

# Invite Others!



**Blessing of  
the Animals**  
(10am & 12noon)  
**October 5**

- ◆ Two blessings this year!
- ◆ Adoptable pets and food samples
- ◆ Wedgewood Park in Mahtomedi
- ◆ Details on page 4



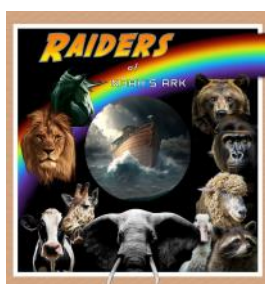
**Music  
Festival &  
Auction**  
(11:00am-2:30pm)  
**October 12**

- ◆ Food for sale (11:00-2:30)
- ◆ Live Music (11:00-12:45)
- ◆ Silent Auction (11:00-1:30)
- ◆ Live Auction begins (1:00)
- ◆ Details on page 3



**Trunk or  
Treat**  
(5:30-7pm)  
**October 25**

- ◆ Mariner Middle School parking lot is open for trick-or-treaters!
- ◆ We need your help! *Please contact:*  
[mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org](mailto:mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org)
- ◆ Details on page 4



**Fools for  
Christ Dinner  
Theater**  
(6:00pm)  
**October 25 & 26**

- ◆ Play: Raiders of Noah's Ark
- ◆ Tickets: \$25 at [www.foolsdrama.com](http://www.foolsdrama.com)
- ◆ Two nights at St. Stephen
- ◆ 4-course meal by Chef Jodie Millard
- ◆ Details on page 5

# CHURCH MATTERS

## President's Message "Radical Hospitality"

Together, we've done a lot in the past year as a congregation. We met and overcame a financial challenge. We successfully navigated a transition process to learn where God is leading us. We've welcomed a new pastor to lead us on our journey into the future. We've worked to become better connected with each another. It's been exciting.

So, what's next? What should we focus on in 2025?

Your church council has identified outreach—i.e., better community involvement and being a more welcoming church—as our best strategy for moving our mission forward in 2025. We can never share *too much* of our Christian message of God's love with the community outside our church. We can be more welcoming. There's an expression that has become popular that I believe we can attach to our step-up in welcoming. *Radical hospitality*. We must adopt as part of our mission to be *radically hospitable*.

What does it mean?

It has roots in a Bible parable found in Luke 15: 4-6, when Jesus told tax collectors and sinners, *"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.'"*

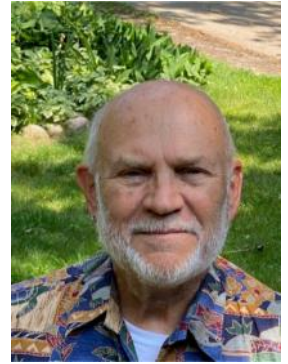
Many who read this parable will identify with the shepherd, the person in authority, the one responsible for keeping the sheep together. But the parable assumes a welcoming message if we place ourselves in the 99 and rejoice with the shepherd for finding the one who has been separated or marginalized from us, happy to have our family of 100 restored. As a parable, it means that for those who have returned to us, we are to prepare a place for the *one*, not for assimilation, but for reconciliation.

Radical hospitality goes beyond welcoming. It is to stand beside others after we've welcomed them. Jesus can be viewed as the ultimate expression of radical hospitality. After creating our universe, God showed up in human form—sending Jesus, his son—to have a human experience. God entered our story, rather than demanding that we enter his. So it is with our hospitality. "I want to be part of your story more than I hope you will become part of mine," is what we want to say. We wish to create a feeling of being comfortable, accepted, and valued.

Radical hospitality is to ask "Who isn't here?" "Who have we turned away?" It's more than a strategy, but a mindset that our Christian family is incomplete and we should rejoice the return of those who have been separated.

My challenge to all our members is this: how can *you* practice radical hospitality? What can you do to contribute to the common goal of making St. Stephen a truly welcoming church? And not just for strangers who come through our doors, but to all those who pass by us in need of God's love. As an adjective "radical" means to affect fundamental change of something. Hospitality in a radical way means offering hospitality in a fundamentally different way.

Let's think about it. Let's talk about it. Let's practice it.



## HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

### 33rd Annual Music Festival and Auction

Saturday, October 12, 2024  
(11:00am—2:30pm)

Get ready for our 33rd annual Music Festival and Auction.  
All proceeds raised by this event will be used to reduce  
St. Stephen's budget deficit.

**Auction Donations  
&  
Volunteers Needed!**



#### Schedule of Events:

Live Music (11:00am-12:45pm)  
Food for Sale (11:00am-2:30pm)  
Silent Auction (11:00am-1:30pm)  
Live Auction Begins (1:00pm)

#### Ideas for Auction Donations:

- ◆ Sporting event tickets
- ◆ Weekend (or longer) retreat at your cabin
- ◆ New or gently used items (NO clothing)
- ◆ Your services to someone in need or to promote your business (examples: website creation, computer work, auto work, raking leaves, washing windows, snow plowing, lawn mowing, yard work, electrical work, carpentry, painting, house cleaning, plumbing, etc.)
- ◆ Home-made items (such as arts & crafts items, edible items, you name it!)
- ◆ Donate your hobby time to create something with that lucky winner (make jelly, sew, quilt, photography, bake, give singing or instrument lessons, etc.)
- ◆ Provide themed dinner in your home for a group of lucky winners
- ◆ Make soup or dessert every month for 6 or 12 months (you pick the number of months)
- ◆ Themed Gift Baskets

#### Donation Instructions:

- ◆ Have some extra baskets? Please donate them to be used for our gift baskets.
- ◆ Please leave items in the church office and mark "Auction" on them.
- ◆ **You may begin dropping off items AT ANY TIME STARTING NOW!**
- ◆ Start thinking now about that "special" item or service you would like to donate.
- ◆ FIRM deadline for dropping off items: **Sunday, October 6.**

#### Volunteer Needs:

- ◆ Solicit items or services from local businesses (please talk with Betsy Clark)
- ◆ Making desserts to sell day of event, set-up of tables and auction items, volunteer shifts the day of the event, clean-up, and more.
- ◆ If you have volunteered in the past to assist with the auction, you may be contacted in September.

Please contact Betsy Clark at 612-554-3925 or at  
[eaclark001@comcast.net](mailto:eaclark001@comcast.net) if you have any questions, and thank you!



## HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

### Installation Service & Reception For Pastor James (9/29)

We call upon all members and friends to join us on this special day as we formally install Pastor James Muske as our new Lead Pastor. Immediately following worship, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a reception with lots of wonderful goodies!



### Blessing of the Animals at Wedgewood Park (10/5)



This year's (34th Annual) Blessing of the Animals will be at Wedgewood Park (211 Wedgewood Drive, next to Walgreens, across from the Dairy Queen and Aldi, just east of 120/East County Line Rd.) on Saturday,

October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am and 12:00noon (two blessings this year). There will be adoptable pets from Second Chance Animal Rescue, pet food samples from Farmina Pet Foods, and we will be collecting dog and cat food for the White Bear Area Food Shelf. Bring your pet leashed or crated. Welcome: dogs, cats, bunnies, birds, fish, reptiles, farm animals, and stuffed toys. This event is co-sponsored by St. Stephen and Redeemer Lutheran Churches and is being advertised to the wider community.

### Auction Drop-off Deadline (10/6)

Please drop off items for this year's Music Festival & Auction, which is to be on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, by October 6<sup>th</sup>! Visit the church if you need an empty basket to get started!



### Food Shelf Donations (10/2, 10/6)

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.



### Retiree's Breakfast (10/10)

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



### OWL's Event: VFW (10/17)

Older wiser Lutherans are invited to join us for lunch on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at the VFW. Please sign up in the narthex.



### Lefse Making (10/21)



Join us for one day of making Lefse to sell at the Holly Boutique and Bake Sale. Meeting at 9:00am in the kitchen at St. Stephen. Feel free to bring your own Lefse equipment. All are welcome!

