



November, 2024

Join Us and Invite Others!



All Saints Remembrance (9:30am)

- ◆ Honoring members who have died in the last five years
- ◆ Bring a photo and light a candle
- ◆ Details on page 4



Holly Boutique & Bake Sale (10:00am-2:00pm) November 9

- ◆ Handcrafted items
- ◆ Delicious baked goods
- ◆ Eat, shop, and listen to live music
- ◆ Get into the spirit of Christmas!
- ◆ Details on page 6



Stewardship Sunday (9:30am)

- ◆ We commit our pledges to the ministries of St. Stephen
- ◆ Stewardship Wednesday on 11/13
- ◆ Ministry details on page 3



Thanksgiving Service (7:00pm) November 27

- ◆ A service of thanks-giving!
- ◆ Blended choirs of Redeemer and St. Stephen Lutheran Churches
- ◆ Details on page 5

CHURCH MATTERS

Church Council Highlights

At its regular monthly meeting on October 14th, the church council addressed the following items:

- The financial forecast for our General Operating Fund is that the Fund's year-end balance will be greatly improved compared to the start of the year. However, our total cash, which is the sum of all our funds, will decline due to expenses from our capital fund for property improvements. Spending next year will be carefully monitored.
- The council approved a change in our insurance policy for reducing premium payments while accepting an increase in deductibles. Also, a procedure was established to reduce the number of insurance claims in the future that provide us no compensation from the insurance company.
- Council discussed its plan for participating in this year's Trunks 'N Treats event. The theme is "Fall for Jesus". We will prepare a St. Stephen bookmark with kid-friendly church activities on it (worship times, Sunday School, Parent's night out in January, etc.) to hand out.
- A team of stakeholders has been created to work with Redeemer regarding joint GAP services and other Wednesday night programming.
- A report for this year's Music Festival and Auction was presented, including the gross revenue of \$5,635.

Pastor James Attended Bishop's Theological Conference

Pastor James recently attended the Bishop's Theological conference at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria with about 80 rostered ministers in attendance for learning and reflection, worship and renewal while emboldening relationships with ministry colleagues and synod staff. Visit <https://spas-elca.org/> for pictures and information about upcoming events.



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 (612-327-1896 or Jill@mapstoremn.com) or Mary Beth Skunes. Skills needed: Setup & Install Computer/Network Accessories, Server Installation & 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 3rd party), Copier printer integrated. We have 7-8 computers (not all are networked), and other tech issues that arise.

Church Office Closed (11/28 & 11/29)

On Thursday, November Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving Day) and on Friday, Nov. 29, the office will be closed. Regular office hours are Monday-Thursday (9:00am-3:00pm) and Friday (9:00am-12noon).

Winter Weather

It's that time of year! Just a reminder that if WHITE BEAR LAKE school district cancels school or cancels evenings activities, St. Stephen will close for the day/evening as well. In the event that it snows and school is not canceled please use your own judgement on whether or not you should drive to church. It is rare that we have to close on a Sunday (it's only happened once in 35 years), but if we feel we need to cancel a Sunday service we will do everything we can to relay the message to our members, including posting a notice on our website.

CHURCH MATTERS

“Stewardship Calling” **Stewardship Campaign 2025**

Join us as we continue
bringing God’s LOVE to the world.



As you partner with St. Stephen Lutheran Church, this is who/how you are helping...

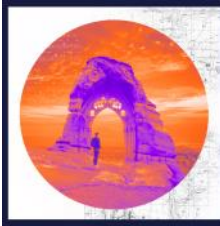
- ♦ Provide **activities for children and youth** throughout the year
- ♦ Children, youth, and adults with **Faith Education** classes and events
- ♦ Raise money for the **American Cancer Society** with Relay for Life
- ♦ Build a **boy's dorm** at the Makwema Secondary School in Lukani, Tanzania
- ♦ Children in Tanzania by providing **secondary school scholarships**
- ♦ Support village **water and well systems** in Lukani, Tanzania
- ♦ Local residents needing assistance with **gas or food cards**
- ♦ **Lutheran Social Service** (including Homeless Teens and Greatest Needs)
- ♦ Support **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** Thrift Store (proceeds from clothing sales benefit local food shelves, shelters, and many others)
- ♦ Community togetherness with **Neighbors Night Out** (Night to Unite)
- ♦ Bring the nativity story to life with our **Living Nativity**
- ♦ Support the **Rancho San Juan Bosco Orphanage** in Tecate, Mexico
- ♦ **Saint Paul Area Synod** outreach programs
- ♦ Support the Galilee Lutheran and Roseville Community Gardens
- ♦ Bring a safer option for children with **Trunk or Treat** (in partnership with local churches and schools)
- ♦ Support the **Tubman Alliance and the Tubman North Star Youth Outreach**
- ♦ **Union Gospel Mission** by providing bagged lunches
- ♦ Provide local children with **FREE Vacation Bible School**
- ♦ Support the **White Bear Area Food Shelf**
- ♦ **White Bear area schools** with school supplies and other needs

