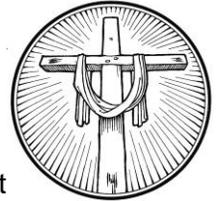




# St. Stephen's Newsletter

## June-July 2022



### Devotional Thought

A drive through the countryside reveals farmers planting their fields; even corn plants sprouting from the ground. You see gardens with plants in the early stages of growth and some of the early produce ready for picking, like rhubarb and asparagus. Every seed or root is planted with one goal: reaping a harvest.

God in his Word often uses the planting, growth and harvesting picture to teach a spiritual truth. It's the same: the seed is planted with the goal of reaping a harvest. The seed is his Word with its good news of forgiveness of sin and life eternal through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. It is "planted" in peoples' hearing and vision with the goal that, "planted" into their hearts, a harvest will be reaped. And what is that harvest? Full and fruitful life now and for eternity. Life that bears fruit that honors our Savior God and blesses people around us as we look forward to the perfect eternal life in heaven.

The Apostle Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to use the picture when writing to Christians in the Greek city of Corinth as he encouraged those believers in whom the seed had been planted to bear fruit for "harvest".

*"It is written in the law of Moses, 'You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out grain.' Is God really concerned about oxen, or does he say this entirely for our sake? Yes, it was written for our sake, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher ought to thresh in hope of getting a share. If we sowed spiritual seed for your good, is it too much if we reap material benefits from you?" (1 Corinthians 9:9-11).*

Paul was teaching that spiritual seed (God's Word) had been planted in those people with a goal of reaping a harvest - a harvest of souls in heaven; but also a harvest of material fruit for God's kingdom work on earth. He explained to them that he who had planted spiritual seed with them had the right to receive material support from them, a right he chose not to exercise with that group.

Expanding his thought a little, that expectation goes beyond a Gospel preacher receiving support to the Gospel ministry itself - a spiritual endeavor - receiving material support so that the ministry can be carried out.

Point of application - everything that a congregation is about is spiritual; planting the seed of the Word with the goal of an eternal harvest of souls. But there are certain "material" things that are necessary for such planting. People, a place where planting takes place, care of that place, etc. Our monetary gifts and our ability-gifts are given to our Lord. They are responses of love and thanks for the fact that in Christ we are part of his heavenly harvest. They are the material fruit of the spiritual planting. As the farmer/gardener expects fruit from what they've planted, so a Gospel ministry (church) expects fruit from the planting in the hearts of its members.

Covid times have been challenging for our Gospel ministry, both in carrying it out and in material support of it. Through generosity of God's faithful people and also through some unexpected outside sources we were able to maintain ministry and care of our place of ministry (church, school, etc). The "outside sources" were one time sources during the pandemic. Our thank offerings, the material harvest of spiritual planting, are what now and always must support the Kingdom work before us. May each of us consider our blessings from our Lord and respond to the glory of his kingdom!

*Pastor Heyer*

### Call News / MLC Graduation

St. Stephen's School alumnus Marcus Mortensen was assigned to teach science in the upper grades at Crown of Life Academy in Fort Atkinson, WI. We wish Marcus the Lord's blessings as he begins his service in the public ministry.

### Worship Opportunities

#### Summer Service Times

Just a reminder that our service times remain the same all through summer: Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM, Friday at 1:30 PM, and Sunday at 8:00 AM

& 10:00 AM. We will also continue our Sunday morning Bible Class between the services.

Are you going on vacation this summer? Let's not forget about worship. Our services continue to be streamed via Facebook. They are posted on YouTube on Monday mornings.

You can also find area WELS/ELS churches in areas where you will visit. Go to: [yearbook.wels.net](http://yearbook.wels.net) to find a church where you may be.

### St. Stephen's Radio Service

Since 1973 St. Stephen's has provided a half-hour radio worship service primarily for members who are homebound and in nursing homes, but also as a tool to share God's Word with many others. This service provides the opportunity to hear God's precious Word. It airs **every Sunday at 9:30am on WBEV (1430 AM).**

Each half-hour Sunday service on WBEV costs about \$75. You can listen to our radio services over the internet. Go to our [Radio Service Page and listen by streaming audio.](#)



### Christian Education Opportunities

**For all...** bible study will continue on Sunday mornings from 9:15 AM-9:45 AM. Currently we are going through "Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: Favorite Psalms of God's People". Be on the lookout for our next topic in the near the future.



