# Volume 236 • Issue 236

The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church



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**Email address:** 

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#### Office Hours:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

from 8am-3pm

#### **Deadlines:**

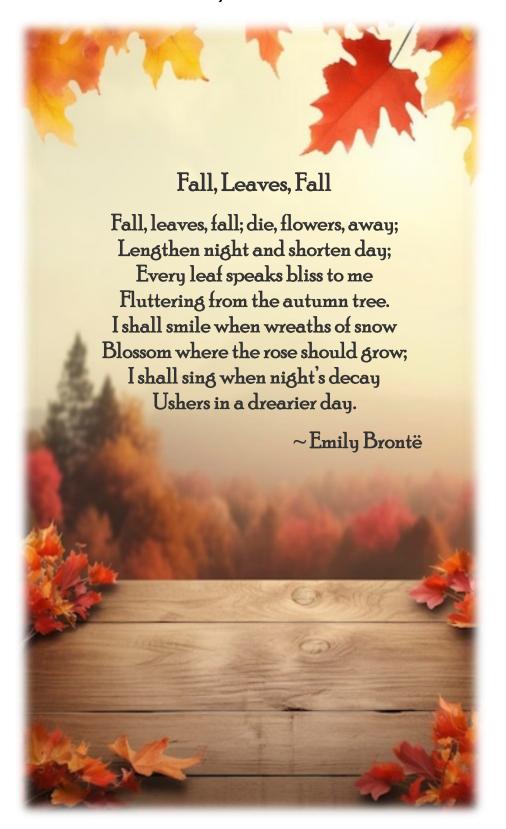
Bulletin: Wednesday by 8:00 a.m. Newsletter: 2nd Thursday of the month.

#### 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.



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

#### Calling all Artists:

Our Advent theme for this year is "Words for the Beginning." Once again, there is beautiful artwork and poetry that accompanies this theme. This year, much of the imagery has a quilting theme.

Each year we have a Choral Service in which our many musicians are able to share their musical gifts in offering. This year, we would like to create a display of visual artwork to enhance our worship as well. These artworks are to be inspired by our



Advent themes and Bible verses and will be displayed during the Choral Service. The artwork can be of any media: paintings, sculpture, quilting, etc. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Karoline.

Saturday Crafterdays are back! October 12th, November 23rd, December 14th at 9am. Bring your favorite craft and join us upstairs in the choir room. Come for the morning or the afternoon, or both! We'll have fun and we'll have snacks and coffee. Pack a lunch or there are many restaurants downtown.

#### \*\*\*

The weather is changing. The season is changing. The leaves are changing color. Our schedules are changing. It feels like everything is changing!

Many of these changes are fun and exciting! Bible studies resuming, the Ingathering of the quilts and Lutheran World Relief kits, Confirmation returning, Trunk or Treating, preparing for Thanksgiving and Advent, and so much more.

Sometimes change can feel uncertain and scary. When that happens, we can root ourselves in the things that always stay the same: Jesus' love for us. Grace. God showing up in water, wine, and bread. We get to be the Church in the world. How cool is that!

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#### A bonus note from Pastor:

Fall is also the season where we start looking ahead at the budget for next year and is traditionally a time for stewardship campaigns (2 dreaded words in the church, "change" and "stewardship" and I'm using them both this month! Bear with me!). The budget is a mission document, it helps us prepare and direct where our ministry will be headed in the next year. I want to thank the leaders who steward the budget carefully, especially our treasurer and assistant treasurer, as well as those people who help prepare the budget and those who are guided by it. More thanks to those who are leading the Capital Campaign and have directed the improvements to our facility. The roof work is complete, the tuckpointing and brick sealing is done, the alley is paved and smooth, and the new cameras are sharing our worship more clearly digitally and on the TV. And big thanks to you, for your faithful giving and pledges!