### Trunk or Treat (10/25) at Mariner Middle School Parking Lot

Set-up (5:00-5:30pm)  
Event (5:30-7:00pm)  
Clean-up (7:00-7:30pm)

This year, the Trunk or Treat event will be held in the parking lot of Mariner Middle School (3551 McKnight Rd N, White Bear Lake) on **FRIDAY**, October 25<sup>th</sup> and open to the wider community for a safe place for trick-or-treaters. Please consider signing up to help... decorate your trunk, provide treats, and invite others! Contact: [mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org](mailto:mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org)



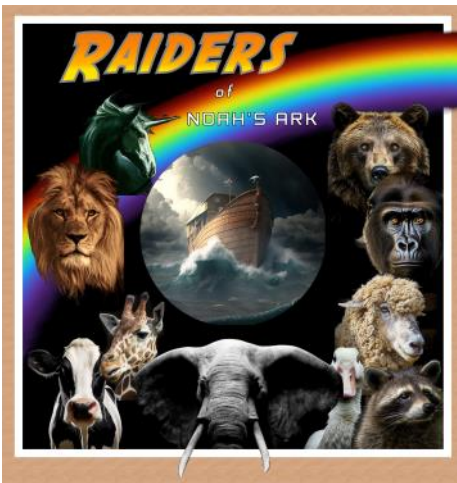
### Faith Education Location

- ◆ Faith Ed (grades 4 thru 12)
- ◆ Sept/Oct - St. Stephen
- ◆ Nov/Dec - Redeemer
- ◆ Jan/Feb - St. Stephen



## HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

### Fools for Christ Fall Dinner Theater (10/25 & 10/26)



The Fools for Christ Fall Dinner Theater production of "Raiders of Noah's Ark" will be on Friday and Saturday, October 25-26 at St. Stephen. Enjoy delicious pre-show appetizers,

a 4-course meal throughout the play, and wonderful desserts. Doors open at 6:00pm.

Show starts at 6:30pm. This is a great opportunity to INVITE OTHERS! Purchase TICKETS (\$25) online at [foolsdrama.com](http://foolsdrama.com) or in the church office Mon-Thurs 9:00am-3:00pm.

### Reformation Sunday & Rite of Confirmation (10/27)

Join us as we celebrate Reformation Sunday which honors Martin Luther's bold action on October 31, 1517. We also honor our Confirmands during the Rite of Confirmation with Metro Brass performing (9:30am). A reception will immediately follow worship.



### Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (10/29)



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.

On October 29, we will be gathering at the Blacksmith Lounge & Broaster (17205 Forest Blvd N, Hugo, MN 55038) – RSVP by 10/27.

### Holly Boutique & Bake Sale

Saturday, Nov. 9  
(10:00am-2:00pm)

*Holly Boutique  
& Bake Sale*



#### Crafters & Bakers...

We are in need of: homemade crafts, quilted or crocheted items, artwork, homemade soaps and lotions, woodcraft items, jam and jellies, lightly-used Christmas decorations, freshly baked breads, rolls, cookies, and sweets.

Proceeds to Benefit... The Tubman Alliance, White Bear Lake Area Food Shelf, Lutheran Social Services (for homeless teens), and projects at St. Stephen.

How to Donate... Leave craft items, beginning now, in the church office marked "Holly Boutique". Please fill out the Contribution Sheet, available in the office, to help us out when marking items.

#### Other Ways to Help...

- 1) BAKE desserts (pie, cake, bars, cookies) to sell the day of the event. Baked items may be dropped off up until the boutique begins. Wrap and seal items and indicate if nuts are used in your baking.
- 2) Join us on COOKIE BAKING DAY, Wed., **Nov. 6** (9:00am)
- 3) Help us SET-UP and pack cookies on Friday, **Nov. 8** (9:00am-12noon).
- 4) WORK A SHIFT during the boutique on Saturday, **Nov. 9** (9:30-12noon or 11:45am-2:15pm).
- 5) Help with CLEAN-UP on Monday, **Nov. 11** (9:00am).
- 6) Come and shop, have lunch, enjoy the music, and INVITE OTHERS!

### Crafts Needed

We are accepting hand-made crafts **NOW** and hope you consider donating for our sale!



## APPRECIATION

**A BIG THANK YOU**... to Ken Smith and his team for their hard work on the new parking lot project! This was not an easy job with all the advance planning, prep-work, loan approval process, etc. We appreciate you all so much! Thank you to everyone who worked behind the scenes to make it all happen! Here are pictures showing clean-up, curbs being put in, stripping out of the old parking lot, and re-surfacing. As of the time of this newsletter's publication, the parking lot wasn't yet finished, but come see for yourself how much of an improvement this is to our church property!





