



St. Stephen's Newsletter

October-November 2025

Devotional Thought

How can I be happy when people attack me for doing the right thing?

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness."

Matthew 5:10

Parents who won't let their teenage daughter go to R-rated movies might not win a "Favorite Parent" contest with their daughter's classmates because they seem too restrictive. They are only trying to look out for the welfare of their daughter. A factory employee working at a fast pace may get a talking to by others on the job. He might hear, "Stop working so hard. You're making the rest of us look bad." He's only trying to be a faithful worker and do his best. A freshman in high school has spent hours studying for the science test. Some of his classmates know that he'll do well on the test, so they ask him to let them copy his answers. He tells them "No." Those same classmates begin to make life miserable for him. He was only trying to be honest and not help others cheat.

Can any of these people be happy that they did the right thing? Is there any happiness in being looked at differently or having a reputation ruined? Wouldn't it be better to do things that won't cause conflict? It may surprise you, but Jesus says that people can have joy in their hearts for doing the right thing. *"Blessed (happy) are those who are persecuted because of righteousness (doing the right thing), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

Jesus knew that it isn't always easy to do the right thing. But with these words Jesus is talking to people who know him. They know who he is. They know he is God who came as the Savior to forgive their failures and guarantee a place in heaven for them.

People who know and trust in Jesus want to do the right thing. They want to be parents who look out for their child's well-being. They want to use their talents and abilities as best they can. They

want to live honestly. They do this even if they are attacked for doing the right thing. In the way they live, they want to thank Jesus because he's promised them the gift of heaven.

Be happy knowing that there is someplace better waiting for you. It's a place where there is no backbiting or peer pressure. It's the place called heaven. Jesus promised it.

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.

Festival Anniversary Service,

Sunday October 5 at 3:00 p.m.

Our guest preacher will be Pastor Kevin Westra, a Beaver Dam native and 1980 graduate of St. Stephen's School. Kevin currently serves at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hortonville, Wisconsin. We will have special music from the Senior Choir and the children of St. Stephen's School. A meal will follow. Please join us for this wonderful opportunity of thanksgiving and fellowship!

Thanksgiving Worship, November 26-27



Thanksgiving worship will be Wednesday, November 26th at 6:30 P.M. and Thursday, November 27th at 10:00 A.M. There will **not** be afternoon worship on Friday, November 28th at 1:30 P.M.

“Founding Day” on December 7 in our 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services.

A former pastor, Leon Ehler, will be our guest preacher. Leon served at St. Stephen's from 1991 to 1996, and currently serves at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The actual date of St. Stephen's first service was December 5, 1875. The worship service for that day will be a reconstruction of what an 1875 service may have been like, only in English.

Ministry Spending (Financial) Update

Under God's blessing hand extremely generous gifts have been given in the last year and a half to accomplish some major projects – sanctuary restoration, new outdoor sign, new school playground structure. Only \$13,000 remains to pay off the playground after some unexpected excavation expenses, and another \$15,000 is needed to replace gymnasium bleachers. How blessed!

At this point in time, though, the regular, ongoing expenses of St. Stephen's ministry are far outpacing our offerings and other income (tuition, etc.). The end of September brings some hefty expenses for our ministry – salaries, health insurance premium payments, quarterly called worker pension payment. It appears that some “creative” borrowing will need to take place to cover those expenses. With our special projects almost completed and paid for, could each of us look at our blessings and bring some special gifts for our General Fund, or perhaps decide to increase our regular thank offerings? All the special projects are nice, but the ongoing Gospel work of our Church and School are what our Savior calls us to do continually. Let's support that work!

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

Our Monday and Wednesday classes began after Labor Day. This fall we will study the book of Galatians and how some of the struggles of the early Galatian Christians apply to us today and how those wonderful truths can comfort us in our lives. Join us as we study the book of Galatians and the study “By Faith Alone.” We meet Mondays at 6:30 pm and Wednesdays at 11:00 A.M. in the Church basement.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Our Sunday Bible Class meets between Sunday morning worship services, 9:10am - 9:50am. It is held every Sunday, except the first Sunday of each month when we have our Coffee Fellowship Hour. We are continuing our study of “19 (or more) Minutes with the Messiah.” Please join us for growth in faith, Bible knowledge, and for fellowship over some coffee, juice and small treats!

Sunday School

Our Sunday School is off to a fantastic start. If you would like to join us, you are always welcome! This is a wonderful time for the children to learn the Biblical accounts taught purely at their age level. Let us help assist you in teaching your children about the one thing needful. 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 26, 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. **New this year will be a prize for the best decorated trunk.** This will be voted on by the families walking through and the prize will be a \$50 gift card to a retailer or gas station. Please take a look at the sign-up sheets at church to see how you can help with this event.

Lutheran Teens

The Lutheran Teens had their first gathering on Sunday September 28. This was an organizational gathering to discuss how the teens wanted to proceed with events and service projects. As their input is gathered, please keep an eye out for announcements in the bulletin, messages on Facebook, and emails for updates on events.



Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Fall Rally

The LWMS Fall Rally will be held on Saturday, October 18th, here at St. Stephen's. All ladies are members of the Missionary Society and all are welcome to attend this day full of Christian fellowship and communication. 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 7

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 mid-October.

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 14th gathering will be at St. Stephen's and will be a presentation by the Dodge County Historical Society on the Dodge County Effigy Mounds. The November 11th gathering at Friedens', Randolph and will be a presentation from John Kehren on Synod Planned Giving. Singing of Christmas hymns and carols and a presentation from Pastor Stratman about the history of Christmas carols will be at St. Stephen's on Tuesday, December 9th. 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

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 Carol Lathrop, Pam Schultz, Sue Luckow, 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 **6:30 P.M. and finish around 7:40 P.M.** We record in the church. The Maple Ave, church office and ramp entrances will be open. **Please join us!**

School News

Pursue

Our school theme this year, **Pursue**, follows that of Lakeside Lutheran High School. We focus our attention on Philippians 3:12, "I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. The theme and passages we will focus on will remind us that Jesus has (and still is) pursuing us and we in turn, are pursuing salvation in our lives. We have broken this into 4 categories:

- 1) Pursue
- 2) Priorities
- 3) Persevere
- 4) Preserve

As the year progresses we will focus on each one of those words and passages that go with them.

This year's 1st quarter mission collection will be going to help the mission work that LLHS OpGo teams perform. OpGo is a program that Lakeside runs. It allows students aged 16+ to be part of teams that go and spread the Gospel.

Mrs. Fai Monson and Mrs. Rachel Henriquez are our instructors for band and piano this year. Mrs. Monson joins us from Jefferson and Mrs. Henriquez comes from Johnson Creek. 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 10. 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 already this year. 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.

Upcoming School Events:

October 5: Anniversary Service @ church
October 30-31: No School (WLSTC)
November 10: Veterans Day Celebration w/chapel, starting at 8:00 A.M.
November 26-28: No School (Thanksgiving)

Our 2025-2026 Faculty/Staff

Kindergarten: Mrs. Kendra Barnett
1st Grade: Mrs. Brittany Trimmer
2nd Grade: Miss Amber Wenman
3rd Grade: Mrs. Katrina Reis
4th Grade: Mrs. Karen Cooper
5th-8th Grade (Various classes)/Church music: Mr. Joshua Barnett
5th-8th Grade (Various classes)/Athletic Director: Mr. Tom Zuberbier
5th-8th Grade (Various classes)/Principal: Mr. David Schulz
Building Aide: Mrs. Corrine Stratman
K Aide: Mrs. Veronica Putri-Schultz