

DATE: JUNE 2024  
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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](http://www.sslcwausau.com)

Email address:  
[information@sslcwausau.com](mailto:information@sslcwausau.com)

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

**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.



## Father's Day Slide Show

We will be having a slide show honoring fathers on Father's Day which is Sunday, June 16th, 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 12th. 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

*"<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." Acts 2:1-4*



This was a busy weekend in the life of the church. Yesterday we celebrated Pentecost, the day in the church year where we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples after Christ's Ascension, sometimes called the birthday of the church. At St. Stephen, one of our lay leaders led worship (thanks Pat!) and the choir sang (thanks Delores!), wrapping up their season of music. I was part of leading worship at our neighbors, Good Shepherd, as we celebrated the confirmation of 4 young people from 2 congregations saying "yes" to their faith and claiming the promises made at their baptism.

Also this past weekend, I was with two wonderful representatives of our congregation (thanks Sarah and Pam!) in Oshkosh for Synod Assembly. During this 2 day regional conference, we worshipped, prayed, and tended to the business of the Church with clergy and lay people from across the synod. We brought our offering, supporting camper scholarships for Crossways Camps. We heard again the Gospel promise of Jesus that an advocate was coming, the Holy Spirit. We celebrated the ways that the Holy Spirit is moving and acting in our churches and communities.

We enter the season of Pentecost. Some faith traditions call this "ordinary time." The busy spring season winds down and summer begins. Often worship attendance is lower, as people are out of town and celebrating the beauty of God's creation. Yet this is also a busy time in the life of our church. In the weeks to come, we will celebrate Memorial Day, recognize graduates, and launch a capital campaign. There will be new programs and activities, check out the "Camp Senior" program at Waypost camp on June 26 (<https://www.crosswayscamps.org/senior>) or the Shepherd's Strummers. We will also be listening deeply for the voice of the Holy Spirit as we worship with our neighboring congregations in July and August.

We all have different ways of expressing our faith and this summer holds many opportunities to connect with others and learn from and about the ways they experience faith. What is the Holy Spirit stirring up in you to share?

*Pastor Karoline*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| St. Stephen Calendar of Events  |  |   |   |  |                                 | June 2024 |          |
|---|--|---|---|--|---------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY                          | SATURDAY  |          |
| <b>2</b><br>9:00 Worship<br>12:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum<br>12:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 14/TDS<br>7:00 AA               | <b>3</b><br>3:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum  | <b>4</b><br>10:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum<br>10:30 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br>6:00 Al-Anon   | <b>7</b>                        | <b>8</b>  | <b>1</b> |
| <b>9</b><br>9:00 Worship<br>12:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum<br>12:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 14/TDS<br>7:00 AA               | <b>10</b><br>3:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum   | <b>11</b><br>10:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum<br>10:30 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum | <b>12</b><br>PHOTOS DUE FOR<br>FATHER'S DAY<br>SLIDE SHOW | <b>13</b><br>6:00 Al-Anon  | <b>14 Flag Day</b><br><b>15</b> |           |          |
| <b>16 Father's Day</b><br>9:00 Worship<br>12:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum<br>12:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 14/TDS<br>7:00 AA | <b>17</b><br>3:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum<br>4:00 Worship Comm. Mtg.<br><b>MEMORIAL DEADLINE<br/>FOR JUNE</b> | <b>18</b><br>10:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum<br>10:30 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum | <b>19 Juneteenth</b>                                      | <b>20</b><br>6:00 Al-Anon<br>6:00 Special Olympics<br><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> | <b>21</b>                       | <b>22</b> |          |
| <b>23</b><br>9:00 Worship<br>12:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum<br>12:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 14/TDS<br>7:00 AA              | <b>24</b><br>3:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum   | <b>25</b><br>10:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum<br>10:30 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b><br>6:00 Al-Anon  | <b>28</b>                       | <b>29</b> |          |
| <b>30</b><br>9:00 Worship<br>12:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 980/Spectrum<br>12:00 Worship Telecast<br>Ch. 14/TDS<br>7:00 AA              |  |   |   |  |                                 |           |          |





### Anniversaries

The following couples are celebrating their June Wedding Anniversaries.

