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

Office Closed:
Thursday, July 4th

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.

DATE: JULY 2024
Volume 233 • Issue 233

THE DEACON'S SPIRIT

The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Prayer for Independence Day

Dear God,
as we celebrate today
with fireworks and festivals,
help us never to forget
the reason for our joy.
Help us remember
that our rights to life, liberty
and the pursuit of happiness
were signed into our heritage
with the willing blood
of American patriots.
Most of all, help us remember
that the rights of all people
are more

than words on a document,
and that all people have rights
because you have given us
the dignity of human life.

Grant freedom to all,
and give us the strength
to protect the rights of others.

Amen.

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

Ways to celebrate and praise God in all of creation – Summer in Wisconsin Edition



*On the Water: boating, waterskiing, swimming, fishing, drinking a cold glass of water to cool down. Water is a huge part of our summer activities. Take a moment to remember your baptism, that God gives us the free gift of grace in water and Word.

*Flame: campfires, fireworks, sparklers. The Holy Spirit is often depicted with fire, including Pentecost's tongues of flame opening understanding and creating community. At your next fire, celebrate the ways God moves and stirs us.

*Stargazing: long lingering sunsets, the cool of night, meteor showers. Sit back in awe at the vastness of all creation. Farther than the eye can see, God created and continues to create everything, including the farthest reaches of the universe.

*Fireflies: or lightning bugs if you prefer. Either way, how cool is the uniqueness of God's creation!

*People: whether it's a quick conversation while mowing the lawn, family week at camp, a sporting event, or our Round Robin worship, everyone you meet is a child of God. Summer is a great opportunity to build new relationships.

*Music: summer concerts, camp songs, singing with our pop up choir. Scripture is filled with songs celebrating God and God's work in creation. When you hear or create music this summer, think of the ways God is creating a new song in us.

*Food: cheese curds, brats, s'mores, ice cream; summer in Wisconsin tastes great! As we eat great food that nourishes our bodies, remember another meal that also nourishes our faith with bread and wine and Word.

*Worship: Christ is present as we are gathered for worship, hear the Word, are nourished in Communion, and are sent to spread the Good News to all of creation.

Pastor Karoline

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| St. Stephen Calendar of Events | | | | | | July 2024 | |
|--|--|---|-----------|--|-----------|---|--|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | |
| | 1 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum | 2 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum | 3 | 4 Independence Day 6:00 AI-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 11:00 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum MEMORIAL DEADLINE FOR JULY | 9 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum | 10 | 11 6:00 AI-Anon | 12 | 13 | |
| 14 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 | 16 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum | 17 | 18 6:00 AI-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics 6:30 Property Comm. Mtg. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 19 | 20 SYNOD MEETING IN THE CHAPEL | |
| 21 9:00 Worship at Good Shepherd 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 | 23 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum | 24 | 25 6:00 AI-Anon | 26 | 27 | |
| 28 9:00 Worship at Pilgrim 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 | 30 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum | 31 | | | | |



Anniversaries

The following couples are celebrating their July Wedding Anniversaries.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

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 26th

Shane & Amanda Woller

July 31st

John & Elizabeth Beilke

Mark & Judy Spear



Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating July Birthdays

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

July 4th

Lloyd Zimmer

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

Sue Holster

Lisa Koch

July 17th

Charles Fromfeld

Verlyn Oelke

July 18th

Linda Salzman

Lucy Schremp

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

Blessed
are the pure
in heart,
for they shall see
God.

Matthew 5:8
bibleversestogo.com



Community Baby Shower

St. Stephen Lutheran Church is hosting a Community Baby Shower on August 11th. We are looking for donations of the following items: hygiene items (diaper cream, body wash, lotion, shampoo, etc.), diapers or Pull-Ups (larger sizes are greatly needed), sippy cups, bottles, pacifiers, bibs, food (baby formula Blue Similac is most requested, baby foods, teething snacks). All items need to be new/unused condition. All donations will be going to The Babies Place the week of August 12th. They have requested no clothing items. An interesting fact for The Babies Place is they have no budget for hygiene items so they rely solely on donations.

Office Schedule for July

Nancy Henke will be in the office on Monday, July 1st, Tuesday, July 2nd, Monday, July 8th, Wednesday, July 10th, Thursday, July 11th, and Thursday, July 18th. Due to the round robin and subsequently no church services at St. Stephen on Sunday, July 21st, Sunday, July 28th, and Sunday, August 4th, during the weeks of July 14th and July 21st, Nancy will be working from home. If you need something during this time, contact her by email or leave a message on the church voicemail as she will be checking both periodically. She will be on vacation the week of July 28th and will return to the office on Monday, August 5th. If you have a pastoral emergency, call Pastor Karoline at 715-370-5514.

