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THE DEACON'S SPIRIT

The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church



512 McClellan Street
Wausau, WI 54403-4882

Phone: 715-845-7858

Website: www.sslcwausau.com

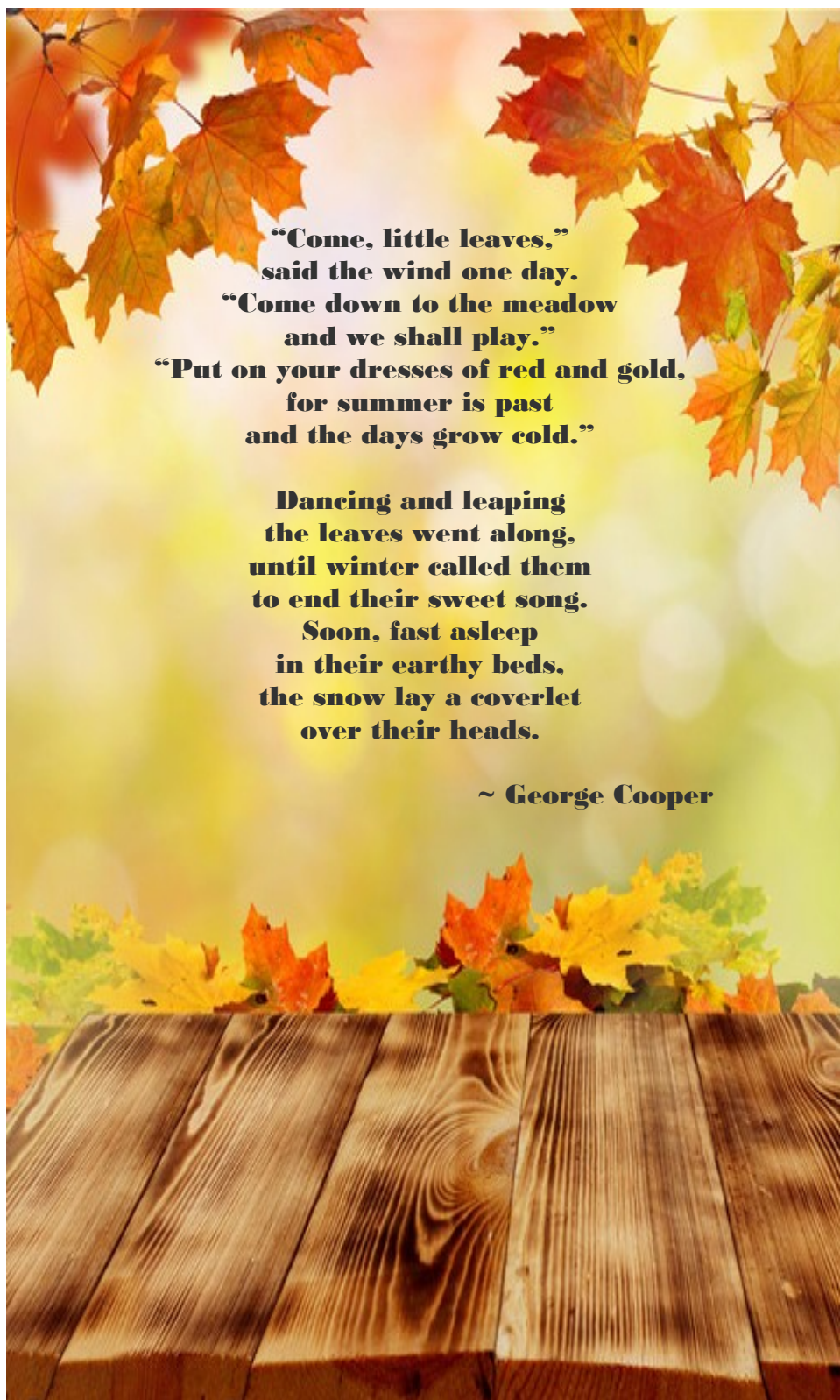
Email address:
information@sslcwausau.com

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.



