



# St. Stephen's Newsletter

## June-July 2023

### Devotional Thought

Ten years. A lot happens over the course of ten years. Just take a moment and think about the past ten years. We have seen many changes in our congregation. We welcomed many new teachers to our midst. We also said goodbye to many teachers from our school. Parents have brought children to the baptismal font to receive adoption into God's family. Husbands and wives started their marriage journey asking God to bless their newly formed family. Tears from family members have been shed as they say their final farewell to a loved one whom God has brought to his side in heaven.

Over the last ten years, things have happened that brought changes to how we worship. The synod introduced a new hymnal for us to use. It pays homage to the past while also bringing in new ways for us to worship. Even though we might still be getting used to it, it is a very useful tool in our worship life. A worldwide pandemic caused us to close our church for a while. We stream our services, which reaches a broader audience than just those in the pews. A lot of things happened over the previous ten years.

At the same time, not much has changed in ten years. The devil works just as hard now to rip people away from God's protective embrace. The world comes up with new ways to deceive the masses.

The most important thing has never changed, God's Word. The truth of the gospel has been proclaimed in classrooms and from the pulpit. This gospel message assures us of the forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus. The gospel brings comfort to the grieving and sustains the weak.

Proverbs 22:19 says, "Today I make my words known to you-yes to you, so that your trust will be in the LORD" (EHV).

Ten years ago, I came to this congregation. I claimed to know nothing except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I rejoiced with many during the joyous

times of life. I cried with those going through difficult times.

With a sad heart, my time of service will soon come to a close here at St. Stephen's, as my family transitions to our new home and ministry at Emanuel Lutheran Church and School in New London. Many have expressed how my family will be missed. We will miss everyone here as well.

As we look forward, we know change will come. A new pastor will come in the Lord's good time. My ministry will take on a new scope among new people. However, one thing will not change, the message.

God will continue to make his words known to you. Even though we are separated by distance, we are united as brothers and sisters in the faith. We raise our prayers to the same God. We proclaim the same message. One day, we will be in the same place. We will be with all the saints living with God in glory for all eternity.

Ten years. Those years have been filled with many blessings. Thank you for everything! My family will truly miss everyone here at St. Stephen's. Even though all of us will experience change, we thank God that his Word and promises for us never change.

*Pastor Dorn*

### 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 (95.3 FM)**.

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 9:10am - 9:50am. Currently we are reading through the book of Jonah under a theme of "Jonah: A Prophet in Spite of Himself". This will continue probably into July. There will be NO SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY on June 4 and 11, due to "Farewell Coffee Hours" for Miss Geiger and Miss Hensler (4th) and for Pastor & Mrs. Dorn (11th).



## 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 12**. 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 24-28, 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 "*God's Living Water*". 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 6<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 7-11. Contact Good Shepherd for more information.

## Fellowship Opportunities

### Special Coffee Fellowships

Fellowships will be held **June 4<sup>th</sup>** and **June 11<sup>th</sup>** in between church services to celebrate called workers that have used their gifts to bless St. Stephen's for many years.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> we will be expressing our gratitude to two of our teachers,

#### **Miss Geiger and Miss Hensler**

who are retiring after over 40 years of teaching.

On June 11<sup>th</sup> we will be expressing our gratitude to our pastor and teacher

#### **Pastor and Mrs. Dorn**

who will be serving our Lord in New London, WI.

A gift/card box will be placed in the back of church for any and all forms of gratitude the next 3 Sundays.



## Beaver Dam Area WELS Seniors

Our group began meeting again monthly in March, with great potluck lunches and presentations by Jocelyn Mentuis on Edwin Brix Vineyard & Winery in Oak Grove (Martin & Chris Sell Family) and by Pastor Heyer on the Beaver Dam Lutheran Hospital. 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. Our next get-togethers will be June 13 at Good Shepherd, with Pastor Paul Steinberg sharing with us his work with Milwaukee central city WELS schools. July 11, weather permitting, we will have a potluck picnic at one of our Beaver Dam parks, with former St. Stephen's Pastor Leon Ehlert telling about his work connecting foreigners in the U.S. with WELS ministries; a WELS project called "Diaspora". Our potluck lunches begin at noon, followed by a devotion and the presentation for the month.

Our Seniors Group 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. Feel free to bring a friend!

## Lutheran Teens

I want to thank all those who have helped with Teens over the years. This includes all the drivers, chaperones, and teens who have attended.



