



DATE: NOVEMBER 2022
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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:
Thursday, November 24th and
Friday, November 25th
In observance of Thanksgiving

Deadlines:
Bulletin: Wednesday by 8:00 a.m.
Newsletter: 2nd 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.

HAPPY
Thanksgiving



GOD'S RICHEST BLESSINGS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

*For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For **EVERYTHING** Thy goodness sends.
For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For **ALL** things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, **WE THANK THEE!**
~Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

This isn't how today was *supposed* to go. I was *supposed* to get back from the Theological Conference and be productive and get so much done! I was *supposed* to be rested and ready for all of the planning and upcoming fun. Instead, my back is acting up and today is definitely not going the way today was *supposed* to go.



I did not get everything I wanted to do done today. I had to rest, make adjustments, and that is ok! In fact, it is more than ok. I was looking for a Bible verse about giving thanks so I could write this newsletter article. And I found not just one, but many Bible verses, each reminders of giving thanks to God in ALL circumstances. I was struck by the repeated connections in scripture between suffering and thankfulness. My day may not be going the way I thought it was supposed to go, but these verses helped reframe my perspective.

And I am thankful! I am thankful for the love and presence of God in all things and at all times. I am thankful for the beauty of creation and for the changing of seasons. I am thankful for the grace of Jesus Christ and that it is reliant on who God is and not on what I do or don't do. I am thankful for the call of the Holy Spirit, who gathers us as a community of faith, thankful together.

As November approaches, we have a lot to anticipate. All Saints Sunday, the Angel's Silent Auction, Confirmation lessons, an invitation to Pilgrim's Thanksgiving worship, the preparation for and beginning of Advent, as well as all of our individual traditions. In my house, it is the placement of the "Not quite stained glass Thankfulness turkey in the front window" and family gatherings. For many it is the upcoming hunting season or black Friday shopping. And remember, whether everything goes according to plan or not, God is always present with us. We have much to be thankful for indeed!

Pastor Karoline

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

St. Stephen Calendar of Events					November 2022	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 4:30 Executive Comm. Mtg. 10:30 Worship Tele. Ch. 980	2 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir	3 8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon	4	5 9:00 Stephen's Angels DEADLINE FOR AUCTION BASKET DONATIONS
6 All Saints Daylight Saving Time Ends Silent Auction Begins 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 7:00 AA	7 10:00 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball	8 10:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 5:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Tele. Ch. 980	9 1:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Combined Choir	10 8:30 Quilting 4:30 Worship Comm. Mtg. 6:00 Al-Anon NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	11 Veterans Day	12
13 Silent Auction Ends 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 7:00 AA	14 3:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball	15 10:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 10:30 Worship Tele. Ch. 980	16 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir	17 8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics	18	19
20 Christ the King 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 7:00 AA	21 3:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 5:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:00 Dartball	22 10:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 5:30 Chili/Soup Supper at Pilgrim 6:30 Service of Thanks at Pilgrim 10:30 Worship Tele. Ch. 980	23 6:30 Combined Choir NO SCHOOL	24 Thanksgiving NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED	25 NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 First Sunday of Advent 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 7:00 AA SSLC HOSTS THE COMMUNITY DINNER	28 3:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball	29 10:00 Worship Tele. Ch. 980 10:30 Worship Tele. Ch. 980	30 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir			

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating November Birthdays.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

November 5th

Pat Erdman
Robert Pusheck
Edward Schwede

November 6th

Dawn Froehlich
Kim Grau

November 7th

Elaine Hoppe

November 8th

Christopher Eiden
Amy Lillie

November 9th

Gina Travis

November 11th

Layne Behnke
Sophia Behnke
Gordon Darelus

Pam Hackbart

Gloria Lyon

November 13th

Kim Kershaw

November 14th

Jacob Pippenger

November 15th

Ava Peters

November 16th

Crosby Deffner
Dianne Meuret
Jack Phillips

November 21st

William Bandoek

November 25th

Noah Phillips

November 27th

Mark Kromrei

November 28th

Phyllis Ament

Geraldine Kowalski

November 29th

Lynn Deffner



Anniversaries

The following couples are celebrating their November Wedding Anniversaries.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

November 7th

Noah & Kristin Phillips

November 13th

Bruce & Jerelyn Weinke

November 27th

Randy & Julie Cheyka-Sawyer



Funerals

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

Franklin Whitmore ~ September 17, 2022

LaVern Machel ~ September 24, 2022



Marriage

"...and the two shall become one..."

