



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship: 9a

Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald

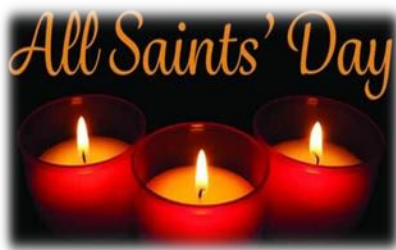
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Autumn

2024



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During Worship on **All Saints' Sunday**, November 3, 2024, we will say aloud the names of our loved ones who have died in the past year. **May those who we remember rest in peace and rise in glory.**

Join us on Sunday, November 24, to celebrate **Christ the King Sunday**. This service honors Christ's reign over all creation. **Come worship with us as we reflect on His sovereignty.**



Blood Drive: December 10
10a - 3p over at Gethsemane



THE TIME TO
GIVE BLOOD
IS NOW



My, how they grow!
Lena and Neva





- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|----|-----------------|
| 5 | Dennis Davis | 10 | Donna Thonne |
| 5 | Cheri Leiphart | 13 | Dorothy Davis |
| 5 | Taylor Schultz | 24 | Jennifer Anger |
| 6 | Tammy Francour | 24 | Brock Bergquist |
| 9 | Ken Chaney | 26 | Jamie Crawford |
| 9 | Grandma Dot turns 96! | | |

We pray for those serving in the military:

***Jordan Baril, Jay Chapple, Ken Dams, Trish Dams,
Brent Jurmu, Jared Jurmu***

We continue to hold the following in prayer:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Adam Menor | Carla Dutkavich | Gary Klatt | Heather Brisson |
| James Dutkavich | Jan Sederquist | Julie Greenwald | Laureen Kaprelian |
| Sharon Starr | Tom Dutkavich | Tracy Klatt | |

*We offer the **comfort** and **hope** of the **resurrection** to the family and friends of **+Jeannie Voelker+**
March 30, 1937 - September 2, 2024*

Mother of Patty Vandenberg, Penny Nehls, Butch Parrett, Roy Parrett, and Ronnie Parrett, Grandma to 18, Great-Grandma to 22



Congratulations to
Kellie (Haulotte) + Jordan Crawford
who were united in marriage
at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church on
Saturday, **September 28, 2024.**



Hospitalized? Welcome a visit? Contact the Office at **906.788.4234**, or reach out to **Pr Brenda** directly at **720.989.8218** (call/text), and we'll make it happen!



The +Nancy L. Diehm+ Living Trust Announcement

Shared in Worship on All Saints' Sunday, November 3, 2024

*Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise Psalm 96:1-4*

The **path** ahead is filled with **JOY!**

Church, I am **THRILLED** to announce the acceptance of a generous and faith-filled **LIVING TRUST** from longtime member, and beloved child of God, **+Nancy L. Diehm+**

This has been in the **works** for **QUITE** some time now, with many, **MANY** conversations with Thrivent advisors and lawyers, accountants and tax specialists, and bank managers, along with conversations with our Church Leadership, and I am **DELIGHTED** to say that the **money** has now been deposited **INSIDE** our St. Stephen's accounts.

Not only did **+Nancy+** and her **family** realize they had **MORE** than enough in their lives, they realized they had **MORE** than enough to **SHARE**.

It is out of **ABUNDANCE** that this generous gift comes to us, not only to **ESTABLISH** specific ministries here at St. Stephen's, but then to **SUSTAIN** them. **GROW** them. **NURTURE** them!

A **LETTER** written by her **family** has been included on the **next page** of this newsletter:

November 3, 2024

Dear St. Stephen's,

It was our Mom's wish to include St. Stephen's Lutheran Church as a beneficiary in the **+Nancy L. Diehm+ Living Trust**. An issue arose, however, with the official trust document,



resulting in the church being originally omitted. Now, on this **All Saints' Sunday**, it is with great joy that we - Randy, Lisa, and Niki (*as named beneficiaries*) - will be fulfilling our Mom's wish by presenting St. Stephen's a financial gift in the name of **+Nancy L. Diehm+**.

We are prayerful that this gift of various equities valuing approximately \$174,000 will allow you to:

1. Provide **Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp** scholarships.
2. Launch and sustain **Digital Ministries** to spread the gospel, beyond the physical walls of the building.
3. Purchase **liturgical paraments** in honor of +Nancy's+ long-time commitment to the Altar Guild.
4. Provide financial support for Pastoral **enrichment**, and Congregational support during **Sabbaticals**.

May your leadership **steward** this **gift** in ways that honor our beloved **+Nancy+ (Mom)** and are pleasing to the **Lord**.

