



St. Stephen's Newsletter

August-September 2021

Devotional Thought

Businesses spend much time crafting a mission statement. This short phrase or paragraph gives guiding principles in how the company provides goods and services to others. Companies hold this mission statement in front of its leaders and employees at all times. It drives them to put forth their best effort in carrying out their vision.

What is our church here for? Have you ever thought about this question before? We come to church to hear God's Word. The church provides various educational opportunities for adults and children. The pastors bring comfort to those in the hospital or about to enter the glories of heaven. The church desires to carry God's Word to others in their community. All of these answers would be correct. The church is here to carry out gospel ministry among its members and to others.

It would be good for us to have a mission statement guiding us in our calling as a congregation and individuals. This statement guides the church in its ministry, as well as equipping individual Christians as they live out their faith and calling in life.

The church's mission can be summed up in three words: **Gather, Grow, and Go.**

We **gather** around God's Word. God tells us in Hebrews 10:25, *"Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have the habit of doing. Rather, let us encourage each other, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* Many temptations exist to get us to stop gathering together. We get used to watching church online, work commitments interfere with church, we grow apathetic to God's Word.

God calls us to **gather** together as fellow Christians. We come together to encourage each other in our walk of faith. We **gather** around God's Word, so that our faith might be nourished.

The church has a sense of community. We enjoy having fellowship with one another. We want to

gather with each other for public worship. Let us not take this for granted.

As we **gather**, we also **grow**. This growth does not focus on numerical growth. So often we want to judge a church's success on the number of people. However, God does not look for numerical growth but spiritual growth.

Paul often gave thanks to God for the growing faith of the people in the churches he served. He said, *"We are always obligated to thank God for you, brothers, as is fitting, because your faith is growing more and more"* (2 Thessalonians 1:3). We **grow** as God feeds us with his Word and sacrament.

We need to make use of the opportunities God places in front of us to **grow**. We come to worship services. We attend Bible Classes. We send our children to Sunday School and our Lutheran Elementary School. Families gather around God's Word in the home to **grow** together. As this takes place we will see many blessings as a congregation and in our personal life.

Finally, we want to **go**. God sends us out to share his Word with others. Our marching orders are given in Matthew 28:19-20, *"Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and by teaching them to keep all the instructions I have given you."*

Our mission is to **go**. We **go** to members who have not attended church in awhile. We **go** to reach the unchurched in our community. We even **go** into the world with our brothers and sisters in the WELS to carry God's Word to all nations.

Gather, Grow, and Go! Let's do our best to not only say these words but put them into practice. Let us encourage others to join us in this mission.

We need to impress this mission statement upon our hearts as we carry it out together. May God bless us as we **Gather, Grow, and Go!**

Pastor Dorn

Worship Opportunities

Permanent Worship Service Times

After hearing members' opinions at the July 18 listening session, the Church Council recommended the following permanent worship service schedule, which was adopted by the Voters' Assembly at its August 1 meeting:

Sundays: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Thursdays: 6:30 p.m.

Fridays: 1:30 p.m.

This schedule will take effect September 1st.

It also allows a 40-45 minute block of time for Christian Education (Sunday School/Bible Class) and fellowship.

Lord's Supper will be celebrated the 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays of the month (the Thursdays & Fridays before those Sundays).

Christian Education Sunday – August 29

Christian Education is not just meant for the youth of our church. Christian Education has something for all ages. God has blessed us with numerous opportunities for Christian Education. We have Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool, as well as our very own St. Stephen's Lutheran School. We offer Bible Classes for all to attend. Sunday School will return this year. Please join us on this special Sunday to give thanks to God for all the opportunities we have to make use of Christian Education.

- **Installation of Teachers** – God has blessed us with two new teachers to our faculty this year. In May, we had two teachers assigned to us from Martin Luther College (our synod's teacher training school). Mr. Joshua Barnett will teach the 5th grade homeroom and upper grade history. He will also serve as the music coordinator for our church and school. Mrs. Barnett will teach kindergarten. They will be installed in our 9:30 AM service on August 29. Please join us in welcoming Mr. & Mrs. Barnett to our congregation.

Finance Report

The following report is for the first six months of the year (Jan 1-June 30)

Cash on hand at Horicon Bank:
\$ 491,733.38

General Fund Balance:

\$ 173,413.83

Dedicated Funds Balance: \$ 318,319.55

(The largest Dedicated Funds are:

Restoration Fund: \$ 231,013.57

Special Improvement: \$ 36,357.76)

In these difficult last 17 months, our God has filled his people's hearts with great generosity. **To him be the glory!**

Christian Education Opportunities

Scholarships Awarded....

