



Highlights



Spring Clean-up Day

Saturday, April 27 (8:00am-12noon)



Nordic Walking BEGINS

Tuesday, April 30 (7:00-8:00pm, details on page 8)



Volunteer Appreciation

Sunday, May 5 (Reception between services: 9:30am)



Quilts For Sale

Sunday, May 5 (9:30am) / Wednesday, May 8 (6:45pm)



All Music Sunday

Sunday, May 19 (Both Services: 8:30am & 10:30am)



GAP Summer & Community BBQ

Begins Wed., May 29 (BBQ: 5:15pm, Service: 6:00pm)

WORSHIP / ADULT EDUCATION / MUSIC



Inviting Others to Church

Imagine that last year, you invited a neighbor, a friend, a relative, a co-worker, or simply someone you just encountered as you were out-and-about, to church. You simply said, "Are you a church person?" to get the conversation started. Or maybe you said, "Would you like to come to church with me? It would mean a lot." Or, "We have a mission-driven church, would you like to come check it out?" Imagine that they accepted your invitation and are now praising and worshipping God. It's a year later, and they have found hope, community, and so much more. God worked *through you* to be a part of that important process. This year, pray and listen to God's promptings as he guides you to invite others into the body of Christ. Then, by next year, what you have imagined, prayed for, and acted upon, may spring forth the greatest blessings of all.

Pastor-Led Bible Study

Please join us in the library on Wednesdays (9:00-10:00am). Walk-ins are welcome.

Sarah Circle Bible Study (5/3)

Sarah Circle is a women's bible study & fellowship group that meets on the first Friday of each month (12:00-1:30pm). If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Eileen Rannels at nrmeil@hotmail.com or 651-407-2878.



All Music Sunday (5/19)

Join us on Sunday, May 19 - we'll have ALL of our musical talent performing

during BOTH SERVICES!



Ice Cream Sundae (5/26)

Ice cream sundaes between services!

Summer GAP Worship & Community BBQ (5/29)

GAP casual outdoor worship services begin on Wednesday, May 29 (6:00-6:45pm). Join us and *invite others* for our Community BBQ (5:15-6:00pm).

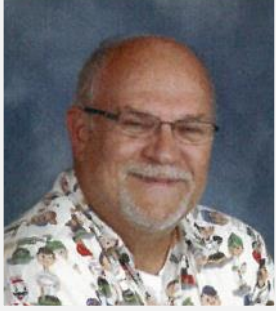


God's Word...

Ongoing Meditations & Scripture Discussion

Explore the deeper meaning of the scriptures and how they impact our lives today... Join us on Sundays (9:35-10:20am) in the Old Chapel as we explore (through presentations and discussions) biblical themes (current theme: "God Gives Us Stewardship and Responsibility"). In addition to our weekly bible discussion and prayer, each week's reflection (called "A Quiet Moment") is available via email. To receive this meditation for yourself or someone else, contact: PhyllisBallata@ststephenwbl.org. These readings are also available in the form of a booklet (located in the narthex).





Council President's Message "About Stewardship"

In seeking to be better Christians, we seek to be good stewards, too. What is a steward exactly?



The Anglo-Saxon word *steward* was derived originally from two words: *sty*—meaning household or estate— and *warden*—meaning guardian or keeper. Thus, a steward was a guardian of a household. If we use a more contemporary definition of *sty*, we arrive at the whimsical notion that a steward may be a keeper of pigs, and someone else's pigs at that. But for purposes of understanding Christian discipleship, let's stick with the idea that a steward is a guardian of God's house and all that is in it. We can be inspired by that definition.

We seek to be good guardians of God's house. Furthermore, we need examples once in a while of how we can be good guardians. A message we hear over and over is that as good stewards we are expected to use talents we were given to look after God's house. Personally, I like stewardship messages to come with a story. Here's one.