Pastor Karoline

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

S	St. Stephen	Calendar of Events	f Events		Octobe	October 2024
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:15 SSLC Task Force Mig. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	2 4:00 Trust Fund Comm. Mtg. 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir	<b>3</b> 8:30 Quilling 6:00 Al-Anon	4	<b>5</b> 8:00am—12:00pm LWR Ingathering 9:00 Stephen's Angels
6 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	7 11:00 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Darrball	10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980//Spectrum 5:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980//Spectrum	9 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir	<b>10</b> 8:30 Quilting 4:30 Worship Comm. Mtg. 6:00 Al-Anon	11	<b>12</b> 9:00 Saturday Crafterday
9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	3.00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5.30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball MEMORIAL DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER	15 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:00 Joint Task Force Mtg. at Pilgrim 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>16</b> 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir	47 8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>8</b>	19
9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS	21 3.00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:00 Dartball	<b>22</b> 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>23</b> 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir	<b>24</b> 8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon	<b>25</b> 4:00pm—7:00pm Trunk or Treat at Good Shepherd	<b>26</b> 4:00pm—7:00pm Trunk or Treat at Pilgrim
27 Reformation Community Dinner 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS	3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball	29 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:15 SSLC Task Force Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	30 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir	31 Halloween 8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon		

## ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



#### **Anniversaries**

The following couples are celebrating their October Wedding Anniversaries.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

October 3rd
Robert & Tamara Pusheck
October 6th

Jeffery & Dianna Busha
October 12th

Andy & Allie Ralph
October 16th

Joseph & Kristine Mohr

October 17th

Roger & Marjorie Zweck

October 18th

Lloyd & Wendy Zimmel

October 19th

Wally & Carmel 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

Leila Whitmore

October 6th

Lynn Guth

October 7th

Sharon Schirmer

Jacque Schremp

October 10th

Murphy Marco

Cliff Prigge

October 11th

V . . DI III

Kristin Phillips

October 13th
Cameron Pflanzer

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

Funerals



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

Kristie Schneider ~ August 22, 2024 Nancy Schwede ~ September 4, 2024 Caroline Kuehl ~ September 5, 2024



### **CONGREGATION NOTES**

#### **Aspirus Lifeline Services**

Aspirus Lifeline services are back to being installed in area households. Lifeline is an easy-to-use, 24-hour service that provides quick assistance whenever it's needed. Subscribers are able to live more independent, active lives at home because Lifeline's professional staff is ready to provide assistance if needed. Subscribers are free to go about their daily activities with more confidence and less worry, even if they live alone. Aspirus Lifeline also offers Auto Alert, which is advanced technology and provides an added layer of protection: 1) Offers access to help with or without the push of a button if a fall is detected 2) Is an easy-to-wear pendant-style button that is comfortable and waterproof 3) Is the ONLY medical alert pendant with breakthrough technology that, if it detects a fall, will automatically call for help even if you can't push the help button or are unable to ask for help. Learn more by going to: www.aspirus.org/lifeline or call 715-847-2781.

#### **Building Improvement Update**

As of Friday, September 13th, all the approved improvements from our May 5th congregational meeting have been completed.

As a refresher, here is what was approved:

- 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

I'm happy to report that all projects are completed and under budget.

We have also finalized our loan with the Mission Investment Fund from the ELCA. Once our final borrowing amount is settled and contractors paid, we will fall into a monthly payment plan with the ELCA. Our goal is to complete payment in 5 years for less.

Thank you to those who have contributed financially in 2024 and made a commitment to ensure we are able to pay off the loan quickly. If you have yet to meet your 2024 commitment or complete a pledge form, they are available in the office and can be turned in at any time.

We will provide quarterly updates as to the progress of our loan payments.

Capital Committee

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

#### Can Pop Up Tabs

The Angels are collecting Can Pop Up Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House provides a place for families with sick children to rest, prepare meals, and share their concerns and experiences with other families. It keeps families close to their child and the care that child needs, and provides the comfort and support needed during that difficult time. Place your tabs in the container in the hallway across from the office.

