



DATE: APRIL 2025
Volume 242 • Issue 242

THE DEACON'S SPIRIT

The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church



Good Friday, April 18th

Worship at St. Stephen at 12 & 6:30 pm

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Wausau, WI 54403-4882

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information@sslcwausau.com

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

Office Closed:
Good Friday, April 18th
Easter Monday, April 21st

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.



Easter Sunday, April 20th

Worship at St. Stephen at 8:30 am

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

Holy. Wholly. Holey?

“wHOILY Experience: A Lenten Journey” has been our theme for our midweek Lenten Worship this year and it has been a feast for the senses.



The first couple of weeks of our shared services have been a delicious success (apart from and even in spite of heavy snow!). Each week has had a different sense as a theme and we’ve been exploring how we tangibly experience our faith. As leaders from Good Shepherd, Pilgrim, and St. Stephen dreamed, brainstormed, and planned for Lent, we were suggesting names and as one particular idea was spoken, we knew it would be the one we would be going with. But which version of holy/wholly would we use? Living into the “both/and” of our Lutheran heritage, we decided both!

Holy: Think about the sacred ways we encounter God. Through scripture, worship, proclamation, and sacrament, we are invited to experience Jesus' embodied divinity as bigger than ourselves. We are invited into the promises of grace and love.

Wholly: We experience God through the fullness of our senses and experience. Through the sacraments of baptism and communion, there are tangible elements that we can taste and see and touch.

Holey? In this season, we remember the fullness of Jesus' humanity and divinity: God with us. Hands and feet that bear the holes of crucifixion. Resurrection revealed through the hole of a tomb.

During Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, come and experience.

Experience sight, sound, scent, touch, and taste.

Experience trust, protection, repentance, reconciliation, and renewal.

Experience the fanfare and celebration of Palm Sunday.

Experience the connection of Maundy Thursday.

Experience the grief of Good Friday.

Experience the joy and new life of Easter!

Peace,

Pastor Karoline

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

St. Stephen Calendar of Events					April 2025	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>6</p> <p>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</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:15 Bell Choir 6:30 Grief Share 7:00 Dartball</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:15 SSLC Task Force Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:00 Midweek Lenten Service at GSLC w/lunch during 5:30 Midweek Lenten Service at GSLC w/supper following 6:30 Choir Practice</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 Stephen's Angels</p>
<p>13 Palm Sunday</p> <p>9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1:00 St. Stephen Grief Group 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:15 Bell Choir 6:30 Grief Share 7:00 Dartball</p> <p>MEMORIAL DEADLINE FOR APRIL</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum</p>	<p>9</p> <p>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</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 Quilting 10:00 Worship Comm. Mtg. 6:00 AI-Anon</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 Ukrainian Easter Egg Project at Pilgrim Lutheran Church 1:00 First Communion Instruction</p>
<p>20 Easter Sunday</p> <p>6:00 Worship at Sylvan Hill hosted by Good Shepherd 8:30 Worship at St. Stephen 9:00 Worship at Good Shepherd 10:30 Worship at Pilgrim 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA</p>	<p>21</p> <p>3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:15 Bell Choir 6:30 Grief Share 6:30 Property Comm. Mtg.</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:00 Joint Task Force Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30 Choir Practice</p>	<p>17 Maundy Thursday</p> <p>8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics 6:30 Maundy Thursday Service at Good Shepherd</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>18 Good Friday</p> <p>12:00 Good Friday Service at St. Stephen 6:30 Good Friday Service at St. Stephen</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>27</p> <p>8:00—11:00 Rummage Sale 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA</p>	<p>28</p> <p>3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:15 Bell Choir 6:30 Grief Share</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Choir Practice</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30 Quilting 6:00 AI-Anon</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:00am—3:00pm Rummage Sale 3:00pm—10:00pm Candlelight Concert</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:30 Confirmation 6:30 Choir Practice</p>			



Anniversaries

The following couples are celebrating their April Wedding Anniversaries.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

