

**DATE: APRIL 2023**  
Volume 218 • Issue 218

# THE DEACON'S SPIRIT

The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church



**512 McClellan Street**  
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**Office Hours:**  
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays  
from 8:30am—3:30pm

**Office Closed:**  
Good Friday, April 7th  
Easter Monday, April 10th

**Deadlines:**  
Bulletin: Wednesday by 8:30 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.



*PALM SUNDAY*  
*APRIL 2ND*  
*WORSHIP*  
*AT 9AM*

*Maundy Thursday*  
*April 6th*  
*Potluck Supper*  
*at Pilgrim at 5:30pm*  
*Worship at Pilgrim*  
*at 6:30pm*



*Good Friday*  
*April 7th*  
*Worship at 12:15 pm*  
*(livestreamed on Facebook)*

**EASTER SUNDAY**

*April 9th*  
*Worship at 8:30am*  
*at St. Stephen*  
*Worship at 10:30am*  
*at Pilgrim*



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

The snow was deep. The kids were much younger than now. It was Spring Break and we needed a project. We had been looking around for signs of spring and new life, but it was all covered in snow. The sun was climbing higher in the sky each day. We were starting to hear birdsong more frequently, but did I mention that it was still cold and snowy?



We decided to make resurrection gardens. I'm not great with anything that has to do with gardening, but we gathered our supplies and gave it a try. First, we gathered some neighborhood friends for help. Next, we spread potting soil in a wide, shallow bowl. We used torn up egg cartons to make a small cave; building up the soil around it. We found a nice round rock to cover the entrance to our "tomb" and we used other rocks to decorate the small scene. We sprinkled grass seed around it and then watered it copiously. We then crafted some crosses out of popsicle sticks and hot glue (I'm much better at the crafty part than I am the plants!) which we proudly displayed in our new gardens. If nothing else, we definitely succeeded in making a mess of the kitchen and having a fun afternoon. Amazingly, we kept it watered and by Easter, the seeds had sprouted and we were presented with a grassy sign of spring!

This year, as the snow keeps piling on more snow, I keep thinking about that little garden. Whether we have external signs of spring, this season brings us the ultimate reminder of new life. Each spring we celebrate Easter, the day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ! Our celebration is that much richer, because first we experience the ashes smudged on our foreheads, the reflection of Lent, and the events of Holy Week; the dirty, messy pattern of planting and watering and waiting. Come and see, come and hear, come and experience and taste and touch of resurrection. Come remember the celebration of new life in Christ through the waters of baptism. Even if you cannot physically be present, you are united with our community in a celebration of hope!

*Pastor Karoline*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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St. Stephen Calendar of Events						April 2023	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>2 Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Trust Fund Comm. Mtg. 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	<b>3</b> 10:00 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Darts	<b>4</b> 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 4:30 Executive Comm. Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>5</b> 6:30 Combined Choir	<b>6 Maundy Thursday</b> 8:30 Quilting 5:30 Potluck Supper at Pilgrim 6:00 AI-Anon 6:30 Maundy Thursday Worship at Pilgrim	<b>7 Good Friday</b> 12:15 Good Friday Worship at SSLC NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED	<b>1</b> 9:00 Stephen's Angels	
<b>9 Easter</b> 8:30 Worship at SSLC 10:30 Worship at Pilgrim 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	<b>10 Easter Monday</b> 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir OFFICE CLOSED	<b>11</b> 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>12</b> 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir	<b>13</b> 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>16</b> 9:00 Worship/Schneider Baptism 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	<b>17</b> 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:00 Good Stewards Comm. Mtg. 5:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Property Comm. Mtg. MEMORIAL DEADLINE FOR APRIL	<b>18</b> 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>19</b> 6:30 Combined Choir	<b>20</b> 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	
<b>23</b> 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	<b>24</b> 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir	<b>25</b> 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>26</b> 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir	<b>27</b> 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 8:00am—3:00pm Rummage Sale	
<b>30</b> 8:00am—11:00am Rummage Sale 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA							

# ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



## Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating April/May Birthdays.

