

THE DEACON'S SPIRIT

The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church



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

Office Closed:
Easter Monday, April 1st

Deadlines:
Bulletin: Wednesday by 8:00 a.m.
Newsletter: 2nd 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.



THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the Hygiene Drive for the homeless that we hosted in February. We collected 26 rolls of paper towel, 6 bottles of dish soap, 2 bottles of Windex, 8 jugs of laundry soap, 104 laundry pods, 45 rolls of toilet paper, 2 packs of feminine hygiene pads, 1 bottle of lotion, 8 deodorant, 4 bottles of shampoo/conditioner, 1 pack of razors, 1 jar of shaving cream, 12 toothbrushes, 18 tubes of toothpaste, and a jar of Vaseline. Thank you so much for your generosity, it is greatly appreciated and will be staying in Wausau.



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

Good news! Easter is here! Good news, Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen indeed!



Every year for Lent, I live in anticipation of this same good news. That Easter is coming. No matter how dark or hard things get in the meantime or what sort of cold snap makes it feel like we're back in midwinter, there is hope. Spring is coming. Easter is coming. There is Good News. The Good News is the Gospel.

The word "gospel" literally means good news. And as Christians we share in the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord. The Good News that Christ has defeated death. The Good News that God meets us in our places of suffering and brings us through them. The Good News that Jesus Christ is Risen today. And the Good News that through Christ we are freely given the gift of Grace and made beloved children of God.

Throughout Lent, we followed the stories of Peter as he and his wandering heart learned what it means to be a disciple of Christ; following, learning, asking questions, growing. As we move into the season of Easter and towards Pentecost, we will explore what it means to become an apostle, literally one who proclaims the Good News of Christ.

As Christians, we are called to share this Good News! What is your Gospel story? How will you share it?

Pastor Karoline

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

St. Stephen Calendar of Events					April 2024	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Easter Monday 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:00 Good Stewards Comm. Mtg. 5:30 Bell Choir OFFICE CLOSED	2 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	3 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir	4 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon	5	6 9:00 Stephen's Angels
7 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	8 11:00 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir	9 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 4:30 Executive Comm. Mtg. 5:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	10 1:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Combined Choir	11 8:30 Quilting 4:00 Worship Comm. Mtg. 6:00 AI-Anon	12	13 9:00am—4:00pm Saturday "Crafternoon"
14 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	15 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Property Comm. Mtg. MEMORIAL DEADLINE FOR APRIL	16 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	17 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir	18 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19	20
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 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	24 6:30 Combined Choir	25 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon	26	27 8:00am—3:00pm Rummage Sale
28 8:00am—11am Rummage Sale 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	29 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir	30 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum				

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



Anniversaries

The following couples are celebrating their April 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



Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating April Birthdays

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

April 3rd

Gerald Hoppe

April 5th

Bonnie Pils

April 8th

Florence Beese

Cathy Teske

April 9th

Dick Holster

April 10th

William Brandimore

Roxanne Christian

April 11th

Kyle Kershaw

April 12th

John Baddock

Hailey Koehler

April 13th

Sandy Hintz 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



Funerals

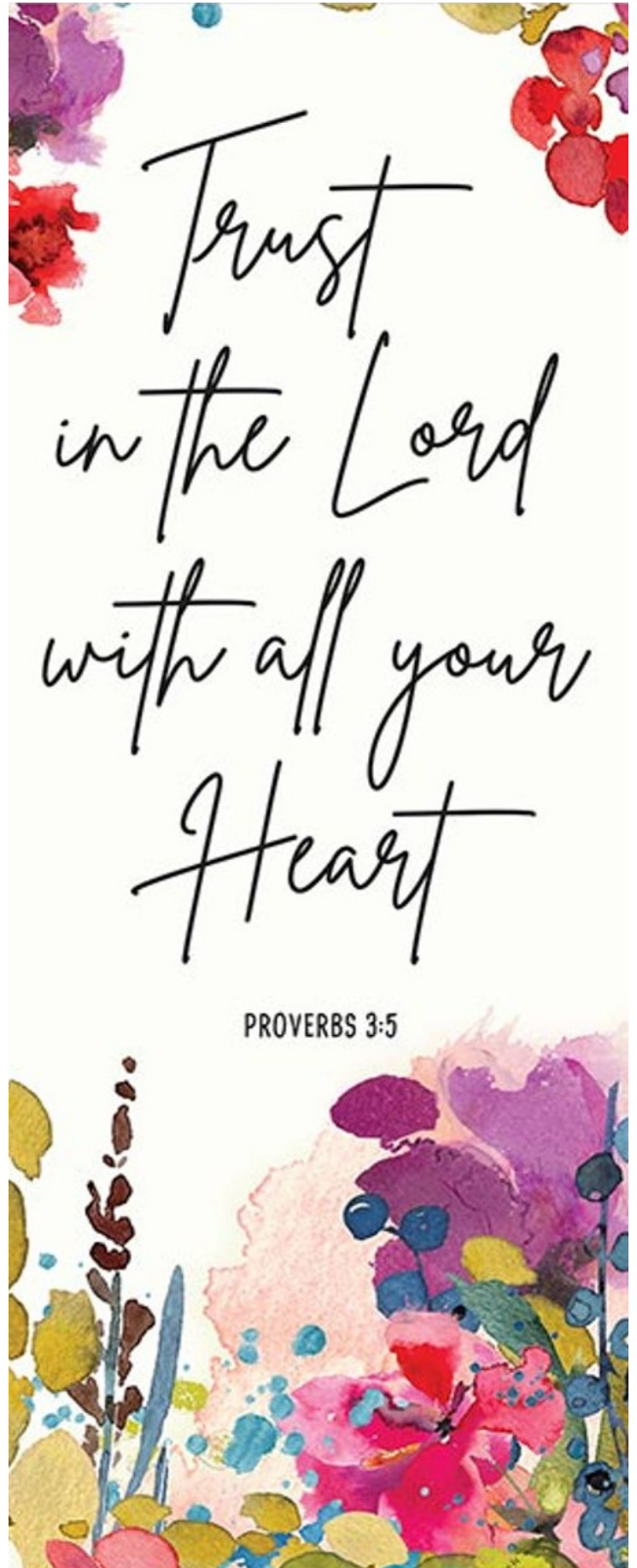
"...in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God..."

Elaine E. Hoppe ~ February 22, 2024

William H. Lonsdorf ~ February 23, 2024

Jane Stotmeister ~ March 1, 2024

Lucille Bedish ~ March 17, 2024



Angels Church Retreat

The Angels are hosting a Church Retreat on Sunday, April 7th. It involves lunch (provided by the Angels), fellowship, games, puzzles, and an art project (led by Pastor Karoline). We will assemble in the Downstairs Auditorium following worship. All are welcome! We hope you can join us!

Office Closed

The office will be closed starting Friday, March 22nd until Wednesday, April 3rd as Nancy Henke will be on vacation. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please call Pastor Karoline Schwantes at 715-370-5514.

Quilting Supplies Needed

The quilters 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!

Rummage Sale

The Church Rummage Sale is the end of the month, Saturday, April 27th and Sunday, April 28th. Donations should be dropped off by April 24th. Clean out your storage rooms, basements, and garages! We take most items, especially puzzles, books, household items, office items, kid's toys, and jewelry. We do not want clothing, TV's, DVD's, large furniture, or tires. We are also having a bake sale during the rummage sale. If you would like to donate baked goods for, please have them to church by Friday, April 26th at 3pm. The Angels will package and price on Friday. Thank you!

Saturday "Crafternoon"

A Saturday "Crafternoon" will be held from 9am until 4pm on April 13th. Come for the morning, the afternoon, or both!

Shoe Drive

We have been invited to participate in a Shoe Drive to raise funds for youth attending the Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Donations of gently worn, used and new shoes will be accepted. We will be collecting shoes from now until May 2, 2024. For more information, please see the bulletin board near the church office, or ask Pastor Karoline or Shauna Robinson. The donation bin will be outside the church office next to the bulletin board! In the US alone, over 600 million pairs of shoes are thrown away per year. The materials used to manufacture a pair of shoes are created from chemical compounds that will create health hazards if left to disintegrate openly or in landfills. By donating your gently worn, used, and new shoes, your shoes are given a second chance to make a difference. All donated shoes will be redistributed to microenterprise partners through Funds2Orgs, a for profit social enterprise, and used in developing nations for impoverished people to start their own businesses.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study Group will meet on Wednesday, April 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 February 2024, we were able to contribute to the following ministry:

ELCA National & Synod Support \$618

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 \$13,723 for February.

