

Highlights



Relay for Life Walk, Activities, Entertainment Fri-July 28 (page 6 for details)



Christian Singles Lunch Bunch

August 1 & 29 (page 6 for details)



GAP Summer & Community BBQ's

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



School Supplies Drive

August 2-23 (page 7 for details)



Summer Fun for Kids

Thursdays—August 3 and 24 (page 6 for details)



Vacation Bible School

Monday-Friday, August 7-11 (9:00am-12noon)

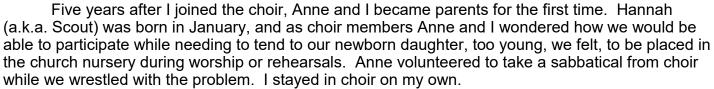
FEATURES & HIGHLIGHTS

A Faith Story

What is faith? What is a faith story? Faith is trust in something bigger than ourselves. A faith story is an example of that trust based on a belief or past experience. We all have faith of different varieties. We sit down in a chair with the faith it will hold us up. That is 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 and strengthen 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.

When I joined St. Stephen many years ago I was told I was joining a family. At first I wasn't sure what that meant, other than I was to get close to many others on my walk with Christ. What I didn't know was what those close family members would do for me.



Easter would be different. Both of us felt a yearning desire to sing at the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services. But what would we do with Hannah when all our potential baby sitters would be attending those services also?

We came up with a plan and decided to test it on Good Friday. Anne or I—one of us—would cradle Hannah in our arms as the choir sang, while she would presumably nap. And because we thought Hannah might be less of a distraction if she were partially hidden in the back-row tenor section, I agreed to hold her.

As the service began, I took my place in the tenor row with Hannah in my arms. Standing beside me, fellow-tenor Skip Bresin held his music so that I could read it, too.

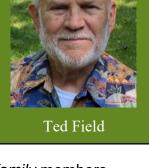
We began the first song just as Hannah was stirring from a nap. *No problem*, I thought. But then she began to thrash and kick. I tried to ignore her and sing on. One of her flailing hands punched me in the jaw. Then her arms and legs took on the rotary motions of a swimmer doing laps. Just as Skip noticed how poorly I was handling the situation, Hannah let out a wail that could be heard above the choir voices. I knew I was doomed. After a quick good-bye to Skip, I slid behind the bass section and exited the sanctuary through the choir room and continued to the fellowship hall where I presumed I would spend the rest of the worship service alone with Hannah. The test was a failure.

No doubt, most of the congregation had witnessed my hasty exit. Certainly, Gretchen Trenda, sitting in the front row with her family, had. What I didn't know was that as I was making my sudden exit, she was making hers also, retreating from the sanctuary into the front hallway and rushing to meet me in the fellowship hall. We arrived there at the same time. Motioning with her hands, she implored, "Give her to me. You get back in there."

I finished the rest of the service. Gretchen—God bless her—did not, and spent most of it holding Hannah and trying to calm her while pacing back and forth in the guiet of the fellowship hall.

At that moment I knew what it meant to join a Christian family. The family (Gretchen) was there when I needed it (her). And ever since that night I've never lost faith that the family I joined many years ago will be there for me whenever I need help.

Share your faith story by sending it to Tami at office@ststephenwbl.org!



CHURCH MATTERS

Message From the Pastor

In interim ministry partnership,

Listening is a gift of the Holy Spirit although unmentioned in the book of Galatians. The Wednesday grace and praise worship theme is Galatians verses 22-23:By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 contlopess, and solf control. All haptized by water and word of the



faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. All baptized by water and word of the Holy Spirit of Christ in God receive these biblical gifts and others cultivated for daily need. My blessed opportunity in listening to each of you share your years of faithfulness developed and rooted at St. Stephen permits me to hear what is common among all people of faith—how our stories are in the story of God. Listening to each other's experience of the activity of God becomes our shared prayer.

Appropriately, one may ask: Isn't it best to listen well at all times and especially when transition occurs? Transitions invite keen listening. These godly gifts of the Holy Spirit that we commemorate at GAP call St. Stephen to be a fruitful congregation listening to our pew neighbors and our community neighbors.

