

DATE: AUGUST 2025  
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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: 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.



*In  
God's Grace  
each dawn is a gift  
and every day a miracle...*

*To every thing  
there is a season,  
and a time to every purpose  
under the heaven.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:1

**Pastor Karoline Schwantes**/Phone: 715-370-5514/Email: [prkaroline@sslcwausau.com](mailto:prkaroline@sslcwausau.com)

I've recently returned from an amazing, whirlwind vacation. For just over 2 weeks, I travelled to 5 countries with 160 high school musicians and 248 travelers from all over the state with Wisconsin Ambassadors of Music. The band and choir performed concerts in London, Paris, Switzerland, Germany, and Austria. What an experience! As you can imagine, we saw and experienced a lot, ate amazing meals, laughed a lot, adapted on the go even more, and came home with an abundance of pictures and stories to share!



Visits to the churches are especially meaningful memories for this church nerd. The choir sang at L'église Sainte-Marie-Madeleine in Paris and at the Salzburg Cathedral. Accompanied by the organ, their voices filled the space, bringing feelings of both familiarity and of the uniqueness of the moment. The sound lingered as each song ended.

We also visited churches as tourist destinations. One group stumbled upon an organ concert at Westminster Abbey in London (I was jealous I was not a part of that group). While we visited Notre Dame in Paris, they were holding a service of the Rosary. The service went on in a roped off area in the center of the sanctuary of the Cathedral while loud tourists loudly wandered the outer edges of the space, gaping at the restored building, while desperately fanning ourselves against the heat of the day. The next day, I experienced a similar situation at Sacre-Coeur Basilica, where I joined the tourists exploring the space even as mass was being celebrated. As I looked at the stained glass, the soaring ceilings, and the wondrous artwork, I thought about what is central to our worship. What would it would be like to lead worship in the midst of tourists and onlookers more interested in the historic setting than the living Word spoken and sung?

There was a certain holiness to the explorations that did come about. Pausing to remember my baptism at the fonts, seeing students take a moment for prayer in the side chapels, and reading of the faithful witness of martyrs and saints. Though mass was celebrated in a different language to my own, I wondered at still being able to follow the flow of worship, finding recognition in patterns of liturgy. I noticed the ways the stonework and artistry proclaimed the stories of the Gospel in yet another way, remembering that even as these churches are being thought of more now as tourist destinations, they are still homes to active worshipping congregations. In fact, one of the choir concerts was delayed due to a funeral.

We expect God to show up in these places. But truly God showed up all over the trip! In graffiti in Paris, in conversation on the bus, in unexpected and common places, God was with us. One of the places I least expected was outside a German train station. A local church had equipped a small van with a foosball table, a ping pong table, small chairs and snacks. It was intended to provide a place of rest and conversation, recognizing that in our modern world we suffer from the effects of both busyness and loneliness. Church was happening on a street corner as well as in the historic churches down the street offering prayers for peace. God is showing up and meeting us in both the extraordinary and the common places.

*Pastor Karoline*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

St. Stephen Calendar of Events							August 2025	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
					1	2		
<b>3</b> 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	<b>4</b> 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>5</b> 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:00 Al-Anon	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>		
<b>10</b> 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	<b>11</b> 1:00 St. Stephen Grief Group 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>12</b> 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:00 Al-Anon	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>		
<b>17</b> 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	<b>18</b> 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum <b>MEMORIAL DEADLINE FOR AUGUST</b>	<b>19</b> 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:00 Al-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>		
<b>24</b> 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA	<b>25</b> 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>26</b> 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:00 Al-Anon	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		
<b>31</b> 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 7:00 AA								



## Anniversaries

The following couples are celebrating their August Wedding Anniversaries.

### CONGRATULATIONS!!!

#### August 2nd

Verlyn & Kathleen Oelke  
Stephan & Candi den Otter

#### August 3rd

Dennis & Sharon Lohrey

#### August 6th

Randy & Crystal Nielson

#### August 8th

John & Norma Bandock  
Alex & Jacque Schremp

#### August 11th

Mark & Tammy Kromrei  
Seth & Jeanette Wiskow

#### August 14th

Scott & Vicki Romang

#### August 15th

Kyle & Betsy Utecht

#### August 18th

Alan & Dawn Froehlich

#### August 20th

Michael & Debra Zahrt

#### August 31st

Chuck & Susie Johnson



## Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating August Birthdays

### CONGRATULATIONS!!!

#### August 2nd

Michael Holster

#### August 6th

Kolton Kershaw  
Bonnie Von Rueden

#### August 7th

Mathew Burish  
John Jorgensen

#### August 8th

Rhonda Will

#### August 9th

Gene Simmerman  
Gail Wolfe

#### August 10th

Glenda Modrzejewski  
Ashton Sekaney

#### August 14th

Patti Mortenson  
Greg Koch

#### August 15th

Delia Kole  
Randy Nielson

#### August 16th

Joanne Lewitzke

#### August 17th

Harmony Gosch

#### August 18th

Evelyn Lenoble  
Karen Prigge  
Carol Seymour

#### August 19th

Elsie Zastrow  
Wendy Zimmer

#### August 20th

Joseph Mohr

#### August 22nd

Kari Van Natta

#### August 24th

Riley Kromrei

#### August 23rd

Hannah den Otter

#### August 28th

Carla Eberhardy  
Betty Lou Peterson

#### August 30th

Larry Frick

"BE  
TRANSFORMED  
BY THE  
RENEWING  
OF YOUR  
MIND."