St. Stephen Family Checkbook

For the month of January 2024 and the year to date, the St. Stephen family checkbook looked like this:

February 1—29, 2024

What we received.....	\$20,386.
What we spent.....	(\$23,367.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 2,981.)

January 1—February 29, 2024

What we received.....	\$40,186.
What we spent.....	(\$45,066.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 4,880.)

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 2024 MEMORIALS**In loving memory of Phyliss Ament**

Quilting Fund -- \$1155

Family & Friends

In loving memory of Bill Lonsdorf Sr.

Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund -- \$1210

Family & Friends

Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund

In memory of loved ones –
Joyce & Charlie Fromfeld

In loving memory of Elaine E. Hoppe –
Elaine R. Hoppe

In loving memory of William Lonsdorf Sr. –
Crystal & Randy Nielson

In loving memory of Bill Lonsdorf –
Mary Beth Tolley

Quilting Fund

In loving memory of Phyliss Ament –
Schmidty, Bev, Ethan, & Nate Schmidt

In loving memory of Phyliss Ament, Lorraine Plautz, and my Mom, Ann Krueger –
Ruth Tritten

If you would like a memorial placed in the April bulletins and May newsletter, it needs to be to the office by Monday, April 15th. Thank you!

COUNCIL MINUTES ~ MARCH 12, 2024

Present: Pastor Karoline, Sarah Lonsdorf, Verlyn Oelke, Shauna Robinson, Sue Holster, Dick Holster, Kathy Robinson, Jeff Blomquist, Nancy Prigge, Lynn Deffner, Darrin Koehler, and Vicki Romang.

Absent: Jacque Schremp.

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

Council Minutes for February 2024: A change was made to the February 13, 2024 Council minutes to include Dick Holster's name to the listing of attendees. A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes from the February Council meeting with the addendum.

Pastor's Report: A written report was provided. Pastor Karoline discussed the possibility of expanding the Crafternoon sessions (different time/day other than Saturdays, more people to lead a crafting session, bringing more items for people to learn, etc.)

President's Report: No written report was provided.

Treasurer's Report: Our General Fund currently has a balance of \$14,272.

A motion was made and passed to accept these reports.

Committee Reports:

Good Stewards: No written report was provided. We have been invited to participate in a Shoe Drive to raise funds for ELCA youth attending the Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Donations of gently worn, used, and new shoes will be accepted from now until May 2, 2024. Contact Shauna Robinson with any questions.

Property: A written report was provided. Financing of the roof repairs was discussed. There are two possibilities: one suggestion is to borrow the money needed from the Trust Fund or other committees or borrow the money for the expense from an external source.

Worship: No written report was provided. The committee did not meet this past month.

Trust Fund: A written report was provided. The officers for 2024 are Darrin Koehler (Chair), Randy Van Natta (Treasurer) and Deb Gleason (Secretary).

A motion was made and passed to accept these reports.

Old Business:

- Memorial Fund Order – There is no change to the order this month. Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund remains at number one, Current Expense Fund remains at number two, and Sustainability Trust Fund remains at number three.

New Business:

- **A motion was made and passed** to approve February bills.
- Safety Committee – Kathy Robinson, Shauna Robinson, and Nancy Prigge are the members of the Safety Committee. If you are interested in becoming a Safety Committee member, please contact Kathy Robinson.
- Stewardship Campaign/Capital Campaign – Suggestions were discussed to raise awareness of new events at St. Stephen. Information the congregation may find interesting such as: history of the church, community awareness, and areas of assistance needed within the committees. One suggestion was to present a PowerPoint or video for members to watch. We would like to bring focus to different groups or teams within the church that may not get a lot of attention but bring a much needed service to our congregation. Highlights to be sent to Nancy to be added to the newsletter.
- Another item discussed is recording the total amount of volunteer hours that members of St. Stephen spend outside of the church with other charities in the Wausau community.
- Task Force Update – The taskforce is interested in what other members of St. Stephen feel are our greatest values. The values discussed were: sharing our facilities, taking care of our church family, doing community outreach, taking care of our facilities, being involved in social issues, and continuing to be benevolent with our Trust Fund giving.
- Annual Rummage Sale – The sale will be held on Saturday, April 27th and Sunday, April 28th. Donations are currently being accepted. No large furniture will be accepted. Please contact Lynn Deffner or a member of Stephen's Angels for more information.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9th at 5:30pm following the Executive Council meeting which is at 4:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Romang, Council Secretary