

DATE: JUNE 2023  
Volume 220 • Issue 220

# THE DEACON'S SPIRIT

The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church



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**Office Hours:**  
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays  
from 8:00am—3:00pm

**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.



## Father's Day Slide Show

We will be having a slide show honoring fathers on Father's Day which is Sunday, June 18th, during the announcements. Please submit your favorite photo of you and your father 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, June 14th. If you would like to submit a photo electronically, email to [nhenke@sslcwausau.com](mailto: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

Come Holy Spirit, Come!

On May 28th we celebrate Pentecost and the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit within the world and within us. Sometimes called the birthday of the church; we hear the story in Acts where the Holy Spirit comes rushing in, wind and tongues of flame, enabling the crowd gathered to hear the good news, each in their own language.



We use color in the church to mark the church calendar, and the day of Pentecost is red. We also use red to celebrate special days like confirmation and ordinations; days in which we celebrate the indwelling of the Spirit. I love days when the color of the day is red, a joyous, bold color.

Because red is only used a couple of times in the church year and is the color of ordinations, that day in which clergy are yoked by the first placing of a stole upon their shoulders, red stoles are often very special to pastors and often have a story behind them. Mine is woven and I joke that I “accidentally” made it for myself. I first began mine almost 20 years ago, warping the loom with yards of red yarn with the intention of creating a stole for my pastor and mentor. Getting a cat and having kids slowed me down a bit. Occasionally I would pull it out, adding an inch or 2 of weaving, praying as I worked. The project shifted to be for another dear pastor. Years passed and I faced a time of difficult transition and discernment. At this point, I didn’t know who it was for, but I wanted it off my loom. I found a variegated yarn and finished it in a couple of days. I took it to another pastor and mentor of mine, wondering how to best finish the neck and ends. As I explained that I didn’t know who it was for, she replied that she did and put it around my shoulders. It was so long that it dragged on the floor on each end. It certainly wasn’t ready yet, but 6 years later I received that stole at my own ordination and get to wear it here at St. Stephen for my first Pentecost as your pastor.

Pentecost is a day, but it is also a season lasting through the summer and the fall. For most of the season, the color of the day is green. Some traditions call this “ordinary time.” But red or green, a special day or a lengthy season, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a time to be celebrated. We celebrate God’s presence in both the most ordinary and the rare.

*Pastor Karoline*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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St. Stephen Calendar of Events						June 2023	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>4</b> 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	<b>5</b> 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>6</b> 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 4:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:00 AI-Anon	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>11</b> 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	<b>12</b> 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum <b>MEMORIAL DEADLINE FOR JUNE</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>14 Flag Day</b> 10:00 Staff Mtg. <b>PHOTOS DUE FOR FATHER'S DAY SLIDE SHOW</b>	<b>15</b> 6:00 AI-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 1:00—4:00pm Saturday Craftersnoon	
<b>18 Father's Day</b> 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	<b>19 Juneteenth</b> 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>20</b> 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:00 AI-Anon	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	
<b>25</b> 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	<b>26</b> 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>27</b> 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:00 AI-Anon	<b>30</b>		



# ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



## Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating June/July Birthdays.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

### 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

Julie Post

### June 18th

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

### July 4th

Lloyd Zimmel

### July 8th

Kathleen Jaecks

Clara Lind

David Skola

Jim Von Rueden

### July 9th

Nancy Zelich

### July 11th

Ben Roble

### July 12th

Barbara Brandt

### July 13th

Jim Boerner

### July 16th

Joyce Fromfeld

Walter Grau

Ramona Hanke

Sue Holster

Lisa Koch

### July 17th

Charles Fromfeld

Verlyn Oelke

### July 18th

Linda Salzman

### July 19th

Vanessa Koehler

### July 20th

Dianna Busha

### July 21st

Richard Shipway

### July 23rd

Annika Tordsen

### July 24th

Susan Johnson

Jeffrey Will

### July 25th

Sharon Hopp

### July 26th

Christine Baumann

Zadra Luedtke

### July 29th

Sandra Moss

Jakob Tordsen

### July 31st

Cole Hannes

Beth Lind

Judy Spear



## Anniversaries

The following people are celebrating June/July Anniversaries.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

