

# Highlights



## Summer Fun for Kids

Thursdays—July 6 and July 27 (page 7 for details)



**Gospel Music Sunday / Youth Mission Trip  
Commissioning / Welcome Pastor Kelly Meet & Greet**  
Sunday, July 9 (page 6 & 7 for details)



## GAP Summer & Community BBQ's

Each Wednesday (BBQ: 5:15pm, Service: 6:00pm)



## Luminary Sun/Wed

Sun-7/23 & Wed-7/26

We honor survivors and remember loved ones



## Christian Singles Lunch Bunch

July 25 (Last Tuesday of each month 11:30am)



## Relay for Life

Walk, Activities, Entertainment

Fri-July 28 (page 8 for details)

## FEATURES & HIGHLIGHTS

### A Faith Story

What is faith? It's not the sure knowledge of something or the recitation of an understood fact. A faith story is a statement of confidence and hope based on past experiences. We all have faith in something. We sit down in a chair with the faith it will hold us up, a faith built on past experiences.

It's the same with our Christian faith. On our journeys walking with Christ we experience God's grace and blessings in ways that contribute to our faith. And because we are not alone on our journey, the faith stories of others walking beside us help us to recognize our own faith.

Here is a faith story from someone in our Christian family.

*I was baptized in a Congregational church in E. Longmeadow, Massachusetts. I've got the pictures of me in my white dress and bonnet to prove it. I don't remember much about my church life until we'd moved from Massachusetts to Pennsylvania and then to Long Island, New York. I think that's when we became Lutherans. My parents were church shopping and I guess the Lutherans seemed like the best fit for our young family.*

*Although my brother and I were early grade school age, my parents became the head of the Luther League. Since they were still in their 30's, they were well suited to lead a group of high schoolers. I do have a few fond memories of that time .... sitting by the speakers as a live band played for the Luther Leaguers, attending mother-daughter luncheons with my Mom and grandmother and peeking underneath the plates to see who would win the centerpiece flowers and bringing home a hyacinth we potted every year as an Easter Sunday gift to our parents. They smelled so good!*

*Then we moved to New Hampshire and joined Concordia Lutheran Church in Concord, a very small congregation where we made great friends. I had confirmation classes in the basement of the church with eight of my fellow confirmands. I had a crush on a boy named Kenny who sat across from me and I would make origami birds under the table while the pastor taught. Of course, I'm sure I also learned something! My friends and I were all in the Junior Choir. Family camp was fun and so was Camp Calumet where I spent three summers in the northern woods. I still remember our camp song. Ask me and I'll sing it for you!*

*The next half dozen years involved college in Maine, a move to Boston after graduation, marriage and another move to Minnesota. My church life was almost non-existent during this time. However, when we moved across the street from Jeannie and John Farmer 37 years ago and they asked, "Where do you go to church?" and then invited us to St. Stephen, our fate was sealed!*

*We grew as a family at St. Stephen and so has my faith. I have had wonderful mentors who let me ask questions without judgment. My trips to Tanzania have shown me in real time what saying, "God comes first" really means. The amazing friends I have made while participating in the Church Chicks and God's Word groups have stretched my understanding of how God works in my life. I am so thankful for my church family at St. Stephen. I don't know what I'd do without you!*

Faith Story submitted by Karen Smith



Karen in Tanzania 2022

## APPRECIATION



### A Word of Thanks from Pastor Jim

The Apostle Paul begins his letter to the Church in Philippi by saying: “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. (Philippians 1:3-5) These words express well how I feel about this community of faith. For thirty years we have worked together to ‘bring God’s love to the world’ and I am thankful for everyone who has partnered together to carry out God’s mission in this place. I am incredibly thankful for everyone who during my tenure has served on Church Council, a Committee, a Mission Team, or an Ad Hoc Committee, or has volunteered or contributed in any way to make our mission possible. I’m equally thankful for the competent and dedicated staff of which I have been a part: the team of Pastors over the years; those who focused on Children, Youth, Families, and Adult Education; the diverse Musical Leaders; the people who carried out Administrative or Financial responsibilities; and those who have cared for our facility. It has been a joy serving in this place.

I also want to thank you all for the overwhelming expressions of affection and appreciation I received during my ‘long good-bye’. Thank you for your generous gift as a congregation as well as the individual cards and remembrances that I bring with me. I hope you enjoyed as much as I did our official final gatherings with worship and a retirement banquet on May 21 and picnic and worship on May 31. Thanks to all who participated in those events.

