

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

White Bear Lake, Minnesota

# *the steppingstone*

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June 10, 2007

## The Sundays of Summer

**June 10 Jazz Service – Ice Cream Social between 9 & 10:30 services**

**June 17 Sing-along Service – Father’s Day - VBS Kick off  
Commissioning of Tanzania Mission Team**

**June 24 Cindy’s Favorite Hymns**

**July 1 Communion Service**

**July 8 Contemporary Worship – Independence Day Celebration  
Strawberry Shortcake**

**July 15 Favorite Hymn Sunday**

**July 22 Mission Service Team returns from Tanzania  
Luminary Sunday**

**July 29 Dueling Pianos**

**August 5 Cherry Pie & Ice Cream**

**August 12 Traditional Worship**

**August 19 Fools for Christ**

**August 26 Gospel Service – Brent & Betsy Clark**

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**Don't forget to sign up for Vacation Bible School – June 18- 22  
See inside for details**

**Our prayers and condolences** go to Nancy Finley on the death of her mother, Ella Finley; to Steve & Judy Gelderman on the death of Judy's uncle; and to Kathy Keefe on the death of her aunt, Marlene Lareaux.

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**Thank you** so much to Kate Spencer for her generous donation of office supplies. 😊

### NEW COMPUTERS!!

THANK YOU to the anonymous person who donated the funds to have the church office computers replaced. Also, thank you to Skip Bresin for the installation of the computers.

### MOTORBIKE FUNDRAISER

Our goal of \$2500 has been reached! Thank you to everyone who donated!! We plan to deliver the motorbike to the Lukani Parish this summer.

### HYMNAL FUNDRAISER

**A BIG THANK YOU** to the entire St. Stephen Congregation! We have completed the fundraising for hymnals! Your generosity has allowed St. Stephen to purchase 275 hymnals, 3 sets of accompanist volumes, and the Leaders' edition for the altar! The hymnals will be ordered soon and placed in the pews sometime this summer. Staff is now planning their use starting in September.

### TANZANIA MISSION TEAM

Our Tanzania Mission Team leaves for Tanzania on June 21. They are excited about their mission project, working with the Lukani Parish and community to do water hygiene training. They also plan to deliver a motorbike to the parish during their visit. Please pray daily for this group while they are in Tanzania. They will return between July 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

### NEW HYMNAL

Did you know that the new ELW hymnal has 10 different settings for worship, seven more than in the green hymnal? The Worship & Music ministry team and St. Stephen music staff invite you to "liturgy" practice on June 18 from 6:30 to 8 p.m., to sing through parts of the 10 settings. We'll learn what they sound like so that we may select one to use in September. We'll also sing your favorite hymn found in the new hymnal, if you're there to call out your favorite. Just show up! No reservations necessary!

### SUMMER MUSIC

If anyone is interested in providing special music during any of the summer Sunday or Wednesday night services, let the office know. Please also let us know what type of music you'd like to provide, and the Sunday or Wednesday service you are willing to perform. Vocal soloists, duets, groups, or instrumentalists are encouraged to prepare either as a piece performed during the service, or as a prelude, postlude or offertory (during the collection of the offering)!

### CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!

On Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, we recognized our high school graduates. Each received a book from the Youth Committee, "How to Stay Christian in College". Our TIM Team students received a gift certificate. Our graduates are:

Stacy Altendorfer	Katie McCollor
Ian Bartling	Mike Morris
Whitney Davis	Anthony Nelson
Derek Edwards	Richard Nelson
Allison Galland	Emily Olson
Patrick Landis	Mike Skunes
John Langteau	Kyle Smith
Caitlin Leahy	Alexander Timm
Levi Lemon	Laura Fuerst-Shroyer
Kyle Lichty	Nick Proctor
Alyssa Mattson	Timothy Skrypek

We also congratulate Jim Bosin, Brian Johnson and Bobby Spencer, who received their college Bachelor's degree, and Sara Quigley with her Master of Divinity.

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### CHOIR DIRECTOR NEEDED

The children in grades 1 through 5 need a new choir director. They practice Wednesday evening from September through May and sing in church at least once a month. Please contact Pastor Jim, 651-777-1107, or Skip Bresin (651-775-5853).

### OVER DUE BOOKS & VIDEOS

Please check to see if you may have any books or videos from the Library of St. Stephen. They may be returned to the Library or dropped off in the church office. Thank You.

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### Summer BLAST: Attn Adult Volunteers July 9-13: morning hours

Summer BLAST is a great opportunity for local youth to study, work and socialize together across denominational lines. In the morning we gather to study God's word (this year our theme is Biblical Heroes), then we disperse to work in several community service projects before we gather again to do something fun (like the Mall of America). In order to make this schedule happen **we need adult drivers!** Are you retired? Is your grandchild involved in the camp? Do you have free time in the morning? We only need a commitment of a few hours every morning from the week of July 9-13. If you're interested please contact the office or Sara or Deb.

