



THE DEACON'S SPIRIT

DATE: MARCH 2023
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The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church

*The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of the singing of birds is come...*

~ Song of Solomon 2:12 ~

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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
Spectrum channel 980/TDS channel 17
on Sundays at 12pm (this is the previous
Sundays' service), Mondays at 3pm, and
Tuesdays at 10am and 10:30pm.



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

I'm writing this on the last Wednesday before Lent. By the time you read this we will have celebrated Transfiguration Sunday, received ashes on Ash Wednesday, and Lent will be well underway.



Tonight at Confirmation, we considered new language for the Lord's Prayer, to help us understand what we are praying together weekly in worship and in daily life. After considering how to phrase our daily needs and God's grace and forgiveness, we took a little "field trip" to the sanctuary where we talked about Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. We took a look at a small container of ashes which were burned from last year's dried out palms. We talked about repentance, mortality, and resurrection. And we explored together the space in which we worship. It was beautiful, sacred time.

Because we are a combined group from 3 different churches, our sanctuary is a familiar space to several of these young folks, but completely new to others. We saw the view from the pulpit and from the balcony. We talked about how our sacred spaces and worship practices can look very different, but how we all worship God as one Church. I am forever learning from these young people; seeing what excites them and the questions they ask, and as I approach Lent, I feel myself invited to use this "time in the wilderness" to consider the ways in which the Holy Spirit is working and dancing among us. It is a time to ponder the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the gift of God's grace. We don't do these Lenten practices to somehow earn merit, but to remember that even in our mortality, God practices resurrection, and in the hope of that resurrection we celebrate God's work among us.

During Lent you are invited to participate in our midweek midday "Lunch Church" at St. Stephen, evening worship at Pilgrim with Holden Evening Prayer, or both! Here at St. Stephen our theme will be "Eating with the Saints." Together we will think about the people from the history of the church, the people who have made a difference in our faith, and in modern day saints, young and old alike.

Pastor Karoline

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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St. Stephen Calendar of Events					March 2023	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	6 10:00 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Darball	7 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 4:30 Executive Comm. Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	1 12:15 Mid-week Lenten Soup Service @ SSLC 5:30 Soup Supper @ Pilgrim 6:30 Mid-week Lenten Service @ Pilgrim 7:00 Combined Choir	2 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon	3	4
12 Angels Activity Day 9:00 Worship 10:30 Angels Activity Day 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	13 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Darball MEMORIAL DEADLINE FOR MARCH	14 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	15 12:15 Mid-week Lenten Soup Service @ SSLC 5:30 Soup Supper @ Pilgrim 6:30 Mid-week Lenten Service @ Pilgrim 7:00 Combined Choir	16 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17	18 9:00 am—9:00 pm AA Conference in the Downstairs Auditorium
19 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	20 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:00 Darball	21 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	22 12:15 Mid-week Lenten Soup Service @ SSLC 5:30 Soup Supper @ Pilgrim 6:30 Mid-week Lenten Service @ Pilgrim 7:00 Combined Choir	23 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon	24	25
26 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	27 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Darball	28 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	29 12:15 Mid-week Lenten Soup Service @ SSLC 5:30 Soup Supper @ Pilgrim 6:30 Mid-week Lenten Service @ Pilgrim 7:00 Combined Choir	30 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon	31	

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating March/April Birthdays

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

March 1st

Theresa Kole

March 2nd

Jay Pippenger

March 4th

Joslyn Strand

March 5th

Ron Felch

March 7th

Candi den Otter
Nathaniel Lenoble

March 8th

Derek Koehler

March 9th

Vallory Haiker

March 10th

Phil Giese

March 13th

Luke den Otter
Ben Kasten

Dennis Lohrey

Brenda Prieve

Shirlee Shaw

March 14th

Darlene Zietlow

March 19th

Lucille Bedish

March 20th

Darlene Johnson

March 21st

Debra Johnson

March 25th

Nelda Hettinga

March 26th

Darrin Koehler

March 27th

Dale Seymour

Jeanette Wiskow

March 30th

Noah Weinke

March 31st

Susan Brooks

April 4th

Gerald Hoppe

April 5th

Bonnie Pils

April 8th

Florence Beese

Cathy Teske

April 9th

Dick Holster

April 10th

Bill Brandimore
Roxanne Christian

April 11th

Kyle Kershaw

April 12th

John Baddock
Hailey Koehler

April 13th

Sandy Oestreich
Hayden Korpela

April 14th

Emmalyn Grau
Chris Travis

April 18th

JJ Deffner

April 19th

Diane Waldinger

April 20th

Chuck 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 March/April Wedding Anniversaries.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