This listening and transcribing process as delineated in the St. Paul Area Synod (SPAS) call process manual has begun. The St. Stephen Council engaged in a visioning process with Pastor Grimm of the SPAS. A timeline has been placed for viewing in the narthex. The Saint Stephen Mission Exploration Team is planning more listening venues for your gifted input. I will be accompanying the METeam on this listening journey.

The St. Stephen METeam is a transitional partnership in the gospel for completing the ministry site profile with received content. This document introduces the St. Stephen congregation to the ordained candidates to interview for the call. Your partners in listening to the mission of our Triune God at St. Stephen. PK

Council Highlights

- 1) The Mission Exploration Team is moving forward and preparation for cottage meetings is almost complete. We expect to soon begin hosting meetings for groups of 5 to 10 to share their thoughts in response to a series of questions that will be used to help craft the Ministry Site Profile.
- 2) In response to a request from Galilee Lutheran Church a \$500 donation is being made to their Community Garden fund which especially helps local immigrant groups. Our Gift Committee will also look at whether there is money available through the Special Designated Memorial funds.
- 3) We discussed St. Stephen's practices for stewarding of financial gifts and will do more to educate the congregation around gift practices, possibly including an adult forum on this topic.
- 4) White Bear Lake is starting a new Kiwanis Club that will focus on support for children and youth. Melissa Whitman is serving as President and the July meeting was held at St. Stephen.
- 5) We will be resuming passing the offering plate at Sunday worship services (which had been discontinued during the pandemic) and also add a "noisy offering" for kids.

(See photo of the council on the next page)

APPRECIATION



Church Council...

Thank you to our council members and leadership for their service to St. Stephen (pictured left to right): Kathy Stickler, Ted Field, Patsy Olson, Interim Pastor Kelly, Betsy Clark, Scott Zieman, Denise Ashley, Cheryl Skrypez, Bethany Zenner, Visitation Pastor Juli Thompson, Marla Amborn, and Phyllis Ballata.

(Contact information for council members and leadership is located on page 11 of this newsletter.)



From Pastor Kelly... To Stephen Friends and Members! Please receive my gratitude for the Council and Executive Leadership Team also with the fellowship hosts for delivering my welcome. Please permit me to join all of you in thanksgiving for your committed staff. With your generosity, the staff and I began our first week of interim ministry with an enjoyable lunch. In Christ, Interim Pastor Kelly



APPRECIATION





Painting... Thank you to Glen Alstad, Ted Field, Bill Kneip, Cindy & Tom Scott, Cheryl Skrypez, Ken Smith, and Mike Trenda for painting Neighbors Helping Neighbors. We appreciate all your many hours and days of work in the heat to make the building look beautiful!

Gardening... Thank you to Judee Bramscher and Ray Plemon for working on the garden. It looks amazing!

Trees... Thank you to Ken Smith for coordinating the planting of our new shade trees on the north lawn and for making sure they get plenty of water. The trees nearest the rain garden are Spring Snow Flowering Crabs. The tree nearest the northern lilacs is an Oak. The tree nearest the stage to the east is a Sienna Maple. And the (largest) tree nearest the north entrance is a Matador Maple.



HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Luminary Wednesday (7/26)

We invite you to join us as we honor survivors and remember loved ones during worship on Wednesday, July 26 (6:00pm). Luminaries will be on display.



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 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.

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)

Family Fun Nights (7/30, 8/27)

All are invited to attend Family Fun Night, hosted by Redeemer. Sunday events...

- 7/30 BBQ at West Park (4:00pm)
- ♦ 8/27 BBQ and Remote Control Cars (4:00pm)





White Bear Relay for Life (7/28)

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 the American Cancer Society. The Opening Ceremony is at 6:30pm with the Survivor's immediately following. Lap The Luminaria Ceremony is around 9:00pm with the Silent Lap immediately following, and the Closing Ceremony is at 10:00pm. Can't come? Check out the online Silent Auction July 26 through noon on Sat., July 29. For details, visit Relay at www.wbrelay.org. website Questions? Contact Viki Bosin at church or 651-429-7317 or vikianddave@comcast.net

Cindy & Tom Scott's European Adventure (7/30)

Travel with Cindy and Tom Scott as they share their experience in France and England. Bring your coffee and enjoy the trip, Sunday, July 30th (10:30am) in the library following worship.



Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (8/1 & 8/29)

Please feel free to join our group for lunch on the last Tuesday of each month (11:30am). RSVP (required) on Sunday before event by contacting Judee Bramscher at 651-269-6122.

- 8/1—Little Village Pub (2670 East County Rd. E, WBL).
- ♦ 8/29—Cabin 61 (4150 Hoffman Rd., WBL)



HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Food Shelf Collection (8/2 & 8/6)

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.

School Supplies Drive (8/2 - 8/23)

If you wish to donate school supplies for White Bear Lake area children, please drop items into the box (decorated as a school house) in the narthex. Next



to the box is a supplies list mini-flyer. Supplies are also listed here. If you, or someone you know in the congregation is in need of supplies, please contact Tami in the church office. Strict confidentiality is observed for all recipients. Thank you for your generosity in ensuring our kids get a good start to the school year! *NEEDED: Black Expo dry erase markers, tissue, Ticonderoga #2 pencils, Fiskar scissors, Crayola crayons, colored pencils, antibacterial wipes in the tub, erasers, canister-style pencil sharpeners, wide-ruled spiral notebooks, reams of white copy paper, and Elmer's glue or washable glue sticks.

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.

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 need your help (see below) to feed 25 people on Wednesdays. Please let us know what you can **bring** or **do** and **when** by signing up in kitchen or contacting the church office at 651-777-1107 or office@ststephenwbl.org

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

God's Word

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



Garden Party Fundraiser (8/5)

Galilee Lutheran Church is raising money to create community gardens near their building. Rice Street Gardens will provide fresh food and other benefits. The gardeners are a very diverse group which includes Hmong and other residents supported by the garden. Galilee is inviting anyone who is interested in supporting the project, or simply learning more about it, to a Garden Party. On Saturday, August 5 (12:00-4:00pm), food trucks, live music, an ethnic fashion show, and more will be available. There will be special activities for children. Parking is available at Galilee Lutheran Church (145 McCarrons Blvd. N., Roseville, MN 55113) and at Hand-in-Hand Montessori (211 McCarrons Blvd. N.).

Pilot Study Discussions (8/6, 8/13)

Please join Pastor Kelly in the library following Sunday worship services (10:45-11:45am). On 8/6—Entering Into the Lament! On 8/16—From God's Reconciliation to Right Relationship.

HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES



Vacation Bible School (8/7–8/11)

Register now for FREE Vacation Bible School (VBS). The theme this year is *Stellar, Shine Jesus' Light*. VBS is open to children who turned three by September 1, 2022 and are "potty trained" through children who completed the 6th grade this school year. Invite your friends and neighbors for our biggest summer event—August 7-11, 2023. On Friday, August 11, we have our grand finale PICNIC (12:00-1:00pm). Registration forms are located in the church narthex or can be downloaded from website at www.ststephenwbl.org

VBS Volunteers Needed

- ♦ Help SET-UP for VBS on Friday, August 4 (10:00am) – simply show up to help decorate!
- ♦ VBS is at St. Stephen August 7-11. We are in need of adult crew leaders and one-on-one support for children who could use extra help during the day (8:45am-12:15pm). If you are interested in helping with this year's Vacation Bible School, please contact Melissa at (mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org).
- ✦ Help CLEAN-UP on Friday, August 11 (1:00pm) – taking down decorations, etc.

Trunks 'n Treats Planning Meeting (8/9)



We need help with planning this year's Trunk's 'n Treats event. Please attend this planning meeting on Wednesday, August 9 (6:30pm) if you are interested.

Retiree's Breakfast (8/10)

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

Confirmation Registration & Bowling Party (8/16)

On Wednesday, August 16 (7:00pm), join us at Pinz (7520 32nd St N, Oakdale, MN 55128) for a Bowling Party and to register for Confirmation.