St. Stephen's has the privilege of awarding scholarships to our members attending Lakeside Lutheran High School in Lake Mills, WI, Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI, Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI.

Neuendorf Scholarship

This scholarship was started in 1992 by Mr. Eugene Neuendorf in memory of his parents. Scholarships are given to all students considering and studying for the public ministry at Luther Prep or Martin Luther College. The following scholarships were awarded this year:

- Grace Seim (Freshman at Martin Luther College)-\$1,000
- Taylor Zellmer (Senior at Luther Prep)--\$500
- Ayden Yerges (Sophomore at Luther Prep)--\$500
- Alexis Yerges (Freshman at Luther Prep)-\$500

Christ Estate Scholarship Fund

This fund uses the interest earned from a trust that has been set up to help all Martin Luther College students and male students at Luther Prep.

- Grace Seim (MLC)-\$400
- Ayden Yerges (LPS)--\$230

Lakeside Scholarship Fund

This fund helps students who are attending Lakeside Lutheran High School.

- Mya Hemling (Senior)--\$700
- William Hemling (Freshman)--\$700

- Elena Loest (Freshman)--\$700
- John Loest (Freshman)--\$700

Seminary Student Fund

This fund goes to men completing the last four years of their training to become pastors.

- Malachi Mortensen (Junior, 1st Year)--\$1,000

Congratulations to all these students. May God continue to be with you in your studies!

We thank God that we are able to help support these students. In addition to this we also take part in the Martin Luther College Congregational Partnership Program. This means that MLC matches our scholarships up to \$1,000 per student.

If anyone would like to donate to the Neuendorf or Lakeside Scholarship funds, they may do so. Please speak with Pastor Dorn with any questions.

Sunday School...

Sunday School will meet in person this year! After a year of adjusting to videos due to COVID, kids will once again fill the classrooms on Sunday mornings. Sunday School will take place from 9:10 AM-9:45 AM, starting on Sunday, September 12. All kids of the congregation from Preschool-8th grade are invited to attend. There is no need to register beforehand. We will have materials ready to go. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Dorn.

Catechism / Confirmation Classes Begin

- **7th & 8th Grade Public School Catechism Classes** will be conducted together with Good Shepherd. They will meet **Wednesdays** only, **3:30-4:45pm**. Classes begin **Wednesday, September 8**. All students will meet at St. Stephen's in the church basement. A letter with more information will be sent out in August.
- Public School **5th-6th Grade Catechism** classes will begin **September 9, 3:30pm-4:45pm, at Good Shepherd**. This is a new class this year. We are hoping to lay a firm foundation for when students get into 7th-8th grade. Pastor Reichert will lead these classes.
- Questions? Call Pastors Dorn or Stratman.
- If a student has special needs and would benefit with individual classes, the pastors are

more than willing to arrange a schedule that works for everyone. Please feel free to contact one of the pastors for more information.

For all adults...

Sunday Bible Class

Our new Sunday Bible Class time begins around 9:10. We plan to use the series *The Life of David*. We will look at events in David's life and connect them to our lives. The Lord uses David's strengths and weaknesses to teach his church. From David killing Goliath to David being overcome by temptation, we can see images of ourselves and learn how God deals justly with those he loves



Monday / Wednesday

September 13 and 15 will begin our fall weekday Bible study schedule. It has been said often over the last year and a half that we live in strange and difficult times. In all honesty, ever since the fall into sin that's been the case. Hopefully, our next Bible Class can help us deal with living in such times. We will work through the two letters of the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians, under a heading: *"Encouragement and Guidance for Christians Living in Difficult Times and Places."* **We will meet Mondays at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.** (same lesson at each) **in the church basement. Please join us!**

For Seekers...

The pastors love to take people through the Bible and answer any questions they have. On September 9, we will offer a class to present the basic teachings of the Bible. These classes are aimed toward those who have questions or are seeking membership in the church. However, they also serve as a refresher course for even the most veteran Christian.

We offer two times for these classes. They will be at 11:00 AM or 7:30 PM (same class just different times). Simply come to the church basement. Invite someone to this class. Better yet, come to the class with them. Your pastors will also be more than willing to talk to anyone interested in these classes. Please give their contact information to a pastor who will follow up with them.

Fellowship Opportunities

OWLS

Area WELS Seniors All are invited to Friedens Lutheran of Randolph on Tuesday, August 10th. We will have a potluck meal at 12:00 noon in the church basement. After the meal, we will head upstairs for a devotion. Ken Kehlenbrink of Randolph will give a talk on "African Hunting Trips." Friedens is handicapped accessible. Bring a friend and join the fellowship!