# APPRECIATION



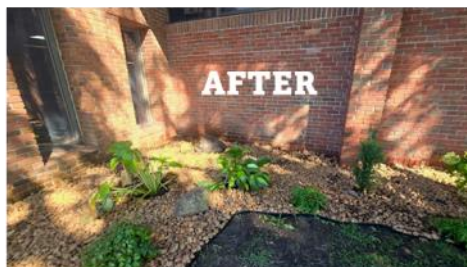
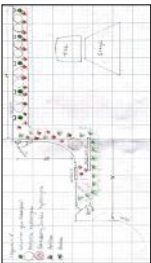
## Lutheran Night at the Twins Great Game!

Thank you to all who signed up for tickets and attended Lutheran Night at the Twins! St. Stephen Lutheran Church showed up on the Score-board (pictured above) and the Twins beat the Kansas City Royals 8-3!



## JT Baltzer Eagle Scout (Landscaping) Project

Thank you to JT Baltzer for the south landscaping project completed as part of his Eagle Scout project. Pictures include before-and-after and a few pictures of the scout team at work. JT's project was completed on time. The cost was covered completely by his fund raising, including \$965 donated by St Stephen members. Thank you!!





# APPRECIATION

- ♦ To everyone for organizing, volunteering, and attending this year's Rally Sunday! We had a great turn-out with delicious foods! Thank you to our musically talented members!!
- ♦ To Viki Bosin for organizing and all who attended the Relay for Life event in July.
- ♦ Thanks to everyone who donated school supplies and to Melissa and Jeremiah for dropping them off at Birch Lake Elementary School.
- ♦ Thank you to the person who put up all the new smoke/carbon monoxide detectors throughout the church and for all the many other fix-its you have been doing!
- ♦ To Jodie Millard for making name tags and all the volunteers who keep them alphabetized!
- ♦ Thank you to Jill Sandvik for organizing the sale of items we no longer use.
- ♦ To all the people who participated in God's Work Our Hands mission outreach project on Sept. 8th. We made approximately 150 lunches and delivered them to the Union Gospel Mission.



- ♦ *To all who helped with Gerri Westlund's Memorial Service—Thank you very much for your time, effort, and flexibility in allowing us to hold our mother / grandmother's service at St. Stephen. We felt welcomed and enjoyed the chance to talk with so many people who were important to her life. Warmly, Bethany*
- ♦ *I would like to thank everyone for the sympathy cards that I received after the death of my daughter, Luanne (Judi) Wold. Your heartfelt caring is so appreciated. God's blessings to all of you.*  
- Carole Jensen





# PRAYERS

## 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 (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.*



## Prayer Request Cards

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

## Christ in Our Home

Devotional Booklets for Oct/Nov/Dec are available in info racks near both entrances. Please feel free to take as many as you like and offer them to others who may find comfort in reading them.

**"Prayer is the habit of the heart."  
- Leighton Ford**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

## A Name Tag Just For You

In an effort to help our new Pastor remember our names, new name tags with lanyards have been made. Please look for your name tag and wear it on Rally Day and for worship services going forward. You can choose to take your name tag home with you (but don't forget to wear it next time) or leave it at church (tuck lanyard into name tag holder, then drop into basket). We will organize them alphabetically each week. If you don't see a name tag with your name on it, please use an adhesive name tag and let the church office know.

## Communion Kits Available for At Home Worshippers

Please contact Pastor Juli at [julia.a.thompson@gmail.com](mailto:julia.a.thompson@gmail.com) if you are not able to attend worship services in person and wish to participate in communion at home. She can deliver pre-filled communion cups (with wafers) to you so you can self-serve as you follow along online.

## Getting Events onto the 2025 Calendar

Please contact Tami in the church office at [office@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:office@ststephenwbl.org) or 651-777-1107 to get all special events, gatherings, meetings, groups, etc. onto the church's 2025 calendar.