### 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

### July 1st

Gene & Darlene Simmerman

### July 4th

Chuck & Kim Kershaw

### July 10th

Duane & Elizabeth Wolfe

### July 12th

Kim & Barbara Brandt

### July 14th

Don & Kathy Oakland

### July 20th

James & Kaitlyn Ritter

Raymond & Sharon Schirmer

### July 22nd

Jim & Bonnie Von Rueden

### July 24th

Russell & Julie Post

### July 25th

Marko & Nancy Zelich

### July 26th

Shane & Amanda Woller

### July 31st

John & Elizabeth Beilke

Mark & Judy Spear



## Funeral

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

**Debra Johnson ~ April 25, 2023**



Psalm 46:10

## Church Rummage Sale

The Angels would like to thank everyone who supported us for the Church Rummage Sale. For those of you who donated items, those who helped bring items down from the Youth Room to the auditorium, those who baked goodies for the Bake Sale, those who helped us package up what did not sell to take to Goodwill, and especially those who came and shopped at the sale--- THANK YOU SO MUCH. This sale is a lot of work, but with all of you helping, we accomplished it once again! The Angels will be having their monthly meeting in May and will determine the distribution of the money raised (minus the cost of advertising) at that time. We will keep you posted.

## Community Dinner

Thank you to everyone who volunteered with the Community Dinner whether it was a sweet treat or physical help it was all GREATLY APPRECIATED! We served sandwiches, fruit salad, pasta salad, chips, sweet treat, and water. We served 100 people and unfortunately had to turn some away due to the overwhelming need in our community at this time. I am unsure on exactly how many we were unable to help but we were out of bagged meals by 4:45pm. I will be watching the trend to see if we need to adjust our numbers.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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!

## Saturday Crafternoon

Bring your favorite craft and join us for a creative afternoon! Pastor Karoline will bring card making supplies to share. Saturday, June 17th from 1-4pm in the chapel at St. Stephen.

## Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help with some of the Sunday service duties. Please call or email Nancy in the church office if you are interested in becoming an Assisting Minister or Lector.

## Benevolence

Through your support of St. Stephen in the month of April 2023, we were able to contribute to the following ministry:

ELCA National & Synod Support \$599

This is the third 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 \$13,334 for April.

## St. Stephen Family Checkbook

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

### April 1—30, 2023

What we received.....	\$21,764.
What we spent.....	(\$21,198.)
Our balance.....	\$ 566.

### January 1— April 30, 2023

What we received.....	\$77,955.
What we spent.....	(\$91,404.)
Our balance.....	(\$13,449.)

## 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.

## MAY 2023 MEMORIALS

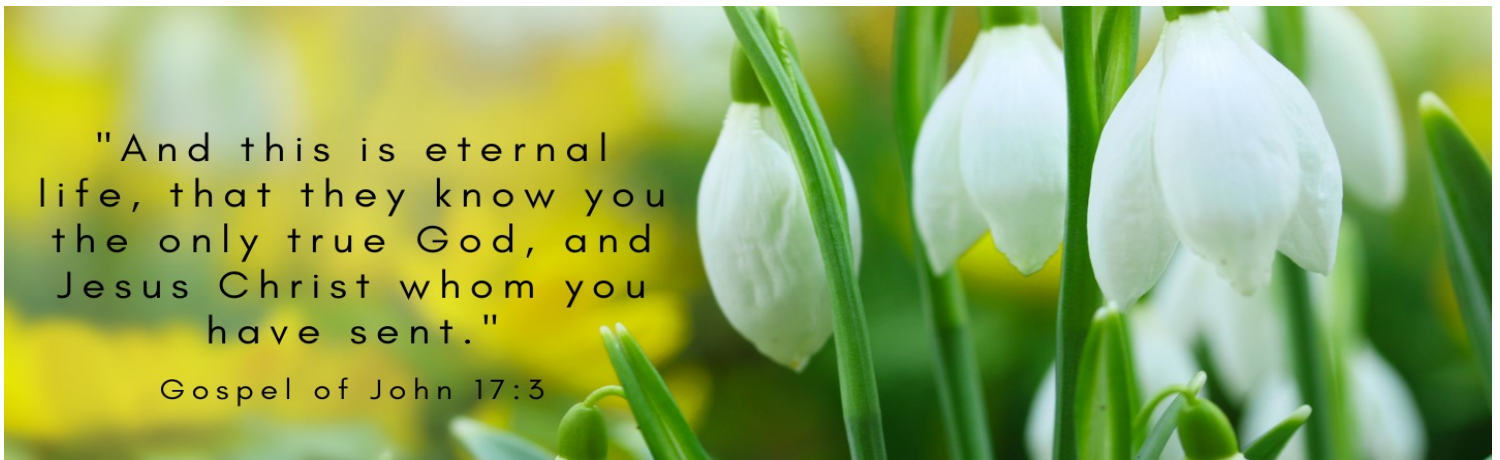
A memorial of \$260 has been made to the Building Improvement/Maintenance Fund in loving memory of Debra Johnson from family and friends.