Yours in Christ,
The Family of +Nancy Diehm+



This designated gift, made with **MINISTRY** in mind,
will move our congregation from being a Church of **MAINTENANCE**,
where our visions may have stalled or complacency might have crept in,
to a Church of **TRANSFORMATION**,
as we **explore** how to thoughtfully and intentionally
re-envision **Worship and Discipleship**: a Church that worships on **SITE** and on **LINE**
one that engages **disciples**, one that teaches the **Gospel**,
and one that reaches **OUT** to our greater community **and beyond!**

What the Living Trust **WON'T be Used for:**

- Won't pay the **electric** bill or be sent to the **Synod** or give anyone a **RAISE**
- Won't fix the **Septic** tank or **furnace** or **roof** or resurface the **parking lot**

This Living Trust - this **\$174,000 Living Trust **WILL** be Used for:**

- **Scholarships for Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp:** Campers of ALL ages won't have to worry about finances when heading up to Fortune Lake!
 - **Liturgical Paraments:** Colorful, new paraments supporting the current seasons of the church will be purchased, as +Nancy+ loved serving on the Altar Guild.
 - **Pastoral Enrichment/Sabbatical Support:** When the time comes for Pastor Brenda to go on her 3-month, paid sabbatical, the funds to help pay for the extra, Pastoral support needed during that time are now in place.
 - **Upgrade our Connectivity:** Beef up our WIFI System so that we can stream smoothly and without network interruptions
 - **Purchase Video Equipment:** small, unobtrusive, yet powerful cameras to live-stream services and events, connecting families worldwide
 - **Enhancing the Sound System:** obtaining microphones that better pick-up sound
-

This Living Trust is just that: LIVING!

It's ALIVE and MOVING and WE have been entrusted to steward it wisely.

Let us pray: Loving Lord, as we express our **gratitude** to you in prayer,
may it be a pleasing, joyful sound to you.

Thank you, Lord, for your **love**. It brings us acceptance and significance.

Thank you, Lord, for your **truth**. It brings us guidance and direction.

Thank you, Lord, for your **mercy**. It brings us help and comfort.

Thank you, Lord, for your **faithfulness**. It brings us stability and strength.

And thank you, Lord, for the **love** and **generosity** of +Nancy+ and her family.

They bring us new **life** and new **energy**, in ways that give **glory** to **YOU**. **AMEN!**

Practical Wisdom

A Letter by Brian Morykon

Dear Church, this month's article is by a musician whom I have come to know through Renovaré, a Christian resource group that has strengthened my faith and discipleship over the years. Brian's powerful words deserve a read, and I commend them to you. *P. Brenda*

"Practical wisdom for abiding in and becoming more like Jesus." When disaster strikes—as it does with alarming frequency these days—a community often experiences an initial surge of compassion, energy, resolve, and unity. Then comes the long slog of rebuilding with its accompanying frustration and fatigue. This pattern is true not just of a community struck by tragedy, but with any community that comes together for a purpose—like a worshipping community.

I think of a church plant that initially bursts with life and hope. Then the weight of the weekly work sets in. Meetings become monotonous. Personality cracks are uncovered. And you begin to wonder if doing life together is even worth it.

Bonhoeffer's classic by that title, **Life Together**, can help us here. He says that Christians should bear one another—not just to be there in a hard time, but to allow our brother or sister the **freedom** to be who they are. And who they are is almost always different from who we want them to be.

"Bearing" doesn't mean that we learn to "put up" with people in community while resentment festers under a forced smile. **Instead**, we cooperate with God to come to love and even to like people in spite of—in some cases, because of—their idiosyncrasies. "To bear the burden of the other person means involvement with the created reality of the other, to accept and affirm it, and in bearing with it, to break through to the point where we take joy in it."

One way to bear one another well—that is, to love one another well—is to **hold our tongues**. Yes, Sally is strange. Yes, Peter has problems. And maybe at some point—if we're committed to their good and they've invited us to speak into their lives—we address them directly about some destructive pattern in their lives. But talking around them or about them almost always **harms**, even if it's under the guise of praying for them. (*The Devil gets a special kick out of prayer-request-gossip.*) There are special cases where it is appropriate to talk about someone's flaws with the real intent of how to help that person. But for the most part, a bitten tongue beats a loose one.

The **health** of a community—in times of peril or in times of peace—hangs on its lips. "Bear with each other," says Saint Paul. "Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly."

Lord, I'm convicted. It can be fun to talk—or think—poorly about people to feel better about myself. Forgive me and teach me. You have the words of life. Your silence speaks. Help us learn your way with one another, Amen.