## Computer Network Guru Needed!

We need your help to secure a Computer Network Guru for our church, can start immediately. This is a paid position. If you have the skills and the time or if you know of someone who does or a company that would be a good fit, please contact Jill Sandvik ([Jill@mapstoremn.com](mailto:Jill@mapstoremn.com) or 612-327-1896) or Mary Beth Skunes. **Skills needed:** setup & install computer/network accessories, server installation and configuration, server migration, desktop and laptop support, desktop application software, printers and peripherals setup/troubleshooting, access points/wireless, network setup and configuration, break/fix support, virus removal, secure internet service and possibility to go cloud based, training and support, provide email support and hosting (or secure from third party), copier printer integrated, and other tech issues that arise. We have 7-8 computers (not all are networked).



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### In This Issue

Church Matters (2)  
Happenings & Opportunities (3-5)  
Appreciation (6-8)  
Prayers (9)  
Announcements (10)  
General Information (11)  
Calendar (back cover)

### The Steppingstone Newsletter...

Is distributed monthly. If you have any items for the **November** issue, please send them to [office@ststephenwbl.org](mailto:office@ststephenwbl.org) by Thursday, Oct. 10. Newsletters are also available in information racks near both entrances or via email.

Please let us know if you have a change of address so that we can update our mailing list.

### Staff

### Council & Leadership

### Church Office Hours

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



**ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BRINGING GOD'S LOVE TO THE WORLD.

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

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

# What's Happening

## Sundays

Worship Service  
**9:30am IN-PERSON**  
(Live-streamed and online)

## Wednesdays

Grace & Praise (GAP) & Faith Ed  
**6:00pm IN-PERSON**  
(Community Meal at 5:15pm, \$5/pp)

## October Calendar Highlights

(weekly events listed in blue print)

- 10/2 Food Shelf Collection (Wed)
- 10/2 Fellowship Group (Wed/10:30am) *also on 9, 16, 23, 30*
- 10/2 Community Meal (Wed/5:15pm) *also on 9, 16, 23, 30*
- 10/2 Pre-Confirmation (Wed/5:30-6:15pm) *also on 9, 23*
- 10/2 GAP Worship (Wed/6:00pm) *also on 9, 16, 23, 30*
- 10/2 Confirmation (Wed/6:30-8:00pm)
- 10/2 Choir Rehearsal (Wed/7:00-8:00pm) *also on 9, 16, 23, 30*
- 10/3 Bible Discussion (Thurs/1:00pm) *also on 10, 17, 24, 31*
- 10/3 Worship & Music Ministry (Thurs/6:00-7:00pm)
- 10/5 Blessing of the Animals (Sat/10:00am & 12noon)
- 10/6 Sunday Worship (9:30am) *also on 13, 20, 27*
- 10/6 Auction Items Drop-off Deadline (Sun)
- 10/6 Food Shelf Collection (Sun)
- 10/9 Youth Group (Wed/7:00-7:45pm) *also on 23*
- 10/10 Content deadline for November Steppingstone (Thurs)
- 10/10 Retiree's Breakfast (Thurs/9:00-10:00am)
- 10/11 Auction SET-UP (Fri/9:00am-9:00pm)
- 10/12 Music Festival & Auction (Sat/11:00am-2:30pm)
- 10/14 Church Council Meeting (Mon/7:00-9:00pm)
- 10/16 MEA, most Wednesday Faith Ed **ON BREAK**
- 10/16 Youth Event: Haunted Hayride (TBD)
- 10/17 OWL's Event: Lunch at VFW (Thurs/11:30am) ???
- 10/21 Lefse Making (Mon/9:00am-12noon)
- 10/24 Steppingstone Distribution Day (Thurs)
- 10/24 Living Nativity Planning Meeting (Thurs/10:00am)
- 10/25 Trunk or Treat SET-UP (Fri/5:00-5:30pm)
- 10/25 Trunk or Treat at Mariner Middle School (Fri/5:30-7:00pm)
- 10/25 Trunk or Treat CLEAN-UP (Fri/7:00-7:30pm)
- 10/25 Fools for Christ Fall Dinner Theater (Fri/6:00pm)
- 10/26 Fools for Christ Fall Dinner Theater (Sat/6:00pm)
- 10/27 Reformation/Rite of Conformation (Sun/9:30am)
- 10/27 Confirmation Reception (Sun/10:30am)
- 10/29 Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (Tues/11:30am)