A man is hunting in the woods by himself when he gets lost in a storm. He comes upon an empty cabin, where he finds evidence that someone lives there but is currently out. The hunter feels the owner wouldn't mind if he used the cabin for emergency shelter and goes inside to dry out and warm up.

The cabin is heated only by a woodstove located in a peculiar spot. It is in the center of the cabin but high off the floor and hanging only a few feet from the ceiling by four pieces of heavy-gauge wire, one at each corner. It looks like a cast iron chandelier. After he lights the stove, he sits below looking up and wondering *what in the world is it doing up there?*

He spends an hour developing theories. It's a *thermodynamic* thing. Or it heats the cabin

more *efficiently*. Or, maybe, it's up in the air so as to not take up valuable floor space. Perhaps it's all three reasons. He doesn't know for sure.

The cabin owner returns. When he learns of the hunter's need for shelter, he says he's glad he could help. "Can I get you something to eat?" he asks. The hunter says *no thanks* but confesses he is perplexed by the placement of the stove. Why is it up so high? He shares his assortment of theories. Which is correct?

The cabin owner answers, "None of them". Instead, he simply says, "I put it up there because I had more wire than stovepipe."

This is a stewardship story. It teaches us a couple things about using talents and treasure to look after God's house. First, we may not have all the *talent* or *treasure* we desire. We have been gifted with only so much talent, or stovepipe. Second, our gifts are different. Some of us may have been blessed with more wire than stovepipe. If so, *that's* the talent we are to put to use.

And third, most importantly, we are to use those gifts that we possess in *abundance*. That is the true message of stewardship, that we give in proportion to how much we've been blessed.

Be a good steward. Use the talent you were blessed with to look after God's house. Talents are different gifts. They come in forms maybe you wouldn't think of, like being good at looking after someone else's pigs.



CHURCH MATTERS



Supporting St. Stephen Ministries

Now, it is even easier to support the ministries of St. Stephen with three ways for giving...

1) Checks 2) Credit Cards 3) Debit Cards

Online via your PHONE:

Scan this QR Code and it will take you to our donation page

(donations accepted via check, credit card, or debit card)



Online via our WEBSITE:

Click on the donation button on our home page at www.ststephenwbl.org

(donations accepted via check, credit card, or debit card)

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES:

Contact Brad Wilm at RuthaBradj@gmail.com if you need envelopes.

Drop off in the church office door mail slot or place into an offering plate during worship

(donations accepted via cash or check)

MAIL:

*Simply mail in a donation by check to: St. Stephen Lutheran Church
1965 East County Road E
White Bear Lake, MN 55110*

SIMPLY GIVING:

This program enables you to give automatically through

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) through your checking account.

For more information please contact Brad Wilm, at RuthaBradj@gmail.com

ELECTRONIC BILL PAY:

Easy and paperless—sign up with your bank

THRIVENT CHOICE:

Thrivent financial charitable fund. If you have investments or insurance with Thrivent Financial, through the Thrivent Choice outreach program, you can direct funds to go to St. Stephen at no cost to you! *For more information and sign up, go to Thrivent Financial's website and click on Membership and Benefits. <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/> or call 1-800-847-4836 and ask for: Thrivent Choice. (Must be done annually.)*

At Thrivent, giving back has always been important to our members. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has provided more than \$170 million through the Thrivent Choice® program to help congregations, educational institutions and other nonprofit organizations.

Thrivent Choice lets you recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go by directing Choice Dollars®

CHURCH MATTERS

Church Council Meeting

Monday, May 13



(7:00-9:00pm)
in the
library

Other Meetings...

- ◆ 5/20—Worship & Music
(Mon/7:00-8:00pm)
- ◆ 5/22—Women In Ministry
(Wed/9:15-11:15am)

Pastor Jim's Phone Number

Pastor Jim's old home phone (651-773-9057) is no longer in service. His cellphone is 651-335-7947.

Church Office Closed (5/27)

The church office is closed on Memorial Day, May 27.

