



THE DEACON'S SPIRIT

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The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church



God's work. Our hands.



September 8, 2024

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

Office Closed:
Monday, September 2nd
in observance of Labor Day

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.

God's Work Our Hands is Sunday, September 8th!!!

We will be preparing food to serve down at the Marty Bus like we did last year in combination with other churches and services that they will offer. We will be working together with Good Shepherd, Pilgrim, Mt. Calvary, and Bethlehem churches. We will be looking for donations for the event of things like individual bags of chips, beverages such as water and soda, and side dishes. We will be grilling meat that day, thanks to Mt. Calvary and a Thrivent donation. If you are interested in donating please speak to Shauna Robinson or any other Good Stewards members. We will have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the lobby by the church office as well.

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

What nourishes you?

I was blessed to spend time at a worship and arts conference focusing on vocation. Our time together at St. Olaf was spent around the question, "What nourishes you?" All while listening to fabulous speakers, powerful preaching, and gorgeous music. We created art together (both individually and contributing to a communal art piece), shared in worship, and indulged in all sorts of other church geekiness. I wanted to capture it all. I came away nourished.



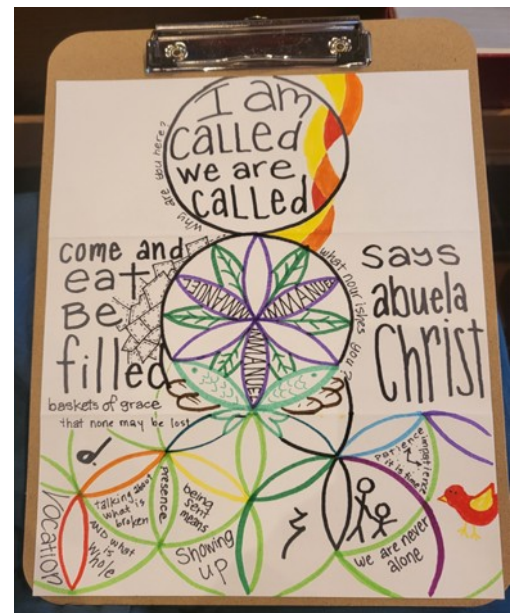
Nourished by the sense of community. Nourished by learning, by creativity, reminded that my first vocation is the call I experience in baptism, called and claimed as a child of God.

And I was nourished by our Round Robin worship experience this summer. Nourished by community and Word and song. Nourished by the way our togetherness served the community. Nourished by fun and laughter and conversations and deep questions. Nourished by the openness with which you and the Church embraced the experience.

Another place I have felt truly nourished over the years has been lay school. Long before I followed this calling to be a pastor, I was formed for ministry by my time as a student of the ECSW Lay School. Nourished by learning and community and deep questions and worship and being the people of God, called together. Because, as people of faith, we are all called to ministry. Lay School helped equip me for the ways I was already in ministry, such as teaching confirmation and being a part of Bible studies. And it gave me a greater appreciation for the ways others use their gifts to live out their faith through their talents, such as providing yummy food or leading moving music.

How are you called? More importantly, how are you nourished? Will it be to try something new, like lay school, a Bible study, or quilting? Maybe participating in the upcoming God's Work, Our Hands event or by taking time with a friend to check in? May you be nourished by the grace and love of God as you live into your call.

Pastor Karoline



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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St. Stephen Calendar of Events						September 2024	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	2 Labor Day 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum OFFICE CLOSED NO SCHOOL	3 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	4 6:30 Combined Choir	5 8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon	6	7	
8 God's Work Our Hands 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	9 11:00 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball	10 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	11 1:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Combined Choir	12 8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon	13	14	
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 SEPTEMBER	17 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	18 6:30 Combined Choir	19 8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-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 LWR Work Day 6:00 Al-Anon	27	28	
29 Blessing of the Quilts 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						

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



Anniversaries

The following couples are celebrating their September Wedding Anniversaries.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

September 2nd

Mark & Laurie Heuser
Allen & Carol Seymour

September 3rd

Robert & Bonnie Pils

September 8th

Chad & Ashley Kumm

September 10th

Mathew & Jennifer Burish

September 11th

William & Penny Windorski

September 14th

Cliff & Karen Prigge
Randy & Kari Van Natta

September 16th

Jay & Patty Pippenger

September 19th

Roger & Pam Hackbart
Terry & Gloria Lyon

September 20th

Carl & Sandra Stuhr

September 23rd

Brett & Rachel Zastrow

September 24th

Chuck & Lynn Deffner

September 26th

Greg & Lisa Koch

September 27th

Jeffrey & Rhonda Will

ECSW Lay School of Ministry

Welcome to the 2024-2025 ECSW Lay School of Ministry!

