



Steppingstone Newsletter



July & August, 2025

Highlights



Summer B.L.A.S.T. for Kids

For Grades 3-6 (page 3 for details)



Relay for Life

 Walk, Activities, Entertainment
Friday, July 25 (page 5 for details)

Christian Singles Lunch Bunch

July 29 & August 26 (page 4 for details)



Musical Instrument Drive

August 3-20 (page 6 for details)



Night to Unite

Tuesday, August 5 (page 6 for details)



Tanzania Prayer Partners

August 11-27 (page 6 for details)

CHURCH MATTERS

Church Council Update

Submitted by Kathy Stickler, Church Council President



- ♦ The council is in support of forming a Technology Support Team with a focus on the following five areas:
 - o Worship
 - o Website and Social Media
 - o Facility
 - o Staff Technology Needs
- ♦ A sign was created for the new Pet Area for the Wednesday GAP service
- ♦ A St. Stephen Organizational Handbook will be drafted by Staff Relations and the Executive Committee; it will include information flow, an organizational chart, job descriptions, committee descriptions, etc.
- ♦ A handrail for the north sidewalk has been ordered and will be installed this month.
- ♦ Shade options are being considered for the north lawn.
- ♦ St Stephens continues to be in the White Bear Press with highlights of our Marketfest (Gratitude theme) and Manitou Days (Pets & People) involvement.



Church Office Closed (7/4)

The church office is closed on Friday, July 4 in recognition of Independence Day.

Lost & Found

We have a place for lost and found items near the coat rack by the Welcome Desk. Contact the office if you are missing any jewelry or smaller items.

We Had a Synod Assembly!



Nearly 400 rostered ministers and lay leaders registered for this year's Synod Assembly, held this past Friday and Saturday at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi. Pictured above is a moving moment of the worship service, when Bishop Lull asked the crowd to "scooch over" to the center aisle to surround her in singing *I Love to Tell the Story*, a fitting hymn for a gathering with the theme of *Called to Invite*.

HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES



Join Us at Marketfest! (7/10 & 7/17)

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 the following Thursdays (6:00-9:00pm): July 10 and July 17. 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!"

Summer B.L.A.S.T. July & August 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

July Schedule - On Tuesday, **July 8 (9:30am-3:30pm)**, we will spend the morning at Second Stork in St. Paul creating newborn

baby packs for mothers and babies in need in Minnesota, spend the afternoon hiking and swimming at TBD. On Tuesday, **July 15 (8:45am-4:30pm)**, we will spend the morning at Feed My Starving Children, then the afternoon at Bunker Beach.

August Schedule - On Tuesday, **August 19 (10:00am-4:00pm)**, we will spend the day at the Wildlife Science Center in Stacy, MN, learning about wolves, raptors, bears, and other Minnesota wildlife! On Tuesday, August 26, grades 3-12 are invited to a day at ValleyFair! For more info, contact Melissa at:

mwhitman@redeemerwhitebear.org

Retiree's Breakfast – On Break

This group is on break for the summer.

Youth Trip to Tennessee Send-off (7/16)

The youth of St. Stephen and Redeemer Lutheran churches will be heading to Tennessee July 19-27. Please join us for their send-off on July 16 during the 6:00pm GAP worship service (5:15pm BBQ). Please

pray for them while they are away. Parents and guardians must fill out paperwork at 7pm in the North Fellowship Hall.



Gospel Music Sunday (7/20)

Betsy & Brent Clark will be sharing their talents with us for a special worship service infused with Gospel music! This is a great opportunity to invite others!

HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES



End of Life Doula Presentation (7/20)

Join us in the library immediately following worship for a presentation by Marie Koehler, a trained and volunteer End of Life Doula with Hospice agencies. Marie will share her personal experiences working with patients and their family members and caregivers. She will offer insight into services and answer questions you may have.

Luminary Sunday (7/20) & Luminary Wednesday (7/23)



We invite you to join us as we honor survivors and remember loved ones during worship on either Sunday, July 20 (9:30am) or Wednesday, July 23 (6:00pm). Luminaries will be on display. Look for more information on page 5.