APPRECIATION

Lenten Lunches... A (((BIG))) thank you to Kathy & Milt Anderson for preparing and serving those wonderful soup lunches during lent and for baking the fabulous breads!

Kitchen Cleaning... Thank you to everyone who pitched in to organize and clean the kitchen on March 7 and April 4th. The kitchen is sparkling, more organized, and we appreciate all the effort put into this task!

Council Retreat & Training... Thank you to all who organized and attended this year's gathering!

Time & Talent Sheets... Thank you to all who filled out a Time & Talent sheet. We have been busy entering them into the database and we look forward to fulfilling our mission together.

Palm Sunday Breakfast Fundraiser... Thank you for all who attended this year's Palm Sunday Youth Breakfast. We raised \$350 which will be used for youth scholarships.

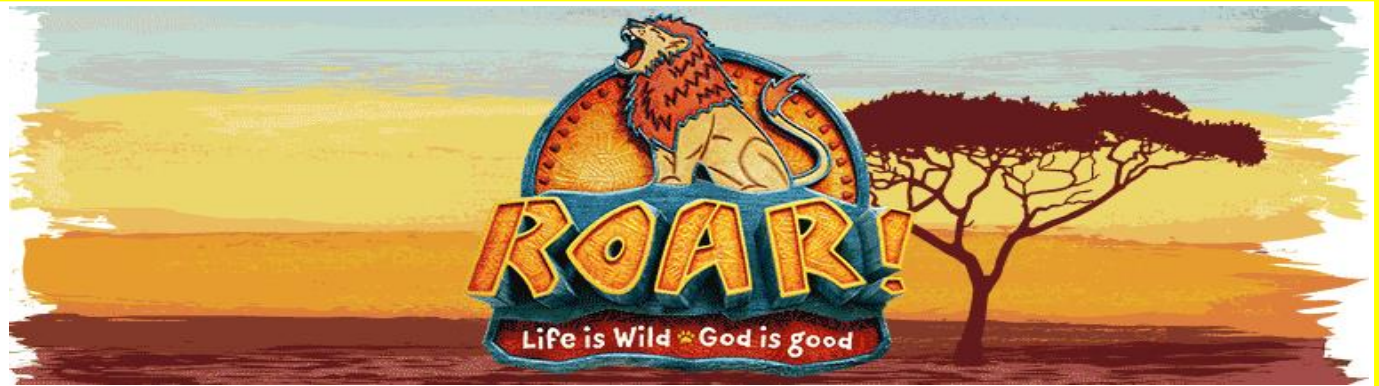
Quilters... Thank you again to our wonderful quilters who spend many hours creating all the beautiful quilts for fundraising and donation.

Fools for Christ... Thank you for helping us commemorate Jesus' Last Supper and remember the solemn events leading up to the crucifixion on Maundy Thursday.

First Aid Kits... Thank you to Milt Anderson for updating the First Aid kits around the kitchen.

Eastertime... Thank you to everyone who prepared for and attended worship services. From re-stocking pew pockets, dusting, cleaning, preparing for and serving communion, singing, strumming, and everything in between—there are too many people to thank, so please know that each one of you play an important role in creating meaningful worship.

Children, Youth, and Families



Vacation Bible School registration is open! Once again VBS is FREE! VBS is open to children who turned 3 by September 1st, 2018 and are “potty trained” through children who completed the 5th grade this school year.

Invite your friends and neighbors for our biggest summer event!

Before care is available for \$10 for the week per child.



I would like to give a huge, “thank you” to all of my Sunday and Wednesday volunteers. Without your commitment, skills, and servant hearts St. Stephen would not have the wonderful programming for children and youth that we have. When you see Karen Schultz, Cindy Scott, Patsy Olson, Joni Geppert, Keith Millard, Julia Whitman, Skylar Bengston, Abby Ternus, Paul Schultz, and Judy Gelderman please thank them for their service.



Registration began March 1st for our summer programs. This year we have 3 exciting programs running throughout the summer for elementary school, middle school, and high school.

