

DATE: SEPTEMBER 2026

Volume 259 • Issue 259

THE DEACON'S SPIRIT

The newsletter of St. Stephen Lutheran Church



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

Deadlines:
Bulletin: Wednesday by 8:00 a.m.
Newsletter: 3rd Thursday of the month.

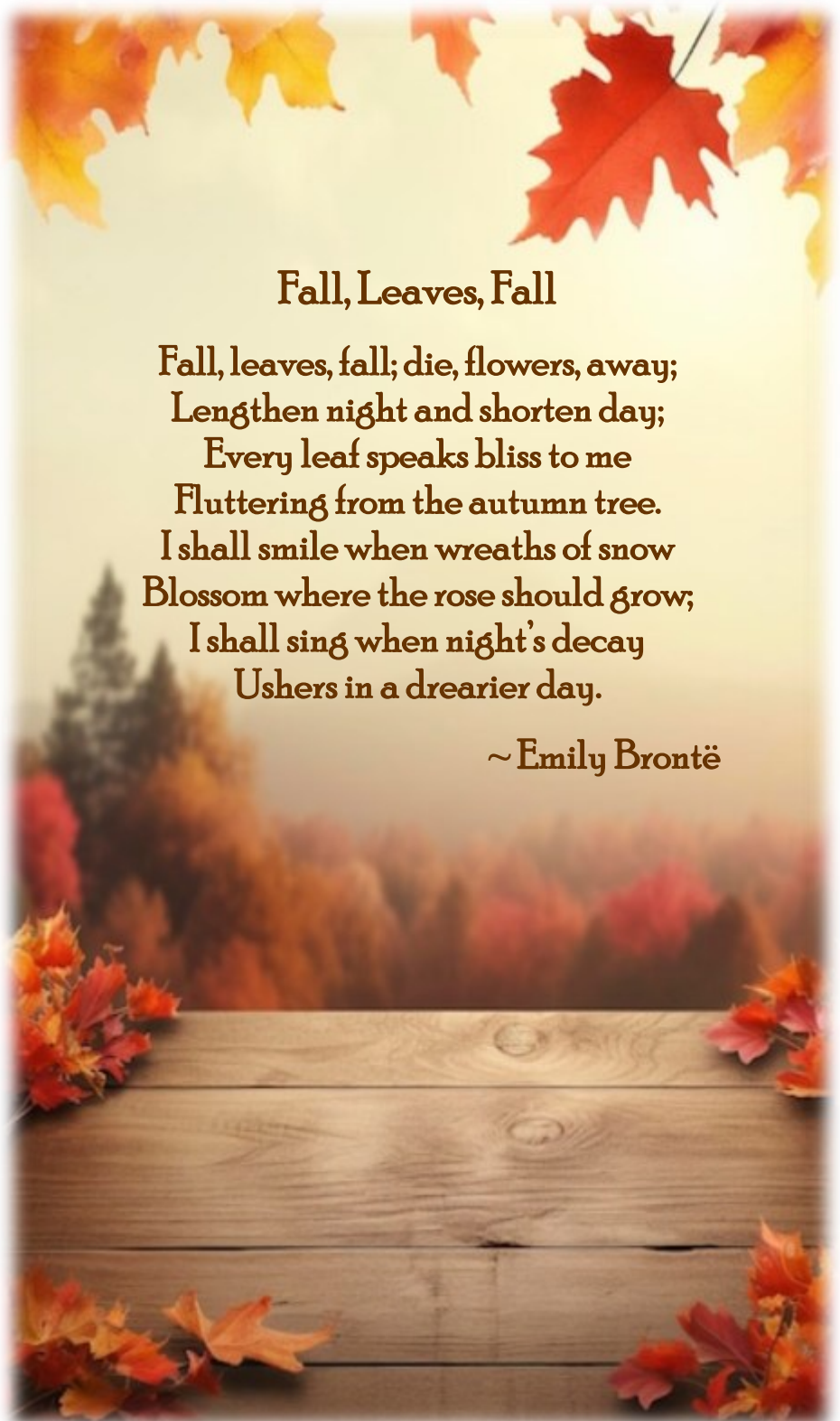
Facebook:
Join us to watch a livestream service
every Sunday at 9am at
<https://www.facebook.com/wausausslc>

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.

Fall, Leaves, Fall

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.

~Emily Brontë



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

We are St. Stephen Lutheran Church and we are "Walking Together to Celebrate Christ's Love!"



