

"O give thanks to the LORD , for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!" – Psalm 118:1

I recently attended our synod's fall theological conference. We looked at civic life and faith. One of the things that I learned is that there are a number of experts who refer to the world we live in as a BANI world. BANI stands for Brittle, Anxious, Nonlinear, and Incomprehensible. Without getting into the weeds of the acronym, you can see that while it may be accurate it is also bleak. The reality is that it is a challenging world to live in these days, some might even say it is a dark world.

Given this BANI world that we live in, I want to thank YOU for being a light in the darkness. The saints of St. Peter's and St. Stephen's are up to so many good things, that it gives me hope. Just recently we sent off approximately 175 quilts plus health, baby, and school kits to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). It's one of my favorite Sundays of the year when we get to bless those items so generously created.

In November, St. Stephen's is going to start offering a community meal, starting on November 5. It will be an opportunity for people in our area to gather together, in person, and just enjoy being with one another. What a gift in the midst of a loneliness epidemic. Perhaps you too will want to join us.

This last summer we had 30 people join in packing meals for Feed My Starving Children. Twice a year our council leaders gather to supply the meal for the Tomah Community Table. Last summer we were a part of sending 19 high school aged youth on a mission trip to Savannah, GA and we will be sending a group to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer.

These are just some of the amazing things we are doing. THANK YOU for the many ways you have made these, and so many more, things happen. THANK YOU for giving of your time, talents, and treasure! You truly are a blessing (and a light) to this world!

Blessings,

Pr. Brad <><

*****If you have any pastoral care needs you can reach Pr. Brad through the office, email (brad_lindberg@yahoo.com), or cell phone (715-531-887**







2026

PRAYER LIST

Glenn Mariott, Norm Peterson, CarolAnn Peterson, Marcy Bell, ALL THOSE MOURNING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES, MILITARY – and all loved ones serving overseas.

ST. PETER'S VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER

ALTAR CARE:Jerrie Fisher, Alice Chase, Rose Bartholomew

CHURCH CLEANING: Jerrie Fisher, Alice Chase, Rose Bartholomew

ST. PETER'S VOLUNTEERS FOR DECEMBER

ALTAR CARE: Jeannine Russell, Nanette Verhagen

CHURCH CLEANING: Jeannine Russell, Nanette Verhagen



ST. STEPHEN'S VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER

USHERS: Mike Macrafic

READER: Melissa Chambers

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Brian Ritchart

PREPARE COMMUNION: Ruth Kemp, Tracy Kemp

ST. STEPHEN'S VOLUNTEERS FOR DECEMBER

USHERS: Mike Macrafic

READER: JoAnn Salava

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Nancy Lauden

PREPARE COMMUNION: Helen Laehn, Jenny Dvorak





AUGUST FINANCES

St. Stephen's		St. Peter's	
General Fund Income	$4,442.60	Income	7,407.00
Expenses	4,818.39	Expenses	8,593.73
Balance of Funds		Balance of Funds	
General	(-2,064.51)	General	1005.99
Building	3,598.87	Memorial	9,047.95
Memorial	12,192.91	Congregational Care	1,047.21
Parsonage	15,259.35	Parsonage – Savings	14,489.49
		Checking	3,271.81
		Sabbatical Reserve Fund	2,263.61

SEPTEMBER FINANCES

St. Stephen's		St. Peter's	
General Fund Income	$4,871.72	Income	9,200.00
Expenses	6,673.88	Expenses	8,593.73
Balance of Funds		Balance of Funds	
General	(-2,064.51)	General	4,947.18
Building	3,568.87	Memorial	9,047.95
Memorial	12,192.91	Congregational Care	1,047.21
Parsonage	14,709.35	Parsonage – Savings	15,595.72
		Checking	2,671.81
		Sabbatical Reserve Fund	2,263.61

Need $7,112 Monthly, 1, 641 Weekly to Meet Annual Budget



The Advent Tree:

Meeting Jesus in God's Big Story

By Kara Eidson

This devotional includes daily readings and themes that will be used throughout Advent and Christmas. If you would like to go a bit deeper this Advent, you're invited to get a copy of this book and join us. Sign up is in the back of the church, or contact the church office. Order deadline is November 8. Cost is $12.50

ST. STEPHEN'S COUNCIL

November/December 2026 News Letter Items

- **We will be trying a Camp Douglas Community Meal at St.Stephen's November 5. The menu is potato cheese soup, bread, dessert and beverages. Hope to see you there.**
- **Thank you to Chris and Colleen for the Halloween booth at the Camp Douglas farmers market.**
- **Have a Happy Thanksgiving**
- **Christmas Eve Service will be St.Stephen's at 4:00 and St. Peter's at 6:30**
- **Have a Merry Christmas**



St. Stephen's WELCA News

A big Thank you to everyone worked on or donated fabric and sheets for the quilts, those who purchased items for the school kits, personal care kits or baby care kits.

