



THE DEACON'S SPIRIT

DATE: NOVEMBER 2024
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The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church

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

Office Closed:
Thursday, November 28th and
Friday, November 29th
In observance of Thanksgiving

Deadlines:
Bulletin: Wednesday by 8:00 a.m.
Newsletter: 3rd 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 14
on Sundays at 12pm (this is the previous
Sundays' service), Mondays at 3pm, and
Tuesdays at 10am and 10:30pm.

HAPPY
Thanksgiving



GOD'S RICHEST BLESSINGS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

*For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For **EVERYTHING** Thy goodness sends.
For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For **ALL** things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, **WE THANK THEE!**
~Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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

I'm a sucker for hand turkeys. Really any art with my kid's handprints on it. I've been sorting through piles of the kids' art from over the years and every time I come across one with handprints it automatically goes in the "keep" pile. There are so many varieties of this style of art now: butterflies, reindeer, the sun, flamingos, trees, elephants, flowers, enough to fill the whole year beyond November. But the classic hand turkey remains my favorite.



The handprint reminds me of a neat little reminder for prayer, the 5 fingered prayer. Like handprints, there are several varieties of this prayer. One version is a reminder to pray for family and friends, teachers, leaders and government workers, the weak and sick, and for ourselves. Another version reminds us of the parts of prayer. In this one, the pinkie represents confession, because it is the weakest finger. The ring finger represents praying for our needs and the middle finger is for the needs of others. The pointer finger reminds us to pray in thanksgiving, thankful for everything in God's creation, thankful for everything we can point to. And the thumb represents praise, giving a big thumbs up to God!

We have much to be thankful for, and this prayer reminds us to thank and praise. But it also directs us to pray in everything we do. November is a season for thankfulness and it is also a season for leaning on God in faith, for generosity, for outreach, and for so much more.

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.

Pastor Karoline

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

St. Stephen Calendar of Events							November 2024	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	1	2
<p>3 All Saints Daylight Savings Time Ends Silent Auction Begins 9:00 Worship 10:00 Trust Fund Comm. Mtg. 10:00am—12:00pm Fall/Christmas Bazaar at Good Shepherd 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA</p>	<p>4 11:00 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball</p>	<p>5 Election Day 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum</p>	<p>6 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir</p>	<p>7 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2 9:00 Stephen's Angels 9:00am—1:00pm Fall/Christmas Bazaar at Good Shepherd 9:00am—4:00pm Holiday & Gift Show at Pilgrim</p>
<p>10 Silent Auction Ends 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 1:00 Crossways Camps Mtg. 7:00 AA</p>	<p>11 Veterans Day 1:00 Sad Sacks 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball</p>	<p>12 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum</p>	<p>13 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir</p>	<p>14 8:30 Quilting 4:00 Worship Comm. Mtg. 6:00 AI-Anon</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 9:00 Worship 10:15 Thrivent Education Series 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA</p>	<p>18 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:00 Dartball MEMORIAL DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER</p>	<p>19 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:00 Joint Task Force Mtg. at St. Stephen 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum</p>	<p>20 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Combined Choir</p>	<p>21 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 9:00 Saturday Crafterday</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Christ the King Community Dinner 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA</p>	<p>25 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Bell Choir 7:00 Dartball</p>	<p>26 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Chili/Soup Supper at Pilgrim 6:30 Service of Gratitude at Pilgrim 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum</p>	<p>27 6:00 Thanksgiving Worship at Good Shepherd followed by a Pie Social NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>28 Thanksgiving Day 6:00 AI-Anon NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>29 NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



Anniversaries

The following couples are celebrating their November Wedding Anniversaries.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

November 13th

Bruce & Jerelyn Weinke

November 27th

Randy & Julie Cheyka-Sawyer



Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating November Birthdays

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

November 5th

Pat Erdman
Robert Pusheck
Edward Schwede
November 6th
Dawn Froehlich
Kim Grau

November 7th

Elaine Hoppe
November 8th
Christopher Eiden
Amy Lillie

November 9th

Gina Travis
November 11th
Layne Behnke
Sophia Behnke
Gordon Darelus
Pam Hackbart
Gloria Lyon

November 13th

Kimberly Kershaw

November 14th

Jacob Pippenger

November 15th

Ava Peters

November 16th

Crosby Deffner

Dianne Meuret

Jack Phillips

November 21st

William Bandoock

November 25th

Noah Phillips

November 27th

Mark Kromrei

November 29th

Lynn Deffner



Funerals

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

Geraldine Schlamp ~ October 10, 2024
Dolores Hilmershausen ~ October 15, 2024



Adopt-A-Family

In November, we will be adopting families to assist this Christmas. We are looking at adopting 8-10 kids again this year. Please watch for more details coming soon of items that we will be collecting. If you would prefer to do a monetary donation to St. Stephen, please do so, and note that it is for Adopt-A-Family. We will be having a wrapping party in December. Please watch for details once it gets closer.

