

THE DEACON'S SPIRIT

The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church



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Office Hours:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays
from 8:30am—3:30pm

Office Closed:

Monday, May 29th in observance of
Memorial 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
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.



Mother's Day Slide Show

We will be having a slide show honoring mothers on Mother's Day which is Sunday, May 14th, during the announcements. Please submit your favorite photo of you and your mother and/or a photo of you and your children/grandchildren. Please, no more than one photo from each category. All photos (submitted electronically) must be to Nancy Henke by Wednesday, May 10th. If you would like to submit a photo electronically, email to nhenke@sslcwausau.com. It would be preferable to have electronic submissions in a jpg. format. Please include the names of the people in the photos with your submissions. **IF YOU SUBMITTED A PHOTO LAST YEAR, THAT PHOTO WILL BE USED.** If you have questions, contact Nancy at 715-845-7858.

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

Happy Easter! Alleluia, Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Much like Christmas, Easter is more than just one day. We celebrate a season of 50 days from Easter Sunday until Ascension and Pentecost. We also consider every Sunday worship to be a little Easter, because we celebrate in the Lord's Resurrection at all times.



One of the most important ways that we celebrate is by sharing our faith! We do this by gathering for worship, in the breaking of the bread, and through prayer. This year, our confirmation students explored the Lord's Prayer. After studying it and talking about it, as a group we wrote our own interpretation. This was shared during our midweek Lent services and we all loved it so much that we also wanted to share it here.

Heavenly Parent, Creator and Healer of All People

Good Shepherd, St. Stephen and Immanuel
Confirmation Students February 2023

Heavenly parent, creator, and healer of all people in the universe,
Your name is holy, respected, loved and praised.

May your kingdom be revealed to us.

We pray that your desires become ours
here in our world as in your kingdom.

Provide us this season with our daily cereal, video games, Whoppers,
ice cream, clean water and all necessities.

We apologize for our mess ups and ask for your pardon
as we forgive people everywhere their mistakes that hurt us.

Help us not to give in to the temptations of daily life which bring trouble
and deliver us from the evil around us.

For yours are all things within our earth and universe including
our games, our food, our shelter, and our families.

You are the goodness, the energy, the love
and the King of all creation, forever and always,
Amen.

Pastor Karoline

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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St. Stephen Calendar of Events					May 2023	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 10:00 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir	2 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 4:30 Executive Comm. Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	3 6:30 Combined Choir	4 8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon	5	6
7 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	8 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir	9 Synod Cook Along 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 4:30 Synod Cook Along 5:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	10 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir PHOTOS DUE FOR MOTHER'S DAY SLIDE SHOW	11 Synod Cook Along 8:30 Quilting 4:30 Synod Cook Along 6:00 Al-Anon	12	13
14 Mother's Day 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	15 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Property Comm. Mtg. MEMORIAL DEADLINE FOR MAY	16 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	17 6:30 Combined Choir	18 8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19	20 8:00 am—5:30 pm Synod Assembly in Appleton
21 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	22 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir	23 East High Graduation 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	24 West High Graduation 5:30 Confirmation	25 8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon	26	27
28 Pentecost 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	29 Memorial Day 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum OFFICE CLOSED	30 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	31			

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating May/June Birthdays.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

May 2nd

Jerelyn Weinke
Seth Wiskow

May 3rd

Allen Seymour

May 4th

Raymond Schirmer

May 5th

Elizabeth Lenoble
John Seehafer

May 7th

Matthew Otradovec
Rachel Tordsen

May 9th

Patricia 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 Hilmershausen
Nancy Schwede

May 27th

Darlene Yolitz

May 28th

Melissa Peters

May 30th

Alexander Mohr

May 31st

Andrew Nielson
Kristie Schneider

June 1st

Stuart Kuehl

June 2nd

Raymond Pasholk Jr.
Darlene Simmerman

June 3rd

Gerry Schlamp

June 4th

Deidre Kroeplin

June 7th

Faye Blarek

June 10th

Andrew Ralph

June 12th

Abby Noschese
Jane Stotmeister

June 14th

Dawn Krueger
Nate Schmidt

June 15th

Wally Lewitzke
Carolyn Schirmer

June 16th

Gary Froseth
Cayden Kershaw
Thomas Kole
Maegan Matter

June 18th

Julie Post
Amanda Woller

June 19th

Karen Kromrei
Ken Mylly

June 20th

Darcy Jensen

June 21st

Scott Romang
Ray Stotmeister

June 23rd

Bert Ruechel
Roger Zweck

June 24th

Bill Lonsdorf Jr.
Katie Wiskow

June 25th

Vicki Romang

June 26th

Doris Peterson

June 27th

Crystal Zernicke

June 30th

Eric Van Natta



Anniversaries

The following people are celebrating May/June Anniversaries.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

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

Edward & Shirley Schwede

May 31st

Everett & Bev Schmidt, Jr.

