



St. Stephen's Newsletter October-November 2024

Devotional Thought

Search For What Was Lost

Jesus told this parable, "Suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:8-10).

My wife works with a lady who buys her lottery tickets every now and then. One day, a rumor spread that our local grocery store sold a \$100,000 ticket. We both thought, "Are we winners?" How would we spend it? Then I said, "Honey, where's the ticket?" After a brief panic and a 20-minute search of the house, we found it. The ticket was a loser.

When we lose something that we hold to be valuable, we search for it frantically. That's what Jesus described in this short story about a woman searching for a coin that she lost. Without Jesus, you and I are like that lost coin. Our lustful thoughts, hurting words, and loveless deeds—everything we think, say, or do that fails to be perfect—are sins that separate us from God. How frightening to be lost in sin!

Thankfully, though, there is good news! Jesus came "to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10). God sent Jesus to find us and reconnect us to God. Jesus did that by loving us so much that he paid for all our sins by his death on the cross. That's how much Jesus loves us!

Jesus searches for us and finds us. The angels in heaven rejoice! Jesus comes to us through his Word and takes away our fear by comforting us with the forgiveness of sins. He assures us that he has made us dearly loved children of God. Through Jesus, heaven is our inheritance.

God loves us so much that he stopped at nothing to find us and save us from eternal separation

from him in hell. Through Jesus, we have the gift of eternal life, which is a whole lot more valuable than winning the lottery. How fortunate we are! We will never be lost again when we cling in faith to Jesus, our Savior.

Come and share with us the love of Jesus. Like heaven's angels, we can rejoice over all that Jesus did to find us and give us life with God.

From *WELS Evangelism*

Worship Opportunities

Worship is part of our lifelong faith formation, that is, our growth in faith as the Holy Spirit reforms the image of God within us, and as he also builds and strengthens us in faith. Worship service times are:

- Thursdays, 6:30 P.M.
- Fridays, 1:30 P.M. (abbreviated)
- Sundays, 8:00 & 10:00 A.M.
- Lord's Supper offered in all services connected with the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of a month.

Mission Festival, October 3 and 6



Our 2024 Mission Festival focuses on Home Missions, especially in the special work of

institutional ministry. Our Preacher/ Presenter will be Pastor Philip Henselin, who is the executive director of Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministries

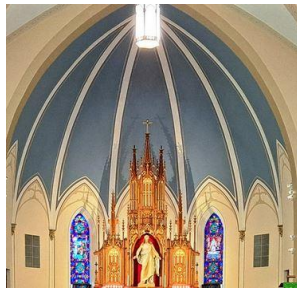
(WLIM). A potluck - fellowship meal will take place Sunday at 11:30 A.M. followed by a presentation by Pastor Henselin. Please join us! Also, learn more about WELS Institutional Ministries by scanning the QR code or going to <https://im.life/>



Homecoming / Rededication / Open House,

October 20, 6:30 p.m.

Much long-awaited, long-anticipated, long-needed work has been done on our church interior. After over four months of work, from February through mid-June, and other



repairs and improvements inside and out, it's time to celebrate. Our jubilee service will be Sunday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m. We will also invite our area WELS churches to join us in our celebration. The service will feature Marty Haugen's *Holden Evening Prayer*, led by our school children and choir.

Thanksgiving Worship, November 27-28

Thanksgiving worship will be Wednesday, November 27th at 6:30 P.M. and Thursday, November 28th at 10:00 A.M. There will **not** be afternoon worship on Friday, November 29th @ 1:30 P.M.

Christian Education Opportunities For All...adults and children!

Our Monday and Wednesday classes began after Labor Day.

This fall we will study the truth of God's Word about how he created all things and preserves us richly and daily, reviewing the First Article of the Apostles' Creed guided by Luther's Large and Small Catechisms. We meet Mondays at 7:00 pm and Wednesdays at 11:00 A.M. in the Church basement.