### CONGRATULATIONS!!!

#### April 3rd

Gerald Hoppe

#### April 5th

Bonnie Pils

#### April 8th

Florence Beese

Cathy Teske

#### April 9th

Dick Holster

#### April 11th

Bill Brandimore

Roxanne Christian

#### April 11th

Kyle Kershaw

#### April 12th

John Bandock

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

#### May 2nd

Jerelyn Weinke

Seth Wiskow

#### May 3rd

Allen Seymour

#### May 4th

Gloria Mortenson

Raymond Schirmer

#### May 5th

Elizabeth Lenoble

John Seehafer

#### May 9th

Patty Pippenger

Jessica Strand

#### May 10th

Sylvia Seiler

#### May 13th

Jessica Dabler

#### May 14th

Jennifer Burish

Jane Seubert

#### May 15th

Susan Flaker Johnson

Amy Robinson

Randy Van Natta

#### May 17th

Davis Kole

Terry Lyon

#### May 18th

Pastor Karoline Schwantes

#### May 19th

Debra Zahrt

#### May 21st

Joan Ninnemann

Gary Tilkens

#### May 22nd

Julie Cheyka-Sawyer

#### May 23rd

Shane Woller

#### May 26th

Delores Hilmerhausen

Nancy Schwede

#### May 27th

Darlene Yolitz

#### May 28th

Melissa Peters

#### May 30th

Alexander Mohr

#### May 31st

Andrew Nielson

Kristie Schneider



## Anniversaries

The following couples are celebrating their April/May Wedding Anniversaries.

### CONGRATULATIONS!!!

#### 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

#### May 4th

Ben & Peggy Roble

#### May 5th

Allen & Susan Brouchous

Nick & Becky Hebda

#### May 20th

Greg & Kim Grau

Elroy & Faye Schalow

#### May 22nd

Christopher & Beth Eiden

#### May 25th

John & Connie Schneider

#### May 29th

Joseph & Jessica Strand

#### May 30th

Ed & Shirley Schwede

#### May 31st

Everett & Bev Schmidt



## Funeral

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

**Arlene Loeffel**

**February 20, 2023**



**I am the  
resurrection  
and the life;**

everyone who lives and  
believes in Me will never die.



## Community Dinner

The Good Stewards Committee is busy planning the next Community Dinner which will be held on Sunday, April 23rd. We are asking congregation members to help out by either baking or buying cookies for us to include with the meals. Please bring the cookies to church with you on Sunday, April 23rd. We will have a place in the back of the Sanctuary for you to leave the cookies. If you have any questions, please contact Shauna Robinson. Thanks!

## Faith In Action

Faith in Action is a Non-Profit Organization which offers quality services at NO COST, for seniors to live in their homes, as long as feasibly possible. All services are provided regardless of income, religious belief, or ethnic background. If you or a neighbor needs help getting transportation for medical appointments, grocery shopping, or running any other errands please call Faith in Action at 715-848-8783 Monday thru Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm. Their office is located here in Wausau at 630 Adams Street.

## Peyton's Promise Food Drive

Thank-you! Thank-you! The food drive for Peyton's Promise was a success. We were expecting around 4 boxes of supplies, but we ended up with 6 boxes plus numerous bags as well as packages of larger items. It was a good thing that they drove a Suburban to pick up our donations! The Angels are so grateful for your willingness to donate to this organization that helps so many and is encouraging local youth to take part in sharing and volunteering.

## 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!

## Tender Home Care

Tender Home Care provides non-medical in-home care services in Wausau and the surrounding areas. We provide services to seniors, people with disabilities and people who are transitioning home from a hospital stay, rehabilitation center or surgery. Our services include companionship, personal care, transportation, light housekeeping, respite care, hospice, safe guard visits and drop-in services. We bridge the gap between family and medical services. Our rates are reasonable and our care schedule is flexible. Our goal is to keep our clients safe in the comfort of their homes while maintaining their dignity and independence. At Tender Home Care, we provide more than care services. We provide hope and happiness! If you would like more information, visit our website at [www.tender-home-care.com](http://www.tender-home-care.com), call 715-679-6458, or email [TenderHomeCareLLC@outlook.com](mailto:TenderHomeCareLLC@outlook.com).

## Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study Group will be meeting on Wednesday, April 12th 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 2023, we were able to contribute to the following ministry:

ELCA National & Synod Support \$560

This is the first 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 \$12,447 for February.

## St. Stephen Family Checkbook

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

### February 1—28, 2023

What we received.....	\$18,523.
What we spent.....	(\$22,675.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 4,152.)

### January 1— February 28, 2023

What we received.....	\$35,750.
What we spent.....	(\$46,226.)
Our balance.....	(\$10,476.)

## 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.

## MARCH 2023 MEMORIALS

### **In loving memory of Arlene Loeffel**

Building Improvement/Maintenance Fund -- \$1075

Family & Friends

### **Banner Fund**

In loving memory of Arlene Loeffel –  
Sarah Lonsdorf

### **Building Improvement/Maintenance Fund**

In memory of loved ones –  
Charlie & Joyce Fromfeld

In loving memory of my Husband, Roger Fust on his March 4th Birthday Anniversary –  
Darleen Fust

In loving memory of Arlene Loeffel –  
Deanne Kimbel

### **Current Expense Fund**

In loving memory of Jerry Preller and Perry Barr –  
Kay Preller

In loving memory of Robert Abt –  
Ben & Peggy Roble

### **Tuck Pointing Fund**

In loving memory of Audrey Ruechel –  
Bert and Son, Ron Ruechel

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*He is not here;  
he has  
Risen!*

*Luke 24:6*

# COUNCIL MINUTES ~ MARCH 14, 2023

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

**Absent:** Pam Hackbart, Kathy Robinson, and Shauna Robinson.

**Guest:** Dick Holster

The meeting opened at 5:30 pm with devotions by Verlyn Oelke.