#### CONGRATULATIONS!!!

#### June 4th

Charles & Joyce Fromfeld

#### June 7th

Dick & Sue Holster

#### June 11th

Nathaniel & Ashley Lenoble

#### June 13th

Edward & Jane Schwede

#### June 17th

Harold & Betty Lou Peterson

Thomas & 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



### Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating June Birthdays

#### CONGRATULATIONS!!!

#### 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

Abigail Noschese

#### June 14th

Dawn Krueger

Nate Schmidt

#### June 15th

Wally Lewitzke

#### 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

Katie Wiskow

#### June 25th

Vicki Romang

#### June 26th

Doris Peterson

#### June 30th

Eric Van Natta



### Funerals

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

Michael Meuret ~ April 5, 2024

Stuart Kuehl ~ May 9, 2024



## Bicycles Needed

One of the patrons of our church rummage sale is a member of the Kronenwetter Lions Club. She is very involved with our area unhoused population. She mentioned that many members of our community do not have an auto or are unable to drive. They rely on the bus system or pedal power. If anyone has a bike that has been unused for years and would like to donate it, she would be willing to pick it up (at church). Her name is Sherry Johnson with a cell phone number of 715-571-2620 and an email address of [wojo2843@juno.com](mailto:wojo2843@juno.com). Feel free to contact her and set up a meet.

## Camp Senior

Embark on an adventure-filled day at Waypost Camp, 210608 Crooked Lake Road, Hatley, WI on June 26th for Camp Senior. It will be a day with laughter, camaraderie, and memory-making. From outdoor activities to cozy bible study chats, there's something for everyone. Embrace the spirit of youthfulness, reconnect with nature, and make new friends. Come experience the joy of Camp Senior. Register online at [CrosswaysCamps.org/senior](https://CrosswaysCamps.org/senior) or call 920-882-0023 to request a paper registration form. Cost is \$25/participant. Questions, contact Robyn Koehler, [robyn@crosswayscamps.org](mailto:robyn@crosswayscamps.org).

## Church Rummage Sale

The Church Rummage Sale had another good year (despite the rainy weather and the meeting after church). We were able to distribute our proceeds to several different groups/individuals (more details will be in the next annual report). The Angels would like to extend our appreciation to those that helped move all the stuff into the auditorium, the bakers who donated such yummy treats, those that helped us pack up and fill the truck on Sunday, and all of you who donated items for the sale. Your help is greatly appreciated.

## Office Closed

The office will be closed the week of Monday, May 27th. Nancy Henke will be on vacation and will return to the office on Monday, June 3rd. If you have a pastoral emergency, call Pastor Karoline at 715-370-5514.

## Property Repair Resolutions

The three Property Repair Resolutions that were voted on at the Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 5th passed. Thank you to the congregation for your support!

## Summer Round Robin

We are excited to share some worship news with you! We will be participating in a round robin for four weeks this summer. Each of the participating churches will host the service for a Sunday with the other churches attending the service at that church. On July 21st Good Shepherd will be the host church. The other 3 churches will NOT have a service that day and are invited to attend the service at Good Shepherd to share God's word. On July 28th, Pilgrim will host, on August 4th Immanuel will host, and on August 11th St. Stephen will host. We thought this would be a wonderful opportunity to get to know other members from our sister ELCA churches and share in their worship style and fill the pews for some summer Sunday services. Questions, contact Sarah Lonsdorf, Nancy Henke, or Pastor Karoline.

## Vacation

Pastor Karoline will be on vacation Friday, May 31st through Saturday, June 15th. If you have a pastoral emergency, contact Pastor Maggie Westaby, St. John Village of Maine at 608-345-9616.

## Benevolence

Through your support of St. Stephen in the month of April 2024, we were able to contribute to the following ministry:

ELCA National & Synod Support \$603

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 \$13,398 for April.

