



Steppingstone Newsletter



June, 2025

Highlights



Volunteer Appreciation

Sunday, June 1 (Reception following 9:30am service)



GAP Summer & Community BBQ's

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



Photo Days for New Directory

June 12, 13, 14 (Scheduling details on pages 3 & 4)



Summer B.L.A.S.T.

June/July/August (Details on page 5)



Vacation Bible School

June 23-27 (Details on page 5)



People & Pets Appreciation Event

Sunday, June 29 (4:00-6:00pm, Details on page 6)

CHURCH MATTERS

Church Council Highlights

Submitted by Kathy Stickler, Church Council President

- Reimbursement Policy was created and is posted on the wall in the workroom near where the invoices are available.
- Church Council meetings are experimenting with a reduced meeting time, going from 120 minutes to 90 minutes.
- Ministry Team reports - we will try a new summary format.
- Our Pets and People Manitou Event is going well with several local businesses participating. Our youth will help with cat and dog toy crafts. White Bear Press will be doing a special feature because we are a new event.
- We need to work on how we can better advertise community events St. Stephen is involved in (TV in Narthex). Add signage that we now have child care on Wednesdays GAP services.



We Need Donations of Clear Bins!

In preparation for the church Garage Sale happening in September, we are in need of new or gently used bins (clear if possible) with lids. Approximate sizes: ♦ 24"long x 16"wide x 12"high (4 dozen). ♦ 24"long x 16"wide x 6"high (2 dozen). ♦ 12"long x 8"wide x 6"high (2 dozen). We appreciate your bin donations! Please read more about this Pilot Program on page 6.



APPRECIATION

Flower Pots... Thank you to Jackie & Paul Colaizy for planting the beautiful flowers in the entrance pots! (Pictured right.)

Spring Clean Up Day... Thank you to Jackie & Paul Colaizy, Ron Johnson, Bill Kneip, Char Redepenning, Anita Schreader, Diane & Paul Swanson for all the clean-up of the church and grounds for spring!

Office Helpers... *Thank you to Kathy Anderson, Judee Bramscher, Betsy Clark, Linda Hetland, Pastor James Muske, Pat Robinson, and Melissa Whitman for covering the office while I was away for five days. I appreciate everyone's help! - Tami*

Steppingstone Crew... Thank you to Cheryl Skrypez for proof-reading the newsletter every month and to Joyce Hall, Becky & Ron Johnson for preparing the mailing.

Worship Banners... Thank you to Carol Balk for the beautiful indoor worship banners (pictured below). The banners come from Carol's home church, Vukku Lutheran Church, in Foxhome, Minnesota. The church is closing. We look forward to displaying them!



CHURCH MATTERS

It's time for our *new directory!*

*Technology has
changed the way
we can view
directories!*



Our Church Family Album will
not be complete without you!
Please sign up today!

Photography Appointment

Date: _____ Day: _____ Time: _____

New Church Photo Directory

It's Time for a New Pictorial Directory!
We need YOU to make our church
directory complete! Our directory
brings us together to develop new

relationships, connect with our own families and friends, and reconnect with those we haven't
seen in a while. Join us and be a part of what God is doing in our church!

SIGN UP at Welcome Desk on weekends -or- online during the week!

Schedule Your Photography Appointment

Photo Dates: Thursday (2:00-8:30pm), Friday (2:00-8:30pm),
and Saturday (10:00am-4:00pm), **June 12, 13, and 14.**



Schedule your photography appointment online! Just scan the **QR code to the right** -or- go to www.ucdir.com and click the "Photography Session Sign-Up" button. Enter **mn565** in the "Church Code" field. Enter **photos** in the "Church Password" field. Online signup is not available on weekends so that we can have **paper sign-up at church Saturdays and Sundays.** The schedules will fill up quickly, so sign up now to get the time that works best for you!

Universal Professional Portraiture Provides

You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options,
and have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Plus, you get a **FREE DIRECTORY** and a **FREE 8x10** portrait just for being photographed.

