



# St. Stephen's Newsletter April-May 2026

## Devotional Thought

### I Need More...STRENGTH

After several attempts of twisting and tapping, the lid just wouldn't budge. "Honey, can you open this for me?" Her teenage son is eager to flex his muscles. He opens the jar and hands it back to his mother.

Life is sometimes like that jar, isn't it? Sometimes we just don't have the strength we need to tackle what's in front of us. Not the strength it takes to move a piano or change a flat tire, but the strength we need to raise our children or stay married to someone who is difficult to live with. We need the strength it takes to go to work and deal with people who are rude, inconsiderate, and lazy, or to walk to the mailbox that contains bills we'll have difficulty paying.

I need more strength!

"Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth... He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak... Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:28-31).

What should we do when we need more strength? Hand that jar over to the LORD. He has all the strength we need and so much more. After all, he is the One who created the earth and everything in it. More than that, this strong, wise, loving God came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ. The all-powerful God came in human weakness to rescue us from sin and death. He was condemned and crucified. Weakness, right? No! Strength! Jesus used his strength to remain on that cross until every last sin of ours had been paid for. His empty tomb proves it. "Jesus was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4). Death has been defeated! The guilt of sin before God has been removed! By trusting in Jesus, life in heaven is waiting for us.

Need more strength? The One who created the earth has it. The One who died and rose for you has

it. He is the One who gives us the strength to face each day with fresh confidence. Find that strength in his Word. And then be ready to soar. Be ready to soar on eagles' wings with renewed strength and through every challenge of life! Be ready to soar on eagles' wings to the home that Jesus has prepared for you in heaven!

*WELS Evangelism*

## Worship Opportunities

### Regular Service Times

Sundays, 8:00am and 10:00am  
Thursdays, 6:30pm  
Fridays, 1:30pm

## Holy Week Schedule

### Holy Communion



Holy Communion will be offered throughout Holy Week. Tuesday (3:45pm), Thursday (3:45pm & 6:30pm) and Easter (8:00am) to give everyone the chance to receive this personal assurance of Christ's presence and forgiveness.

### Palm Sunday Service

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, our Sunday School (8am) and our Children's Choir (10am), will take part in our Palm Sunday Service. They will proceed into the church bringing palms and then offer their song of praise to Jesus, our King. Palm Sunday begins our Holy week journey with Jesus to his cross.

### Holy Week Tuesday

A Confessional **Communion** service will be held at 3:45pm on Tuesday, March 31.

### Holy (Maundy) Thursday

Holy (Maundy) Thursday Worship with **Communion** will be held at 3:45pm and 6:30pm on Thursday, April 2.

### Good Friday MIDDAY

Good Friday MIDDAY Worship will be at 1:30pm on Friday, April 3.

### Tenebrae Service

Our Tenebrae Service will be on Good Friday at 7:00pm. Tenebrae is an ancient service order of increasing darkness. By extinguishing candles and gradually dimming lights we sense the darkness that surrounded Jesus as the burden of the world's sin rested on him. This service is different from the afternoon service. Come to one, or better yet, come to both, to appreciate Jesus' sacrifice for you!

## Great Vigil of Easter

Celebration of our Lord's Resurrection and of our Baptism takes place at 7:00pm April 4<sup>th</sup> at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, here in Beaver Dam. We remember our own baptismal connection to Christ's death and resurrection. We celebrate the reality of the resurrection in Holy Communion and, with sins forgiven, anticipate our own. Please join our fellow-area WELS congregations for this unique, historic, and beautiful Easter worship opportunity!

## Easter Sunday Services, April 5

- 6:30am Sunrise Service
- 8:00am Easter Communion with music by school children and Senior Choir
- 10:00am Festival Worship with music by school children and Senior Choir

## Church Decorators

Volunteers are needed to decorate for Palm Sunday – Holy Week – Easter. Times are:

- Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am (10 needed)
- Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 11:15am (10 needed)
- Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am (10 needed)
- Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am (10 needed)

## Easter Lilies

Sign-up sheet for donated Easter lilies has been placed on the back table.