Music Festival & Auction Donations Needed

We're hoping you have items stored up to donate for this year's auction, which is to be on Saturday, October 14th. Please drop off items to the church beginning on August 13th!

Preparing for Rally Day

Please sign up in the narthex to help with our Rally Day celebration and the start to a new church year. We look forward to a special outdoor worship surrounded by our new trees, a community picnic, and much more. Many hands make light work, so please sign up to help with set-up, food prep, cooking, baking, family games, tear-down, clean-up, and most importantly—INVITE OTHERS to join us on this fun day!

Register NOW for Faith Education

Registration is now OPEN for Faith Ed. Sunday School (for preschool thru grade 4) begins September 17 (9:45-10:30am). Wednesday Faith Ed begins September 20,



including pre-confirmation for grades 5 and 6 (5:30-6:15pm), preschool thru grade 4 (6:00-6:45pm), confirmation for grades 7 and 8 (6:30-8:00pm), and youth group for grades 7 thru 12 (7:00-7:45pm). Registration forms are available online via www.StStephenwbl.org, in the narthex, or by clicking onto the link below: http://www.ststephenwbl.org/Childrens and You th Faith Education Registration 2023 2024 2. pdf

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



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.

ADD		-M
This person is Member Family Family	riend 🔲 🤉	Self
Your name		_ (
Reason for prayer		
κ.		
May we share this with the congregation?	☐ Yes	☐ No
REMOVE		
Update		

Christ in Our Home

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

Christ in Our Home	
July, August, September 943	
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take as many as you like and offer them to others who may find comfort in reading them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August Birthdays 🦓

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

Meetings in August

- ♦ 8/3 Worship & Music (Thurs/7:00-8:00pm)
- 8/9 Trunks 'n Treats Planning (Wed/6:30pm)
- ♦ 8/10 Mission Exploration Team (Thurs/7:00pm)
- ♦ 8/14 Church Council (Mon/7:00-9:00pm)
- ♦ 8/24 Mission Exploration Team (Thurs/7:00pm)
- ♦ 8/29 Evergreen Team (Tues/7:00pm)

Primary Election Day (8/8)

St. Stephen will **NOT** be a polling location for the primary elections this year.

Please visit https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/ if you are not sure where to go to vote.

Content Deadline for September Newsletter (8/10)

The deadline for items going into the September Steppingstone Newsletter is on Thursday, August 10th. Please submit items to Tami at office@ststephenwbl.org

Do You Wish to Be Baptized?

If you wish to be (or have your child) baptized, please contact the church



office at office@ststephenwbl.org

Save the Dates!

- ♦ Sept 10 Rally Day & Community Picnic
- ♦ Oct. 7 Blessing of the Animals
- ♦ Oct. 14 Music Festival & Auction
- ♦ Oct. 29 Rite of Confirmation
- Nov. 5 All Saints Remembrance
- ♦ Nov. 11 Holly Boutique & Bake Sale
- ◆ Dec. 16 Living Nativity

Getting Dates onto the 2023 Church Calendar

Please contact Tami in the church office at office@ststephenwbl.org or 651-777-1107 to get all special events, gatherings, meetings, groups, etc. onto our 2022 church calendar.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Calendar (back cover)

The Steppingstone Newsletter...

Is distributed monthly. If you have any items for the **September** issue, please send them to

office@ststephenwbl.org by Thurs., Aug. 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