Prepare for your Professional Photography Session:



Formal

Semi-Formal

Casual

Getting Ready

CLOTHING: Solid colors work best and will make you look thinner.

HAIR: Be yourself, avoid changing your hairstyle or cutting your hair right before your session.

JEWELRY: If you have jewelry that has special meaning to you, wear it!

MAKE-UP: Apply make-up as you would normally for an evening out. Pay special attention to your eyes: they're the focal point in a portrait!

GLASSES: If you wear eye glasses all the time, you'll want to wear them in your portraits. Don't worry, we'll take care of any glare.

What Can I Bring?

- ◆ You may invite extended family members for a multi-generational photo.
- ◆ Bring your pets, we know they are an important part of the family! Please check with your church.
- ◆ Bring props that express you and your family's personality, e.g., instruments, sports equipment, and hobby items.

HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES



Volunteer Appreciation Reception (6/1)

Please join us in the narthex immediately following the worship service on Sunday, June 1st for cake and refreshments as we show appreciation for all our volunteers!

VBS Volunteer Training (6/1)

For those who are volunteering to assist with Vacation Bible School happening June 23-27, please be sure to attend one or both training sessions at Redeemer Lutheran Church (3770 Bellaire Ave) on Sunday, June 1 (11:00am) and/or Tuesday, June 10 (7:00pm). Please contact Melissa at mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org if you have any questions.

Summertime Worship Service & Community BBQ's

Invite others to join us each Wednesday for our Community BBQ (5:15-6:00pm) and casual, outdoor Grace & Praise (GAP) Worship Service (6:00-6:45pm). We gather on the north lawn (weather permitting), so remember to bring your lawn chair or blanket.



Prepare/Cook/Serve Wednesday Meals/BBQ's

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 throughout the summer. Sign up in the kitchen or contact the church office at office@ststephenwbl.org or 651-777-1107 to get onto the schedule.



High School Graduate Recognition (6/4)

On Wednesday, June 4, we will recognize our high school graduates during the outdoor Grace & Praise (GAP) worship service.

Pentecost (6/8)

On Pentecost, we celebrate that we have been given an Advocate to accompany us. Poured out in wind and fire, water, wine, and bread, the Holy Spirit abides in and among us. We give thanks that God speaks to each of us, no matter our origins, language, or life path. Filled with the Spirit of truth, we go out from worship to proclaim the saving power of Christ's love and the freedom of God's grace with all the world. If you wish, **wear red!**



Schedule Your Photo Session For Our New Church Directory (6/12, 6/13, 6/14)

It's Time for a New Pictorial Directory! Photo Dates: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 12, 13, and 14. Schedule your photography appointment online by scanning the QR code to the right -or- go to www.ucdir.com and click the "Photography Session Sign-Up" button. Enter **mn565** in the "Church Code" field. Enter **photos** in the "Church Password" field. Online signup may not be available on Saturday & Sunday so we can have paper sign-ups at church on the weekends.



If you cannot schedule online, contact Tami in the church office (651-777-1107) and she will schedule for you over the phone.

We need YOU to make our church directory complete! Plus, you get a free directory and a free 8 x 10 portrait just for being photographed. The schedules are filling up quickly, so sign up now to get the time that works best for you!

Updating Database Please Check Your Info!

Please check your name, address, phone number, and email (for each person in your household) in the printed out directory on the Welcome Desk. Make corrections with the **RED** pen. We are updating our database for the new photo directory. Thank you.



HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Father's Day (6/15)

Join us on Sunday, June 15 for worship and special Father's Day treats. This is a good opportunity to invite others!



