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THE DEACON'S SPIRIT

The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church



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

Deadlines:
Bulletin: Wednesday by 8:00 a.m.
Newsletter: 4th 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.



Father's Day Slide Show

We will be having a slide show honoring fathers on Father's Day which is Sunday, June 15th, during the announcements. Please submit your favorite photo of you and your father and/or a photo of you and your children/grandchildren. Please, no more than one photo from each category. All photos (submitted electronically) must be to Nancy Henke by Wednesday, June 11th. If you would like to submit a photo electronically, email to nhenke@sslcwausau.com. It would be preferable to have electronic submissions in a jpg. format. Please include the names of the people in the photos with your submissions. **IF YOU SUBMITTED A PHOTO LAST YEAR, THAT PHOTO WILL BE USED.** If you have questions, contact Nancy at 715-845-7858.

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

Connection and disconnection.

We all want to feel connection, to other people, communities, and to God. It's a fundamental human need. In spite of all of the opportunities for connection created by new technologies, we as a culture are feeling more lonely than ever before.



For the last week, along with many others across north central Wisconsin, I've been feeling disconnected in a really jarring way. My cell phone carrier was facing a cyber attack that interrupted phone service and some texting. I'm worried about the phone calls and texts that I may have missed. People report missing job interviews, communication in emergency situations (911 still worked), and connections with loved ones. It wasn't just Cellcom users who were impacted, it has been our entire community as we realize how deep our interconnectedness really is. Sincere apologies to anyone whose call or message I may have missed recently.

We have been forced to be creative in communication. It has made me thankful that we still have a landline at home even if it is only called by scammers and spammers. And it has reminded me how important communication and connection really are. As the body of Christ in the world, we as the Church are intimately connected. Our connection is literally fed and nourished in worship and Holy Communion. Word and connection is spread through technologies, some old and some new, such as this newsletter and bulletin announcements. Connection is not something we should take for granted, but something we get to practice. God is present and God shows up in our lives, thanks be to God!

Pastor Karoline

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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St. Stephen Calendar of Events							June 2025	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
1 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	2 11:00 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	3 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	4	5 6:00 AI-Anon	6	7		
8 Pentecost 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	9 1:00 St. Stephen Grief Group 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	10 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	11	12 6:00 AI-Anon	13	14		
15 Father's Day 9:00 Worship/Hymn Sing 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	16 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	17 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	18	19 6:00 AI-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics	20	21 12:00pm—7:00pm Mua Celebration in the Downstairs Auditorium		
22 9:30 Polka Service at Pilgrim Lutheran Church 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	23 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum MEMORIAL DEADLINE FOR JUNE	24 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	25	26 6:00 AI-Anon NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	27	28 9:00am—4:00pm Romang Bridal Shower in the Conference Room		
29 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	30 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum							



Anniversaries

The following couples are celebrating their June Wedding Anniversaries.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

June 4th

Charles & Joyce Fromfeld

June 7th

Dick & Sue Holster

June 11th

Nathaniel & Ashley Lenoble

June 13th

Edward & Jane Schwede

June 17th

Harold & Betty Lou Peterson

Thomas & Amy Robinson

June 18th

Mike & Amy Korpela

June 19th

Don & Karen Kromrei

Noel & Rachel Tordsen

June 20th

Ben & Jenah Kasten

June 30th

John & Holly Jorgensen

Bill & Pat Lonsdorf



Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating June Birthdays

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

June 2nd

Raymond Pasholk Jr.

Darlene Simmerman

June 4th

Deidre Kroeplin

June 7th

Faye Blarek

June 10th

Andrew Ralph

June 12th

Abigail Noschese

June 14th

Dawn Krueger

Nate Schmidt

June 15th

Wally Lewitzke

June 16th

Cayden Kershaw

Thomas Kole

Maegan Matter

Julie Post

June 18th

Amanda Woller

June 19th

Karen Kromrei

Ken Mylly

June 20th

Darcy Jensen

June 21st

Scott Romang

Ray Stotmeister

June 23rd

Bert Ruechel

Roger Zweck

June 24th

Bill Lonsdorf Jr.

Katie Wiskow

June 25th

Vicki Romang

June 26th

Doris Peterson

June 30th

Eric Van Natta



Funerals

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

James Boerner ~ May 3, 2025

Ruth Grell ~ May 16, 2025



Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop

St. Vincent de Paul is hosting a free community Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop on Friday, June 6th from 8:30am to 11:30am at NTC. The Bridges Out of Poverty model is a powerful platform for building empathy and insight as well as developing relationships of mutual respect with community members experiencing poverty. This workshop is open to the public. If you are interested in attending, RSVP to emueller@svdpwausau.org or call 715-298-3028 option 3.

Camp on Location

Join us at Rib Mountain State Park in Wausau for Camp On Location from June 23rd thru June 26th from 9am until 4:30pm (early drop off at 8:30am/extended pick up until 5pm)! This camp is for campers entering the 1st thru 6th grades in Fall 2025. \$125 per camper (full and partial scholarships available). Lunch and snack served daily. Campers will enjoy authentic, faith-filled experiences alongside a variety of outdoor activities including active games, curious nature exploration, and creative arts and crafts. The programming is rooted in the open and welcoming ELCA theology. Many campers attend from different faith traditions or none at all. Register at CrosswaysCamps.org/onlocation and use code TOWELTIME for a FREE limited-edition beach towel.