April 6th

Jeff & Mary Blomquist

April 7th

Ron & Dawn Felch

April 12th

Don & Jane Seubert

April 16th

John & Cathy Teske



Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating April Birthdays

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

April 5th

Bonnie Pils

April 8th

Florence Beese

Cathy Teske

April 9th

Dick Holster

April 10th

Bill Brandimore

Roxanne Christian

April 11th

Kyle Kershaw

April 12th

John Baddock

Hailey Koehler

April 13th

Sandy Hintz Oestreich

Hayden Korpela

April 14th

Emmalyn Grau

Chris Travis

April 18th

JJ Deffner

April 19th

Diane Waldinger

April 22nd

Lydia Lenoble

April 24th

Susan Brouchous

April 25th

Dustin Wierzba

April 26th

Pamela Otradovec

Schmidty

April 30th

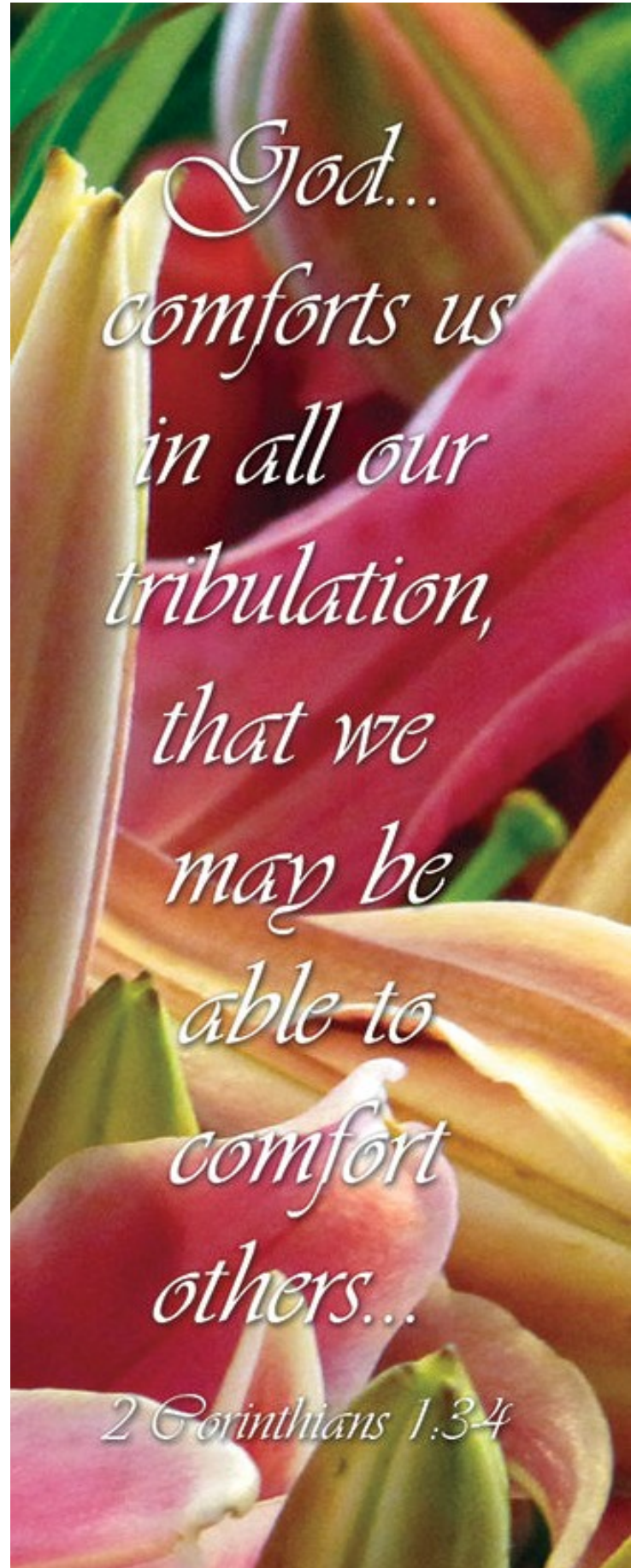
Emma Dahle



Funeral

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

Lynn Guth ~ March 11, 2025



Bow the Knee

A dramatic Easter musical, "Bow the Knee", will be presented at Trinity Lutheran Church, Wausau on Saturday, April 5th at 7pm and Sunday, April 6th at 2:30pm. This is a powerful and moving story of a Roman Centurion and culminates in the joyful resurrection of Jesus Christ. These annual productions have area residents playing all the parts and doing the background work. Trinity Church (on Stewart Avenue) will be the hosting church. All are welcome to attend. Free admission.

