



St. Stephen's Newsletter

August-September 2022

Devotional Thought

Where has the summer gone? As I sit down to write this, July only has 11 more days left! When the calendar turns to August, a flip also switches in many people's minds. They panic. People want to squeeze in one more vacation, family event, trip to the State or county fair. We do this because we know what August means.

The month of August signals that summer is quickly winding down, and school will soon start. Actually, it started in July with stores having sales on school supplies. However, in August reality sets in that school is just around the corner. For grade schoolers they want summer to stretch a few more weeks. High School students have practices and make plans to cut back hours at their jobs. College students prepare the things they need for their dorm or apartments.

Summer will quickly dwindle away. The school schedule will soon be upon us. Some look forward to this time with joy, while others detest it.

We do not look at school only as the enemy. School provides a valuable benefit. Students attend school in order to learn. They gain knowledge to help make them responsible citizens in society. Everyone has different gifts. Some will excel in math, others in science, or perhaps in history. Every teacher strives to get the best out of their students, as a student uses their ability to honor God.

Learning does not stop once someone graduates from school. We learn our entire life. A doctor learns new techniques to bring healing to patients. A person working in IT needs to keep on top of the ever changing world of technology. Plumbers and electricians will always learn new ways to carry out their duties safely and efficiently. Our entire life is one of learning.

Learning should always be a part of our life as a Christian congregation. We will want to be a spiritually growing church. The book of Proverbs contains many wise sayings. Some of those sayings deal with wisdom. God holds wisdom and learning as valuable.

Proverbs 9:9, says, "Give advice to a wise person, and he will become even wiser. Teach a righteous person, and he will add to his learning." God encourages us to always grow. Grow in our knowledge of him. Learn the wisdom that comes which will give us eternal benefits.

Sadly, we often forget about growing in our spiritual life. The devil lays out many temptations in front of us. Our own laziness prevents us from growing in our faith. The world holds out secular wisdom as the ideal, rather than wisdom from heaven that completely changes our hearts.

Our congregation offers many opportunities for us to grow in our faith. The biggest one is weekly worship. We gather together as brothers and sisters around God's Word on a weekly basis. We want to come to church. We desire to grow in our faith.

Many families make use of our Lutheran Elementary School. Here teachers hold Christ in front of students every day. Students learn how God created this universe and holds it together throughout all of history. Students use their talents and abilities to give glory to God in everything they do.

Our Bible Class schedule will soon get into full swing. We offer a Sunday Education Hour for the whole family in between our worship services. Children attend Sunday School. Everyone else can attend a Bible Class. Monday and Wednesday gives another chance for us to grow, as we offer Bible Classes during those days.

It does not just take place here at church. Our homes should be a place of spiritual growth. Families spend time around God's Word and prayer. We need to take time for our own spiritual growth. Our souls need constant refreshment.

Let us not forget to grow spiritually. When we do, we will see blessings from God. Our faith will grow. Our fellowship with each other will become stronger. We will want to grow in our wisdom.

Pastor Dorn

Worship Opportunities

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m

Fridays at 1:30 p.m. (abbreviated; no singing)

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

Our block of time for Christian Education (Sunday School/Bible Class) and fellowship is 9:10 - 9:50 a.m.

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

Let's make worship of our Savior God with brothers and sisters in Christ a priority in our weekly schedules!

Christian Education Sunday – August 28

Christian Education is meant for all ages! God has blessed us with numerous opportunities for Christian Education. We have Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool, and our very own St. Stephen's Lutheran School. We offer Bible classes for all to attend. Please join us on this special **Christian Education Sunday** to give thanks to God for all the opportunities we have for Christian Education, and to receive encouragement to take advantage of these opportunities!

Recommitment of Teachers – God has blessed us with an unchanged faculty for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. In our 10:00am service, our teachers will recommit to the promises they made when installed as teachers at St. Stephen's, to be faithful to God's Word in their teaching and to be faithful in the use of their abilities in serving the Lord as they teach his "lambs" in their care.

