DATE: MARCH 2025 Volume 241 • Issue 241

The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church





March 5th at 6:30 pm at Pilgrim Lutheran Church

512 McClellan Street Wausau, WI 54403-4882

Phone: 715-845-7858

Website: www.sslcwausau.com

Email address:

information@sslcwausau.com

Office Hours:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8am-3pm

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.



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

In confirmation, we've been learning about how the church year teaches us about Jesus. Advent tells us Jesus is coming and Christmas tells us that Jesus is here. In the time after Epiphany, Jesus teaches. Lent shows us that Jesus will die and rise. Holy Week is the story of his death and on Easter



Jesus rises. The season after Pentecost, Jesus teaches again. Each year the cycle repeats and the story of the Incarnation is told again.

We live the story of Jesus every year, and we live it every day too. I'm writing this sitting bedside overnight at the hospital, between ice chips and bed adjusting. My dad experienced some complications after planned surgery and so we've been experiencing some days of worry and uncertainty. He's doing much better (thanks for all the prayers!), but I've had a lot of time to think about the many ways we lean on the story of Jesus Christ and the comfort that our faith brings to every situation. Every time we gather for worship is a mini-Easter and the story of the Incarnation is lived every day. No matter what we are going through, whether it is illness or worry or conflict, we are secure in the promise of God's love and grace!

We are at the very beginning of the Lenten season, heading with Jesus towards the cross and to the promise of the empty tomb. Our Lenten theme, "Holy Experience", is an invitation to learn and wholly explore the stories on the way. During our shared mid-week services, we will use our senses to engage 5 stories, along with fellowship and delicious soup dinners.

Peace,

Pastor Karoline

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	St. Stephen	Cal	endar of Events		Marcl	March 2025
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						9:00 Stephen's Angels
9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS	3 11:00 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:15 Bell Choir 6:30 Grief Share 7:00 Dartball	4 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:15 SSLC Task Force Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	5 Ash Wednesday 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service at Pilgrim 7:30 Choir Practice	6 8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon	7	8:00am—5:00pm AA Area 74 Chapter throughout the building
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:00 Worship 10:15 Trust Fund Comm. Mtg. 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 94/TDS 7:00 AA	100 St. Stephen Grief Group 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:15 Bell Choir 6:30 Grief Share 7:00 Dartball	11 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	12.00 Midweek Lenten Service at GSLC w/lunch during 1:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Midweek Lenten Service at GSLC w/supper following 6:30 Choir Practice	13 8:30 Quilting 1:00 Worship Comm. Mtg. 6:00 Al-Anon	14	15 8:00am—10:00pm AA Conference Downstairs Auditorium
9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	47 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:00 Good Stewards Mig. 5:15 Bell Choir 6:30 Grief Share 6:30 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:00 Darrball MEMORIAL DEADLINE FOR MARCH	18 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:00 Joint Task Force Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	19 12:00 Midweek Lenten Service at GSLC w/lunch during 5:30 Midweek Lenten Service at GSLC w/supper following 6:30 Choir Practice	8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 NO ELEMENTARY CLASSES PM	22 9:00am—4:00pm Saturday Crafterday
9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS	24 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:15 Bell Choir 6:30 Grief Share 7:00 Dartball	25 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	26 12:00 Midweek Lenten Service at GSLC w/lunch during 5:30 Midweek Lenten Service at GSLC w/supper following 6:30 Choir Practice	27 8:30 Quilting 6:00 Al-Anon	28	29
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ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



Anniversaries

The following couples are celebrating their March Wedding Anniversaries.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

March 11th
Daryl & Roxanne Christian
March 26th
Darrin & Vanessa Koehler
March 31st
Michael & Leah Holster



Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating March Birthdays

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

March 1st Theresa Kole March 2nd Jay Pippenger March 4th Joslyn Strand March 5th Ron Felch March 7th Candi den Otter Nathaniel Lenoble March 8th Derek Koehler March 9th Vallory Haiker March 10th

March 13th Luke den Otter Ben Kasten **Dennis Lohrey** Brenda Prieve Shirlee Shaw March 14th Darlene Zietlow March 20th Darlene Johnson March 25th Nelda Hettinaa March 26th Darrin Koehler March 27th Dale Seymour Jeanette Wiskow March 30th Noah Weinke



Phil Giese

Baptism

"...child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."