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

In loving memory of my Husband, Mike Eberhardy –  
Carla Eberhardy

### **Current Expenses**

In loving memory of Deb Johnson –  
Shirley Kasten



## SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MAY 14, 2023

RE: Demolition of Parsonage Garage.

There were 56 people present.

To be in compliance with the number of children that Little Scholars plans to school in the very near future, they will need to expand their playground. In February the Council voted to allow Little Scholars to expand their playground into 6 spots of our existing parking lot.

Another proposal was brought forward to the Council to demolish the garage and use that space instead of taking the parking lot space. The garage was built about 80 years ago. The garage is very small and is not being utilized as a garage. The cost of the demolition will ultimately be the responsibility of Little Scholars. A 6 foot fence will run around the playground paid for by Little Scholars.

A vote via paper ballot was conducted to determine the wishes of the congregation. Sue Holster and Vicki Romang counted the ballots. There were 56 congregation members who attended the meeting. The voting result was 52 “Yes” votes in favor of demolishing the garage and 4 “No” votes opposed to demolishing the garage. As a result of this vote, Little Scholars will move forward with the demolition of the garage for their expansion.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Vicki Romang, Council Secretary

# COUNCIL MINUTES ~ MAY 9, 2023

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

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

The meeting opened at 5:30 pm with devotions by Pastor Karoline.

**A motion was made and passed to accept the April 11, 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 a balance of \$8,698 in the General Fund.

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

## **Committee Reports:**

**Good Stewards:** A written report was provided.

**Property:** The shed behind the parsonage was shortened to accommodate the storage needs we currently have and will be moved behind the church. The serving counter in conference room is being revitalized. Bid to repairs to the alley cost \$17,000. The Council recommends improving the playground expansion for Little Scholars. The recommendation is to demolish the garage instead of extending the playground into the church parking lot. This will be at the expense of the owner of Little Scholars. Council approved a motion to extend the lease on the parsonage for two more years.

**Worship:** A written report was provided.

**Trust Fund:** A written report was provided.

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

## **Old Business:**

- The Council Retreat is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6, 2023 from 4:30 – 8:30pm. This will be combined with the Council Meeting.
- Member roster review is pending.
- The process of collaboration with other local churches continues to be in discussion.

## **New Business:**

- **A motion was made and carried** to approve March bills.
- Passbook savings account at Marathon Savings has a current balance of \$605. **Council made and carried a motion** to consolidate the balance with that of the church checking account.
- The River Valley Youth Conference current balance is \$404.55. **Council made and carried a motion** to consolidate the balance with another youth account – Education/Youth National Convention.
- Devotion for next meeting will be led by Jacque Schremp.
- The fee charge to St. Stephen to use the kitchen will not be passed on to the congregation.
- Staffing meeting items – Email difficulties and job descriptions to be reviewed.

Our next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6, 2023 at 4:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm with the Lord's Prayer. Kathy Robinson created dinner for the Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Romang, Council Secretary



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