Thank you for your partnership!

Please watch for the 2025 Stewardship Drive mailing and be sure to return your annual pledge card to the church. All pledges are greatly appreciated!

Stewardship Sunday (11/10) & Wednesday (11/13)

HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES



HEALING our legacy

National Lutheran Choir All Saints Concerts (11/2 & 11/3)

Join the National Lutheran Choir for this meaningful program that honors loved ones lost, celebrates the newly born, and explores the intersection of faith, music, and the legacy we leave for generations to come. Concerts will be held Nov. 2 at 7:30pm in Shoreview and Nov. 3 at 4pm in Edina. For tickets and more information, visit NLCA.com

Daylight Saving Time Ends (11/3)

Remember to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday, Nov. 2 before you go to bed.



All Saints Remembrance (11/3)



On Sunday, November 3, we gather in worship (9:30am) for a service of remembrance to honor members who have died in the past five years.

This year, we invite you to bring a photo of a loved one (framed or unframed) that you may place on the communion rail before the service begins. You are also welcome to light a candle in their memory. The photo and lit candle can be in memory of anybody. Please remember to take your photo with you after the service. Join us for refreshments immediately following worship.

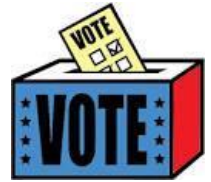
Bible Study BEGINS (11/4)

Join Pastor James in the library (10:00am) on **Monday**, November 4th as we begin our new pastor-led Bible study!



St. Stephen Election Day Voting Site (11/5)

The Fellowship Hall is open on Election Day for voting on Tuesday, November 5 (7:00am-8:00pm)



Cookie Baking (11/6)

Please join us on Wednesday, November 6 (9:00-12noon) in the kitchen to bake cookies!! All the cookie dough and supplies will be provided. These cookies will be packaged and sold for the Holly Boutique & Bake Sale held on Nov. 9th. No experience needed and all are welcome. Come for fun and coffee and fellowship!



Stewardship Sunday (11/10) & Wednesday (11/13)

Join us on Stewardship Sunday/Wednesday as we pledge our commitment of "Stewardship Calling".



Please read page 3 for more information about how your partnership with St. Stephen is helping bring God's love to the world!

Retiree's Breakfast (11/14)

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.



2025 Church Calendar (Office Needs Updates By 11/23)



We are working on our 2025 church calendar. Please submit any requested special events, gatherings, meetings, groups, etc. dates and times to Tami at

office@ststephenwbl.org before Saturday, November 23.

HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

KRM / Pastor Thomas Dowie's Book Launch (11/23)



Pastor Thomas with (KRM) Kingdom Restoration Ministries (they hold their worship services at St. Stephen) is having his book launch event here on Saturday, November 23 (2:00-4:30pm). The book is titled, "The Spirit of the Ministry". Click onto the link below to read a story about Pastor Thomas,

KRM, and his book which appeared in the White Bear Press. All are welcome to attend.

https://www.presspubs.com/shoreview/news/local-author-and-preacher-tells-stories-of-public-service/article_33f6a526-2dcd-11ef-8e1f-d359eea6c0d0.html

Monthly Hymn Sing (11/25)

Fleishpots of Egypt (Lutherland's Most Acclaimed Bluegrass Band) leads this hymn sing (7:00-9:00pm) on the fourth Monday of every month at Dubliner Pub (2162 University Ave., St. Paul, 55114) at University and Vandalia.

Get there early (6:30pm) to get a table. Beer and pizza available

and/or bring your own snacks. More info at:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/PKH9NJufre7PSWsk/?mibextid=JRoKGI>



Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (11/26)

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 Nov. 26th, we will be gathering at the Olive Garden (1749 Beam Ave., Maplewood) – RSVP by 11/24.