Wow, do we have a lot to celebrate! Not just the big merger, not just the fall programming beginning, not just the multiple ways we get to walk, roll, dance, sit, worship, laugh, cry, eat, pray, and play together, but we get to do all these things and more together in the fullness of Christ's love and grace for all of God's people and all of creation! Sounds pretty big? It is!

Join us for the celebration service on Sunday, September 20th and invite a friend. Check out our Bible studies, quilting, and other groups to find a way to connect. Do you have an idea? Share it!

There's been a lot of change lately and we still have a lot of hard work to do. It might not feel like we are ready to celebrate, but we're going to do it anyway! God meets us where we are and walks with us!

Pastor Karoline

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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St. Stephen Calendar of Events						September 2026	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
		1 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:00 Executive Comm. Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	2 10:00 Stephen's Angels 6:30 Choir Practice COATS FOR KIDS BEGINS	3 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AL-Anon 6:00 Trust Fund Comm. Mtg. 6:30 Worship	4	5	
6 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 6:00 AA	7 Labor Day 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum NO SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED	8 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 5:30 Council Mtg. 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	9 9:00 Quilting at Pilgrim 1:00 Women's Bible Study 3:30 Worship Comm. Mtg. 6:30 Choir Practice	10 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AL-Anon 6:30 Worship	11	12	
13 God's Work Our Hands 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 6:00 AA	14 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Dartball MEMORIAL DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER	15 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	16 6:30 Choir Practice	17 8:30 Quilting 6:00 AL-Anon 6:00 Special Olympics 6:30 Worship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18	19	
20 Celebration Service 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 6:00 AA	21 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 6:30 GriefShare 6:30 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:00 Dartball	22 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	23 6:30 Choir Practice	24 8:30 LWR Workday 6:00 AL-Anon 6:30 Worship	25 NO SCHOOL	26 12:00pm—3:00pm Baby Shower in the Downstairs Auditorium	
27 Blessing of the Quilts 9:00 Worship 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 12:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 14/TDS 6:00 AA	28 3:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 6:30 GriefShare 7:00 Dartball	29 10:00 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum 10:30 Worship Telecast Ch. 980/Spectrum	30 6:30 Choir Practice				



Anniversaries

The following couples are celebrating their September Wedding Anniversaries.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

September 2nd

Mark & Laurie Heuser
David & Michelle Larsen
Allen & Carol Seymour

September 3rd

Robert & Bonnie Pils
Gary & Betty Walters

September 6th

Kenneth & Lynn Rueth

September 10th

Ben & Michele Fandre

September 11th

William & Penny Windorski

September 14th

Randy & Kari Van Natta

September 16th

Jay & Patty Pippenger

September 19th

Roger & Pam Hackbart
Matthew & Lindsey Koski
Terry & Gloria Lyon

September 20th

Timothy & Pamela Bannister
Steven & Linda Konkel

September 25th

Dale & Mary Kay Clark

September 26th

Greg & Lisa Koch

September 27th

Jeffrey & Rhonda Will



Birthday Blessings

The following people are celebrating September Birthdays

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

September 3rd

Marjorie Krahn

September 4th

Cheryl Landeau
Ross Windorski

September 5th

Deborah Erickson
Steven Konkel

September 8th

Lori Napstad

September 10th

Simon Utecht

September 11th

Kessel Deffner

September 12th

Kathy Robinson

September 13th

Jamie Lemke

September 14th

Jennifer Shidell

September 15th

John Erickson

September 16th

Marshall Landeau

September 17th

Shauna Robinson

September 18th

Peggy Roble

September 19th

Elizabeth Utecht

September 20th

Harold Dabler

September 21st

Richard Swanson

September 22nd

Bruce Weinke

September 23rd

Ronald Foreman

September 24th

Abigail Hannes

September 19th

Eleanor Schneider

September 20th

John Schneider

September 21st

Timothy Remley

September 22nd

Hudson Haiker

September 23rd

Bonnie Spangberg

September 24th

Daryl Christian

September 25th

Kayle Kislow

September 26th

Sarah Lonsdorf

September 27th

Elroy Schalow

September 28th

Julie Bukowski

September 29th

Crystal Nielson

September 30th

Mary Beth Tolley

September 31st

Deb Gleason

September 32nd

Luann Theis

September 33rd

Ashley Lenoble

September 34th

Ryan Petersen

September 35th

Holly Jorgensen

September 36th

Annarose Brown



Calling All Families

If you have a young family member or just want to join the conversation about how we minister to and with young folk in our congregation, please contact Pastor Karoline about the possibilities of getting involved.