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.

Community Dinner

St. Stephen will be hosting the Community Dinner on Sunday, November 24th at First Presbyterian Church. We will be collecting donations of chips, drinks, desserts, etc. Please look at the bulletin board across from the office to see what is needed.

Fall and Christmas Bazaar

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be holding a Fall/Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 2nd from 9am until 1pm and Sunday, November 3rd from 10am until noon. There will be baked goods and homemade soups for sale by the quart or pint, craft tables with homemade treasures, and a silent auction featuring handcrafted quilts and various baskets.

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!

Holiday and Gift Show

Pilgrim Lutheran Church will be holding a Holiday and Gift Show on Saturday, November 2nd from 9am until 4pm. There will be craft items, a silent auction, a bake sale, and lunch from 11am until 1pm which includes BBQ, chips, and a pickle for \$5. Bring your family and friends! Proceeds from the bake sale will be dedicated to the LWR quilting fund.

Prevent Falls Resource Fair

Join us on November 13th between 9am and 11:30am at Lake View Conference Center (1000 Lake View Drive, enter in Door 31, use parking lot E or F) for an opportunity to visit with local organizations on ways to better your balance and prevent falls. Learn about strength and balance exercises, tips for making your home safer, assistive devices, medication and fall risk, and what resources are available to keep you safe at home. Event is FREE! No advance registration required. Call 888-486-9545 for more information.

Benevolence

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

ELCA National & Synod Support \$599

This is the ninth 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 \$13,320 for September.

St. Stephen Family Checkbook

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

September 1—30, 2024

What we received.....	\$20,251.
What we spent.....	(\$17,740.)
Our balance.....	\$ 2,511.

January 1—September 30, 2024

What we received.....	\$177,570.
What we spent.....	(\$185,609.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 8,039.)

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.

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.

Saturday Crafterdays

Saturday Crafterdays are back! November 23rd and December 14th from 9am until 4pm. 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!

Thank You—Coats for Kids

THANK YOU to all who brought in winter clothing items! Coats for Kids was a HUGE success! The items collected will be given to our local schools. A special thank you to Nancy Prigge and Marv for picking up the donated items and delivering them to the schools for distribution.

Thank You—LWR

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated items for Lutheran World Relief. We were able to assemble 45 school kits, 61 personal care kits, and 135 quilts. Your generosity makes it possible for others to stay warm, attend school, and maintain their dignity.

Thanksgiving Worship Services

Pilgrim has invited us to their Thanksgiving Service of Gratitude on Tuesday, November 26th at 6:30pm. We are also invited to join them for a chili/soup supper beforehand at 5:30pm in their Fellowship Hall. Sign-up is not necessary for the service, however, if you would like to come for supper, please sign-up on the form located on the counter in the reception area no later than Monday, November 18th. We are also invited to attend a Thanksgiving Service at Good Shepherd on Wednesday, November 27th at 6pm as well as a Pie Social after the service.

Thrivent Education Series

Mandy Roberts from Thrivent will be hosting an education series in the Chapel from 10:15 until 11:30am on Sunday, November 17th and the topic will be, "Prepare Wisely: Estate Strategy Essentials". This session is good for people planning their own estate. There will be one final series, date TBD, and the topic will be, "Your Legacy: Family, Church, and Charity". This session is about generosity opportunities available as you age.

Town Hall Meetings

On September 28th, the Task Force and Council members met with Pastor Cath Mode who was recommended to us by the Synod as a coach. Pastor Mode presented information on the life cycle of a church and led a discussion on where St. Stephen sees opportunities for shared ministries in our community. On October 15th we met with the Good Shepherd and Pilgrim Task Forces and had an open and honest discussion about how we felt about the ongoing discussions and shared ministry opportunities. We are trying to hold a Town Hall meeting at least once a month to keep everyone informed and also to listen to make sure your questions and concerns are not overlooked. Please plan on attending the town hall meetings to stay informed and make your viewpoint known.

Women's Bible Study

The Women of St. Stephen will have a Bible Study on Wednesday, November 13th at 1pm in the Conference Room. All women of the church are welcome to attend!

Women's Community Wish List

The Women's Community of Wausau is looking for donations of the following items: Ziploc gallon size storage/freezer bags, dryer sheets (scented & unscented), new pillows, mouthwash, and over the counter pain relievers. If you are interested in donating any items, please contact Sarah Lonsdorf at 715-212-2292.

ALL SAINTS/VETERANS DAY/MEMORIALS

**St. Stephen Lutheran will be observing
All Saints Day on Sunday, November 3rd.**



**If you have a loved one that
passed away after November 5th, 2023
and would like to submit their name,
please fill out this form and turn it in to the office
no later than Wednesday, October 30th.**

**Their names will be read in church and
they will be included in a slide show
on All Saints Day.**

**If your loved one was a member of St. Stephen,
they will automatically be included.
You do not need to fill out a form.**

Name _____

Date of death _____

Remembering Our Veterans

On Sunday, November 10th for Veteran's Day, the Worship Committee would like to honor those people in our congregation that are currently serving, have served in the past, or died defending our country. Please fill out the following form if there is someone that you would like us to recognize on this day. If you filled out a form in the past, you do not need to do so again this year. We will automatically use the names that we were given last year. Forms are due on or before Wednesday, November 6th. You may place them in the box on the counter in the reception area.