Church Picnic – August 29



Our church picnic will resume this year! Join us on Sunday, August 29, from noon-4:00 PM, at Lakeview Park for a time of fellowship, games, and food. Meat and drinks will be provided. We

ask that everyone please bring a dish to pass and lawn chairs.

We have plenty of activities planned. There will be bingo with prizes, a bounce house for the kids, and lawn games set out. Make plans to join us! If inclement weather happens on that day, we will move the picnic to the church basement. We will also be welcoming our new teachers also, Mr.

Lutheran Teens

Last year the Teens were unable to meet on a regular basis due to COVID. This year we are looking at getting back on track!

The Teen group is open to anyone in 7th-12th grades. We meet for Bible study, to form Christian bonds, and to have fun. Pastor Dorn sends out emails and/or texts to keep everyone informed of what is coming up. If you would like to be on this list, please speak with Pastor Dorn.

Our first activity will be on Saturday, September 11. We will be going to Mt. Olympus in the Wisconsin Dells. Times and cost will be figured out shortly and announced in the bulletin and on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/sslutheranteens>. In October a cookout is being planned.

Friends are always welcome. Parents are welcome to come to any activity.

The teens are also looking for volunteers to take in the "Cans for Kids" trailer. The proceeds for these cans are used for Lutheran Teens or other needs around the church and school. If any families are willing to help take those cans in, please let Pastor Dorn know.

Service Opportunities

Ladies Aid

"Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God". The Ladies Aid organization will meet, for the first time since last October 2020. Our September meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 2 at 1:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Pastor Heyer will start the meeting with a short Bible study; the business meeting will follow. No refreshments will be served at this meeting. We welcome anyone interested in serving our congregation through the Ladies Aid group. You may call Bonnie Wagner at 920-557-1973 with any questions about the group. Our Mission Statement is: "To assist the congregation in maintaining and furthering the program of the Kingdom of our Lord and to grow spiritually in our Christian faith and life".

Chairwomen of the Reception Committee met on July 1 to discuss and implement the reopening of the church kitchen and fellowship hall for serving funeral lunches. By majority vote, we will begin to serve our St. Stephen's family starting in the month of September. What a blessing to come to a Christian funeral held in our beautiful church and to, once again, be served a catered meal in our church fellowship hall. We will set up the hall to accommodate 75% capacity which is 96, with the ability to seat up to 125 if requested. We also encourage use of our fellowship hall for other family events. Any donation received goes back into St. Stephen's church, school, or WELS programs.

"In love God made us the crown of his creation. In mercy God planned our salvation. In grace God sent his Son to redeem us from sin".

Senior Choir Notice

Senior Choir begins rehearsal on Thursday, August 19th, at 7:00 p.m. after the worship service. (We will switch to 7:30 p.m. after September 1.) We meet in the band/choir room of the school. For August we are looking for a small group to work on special music for Christian

Education Sunday the weekend of August 29. During September we will work on music for Mission Fest, and in October we will work on music for Reformation. Do not feel that you have to be committed for an entire year. If you love Christmas or Advent songs, join us later on. If you love Lent or Easter praises, join us in January. We are a very flexible group and love new voices. If you are a confirmed member and love to serve your Savior through song, we would be happy to see you join us. Bring a friend and come to the first practice to learn more about what's happening this year. If you would like more information about Senior Choir, contact Pastor Stratman at 920-344-9934 or pcstratman@gmail.com.



St. Stephen's Radio Service

Services provide the opportunity to hear God's precious word and to sing with fellow Christians the hymns of the faith. **It airs every Sunday at 9:30am on WBEV (1430 AM).**

We record two half-hour services on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. We start at **7:00pm and finish around 8:10.** It's a simple and pleasant way to serve Jesus and his people. Our first recording session will be **Tuesday, September 14.** We record in the church. The Maple Ave, church office and ramp entrances will be open. Please join us! Another way to support this ministry, if you can't participate, is with an offering. Each half-hour Sunday service on WBEV costs about \$65.

You can listen to our radio services over the internet. Go to our [Radio Service Page and listen by streaming audio.](#)

VBS Thank you

Thank you to all who attend, helped out with, and donated items for our Vacation Bible School this year. We had the privilege of sharing God's love with 47 children. We also thank all those who put word out to invite others to our Vacation Bible School whether by word of mouth or putting signs in their yard. This would not be possible without you. If you put a sign up in your yard, you may return it to the church on Sunday or the office during the week.