Monthly Hymn Sing at Dubliner Pub (7/21 & 8/18)

Fleashpots 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=JRoKGi>)

Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (7/29 & 8/26)

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 July 29, we are going to Sak's Sports Bar (1460 Co. Rd. E in Vadnais Heights). RSVP by 7/27. On August 26, we will meet at Carbone's Pizzeria & Pub (1350 Hwy 96 E, White Bear Lake). RSVP by 8/24.



Summertime Worship Service & Community BBQ

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). Pets are welcome (unless we have to worship indoors). Watch for signs marking designated pet areas. We gather on the north lawn (weather permitting), so remember to bring your lawn chair or blanket.



Prepare/Cook/Serve Wednesday Meal/BBQ

We are in need of volunteers to prepare and/or cook and/or serve Wednesday evening community meals (for up to 25 people). Meats are pre-purchased. Provide chips, a side dish, dessert, or all three. Reimbursement is available upon request. 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. To get onto the schedule, sign up in the kitchen or contact the church office at 651-777-1107 or office@ststephenwbl.org



HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Lions and Tigers and White Bears, Oh My!



31st Annual Relay for Life

Friday, July 25 (3-10pm)

WBL North Campus

5040 Bald Eagle Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Relay for Life is one way the American Cancer Society collects donations to support cancer research and cancer care. Our team, the Spirit of St. Stephen, is celebrating its 30th year supporting this important ministry for our church and a worthy outreach activity for our community. And to add to the fun, this is the 40th anniversary of the very first Relay for Life, with the theme, "There's No Place Like Hope".

Last year, we made some changes to how we organize as a church. We liked those changes, so we will continue to implement them:

- ◆ Viki Bosin registered the team and will be the team captain.
- ◆ To participate on the team, go to wbrelay.org, (sign in if you have been a member in the past), and click on 'Join this Relay'. You will be asked a few simple questions, including your t-shirt size. Once you raise \$100 or more, you will join the Hope Club and receive a Hope Club t-shirt by mail before the event. Make sure to indicate it if you are also a Survivor.
- ◆ Team members can fundraise outside of

church like they often do. See Viki Bosin for materials, information and ideas.

- ◆ Cancer survivors who would like to walk in the Survivor Lap need to register online before the event (soon!) to receive their t-shirt. You can also register at the event, but they won't have this year's official t-shirts, but you can wear a Survivor shirt from a previous year. All survivors also receive a goody bag and lots of support.
- ◆ Dave and Viki Bosin are sponsoring the team. We usually have 10-12 other sponsors. Viki will have those forms at church services beginning June 15, if you would like to sponsor the team. (A sponsorship is \$150 or more).
- ◆ Viki will also collect any donations to the Relay. We can accept cash, or checks made out to **American Cancer Society**, and Viki will be able to accept electronic donations.



- ◆ **Luminaries** – We will begin selling luminaries June 29, but with some changes. When you purchase luminaries, you will take them with you to write the names and decorate yourself. Then you bring them back on Luminary Sunday (July 20) or Wednesday (July 23) and place them on the altar/stage yourself. After the service, you are encouraged to take them home with you. On Friday evening, you can bring them to the Relay for Life at North Campus and place them on the track yourself, or you can set them up at your home that evening to honor your loved ones. With each luminary, you make a \$10 donation to the **American Cancer Society**.
- ◆ Contact Viki Bosin at 651-429-7317 or vikianddave@comcast.net if you have any questions.

HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Musical Instrument Drive



August 3-20

Your gently-used musical instruments can help transform a child's life! **DROP OFF:**
Before/After worship on Sun (9:30am) or Wed (6:00pm)
and Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs (9:00am-3:00pm)

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
1965 East County Road E / White Bear Lake, MN 55110 / 651-777-1107

This year, instead of a school supplies drive, St. Stephen is collecting band and orchestra instrument donations for the Mariner Instrumental Music Program. Do you or someone you know have a gently used instrument that is no longer being used? Please consider donating. Mariner Middle School states that they never want the cost of an instrument to keep a child from participating in band or orchestra. Donations from the community are used to provide this opportunity to EVERY child. Even if your instrument is in need of some repair, Mariner is glad to take it off your hands and get it into good playing condition for a student. They are looking for these instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, snare drum, marimba, violin, viola, and cello.