#### Coats for Kids

We are 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 and can be placed on the table in the Chapel.

#### Community Dinner

St. Stephen will be hosting the Community Dinner Sunday, October 27th. We have been averaging around 100 meals. We will be asking for donations when it gets closer. Watch for details and sign up!

#### Benevolence

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

ELCA National & Synod Support \$596

This is the eighth 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 \$13,250 for August.

## St. Stephen Family Checkbook

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

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What we received\$1	<i>57</i> ,319.
What we spent(\$1	67,700.)
Our balance(\$	10,381.)

## 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.

## More Congregation Notes

#### 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.

#### Dine to Donate Sundays

Want an easy way to donate money to St. Stephen Lutheran Church? Just eat at Texas Roadhouse in Wausau on Sundays!!! This is how it works: dine at Texas Roadhouse on Sunday and present our church bulletin for 10% of your food bill (not including alcohol, taxes, or gratuity) to be donated back to our church. Not valid with any other offers or on holidays. Dine in ONLY. One per table, per visit. This is a weekly, on-going program that takes place EVERY Sunday. A check will be sent to the church once a month. It's that simple!!! So, go enjoy a great meal and give back to St. Stephen.

#### Faith In Action

Faith in Action is a Non-Profit Organization which offers quality services at NO COST, for seniors to live in their homes, as long as feasibly possible. All services are provided regardless of income, religious belief, or ethnic background. If you or a neighbor needs help getting transportation for medical appointments, grocery shopping, or running any other errands please call Faith in Action at 715-848-8783 Monday thru Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm. Their office is located here in Wausau at 630 Adams Street.

#### Fleece Blanket Project

The Angels have begun constructing fleece blankets that will be given to the children that go to the Child Advocacy Center. The CAC is a safe place for children and adolescents who may have been abused. Professionals at the CAC evaluate and investigate cases of abuse and help the child and families feel safe. If you are interested in donating to this project, JoAnn Fabrics has the kits available or you can donate money which will go towards buying these kits. If you would like help constructing the blanket, feel free to contact an angel or drop the kit off at the front desk with a note explaining what is needed. We will be presenting the finished blankets the first Sunday of December so the kits must be brought to us before November 2nd and the finished blankets by December 2nd. Thank you for your support!

#### Good Shepherd Trunk or Treat

Good Shepherd Lutheran is celebrating their annual Neighborhood Trunk or Treat and Reformation Fest on Friday, October 25th. This event includes many community organizations, such as NAOMI, Women's Community, American Red Cross, Pine Grove Cemetery, and Wausau Warming Center. Each group hosts a "trunk" at Good Shepherd's parking lot. Good Shepherd has invited St Stephen to also host a trunk. The church will be serving dinner from 4-7pm in their fellowship hall and at the same time showcasing some fun facts on the Lutheran Reformation. All are welcome to come, eat, or contribute, and dress in Reformation costume! Good Shepherd's goal is to create an engaging, safe space for children and families in the neighborhood, and celebrate our Lutheran roots with those that come to the event. If you are interested in this event, please contact Sarah Lonsdorf at 715-212-2292 by Sunday, October 13th so Good Shepherd can have adequate food prepared.

#### **HELP Closet**

What is HELP Closet? It is our local Health Equipment Lending Program. Items usually available are: hospital beds, wheelchairs, commodes, shower seats, standard walkers, canes, and crutches. There is a minimal charge to use an item from this closet. For instance, to rent a wheelchair short term (6 months) is \$30. To purchase is \$100. The closet is located at 1106 Fifth Street in Wausau, 715-843-5985.

#### Little Free Pantry

The Good Stewards Committee is asking for food donations for the little free pantry outside of the church. We can use things like canned meat, peanut butter, pasta, hamburger helper, cereal, etc. We just ask that it not be in a glass container or contain carbonation. There are two plastic containers in the chapel area labeled for food donations. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to Shauna Robinson or anyone else on the Good Stewards Committee. Thank you!