Name: _____

Years or war served in: _____

Submitted by: _____

Phone number: _____

Thank you!

The Worship Committee

OCTOBER 2024 MEMORIALS

Capital Campaign

In loving memory of Gary Zumann –
Kelly Brown

In loving memory of Caroline Kuehl and Nancy Schwede –
Shirley Kasten

In loving memory of Bill Lonsdorf, Father of Bill, Cher, and Sarah –
Sarah Lonsdorf

In loving memory of Patricia Metter (Skola) –
Sarah Lonsdorf

Library Fund

In loving memory of Angie Ninnemann –
Tim Gritzmacher

COUNCIL MINUTES ~ OCTOBER 8, 2024

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

Absent: Kathy Robinson.

Sue Holster led the meeting with a prayer.

Council Minutes from September 10, 2024: A motion was made and carried to accept the minutes without any changes.

Pastor's Report: A coaching session was conducted by Pastor Cath Mode in September. She is an experienced leader in church transition and redevelopment. Pastor Mode discussed opportunities available. This session was partly funded through the Synod. Saturday Crafterdays will be held on October 12th, November 23rd, and December 14th. Grief Share will be offered at St. Stephen on Monday evenings February through April.

President's Report: Sue Holster brought forth a topic discussed at the President's monthly meeting. Sue relayed that the south side churches (St. John Lutheran, Bethlehem, and Mount Calvary) are working on a 3-point parish. Also discussed was an opportunity to rent the sanctuary to a group called Candlelight. The group will perform a classical music concert by the use of LED candles. The rental of the sanctuary will bring a revenue of \$1,500. The Council unanimously approved the rental of the sanctuary. If you are interested in learning more about the Candlelight Concerts, check out their website at <https://candlelightexperience.com>

Treasurer's Report: Our total capital is \$6,141. This amount is expected to go up with the increase of Sunday service attendance. The attendance has been down recently due to summer activities/vacations.

A motion was made and carried to accept the reports.

Committee Reports:

Good Stewards: The Community Dinner was rescheduled to be held on November 24th at First Presbyterian. The Little Free Pantry has been utilized heavily. Donations are welcome.

Property: Krause Konstruktion continues to work on the roof repair. Krause Konstruktion is working to repair a window that was broken during the construction project. Their contract will then be complete. Some of the windowsills may need to be replaced (stained glass windows). Jeff Blomquist is gathering the information needed to go forward.

Worship: The Worship committee will meet next on Thursday, October 10th.

Trust Fund: Distributions approved for Trunk or Treat event and for the down payment of the loan for roof repairs.

A motion was made and carried to accept these reports.

Old Business:

- Memorial Fund Order – Current Expense Fund is number one, Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund in number two, Sustainability Trust Fund in number three, and Technology Fund in number four.

New Business:

- The total amount of invoices paid in September was \$20,589.
- Capital Campaign – The loan for the roof was budgeted at \$180,000. The amount needed to borrow is \$125,000. Approval was granted for a construction loan of \$125,000 with a monthly payment of \$1,459 for 10 years.
- Taskforce Update – The St. Stephen Taskforce met in September to discuss the current list of important issues to our church and congregation. After discussing the issues, it was discovered the importance of some issues may have changed. It is imperative to keep on track of what we find essential to us. The Taskforce realizes that there is a need to be more transparent with the status of the church. Suggestions include adding notes to the bulletin for members who may not be able to attend town hall discussions and to remind members of upcoming meetings, possibly adding to the church website.
- 2025 Budget – Additions to be added to the 2025 budget are professional fees and loan payments. A draft is expected at the November Executive Council meeting with a final approval to be made during the December Executive Council meeting.
- Stephen's Angels – The Angels are currently working on the basket auction and are creating gift bags for shut-ins. If you know of someone that would like to be added to this list, please contact Lynn Deffner or another Angel member.
- Nominating Committee – Dick Holster is starting the process of finding volunteers to fill the open positions available, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Good Stewards Elder, Member-at-large (3 positions), and Trust Fund (1 position).

The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 5:30 pm.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Romang, Council Secretary



ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS

If you would like to place a poinsettia in church for Christmas, please complete this form and either mail it in or bring it to the church office.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH, 2024

Given in memory of

Given in honor of

Given by

How many?

We are only offering Traditional Red this year.

Each plant is in a 6 ½" pot.

Cost of each plant is \$ 12

Call Nancy Henke @ 715-845-7858 with any questions.

Please include your payment with this form.

Make check payable to: *St. Stephen Lutheran Church.*

Thanks!