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 Saturday, April 26th from 8am until 3pm and Sunday, April 27th from 8am until 11am. 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>

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.

Thank You

Thank you to all who donated food and/or money to purchase food for the First Presbyterian Food Bank. With the money donated from members and also the Trust Fund, we were able to purchase (this is in addition to the tableful of donated items): 72 cans of tuna, 24 boxes of pasta, 24 cans of beef stew, 2-20# bags of rice, 36 cans of tomato pieces, 48 cans of chicken, and 48 eggs. This food pantry has been servicing 87 families weekly and the manager expressed his gratitude to St. Stephen for helping to restock their shelves.

Ukrainian Easter Egg Project

Let's make some Ukrainian Easter Eggs!!! Join us at Pilgrim Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 12th at 9:30am. A centuries-old tradition called pysanky in Ukraine. Eggs are decorated with patterns and symbols using wax and dye. Materials and instructions will be available at the event, so just bring yourself, your family, and friends. Because of the use of heated wax, plastic eggs (and no wax) will be given to children. If you would like to participate, a sign-up sheet is located on the counter in the reception area. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, March 30th. This is a multigenerational shared ministry event of Good Shepherd, Pilgrim, and St. Stephen.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study Group will meet on Wednesday, April 9th at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church following the Midweek Lenten Service. Any women in the congregation who would like to attend are WELCOME!

Benevolence

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

ELCA National & Synod Support \$575

This is the second 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 \$12,768 for February.

St. Stephen Family Checkbook

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

February 1—28, 2025

What we received.....	\$19,726.
What we spent.....	(\$21,951.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 2,225.)

January 1—February 28, 2025

What we received.....	\$40,804.
What we spent.....	(\$47,269.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 6,465.)

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.

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 | 2. Socks |
| 3. Canned Meal with Pop Tops | 4. Canned Chicken/Tuna |
| 5. Pasta | 6. Spaghetti Sauce |
| 7. Cereal | 8. T-Shirts |
| 9. Canned Vegetables | 10. Canned Fruit |
| 11. Oatmeal | 12. Applesauce |
| 13. Pants | 14. Spices/ Sauces |
| 15. Jelly | 16. Juice/ Juice Boxes |
| 17. Flour, Sugar or Oil | 18. Sweatshirts |
| 19. Side Dishes | 20. Soup |
| 21. Popcorn/ Snacks | 22. Hamburger Helper |
| 23. New Tarps | 24. Baked Beans |
| 25. Granola Bars/Protein Bars/Pop Tarts | 26. Water |
| 27. Laundry Soap | 28. Toilet Paper |
| 29. New Underwear/Boxers | 30. Instant Mashed Potatoes |
| 31. Microwave Meals | 32. Crackers [i.e. Saltine or “Ritz”] |
| 33. Cake Mix with Frosting | 34. Walking Shoes without holes |
| 35. Individual Drink Mixes ex. Propel | 36. Tooth brush/Toothpaste |
| 37. Paper Towel | 38. Bath Soap |
| 39. Shampoo/Conditioner | 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

WHOLLY 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	PILGRIM	ST. STEPHEN
930 Edgewood Road, Wausau, WI 54403	709 Weston Avenue, Wausau, WI 54403	512 McClellan Street, Wausau, WI 54403
PALM SUNDAY: 9:00 AM	PALM SUNDAY: 9:00 AM	PALM SUNDAY: 9:00 AM
EASTER WORSHIP: 9:00 AM	EASTER WORSHIP: 10:30 AM	EASTER WORSHIP: 8:30 AM