## Easter Breakfast

Jayne & Jessica Roll have been asked to take the lead for our Annual Easter Breakfast. Donations and baked goods such as sweet rolls, coffee cake, donuts, etc. can be brought on **Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00am - 11:00am** Additional volunteers will be needed for clean up. If you are willing to help with the Easter Breakfast by donating supplies or your time, please sign your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet on the table in the entry, click the bitly above, or go to <https://bit.ly/26EASTER>. Breakfast will be served continuously from 7:30am-10:00am.



## Confirmation



This year 5 young people will profess their faith through their confirmation vows.

- The **examination service** will take place on **Friday, May 1, at 6:30pm**

- The **confirmation service** will be on **Sunday, May 3, at the 10:00am service.**
- **First Communion** will be **Sunday, May 10 at the 10:00am service.**

## Ascension Day

Our **Ascension Day Worship** will be **Thursday, May 14 at 6:30pm**. There will be music by the Children's Choir, Junior Choir, and Senior Choir.

## Graduation

Our **Graduation** will be **Thursday, May 21 in the 6:30pm service.**

## Christian Education Opportunities

### For all adults...

**Mondays at 6:30pm and Wednesdays at 11:00am** a new study begins after Easter, *"The Holy Spirit, Shy Member of the Trinity."* This study should last through mid-May, when we'll take a break for the Summer. Make use of this opportunity for continual growth in Scripture knowledge and faith!



### Sunday Morning Educational Time

Our Sunday morning Bible Class is studying some of the parables and sayings of Jesus under an overall theme of "40 Minutes with the Messiah".

Join us on Sunday mornings from 9:10am-9:50am in the church basement to learn more!

Refreshments usually available.

On the first Sundays of the month, we take off from Bible Class to enjoy a relaxed fellowship time with coffee, juice, and donuts.

Our youth are invited to Sunday School which meets from 9:10am-9:45am, to learn more about their Savior. Each week they go through a Bible story.

These two opportunities give families a wonderful way to grow in their faith. Please join us on Sunday mornings!

Sunday School for children will go into a Summer recess at the end of April. Adult study time will continue through the summer months.

## Library Corner

There is now a nice display of varied books, CD's, and DVD's in the church basement. Come on down to browse and check out something you find of interest. It is next to our bible study area. Take a look! Find a book! There are also some handmade cards for which you can make a donation.

Do you have any faith based books that you would like to donate? If so, bring them into the church office. The pastors will review them after which they will either be placed in St. Stephen's library corner for check out "or" donated to Twice Is Nice in Jefferson where all profits support Lakeside Lutheran High School in Lake Mills.

## Fellowship Opportunities

### Beaver Dam Area

#### WELS Seniors (OWLS)



Area WELS Seniors resumed our monthly get-togethers on Tuesday, March 10th at St. Stephen's with a potluck lunch and a presentation by Pastor Tony Schultz from St. Luke's in Watertown who is involved with "WELS Kids Connection", the "kids version" of WELS Connection, designed to keep our youngsters "connected to Jesus". We will meet again on Tuesday, April 14 at Friedens in Randolph. After the potluck lunch at noon, there will be a devotion by an area pastor. Jane Niedfeldt will be our guest presenter, she is an author of several books and formal owner of Tom's Christian Tours. Our May gathering will be Tuesday, May 12 at St. Stephen's. Presenter Marge Abegglen will speak on 'Sharing Resources Worldwide.' She is a member of St. Stephen's in Fall River and participates in humanitarian trips to Latin America. Come enjoy the fellowship and learn about places and activities beyond our congregations!

Our group is for members of our area WELS churches age 50 and up. Friends are welcome, too. We've had some nice gatherings of 30-40 folks of late. Please join us for some Christian fellowship!!

## Service Opportunities

### St. Stephen's Ladies Aid Society

Our Mission – To assist the congregation in maintaining and furthering the program of the Kingdom of our Lord and to grow spiritually in our Christian faith and life. New members are always welcome. Our meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 1:30pm in the church basement.