Sunday Morning Bible Study

We just are continuing our "Adult Version Sunday School". We study the same lesson as the children, with some *deeper*, more thought-provoking questions and applications for adult Christians. Class begins at 9:10 A.M. and ends around 9:50 A.M. We also hope this time can provide another opportunity for more fellowship. On Sundays, come for worship at 8:00 A.M. and stay for class, or come for class at 9:10 A.M. and worship at 10:00 A.M. *This class recesses the first Sunday of each month for coffee fellowship.*

Sunday School

Our Sunday School is off to a fantastic start. If you would like to join us, you are always welcome! We meet in the lower level of the school from 9:10 A.M.-9:50 A.M. You may enter the doors by the ramp entrance or from the school parking lot.

Fellowship Opportunities

Fall Festival

On October 27, we will hold our annual Fall Festival. This gives us an opportunity to open up our campus to our community. The event runs from 3:00pm-5:00pm.

We need many volunteers to help make this day a success and there are many opportunities for all ages and abilities to help. Families, or individuals, can decorate their vehicle for our Trunk N' Treat, help manage games, welcome visitors, or serve refreshments.



Please take a look at the sign-up sheets at church to see how you can help with this event.

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Fall Rally

The LWMS Fall Rally will be held on Saturday, October 12th, at St. John's, Fox Lake. All St. Stephen's ladies are members of the Missionary Society. Registration is at 9:30 A.M. and the day will conclude at 2:30 P.M. For more info, contact Carol Lathrop or one of the Pastors.

Advent by Candlelight, December 8

This is a program of worship and fellowship to prepare us for the Christmas season. All women of the congregation 18 and older are invited to be table hostesses or to come as guests. Wanting to be involved? There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex for guests, table hostesses, male servers, set-up and take-down starting in midOctober.

We will need instrumentalists, vocalists, and musicians of all kinds and talents for this program.

If you have any questions or plan to help in any way please call Jane Winning @ 920-344-0400 or email winningway@charter.net or Ranee Welch @ 920-887-1624.

OWLS (Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)



Our Beaver Dam area WELS Seniors gatherings happen monthly on the 2nd Tuesday, alternating between Friedens-Randolph and St. Stephen's.

Every gathering begins with potluck lunch at noon, followed by a devotion and a presentation.

Our October 8th gathering will be at Friedens, Randolph and will be a presentation on the Blackhawk Indians in southern Wisconsin in the 1800's. The November 12th gathering at St. Stephen's will be a presentation from Thoughts of Faith/ Gift of Life Ministry in Ukraine. Singing of Christmas hymns and carols will be at Friedens, Randolph on Tuesday, December 10th. We take a break during the bad weather months of January, February, and March. We encourage all our members over 50 years of age to join us.

Service Opportunities

Altar Guild

Altar Guild is responsible for set-up and care of the chancel (altar) area for worship, which involves setting up for and cleaning up after Communion services, changing paraments, etc. At this time, we are a group of about 10 dedicated servants. New people are most welcome to join us in this opportunity for service to our Lord and his people. Some Altar Guild members have recently retired, so new helpers are most welcome. For more information, talk to a Pastor or Melody Scott (920-210-8560).

Ladies' Aid

We "gather" monthly on the 1st Thursday at 1:30 P.M. in the church fellowship hall for our Bible Study, a business meeting followed by fellowship over dessert.

We "grow" by inviting ladies of the congregation to join us any month to learn about our group and to participate in our activities.

We "go" by joining with other organizations to provide coffee and snacks every Sunday during the Bible study between services. If you are dropping your children off for Sunday school, come down and join us in the church fellowship hall for a cup of coffee, a snack, and The Word!

Our most noticeable service is serving meals to families after funerals. We invite anyone to help us in this service activity. Talk with a Pastor or Ladies Aid leaders Pam Schultz, Carol Lathrop, or Edi Tiedt.

"Bless the labors of my hands, Lord God, to do your work in my time and place. Amen."

Lift Up Your Voice with the Senior Choir

Senior Choir rehearses **Thursdays at 7:30 P.M.** after the worship service.



We meet in the band/choir room of the school. If you are a confirmed member and love to serve your Savior through song, we would be happy to see you join us. If you would like more information about Senior Choir, contact Mr. Josh Barnett.