MARCH 2025 MEMORIALS

In loving memory of Cliff Prigge

Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund -- \$100

Capital Campaign -- \$100

Choir Fund -- \$75

Building Improvement and Maintenance Fund

In loving memory of Darlene Yolitz –
Karen Prigge

Capital Campaign

In loving memory of my Husband, Roger –
Darleen Fust

In loving memory of Cliff Prigge –
Darleen Fust

In loving memory of Cliff Prigge, Darlene Yolitz, and Judy Spear –
Elaine Hoppe

In loving memory of Kevin Beyer –
Shirley Kasten, Sheryl Samse, and Keith, Jeffrey, Gary, and Craig Kasten

In loving memory of Darlene Yolitz –
Shirley Kasten

In loving memory of Lynn Guth –
Sarah Lonsdorf

In honor of my first Great-Grandchild, Stetson Lane Tolley, born on January 15, 2025 and
in loving memory of my Father, Harold Prieve, whose Birthday Anniversary is March 23rd –
Mary Beth Tolley

In loving memory of Darlene Yolitz, Cliff Prigge, and Lynn Guth –
Mary Beth Tolley

In loving memory of the Women of the church who have passed to their eternal rest.
We miss them –
Women of St. Stephen

In loving memory of our Mother, Darlene Yolitz –
Kevin & Patti Yolitz

Quilting Fund

In loving memory of Darlene Yolitz –
Ruth Grell

COUNCIL MINUTES ~ MARCH 11, 2025

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

Absent: Sue Holster.

Council Minutes from February 11, 2025 meeting: The minutes were amended to reflect that the Trust Fund Committee met on February 16, 2025.

A motion was made and carried to accept the minutes with this change.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karoline provided a written report. In addition, it was noted that the synod will be holding a Church Council Academy via Zoom on March 22nd and 27th with keynote speaker Nancy Heykes.

Treasurer's Report: The General Fund total is \$18,454.73 and the total capital is \$11,990.

A motion was made and carried to accept these reports.

Committee Reports:

Good Stewards: No written report was provided. Community on Call was activated for five nights and was a success. St. Stephen will look to participate again in the future. Tracy Rieger requested \$650 for a rental deposit for an individual in need. That amount was paid by Laurie Sturzenegger from Good Shepherd. St. Stephen will reimburse Laurie for 1/3 of that amount. A request was made for the Trust Fund Committee to provide seed money to the Community Outreach Fund to provide funding for future rental assistance requests.

Property: No written report was provided. The Property Committee did not meet last month. The smoke alarm in the attic of the church has gone off four times, but each time it was only a fault. A service call will take place this week. There have been issues during the past month with both boilers.

Trust Fund: Written reports were provided from the February 16, 2025 and March 9, 2025 committee meetings.

Worship: A written report was provided from the February 13, 2025 committee meeting.

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:

- Invoice Approval—The total amount of invoices paid in February was \$21,429.66.
- **A motion was made and carried to approve the paid invoices.**
- Noisy Offering—March 16th
- For the foreseeable future, donations from the Noisy Offerings will be added to the Community Outreach Fund.
- Capital Campaign—First withdrawal was made this month and second payment of principal.
- Task Force—At its next meeting, the Task Force will be discussing next steps, including where St. Stephen, Good Shepherd, and Pilgrim see ourselves at the end of 2025. The focus will be on defining our options and getting a clearer picture of what our common goal is.
- Synod Youth Retreat update—The retreat took place from February 21st to 23rd at Imago Dei Village. Six students and three adults from St. Stephen, Good Shepherd, and Immanuel attended. Money from the Youth Fund covered half of the cost for each student. The students signed a thank you note expressing their gratitude for the funds provided. Opportunities exist for youth and families to attend camp through Crossways Camping Ministries over the summer, potentially with financial support from St. Stephen.
- Church Council Retreat—March 16th from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm, at the Nest at Big Brothers Big Sisters.
- Goals for 2025—Review Constitution & Bylaws; provide information about memorial funds to promote their use for their intended purposes; update membership list; compile church directory with photos.
- Synod Assembly—June 7th in Green Bay; two lay voting members are needed.
- Opportunity to make Ukrainian Easter Eggs—April 12th at 9:30 am at Pilgrim.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Utecht, Council Secretary