We will once again host a Spring Luncheon and invite all those who volunteered to help at one or more funerals in the past year as our guests. It will start at noon with a meal in the church basement on Thursday, May 7th. The guest presenter will be Dodge County Sheriff Dale Schmidt, talking about law enforcement as a major part of our nation in connection with the 250th anniversary of the USA. There is no meeting in June, July, or August.

### Lutheran Teens



The Lutheran Teens are planning an event late in April or early in May. Please keep an eye out for emails and bulletin announcements for further information.

### St. Stephen's Radio Service

**Our recording sessions finish up in April. Recording sessions will resume in September.** Support this ministry with an offering. A half-hour Sunday service on WBEV costs about \$70.

### Parent-Teacher Society (PTS) Update

The PTS is dedicated to strengthening the connection between parents and teachers while supporting our school community. The PTS has been involved in many activities throughout the year. Recently, they served a Lenten meal and helped with the "Mummify a Teacher" fundraiser which included the Pizza Ranch night. Overall close to \$1,500 was raised between those events. The money raised went towards the bleacher fund.

Looking ahead, we're excited to host our second Fun Run & Walk on Saturday, April 25th, in the morning. If you'd like to participate or volunteer, we'd love your support! Please reach out to the church office for details.

Thank you for being part of this amazing community!

# School News

As we near the end of another school year, we take time to reflect on the journey we've shared in Christian education. This year, we have focused on how God pursues us in his word. The four words—**Pursue, Priorities, Preserve, Persevere**—guided us as we walked with our Lord through the year.

In the classroom, we have immersed ourselves in Scripture, learning not only its teachings but also how to live them out daily. We have worked to instill knowledge, wisdom, and faith that extend beyond our studies and into every part of our students' lives.

Beyond academics, we have built a Christ-centered community, encouraging love, compassion, and service. Whether at school, at home, or out in the world, we strive to impress God's Word in every moment—through our actions, words, and relationships.

As we approach the end of this school year, let us give thanks for the blessings and growth we have experienced. The seeds of faith planted this year will continue to grow in the hearts of our students, shaping their lives wherever they go.

In these final weeks, let's remain steadfast, encouraging one another and keeping our focus on Christ. And as we prepare to close this chapter, we do so with gratitude and excitement, knowing that God's Word continues to guide us—morning and night, wherever we are.

## Kindergarten Round Up Follow-up:

Kindergarten Round-Up was held near the end of February. We had a smaller number of families show up and express interest in our Kindergarten program and our school. Registration information was sent to families that have email addresses on file. **If you know of any families that are interested in Christian education, please refer them to Mr. Schulz.**

## Updates:

As we move into April, the stark realization that we only have 8 weeks of school left starts to settle in. Please continue to keep your students focused and engaged in their learning as we wind down this year.

We have held quite a few fundraisers to help with the replacement

of the bleachers and playground at the school. The playground installed last year will be able to be updated as we continue to collect funds, and the bleachers will be installed the last week of August.

The registration window for the 2026-27 school year has opened. All families need to visit FastDirect and fill out information for your students. **Returning families** need to log in with their current credentials and enter new students or mark returning students. **New families please visit [www.fastdir.com/saintstephens](http://www.fastdir.com/saintstephens)** Click on the Registration tab on the left menu and follow the prompts given.

## New School Mission Statement:

In January of this year, the school's mission statement and taglines were updated. Here is how we will proceed into the future as a ministry to help parents:

St. Stephen's Lutheran School provides students with a Christ-centered education in a nurturing environment that fosters spiritual growth and a lifelong relationship with their Savior.

## Knowing Jesus. Serving Others. Celebrating Eternity.

Christ-centered education rooted in God's Word.

## Accreditation News:

Even though accreditation was granted, we still have work to do in our midst. There are approximately 55 standards that need to be improved upon over the course of the next 4 years. The Board of Education and faculty will work at this, but it may require some help from the members of the congregation. If they call, do not hesitate to help out.

## Upcoming Events:

- April 11-12: LLHS Fine Arts Festival
- April 25: PTS Sponsored Fun Run
- May 1: Public Confirmation Examination
- May 3: Confirmation
- May 18: School Family Night
- May 21: Last day of school  
Graduation service—6:30pm