## St. Stephen Family Checkbook

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

### April 1—30, 2024

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| What we received..... | \$20,164.   |
| What we spent.....    | (\$20,535.) |
| Our balance.....      | (\$ 371.)   |

### January 1—April 30, 2024

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| What we received..... | \$85,801.   |
| What we spent.....    | (\$90,499.) |
| Our balance.....      | (\$ 4,698.) |

## Order of Importance of Memorials and Other Special Offerings

Primary Funds: Building Improvement/Maintenance Fund, Current Expense Receipts, Sustainability Trust Fund, and Technology 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, 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 2024 MEMORIALS****In loving memory of Lucille Bedish**

Roof Repair Fund -- \$800

Family &amp; Friends

**Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund**

In memory of loved ones –

Joyce &amp; Charlie Fromfeld

In loving memory of Lucille Bedish –

Deb Gleason

In loving memory of our Son, Russell Schwede –

Edward &amp; Shirley Schwede

In loving memory of my Grandmother, Margaret Eckes on her Birthday, May 19th –

Mary Beth Tolley

In loving memory of Bill Lonsdorf, Sr. and Bill Lewitzke –

Herb Yolitz

In loving memory of my Mom, Phyliss Ament –

Beverly Zyduck

**Choir Fund**

In loving memory of Butch Skinner –

Kay Preller

**Library Fund**

In loving memory of Angie Ninnemann –

Tim Gritzmacher

**Quilting Fund**

In loving memory of my Mom, Phyliss Ament –

Beverly Zyduck

**Roof Repair Fund**

In loving memory of my Brother, Bill Teske –

John Teske

**Stephen's Angels Fund**

In honor of Stephen's Angels –

Herb Yolitz

# COUNCIL MINUTES ~ MAY 14, 2024

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## COUNCIL MINUTES – May 14, 2024

**Present:** Pastor Karoline, Sue Holster, Dick Holster, Verlyn Oelke, Vicki Romang, Jeff Blomquist, Sarah Lonsdorf, Darrin Koehler, Jacque Schremp, and Nancy Prigge.

**Absent:** Kathy Robinson, Shauna Robinson, and Lynn Deffner.

**The meeting opened at 5:30 p.m.**

**Pastor's Report:** A written report was provided.

**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.

**Property:** With the congregation's approval during the special meeting, the Property Committee is proceeding with the following improvements:

- The repairs to the alley behind the church are moving forward.
- The current thermostats are being updated with pre-programmable thermostats to reduce our energy costs. The Committee is in the process of looking at other cost-saving alternatives as well.
- UPS systems were installed in the church secretary's and church treasurer's offices to help support their computers in case of a power outage.

**Worship:** The Committee discussed summer services. During the summer months, one Sunday of each month will be held at another church in the area. Each service will have a different theme.

- **July 21<sup>st</sup>:** Good Shepherd will host. The theme will be, "Where are you from?"
- **July 28<sup>th</sup>:** Pilgrim Lutheran will host. The theme will be, "Where does it hurt?"
- **August 4<sup>th</sup>:** Immanuel Lutheran will host. The theme will be, "What do you need?"
- **August 11<sup>th</sup>:** St. Stephen will host. The theme will be, "Where do we go from here?"

**Trust Fund:** The Committee approved distributions for Crossways Camping Ministries, Good Stewards Committee Little Free Pantry, The Hagar House, Blessings in a Backpack, and Bridge Street Mission.

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

### **Old Business:**

- Memorial Fund Order – Another item was added this month. Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund is number one, Current Expense Fund in number two, Sustainability Trust Fund is number three, and Technology Fund in number four.

### **New Business:**

- The total amount of invoices paid in April was \$25,927.
- Capital Campaign – The progress to obtain a loan to repair the church roof is moving forward. The group is seeking an adjustable rate (7.125%) for 10 years that we hope to repay in 5 years.
- Taskforce Update – The Taskforce met with the Taskforce from Pilgrim Lutheran to discuss what current and past issues they have/had. They discussed a past issue that they resolved. We can learn from other congregations. What can we do better together at St. Stephen?
- Coaching Opportunities – The synod is offering coaching sessions to discuss three of St. Stephen's goals. In September, a discussion will continue concerning what goals will utilize this coaching and who would be in the best position to represent St. Stephen for each goal.

### **Summer Council Meetings:**

- July 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at St. Stephen.
- August 13<sup>th</sup> at Waypost. There is a possibility for our Council to meet with Councils from other churches during this meeting. The Council looks forward to interacting with other Council members from the area.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vicki Romang, Council Secretary