I will continue to remember you all in prayer and will be forever grateful to have been a part of St. Stephen Lutheran Church. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

## FAREWELL EVENTS FOR PASTOR JIM

Thank you to all who participated in the farewell events for Pastor Jim!  
Lots of planning behind the scenes and day-of-events help—and all are so appreciated!





## FAREWELL EVENTS FOR PASTOR JIM





# HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

## Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (6/27, 7/25)

Please feel free to join our group for lunch on the last Tuesday of each month (11:30am). To RSVP, please contact: Judee Bramscher (651-269-6122).

- ♦ **June 27** - we will be meeting at Quinny's Sports Pub and Grill (3140 Century Ave. No, Mahtomedi). RSVP (required by Sun., June 25).



- ♦ **July 25** - we will be meeting at Little Village Pub (2670 East County Road E, White Bear Lake). RSVP (required by Sun., July 23).



## Food Shelf Collection

Thank you for your food shelf donations on the first Wednesday or Sunday of the month. All donations go to the White Bear Area Food Shelf to be distributed to those who need assistance in the area.

## Church Office Closed (7/4)

The church office is closed on Tuesday, July 4 in recognition of Independence Day.



## Fellowship Group



Gather with us in the narthex on Wednesdays (10:30am) to share news, lift each other up with encouragement, and simply just visit! This is an informal group. Walk-ins are welcome. Contact Judee Bramscher (651-269-6122) if you have questions.

## God's Word

God's Word Bible discussion group, led by Phyllis Ballata meets in the Library on Thursdays (1:00-2:00pm). We continue throughout the summer.

## Summertime GAP Worship & Community BBQ's



Join us and invite others to GAP (Grace & Praise) casual worship services outside (6:00-6:45pm) and Community BBQ's (5:15-6:00pm) on Wednesdays. We will be monitoring the weather conditions to determine if GAP is held indoors or outdoors. A canopy will go up offering shade on full-sun days. Remember to bring a lawn chair or blanket!

## We Need Your Help with BBQ's

We are in need of volunteers to help with our Wednesday BBQ's in July and August. Choose one or as many Wednesdays as you like. To get onto the schedule, please sign up in the kitchen or contact Tami in the church office (651-777-1107, [office@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:office@ststephenwbl.org))

- ♦ **In advance:** buy brats and hamburgers (get reimbursed from church)
- ♦ **In advance:** bring in side-dish, chips, or dessert
- ♦ **4:00pm:** boil brats, thaw burgers, and mix lemonade
- ♦ **4:45pm:** grilling brats and hamburgers
- ♦ **5:00pm:** set out side-dishes, chips, condiments, desserts, plates, cups, eating utensils, etc.
- ♦ **After BBQ:** clean-up (mealtime is at 5:15-6:00pm)

## BBQ Helpers & Food

Food (for 40 people) ready to serve by 5:15pm

Please sign up with your name.

Wednesdays	Buy Brats & Burgers	Bring Chips	Bring a Side Dish	Bring a Dessert	*Prep (4:00pm)	Grilling (4:45pm)	**Set-up (5:00pm)	Clean-up
June 7								
June 14								
June 21								
June 28								
July 5								
July 12								
July 19								
July 26								
August 2								
August 9								
August 16								
August 23								
August 30								

\*PREP: Boil brats, thaw burgers, mix lemonade \*\*SET-UP: chips, side-dishes, desserts, condiments, plates, cups, etc.

## HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES



### Gospel Music Sunday & Worship Celebration (7/9)

We will gather together for a very special Sunday worship service as we welcome our new Interim Pastor Kelly. Betsy & Brent Clark will perform and we will be commissioning our youth as they prepare for their mission trip to Alaska.

### Welcome Pastor Sharon Kelly Meet & Greet (7/9)

Following Sunday worship on July 9, join us for a special Meet & Greet (with refreshments) to welcome our Interim Pastor Kelly!

### Retiree's Breakfast (7/13)

Attention all retirees!  
You are invited to join other retirees from church for breakfast (Thurs/9:00-10:00am) at Perkins in Maplewood on County Road D.



### Luminary Sunday (7/23) & Luminary Wednesday (7/26)



We invite you to join us as we honor survivors and remember loved ones during worship on either Sunday, July 23 (9:30am) or Wednesday, July 26 (6:00pm). Luminaries will be on display. There is still time to purchase your luminaries (\$10 each) through the church office.

### Relay for Life (7/28)

Details on page 8



### Readers Needed

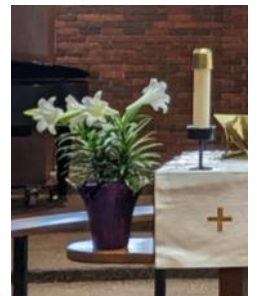
We are in need of Lectors to read the scripture lessons during Sunday services. No experience necessary; we welcome any age.