## More Congregation Notes

#### Little Scholars Trick or Treat

St. Stephen will be hosting a Trick or Treat for the kids from Little Scholars on Thursday, October 31st. We will be setting up stations around the church for the kids to Trick or Treat at. If you would like to see the kids in their Halloween costumes and help hand out candy at one of the stations, contact Pastor Karoline.

#### Lunch and Lessons

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is inviting us to join them for a weekly Bible Study. Lunch and Lessons meets Wednesdays at noon. Contact Sarah Lonsdorf at 715-212-2292 or Kartika Putri from Good Shepherd at <a href="mailto:kartika@gswausau.org">kartika@gswausau.org</a> if you have any questions or would like more information.

#### 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.

#### Pilgrim Trunk or Treat

Pilgrim Lutheran will be doing a Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 26th from 4-7pm. We will be taking donations of candy, fruit snacks, and individual bags of chips for this event. A bin is located in the hallway across from the office. For more information, see Shauna Robinson.

#### **Quilting Supplies Needed**

The quilters are in need of 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 donate, you may place them in the Nursery (at the end of the hall; last door on the left).

#### St. Stephen Trust Fund

St. Stephen Lutheran Church established a Trust Fund in 1988 as an investment in our future. There are two funds invested through Financial First Advisors in Wausau. The Trust Fund Committee is responsible for these funds and uses only a percentage of the earnings for the designated projects. The Wider Mission Fund is to support the wider mission of the Church in our community and globally. Examples would include: The Neighbors' Place, Faith in Action, Open Door, the Wausau Warming Center, Homeless Kids Fund, Lutheran World Relief, and others. The Building Preservation Fund is for the preservation of our church buildings. In the past this has included fixing the elevator, parsonage updates, and organ repair as well as other repair projects. St. Stephen is known for its generosity. Because only the interest earned on each fund is used in our outreach missions, it is important to maintain a solid investment balance. Please keep the St. Stephen Trust Fund in mind when doing your estate planning. You can designate a specific fund or project, or make a general reference to the Trust Fund.

#### Saturday Crafterdays

Saturday Crafterdays are back! October 12th, November 23rd, December 14th at 9am. Bring your favorite craft and join us upstairs in the choir room. Come for the morning or the afternoon, or both! We'll have fun and we'll have snacks and coffee. Pack a lunch or there are many restaurants downtown.

#### Silent Auction

The Angels will once again be hosting a basket auction on Sunday, November 3rd. The proceeds will go towards the expenditures accrued by the Property Committee as they continue with maintenance projects throughout the building. Then on Sunday, November 10th, the Angels will host a coffee hour with the final bidding on the baskets. We will post pictures of some of the baskets online if you would like to call in a bid to the office during the week of November 4th thru the 7th. There is no guarantee it will be the winning bid however. We are hoping to raise \$700 this year. Thank you for your support!

#### Women's Bible Study

The Women of St. Stephen will have a Bible Study on Wednesday, October 9th at 1pm in the Conference Room. All women of the church are welcome to attend!

#### **SEPTEMBER 2024 MEMORIALS**

#### **Banners**

In memory of the love of my life, Rodney "Butch" Bliese; my Parents, Harold Prieve & Loretta Prieve Lodholz; my Grandparents, Nick & Margaret Eckes; my Aunts, Arlene Eckes & Doris Eckes Bornowski; my Sister and Brother-in-law, Shirley & Merritt Gleason; my Nephew, Brian Gleason; my Brother, Patrick Prieve & Nephew, Kevin Prieve; my Brother, Ken Prieve, my Niece, Melissa Prieve Fleming, & my Nephew Andy Prieve; and my Stepfather, Orville Lodholz —

Mary Beth Tolley

#### **Capital Campaign**

In celebration of the wedding of our Daughter, Natalie Blomquist and Brett Heim on August 31, 2024 in Green Bay, WI – Jeff & Mary Kay Blomquist