### Bible Information Class (BIC)

Another session of our Bible Information Class (BIC) will begin soon. The pastors lead these classes for those who have questions about the Bible, wish to become members, or would just like a review of what we believe. These classes are held **Mondays and Wednesdays at either 11:00 AM or 6:30 PM, starting June 13.** If those times don't work, please speak with a pastor. We are flexible in finding a time that works for anybody.

If you know of anyone that would be interested in this class, invite them. Better yet, come with them. If you do not feel comfortable inviting them, give their name and number to a pastor.

### Vacation Bible School

Our Vacation Bible School will take place **July 25-29, from 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**

Bible stories, songs, crafts, and snacks will be just some of the things happening during this week. The theme for this year is "The Tree of Life". Join us as we learn how our Lord gives life that will last into eternity. Our Vacation Bible School is open to all, ages 3 yrs to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Invite your friends and neighbors. Please keep an eye out for online



registration, volunteer opportunities, and snack donations towards the beginning of July.

For those interested, Good Shepherd, our sister congregation, will be hosting Vacation Bible School August 1-5. Contact Good Shepherd for more information.

### Fellowship Opportunities



### Beaver Dam Area Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors

After a winter recess our OWLS group began meeting again in March. We hosted a brat fry / bake sale Mother's Day weekend at Jungs Garden Center in Randolph. Proceeds will be donated to the WELS European Chaplaincy ministry, the regular "project" of the national OWLS organization. We meet again in June (14th) at Friedens in Randolph. We begin with a potluck lunch at noon. Pastor Jon Bilitz who serves at Wisconsin Lutheran Chapel on the UW-Madison campus will present on ministering to our young people. In July (12th) we'll meet in Beaver Dam, maybe for a picnic (we'll see). Pastor Mike Duncan, who coordinates our WELS work in India and Nepal, will be our presenter.

OWLS is here for all our members 55 and older (or close to it!). We'd love to have more of our "seniors" join us for our fellowship.

### Lutheran Teens

The teens will be going bowling on Saturday, June 4, from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM. Cost is \$12 for 2 hours of bowling and shoes.

From June 28-July 1, 8 students and 2 chaperones will be attending the WELS International Youth Rally at the University of Tennessee. This rally gives youth the opportunity to gather for worship, games, workshops, and



entertainment. Please pray that all those attending might be blessed by this event.

## Calling All High School Graduates

High School graduation can be an exciting time in a young adult's life. At the same time many changes take place. Many leave home for the first time to attend college. Others join the workforce. Some might serve our nation in the armed forces.



One thing that should not change is their relationship with Jesus. The years after high school can be a challenge in this respect. We want to help.

On **Saturday, July 9, from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**, all high school graduates, no matter what their future plans might be, will be invited to come to **"Connecting Grads to Christ"**. We will have a meal and share encouragement to remain close to Jesus. Information on campus ministry will also be shared. Invitations will be sent out soon with more details.

## Mark Your Calendars!!!

**Church Picnic** is tentatively scheduled for **Sunday, August 28**. More information will be in future announcements and the next newsletter.

## Service Opportunities

### Ladies' Aid

The Ladies Aid Constitution Statement of Policies instructs us "to participate annually with the congregation to send "Care" cards to students attending school away from home and to members serving in the military". The card of encouragement contains a monetary gift determined by the amount collected to let our children know we are thinking of them and praying for them.

Although our congregation has been very generous with their giving, the number of recipients has decreased dramatically. We can only send greetings to children whose families let us know where their child will be attending school or where their child will be stationed while serving their country. Please call the church office at 920-885-3309 to update your child's address for the upcoming school year.

The Ladies Aid ladies are hoping to continue this service by sending cards out sometime in early November (before Thanksgiving and Christmas break). We receive many "thank you's" from our young members who appreciate hearing from their home congregation.