Thanksgiving Worship Service (11/27)

Join us for a very special service of thanksgiving featuring the combined choirs of Redeemer and St. Stephen Lutheran Churches on Wednesday, November 27 (7:00pm). Please bring an item for our Canned Food Drive.



Williams Syndrome Fundraiser & Jason Gray Concert at Redeemer (11/30)

All are welcome to attend a Williams Syndrome Fundraiser and a Christmas Stories Concert (4:00pm) featuring Jason Gray at Redeemer Lutheran Church (3770 Bellaire Ave., White Bear Lake). Doors open at 4:00pm. Please call

651-429-5411 for more information.



Living Nativity (12/14)

Our annual Living Nativity will be held on Saturday, December 14th (4:30-7:30pm)! Please plan to participate. You can play a Nativity role, no experience is necessary. We need Mary, Joseph, angels, wisemen, and shepherds for 30 minute shifts. Invite your friends and family from the wider community to volunteer with you and/or attend.

Come inside for hot chocolate, apple cider, tasty treats, kid's crafts, live music and caroling. Bring a cellphone or camera and use our holiday vignette as a

backdrop for a photo. If you are unable to volunteer, you can still participate by sponsoring an animal to help defray the cost.

Please sign up when you see the Living Nativity display in the narthex or contact Tami in the office: 651-777-1107 or

office@ststephenwbl.org

The Living Nativity



HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Holly Boutique & Bake Sale

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



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...

(Please sign up in the narthex!)

- 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).
- 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.

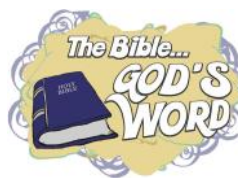


Come Join the Choir!

Choir members and anyone who may wish to
join the choir are invited back to the church on
Wednesdays (7:00-8:00pm) for practice. If
you wish to participate or have any questions,
contact Kari at ballatahosmer@gmail.com

Fellowship Group

All are invited to gather in
the narthex on Wednesdays
(10:30am) to share news, lift
each other up with encour-
agement, and simply just
visit! This is an informal
group and all 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).
Walk-ins are welcome.

Grace & Praise Worship & Community Meal

Each Wednesday, join us (*and invite others*)
to attend our casual Grace & Praise (GAP)
worship service (6:00-6:45pm) in the sanctu-
ary and Community Meal (5:15-6:00pm) in the
Fellowship Hall.

Cooks Needed for Wednesday Meals

We are in need of volunteers to prepare,
cook, and serve (FOR 25 PEOPLE)
Wednesday evening community meals. Get
reimbursed for up to \$50. Mealtime is 5:15-
6:00pm before our Grace & Praise (GAP)
Worship Service. Choose one or as many
Wednesdays as you like (through May of
2024). Sign up in the kitchen or contact Tami
in the church office office@ststephenwbl.org
or 651-777-1107 to get onto the schedule.

APPRECIATION

To Congregation from Pastor James & Mary...

Dear St. Stephen family, Thank you so much for your warm welcome this past month and for your well wishes for our new life together! We are especially grateful for the lovely installation service, reception, and the thoughtful gifts. You can see us enjoying one of the gift cards in the photo (bonus points if you can guess which one!). Blessings to you all!



Parking Lot... Thank you property team for all the hard work on getting the parking lot updated with new striping and signage!

Note to NHN from the Bear Clinic... *Dear Neighbors Helping Neighbors, We wanted to share our heartfelt thanks for your donation to the Bear Care Clinic. We are most grateful to you! This donation will help provide no-cost services for many children in the community! Thank you for all you do for this community! We will be sure to pass along your clothing thrift store information. Thank you!*



Veterans & Families on Veterans Day (11/11)...

Veterans Day ceremonies across the country take place on November 11 at 11:00am (a time that commemorates the ending of World War I). Although another holiday, Memorial Day, honors deceased veterans, Veterans Day honors ALL veterans with an emphasis on military personnel still living. Thank you veterans (and families) for your service to our country.



APPRECIATION

Blessing of the Animals... We gathered at Wedgewood Park again this year on Saturday, October 5th! Thank you to everyone who participated in bringing blessings to our beloved neighborhood pets!