June 4th

Charles & Joyce Fromfeld

June 5th

Stuart & Caroline Kuehl

June 7th

Dick & Sue Holster

June 11th

Ashley & Nathaniel Lenoble

June 13th

Edward & Jane Schwede

June 17th

Harold & Betty Lou Peterson
Tomas & Amy Robinson

June 18th

Mike & Amy Korpela

June 19th

Don & Karen Kromrei
Noel & Rachel Tordsen

June 20th

Ben & Jenah Kasten

June 30th

John & Holly Jorgensen
Bill & Pat Lonsdorf

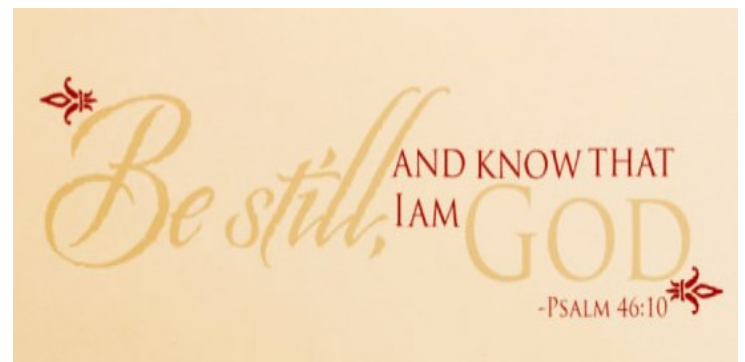


Baptism

"...child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."

Eleanor Christine Schneider

April 16, 2023



Funerals

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

Beatrice Reichl ~ March 25, 2023
Gloria Mortenson ~ March 29, 2023

Aspirus Lifeline Services

Aspirus Lifeline services are back to being installed in area households. Lifeline is an easy-to-use, 24-hour service that provides quick assistance whenever it's needed. Subscribers are able to live more independent, active lives at home because Lifeline's professional staff is ready to provide assistance if needed. Subscribers are free to go about their daily activities with more confidence and less worry, even if they live alone. Aspirus Lifeline also offers Auto Alert, which is advanced technology and provides an added layer of protection: 1) Offers access to help with or without the push of a button if a fall is detected 2) Is an easy-to-wear pendant-style button that is comfortable and waterproof 3) Is the ONLY medical alert pendant with breakthrough technology that, if it detects a fall, will automatically call for help even if you can't push the help button or are unable to ask for help. Learn more by going to: www.aspirus.org/lifeline or call 715-847-2781.

Graduates

Are you or a member of your family graduating? Please let us know so St. Stephen can help you celebrate this milestone! Please notify Pastor Karoline, prkaroline@sslcwausau.com

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 flat sheets, any size or color (preferably not white), clean, free of stains, and no holes, for Lutheran World Relief Quilting. If you have sheets that you would like to bring to church, you may place them in the Nursery (at the end of the hall; last door on left). Thank you!

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 Financial First Advisors 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.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study Group will be meeting on Wednesday, May 10th 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 March 2023, we were able to contribute to the following ministry:

ELCA National & Synod Support \$506

This is the second 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 \$11,142 for March.

St. Stephen Family Checkbook

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

March 1—31, 2023

What we received.....	\$20,442.
What we spent.....	(\$23,680.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 3,538.)

January 1— March 31, 2023

What we received.....	\$56,191.
What we spent.....	(\$70,206.)
Our balance.....	(\$14,014.)

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.

APRIL 2023 MEMORIALS

Building Improvement/Maintenance Fund

In memory of loved ones –
Charlie & Joyce Fromfeld

In loving memory of my Brother, Donald Seymour, who would have been 100 years old on April 15th –
Darleen Fust

In loving memory of Bea Reichl –
Kathy Oakland

In loving memory of my Nephew, Kevin Prieve –
Mary Beth Tolley

Current Expenses

In loving memory of Raymond Ament –
Phyliss Ament

Library Fund

In loving memory of Merlin Ninnemann –
Tim Gritzmacher

Seidel-Meyer Pastoral Ministry Fund

In loving memory of Harold & Sue Kratwell, Kenneth & Sadie Borth, and Norm & Bertha Zietlow –
Sandy & Ron Borth and Family



COUNCIL MINUTES ~ APRIL 11, 2023

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

Absent: Pam Hackbart and Jeff Blomquist.

Guests: Dick Holster and Phil Mohs

The meeting opened at 5:30 pm with devotions by Sue Holster.

A motion was made and passed to accept the March 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 \$8,150 in the general fund.

Guest Speakers – Dick Holster, Phil Mohs: A discussion was had concerning future expansion for Little Scholars with the Council and Phil Mohs, Owner of Little Scholars. Proposals have been received to update the fencing around the playground. The expected cost is over \$12,000 which will be covered by Little Scholars. An additional washroom and classroom are needed for future growth and compliance with the State. The Council approved the new lease to extend over the next six years.

A motion was made and carried to accept these reports.

Committee Reports:

Good Stewards: A written report was provided.

Property: A meeting was not held in March. The ovens in the kitchen are in need of repair or complete replacement. The cost is estimated to be \$5,000 per oven. The Council approved the expense if under \$5,000. If the cost above \$5,000 it will be brought to the congregation for a vote. An application was submitted for Thrivent funds for kitchen repair. A total of \$500 was received. This fund will be used to repair the flooring in the service kitchen on the first floor. A subcommittee was created to explore what accommodations are needed when updating the service kitchen.

Worship: No written report was provided.

Trust Fund: A written report was provided.

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 Installation of the new Council will be held on Sunday, April 23, 2023.
- The Council Retreat is scheduled to be on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 and will be combined with the Council Meeting.

New Business:

- **A motion was made and carried** to approve February bills.
- Scott and Rita Block have requested to be removed from our roster. They are now living in Arizona. A motion was made and carried to approve this request.
- The Good Neighbor Fund has been active recently providing assistance to people by following the criteria set in place by the church Council.
- Pulpit supply is needed on Sunday, May 21, 2023. Pastor Karoline will be providing service at Good Shepherd.

Our next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2nd at 4:30 pm and the next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9th at 5:30 pm, with Pastor Katherine providing devotion.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Romang, Council Secretary

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