Pick up the Summer Program’s Guide at the Welcome Desk for more information about each program.



Sunday and Wednesday children and youth programming are wrapping up for the school year, but that doesn’t mean that the churches commitment to our children is on vacation.

We still have fun, God-focused programming during the summer months. We also want to remind you that we still have Sunday and Wednesday worship all summer that we hope to see you at! Please let the church know if you would like information on ways to keep God the focus during the summer break.

HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

St. Stephen Logo—On Shirts, Vests, or Jackets

We would love for you to show off your church. We'll be taking orders for embroidered shirts in the coming weeks. Either buy a (white or black) short-sleeved embroidered polo shirt from the church for \$25 or bring your own polo, t-shirt, sweatshirt, or fleece and pay \$10 for embroidery. Look for more information and sign up at the welcome desk starting next Sunday (April 28).

WW Lunch Bunch (4/30, 5/28)

Widows and widowers are invited to join our group for lunch on the last Tuesday of each month (11:30am). RSVP's are required by the Sunday before the gathering by contacting Judee Bramscher (651-269-6122).



- ◆ 4/30 Joseph's (14608-60th St. N., Stillwater, MN 55082) RSVP by 4/28.
- ◆ 5/28 Holman's Table (644 Bayfield St., St. Paul, MN 55107) RSVP by 5/26.

Food Shelf Donations (5/1, 5/5)



Please feel free to take a green bag home and return it on the first Wednesday or Sunday of the month! Food donations go to the White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf. Thank you to John Strand for delivering our donations to the Food Shelf.

Progressive Dinner (5/4)

Get signed-up by Sunday, April 28th. Meet at St. Stephen for appetizers at 6:00pm, "progress" to a member's house for the entrée course, and then "progress" to another house for dessert. Cost: \$11/pp. It's a great way to meet others in the congregation – perfect for new members! For more information contact Pam Prokosch (651) 253-0537



Happy Mother's Day (5/12)



Volunteer Appreciation Reception (5/5)

Please join us as we honor our volunteers with a reception between services.

Quilts for Sale (5/5, 5/8)

The sanctuary will be adorned with all the beautiful quilts made by our quilting group and offered for sale between services (this is a fundraiser and quilts will be for sale again on Wednesday, May 8). See you there!



Art Group (5/8)

If you like to draw, sketch, paint, or doodle, bring a project to work on and join the Art Group of St. Stephen in the library on the second Wednesday of the month (10:00am-12noon). All ages and skill-levels are welcome as we talk and share ideas.



Retiree's Breakfast (5/9)

Retirees are invited to join others from church for breakfast (Thurs/9:00-10:00am) at the Maplewood Perkins on County Road D.



Faithfully Fit Forever Mall Walking

Join us at the southeast entrance of the Maplewood Mall on Thursdays (5:30-6:30pm) and Saturdays (8:00-9:00am).



Final / Resuming

- ◆5/15 Preschool-Grade 1 (resumes 9/11)
- ◆5/15 Choir Rehearsal (resumes 9/4)
- ◆5/15 Confirmation (registration 9/11)
- ◆5/15 The Buzz (resumes 9/11)
- ◆5/15 The Way (resumes 9/11)
- ◆5/15 H.S. Youth Group (resumes 9/11)
- ◆5/19 Sunday School (resumes 9/15)
- ◆5/19 God's Word (resumes 9/15)
- ◆5/19 God's World (resumes 9/15)
- ◆5/22 Bible Study (resumes 9/11)
- ◆5/22 GAP (INDOOR) (resumes 9/11)

HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

2019 St. Stephen Nordic Walking Club Schedule

*"Mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary,
and they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31)*



Complete information at: <https://sites.google.com/site/jsxcstrandaolcom/home> or:
just google St Stephen Walking Club. All hikes 7:00-8:00pm.