March 4th

Michael & Dianne Meuret

March 11th

Daryl & Roxanne Christian

March 26th

Darrin & Vanessa Koehler

March 31st

Michael & Leah Holster

April 6th

Jeff & Mary Blomquist

April 7th

Ron & Dawn Felch

April 12th

Don & Jane Seubert

April 16th

John & Cathy Teske

April 30th

Gary & Nan Froseth



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

MARCH 12TH!

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead
1 hour on Saturday night, March 11th!



Angels Activity Day

On Sunday, March 12, the Angels will be hosting a get-together after church. There will be games (cribbage, dominoes, UNO, Tenzi, cards), a jigsaw puzzle project, and a craft project. This could be your opportunity to try out a new game or participate in an old favorite. Our craft project will involve using acrylic paints so dress casually. The supplies for this craft project, along with short sleeve T-shirts, are provided through Thrivent project funding. A lunch will be provided by The Angels. We will meet downstairs in the Auditorium after church. Estimated finish time is around 1:30pm.

Lent/Holy Week Worship Schedule

This year we will be combining some services with Pilgrim Lutheran Church. St. Stephen members are welcome to attend services at Pilgrim and Pilgrim members are welcome to attend services at St. Stephen. Mid-week Lenten Soup Services will be held at St. Stephen at 12:15pm in the Downstairs Auditorium and at Pilgrim at 6:30pm with a Soup Supper at 5:30pm. If you are interested in helping set-up, clean-up, and/or make soup, bread, or dessert for the 12:15pm service at St. Stephen, there is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the reception area. On Palm Sunday, April 2nd, St. Stephen and Pilgrim will each have their own separate services. Ours will be at 9am. On Maundy Thursday, April 6th, there will be a Potluck Supper at Pilgrim at 5:30pm and St. Stephen members are invited as guests. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall. There will a worship service at Pilgrim following the potluck at 6:30pm. On Good Friday, April 7th there will be a service at St. Stephen at 12:15pm and a service at Pilgrim at 6:30pm. And on Easter Sunday, April 9th there will be a service at St. Stephen at 8:30am and a service at Pilgrim at 10:30am. The change in service times for Easter Sunday is to allow the choir to sing at both churches.

Rummage Sale

Our annual church rummage sale will be Saturday, April 29th and Sunday, April 30th. **We need items!!** As usual, the drop off for your gently used items is downstairs right outside the elevator doors (at the base of the short stack of stairs going up to the Youth Room). If you feel a certain price should be used, please write us note to that affect. If you need help getting items to church, give the office a call and someone will be in contact with you. As in years past, please no large electronics (TV's, computers, etc.) or furniture. Lamps, small tables, and pictures are welcomed. The Angels use the proceeds from this 2-day sale to donate money to some local agencies and to our church. Thank you for your support!

Sponsorships Needed

Sponsorships are needed for Palm Sunday bulletin covers—\$13; and Easter Sunday bulletin covers—\$13. Please contact Nancy Henke in the church office at 715-845-7858, if you are interested.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study Group will be meeting on Wednesday, March 8th 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 January 2023, we were able to contribute to the following ministry:

ELCA National & Synod Support \$545

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 \$12,131 for January.

St. Stephen Family Checkbook

For the month of January 2023 and the year to date, the St. Stephen family checkbook looked like this:

January 1—31, 2023

What we received.....	\$17,227.
What we spent.....	(\$23,551.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 6,324.)

January 1— 31, 2023

What we received.....	\$17,227.
What we spent.....	(\$23,551.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 6,324.)

Order of Importance of Memorials and Other Special Offerings

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

FEBRUARY 2023 MEMORIALS**Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund**

In memory of loved ones –
Charles & Joyce Fromfeld

In loving memory of Delbert “Pete” Peterson –
Doris Peterson

In loving memory of Arleen Shipway –
Kim Shipway

In loving memory of Merritt & Shirley Gleason and Ken Prieve –
Mary Beth Tolley

In loving memory of our dear departed friends –
Women of the Church

These are memorials received through Monday, February, 13th.