March 31st

Susan Brooks

Elsie Lorraine Zastrow ~ February 16, 2025



Funerals

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

Darlene Yolitz ~ February 3, 2025 Clifford Prigge ~ February 11, 2025





Lamentations 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

CONGREGATION NOTES

Church Rummage Sale

Our annual Church Rummage Sale is fast approaching. Donations can be brought in anytime and dropped off in the basement outside the elevator doors by the steps going up to the youth room. The sale is scheduled for April 26th and 27th. We love kitchenware, linens, books, puzzles, games, craft items, small lamps, jewelry, handyman tools, and pictures. The Angels appreciate your donations. If you have questions, contact Sarah Lonsdorf.

Crossways Camps

It's time to think about summer! Crossways Camps is offering lots of great programs this summer, from youth camp to family camp to grandparent/kid camp! Tiered pricing, scholarships, and other funding is available. Check out their website at: https://www.crosswayscamps.org

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.

Grief Share

A new Grief Share Group started at St. Stephen on February 3rd. The sessions are from 6:30 to 8:30pm and are facilitated by Shirley Ostrem and Jane Seubert. Grief Share is a 13 week DVD-based course designed to support and help move people through the grief process. For more information, please contact Shirley Ostrem at 715-359-5531 or email sjostrem2113@outlook.com.

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. The closet is located at 1106 Fifth Street in Wausau, 715-843-5985.

Homeless Hygiene Drive

The Homeless Hygiene Drive has begun and will run through March 16th. Donations collected here stay here in Marathon County at four local organizations: Community Center for Hope, Granite House, Open Door, and The Neighbors' Place. We will be collecting new, unused hygiene and You can drop them off at the boxes located at cleaning supplies. participating locations. St. Stephen, Good Shepherd, Immanuel, and Pilgrim Lutheran Churches are all collection sites. The most urgent needs for our community include: baby hygiene products such as baby wash, baby lotion, and diaper cream, and laundry soap, dish soap, body soap, shower gel, 2-in-1 shampoo or shampoo and conditioner individually, trash bags, deodorant, lotions, wet wipes, toilet paper, paper towels, disposable razors (smaller packs as they can't be opened and distributed), tampons and maxi pads. Any cleaning supplies are greatly appreciated such as bleach, toilet bowl cleaner, glass cleaner, soap, floor cleaner, etc. If you'd prefer to make a monetary donation please contact Shauna Robinson.

Benevolence

Through your support of St. Stephen in the month of January 2025, we were able to contribute to the following ministry:

ELCA National & Synod Support \$623

This is the twelfth 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 \$13,853 for January.

St. Stephen Family Checkbook

For the month of January 2025 and the year to date, the St. Stephen family checkbook looked like this:

January 1—31, 2025 What we received........\$13,853. What we spent......(\$25,318.) Our balance.....(\$11,465.)

January 1—31, 2025	
What we received	\$13,853.
What we spent	(\$25,318.)
Our balance	(\$11,465.

Order of Importance of Memorials and Other Special Offerings

Primary Funds: Current Expense Receipts, Building Improvement/ Maintenance Fund, and Sustainability Trust 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, Technology Fund, 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

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!

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 "Crafterday"

Saturday "Crafterday" will be held from 9am until 4pm on March 22nd. Come for the morning, the afternoon, or both!

Sponsorships Needed

Sponsorship is needed for Palm Sunday bulletin covers—\$19 and the Easter Sunday bulletin covers—\$38. Please contact Nancy Henke in the church office if you are interested.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study Group will meet on Wednesday, March 12th and Wednesday, April 12th at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church following the Midweek Lenten Service. Any women in the congregation who would like to attend are WELCOME!



40 Days 40 Items

In observance of the Lenten season, many people choose to "give up" something they enjoy as they enter a period of reflection. An alternative to, or perhaps in addition to this observance, is to "take on" something new.

You can collect an item for each day of Lent. 40 days yields 40 much needed items in our community for many organizations. You will make a profound impact on your community while you are reflecting on your life and making personal changes.

Please consider donating the following shelf stable items to your local food bank, and clothing/hygiene items to those that need them. You can bring these items to church and place them in the appropriate donation location, and we will sort and distribute at the end of the Lenten season. Items collected will then be distributed amongst The Neighbors' Place, The Marty Bus, The Women's Community, and Community Clothing Closet.