**THE FOLLOWING SITES, EXCEPT FOR LAKE AVE, HAVE MOSTLY “SURF/DIRT”
PATHS. POLES RECOMMENDED, BUT NOT REQUIRED.**

- ◆ April 30/Tues: Lake Ave, meet at Kowalski's parking lot by Admiral D.
- ◆ May 7/Tues: Katherine Abbott Park, 1000 Lincolntown Ave, Mahtomedi.
- ◆ May 14/Tues: Tamarack Nature Center (Bald Eagle-Otter Lake Park) 5287 Otter Lake Road, WB Township (south of County Road H-2).
- ◆ May 21/Tues: Sunfish Lake Park, north side of 34th St (Old Highway 5) about 1 mile west of Lake Elmo Ave. Or, go to 694 south, 34th St (Old Hwy 5) east to park.
- ◆ May 28/Tues: Oakdale Nature Preserve, 4444 Hadley Ave., Oakdale (about 1 mile south of Fleet Farm). Be aware that Hadley makes a right turn just after the first curve.
- ◆ June 4/Tues: Lake Elmo Park Reserve, 1515 Keats Ave N., Lake Elmo. From State Highway 5 in downtown Lake Elmo, follow County Road 17 south for 2.5 miles to County Road 10 (10th Street North). Turn right (west) on County Road 10 for one mile. Turn right (north) into the park. Or, south on 694 to 10th, go east on 10th to the park.
- ◆ June 11/Tues: Tamarack (directions above).
- ◆ June 18/Tues: Lake Ave (directions above).
- ◆ June 25/Tues: Century College, 3300 Century Avenue. Meet at west end of west parking lot. Hike Wood Duck Trail and Echo Trail.
- ◆ July 2/Tues: Katherine Abbott (directions above).
- ◆ July 9/Tues: Lake Ave (directions above).
- ◆ July 16/Tues: Sucker Lake Trail, West on 96, left on Rice St., left on Sucker Lake Rd. to Sucker Lake Pavilion #2.
- ◆ July 23/Tues: Tamarack (directions above).
- ◆ July 30/Tues: Century College (directions above).
- ◆ Aug 8/Thurs: Mahtomedi High School (football field parking lot).
- ◆ Aug 13/Tues: Tamarack (directions above).
- ◆ Aug 20/Tues: Katherine Abbott (directions above).
- ◆ Aug 27/Tues: Lake Ave and Admiral D Post hike (directions above).

Benefits: Compared to regular walking, Nordic walking (also called pole walking) involves applying force to the poles with each stride. Nordic walkers use more of their entire body (with greater intensity) and receive fitness building stimulation not present in normal walking for the chest, lats, triceps, biceps, shoulder, abdominals, spinal and other core muscles that may result in significant increases in heart rate at a given pace. Nordic walking has been estimated as producing up to a 46% increase in energy consumption, compared to walking without poles.

PRAYERS

Jesus said “My Father’s House shall be a House of Prayer.”

From the Book “Jesus Calling”

Enjoying Peace In His Presence by Sarah Young (April 14)

HEAVEN is both present and future. As you walk along your life-path holding My hand, you are already in touch with the essence of heaven: nearness to Me. You can also find many hints of heaven along your pathway because the earth is radiantly alive with My Presence. Shimmering sunshine awakens your heart, gently reminding you of My brilliant Light. Birds and flowers, trees and skies evoke praises to My holy Name. Keep your eyes and ears fully open as you journey with Me. At the end of your life-path is an entrance to heaven. Only I know when you will reach that destination, but I am preparing you for it each step of the way. The absolute certainty of your heavenly home gives you Peace and Joy to help you along your journey. You know that you will reach your home in My perfect timing: not one moment too soon or too late. Let the hope of heaven encourage you as you walk along the path of Life with Me.