If you would like a memorial placed in the newsletter for April, it needs to be to the office by Monday, March 13th. Thank you!



LENT

Lenten fasts have a tendency to be oriented toward things like giving up food or television. But there are many other creative ways we can welcome Jesus' healing touch this Lent. Below are some suggestions you may want to consider.

Fast from anger and hatred. Give your family an extra dose of love each day.

Fast from judging others. Before making judgments, recall how Jesus overlooks our faults.

Fast from discouragement. Hold on to Jesus' promise that he has a perfect plan for your life.

Fast from complaining. When you find yourself about to complain, close your eyes and recall some of the little moments of joy Jesus has given you.

Fast from resentment or bitterness. Work on forgiving those who may have hurt you.

Fast from spending too much money. Try to reduce your spending by ten percent and give these savings to the poor.

COUNCIL MINUTES ~ FEBRUARY 14, 2023

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Present: Pastor Karoline, Sarah Lonsdorf, Lloyd Zimmer, Verlyn Oelke, Jim Von Rueden, Kathy Robinson, Shauna Robinson, Sue Holster, Lynn Deffner, Jacque Schremp, Jeff Blomquist, and Vicki Romang.

Absent: Pam Hackbart.

The meeting opened at 5:30 pm with devotions by Lloyd Zimmer.

A motion was made and passed to accept the January 10, 2023 Council minutes.

Pastor's Report: A written report was provided. Pastor Karoline gave an update on the visit from the Synod. Pastor Karoline accepted a position on the board at Crossways Camping Ministries. A Council Retreat will be planned in the future.

President's Report: A written report was provided.

Treasurer's Report: A written report was provided. In the general fund is \$22,165. The renters for the parsonage and Little Scholars will be entering into negotiations for their new leases.

A motion was made and carried to accept these reports.

Committee Reports:

Good Stewards: No written report was provided. Shauna is excited to be the new Elder and looks forward to doing more community outreach in the coming year.

Property: No written report was provided. An update was given by Jim Von Rueden including an estimate for a remodel to the upstairs kitchen. Funds will be raised before final plans are made.

Worship: A written report was provided. A quote was received to fix/update the organ. The cost is estimated at \$75,000. A discussion took place on timing of potential organ upgrade.

Trust Fund: A written report was provided. Welcome to new members Deb Gleason and Linda Salzman.

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. Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund is number one, Current Expense Fund number two, and Sustainability Trust Fund number three.

New Business:

- **A motion was made and carried** to approve January bills.
- Elevator Door Closer – It has not been repaired, but an estimate of between \$1,500 and \$4,000 was given. Repairs will take place on Monday, February 20, 2023. **A motion was made and carried to approve repair up to \$4,000.**
- Discussion was held about collaborating with other ELCA Lutheran churches. If anyone has questions, feel free to contact Pastor Karoline or Kathy Robinson.
- Member Roster Review – A list will be compiled of members who have not attended or contributed in the past year. Council will review the list and contact those members.
- Jessica and Isaac Fischer have asked to be transferred to St. John's Lutheran Church in Birnamwood. Council approved the transfer.
- Lenten Services were discussed. Lenten Soup Services will be held at St. Stephen at 12:15 pm with soup being served at noon. If you would like to bring soup, bread, or dessert or help with set up or clean up there is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the reception area.

Our next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7th at 4:30 pm and the next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14th at 5:30 pm, with Verlyn providing devotions.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Romang, Council Secretary

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A graphic with a dark, textured background. At the top, the word "LENT" is written in large, white, serif capital letters. To the right of "LENT" is a large, white, hand-painted cross. Below this, the words "SOUP SERVICE SCHEDULE" are written in a smaller, white, serif font. Underneath, a paragraph of text in a white, serif font reads: "All services will be held in the Downstairs Auditorium on Wednesdays at 12:15 pm on the following dates: March 1st, March 8th, March 15th, March 22nd, and March 29th".

LENT

SOUP SERVICE SCHEDULE

All services will be held
in the Downstairs Auditorium
on Wednesdays at 12:15 pm
on the following dates:
March 1st, March 8th, March 15th,
March 22nd, and March 29th

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