**"Come, little leaves,"
said the wind one day.
"Come down to the meadow
and we shall play."
"Put on your dresses of red and gold,
for summer is past
and the days grow cold."**

**Dancing and leaping
the leaves went along,
until winter called them
to end their sweet song.
Soon, fast asleep
in their earthy beds,
the snow lay a coverlet
over their heads.**

~ George Cooper

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

On Sunday, September 10th we celebrated "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday. For 10 years, the ELCA has lifted up this day of service, saying on its website, "This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace."

(<https://www.elca.org/dayofservice>)



This year's day of service was a sort of neighborhood picnic. The people of St. Stephen gathered with 3 other congregations and our unhoused neighbors through Community Outreach, and we had a cookout in the misty rain. There was food in abundance, a rack of warm clothes to give, tents to sit under, and even a ukulele band. I keep thinking of all the senses engaged that day: the smell of the burgers and hot dogs on the grill, voices in conversation, the taste of baked beans and cupcakes, the joy of eating with our neighbors until full, the cold damp air, the music of the strings and voices, and the laughter of little kids. The sounds and sights and smells of community and belonging and people caring for one another.

I've been reminded of all of these senses throughout the month as I enter our church building: the sounds of the quilters, Bible study, and the packing of Lutheran World Relief kits down the hall. The smell of coffee and taste of treats during our Sunday fellowship. The sounds of power tools as our kitchenette and bathrooms are updated for better accessibility and ease of use. The sights and sounds and tastes and smells, and the touch of people using their gifts to celebrate who we are as St. Stephen Lutheran Church, a congregation rooted in community and fueled by grace.

Pastor Karoline



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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St. Stephen Calendar of Events						October 2023	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1 9:00 Worship 10:15 Trust Fund Comm. Mtg. 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	2 11:00 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball	3 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	4 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir	5 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon	6	7 8:00—12:00 LWR Ingathering 9:00 Stephen's Angels	
8 9:00 Worship/Whitmore Baptism 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	9 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball	10 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	11 1:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Combined Choir	12 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon	13	14 1:00 Saturday Craftroom	
15 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	16 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:00 Dartball MEMORIAL DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER	17 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 4:30 Executive Comm. Mtg. 5:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	18 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir	19 8:30 Quilting 3:00 Worship Comm. Mtg. 6:00 AI-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20	21	
22 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	23 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball	24 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	25 6:30 Combined Choir	26 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon	27	28	
29 Reformation 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	30 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball	31 Halloween 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum					

ANNIVERSARIES/BIRTHDAYS/MEMORIALS



Anniversaries

The following people are celebrating October Anniversaries.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

October 3rd

Robert & Tamara Pusheck

October 6th

Jeffery & Dianna Busha

October 12th

Andy & Allie Ralph

October 16th

Joseph & Kristine Mohr

October 17th

William & Joanne Lewitzke

Roger & Marjorie Zweck

October 18th

Lloyd & Wendy Zimmer

October 19th

Wallace & Carmelita Lewitzke

October 23rd

Kasey & Danielle Schneider



Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating October Birthdays.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

October 1st

Ethan Holster

Pam Kohnhorst

October 4th

Sandra Stuhr

October 6th

Lynn Guth

Bill Lonsdorf Sr.

October 7th

Sharon Schirmer

Jacque Schremp

October 10th

Murphy Marco

Cliff Prigge

October 11th

Kristin Phillips

October 13th

Cameron Pflanzner

Peggy Tobin

October 14th

Kim Brandt

October 16th

John Peterson

October 17th

Alan Froehlich

October 19th

Kay Preller

Eli Schuett

October 20th

Ronald Dustan

Don Kromrei

October 22nd

Kelly Brown

October 28th

Nancy Pijan

October 29th

Kaitlyn Koehler

October 30th

Kasey Schneider

SEPTEMBER 2023 MEMORIALS

Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund

In loving memory of my Husband, Roger, who passed away 12 years ago today, September 10th –
Darleen Fust

In loving memory of my Brother and Sister-In-Law, Rudy & Emily Schlieff and my Son, Roger Grell –
Ruth Grell

Current Expense Fund

In memory of loved ones –
Joyce & Charles Fromfeld

Library Fund

In loving memory of Merlin Ninnemann –
Tim Gritzmacher

Organ Fund

In loving memory of my Mother, Shirley Gleason whose Birthday Anniversary is September 19th and my Brother, Brian whose Birthday Anniversary is September 26th –
Deb Gleason