Temporary email: ipk@ststephenwbl.org

Visitation Pastor • Juli Thompson

julia.a.thompson@gmail.com

Children & Families Ministry Director •

Paul Schultz

childrenmin@ststephenwbl.org

Communications & Administrative

Coordinator • Tami Heart

office@ststephenwbl.org

Custodian - Paul Swanson

Digital Ministry Director - Zach VanDyke

zrv10000@gmail.com

Funeral Luncheon Coordinator • Kathy Anderson

kathleen856@q.com

GAP Worship Director • Justin Woodruff

jwoodruff@homfurniture.com

Nursery Caregiver • Lisa Klingbeil

Organist and Senior Choir Accompanist • Cindy Bittner

cynthia.k.bittner@amail.com

Senior Choir Director • Kari Ballata

ballatahosmer@yahoo.com

Wedding Coordinator • Missy Kneip

mothergoose2954@yahoo.com

Youth & Families Ministry Director • Melissa Whitman

mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.ora

Council & Leadership

President and Staff Relations

Marla Amborn—Marla Amborn@amail.com

Vice President, Finance & Stewardship

Ted FieldJackson@msn.com

Previous President and Church Council Secretary

Betsy Clark—<u>eaclark001@comcast.net</u>

Adult Learning

Scott Zieman—scott.zieman@century.edu

Children, Youth, & Families

Bethany Zenner—bethanyzenner@hotmail.com

Congregational & Community Care

Phyllis Ballata—<u>pballata@msn.com</u>

Evangelism

EVERYONE

Fellowship

Cheryl Skrypez—cskrypez@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Brad Wilm—<u>RuthaBradj@gmail.com</u>

Mission and Benevolence

Pastor Sharon Kelly—<u>ipk@ststephenwbl.org</u>

Property

Kathy Stickler—<u>kstickler23@gmail.com</u>

Treasurer

Patsy Olson—joellyo@netscape.net

Worship & Music

Denise Ashley—<u>deniseashley1@yahoo.com</u>

Church Office Hours

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



www.StStephenWBL.org ♦ office@ststephenwbl.org ♦ 651-777-1107

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



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

- 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 Cindy & Tom Scott's European Adventure (Sun/10:30am)
- 7/30 Redeemer Family Fun Night at West Park (Sun/4:00pm)
- 8/1 Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (Tues/11:30am)
- 8/2 Food Shelf Collection (Wed)
- 8/2 School Supplies Drive BEGINS (Wed)
- 8/2 Fellowship Group (Wed/10:30am) also on 9, 16, 23, 30
- 8/2 Community BBQ (Wed/5:15pm) also on 9, 16, 23, 30
- 8/2 Summer GAP Worship (Wed/6:00pm) also on 9, 16, 23, 30
- 8/3 Summer Fun for Kids at Redeemer (Thurs/10:00am-2:00pm)
- 8/3 Bible Discussion (Thurs/1:00pm) also on 10, 17, 24, 31
- 8/3 Worship & Music Meeting (Online, Thurs/7:00-8:00pm)
- 8/4 VBS SET-UP (Fri/10:00am-2:00pm)
- 8/5 Galilee Garden Party Fundraiser (Sat/12:00-4:00pm)
- 8/6 Food Shelf Collection (Sun)
- 8/6 Sunday Worship (9:30am) also on 13, 20, 27
- 8/6 Pilot Study Discussion w/Pastor Kelly (Sun/10:45-11:45am)
- 8/7 VBS (Mon-Fri/9:00am-12noon) also 8, 9, 10, 11
- 8/9 Trunks 'n Treats Planning Meeting (Wed/6:30pm)
- 8/10 Retiree's Breakfast (Thurs/9:00-10:00am)
- 8/10 Content Deadline for September Steppingstone (Thurs)
- 8/10 Mission Exploration Team Mtg. (Thurs/7:00pm)
- 8/11 VBS PICNIC (Fri/12:00noon-1:00pm)
- 8/11 VBS CLEAN-UP (Fri/1:00-4:00pm)
- 8/13 Pilot Study Discussion w/Pastor Kelly (Sun/10:45-11:45am)
- 8/14 Church Council Meeting (Mon/7:00-9:00pm)
- 8/16 Confirmation Registration/Pins Bowling Party (Wed/7:00pm)
- 8/23 School Supplies Drive ENDS (Wed)
- 8/24 Steppingstone Distribution Day (Thurs/9:15am)
- 8/24 Summer Fun for Kids at Redeemer (Thurs/10:00am-2:00pm)
- 8/24 Mission Exploration Team Mtg. (Thurs/7:00pm)
- 8/27 Family Fun Night at Redeemer (Sun/4:00pm)
- 8/29 Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (Tues/11:30am)
- 8/29 Evergreen Team Meeting (Tues/7:00pm)