Individuals or pairs are encouraged to volunteer. Please choose any Sunday, sign up in the narthex on the table near the Welcoming Jesus woodcarving, and fill out a reminder card for yourself. Thank you for being a ministry disciple!



### 2023 Flower Sponsors

If you wish to sponsor flowers in 2023, contact Tami in the church office (651-777-1107 or [office@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:office@ststephenwbl.org)) to let us know the date and dedication (in memory, celebration, or in honor, etc.). The cost is \$20 per bouquet. Simply mail in (1965 East County Road E, White Bear Lake, MN 55110) or drop off your payment at least one week before the date you are sponsoring.



### Crafts Needed for Holly Boutique

Please remember the Holly Boutique will be November 11th and it's not too early to start making items to be sold. We are accepting hand-made crafts and hope you would consider donating for our sale.



### Volunteer Helpers for St. Stephen Funerals

Please consider volunteering to help with funeral luncheons at St. Stephen Church. Positions to choose from include food prep and set-up from 9:00-11:30am. Serving food and clean up 11:30am-2:00pm. Making a pan of bars and/or cookies to serve at funeral lunch. Please contact Judy Ruth at 651-426-0869 to volunteer or for additional information.





## CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES



### Summer Fun for Kids

For children in grades 1 through 5 during the 2022/2023 school year. All activities will occur on Thursdays (10am-2pm) with pick-up and drop-off at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Your child should bring a lunch (unless noted\*\*) and a water bottle each day they are registered. We ask that you apply sunblock to your child before they are dropped off. Unless we are told not to, we will also use a spray sunblock on your child's arms, legs, and neck and a lotion sunblock on their face throughout the day as needed. Payment and registration is due one week prior to each event, however these may fill up fast so register as far in advance as possible to guarantee a spot for your child. Registration forms are located online at [www.ststephenwbl.org](http://www.ststephenwbl.org) or on the Welcome Desk in the narthex. Please return this form to Melissa Whitman or to St. Stephen church office. We never want to exclude a child from our programs due to the inability to pay. If you are in need of a scholarship for your child to participate, please let us know.

- ♦ **June 29** – Snake Discovery Center and Take-Home-Bio-Terrarium (\$20)
- ♦ **July 6** – Fawn-Doe-Rosa Animal Park (\$15)
- ♦ **July 27** – Franconia Sculpture Park and Drive-inn Restaurant\*\* (\$15)
- ♦ **August 3** – Tamarack Nature Center and Cup and Cone\*\* (\$5)
- ♦ **August 24** – Stillwater Trolley, Pioneer Park, Leo's Malt Shop\*\* (\$20)



### Youth Mission Trip Commissioning (7/9)

Our church youth will be heading to Fairbanks Alaska July 14-22. We will be commissioning them on Sunday, July 9 during the 9:30am worship service. Please pray for them while they are away.

- ♦ Friday-7/14 Leaving at 6:00pm
- ♦ Saturday-7/22 Returning at 7:00am
- ♦ Wednesday-7/26 Debriefing at 6:00pm

### Family Fun Night (7/30)

All are invited to attend Family Fun Night, hosted by Redeemer, on Sunday, July 30. Event: BBQ at West Park beginning at 4:00pm.



### Vacation Bible School

Register now for FREE Vacation Bible School (VBS). VBS is open to children who turned three by September 1, 2022 and are "potty trained" thru children who completed the 6<sup>th</sup> grade this school year. Invite your friends and neighbors for our biggest summer event – coming August 7-11, 2023 (9am-12noon). Registration forms are located in the church narthex or can be downloaded from website at [www.StStephenWBL.org](http://www.StStephenWBL.org)

## HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

### White Bear Relay for Life (7/28)

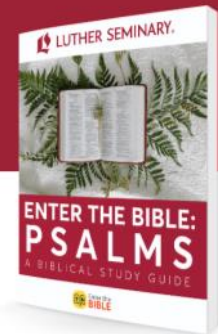
Cancer affects all of us. For the last 29 years, teams from all over White Bear Lake have joined forces to raise an estimated total of more than \$4 million for cancer research and treatment at the White Bear Relay for Life. St. Stephen has been a part of this outreach ministry for all but the first year. You can help us by doing one or more of these things:

- ♦ Join our team, the Spirit of St. Stephen, and help out with our activities.
- ♦ Sponsor our team for \$150.
- ♦ Purchase luminaries for a suggested donation of \$10.
- ♦ Purchase raffle tickets from team members (\$5).
- ♦ Donate a gift basket or a gift certificate for the Silent Auction.
- ♦ Make a free-will donation.
- ♦ Join the Action Lobby, ACS CAN, \$10.
- ♦ Worship with us at Luminary Sunday, July 23, and Luminary Wednesday, July 26.