Courses offered this year are:

- Introduction to the New Testament
- Lutheran Confessions
- Faith and Spirituality (Discover Spiritual Practices)
- Church History
- The Poetic and Prophetic: a Quest Through Psalms & Revelation
- The Transfigured Church: Faithful Congregations in New Land
- Extraordinary Care in Ordinary Times
- Preaching Class

More information and registration forms can be found on our website: <https://ecswlayschool.org/>

Any questions?

Please email us at layschool@ecsw.org



Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating September Birthdays

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

September 1st

Lucas Kasten

September 3rd

William Grau
Marjorie Krahn

September 5th

Lori Napstad

September 8th

Kessel Deffner

September 10th

Kathy Robinson

September 12th

Jennifer Shidell

September 13th

John Erickson

September 14th

Beth Eiden

September 15th

Shauna Robinson

Peggy Roble

September 16th

Harold Dabler

Ethyn Kroeplin

Bruce Weinke

September 17th

Lisa Marcott

September 18th

Abigail Hannes

September 19th

Eleanor Schneider
John Schneider

September 21st

Hudson Haiker

September 22nd

Daryl Christian

Sarah Lonsdorf

Elroy Schalow

September 23rd

Crystal Nielson

Mary Beth Tolley

September 24th

Deb Gleason

September 25th

LuAnn Theis

September 28th

Erin Hall

Ashley Lenoble

September 29th

Holly Jorgensen

September 30th

Tonette Tilkens

AUGUST 2024 MEMORIALS

Capital Campaign

In loving memory of my Mother, Joyce Flory,
a long-time member of St. Stephen –
Diane (Flory) Bloodsworth

In loving memory of family members –
Shirley Kasten

In loving memory of my Brother, Pat Prieve
and my Mom, Loretta Prieve Lodholz –
Mary Beth Tolley

Current Expenses

In memory of loved ones, Jerry, Perry, and
Butch –
Kay Preller

Coats for Kids

Coats for Kids will be kicking off on Tuesday, September 3rd!!! A list will be posted soon! We will be collecting the same items as last year: coats, snow pants, sweatshirts, sweatpants, NEW socks/underwear, hats, gloves, mittens, boots, etc. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, October 27th.

Confirmation Kickoff

The joint Confirmation classes between Good Shepherd, St. Stephen, and Immanuel congregations will kickoff on Wednesday, October 2nd from 5:30-6:30 pm at St. Stephen Church. All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are welcome and invited to participate, along with any older students who may have missed some or all classes during their middle school years. We would like at least one parent to attend the kickoff with their student. A new format this year will have us meeting every Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 pm. Classes are normally held at either St. Stephen or Good Shepherd. A detailed schedule will be distributed at the kickoff and regular email updates will keep you informed. For the registration paperwork (yes, there's paperwork), please come with health insurance info, student's birth date, and student's baptism date. If you are new to Confirmation this year and would like to chat about anything prior to the kickoff, feel free to call Pastor Karoline (715-370-5514). Please consider how you (parents, grandparents, or any other caring adults) might fit into the leadership team. You can decide how much or little you do, but more helping hands are always welcome.

Grief Seminar

Grief Endings and New Beginnings: Giving Attention to each and both (A community seminar to understand grief) will be held on Tuesday, September 17th from 7-8:30 pm at Holiday Inn & Suites-Cedar Creek, 1000 Imperial Avenue, Rothschild. No charge to attend, no pre-registration needed. With the loss of a loved one our lives are disrupted and this necessitates making changes. We may struggle with the new labels we are given (widow, grieving grandparent, or survivor). We are challenged by uncertainty. Plans, assumptions, long-held hopes and dreams may be shattered. In this seminar we explore the resiliency that can be acquired that can bring us through our evolving lives. The more we are aware of our losses and our gains, the more prepared we can be for the uncertainty of the future and who we are becoming because of our loss. This seminar may help distinguish the difference between healing and curing. For more information, contact: Nan Zastrow at 715-845-4159 or email nanwings1@gmail.com

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering

The LWR Ingathering will take place on Saturday, October 5th from 8am until noon. We are looking for volunteers to help with packing. Please plan ahead and save the date for helping this great cause. Many hands do make light work! Questions? Contact Verlyn Oelke at 715 551-0546.