Celebration Service

Please mark your calendars to attend a special St. Stephen Sunday Worship Service on September 20th at 9am to celebrate our merger with our friends from Pilgrim Lutheran. We are excited to shine our light and lift our voices in song and scripture, as we "Walk Together to Celebrate Christ's Love." Immediately following the service, we will continue our celebration and fellowship with brunch in the church basement. More details will follow in the coming weeks. All are welcome!

Coats for Kids

Please mark your calendars for our 2026 Coats for Kids event. On Wednesday, September 2nd, there will be a table set up with a display in the coffee hour area to place your new, slightly used, clean donations. The timeline to donate is Wednesday, September 2nd thru Monday, October 26th. The donated items will then be delivered to the Wausau School District and DC Everest School District offices to be distributed to those in need. All sizes are needed from little kids to senior high students. Clothing, new in package underwear, and socks, etc. see the list on the display. Email nancyprigge499@gmail.com with questions. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Confirmation

Our Confirmation program enters a new season! For the last several years, we have shared a program with Good Shepherd and Immanuel. This year we're exploring a new plan. If you have a student in Middle School, please reach out for more details.

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 (dark colored) bath towels (20"x40" to 52"x27"), bath size bars of soap, toothbrushes (single), sturdy combs (no picks or fine-toothed), nail clippers, spiral notebooks (70-80 sheet), rulers (cm on one side), and crayons (16-24 count), and pens (blue or black).

National Youth Gathering

The ELCA Youth Gathering will be taking place in Minneapolis next summer! If you are a youth in high school or have one in your family, stay tuned for more information!

GriefShare

GriefShare is a 13-week video session and is a national program to help individuals to journey with the death of a loved one or someone very close to you. The sessions begin with discussion, viewing a 30-minute video, following with more discussion. We will be offering a fall session at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Wausau beginning on Monday, September 14th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm and ending Monday, December 7th. The sessions will be held in the conference room. You can register by contacting Shirley Ostrem by email sjostrem2113@outlook.com OR go to the GriefShare.org website.

Benevolence

Through your support of St. Stephen in the month of July 2026, we were able to contribute to the following ministry:

ELCA National & Synod Support \$902

This is the seventh 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 \$20,044 for July.

St. Stephen Family Checkbook

For the month of July 2026 and the year to date, the St. Stephen family checkbook looked like this:

July 1—31, 2026

What we received.....	\$30,228.
What we spent.....	(\$21,451.)
Our balance.....	\$ 8,777.

January 1—July 31, 2026

What we received.....	\$160,977.
What we spent.....	(\$157,234.)
Our balance.....	\$ 3,743.

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.

AUGUST MEMORIALS/MORE NOTES

AUGUST 2026 MEMORIALS

Capital Campaign

In loving memory of Ron Felch –
Sarah Lonsdorf

In loving memory of Ron Felch –
Randy & Crystal Nielson

Current Expense Fund

In loving memory of my Sister, Kathy Olson –
Shirley Kasten

In loving memory of Dee Wild and Judy Anklam –
Kay Preller

In loving memory of Ron Felch –
Kathy Seidel

Lay School of Ministry

Lay School of Ministry Registration Now Open! Are you looking to deepen your faith, grow in your understanding of Scripture, and discover new ways to serve in your congregation and community? The East Central Synod of Wisconsin's Lay School of Ministry invites you to register for the 2026–2027 school year. Lay School equips and encourages adults for lives of discipleship through engaging courses in theology, the Bible, Lutheran identity, worship, church history, spirituality, and practical ministry. Students may enroll in the Core Program or choose from several continuing education electives. Courses are designed for lay leaders and anyone seeking to grow in faith—no previous theological education is required. Registration is due Friday, September 4, 2026, and class sizes are limited. Learn more and register at layschool.ecsw.org.

Office Closed

The week of September 6th, Nancy Henke will be on vacation and will return to the office on Monday, September 14th. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please call Pastor Karoline at 715-370-5514. Thank you!

Stephen's Angels Planning Meeting

On Wednesday, September 2nd at 10am, the Stephen's Angels group will meet to plan the upcoming year. Anyone who is interested in joining this group (or learning more about what this group does) is welcome to attend this meeting. It will be held in the conference room at the church.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets the second Wednesday of each month at 1pm, starting in September. We are using a new resource this year "Together by Grace: Bible Conversations." Come join the conversation for an initial session on September 9th and join us again as we begin a conversation about the Psalms on October 14th. All resources will be provided.