"O Lord, in your mercy bless these gifts, receive our offerings, and make us living sacrifices to you; through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen"

## School News

### God Given Opportunities

As one looks at the life and missionary journeys of Paul, you really begin to see the hand of God at work in every person. Paul, formerly known as Saul, persecuted and imprisoned people for their belief in Christ. God came to Saul one day on the road to Damascus. This man, who once was an enemy of God, became one who spread the Gospel message of Jesus to the corners of the Mediterranean. God gave Paul opportunities throughout his life to tell others about Jesus. Paul used his life to advance the Gospel.

We can see the life of Paul in each of us as well. We are born enemies of God, separated by the deep chasm of sin. There is nothing in us naturally to bridge that gap. God sent his son as the redeeming sacrifice. His life, death, and resurrection assure us of the gift of FULL and FREE forgiveness.

As children of God, let us not give up on his word throughout the summer. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you live your lives. This summer you may go on vacation or you may stay home throughout the summer, but there will be endless opportunities to spread the Gospel message. Don't miss those opportunities to live your life of faith. Don't worry about what to say. God will help you in every need. Have a great summer & stay connected to the Lord

Teach me to  
WALK in the LIGHT  
& HIS love

## Faculty news:

Let us give thanks to the Lord. We have a full/stable faculty for the first time in the past 7 years.

Mr. Schulz-Grade 7 homeroom, Math, Principal

Mrs. Dorn-Grade 8 homeroom, Science, Tech

Mr. Zuberbier-Grade 6 homeroom, Language Arts, P.E.

Mr. Barnett-Grade 5 homeroom, Social Studies, Music

Mrs. Cooper-Grade 3-4, Student Council

Miss Hensler-Grade 3, Principal A.R.T.

Miss Geiger-Grade 2, Forensics

Mrs. Trimmer-Grade 1

Mrs. Barnett-Kindergarten

We say goodbye to Miss Schoebel. This year she served as an aid to the Kindergarten. We thank you, Miss Schoebel, for all you did this year. Congratulations on your upcoming wedding in August and on finishing your schooling next year.

**PTS (Parent-Teacher-Society)** will continue to be looking for ways to help build up the relationship between the parents and teachers of our school. More information will be coming at the start of the next school year.



### Other School Information:

This past year we graduated 13 students from 8th grade. May the Lord continue to bless them on their journey into life.

Congratulations and Lord's blessings to:

Lukas Bradley, Leah Dorn, Eli Fairbank, Scarlet Fister, Elijah Gensmer, Hope Hmielewski, Easton Keil, Timothy Milan, Gavin O'Brion, Olivia Rodenkirch, Anna Taylor, Mason Wittnebel.

Please watch for news about the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. School will resume on August 30.

Give Thanks! Let us always give thanks to the Lord our God for the goodness he has shown us. He has given us so much in our lives, let us respond to that with offerings of thanksgiving. The ministry of St. Stephen's School is always grateful for the support it receives through its members.

## Help Our School by Saving Labels and Boxtops

Please consider using the following. They go to help families that need assistance in sending their children to school at St. Stephen's.

We collect:

- Boxtops for Education---app available for Android and Apple users. Physical Boxtops are no longer printed on the boxes. The receipt has to be scanned in order to collect funds from this program.
- Our Family UPC (proof of purchase labels). Please cut off the proof of purchase bar code and drop them off with a teacher at school. The bar code # should key in with the #70253. Only Our Family Bar codes can be accepted.
- For all you Amazon.com shoppers out there, please go to: [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) When you sign in with your credentials, and select Saint Stephen's Lutheran Church, Beaver Dam, as the benefactor. Every purchase will generate 0.5% to benefit our school. It may not seem like much, but every little bit helps our school.

## From the Church Office

Summer office hours will start in June. The office will be open Monday thru Thursday from 7:30am-noon, 12:30pm to 4 pm, and Friday from 7:30am to 12pm. Closed Friday afternoons.

### Managing God's Gifts For Ministry Our Finances (January-April)

#### General Operating Fund

Expenses: \$404,826

Income: \$351,954

Deficit: \$-52,872

#### Special Dedicated Fund Balances

Restoration Fund: \$283,411

Special Improvement: \$11,388

Neuendorf Scholarship: \$22,470

LLHS Student Assist: \$1,461

*In All Things,  
Give Thanks*

I Thessalonians 5:18