Monthly Hymn Sing at Dubliner Pub (6/16)

Fleishpots of Egypt (Lutherland's most acclaimed Bluegrass Band) leads this hymn sing (7:00-9:00pm) on the **THIRD**

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=JR0Kgi>

Summer B.L.A.S.T. June Schedule

What is Summer B.L.A.S.T. (Believe. Love. Act. Serve. Together.) - for kids in 3rd thru

6th grades. Each session includes games, crafts, a service project, and learning what it means to love our neighbor through devotions and prayer! Children must bring a sack lunch and a refillable water bottle. Snacks and sunscreen are provided. We offer a 25% discount for children who receive free or reduced lunch through the federal lunch program. Each event day is \$25. To register, contact Melissa at mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org



June Schedule - On Tuesday, **June 17 (9:30am-3:30pm)**, we will spend the morning walking around the neighborhood advertising a canned food drive for the WBLAFS, spend the afternoon at the Minnesota History Center, and tour the St. Paul Cathedral. On Tuesday, **June 24 (12:30-6:30pm)**, we will spend the early afternoon collecting canned food for the food drive around the neighborhood, spend the afternoon at Hyland Park in Bloomington (aka the "Chutes and Ladders" park). Dinner included.

Register Children and/or Volunteer for VBS!

VBS will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church (June 23-27). We are anticipating a large turnout for Vacation Bible School this year and we cannot run this program without you! If you would like to volunteer or register a child for VBS, please contact Melissa at:

mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org



Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (6/24)

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 June 24th, we meet at Blacksmith in Hugo (17205 Forest Blvd N). Please RSVP by 6/22.

Retiree's Breakfast - On Break

This group is on break for the summer.

Fellowship Group - Ongoing

All are invited to gather (10:30am) in the narthex on Wednesdays 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) with any questions.



God's Word - Bible Discussion

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



HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES



Join Us at Marketfest!

We are excited to be part of Marketfest again this year. The theme of our booth will be "Gratitude." Adults and children will have the opportunity to write notes of thanks to the people who make White Bear a fantastic place to live, learn and play. Each week a different focus group will be thanked; Safety, Education, Creation Care, and City Leaders. Our booth will be set up on four of the seven Thursday Marketfest nights; June 19, June 26, July 10 and July 17 (6:00-9:00pm).

Please talk to Karen Smith (612) 385-5704 if you have interest in helping plan for the event, set up and/or take a shift to man the booth. **We need your help!** This is a great opportunity for us to spread the word about St. Stephen and our commitment to "share God's love with the world!"

People & Pets Appreciation Event (6/29)

As a part of the Manitou Days festivities, we are hosting an event here at St. Stephen for pets and their people. Invite others and join us on **Sunday, June 29 (4:00-6:00pm)**. In addition to a Pet Blessing, there will be DIY crafts (ex: dog toys from old t-shirts, cat-nip toys, paw-print-paintings). Local businesses will be on-site to provide training demos, nail clipping, and offer other pet-related services (ex: grooming, training, walking, and rescue). There will be food for humans and animals. And, a Pet Photo Booth.

This will be a really fun community event, so please spread the word!



Pilot Program Needs Volunteers to Attract Families with Children

Many of you know that Sue Lemon serves on the Church Council as our liaison for our Children & Families Ministry. She is developing a pilot program in an attempt to attract families with children to the church. The program includes three events (Parent's Night Out, Mom's Morning Out, and a Children's Christmas Celebration). They would include food, games, movies, music, and fun for FREE! To pay for these events an Indoor Garage Sale would be held to raise funds. The event dates are as follows:

- ◆ **Indoor Garage Sale** (rain or shine)
Saturday, Sept. 20 (10:00am-1:00pm)
- ◆ **Parent's Night Out**
Friday, Oct. 17 (5:00-8:00pm)
- ◆ **Mom's Morning Out**
Saturday, Nov. 15 (10:00am-1:00pm)
- ◆ **Children's Christmas Celebration**
Saturday, Dec. 20 (10:00am-1:00pm)

All of the events would be on the third weekend of each month. The children would be divided into three groups.

- ⇒ Ages 2 and 3 (no infants or children under 2)
- ⇒ Ages 4, 5, and 6
- ⇒ Ages 7, 8, and 9

In order to implement this pilot program, we would need at least five (5) volunteers for each event. Once we know we have volunteers in place, we can move forward. If you would be willing to participate or have questions, please contact Sue Lemon at 651-429-5861.