**A motion was made and passed to accept the February 14, 2023 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. The Balance sheet was reviewed. There is \$11,689 in the general fund. \$395 Thrivent Choice Dollars were received. Reminder that members have until March 31<sup>st</sup> to direct Choice Dollars. Thrivent Action Dollars can be used for such things as art supplies for the Stephen's Angels art project. Members are encouraged to apply. The renters (Parsonage and Little Scholars) are up to date with the rent through February. Dick Holster is following up on an oversight regarding the parsonage rent.

**Guest Speaker – Dick Holster:** Dick discussed the status of the renters and the properties. Dick is working with the city to make sure the parsonage is zoned properly. The tenants are interested in extending their lease. Dick will work with them and bring a proposal to Council for review and discussion. Little Scholars owner, Phil Mohs, is interested in working with us on upgrades to our facilities including the playground expansion and fence. There is also interest in looking into additional classroom space. This may bring extra revenue to the church and Council is open to looking into options. The new 6 year lease for Little Scholars is being finalized. Phil Mohs is planning to attend the April Council meeting.

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

## **Committee Reports:**

**Good Stewards:** No report provided.

**Property:** A written report was provided. The kitchen hood was inspected and a few minor adjustments to the appliance locations need to be made. Jim mentioned that they are looking for indoor projects for Cecil until outdoor projects can be done.

**Worship:** No report provided. The committee did not meet in February.

**Trust Fund:** A written report was provided. The committee welcomed 2 new members and elected officers.

**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.
- The Elevator Door Closer has been repaired.

## **New Business:**

- **A motion was made and carried** to approve February bills.
- AA is using our Downstairs Auditorium for their annual Conference on Saturday, March 18th. They are expecting 100 people.
- Member Roster Review – A list has been compiled and Council will begin the process of contacting inactive members next month.
- Rick Marquardt has asked to have his membership transferred to Bethany Lutheran Church in Aniwa. **Council approved the transfer.**
- Council Installation will be held on Sunday, April 23rd. A Council Retreat will be held. Date TBD.
- Nancy Henke will be on vacation the week of Monday, March 20th.

Our next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm and the next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm, with Sue Holster providing devotions.

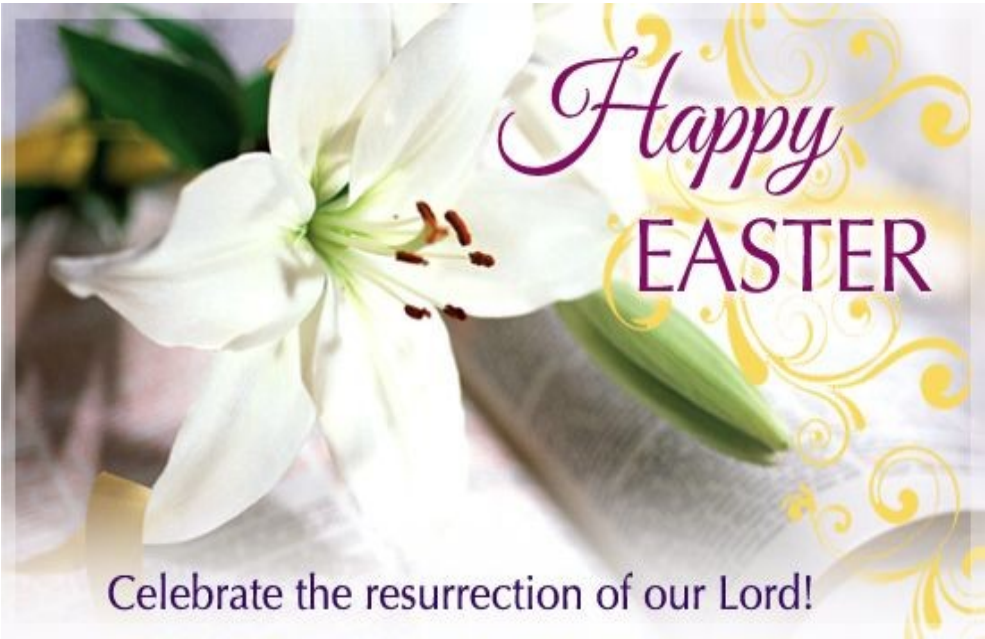
Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Romang, Council Secretary

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