St. Stephen's completed and sent 90 quilts, 28 personal care kits, 48 school kits and 9 baby care kits to the semi-truck gathering in La Crosse on October 10th. A wonderful response from such a small congregation. And, now we start sewing, tying and gathering items for the 2027 gathering!

A reminder of the Women's Bible study held every 3rd Wednesday of the month. The study is provided through the Gather magazine. Anyone interested is welcome to join our small group.

Coming up on December 12th is the annual "Jolliest of Them All" Shopping Event held at the Camp Douglas Community Center. We have been asked to again prepare a lunch menu for shoppers and venders. We also are set-up for a premium spot to sell our baked goods and craft items. So, start getting things together (ie crafts, recipes, etc.). Let Nancy Lauden where you can help – baking for the bake sale, help preparing and/or serving the lunch, baking a "from-scratch pie" for the lunch counter, making a crafty item, tending the bake sale and craft table, setting up or taking down the tables, etc. There are multiple "job" available.

Another note for the end of the year – we will be preparing the "directory" booklet so if you would like a different month for preparing communion or would like to join that part of our ministry, updates of telephone numbers (landline or cell). Remember, if your name is anywhere in the booklet, you are a part of the Women of the ELCA.



St. Peter's WELCA News

Women of the ELCA will meet Sunday, November 8, after church service. Devotions: Leslie P. Discussion: events in November and December. Coffee And served. No meetings in December and January.

Rummage sales have ended for the year. Now items need to be boxed and delivered to the facility of your choice. Thank you to donors, workers, and buyers. Over $1400.00 was raised.

The winners of the LP raffle drawings were: Quilt-Mary Jacobs, wheelbarrow-Kathy Teclaw, $50 each-Marie Caskey & Carlene, Quik Trip cards-Kathy Olson and Dave A Fisher, Aquatic Pass-Laura Chambers, and Wi Meats-Jeannine R. and Marty A.

The Packer Fund Raiser was held with many contributions, delicious food, and great fun with conversations. $605.00 was raised for the General Fund.

Thank you to Kathy, Marty, and family members for loading and delivering boxes to Lax truck for Lutheran World Relief. Your time and energy are much appreciated.

Thankoffering will be Sunday, November 22nd. This special offering is in gratitude for blessings received during the year. The offering is used to help life changing ministries of the Women of the ELCA. You may leave it in the offering plate designated to the Women or give it to one of the officers. This is separate from the regular offering.

Thank you to those who came out for the Fall St. Peter's cemetery clean-up. To Andrew Peterson and family for mowing this year and to Mike P. for getting the Toro leaf blower and the many hands that worked wonders to the beauty of the cemetery. May it be noted that there is a fund beginning for a wrought fence. No estimate has been given at this time. But if you have a desire to contribute - make the check to the cemetery and place in the MEMO line--fencing. A donor has initiated $1,000.00 to start the fund.

An ADVENT GATHERING will be held on Sunday, November 29th with potluck. The men, women, and children are invited. A fun time for all. Watch for details.



2026 St. Peters Sunday School Information

Rally Day for our Sunday School was September 13th with a brief lesson on giving before completing 75 LWR school kits. Our second session was October 4th with a lesson on creation. Lessons will continue on the first Sunday of each month at 9 am. On November 1st, our lesson will be about God's promise to Noah.

In December, we will practice for our Christmas program.
December 6th at 9 am: short session for a lesson. Then program practice.
December 19th program practice at 10 am until noon. Lunch provided
December 20th: program performed as part of our regular church service at 10:30 am.
January 3rd our regular SS session.

During our September rally day kit making, A couple students asked if any of the kits were for local needs. We make these school kits for world relief. We said we could do something for local classrooms. Our plan is to contact the teachers of our students in November and try to get each class something that they need, to be delivered in January.

Please join us at any of our Sunday sessions.