Personal Hygiene Drive

A Personal Hygiene Drive will be held July 1st through August 25th. We are asking for feminine hygiene items such as deodorant, pads, tampons, etc. to donate to the local schools to provide kids with needed items who may not otherwise have access to these items. Donations will be going to DC Everest School District as well as the Wausau School District.

Summer Round Robin

Worshippers from Good Shepherd, Pilgrim, Immanuel, and St Stephen have an opportunity to worship together as one for four weeks this summer.

What does this mean? On July 21st at 9am, all four churches will be together at the **Good Shepherd** church building (off of 6th Street heading north). The other 3 churches will not have worship in their individual buildings. On July 28th we will worship at **Pilgrim** (Weston Avenue). On August 4th we will worship at **Immanuel** (across from the old East High School).

And then, on August 11th, we will be back at the **St Stephen** church building for the final rotation. All services will be at 9am. You can offer your church envelope at any of the services. The hosting church will make sure it gets back to St Stephen. There will be a free will offering at each service with that designation to be announced at the service. Each church will provide an after service coffee hour for additional fellowship time. A sing-a-long, pop-up choir, will meet at 8am each Sunday at the host church. This choir will provide special music during the service. It is our goal to continue to provide live-stream of each service and each service will be available on our Facebook page.

Vacation

Pastor Karoline will be out of the office Monday, July 22nd thru Friday, July 26th at St. Paul's Camp in Wautoma. She will also be out of the office Monday, July 29th thru Wednesday, July 31st at a conference at St. Olaf on Worship, Theology, and the Arts. If you have a pastoral emergency, contact Pastor Will Ostrem, from Trinity Town of Stettin at 715-571-2750.

Benevolence

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

ELCA National & Synod Support \$716

This is the fourth 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 \$16,063 for May.

St. Stephen Family Checkbook

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

May 1—31, 2024

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| What we received..... | \$22,251. |
| What we spent..... | (\$20,535.) |
| Our balance..... | \$ 1,346. |

January 1—May 31, 2024

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| What we received..... | \$108,053. |
| What we spent..... | (\$110,984.) |
| Our balance..... | (\$ 2,932.) |

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.

JUNE 2024 MEMORIALS

In loving memory of Michael Meuret
Trust Fund/Building Preservation -- \$300
Family & Friends

In loving memory of Stuart Kuehl
Capital Campaign -- \$400
Family & Friends

Capital Campaign

In loving memory of Cathy Bando --
Bill Bando

In loving memory of Stuart Kuehl --
Shirley Kasten

In loving memory of my Brother-in-law, Merritt Gleason; Step-Father, Orville
Lodholz; and Nephews, Brian Gleason and Andy Prieve --
Mary Beth Tolley

Current Expenses

In loving memory of Jerry Preller, Butch Skinner, and Perry Barr --
Kay Preller



On Sunday, May 5th, a congregational meeting was held after church to present three resolutions:

1. Alley Repair – not to exceed \$12,000
2. Video Streaming equipment upgrade – not to exceed \$10,000
3. Roof/tuckpointing/louvers/fascia repair and funding of all three projects not to exceed \$190,000

During the meeting, the attendees unanimously passed the resolutions. Thank you for your support!

With this approval, the committee has submitted a loan application to the ELCA – Mission Investment Fund and has received word that our loan application has initial approval. The committee will continue to work with the ELCA to finalize the details.

A pledge letter was sent to all congregants with details and a request for support of our project. A response by June 30th was requested. As of this writing, we have received 25% of responses. Please return your response as soon as possible with the self-addressed stamped envelope you received or drop it off at church. If you have misplaced your pledge letter, there are extra ones in the office area on the counter.

Also, on the back of the pledge form is space to share a memory or story on how St. Stephen has impacted your life. We'd love to hear from you, and once you have pledged, feel free to sign your name on the roof slate tiles that are in the chapel area.

Regarding the church work, approved, with the wet weather we have been experiencing, our contractor has been delayed with other projects and is projecting to be at St. Stephen the end of June. We look forward to seeing progress this summer!

Capital Committee

Jeff Blomquist, Randy Van Natta, Sue Holster, Dick Holster, and Pastor Karoline