1. Peanut Butter	1	. P	'eai	nut	Bι.	ıtter
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3. Canned Meal with Pop Tops

5. Pasta

7. Cereal

9. Canned Vegetables

11. Oatmeal

13. Pants

15. Jelly

17. Flour, Sugar or Oil

19. Side Dishes

21. Popcorn/Snacks

23. New Tarps

25. Granola Bars/Protein Bars/Pop Tarts

27. Laundry Soap

29. New Underwear/Boxers

31. Microwave Meals

33. Cake Mix with Frosting

35. Individual Drink Mixes ex. Propel

37.Paper Towel

39. Shampoo/Conditioner

2. Socks

4. Canned Chicken/Tuna

6. Spaghetti Sauce

8. T-Shirts

10. Canned Fruit

12. Applesauce

14. Spices/Sauces

16. Juice/ Juice Boxes

18. Sweatshirts

20. Soup

22. Hamburger Helper

24. Baked Beans

26. Water

28. Toilet Paper

30. Instant Mashed Potatoes

32. Crackers [i.e. Saltine or "Ritz"]

34. Walking Shoes without holes

36. Tooth brush/Toothpaste

38. Bath Soap

40. Deodorant

Please bring your donations to any of the four church locations listed below:

St. Stephen, Good Shepherd, Pilgrim, or Immanuel Lutheran Church
If you have questions feel free to reach out to Shauna Robinson
at 608-514-4504 or nutband@gmail.com

wHOLY Experience a Lenten Journey

through
Hearing * Sight * Scent * Taste * Touch

Lent 2025 is a shared ministry effort between the congregations of Good Shepherd, Pilgrim, and St. Stephen Lutheran Churches

The Lenten journey includes:

Wednesday, March 5th: Ash Wednesday Worship at Pilgrim Lutheran Church @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 12th thru Wednesday, April 9th:
Midweek Lunch Worship at Good Shepherd @ Noon
Wednesday Evening Worship at Good Shepherd @ 5:30 pm with meal to follow

Thursday, April 17th: Maundy Thursday Worship at Good Shepherd @ 6:30 pm

Friday, April 18th: Good Friday Worship at St. Stephen @ Noon and 6:30 pm

Sunday, April 20th: Sunrise Worship at Sylvan Hill @ 6:00 am Worship at St Stephen @ 8:30 am Worship at Good Shepherd @ 9:00 am Worship at Pilgrim @ 10:30 am

See the weekly chart below for a schedule of serving ministries. Our goal is to bring groups together to get to know each other through serving and fellowship! If you are able to help, reach out to the contact person below, to get connected for a specific date. Each ministry will then coordinate a menu, the specific volunteer roles needed and where or how you would like to direct that day's freewill offering.

Each week we will provide for approximately 25-40 lunch worshipers and 60-75 for the evening meal. Numbers are estimates at this point. Groups should plan to have volunteers for setup, serving, dishwashing, and cleanup for lunch and supper. Meals can consist of: at least 2 choices of soup (remember our vegan and gluten free friends), bread/crackers, dessert, milk, and salads (optional). We estimate 1 roaster for noon and 2 for evening.

Each week's meals will offer a freewill offering basket, and designation of the day's funds collected will go towards the ministry or designation selected by the sponsoring group.

Wednesday, March 12th: Property Committee contact - Kartika Putri: kartika@gswausau.org Wednesday, March 19th: Music Ministry contact - Delores Kessel: djkessel1@gmail.com

Wednesday, March 26th: Social Concerns/Evangelism contact - Pr. Karoline Schwantes: pastorkaroline@gmail.com

Wednesday, April 2nd: Quilt Ministry contact - Sue Koerten: skoerten@icloud.com

Wednesday, April 9th: Angels/Bible Studies/Faith Formation contact - Sarah Lonsdorf: Sarah.Lonsdorf@aspirus.org

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday worship will happen individually at each of the three sites as scheduled.

GOOD SHEPHERD

930 Edgewood Road, Wausau, WI 54403 PALM SUNDAY: 9:00 AM EASTER WORSHIP: 9:00 AM

PILGRIM

709 Weston Avenue, Wausau, WI 54403 PALM SUNDAY: 9:00 AM EASTER WORSHIP: 10:30 AM

ST. STEPHEN

512 McClellan Street, Wausau, WI 54403 PALM SUNDAY: 9:00 AM EASTER WORSHIP: 8:30 AM



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

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

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS MONDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2025

Given in memory of	
Given in honor of	
Given by	
Easter Lilies – \$15 each (6" pot)	Quantity:

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR PAYMENT WITH THIS FORM. Make check payable to St. Stephen Lutheran Church.