Then come support our team at the White Bear Lake Relay for Life, held at White Bear South Campus on County Rd E (6:00-10:00pm) on Friday, July 28. Visit our tent, walk the track with us, listen to inspirational speeches, enjoy great music, honor survivors, and remember loved ones. There will be food, games including inflatables for the kids, and a raffle. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. The Opening Ceremony is at 6:30pm with the Survivor's Lap immediately following. The Luminaria Ceremony is around 9:00pm with the Silent Lap immediately following, and the Closing Ceremony is at 10:00pm. Can't come? Perhaps you would like to check out the Silent Auction. It is online from Wednesday, July 26 through noon on Saturday, July 29. For details, visit the Relay website at [www.wbrelay.org](http://www.wbrelay.org).

Questions? Contact Viki Bosin at church or 651-429-7317 or [vikianddave@comcast.net](mailto:vikianddave@comcast.net)



## Discover the Beauty and Depth of the Book of Psalms!

Click on the graphic to activate your free study guide.



As we renew our prayerful engagement with the psalms, in our worship and in our daily lives, you can find **"Psalms for Daily Prayer"** on our website. These videos are available online for morning and evening devotions. Open the link below and choose the appropriate week of Psalms for Ordinary Time (then choose AM or PM): July 2-8 (week 4), July 9-15 (week 1), July 16-22 (week 2), July 23-29 (week 3), and July 30-August 5 (week 4 again).

<http://www.ststephenwbl.org/engage/psalmsfordailyprayer.cfm>



# PRAYERS

## Prayers Have Been Requested For the Following...



### 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](mailto:office@StStephenWBL.org)



### Prayer Request Cards

Prayer Request Cards are located in the sanctuary pews. Feel free to place your request in an offering plate/basket or drop into the church office door mail slot. Please keep us updated on those you have asked us to add to our prayer list.

**Prayer Request** (add or remove from the Prayer List)

ADD \_\_\_\_\_

This person is... ☐ Member ☐ Family ☐ Friend ☐ Self

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for prayer \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

May we share this with the congregation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

REMOVE \_\_\_\_\_

Update \_\_\_\_\_

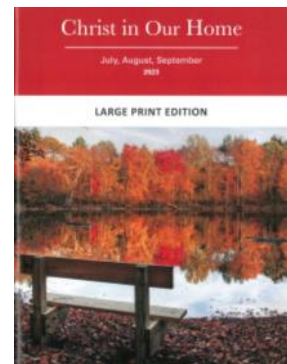
*A Christian community bringing God's love to the world.*



### Christ in Our Home

Devotional Booklets for July/August/September are available in the narthex in the info racks. Please feel free to

take as many as you like and offer them to others who may find comfort in reading them.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# JULY Birthdays

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





## GENERAL INFORMATION

### In This Issue

Features & Highlights (2)  
Appreciation (3)  
Farewell Events for Pastor Jim (3-4)  
Happenings & Opportunities (5-8)  
Prayers (9)  
Announcements (10)  
General Information (11)  
Calendar (back cover)

### The Steppingstone Newsletter...

Is distributed monthly. If you have any items for the **August** issue, please send them to [office@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:office@ststephenwbl.org) by Monday, July 10. Newsletters are also available in the narthex information racks or via email. Please let us know if you have a change of address so that we can update our mailing list.

### Staff

**Interim Pastor** ▪ Sharon Kelly  
[ipk@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:ipk@ststephenwbl.org)

**Visitation Pastor** ▪ Juli Thompson  
[visitation@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:visitation@ststephenwbl.org)

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**Children & Families Ministry Director** ▪ Paul Schultz  
[childrenmin@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:childrenmin@ststephenwbl.org)

**Communications & Administrative Coordinator** ▪ Tami Heart  
[office@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:office@ststephenwbl.org)

**Custodian** ▪ Paul Swanson

**Digital Ministry Director** ▪ Zach VanDyke  
[zrv10000@gmail.com](mailto:zrv10000@gmail.com)

**GAP Worship Director** ▪ Justin Woodruff  
[jwoodruff@homfurniture.com](mailto:jwoodruff@homfurniture.com)

**Nursery Caregiver** ▪ Lisa Klingbeil

**Organist** ▪ Cindy Bittner  
[cynthia.k.bittner@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.k.bittner@gmail.com)

**Senior Choir Accompanist** ▪ Cindy Bittner  
[cynthia.k.bittner@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.k.bittner@gmail.com)