Coats for Kids

Coats, jackets, hooded sweatshirts, mittens, hats, scarves, snow pants, sweatpants, and socks/ underwear (new in package) will be needed again for the change in weather entering our fall and winter seasons. The Good Stewards Committee is looking for donations of these items starting September 4th to be donated to the Wausau and DC Everest School Districts. There will be a table in the lounge area where you can place clean, gently used, or new items. All sizes are needed (including adult sizes for the older kids). We appreciate anything you are able to donate. Questions, please contact Shauna Robinson or Nancy Prigge. Thank you!

Confirmation

Confirmation begins on Wednesday, October 4th from 5:30pm until 7pm. We're planning on a similar model as last year, meeting every other week from 5:30pm until 7pm at St. Stephen, and during Advent and Lent meeting weekly at Good Shepherd for worship. If you have a student ready for confirmation, please contact Pastor Karoline.

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering

The kits and mission quilts that are being assembled for Lutheran World Relief from St Stephen and other area churches will be gathered and loaded for shipment on **Saturday, October 7th, from 8 am to noon**. This Ingathering will take place at 143 West Thomas Street just west of the railroad crossing on Thomas Street. St. Stephen has a long, proud history of not only making large numbers of quilts and kits for LWR but also volunteering our time and efforts to make sure these materials get to where they can do the most good. Please plan ahead and **save this date** for helping this great cause. Many hands do make light work! You can contact Verlyn Oelke at 715 359-8274 or 715 551-0546 with any questions.

Saturday Crafternoons

Mark your calendars, Saturday Crafternoons are back! Bring a craft to work on and have some fellowship on a Saturday afternoon from 1-4pm, October 14th, November 18th, and December 16th.

Silent Auction

It is once again time for our Annual Basket Auction. The goal is to raise money for the ongoing work that is required for our buildings (including the Parsonage). The baskets will be on display on two Sundays, November 5th and 12th, with the final bidding being on the 12th. If you are interested in donating items for baskets, here are some ideas: car cleaning items, new-unopened jigsaw puzzles, gift cards from local grocery stores, Fleet Farm, Subway, etc. Please have these items to church by Saturday, November 4th. The Angels are meeting at 9am to finalize the baskets.

Thank You

"Thank You" to everyone who helped with God's Work Our Hands Sunday; it was greatly appreciated by the Good Stewards Committee as well as the clientele we served. A huge thanks to all who helped by donating items, assembling/prepping food, serving, or helping with cleanup. It was a huge success despite some drizzly weather outside.

Women's Bible Study

The Women of St. Stephen will have a Bible Study on Wednesday, October 11th at 1pm in the Conference Room. All women of the church are welcome to attend!

Benevolence

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

ELCA National & Synod Support \$487

This is the seventh 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 \$10,817 for August.

St. Stephen Family Checkbook

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

August 1—31, 2023

What we received.....	\$16,185.
What we spent.....	(\$19,909.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 3,724.)

January 1— August 31, 2023

What we received.....	\$153,355.
What we spent.....	(\$172, 246.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 18,891.)

Order of Importance of Memorials and Other Special Offerings

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

Around Your Home

Mailbox theft - Especially common after year-end, when such documents are mailed, identity thieves steal preapproved credit card offers, tax information or stock brokerage and bank and credit card statements. In another twist, thieves steal pieces of mail you have left out for the carrier and learn your name, address, account numbers, and even how you sign your checks. They open a new account elsewhere and have statements sent to another address.

Change of address - Thieves take it upon themselves to file a form with the U.S. Post Office, diverting your mail to another location to steal your personal information.

Internal Revenue Service - Someone mails you a bogus IRS form that you are asked to complete and return with your personal information so they can process your refund.

Dumpster divers - Posing as people out for a stroll, thieves rummage through your garbage when it is out for pickup, removing documents with your personal information.

Workers - Domestic help or contractors enter your home with your permission and collect social security numbers and other personal information from documents you have left lying around unsecured.

On the Phone

Charitable appeals - A person calls, claiming to be with a reputable charity, and requests a donation. They ask for your credit card and other personal information.