Matt O'Brion will continue to lead this group. Who knows maybe a joint event is in the future with Emanuel in New London?

*Pastor Dorn*

## Service Opportunities

### Your Help Needed

Volunteers are needed to help remove items from the school kitchen on **June 4th at 11:10am**. Please call the office 920-885-3309 or speak to Matt O'Brion. No children please.

### Ladies' Aid

Your St. Stephen's Ladies Aid continues to carry out its mission to grow in Christian faith as children of God and to serve him by serving our congregation. That service primarily takes the form of coordinating and serving meals for families, mostly for funerals, but also the occasional Baptism or Confirmation lunch, or bridal or baby showers held in the church basement/fellowship hall.

We are thankful to the several ladies (AND MEN) who are not Ladies Aid members who gladly help with serving of funeral lunches. Our May luncheon is our activity during which we extend special thanks to them, and to others in our congregation who assist us in one way or another (secretary, custodians, etc.). At our May Luncheon we also try to include some kind of ministry presentation. This year Pastor Dale Hella joined us to share the story of the Spanish language ministry at our sister church, St. Mark's in Watertown.

If you are able and willing to help now and then at the serving of a "funeral lunch" we would love to have your help! Contact Pam Schultz or Pastor Heyer.

During the Summer months we will take a break from our regular monthly meetings. We resume on Thursday, September 7 at 1:30 P.M.

## 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. Our faculty for this past year:

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 farewell to Miss Geiger and Miss Hensler after 40+ years of ministry in WELS. We say farewell to the Dorn family as they move their ministry to New London. We also say farewell to Cathy Hemnitz, our Kindergarten aide for the past 9 months. Lord's blessings to you in all your endeavors.

We will welcome Ms. Amy Helwig into our presence in the month of June.

There will be some changes moving forward, but we accept those changes and move on with the Lord's ministry to the children of St. Stephen's.

**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:  
Alydia Bradley, Ella Czarnik, Holly Grebel,  
Tristan Kittel, Coltyn Kroschel, Reece Mielke,  
Serena Mittag, Caleb Ravanelli, Ethan Roen,  
Kelin Schmuhl, Olivia Uttech, Silas Van Dusen,  
Taylor Weekes.

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.

We were able to share our goodness with two missions this year. Throughout the year the children raised \$1,051.90 for Costa Maya Missions and \$1,066.65 for Good News Lutheran Church in Mt. Horeb, WI. What a wonderful gift from our students to the missions of our synod.

Please watch for news about the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. School will resume on August 29.

**"Thank you!" A message from Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery**

Thank you to the people who have updated the owner's contact information at Highland Memory Garden. There are still many St. Stephens families that have loved ones buried at Highland and/or currently own lots that have not yet made contact.

**Highland Memory Gardens is asking that families please consider contacting Highland using an email address:**

**[HMG.Trenton@gmail.com](mailto:HMG.Trenton@gmail.com) with their latest postal addresses and preferred telephone**

**THANK YOU!**

**numbers.** A mention of the family name would be helpful. You will receive a confirmation email acknowledging your successful contact. The above address can also be used to contact Highland about your questions and concerns in the future. Your email address will be used only for Highland's business and is protected by Google's 2 Factor security, Blessings!

**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 Noon. Closed Friday afternoons.

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

General Operating Fund  
Expenses: \$ 406,972  
Income: \$ 371,902  
Deficit: -\$ 35,070

We are borrowing from our Dedicated Funds to meet regular expenses, primarily from the Special Improvement Fund. As the Lord blesses you, please consider special or extra offerings to the General Fund, so that we can meet our ministry expenses and pay back our Dedicated Funds for special purposes.

Special Dedicated Fund Balances

Restoration Fund: \$ 320,536  
Special Improvement: \$94,275  
Neuendorf Scholarship: \$23,170  
LLHS Student Assist: \$ 3,769

Automated & consistent giving throughout the whole year is easy and convenient. Visit "ONLINE GIVING" at [www.ssbdwels.com](http://www.ssbdwels.com) or stop in the office to set up an opportunity to give electronically!

**Voters Ministry Spending Plan (Budget) Meeting –Sunday, June 18, 11:10 A.M.**

In January the Voters Assembly decided to move our Church financial activity to a fiscal year (July-June) to better coincide with School financial activity and with changes in called workers (New Teachers' adopt a 2023-24 Spending Plan (budget) to take effect July 1. We know it's Father's Day, but since it's a one topic meeting we hope to accomplish our business within 30-40 minutes. St. Stephen's Church Council