School News

All Parents with Elementary School Age Children

St. Stephen's Lutheran School is an affordable, quality, Christian education for all of your children. There is no tuition charge. We have a book fee of only \$950.00 per child, per year to cover technology and consumable materials. If you have not enrolled your children in the past because you felt the cost would be too much, please reconsider. A quality, Christian education is affordable for about \$5.50 a day. Members of our congregation generously support the church and school so that the children can be taught the precious message of Jesus each day.

For more information about the school please check out the Web-site at <http://www.ssbdwels.com/school>. You can also call the school office at 885-6484 and we will gladly discuss the school with you.

Also check out Good Shepherd Preschool for your K3 and K4 children.



It's that time again! – Back to School

Vacation Bible School is over, and our teachers are now busy making their classrooms ready in preparation for the coming school year. What a blessing we have that we are able to share Jesus each day with the children.

Registration Packets are being delivered as teachers make their home visits. Be sure to examine all the information and bring the completed forms when you register. If you've lost yours, or if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Schulz (885-6484 or principal@saintstephen.org). **Registration dates are August 22, 8:00-12:00 and August 23, 5-7.** If you cannot make one of these days, please contact us and we will set up a time for you to register your child.

The complete school calendar is on the school website: www.ssbdwels.com/school.

First Day of School

Tuesday, August 31, 8:00am.

This early start time accommodates the correct number of instructional hours we need to be compliant. Our year will begin with a brief worship service at 9:00 am in the church.

School Supplies

Classrooms will be open and teachers available for parents and children to bring in school supplies and talk to the teachers. The dates and times are as follows:

Thursday, August 26, 4:30-6:00

Friday, August 27, 9-11

If you cannot make these dates/times, please let us know and we can arrange something, or the children can bring their belongings on the first day of school.



Singing Schedule

As of the writing of this newsletter, the singing schedule had yet to be determined. A singing schedule will be made available as soon as it is finished.

Help Our School by Saving Labels and Boxtops

We Collect:

- Boxtops for Education—download the Boxtops for Education app. With the app you select your school of choice and scan your receipts for funds to be gained.
- Our Family UPC (proof of purchase labels). Please cut off the proof of purchase bar code (# 70253). **Only** Our Family Bar codes can be accepted. Please drop all receipts off at the office.
- Amazon Smile is a way for online Amazon shoppers to help the school out. A percentage of all Amazon purchases goes to help the school. Be sure to log in to your Amazon account at www.smile.amazon.com and select St. Stephen's as the beneficiary.
- St. Stephen's SCRIP is also a way to help raise funds for the school and your family's fees. Information for SCRIP is available in the back of the church or at the church office.

RaiderWear

Anyone in the congregation who is interested in purchasing Raiderwear, the ability to order **will be** made available on our website at www.ssbdwels.com/school. The online store will be opening near the end of August. Please keep your eyes open for an email about our online store. A notice will also go into the bulletin once the store is live.

Faculty Update:

After a few years of uncertainty in our faculty, the Lord has blessed us with a full faculty for this year and many to come. With the rise in numbers for Kindergarten, it was also decided that an aide was needed and subsequently hired for this year.

Our 2021-2022 Faculty:

Kindergarten: Mrs. Kendra Barnett
1st Grade: Mrs. Brittany Trimmer
2nd Grade: Miss Renee Geiger
3rd/4th Grade: Mrs. Karen Cooper
5th Grade/Church music: Mr. Joshua Barnett
6th Grade/Athletic director: Mr. Tom Zuberbier
7th Grade/Principal: Mr. David Schulz
8th Grade: Mrs. Andrea Dorn
Kindergarten Aide: Miss Bridgette Schoebel
3rd grade math/reading/Principal A.R.T.:
Miss Vicki Hensler

May the Lord continue to bless the work of our Faculty here at St. Stephen's as we teach the Lord's little ones the truth and grace of His Word.

PTS

The **P**arent **T**eacher **S**ociety is an organization consisting of all parents and teachers at St. Stephen's Lutheran School. The main goal of the P.T.S is to strengthen the relationship between parents and teachers, which will provide the best learning environment for all students. We also want to help create, encourage, and promote the school to the community, which will be used as a beacon of God's love to all.

The P.T.S. has initiated a **new family welcome** to be held on **Monday, August 9, at 6:00 p.m.** The purpose of this event isn't solely for new parents. Veteran parents are also welcome to attend.

The agenda for the evening includes, but is not limited to:

- meeting the teachers
- covering certain aspects of the dress code
- how to communicate with the school
- ways to get involved in the school & church
- explaining a new family mentor program
- asking and answering questions
- a tour of the school building

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.