The next Steppingstone will go out on June 26. Articles need to be turned in to the church office by Thursday, June 21.

## Children's Ministry

June 18 – Begin Summer Sunday School  
June 18-22 – Vacation Bible School  
June 18 – Sing VBS songs during worship

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May 20 was the last day of the 2006-2007 Sunday School year. Thank you to the following persons for faithfully staffing Sunday School and Wednesday evening FaithWeaver Friends throughout the school year: Chris and Rob Allickson, Stacy Altendorfer, Randy Amborn, Dawn Anderson, Julie Anderson, Denise Ashley, Jenna Bartolic, Ben, Curtis, and Judy Cammack, June Dahlstrom, Cindy and Matthew Davis, Angelica Erickson, Ted Field, Catherine and Elizabeth Frey, Allie Galland, Solveig Hansen, Sandy and Carl Iverson, Anne Jackson, Charlie Jackson, Angie Johnson, Jim Johnson, Lisa Klingbeil, Bill Krannich, Paul & Todd Kuchenmeister, Mike and Dana Lange, Caitlin Leahy, Molly Leahy, Jeff and Nancy Lemon, Sue Lemon, Melissa Meier, Amanda Meives, Catherine Nelson, Jennifer Nordahl, Heather and Michael O'Brien, Ashley Olson, Charisse Schlueter, Paul and Karen Schultz, Sherry Skrypek, Mike Skunes, Michon Sommers, Melissa Speckler, Tracy Taubert, and Nicole Ternus.

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## WANTED! TO BORROW! Strings of Indoor/Outdoor Christmas Lights

We need to borrow strings of multi-colored lights with the larger (old-fashioned) bulbs for use during Vacation Bible School. They must have individual circuits so that they remain lit when one light bulb is removed. Please contact the church office immediately.

## VBS Donations Wanted

There are sign-up sheets, on a table next to the lit display board, with lists of food and other supplies that we need for Vacation Bible School. *(Instructions are posted.)* Every time a donation is received we will add a prairie dog to our prairie! Please consider making a donation. Items should be delivered by Sunday, June 17. Please help us find homes for our prairie dogs!

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## Decorate for VBS

We need many people to **help decorate on Sunday, June 17!** Due to a wedding on Saturday we will not be able to **decorate the sanctuary, the narthex or the library until Father's Day, which is the day before VBS** so we will need a lot of volunteers! Please let us know if you are available immediately after church, or in the late afternoon, to help with this important part of VBS!

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## Summer Nursery

With the realization that the mixed age format of a combined age summer Sunday School may be difficult or uncomfortable for some young children, children who have just completed kindergarten, and younger, are welcome in the nursery throughout the summer.

## Vacation Bible School



There is still  
Time to join us  
down on the ranch,  
for a wild ride  
through God's word

**June 18 – 22 from 9:00 to 11:45 am.** **Register your children,** or grandchildren, for preschool if your children are three years of age through five years of age. Children who have completed kindergarten up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade should use the yellow school age registration forms available in the Narthex on the table adjacent to the lit display board. **Please register soon** to ensure that we will have enough materials. If you have **completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade,** up through any age, **volunteer opportunities are still available!** **Please contact** the church office. There are still opportunities to help with **Crafts, Theatre, Opening and Closing Music and/or Skits,** and **Registration/Check-In.** We also still need both **Elementary and Preschool Crew Leaders** to rotate with students to the various stations. (Confirmation students will earn service hour credits for helping with Vacation Bible School.) You may volunteer for a portion of the week. **If you are only available on Tuesday and Thursday, you may volunteer on Tuesday, Thursday, or both days!** Please consider joining us! We always have a great time!

## Lutheran World Relief

Thank you everyone who participated in our Lenten collection for Lutheran World Relief. Your donations of \$97.10 allowed us to supply families in poverty with livestock providing them with a sustainable income. Only one person outside of Sunday School chose to participate this year. We hope that more congregational members will choose to participate, and support us, in our program of Lenten sacrificial giving next year.