Alex & Wan Brown
October 22, 2022



Turn your clocks
BACK ONE HOUR
before bed on
Saturday, November 5th.

All Saints

St. Stephen Lutheran Church will be observing All Saints Day on Sunday, November 6th. If you have a loved one that passed away after November 7th, 2021 and would like to submit their name, please fill out a form and place it in the box on the counter in the reception area no later than Wednesday, November 2nd. Their name will be read during the service and they will be included in a slideshow on All Saints Sunday. If your loved one was a member of St. Stephen, they will automatically be included; you do not need to fill out a form. A form can be found on page 8 in this newsletter or on the counter in the reception area.

Chili/Soup Supper

Pilgrim Lutheran Church is inviting members of St. Stephen to join them in a Chili/Soup Supper on Tuesday, November 22nd at 5:30pm. A special Service of Thanks will take place in the Sanctuary immediately following the supper at 6:30pm. Pilgrim will provide the meal, but ask that those wanting to attend sign up in advance. A sign-up sheet is on the counter in the reception area. The deadline to sign up is Monday, November 14th.

Coats for Kids

The Coats for Kids Drive has started at St. Stephen. If you have any gently worn coats or other winter apparel such as: hats, mittens, snow pants, scarves, etc. that you do not need, please consider donating them to the Coats for Kids Drive. All sizes of clothing are needed. Bring your winter apparel to church and place your donations on the designated table in the chapel. Committee members will transport items to Coats for Kids collection centers. This drive will continue through the first week of December. Thank you for your consideration.

Community Dinner

St. Stephen is hosting a Community Dinner at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, November 27th. The committee is asking congregation members to bake or purchase cookies for this event. Please bring the cookies with you to worship on Sunday, November 27th and leave them in the back of the church (there will be signs). The cookies provided by St. Stephen members last year for this event were amazingly delicious and greatly appreciated by our dinner guests.

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.

Fleece Blanket Project

Thank you to all who have tied fleece blankets or have brought in kits for others to tie. You may continue to bring kits in until Sunday, November 13th. The fleece blankets will be displayed in church on Sunday, December 4th and we will have a special blessing during the service. The kits will then be distributed to the Child Advocacy Center where they will be given to children and adolescents who may have been abused. The Angels thank all of you who have helped us with this project.

Benevolence

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

ELCA National & Synod Support \$455

This is the eighth 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 \$10,058 for September.

St. Stephen Family Checkbook

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

September 1—30, 2022

What we received.....\$14,179.
What we spent.....(\$19,687.)
Our balance.....(\$ 5,508.)

January 1— September 30, 2022

What we received.....\$150,902.
What we spent.....(\$144,823.)
Our balance.....\$ 6,079.

Order of Importance of Memorials and Other Special Offerings

Primary Funds: Current Expense Receipts, Sustainability Trust Fund, and Building Improvement/Maintenance Fund.

Secondary Funds: Bell Choir Fund, Brick Maintenance (tuck pointing), Choral Fund, ELCA Scholarship Fund, Good Neighbor Fund, Library Fund, Organ Fund, Quilters Memorial Fund, Parish House Alarm, Technology Fund, 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.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the December newsletter will be Thursday, November 10th at 8am to allow for mailing due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Property Committee Update

The Property Committee has been working diligently on many repairs in and around our building. Many of the repairs were to original fixtures that were installed when the building was first built. That being said, they have also put together a list (on page 7 of this newsletter) identifying maintenance projects that need to be addressed going forward. That list includes a few major projects, some of which will be discussed at the Annual Meeting. As the facilities age, the cost to maintain will increase as well. The Property Committee, along with Council, felt it was important to make the congregation aware of some of these significant projects so we can plan for and prioritize next steps. Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Silent Auction

The annual Silent Auction sponsored by Stephen's Angels will start on Sunday, November 6th with final bid submissions to take place after the service on Sunday, November 13th. Winners will be announced around 10:15am. Fresh cinnamon rolls will be available following the worship service during coffee hour. We hope to see you there! Thank you for supporting the work that our Property Committee members have done as well as their future projects.