Sunday School contacts
Jeannine Russell:
608-372-2270, horsejmr@gmail.com
Bonnie Hedding: (cell and text)
608-344-0282
Lynne Schroeder:
608-403-6237, LynneASchroeder2017@gmail.com



Come join us for an ecumenical worship service on Thanksgiving Eve (November 25) at 6:00 p.m. at Peace Lutheran. We will be participating along with First United Methodist, First Congregational UCC, and Peace Lutheran. If you'd like to be part of the choir come at 5:00 p.m. for practice. Stay afterward for a pie social. You are also invited to bring items for the food pantry for the offering. We are especially looking for: canned fruit, pasta sauce, cereal, box meals, and mac & cheese. **Come join us!**

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **9:00(S)Worship/HC** **9:00 (P) Sunday School** **10:30(P) Worship/HC** (S)Chris Woggon	**2**	**3** **(P) 5:30 Quilting**	**4** **5:00 (P) Wednesday in the Word** **6:30 Confirmation @ Peace** (S)Elizabeth Wagenson	**5** **(S) 5:00 Community Dinner**	**6**	**7** **(S) 9:00 Quilting**
8 **9:00(S)Worship/HC** **10:30(P) Worship/HC** **(P) WELCA Following worship**	**9** (P)Kathy Olson	**10** **(P) 5:30 Quilting**	**11** **9:30 Women's Birthday Breakfast** **9:30 Men's Breakfast** **5:00 (P) Wednesday in the Word** **6:30 Confirmation @ Peace** (P) Kolby Moseley	**12** (S)Tanya Wilkinson	**13** (P)Jared Potter	**14** **(S) 9:00 Quilting**
15 **9:00(S)Worship/HC** **10:30(P) Worship/HC** **(P) Council meeting following worship** (S) Kayleigh Gunther	**16** (P)James Waltemath	**17** **(P) 5:30 Quilting** (S)Gyneth Ness	**18** **(S) 1:00 Ruth Circle** **5:00 (P) Wednesday in the Word** **6:30 Confirmation @ Peace** (S)Kathy Niles (P)Hunter Wagner	**19**	**20**	**21** **(S) 9:00 Quilting**
22 **9:00(S)Worship/HC** **10:30(P) Worship/HC** **Thankoffering**	**23**	**24** **(P) 5:30 Quilting**	**25** **6:00 Ecumenical Worship @ Peace**	**26** **THANKSGIVING** 	**27** (P)Tom Zaremba	**28** (S)Diane Wilde (P)Danielle Wagner
29 **1st Sunday of Advent** **9:00(S)Worship/HC** **10:30(P) Worship/HC** **(P) Advent Gathering w/Potluck following worship**	**30** (S)Courtney Runke					

December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 **(P) 5:30 Quilting** (S)JoAnn Salava (P)Ella Singleton	**2** **5:00 (P) Wednesday in the Word** (P)Lisa Singleton (P)Marci Martin	**3** **(S) 5:00 Community Dinner** (P)Cooper Alexander	**4** (S)Jason Dvorak	**5** **(S) 9:00 Quilting**
6 **9:00(P)Worship/HC** **(P) 9:00 S.S. w/ Program practice** **10:30(S) Worship/HC**	**7**	**8** **(P) 5:30 Quilting** (S)Niles Meltesen (P)Jack Resop	**9** **9:30 Women's Birthday Breakfast** **9:30 Men's Breakfast** **5:00 (P) Wednesday in the Word**	**10** (S)Deb Daniels	**11**	**12** **9:00 - Noon Jolliest of Them All Craft Fair – Camp Douglas Community Center**
13 **9:00(P)Worship/HC** **10:30(S) Worship/HC**	**14** (P)Luke Scholze	**15** **(P) 5:30 Quilting**	**16** **(S) 1:00 Ruth Circle** **5:00 (P) Wednesday in the Word** **6:30 Confirmation Parent Mtg.** (P)Kendall Wilson Leathers (P)Sophie Worzalla	**17**	**18**	**19** **(P) 10:00 – noon SS Program Practice**
20 **9:00(P)Worship/HC** **10:30(S) Worship/HC and Sunday School Program**	**21** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** (S)Brian Ritchart	**22** **(P) 5:30 Quilting** (P)Taylor Miller (P)Tyler Noth	**23**	**24** **4:00 (S) Christmas Eve Worship w/HC** **6:30 (P) Christmas Eve Worship w/HC**	**25** **Merry Christmas** (P)Vicki Shisler	**26**
27 **9:00(P)Worship/HC** **10:30(S) Worship/HC** (P)Michael Damien	**28**	**29** **(P) 5:30 Quilting**	**30**	**31** (S)Rebecca Kramer (P)Geoffrey Russell	**Annual Meetings will be (S) January 31, and (P) January 24.** **Annual Reports will be due 2 weeks prior to each meeting so they can be compiled and printed for review.** **Please e-mail your report to the church office as soon as possible**	