Night to Unite

We are looking for help to make this a fun out-reach event for the community (potluck picnic, games, music, and fun surprises) on Tuesday, August 5 (6:00-8:00pm). **Please sign up in the narthex to help with the following:**

- ◆ Bring hot dish, salad, or dessert
- ◆ Set up tables and chairs (5:00-6:00pm)
- ◆ Host/Hostess at Welcome Table (6:00-7:00pm -or- 7:00-8:00pm)
- ◆ Food Prep/Setting out/Serving (5:30-6:30pm -or- 6:30-7:30pm)
- ◆ Grilling hot dogs (6:00-7:00pm -or- 7:00-8:00pm)
- ◆ Clean-up/Tear Down: tables, chairs (8:00-9:00pm)
- ◆ Clean-up: food clearing, dish-washing, etc. (8:00-9:00pm)
- ◆ Join in the fun and invite others!

Tanzania Mission Trip Commissioning & Prayer Partners (8/10)

On Sunday, August 10 during the worship service, we will be commissioning our members who will be travelling to Tanzania August 11-27. During their travels, we ask for your prayers. If you wish to be a "Prayer Partner", please sign up at the Welcome Desk in the narthex with your name, phone number, and email address. You will receive a devotional booklet with the team's itinerary, a bible verse, and a meditation for each day of their trip.



Primary Election Day (8/12)

St. Stephen is a polling location for the area and will be open to the public for voting (7:00am-8:00pm) on Tuesday, August 12th.



Donation Drop-off Begins (8/20)

We're hoping you have items stored up to donate for this year's auction, which is to be on Saturday, October 11. Please drop off items to the church beginning on August 20th!

Nordic Walking Ends (8/26)

Nordic Walking continues on Tuesdays (7:00-8:00pm) at different locations throughout the summer and ends on August 26th. All ages welcome. Dogs are welcome too. For more information, contact Ted Field.



HAPPENINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

"God's work. Our hands."



God's Work Our Hands Service Project (9/7)

This year's service project will take place the Sunday before Rally Day. We will be making sandwiches for the Union Gospel Mission immediately following worship. Please watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex and join us!



Preparing for the Rally Day Community Picnic

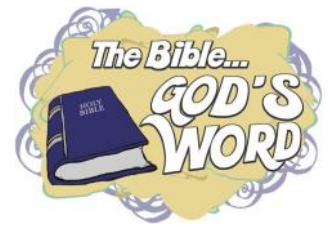
Please sign up in the narthex in August to help with our Rally Day celebration and the start to a new church year. We look forward to a special outdoor worship surrounded by our new trees, a community picnic, and much more. Many hands make light work, so please sign up to help with set-up, food prep, cooking, baking, family games, tear-down, clean-up, and most importantly—INVITE OTHERS to join us on this fun day! Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 14th this year!

Funeral Luncheon Helpers

Please consider volunteering to help with funeral luncheons at St. Stephen Church. Positions to choose from include food prep and set-up from 9:00-11:30am. Serving food and clean up 11:30am-2:00pm. Making a pan of bars and/or cookies to serve at funeral lunch. Please contact Judy Ruth at 651-426-0869 to volunteer or for additional information.

God's Word Bible Discussion Group

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



Fellowship Group

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 and walk-ins are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Judee Bramscher at 651-269-6122.

Indoor Garage Sale (9/20)

Drop off items now, then invite others to the sale on Saturday, Sept. 20 (10:00am-1:00pm)!



Crafts Needed for the Holly Boutique

Please remember the Holly Boutique will be November 8 and it's not too early to start making items to be sold. We are accepting hand-made crafts and hope you would consider donating for our sale.

Save the Date!

The Fools for Christ Fall Dinner Theater will be on Friday and Saturday, October 24-25. Details coming soon.



2025 Fall Dinner Theater

Friday & Saturday / 6:00pm

October 24 & 25

Featuring:

The Fools for Christ
DELICIOUS multi-course meal
Prizes & Surprises

Tickets: \$25

Purchase tickets by scanning QR
or at foolsdrama.com/tickets



APPRECIATION

Cross... Thank you to Gretchen Trendera for her artistic talent in creating the cross that now hangs in the narthex (photo).

Picture Day Greeters... Thank you to Jackie Colaizy, Robin Eberlein, Jenny Hart, Linda Hetland, Sue Lemon, Char Redepenning, Pat Robinson, Mary Beth Skunes, and Kathy Stickler for being our picture day greeters. Your help was greatly appreciated!