Finance Report

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

General Fund Balance:

\$ 30,928.05

Dedicated Funds Balance: \$ 651,822.88

(The largest Dedicated Funds are:

Restoration Fund: \$ 285,520.98

Special Improvement: \$ 21,018.49)

To God 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 (LLHS) in Lake Mills, WI, Luther Preparatory School (LPS) in Watertown, WI, Martin Luther College (MLC) in New Ulm, MN, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS) 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 (Sophomore at MLC)--\$2,000
- Ayden Yerges (Senior at LPS)--\$900
- Alexis Yerges (Sophomore at LPS)--\$900
- Austin Yerges (Freshman at LPS) \$900

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)--\$150
- Ayden Yerges (LPS)--\$73
- Austin Yerges (LPS)--\$73

Lakeside Scholarship Fund

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

- Elena Loest (Sophomore)--\$900
- John Loest (Sophomore)--\$900

Lakeside Lutheran High School also participates in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP). The state awards vouchers to families meeting certain income requirements. These vouchers allow students to attend Lakeside and pay no tuition. If you would like more information about this program, please contact the church office.

Seminary Student Fund

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

- Malachi Mortensen (Middler)--\$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 \$1,200 per student.

For us to continue to offer these scholarships, we need generous donors. Anybody can donate to the Neuendorf Scholarship Fund, Lakeside Lutheran Student Assistance Fund, or Seminary Assistance. If you would like to donate to these funds, please speak with Pastor Dorn or contact the church office.

Sunday School...

Our Sunday School is open to all children from age 3 through 8th grade. We meet on Sunday mornings, 9:10 AM-9:50 AM.

Students will go through a Bible lesson every week. On the first Sunday of the month, all classes join together for a "fun day". We play Bible Bingo, Bible Trivia, and other games.

The first day of Sunday School will be September 11. There is no need to register beforehand. Simply come to the lower level of the school, and we will have forms to fill out and directions on where to go from there. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Dorn.

Catechism / Confirmation Classes Begin

- **7th & 8th Grade Public School Catechism Classes** will be conducted together with Good Shepherd. They will meet **Wednesdays, 3:30-4:45pm**. Classes begin **Wednesday, September 7**. All students will meet at **Good Shepherd**. Pastor Reichert will lead this class. A letter with more information will be sent out in August.
- Public School **5th-6th Grade Catechism** classes will begin **September 7, 3:30pm-4:45pm, at St. Stephen's**. This class introduces students to Bible History in preparation for the 7th-8th grade confirmation years. Pastors Dorn and Stratman will be teaching this class.
- 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 Sunday Bible Class meets between Sunday morning worship services, 9:10 - 9:50. It is held every Sunday, except the first Sunday of each month when we have our Coffee Fellowship Hour. In mid-July we began a study on the life of Abraham and God's working in his life, and how this affects us as "children of Abraham" 4,000 years later. This study will continue through August and probably into September. Please join us for growth in faith, Bible knowledge, and for fellowship over some coffee, juice and small treats!

Monday / Wednesday Bible Study

We will resume our weekday (Monday nights / Wednesday mornings) Bible Class after Labor Day, beginning **September 12 & 14**. **We will meet Mondays at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.** (same lesson at each) **in the church basement**. We will read through the Bible book of Hebrews under a theme of "**Don't Forsake Jesus!**" Opposition to Christ's teaching and to his believers resulting in persecutions put that temptation to "forsake Jesus" into the thinking of many "Hebrew" Christians living in the mid to late first century A.D. That temptation still haunts us today. We will hear the encouragement to see and trust Jesus as greater than any earthly thing that could come against us or comfort us. Join us for this encouragement!

For Seekers...

The pastors love to take people through the Bible and answer any questions they have. Beginning Thursday, September 8, 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 each Thursday - 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 are invited to our next **Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors** get together. **Tuesday, August 9** we meet at Friedens Lutheran in Randolph. Our potluck meal starts at 12:00 noon in the church basement. After the meal, we will take time for a Bible devotion, followed by a presentation about “Christians in Government” by Wisconsin State Assemblyman Jeremy Thiesfeldt from Fond du Lac, who “was” a WELS teacher who still teaches in an adjunct capacity at Winnebago Lutheran Academy

Our **September 13** “meeting” will be at St. Stephen’s following the same “schedule”, with our presenter being David Niemi, retired WELS teacher from LaCrosse now working for Kwik Trip, who will share the “Kwik Trip Story”. (Kwik Trip founders/owners, the Zietlow family, are WELS members). OWLS is our “Seniors” organization for fellowship and service, open to those 50 years and older. Bring a friend and join the fellowship!