**Senior Choir Director** ▪ Kari Ballata  
[ballatahosmer@yahoo.com](mailto:ballatahosmer@yahoo.com)

**Wedding Coordinator** ▪ Missy Kneip  
[mothergoose2954@yahoo.com](mailto:mothergoose2954@yahoo.com)

**Youth & Families Ministry Director** ▪ Melissa Whitman  
[mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org](mailto:mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org)

### Council & Leadership

**President and Staff Relations**  
Marla Amborn—[MarlaAmborn@gmail.com](mailto:MarlaAmborn@gmail.com)

**Vice President, Finance & Stewardship**  
Ted Field—[FieldJackson@msn.com](mailto:FieldJackson@msn.com)

**Previous President and Church Council Secretary**  
Betsy Clark—[eaclark001@comcast.net](mailto:eaclark001@comcast.net)

**Adult Learning**  
Scott Ziemann—[scott.ziemann@century.edu](mailto:scott.ziemann@century.edu)

**Children, Youth, & Families**  
Bethany Zenner—[bethanyzenner@hotmail.com](mailto:bethanyzenner@hotmail.com)

**Congregational & Community Care**  
Phyllis Ballata—[pballata@msn.com](mailto:pballata@msn.com)

**Evangelism**  
EVERYONE

**Fellowship**  
Cheryl Skrypez—[cskrypez@gmail.com](mailto:cskrypez@gmail.com)

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

**Mission and Benevolence**  
Pastor Sharon Kelly—[ipk@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:ipk@ststephenwbl.org)

**Property**  
Kathy Stickler—[kstickler23@gmail.com](mailto:kstickler23@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**  
Patsy Olson—[joellyo@netscape.net](mailto:joellyo@netscape.net)

### 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

**Sundays**  
Blended Worship Service  
**9:30am IN-PERSON**  
(also live-streamed and online)

**Wednesdays**  
Grace & Praise Casual Worship  
**6:00pm IN-PERSON**  
(Community BBQ at 5:15pm, \$5/pp)

## Calendar Highlights

- 6/27 Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (Tues/11:30am)
- 6/29 Summer Fun for Kids at Redeemer (Thurs/10:00am-2:00pm)
- 6/29 Mission Exploration Team Meeting (Thurs/7:00pm)
- 7/2 Food Shelf Collection (Sun)
- 7/2 Sunday Worship (9:30am) *also on 9, 16, 23, 30*
- 7/4 Independence Day/Church office CLOSED (Tues)
- 7/5 Food Shelf Collection (Wed)
- 7/5 Fellowship Group (Wed/10:30am) *also on 12, 19, 26*
- 7/5 Community BBQ (Wed/5:15pm) *also on 12, 19, 26*
- 7/5 Summer GAP Worship (Wed/6:00pm) *also on 12, 19, 26*
- 7/6 Summer Fun for Kids at Redeemer (Thurs/10:00am-2:00pm)
- 7/6 Bible Discussion (Thurs/1:00pm) *also on 13, 20, 27*
- 7/6 Worship & Music Meeting (Online, Thurs/7:00-8:00pm)
- 7/9 Worship Celebration / Welcome Pastor Kelly (9:30am)
- 7/9 Gospel Music Sunday w/Betsy & Brent Clark (Sun/9:30am)
- 7/9 Youth Mission Trip COMMISSIONING (Sun/9:30am)
- 7/9 Pastor Kelly's Meet & Greet (Sun/10:30am)
- 7/10 Content Deadline for August Steppingstone (Mon)
- 7/10 Church Council Meeting (Mon/7:00-9:00pm)
- 7/13 Retiree's Breakfast (Thurs/9:00-10:00am)
- 7/13 Mission Exploration Team Mtg. (Thurs/7:00pm) *also on 27*
- 7/14 Youth LEAVING on Mission Trip to Alaska (Fri/6:00pm)
- 7/20 July Steppingstone Distribution Day (Thurs/9:15am)
- 7/22 Youth RETURNING from Mission Trip (Sat/7:00am)
- 7/23 Luminary Sunday (9:30am)
- 7/23 Baptism: Kyler Dignin (Sun/9:30am)
- 7/25 Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (Tues/11:30am)
- 7/26 Luminary Wednesday (6:00pm)
- 7/26 Youth DEBRIEFING from Mission Trip (Wed/6:00pm)
- 7/27 Summer Fun for Kids at Redeemer (Thurs/10:00am-2:00pm)
- 7/28 Relay for Life (Fri/6:00-10:00pm)
- 7/30 Redeemer Family Fun Night at West Park (Sun/4:00pm)