Music Festival & Auction... The 33rd annual Music Festival and Auction on Saturday October 12 was a great success. We were able to raise over \$5,600 (before expenses) for our church! The event included great music, a silent auction, and a live auction. Thanks go to all the people who donated, who volunteered at the event, and who provided homemade desserts.



PRAYERS

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



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 (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.

“The language of friendship is not words but meanings.” - Henry David Thoreau

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL INVITATION FROM PASTOR JAMES

Pastor James serves on the board of Camp Onomia and wishes to extend an invitation to members and friends of St. Stephen to attend upcoming wellness retreats. Visit www.camponomia.org or call 320-532-3767 for more information.

Women's Refresh Retreat

Theme:

Deeply Rooted: Tending to our Bodies, Minds, and Spirits

Women of all ages are invited to join us for a rejuvenating weekend away! Led by **Joy Hensel**, Synod Minister for Mental Health and Wellness in the NE MN Synod, we'll be exploring the concept of whole body wellness. Leave feeling renewed, empowered, and equipped with practical tools to continue your wellness journey. Embrace this opportunity to rest, reflect, and reconnect with God and yourself.

Ephesians 3:17 "... that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love."

Sign up online or give us a call:
www.camponomia.org
320-532-3767

Friday, Nov. 1st-
Saturday, Nov. 2nd
\$94



Men's Weekend Away

November 15th-17th

\$120

Join us for a weekend away and experience autumn on the shores of Lake Shakopee.

Visit our website for more information and to register. Questions? Please send us an email or give us a call.

Engage in meaningful conversations with other guys, learn more about your identity in Christ, and leave feeling empowered and renewed!

www.camponomia.org/programmed-retreats

camponomia@gmail.com
320.532.3767

14202 Shakopee Lake Road
Onomia MN 56359



GENERAL INFORMATION

In This Issue

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Calendar (back cover)

The Steppingstone Newsletter...

Is distributed monthly. If you have any items for the **December** issue, please send them to office@ststephenwbl.org by Sunday, Nov. 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
1965 East County Rd E
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

What's Happening

Sundays

Worship Service
9:30am IN-PERSON

(Services are live-streamed and online)

Wednesdays

Grace & Praise Worship & Faith Ed
6:00pm IN-PERSON

(Community Meal at 5:15pm, \$5/pp)

Calendar Highlights

- 11/3 Food Shelf Collection (Sun)
- 11/3 Daylight Saving Time Ends (Sun/2:00am)
- 11/3 All Saints Remembrance (Sun/9:30am)
- 11/3 All Saints Remembrance Reception (Sun/10:30am)
- 11/4 Bible Study BEGINS (Mon/10:00am)
- 11/5 General Election Day – Polls Open (Tues/7:00am-8:00pm)
- 11/6 Food Shelf Collection (Wed)
- 11/6 Cookie Baking Day (Wed/9:00am-12noon)
- 11/7 Worship & Music Ministry Meeting (Thurs/6:00-7:00pm)
- 11/8 Boutique Set-up and Cookie Packing (Fri/9:00am)
- 11/9 Holly Boutique & Bake Sale (Sat/10:00am-2:00pm)
- 11/10 Stewardship Sunday
- 11/10 Content DEADLINE for December Steppingstone (Sun)
- 11/10 Boutique Church Sale (Sun/10:30am)
- 11/11 Veterans Day (Mon)
- 11/11 Boutique Clean-up (Mon/9:00am)
- 11/11 Church Council Meeting (Mon/7:00-9:00pm)
- 11/13 Stewardship Wednesday
- 11/14 Ministry Sharing Team Meeting (Thurs/8:00am)
- 11/14 Retiree's Breakfast (Thurs/9:00-10:00am)
- 11/17 Baptism: Evelyn Burbach (Sun/9:30am)
- 11/23 KRM/Pastor Thomas' Book Launch (Sat/2:00-4:30pm)
- 11/25 Hymn Sing at Dubliner Pub (Mon/7:00-9:00pm)
- 11/26 Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (Tues/11:30am)
- 11/27 Most Wednesday programming—ON BREAK
- 11/27 Thanksgiving Service w/Blended Choirs (Wed/7:00pm)
- 11/28 Thanksgiving Day (Thurs—NO service, office CLOSED)
- 11/29 Church Office CLOSED (Fri)
- 11/30 Williams Syndrome Fundraiser at Redeemer (Sat/3:00pm)
- 11/30 Jason Gray Concert at Redeemer (Sat/4:00pm)