- I Corinthians 15:20-23; Hebrews 6:19



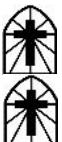
Help Keep Us Informed

Please help keep us informed of any concerns that you would like our congregation to be praying about, including those serving in the military and any deaths among family members, by contacting the church office at 651-777-1107 or office@StStephenWBL.org



Grief Support Group (5/1)

Please join others in the library (7:00-8:00pm) on the first Wednesday of each month for our Grief Group led by Jenny Nordahl. Walk-ins are welcome.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAY Birthdays



Please let the church office know if your birthday is not listed so that we may correct the database.



Christ In Our Home
Devotional Booklets for
April/May/June are now available
in the narthex in the information
racks. Please feel free to take as
many as you like
and offer them to others who may
find comfort in reading them.

Do You Wish to Be Baptized?

If you wish to be (or have
your child) baptized,
please contact the
Church office at
651-777-1107 or
office@StStephenWBL.org



GENERAL INFORMATION

In This Issue

Highlights (cover)
Worship / Adult Education / Music (2)
Church Matters (3-5)
Appreciation (5)
Children, Youth, and Families (6)
Happenings & Opportunities (7-8)
Easter Flower Garden Form (8)
Prayers (9)
Announcements (10)
General Information (11)
Calendar (back cover)

The Steppingstone Newsletter...

Is distributed monthly. If you have any items for the **June** issue, please send them to office@ststephenwbl.org by Friday., **May 10**. The May issue will be mailed out on Tuesday, May 21.

Help us save postage by receiving your newsletter via email instead of through the US postal service -OR- by picking up a copy in the narthex.

Please let us know if you wish to stop receiving the newsletter via regular mail.

Staff

Lead Pastor ▪ James Woodruff
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Visitation Pastor ▪ Juli Thompson
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Vacant

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### Council & Leadership

**President, Children & Families, and Staff Relations**

Ted Field—[tedfield@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:tedfield@ststephenwbl.org)

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**Financial Secretary**  
Brad Wilm—[RuthaBradj@gmail.com](mailto:RuthaBradj@gmail.com)

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### Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm; Friday 9am-Noon

St Stephen Lutheran Church  
1965 East County Rd E  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

# What's Happening

| <u>Sundays</u>                          | <u>Wednesdays</u>                         |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 <sup>AM</sup> Traditions Worship   | 5:15 <sup>PM</sup> Community Meal         |
| 9:30 <sup>AM</sup> Education/Fellowship | 6:00 <sup>PM</sup> Grace & Praise Worship |
| 10:30 <sup>AM</sup> Renew Worship       | 7:00 <sup>PM</sup> Education Hour         |

## May Calendar

- 5/1 Food Shelf Collection (Wed)
- 5/1 Grief Support Group (Wed/7:00-8:00pm)
- 5/3 Sarah Circle (Fri/12:00-1:30pm)
- 5/4 Progressive Dinner (Sat/Begins 6:00pm)
- 5/5 Food Shelf Collection (Sun)
- 5/5 Volunteer Appreciation Reception (Sun/9:30am)
- 5/5 Quilts for Sale (Sun/9:30am)
- 5/8 Art Group (Wed/10:00am-12noon)
- 5/8 Quilts for Sale (Wed/6:45pm)
- 5/9 Retiree's Breakfast (Thurs/9:00-10:00am)
- 5/10 Content Deadline for June Steppingstone (Fri)
- 5/12 Mother's Day (Sun)
- 5/13 Church Council Meeting (Mon/7:00-9:00pm)
- 5/19 All Music Sunday
- 5/20 Worship & Music Meeting (Mon/7:00-8:00pm)
- 5/22 Women in Ministry Meeting (Wed/9:15-11:15am)
- 5/26 Ice Cream Sundae (Sun/9:30am)
- 5/27 Memorial Day—Church Office CLOSED (Mon)
- 5/28 WW Lunch Bunch (Tues/11:30am)
- 5/29 Community BBQ BEGINS (Wed/5:15-6:00pm)
- 5/29 GAP Summertime Services BEGINS (Wed/6:00-6:45pm)