Church Picnic – August 28



Our annual church picnic will be on Sunday, August 28, from 11:30 AM-3:00 PM, (we will eat at noon) at Lakeview Park. Meat and drinks will be provided. We ask that everyone would 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 other games set out. Make plans to join us! If inclement weather happens on that day, we will move the picnic to the church basement. **Join us for this time of fellowship!**

Lutheran Teens

Lutheran Teens is open to anyone in 7th-12th grade, friends are even welcome! We join together for various activities and Bible studies. We aim to meet at least once a month. In the past we have done bowling, laser tag, a corn maze, and many other fun activities. We also help serve the congregation by helping for a Lenten Supper and serve donuts during coffee fellowship.



Our first activity is tentatively planned for Saturday, September 10. More details will follow in the church bulletin.

Members of the Lutheran Teens also help recycle the aluminum cans from the trailer in the church’s parking lot. Money collected from these cans help support the Teens activities to keep costs down for different events. If a family would like to volunteer, please speak with Pastor Dorn. If an individual would like to go with someone else to drop the cans off, please let Pastor Dorn know.

We always look forward to having new people join us. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Dorn.

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”

A Taste of Hand Bell Choir

On Wednesday, August 17 and August 24 at 7:00pm, we will be having a “Taste of Hand Bells.” Anyone who might like to see what Hand Bells are about or if you are interested in joining, we would love to have you come on either or both of these dates. The Hand Bell Choir will be starting practices later in September and we are in need of new members. **Experience is not needed** as we would enjoy teaching you how to play the bells. Our practices are Wednesday evenings at 7:15pm until about 8:30pm in the church balcony. We play in church about seven times a year and also at Advent by Candlelight.

Please call **Ranee Welch 920-887-1624** by August 15 and leave a message if you are interested in knowing more or would like to join.

Senior Choir

St. Stephen’s Senior Choir is about to begin another year of praising the Lord in song! Senior Choir is an opportunity for all confirmed members of our church who enjoy music to enjoy fellowship, sing beautiful choral music, and glorify our God. Senior Choir rehearses every Thursday during the school year from 7:30-8:30pm. We primarily sing at church festivals, such as Reformation, Christmas, Holy Week, and Ascension. If you cannot make every rehearsal, or if you only want to participate during a certain part of the year (only Christmastime, only Lent, etc.), you are still welcome and encouraged to join us.

Our first rehearsal is **Thursday, August 25, at 7:30pm in the school Choir Room.** If you want to participate in Senior Choir at any point this year **but cannot make the first rehearsal, please contact Mr. Barnett** so that a music folder can be prepared for you. There is no commitment, and latecomers are welcome at any point in the year. If you have any questions at all,

don’t hesitate to contact the director, Mr. Barnett, at jbarnett@saintstephen.org or 262-234-2981. See you on August 25th!

St. Stephen’s Radio Service

This service provides 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).**



Volunteers record two half-hour services on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, September through March. We start at **7 pm and finish around 8:10.** It’s a simple and pleasant way to serve Jesus and his people by singing hymns and speaking other service sections. Our first service recording sessions will be **Tuesday, September 13.** We record in the church. The Maple Ave, church office, and ramp entrance will be open. Please join us! Another way to support this ministry is with an offering. Each half-hour Sunday service on WBEV costs about \$75.

You can listen to our radio services over the internet. On our website (www.ssbdwels.com), go to our [Radio Service Page and listen by streaming audio.](#)

VBS Thank you

We had another wonderful time at Vacation Bible School. We shared the wonderful news of God’s love with many children!



A huge thank you goes out to all those who helped in any way. We received many donations of items for snacks, people volunteered their time to help during the week in classrooms or in the kitchen, and we had many members put yard signs out to help publicize this event. Thank you to all!

School News

It’s that time again! – Back to School

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 (920-885-6484 or principal@saintstephen.org).

Registration Days @ St. Stephen's

August 7, 9:00am-12:00pm

August 8, 4:00pm-7:00pm

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.

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 website at <http://www.ssbdwels.com/school>. You can also call the school principal at 920-885-6484 and we will gladly discuss the school with you.

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



First Day of School

Tuesday, August 30, 8:00am.

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

All are welcome!

Singing Schedule

The singing schedule has been placed on our website. There are numerous dates for each group to sing at church. Please be sure to have your children present as they sing praises to the Lord.



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 25, 9-11

Thursday, August 25, 4-6:15.

If you cannot make this, please let your child's teacher know and another time can be arranged, or the children can bring their belongings on the first day of school.

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.

Our 2022-2023 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

3rd grade math/reading/Principal A.R.T.:

Miss Vicki Hensler

(A.R.T. = Administrator Release Time)

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.