-ROMANS 12:2



## Coats for Kids

On Sunday, August 31st a table will be set up in our coffee hour area. You can start bringing in items from then until Wednesday, October, 29th. Nancy Prigge will get these items to the Wausau School District for them to distribute to schools/individuals in need. Gently used or new, kids to adult, all sizes are needed. Coats, jackets, sweatpants, snow pants, hooded sweatshirts, hats, gloves, mittens, boots, socks and underwear (must be new in package). Email [nancyprigge@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyprigge@yahoo.com) or call 715-432-6893 if you have any questions.

## God's Work Our Hands

The Good Stewards Committee met to plan Gods Work Our Hands. It has been determined that on the initial GWOH Sunday there are churches with conflicts and after talking with Pastor Karoline we have decided to move it to Sunday, September 14th. We will be making a meal down at the Marty Bus like we have done for the past two years. We will also be doing a collection for needed items. Each church will pick one or two items to focus on. More details to come so watch the bulletin board, bulletin, or September newsletter. St. Stephen is partnering with many other ELCA churches in the area including two new partnerships this year for GWOH: First English and St. Andrew.

## Lutheran World Relief

It's time to watch for sales on Lutheran World Relief items. This year we will assemble School Kits and Personal Care Kits. Primary needs are: lightweight bath towels (20"x40" to 52"x27"), bath size bars of soap, sturdy combs (no picks or fine-toothed), nail clippers, spiral notebooks (70-80 sheet), rulers (cm on one side), and crayons (16-24 count)

## Office Schedule for August

The office will be open on Mondays and Thursdays during the month of August. Nancy Henke will be working from home on Wednesdays and checking the church voicemail and her email. The week on August 3rd, Nancy will be on vacation and will return to the office on Tuesday, August 12th. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please call Pastor Karoline at 715-370-5514.

## Sending for Kathy Robinson

Our seminarian, Kathy Robinson, will be heading to Michigan for a year long internship. This is an important, exciting part of pastoral development and it is wonderful to be sending her off with our support and prayers. On Sunday, August 10th we will recognize Kathy during worship and celebrate her sending during our fellowship hour. Help us send her off! Please consider writing a card or note with prayers and encouragement that we can include in a small care package to send with her, as well as other tokens of appreciation. You can drop these off at church by Sunday, August 10th. If you prefer, you can e-mail your note to Pastor Karoline ([prkaroline@sslwausau.com](mailto:prkaroline@sslwausau.com)) and we will include it in the care package!

## WMC Shelter

We are in need of volunteers at the WMC Shelter on Monday, August 4th as well as individuals to help provide a meal, dessert, and drinks. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside of the office if you are able to help. The current needs of the shelter are: deodorant, toothpaste, nail clippers, hair ties, women's socks, razors (men's and women's), Tums, and Band-Aids. If you have any items that you would like to donate, please bring them to church. If you'd prefer to do a monetary donation please make a memo on your check or a note that states it's for WMC supplies. If you have any questions please contact Shauna Robinson at 608-514-4504.

## Benevolence

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

ELCA National & Synod Support \$619

This is the sixth 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 \$13,755 for June.

## St. Stephen Family Checkbook

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

### June 1—30, 2025

What we received.....	\$15,511.
What we spent.....	(\$15,114.)
Our balance.....	\$ 397.

### January 1—June 30, 2025

What we received.....	\$110,109.
What we spent.....	(\$128,281.)
Our balance.....	(\$ 18,172.)

## 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.

**JULY 2025 MEMORIALS****Building Maintenance and Repair Fund**

In loving memory of our Dad, Jim Boerner on his 90th Birthday on July 13th –  
Scott & Vicki Romang

**Capital Campaign**

In memory of loved ones –  
Jeff Blomquist

In loving memory of Charlie Fromfeld –  
Kelly Brown

In memory of friends and loved ones –  
Shirley Kasten

In loving memory of my Son, Mike Lee –  
Jim Lee

In loving memory of Charlie Fromfeld –  
Sarah Lonsdorf

In loving memory of our Mother, Ruth Grell –  
Ken & Nancy Schmidt

**Current Expenses**

In memory of loved ones –  
Joyce Fromfeld

**Quilting Fund**

In loving memory of our Mother, Ruth Grell –  
Ken & Nancy Schmidt