Thank You

Thanks to the members of St. Stephen, we were able to assemble 68 school kits, 73 personal care kits, 13 fabric kits, and 248 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We also donated 20 quilts locally. We couldn't do it without you!

Veterans Day

On Sunday, November 13th, for Veteran's Day, we would like to honor those people in our congregation that are currently serving, have served in the past, or died defending our country. Please fill out a form if there is someone that you would like us to recognize on this day. If you filled out a form in the past, you do not need to do so again this year; we will automatically use the names that we were given last year. Forms are due on or before Monday, November 7th and can be found on page 9 in this newsletter or on the counter in the reception area. Please place your completed forms in the box on the counter in the reception area.

Women's Bible Study

The Women of St. Stephen will have a Bible Study on Wednesday, November 9th at 1pm in the Conference Room. All women of the church are welcome to attend!

What are YOU Thankful For?



PROPERTY COMMITTEE LIST

ST. STEPHEN NEEDS/WANTS		Cost DIY	Cost Hired out
		Estimate	Estimate
Parsonage roof heat tape	in progress	L	
Fix up shed	to be removed not needed		
Thermostat control All thermostats EACH 7 currently		L	
Add camera by elevator	DONE	L	
Door control for north door	DONE	M	
Door control for south door	DONE	L	
Door control for elevator door	DONE	L	
Door control for church basement	in progress	L	
Locks on all church interior basement doors to secure sanctuary			M
Security plate for door lock by dumpsters	DONE	L	
Light over door by dumpsters		L	
Rekey all locks			M
Repair north church basement wall			H
Door closer for elevator		M	H
Repair windows north side of church		L	
Refinish main doors on south side of church		L	
Insulation for elevator area ceiling	DONE	L	
New lights in elevator area ceiling	DONE	L	
Repaint elevator area	DONE	L	
Gutters and downspouts north side of church	install 10/26/2022 in progress		L
Parsonage dryer outlet repair		L	
Parsonage 1st floor shower faucet repair	DONE		L
Light bulb replacement in sanctuary		L	
Church tuck pointing			H
Church roof			H
Church interior wall replastering			H
Elevator roof repair			H
Back stairwell roof repair			H
Basement air handler/heat exchanger/air conditioner upgrade			H
Asbestos removal from area around air handler			H
Should we put the carpet in the great room downstairs			H
Internet cable protection for parsonage	DONE	L	
Refinish interior doors in parish house		L	
Move banner room and swap areas with Little Scholars		None	
Repair alleyway blacktop after north basement wall repair			H
Front steps carpet			L
Cut off and repair basement partitions by Little Scholars area		L	
Replace the inside door in the women's main restroom for easier access		L	M
Replace toilet in women's main restroom to 1.6 gallon flush			M
Automatic lighting women's main restroom	in progress	L	
1. Replace the inside door in the men's main restroom for easier access		L	M
2a. Rehab men's main restroom floor			H
2b. Rehab men's main restroom sink		M	M
2c. Rehab men's main restroom lighting	DONE	L	
2d. Automatic lighting men's main restroom	DONE	L	
3. Replace the toilet with 1.6 gallon flush			M
Replace screen door by deck in parsonage		L	
Refinish inside door by deck in parsonage		L	
Repair/replace air compressor motor	DONE	L	
Repair education unit heating system water pump	DONE		H
Rehab conference room kitchen		M	H
Replacement/2nd coffee maker for conference room		M	
Repair conference room coffee maker water line, outlet, and cord	DONE	L	
Repair upper oven Pilot light won't stay lit (relit working now)		L	L
Replace 4' flouresent tubes with LED tubes as needed	ongoing	M	
Kitchen garbage disposal	in progress	H	
Little Scholars Exit lights and emergency lights	DONE	L	
Little Scholars door and wall downstairs	DONE	L	
Low cost \$0 - \$300			
Medium cost \$300 - \$1000			
High cost over \$1000			

**St. Stephen Lutheran will be observing
All Saints Day on Sunday, November 6th.**



**If you have a loved one that
passed away after November 7th, 2021
and would like to submit their name,
please fill out this form and turn it in to the office
no later than Wednesday, November 2nd.**

**Their names will be read in church and
they will be included in a slide show
on All Saints Day.**

**If your loved one was a member of St. Stephen,
they will automatically be included.
You do not need to fill out a form.**

Name _____

Date of death _____

Remembering Our Veterans

On Sunday, November 14th for Veteran's Day, the Worship Committee would like to honor those people in our congregation that are currently serving, have served in the past, or died defending our country. Please fill out the following form if there is someone that you would like us to recognize on this day. If you filled out a form in the past, you do not need to do so again this year. We will automatically use the names that we were given last year. Forms are due on or before Monday, November 8th. You may place them in the box on the counter in the reception area.

