies*, and *Choral Reading of Anthems*. This event is open to choir directors, choir members, musicians, tech team people, and anyone involved with online worship services. St. Stephen Lutheran Church is a sponsoring church, so there is NO REGISTRATION FEE. However, you need to sign up if you wish to attend as a box lunch will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the reception area. The deadline to register is Monday, October 3rd. There is also a FREE Choir Concert at 7pm featuring Marty Haugen at Holy Spirit Parish, 2151 Stanley Street, Stevens Point, WI. This concert is open to the public. No registration is required.

COUNCIL MINUTES ~ SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

7

Present: Pastor Karoline, Chuck Johnson, Sarah Lonsdorf, Kelly Brown, Lloyd Zimmer, Pat Erdman, Verlyn Oelke, Jim Von Rueden, and Pam Hackbart.

The meeting began at 4:30 pm at Hagar House. The Council members participated in a tour of the facilities and were briefed on the mission of Hagar House. We will discuss whether St. Stephen might be able to support them. We began our regular meeting at St. Stephen at 5:30 pm with devotions provided by Pastor Karoline.

A motion was made and passed to accept the August 9, 2022 Council minutes.

Pastor's Report: A written report was provided. Pastor Karoline added that she has contacted Pastor Niveen at Immanuel about working together on a combined Confirmation program. We will also be working with volunteers and youth from Good Shepherd. Pastor is excited about this opportunity to work with a large group of youth.

President's Report: A written report was provided.

Treasurer's Report: A written report was provided. We have \$33,493 in our General Fund. Verlyn gave a brief update on our finances. A question came up about a "Wish List" for memorials. We will explore this further. We discussed performance licensing, and whether we need to upgrade our license. We currently are licensed to use and stream music that is copyrighted as long as it is part of a worship service.

A motion was made and carried to accept these reports.

Committee Reports:

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

Good Stewards: A written report was provided.

Property: A lengthy written report was provided outlining all the needed repairs at St. Stephen. Jim has renewed our plowing contracts for the winter season. There is an ongoing issue with a bowed wall in the lower level/foundation of the church due to water issues. Council advised Jim to get quotes for a gutter system and repair work for the lower level, including installing drainage tile and removal of the shrubs on the south and west side of the building due to their deteriorating condition and the damage the roots are causing. Security of our property is also a consideration. We will be looking at re-landscaping the church property after the removal of the old shrubs. After pricing and a plan is determined, additional communication with the congregation will take place

Worship: A written report was provided.

Trust Fund: A written report was provided. An external audit has been done.

A motion was made and carried to accept these reports.

Old Business:

- Memorial Fund Review – There will be no change to the priority order this month. Current Expenses is number one, Sustainability Trust Fund is number two, and Technology 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. Conversation has taken place about returning to Communion at the rail, but Communion will continue as is for the time being.** Please continue to be mindful of your church family.
- We are working on Wedding Policy updates.
- We have started getting some names for next year's Council, but are still looking for some volunteers. Our Constitution requires that we fill many spots on the Council. **PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING.**
- We are looking for additional people to be special occasion Custodians. If you have any interest, ask Jim Von Rueden for more information.
- We discussed some of the difficulties we are having with email addresses. We are looking at changing our email addresses to increase security and reduce the number of emails that end up in receiver's spam folder. We are going to explore hiring someone to set up a new website and emails.

New Business:

- **A motion was made and carried** to approve August bills.
- **October 1st is the loading date for quilts this year.**
- An Installation Service has been set for Sunday, September 18th. Pastor Karoline has asked that we designate the offerings from the service to the East Central Synod of WI Lay School of Ministry.
- Members of Council and the Angels toured the soon to open Hagar House, whose mission is to provide Christian based temporary living for single moms and their children. We discussed ways we can help with the mission of the Hagar House. We would like to invite them to speak at one of our coffee hours to give our congregation some information on their specific needs.
- Staff meeting report – Pastor Karoline reminded us that the deadline for reports for Council is the Thursday before our meetings. The deadline for the Deacon is this Thursday.
- There is a Worship Arts Festival in Stevens Point on Saturday, October 8th. Pastor Karoline will be presenting a workshop on using visual art as part of worship planning. **A motion was made and approved to donate \$100 to be a sponsor congregation for the event.** Sponsorship allows any of our members who wish to attend to do so at no cost to them.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11th at 5:30 pm with Chuck Johnson providing devotions.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Erdman, Council Secretary

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