Church Rummage Sale

The Church Rummage Sale had another good year (despite the rainy weather and the meeting after church). We were able to distribute our proceeds to several different groups/individuals (more details will be in the next annual report). The Angels would like to extend our appreciation to those that helped move all the stuff into the auditorium, the bakers who donated such yummy treats, those that helped us pack up and fill the truck on Sunday, and all of you who donated items for the sale. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Office Hours

The office will be open on Mondays and Thursdays during the months of June through August. Nancy Henke will be working from home on Wednesdays and checking the church voicemail and her email. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please call Pastor Karoline Schwantes at 715-370-5514. Nancy will also be working from home the week of June 15th as there will not be a service at St. Stephen on Sunday, June 22nd due to the Polka Service at Pilgrim.

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Karoline will be on vacation Thursday, June 26th through Sunday, July 13th. If you have a pastoral emergency, contact Pastor Will Ostrem, Trinity Town of Stettin at 715-571-2750.

Polka Service

A Community Polka Service will be held at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 709 Weston Avenue, Wausau, on Sunday, June 22nd at 9:30am led by The Celebration Brass Quintet. Music, food, and fun after worship. Polka dancing with DJ, German style street food lunch, face painting, and fellowship. There will NOT be worship at St. Stephen on this Sunday.

Benevolence

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

ELCA National & Synod Support \$632

This is the fourth 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 \$14,054 for April.

St. Stephen Family Checkbook

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

April 1—30, 2025

What we received.....	\$22,935.
What we spent.....	(\$19,755.)
Our balance.....	\$ 3,180.

January 1—April 30, 2025

What we received.....	\$84,518.
What we spent.....	(\$90,006.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 5,488.)

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.

MAY 2025 MEMORIALS**Capital Campaign**

In loving memory of Jim Boerner –
Sarah Lonsdorf

In loving memory of Lynn Guth –
Beverly Magrecke

In loving memory of Grace Luetschwager and Jim Boerner –
Mary Beth Tolley

Current Expenses

In memory of loved ones –
Charles & Joyce Fromfeld

In memory of loved ones –
Kay Preller

Rummage Sale

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's annual Church Rummage Sale happen. To everyone who donated their treasures, to those of you who baked goodies for us to sell (we made over \$100 just on baked goods), and to those who came and shopped. A big thank you to those who helped us lug stuff down to the auditorium and pack up the leftover treasures (Vanessa, Darrin, Verlyn, Pam, Roger, Jeff, Gail, Bruce, Randy, and Pastor). And to Cecil and his helpers---thank you for getting all those tables set up and taken down (that is a lot of work). Loads of time and hard work went into this sale and without you it could not have taken place. Thank you!!!

Shepherd's Strummers

Shepherd's Strummers is a ukulele group from Good Shepherd. During the summer the group meets outdoors on the RiverLife Trail (by WOW) to bring the joy of making music together out in the community. They have songbooks and shakers available and welcome more than ukuleles. On bad weather days, there is an alternate indoor space available. Let Pastor Karoline know if you have any questions. Join us from 5:30-6:30pm on Mondays by the river and bring your instruments and voices, starting June 2nd!

Wausau Marathon County Shelter

The new WMC (Wausau Marathon County) shelter is open. The Good Stewards Committee will be hosting guests at the new site at First United Methodist church from 6pm to 9pm on the first and third Monday of the month through the end of 2025. We will assist guests coming in to change clothes, store personal belongings, provide a meal, and settle in for the night. The shelter is in need of toilet paper, paper towel, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, combs/brushes, body wash, men's boxer briefs, women's underwear, socks, sports bras, plastic utensils, plates, coffee cups, creamer, sugar packets, and 33 gallon trash bags. Please consider donating to the shelter and helping those less fortunate than us. Please drop off at St. Stephen labeled shelter or contact Shauna Robinson at 608-514-4504 if you have any questions.

Worship Updates

Here are some exciting events coming up in June and July. Sunday, June 8th is Pentecost and Confirmation Recognition. WEAR RED!!! On Sunday, June 15th we will have a Hymn Sing. Come and request your favorite hymn at this fun service. On Sunday, June 22nd there will be a community Polka Service at Pilgrim Lutheran Church (no service will be held at St. Stephen). And on Sunday, July 20th we will have a Christmas in July service!

CONFIRMATION RECOGNITION

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May 18, 2025
Congratulations
Confirmand!!!

Elizabeth Victoria Lenoble



Sunday, June 8th is Pentecost and Confirmation Recognition!!!

Join us for worship on Sunday, June 8th and help us recognize and celebrate our confirmation program! This year, our 3 year program had 12 students who met weekly to grow and explore their faith.

Six youth from three congregations were confirmed on Sunday, May 18th at Good Shepherd and we would like to celebrate this milestone and welcome them to the church, as well as thank the leaders: Pastor Karoline, Time Holcomb, Jenn Holcomb, and MJ Horvat. There will be cake and a small reception to follow the service. And wear red for Pentecost!