Name:

Years or war served in:

Submitted by:

Phone number:

Thank you!

The Worship Committee

COUNCIL MINUTES ~ OCTOBER 11, 2022

Present: Pastor Karoline, Chuck Johnson, Sarah Lonsdorf, Kelly Brown, Lloyd Zimmel, Pat Erdman, Verlyn Oelke, Jim Von Rueden, Dick Holster, Jeff Blomquist, Kathy Robinson, and Shauna Robinson. Pam Hackbart attended via ZOOM.

The meeting opened at 5:35 with devotions by Chuck.

A motion was made and passed to accept the September 13, 2022 Council minutes.

Pastor's Report: A written report was provided.

President's Report: A written report was provided.

Treasurer's Report: A written report was provided. We have \$27,985 in our General Fund. Verlyn gave a brief update on our finances. We are still waiting for the invoice for the second half of the air conditioning installation. \$1025 has been received from the Seymour Funeral, which had been designated as general. The memorial will be used to make improvements to the kitchenette next to the Conference Room. The discussion that followed brought up the limiting parameters of our Building Improvement Fund. **A motion was made and carried to rename the Building Improvement Fund to the Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund, allowing the memorial to encompass all facets of keeping our building modernized and in good repair.**

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. Kelly is looking for someone to take over the duties of the Good Stewards Elder and the running of the Community Dinner.

Property: A lengthy written report was provided outlining all the needed repairs at St. Stephen. Jim recapped some of the items on the to-do list, many have been done, but there are still many on the list. There is a cost of between \$1500 and \$3500 to replace the disposal system in the kitchen.

A motion was made and carried to approve the expenditure needed to make the repairs. There will be repairs needed to the elevator automatic door opener in the near future. **A motion was made and approved to allow the Property Committee to spend up to \$3000 to repair the door when it is needed.** Jim explained that many of the repairs made over the past year were to original fixtures from when the structures were built. We will need to continue to plan for higher maintenance costs as our buildings age.

Worship: A written report was provided.

Trust Fund: A written report was provided. There has been a recent drop in earnings, but there are still some funds available for projects if needed.

A motion was made and carried to accept these reports.

Old Business:

- Memorial Fund Review – There will be a change to the priority order this month. Current Expense is number one, Sustainability Trust Fund is number two, and Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund is now number three.
- In-person worship will continue, **we ask you mask as you are comfortable and please watch online if you are ill.** 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.**
- Email issues are being resolved, and we continue to look at our video process.

New Business:

- **A motion was made and carried** to approve September bills.
- Dick Holster gave us an update on things with Little Scholars.
- Little Scholars has requested more playground space. Discussion took place about giving up 6 parking spaces for them. They would be compensating us monthly for the extra space. Dick suggested that if we decide to do so, we should pose the question to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- The Personnel Committee has given recommendations for salary payments and increases for the next year. Discussion followed. We are trying to stay competitive with the recent increases in the private sector. **A motion was made and carried to follow the Personnel Committee's recommendations with one amendment.**
- Lloyd asked us to begin our planning for the new budget for 2023. We will have a budget meeting in November to discuss it.
- The date for the Annual Meeting has been set for February 12, 2023.
- Building Security has been worked on; a number pad has been installed. Work will continue on specific projects as they relate to the safety of our members, staff, tenants, and building.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8th at 5:30 pm with Kathy providing devotions.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Erdman, Council Secretary



ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS

If you would like to place a poinsettia in church for Christmas, please complete this form and either mail it in or bring it to the church office.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 2022

Given in memory of

Given in honor of

Given by

How many?

We are only offering Traditional Red this year.

Each plant is in a 6 ½" pot.

Cost of each plant is \$ 12

Call Nancy Henke @ 715-845-7858 with any questions.

Please include your payment with this form.

Make check payable to: *St. Stephen Lutheran Church.*

Thanks!



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