St. Stephen's Radio Service

Our Service airs Sundays at 9:30 A.M. on 95.3 FM



Our Radio Service provides the opportunity to hear God's precious word and to sing with fellow Christians the hymns of the faith.

We record two half-hour services on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month (September – April). We start at **7:00 P.M. and finish around 8:10 P.M.** We record in the church. The Maple Ave, church office and ramp entrances will be open. **Please join us!**

School News

Impressed

Our school theme this year, **Impressed**, follows that of Lakeside Lutheran High School. We are looking at how God's word is impressed at days' end, days' beginning, at home, and on the go. Each quarter we will focus on a separate passage and separate area of impression. Quarter 1 is how God's word is impressed as we end our day. Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." Throughout the quarter we will look at different areas of scripture and how they apply to our lives.

This year's 1st quarter mission collection will be going to help the students at LPS and Project Timothy. Project Timothy allows older students to travel to different parts of the world to help spread God's Word. It is an encouragement for those contemplating ministry work.

Mrs. Fai Monson and Mrs. Estervig are our instructors for band and piano again this year. We look forward to what they can do with these students this year. Look for them in different services throughout the year.

If you ever desire to know more about our week, go check out the St. Stephen's website at: www.ssbdwels.com/school and click on school news. There you can see all the newsletters from various classes and the things each room is doing.

Veterans Day celebration will take place on November 11. We are inviting all veterans to attend our chapel service at 8:00 A.M. After our chapel service, we will transition into honoring all our veterans with songs and speeches. There will be a gathering in the church basement after with a light snack provided by the Ladies' Aid of St. Stephen's.

Spread the word about this wonderful event. Invite your family and friends and especially the veterans of your family.

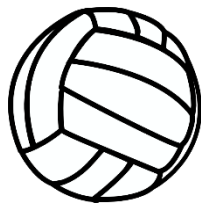
Sports

Our various fall sports teams are working hard as time progresses. A lot of God given abilities are being shown on the volleyball court and cross-country courses.

Cross Country has competed in a few meets already and are looking to finish out the season at our conference meet in October.

Volleyball is going strong. Both the A and B teams have played multiple games already and have shown promise as they learn and perfect the sport through practice and games.

Keep your eyes open as we move forward into the winter sports seasons for various basketball games and tournaments.



Facebook Check-ins:

In our world of social media, a check-in is a great way to show your friends and family where you are. Many people will check in when they are at a restaurant, a professional sporting event, a concert, and many other places. Why not take a few seconds when you are at our school or another Lutheran Day School to check and let people know what you are celebrating. It is a great way to communicate that St. Stephen's Church and School is part of your life and community. Next time you are on Facebook, Instagram, or whatever social media app you use, take a few seconds to post where you are, who you are with, and what is happening. Also a great thing to post when attending a church service.

SCRIP:

Our school runs a SCRIP program. This program allows families to buy gift certificates for everyday items and then direct the proceeds to one of four specific areas. Information is available through the office and website. Please contact our SCRIP Coordinator at scrip@saintstephen.org, or visit the table in the narthex of the church.

Upcoming School Events:

October 6: Mission Festival @ church

October 12: Fun Run to raise funds for playground equipment

October 24-25: No School (WLSTC)

Oct 30-Nov 2: Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 11: Veterans Day Celebration w/chapel, starting at 8:00 A.M.

November 27-29: No School (Thanksgiving)

Our 2024-2025 Faculty (new additions)

Kindergarten: Mrs. Kendra Barnett

1st Grade: Mrs. Brittany Trimmer

2nd Grade: Miss Amber Wenman

3rd/4th Grade: Mrs. Karen Cooper

5th/6th Grade/Church music: Mr. Joshua Barnett

7th Grade/Athletic Director: Mr. Tom Zuberbier

Algebra/Art/Jr. Choir/Principal: Mr. David Schulz

5-8 Math/Science: Mr. Marc Meihack

K-2 Aide: Mrs. Veronica Putri-Schultz