APPRECIATION

Sleep In Heavenly Peace... Thank you to everyone from Redeemer and St. Stephen who volunteered and/or financially supported the Sleep In Heavenly Peace Outreach Event. Many folks gathered to construct 20 beds for children in our area who have no bed. John King was instrumental in organizing the event where tools were provided. Each recipient of a bed was also given a quilt – thanks to the quilters from both churches. Bibles were also given from the David Erickson Memorial Fund.



APPRECIATION



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

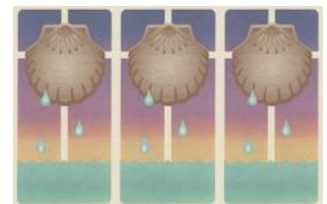


Christ in Our Home

Devotional Booklets for April / May / June are now available in the narthex in the information racks. Please feel free to take as many as you like and offer them to others who may find comfort in reading them.

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



Hymn of the Month

“Where True Charity and Love Abide”

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2025/04/hymn-of-the-month-where-true-charity-and-love-abide/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



Way to Go Rebecca!

Congratulations to Rebecca Drimmel on the publication of a colorful children's recital book titled, "Piano Solos for the Early Beginner". It is available on the Barnes and Nobel website!



APPRECIATION

Lenten Desserts... Thank you to the Lenten lunch dessert makers: Denise Ashley, Missy Kneip, Sue Lemon, Cindy Scott, and Bonnie Stewart. We appreciate your delicious desserts! We also enjoyed receiving the recipes!

Good Friday... Thank you to all who participated in the Good Friday worship service at Redeemer. From greeting to playing roles of biblical characters, your part played an important part of our shared ministry.

Eastertime... Thank you to all who made Eastertime meaningful and beautiful! There were too many names to track, but we appreciate everyone! Please see pictures on page 8.

GENERAL INFORMATION

In This Issue

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Appreciation (2, 7, 8, 10)
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Calendar (back cover)

The Steppingstone Newsletter...

Is distributed monthly. If you have any items for the **July** issue, please send them to office@ststephenwbl.org by Tues., June 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 (with band, organ, or piano)
9:30am IN-PERSON
(Services are live-streamed and online)

Wednesdays

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

Calendar Highlights

- 6/1 Volunteer Appreciation Reception (Sun/10:45am)
- 6/1 Food Shelf Collection (Sun)
- 6/1 VBS Volunteer Training (Sun/11:00am) **at Redeemer**
- 6/4 GAP Summer & Community BBQ (Wed/5:15pm) **BEGINS**
- 6/4 High School Graduate Recognition (Wed/6:00pm)
- 6/4 Food Shelf Collection (Wed)
- 6/5 Worship & Music Meeting (Thurs/6:00-7:00pm)
- 6/8 Pentecost - Wear Red (Sun)
- 6/9 Church Council Meeting (Mon/6:00-7:30pm)
- 6/10 Content Deadline for July Steppingstone (Tues)
- 6/10 VBS Volunteer Training (Tues/7:00pm) **at Redeemer**
- 6/12 Retiree's Breakfast **ON BREAK**
- 6/12 Photography Sessions (Thurs/2:00-8:30pm)
- 6/13 Photography Sessions (Fri/2:00-8:30pm)
- 6/14 Photography Sessions (Sat/10:00am-4:00pm)
- 6/15 Father's Day Treats
- 6/16 Monthly Hymn Sing at Dubliner Pub (Mon/7:00-9:00pm)
- 6/17 Summer Blast / Grades 3-6 (Tues/9:30am-3:30pm)
- 6/23 (VBS) Vacation Bible School (Mon-Fri, June 23-27)
- 6/24 Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (Tues/11:30am)
- 6/24 Summer Blast / Grades 3-6 (Tues/12:30-6:30pm)
- 6/29 People & Pets Appreciation Event (Sun/4:00-6:00pm)