Refinancing offers - A bank or refinance company calls offering you a great rate. You are asked innocent questions at first, followed by someone asking for your social security number so they can check your credit in order to get the most favorable refinance rate.

Spousal problems - Thieves call during the day, posing as a credit card issuer, to inform you that your husband or wife has a payment that is overdue. Playing on your guilt and embarrassment, they request personal information to resolve the problem.

Tax refunds - You get a call from someone who claims that you are entitled to a significant tax refund — they just need your credit card number to charge the nominal shipping expense and social security number to confirm the amount.

On the Internet

Email phishing - Someone posing as your provider sends you a note offering to upgrade your service. The email has a link to a website that looks identical to the one your provider uses. You are asked to enter your personal information. Thieves then use the data to open new accounts and make purchases.

Hacking around - Identity thieves hack websites containing your personal information or account numbers, such as catalogue companies. They use that information to create new accounts.

Out and About

Skimming - A waiter or other service person at a business where you are making a credit card purchase passes it through a small electronic device that copies the magnetic strip and other details. These are later transferred to a machine that makes a fake card.

Credit checks - Posing as your employer, landlord or someone else with a legitimate reason, identity thieves request firms with your records to supply your social security number or other personal information.

Inside job - A co-worker in human resources or payroll with access to your personal information sells it to identity thieves who use it to create a new you and new accounts in your name at another address.

Shoulder surfers - Thieves watch from a nearby location as you punch your telephone calling card or credit card information into a telephone, computer or ATM machine.

COUNCIL MINUTES ~ SEPTEMBER 12, 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, Kathy Robinson, Shauna Robinson, and Vicki Romang.

Absent: Pam Hackbart.

Guests: Dick Holster and Taea Schiefelbein

The meeting opened at 5:30 pm following the Executive Committee meeting.

A motion was made and passed to accept the August 13, 2023 and the August 22, 2023 Council minutes.

Pastor's Report: Crystal Zernicke has asked for a transfer to another church. A motion was made and approved to accept the transfer.

President's Report: A written report was provided.

Treasurer's Report: A written report was provided. There is a balance of \$3,274 in the General Fund. There was \$32,000 paid for various expenses/billing this month.

A motion was made and carried to accept these reports.

Committee Reports:

Good Stewards: A written report was provided.

Property: No written report provided. The parsonage has been cleaned and the shed has been completed. There are many projects still in process. Slate is missing from the roof. A meeting was scheduled with vendors to obtain estimates. The soda machine in the basement was discussed. The cost to maintain is higher than the revenue it brings. The options were to remove it or raise the cost of soda to \$1 per can. This is a price most machines in the area already receive. The motion to raise the price to \$1 per can was approved. The bathrooms on the main floor are now wheelchair accessible.

Worship: A written report was provided. Sarah Lonsdorf raised the issue of times for the Christmas Eve services. The times will need to coordinate with when an organist is available or we will have to hold the service without organ music. The Council made a motion to have services at 9:00 am and 6:00 pm.

Trust Fund: A written report was provided. Council made a motion to approve the cost of shipping quilts for LWR.

A motion was made and carried to accept these reports.

Old Business:

- Member roster review is on hold until an updated roster is received.
- Collaboration with other local churches is encouraged. Please invite people to attend our Sunday services and other services as they see fit.

New Business:

- **A motion was made and carried** to approve August bills.
- **Eagle Project** – Taea Schiefelbein is working to complete her Eagle Project. Her project is to provide a free pantry, similar to the stands for free books around the Wausau area. This pantry would include food and hygiene products. Anyone is invited to utilize the pantry or to donate items to the pantry at any time. The cost would be \$250 which Taea is seeking from area businesses such as Home Depot to complete building the pantry. What Taea is seeking from the church is a location where she may put the pantry to be accessible to anyone in need. The Council made a motion to approve support to Taea.
- **Parsonage/Church Update** – Dick Holster spoke about the condition of the parsonage and the plans going forward. The people interested in renting the parsonage backed out. There is interest in the church managing the air B&B with outside help.
- Little Scholars' owner would like to expand the lease from a 6 year lease to a 15 year lease.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 4:30 pm and the next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Romang, Council Secretary