Petunias... Thank you to Darlene Birkeland for donating Petunias for the church garden and to Judee Bramscher for planting them!

Progressive Dinner... Thank you to Pam Prokosch for organizing the progressive dinner, those who opened their homes to delicious foods, and to all who progressed from house to house. Thanks for the pictures too!

From Eleanor Strand... *Dear Friends at St. Stephen, thank you for your prayers, cards, food, and good wishes as I went through my healing process.*

Photography Sessions... Thank you to everyone who signed up to be photographed for our upcoming new church directory. This will be a great way for us to stay connected!

Treat Bags... Thank you to Kathy Anderson for preparing the small snack gift bags that were handed out on Mother's Day and Father's Day!

Marketfest... Thank you to everyone who helped make our Marketfest booth great, including Marla Amborn, Robin Eberlein, Sue Lemon, Pastor James Muske, Karen Smith, and others who stored items and set-up.



GENERAL INFORMATION

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The Steppingstone Newsletter...

Is distributed monthly. If you have any items for the **September** issue, please send them to office@ststephenwbl.org by Sunday, Aug. 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

Indoor Service with Music Variety
9:30am IN-PERSON
(Services are live-streamed and online)

Wednesdays

Casual Outdoor Worship Service
6:00pm IN-PERSON
(Community BBQ at 5:15pm, \$5/pp)

Calendar Highlights

July

- 7/2 Food Shelf Collection (Wed)
- 7/3 Worship & Music Meeting – **ON BREAK**
- 7/4 Independence Day – church office **CLOSED**
- 7/6 Food Shelf Collection (Sun)
- 7/7 Redeemer & St. Stephen at Dugout (Mon/7:00pm)
- 7/8 Summer B.L.A.S.T. - Second Stork, Hike & Swim (Tues)
- 7/10 Retiree's Breakfast – **ON BREAK**
- 7/10 St. Stephen Booth at Marketfest (Thurs/6:00-9:00pm)
- 7/14 Outreach Ministry Team (Mon/3:00pm)
- 7/14 Church Council Meeting (Mon/7:00-9:00pm)
- 7/15 Summer B.L.A.S.T. – FMSC & Bunker Beach (Tues)
- 7/16 Youth Trip Send-off (Wed/6:00pm)
- 7/16 Youth Trip Paperwork (Wed/7:00pm)
- 7/17 St. Stephen Booth at Marketfest (Thurs/6:00-9:00pm)
- 7/19 Youth Trip to Tennessee (Sat through Sun 7/27)
- 7/20 Luminary & Gospel Music Sunday (9:30am)
- 7/20 End of Life Doula Presentation (Sun/10:45am)
- 7/21 Monthly Hymn Sing at Dubliner Pub (Mon/7:00-(9:00pm)
- 7/23 Luminary Wednesday (6:00pm)
- 7/25 Relay for Life (Fri/5:00pm)
- 7/29 Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (Tues/11:30am)

August

- 8/3 Food Shelf Collection (Sun)
- 8/3 School Musical Instrument Drive **BEGINS** (Sun)
- 8/5 Night to Unite (Tues/6:00-8:00pm)
- 8/6 Food Shelf Collection (Wed)
- 8/7 Worship & Music Meeting (Thurs/6:00-7:00pm)
- 8/10 Tanzania Mission Trip Commissioning (Sun/9:30am)
- 8/11 Tanzania Mission Trip **BEGINS** (Mon)
- 8/11 Church Council Meeting (Mon/6:00-7:30pm)
- 8/12 Primary Election Day—Polls Open (Tues/7:00am-8:00pm)
- 8/14 Retiree's Breakfast – **ON BREAK**
- 8/18 Monthly Hymn Sing at Dubliner Pub (Mon/7:00-(9:00pm)
- 8/19 Summer B.L.A.S.T. – Wildlife Science Center (Tues)
- 8/20 School Musical Instrument Drive **ENDS** (Wed)
- 8/20 Auction Items Drop-off **BEGINS** (Wed)
- 8/26 Youth Event (grades 3-12) Valley Fair (Tues)
- 8/26 Christian Singles Lunch Bunch (Tues/11:30am)
- 8/26 Nordic Walking **FINAL** (Tues/7:00-8:00pm)
- 8/27 Tanzania Mission Trip **ENDS** (Wed)