In memory of loved ones – Charlie & Joyce Fromfeld

In loving memory of my Mother, Shirley Gleason and my Brother, Brian Gleason – Deb Gleason

In loving memory of my Aunt, Florence Jojade – Sarah Lonsdorf

In loving memory of my Sister, Shirley Gleason; Brother, Pat Prieve; and Nephews, Brian Gleason and Kevin Prieve –
Mary Beth Tolley

#### Seidel-Meyer Pastoral Ministry Fund

In loving memory of Harold Kratwell and Kenneth Borth – Sandy & Ron Borth and Family

## COUNCIL MINUTES ~ SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

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

**Absent:** Kathy Robinson and Jacque Schremp.

The meeting started with a poem read by Sue Holster and Pastor Karoline lead the group in prayer.

Council Minutes from August 13, 2024: A motion was made and carried to accept the minutes without any changes.

<u>Pastor's Report</u>: On September 28th, Pastor Cath Mode will meet with Council and the Task Force Committee for a coaching session. She is an experienced leader in church transition and redevelopment. The Wisconsin River Valley Conference is offering "Rest, Refresh, Renew: A Retreat for Tired Lay Leaders" on October 11th & 12th at Waypost Camp.

<u>President's Report</u>: Sue Holster recognized all of the effort that Jeff Blomquist put in coordinating the work to obtain the loan for the roof repairs. Great job, Jeff!

<u>Treasurer's Report</u>: Our net income for August was (\$11,487), but with the general fund balance of \$14,272 brings the total capital to \$2,785. The rental of the parsonage is up to date.

A motion was made and carried to accept these reports.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Good Stewards:** There were 75 people served during God's Work Our Hands held on Sunday, September 8th. This event was held at the Marathon Community Outreach Task Force/Marty Bus. People received food, enjoyed conversation, and a safe place to hang out. The Community Dinner is planned for October 27th. Donations are welcome. A list of what is needed will be provided closer to the time of the event. The Little Free Pantry has been heavily utilized. Donations are welcome.

**Property:** Krause Konstruction continues to work on the roof repair. The soda machine was shut down on September 8th. The video equipment has been updated.

**Trust Fund:** Distributions were given to Good Stewards Committee for the GWOH meal for the homeless and for assistance for the Community Dinner, Lutheran World Relief for shipping quilts, Bridge Street Mission for meals and building fund, and Wausau Police Department for the Homeless Assistance Program.

**Worship:** The Committee has a busy schedule. They are currently planning Thanksgiving service/meals with Pilgrim and Good Shepherd. The Committee purchased a service program for Advent. The series is entitled "Words for the Beginning". The Christmas Eve service will start at 4pm with a joint service at Good Shepherd at 9pm. Both services are tentative.

A motion was made and carried 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 August was \$27,606.
- Capital Campaign The paperwork has been completed and a line of credit has been approved for \$180,000. Krause Konstruction continues to work on the roof repairs. A monthly payment of \$2,102 is required.
- Taskforce Update The three Task Force Committees discussed regular meeting times. The St. Stephen Task Force Committee will meet the first Tuesday of each month and the Joint Task Force Committee meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month. Bring any questions or ideas you may have to a Task Force member.
- Trunk or Treat Sarah Lonsdorf is organizing a Trunk or Treat event with Good Shepherd. The Trust Fund Committee will give a donation as part of community outreach.
- Nominating Committee Dick Holster is starting the process of finding volunteers to fill the open positions available: Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Good Stewards Elder, Members-at-large (3 positions), and Trust Fund (one position).
- Additional Property Work A quote was received for refinishing five doors. The cost is \$9,000. The step on the main entrance needs to be refinished with a non-skid surface. The cost to finish the step is \$1,200. **The Council approved to finish the repair to the front step.** The Property Committee is providing the railing to the front entrance at no charge to the church.

The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 5:30 pm.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Vicki Romang, Council Secretary