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## Food Shelf

Thank you, to everyone who helped us achieve our Minnesota Food Share goal in March! We donated a total of 431 pounds of food. **Food shelf donations often decrease during the summer months just when families are even more in need of food because their children's free lunches have ceased for the summer. Please continue to donate to the food shelf!** I received information stating that the food shelf would also appreciate donations of: **shampoo, toothpaste, diapers, dish soap, laundry soap, bath soap and toilet paper.** God has blessed us and we in turn express our gratefulness by blessing others! Thank you in advance for your continued donations to the food shelf.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We got a head start on celebrating God's creation when we took a vacation prior to Memorial Day weekend to work on the farm we bought last January. We dug in the garden, mined rocks from it, began building a stone wall fence, started planting the garden, and continued to demonstrate our lack of building skills as we remodeled the garden shed/workshop into a cabin—ette—not nice enough to be called a cabin—too nice to be called a shed. We now have electricity to the property but the well is not yet functional—so we haul all our water. No indoor plumbing—that will wait for the construction of the house (we will have professionals do that!). Construction should begin around mid-June and be done by mid-October.

The farm has lots of wildlife—deer, wild turkeys, sandhill cranes, ducks, geese, coyotes, rabbits, raccoon, and more. It is fun to watch them...the wood ticks are not so much fun but they came with the property as well. One of the neighbor's milk cows liked the grass on our side of the fence and kept us company for a while as well. It is fun watching the birds—finding nests filled with eggs—enjoying the beauty of the orioles and marveling at the fanciful flight of the hummingbirds.

We are looking forward to eating wild strawberries and raspberries this summer as well as enjoying the bounty of the garden. Our mouths water just thinking about it.

We were tired at the end of each day but it was a good tired. It is good to be working together, side by side, toward a common goal. It is a different pace of life—easy for us to live in the present moment as a life-long dream becomes reality. It is hard to know when the work became play—but it did. There were plenty of times we paused from our work/play to enjoy the beauty of God's creation and give thanks to God. It was certainly a time of renewal and refreshment for us. It is my hope and prayer that you, too, will find time for renewal this summer—a time to grow closer to God and those who surround you.

I will be around for a while longer yet. If you see me with a big smile on my face, it might be because I am thinking about living on the farm. Take care and peace be with you.

Your brother in Christ and partner in ministry,

Larry Johnson—Interim Pastor

PS "The earth is the Lord's and all that dwells therein."

## Call Process Update – from Pastor Jim

The Call Committee has been working diligently over the last months to find a pastor to fill the full-time position left vacant after Pastor Dan's retirement. They have interviewed six candidates and unanimously settled on one individual to recommend for call. While we were moving forward toward arranging a congregational vote, we received word that the individual has withdrawn their name from consideration. This means that the Call Committee will be starting over, receiving new names from the Synod office and interviewing all of them. It seems likely that a congregational vote on calling the right person to this position won't happen until early fall. Rather than being discouraged by these developments, I think it is important that we trust God is continuing to work through this process and has in mind for us someone who will even more fully share in our ministry and bring gifts and a personality to this place which will help us carry out our mission. Please join the Call Committee in persistently praying for God to bring us together with the person God has in mind for this place. In the meantime, as we wait for this to be fulfilled, let us carry on with the work God has set before us.

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## CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Pastor Jim: [jamesawoodruff@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:jamesawoodruff@ststephenwbl.org)  
Pastor Larry: [pastorlarry@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:pastorlarry@ststephenwbl.org)  
Deb Nelson: [childrenmin@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:childrenmin@ststephenwbl.org)  
Sara Quigley: [youthmin@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:youthmin@ststephenwbl.org)  
Diane Bresin: [office@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:office@ststephenwbl.org)

**Sunday, June 10**

8, 9 & 10:30 am WORSHIP  
NO Sunday School

**Monday, June 11**

11:30 am Weight Watchers  
7:00 pm Council Meeting

**Tuesday, June 12**

6:30 pm Child Min Mtg

**Wednesday, June 13**

10:00 am AIAnon  
6:15 pm WORSHIP

**Thursday, June 14**

9:00 am Retiree Breakfast

**Sunday, June 17**

8, 9 & 10:30 am WORSHIP  
9 & 10:30 Summer Sunday  
School - VBS Kickoff

**Monday, June 18**

9-11:45 am Vac Bible School  
6:30 pm Worship & Music  
- Sing from new hymnal  
7:00 pm Simple Lvg Grp

**Tuesday, June 19**

9-11:45 am VBS

**Wednesday, June 20**

9-11:45 am VBS  
6:15 pm WORSHIP

**Thursday, June 21**

9-11:45 am VBS  
Mission Tm Lvs for  
Tanzania

**Friday, June 22**

9-11:45 am VBS

**Sunday, June 24**

8, 9 & 10:30 am WORSHIP  
9 & 10:30 Summer Sunday  
School

**Monday, June 25**

11:30 am Weight Watchers

**Wednesday, June 27**

10:00 am AIAnon  
6:15 pm WORSHIP

**Sunday, July 1**

8, 9 & 10:30 am WORSHIP  
9 & 10:30 am Summer  
Sunday School