Women's Bible Study

The Women of St. Stephen will have a Bible Study on Wednesday, September 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 July 2024, we were able to contribute to the following ministry:

ELCA National & Synod Support \$562

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 \$12,498 for July.

St. Stephen Family Checkbook

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

July 1—31, 2024

What we received.....	\$13,072.
What we spent.....	(\$19,815.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 6,743.)

January 1—July 31, 2024

What we received.....	\$141,192.
What we spent.....	(\$146,782.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 5,590.)

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.

ROUND ROBIN WRAP-UP



Here are our attendance numbers from each week of the Round Robin, followed by our average weekly attendance at each church:

Good Shepherd – 188 and 74

Pilgrim – 155 and 40

Immanuel – 151 and 31

St. Stephen – 178 and 57



We collected the following amounts at each of the Round Robin services for Crossways Camping Ministries:

Good Shepherd - \$139.75

Pilgrim - \$169.16

Immanuel - \$295.29

St. Stephen - \$251.93



COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

A HUGE THANK YOU from the Good Stewards Committee for all of the donations that were brought in for the Community Baby Shower during our Round Robin.

It was truly appreciated! They were taken to the Babies Place.

Thank you to all who helped or donated food in any way, and a special **THANK YOU** to Vicki and Scott Romang and Mary Beth Tolley for all their help with clean up and getting things packed up and transported from the event!

COUNCIL MINUTES ~ AUGUST 13, 2024

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

Absent: Kathy Robinson, Jacque Schremp, and Darrin Koehler.

The evening started with a Council night at Waypost Camp in Hatley. A tasty dinner was provided. Danny and Nick, Waypost staff, provided teamwork and social building exercises. They did a wonderful job! A Council meeting opened at 5:30 pm.

Council Minutes from July 9, 2024: A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes without any changes.

Pastor's Report: The Council discussed the feedback and outcome of the Round Robin worship services. Many people who attended the services stated they felt a positive vibe. The attendance was better than expected. It was suggested holding round robin services again but maybe with some changes. Holding a worship service at a fellow church once a month or holding a round robin every other month instead of so many weeks away from our church. Continuing the round robin worship services would allow all of us to continue building a strong bond with our friends in Christ.

President's Report: No written report was provided. A further discussion continued regarding the feedback from the round robin services.

Treasurer's Report: Our net income for July was (\$5,590). Several expenditures made July not as favorable as other months. However, this is a temporary situation and will reverse itself.

A motion was made and passed to accept these reports.

Committee Reports:

Good Stewards: The baby shower was a great success. The donations were overwhelming. Diapers, wipes, shampoo, soap, sippy cups, teething rings, and a car seat were some of the many items received. Projects continue with the Marty Bus and clothing closet. Great job to Shauna Robinson and the Good Steward Committee.

Property: The slate work has been completed on the roof. There have been no issues so far. The alley is in progress. Both projects are on track to be completed on time. There were issues concerning the elevator. The work was covered under the contract discovered by Mary Beth Tolley. A recommendation was made to shut down the soda machine due to increasing energy and maintenance fees. Upgrades have been made to the projection/video area.

Trust Fund: In July, extra money was recorded for memorial reserve and memorial fund.

A motion was made and passed to accept these reports.

Old Business:

- Memorial Fund Order – No changes this month. Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund is number one, Current Expense Fund is number two, Sustainability Trust Fund is number three, and Technology Fund is number four.

New Business:

- The total amount of invoices paid in July was \$21,450.
- Capital Campaign – The progress to obtain a loan to repair the roof to the church is moving forward. A total of \$27,206 in one-time pledges and \$38,290 in annual pledges has been received from 75 responses.
- Taskforce Update – It was suggested that a social calendar to be set up between the church task forces involved in the consolidation discussion as the items and group size grows. This will help in the communication process.

The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 5:30 pm.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Romang, Council Secretary