FEBRUARY 2025 MEMORIALS

In loving memory of Judith "Judy" Spear

Capital Campaign -- \$400 from Family & Friends

In loving memory of Darlene Yolitz

Capital Campaign -- \$230 from Family & Friends

Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund

In honor of my Wife, Audrey Ruechel's Birthday on February 29th – Bert Ruechel

Capital Campaign

In loving memory of Judy Spear – Kelly Brown

In loving memory of Cliff Prigge and Darlene Yolitz – Kelly Brown

In honor of our 30th Anniversary – Rick & Bonnie Effinger

In loving memory of Judy Spear – Deb Gleason

In loving memory of Judy Spear – The Kasten Family

In loving memory of my Husband, Delbert "Pete" Peterson – Doris Peterson

In loving memory of Cliff Prigge – Sarah Lonsdorf

Current Expense Fund

In loving memory of family – Kay Preller

Library Fund

In loving memory of Lillian Gritzmacher – Tim Gritzmacher

Quilting Fund

In loving memory of Darlene Yolitz – Sarah Lonsdorf

Stephen's Angels Fund

In honor of my Wife, Audrey Ruechel's Birthday on February 29th – Bert Ruechel

COUNCIL MINUTES ~ FEBRUARY 11, 2025

Present: Dick Holster, Vicki Romang, Jim Von Rueden, Betsy Utecht, Pastor Karoline, Sue Holster, Shauna Robinson, Jeff Blomquist, Sarah Lonsdorf, Nelda Hettinga, and Darrin Koehler.

Absent: Jacque Schremp and Nancy Prigge.

Council Minutes for January 14, 2025 and Annual Meeting Minutes for February 9, 2025: Changes were made to the Annual Meeting minutes to correct a misspelling, to correct the number of voting members required for a quorum, and to reflect the approval of a Property Committee resolution regarding expenditures for refinishing the south doors and resurfacing an exterior step.

A motion was made and carried to accept the minutes with these changes.

<u>Pastor's Report</u>: Pastor Karoline provided a written report. She spent ten days in Greece and Turkey on a "Footsteps of Paul" tour during January. Reverend Maggie Westaby provided pastoral care in her absence. Confirmation resumed meeting at St. Stephen in January.

Treasurer's Report: The General Fund total is \$19,124.73 and the total capital is \$14,885.07.

A motion was made and carried to accept these reports.

Committee Reports:

Good Stewards: No written report was provided. Homeless Hygiene Drive begins February 23rd and continues through March 16th. "40 Days 40 Items" Drive will take place during Lent, with items distributed to The Neighbors' Place, the Marty Bus, the Women's Community, and the Community Clothing Closet. Community on Call has been activated since Sunday at Good Shepherd. It may not be activated on Friday, but will be activated again on Saturday. A security deposit was provided for an individual in need of rental assistance.

Property: No written report was provided. The committee did not meet in January.

Trust Fund: No written report was provided. The committee did not meet in January.

Worship: Written reports were provided from the January and February meetings of the Tri-Church Worship Committee. The committee has finalized plans for mid-week Lenten services and soup meals at Good Shepherd.

A motion was made and carried to accept these reports.

Old Business:

• Memorial Fund Order – No change to the order this month. Current Expense Fund is number one, Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund is number two, and Sustainability Trust Fund is number three.

New Business:

- A motion was made and carried to use the emergency account for the \$450 that was contributed by St. Stephen to provide a security deposit for an individual in need of housing. The emergency account will be reclassified as a Community Outreach Fund.
- Invoice Approval—The total amount of invoices paid in January was \$28,950.47. A motion was made and carried to approve the paid invoices.
- Noisy Offering—February 16th. Donations will be added to the newly created Community Outreach Fund.
- Immanuel Lutheran Church letter and response—A letter was received from Immanuel Lutheran Church regarding a possible merger with another ELCA congregation. The Council discussed a proposed response.
- Capital Campaign—Payments toward the \$121,000.00 Mission Loan will begin in March.
- Task Force—Pastor Mode will give a presentation following the service on February 23rd.
- Synod Youth Retreat—February 21st to the 23rd. Six youth and three adults from St. Stephen and Good Shepherd will be attending. Money from the Youth Fund helped defray some of the costs for each individual.
- Council Installation—February 23rd.
- Church Council Retreat—March 16th from 11:30am to 3pm. Location to be determined.
- Goals for 2025—Review Constitution & Bylaws, memorial funds, membership list, and stewardship campaign.

The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11, at 5:30pm.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Utecht, Council Secretary