Renovaré offers resources and community for a deeper, more transformative life with God

Joint Service & Potluck



The congregation of Gethsemane had the joy of hosting the congregation of St. Stephen's for a special, Joint worship service on Sunday, September 29, 2024. The Sanctuary was filled with the uplifting spirit of worship as both congregations came together to worship as one. The service was a beautiful expression of unity, with heartfelt prayers, shared songs, and a message of togetherness that resonated with everyone in attendance.



Following the service, the spirit of fellowship continued with a delightful, potluck meal. Members from both congregations brought an array of delicious dishes, from casseroles and salads, to desserts and homemade breads. The tables were filled with both food and lively conversation, as friends and families – old and new – gathered to break bread together and enjoy one another's company.

We extend a special thank you to everyone who contributed to making the event such a success. Whether you brought a dish, helped with set-up, or simply attended, your presence helped make this day a memorable one. As we continue to strengthen the bonds between our two congregations, we look forward to more opportunities for worship, fellowship, and shared ministry in the future.



God's Work, Our Hands Sunday



This Sunday of service had us packaging **50 Celebration Bags** for the Food Pantry and **50 School Kits** to be sent to Lutheran World Relief via the Boxcar.



We welcomed **60 people** to the **Chili Supper**, bringing in close to **\$700** to use for St. Stephen's Ministries. **Ruth** took a moment to play some hymns with Lily, when **Lil** wasn't greeting folks at the front door with **Nick**. Newlyweds **Jordan** and **Kellie** Crawford joined **Penny** and **Todd** Nehls for delicious dining.



News from Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp



Our **2024 Fall Fest** totals are in! We are so happy to report that we raised a total of **\$28,917!** **THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!**

After adding up online and live auction bids, bake sale totals, paddle raise and online donations and the dollar-for-dollar match, and Country Store and Draffle ticket sales, we are overwhelmed with gratitude.

Thank you to all quilters, volunteers, bidders, donors, bakers, crafters, buyers, and breakfast-eaters! Thanks be to God!



Join us for a **Thanksgiving-themed Senior Day** at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp on Monday, November 18th! We'll gather for a time of fellowship, devotions, and a hands-on cooking experience as we prepare and enjoy a homemade Thanksgiving meal together. Don't miss this chance to reconnect with friends, enjoy delicious food, and share in the spirit of the season. Cost is \$15 (suggested donation) and we'll meet from 10a – 2p CST. **Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 13th.** Call (906) 214-2267 or email hospitality@fortunelake.org

Daily Bible Readings - November 2024

Fri — Nov. 1	Leviticus 19:32-37	Romans 3:21-31	Psalm 119:1-8
Sat — Nov. 2	Numbers 9:9-14	Luke 10:25-37	Psalm 119:1-8

Sun. Nov. 3 — All Saints' Sunday

Deut 6:1-9, Psalm 119:1-8, Heb 9:11-14, Mark 12:28-34

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God, you have taught us in your Son that love fulfills the law. Inspire us to love you with all our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength, and teach us how to love our neighbor as ourselves, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon — Nov. 4	Deuteronomy 6:10-25	Romans 12:17-21; 13:8-10	Psalm 51
Tue — Nov. 5	Deuteronomy 28:58— 29:1	Acts 7:17-29	Psalm 51
Wed — Nov. 6	Micah 6:1-8	John 13:31-35	Psalm 51
Thu — Nov. 7	Numbers 36:1-13	Romans 5:6-11	Psalm 146
Fri — Nov. 8	Deuteronomy 15:1-11	Hebrews 9:15-24	Psalm 146
Sat — Nov. 9	Deuteronomy 24:17-22	Mark 11:12-14, 20-24	Psalm 146

Sun. Nov. 10 — Jonah and God's Mercy

1 Kings 17:8-16, Ps 146, Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44

Prayer of the Day: *O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon — Nov. 11	Ruth 1:1-22	1 Timothy 5:1-8	Psalm 94
Tue — Nov. 12	Ruth 3:14—4:6	1 Timothy 5:9-16	Psalm 94
Wed — Nov. 13	Ruth 4:7-22	Luke 4:16-30	Psalm 94
Thu — Nov. 14	Daniel 4:4-18	1 Timothy 6:11-21	Psalm 16
Fri — Nov. 15	Daniel 4:19-27	Colossians 2:6-15	Psalm 16
Sat — Nov. 16	Daniel 4:28-37	Mark 12:1-12	Psalm 16

Sun. Nov. 17 — God Calls Isaiah

Dan 12:1-3, Ps 16, Heb 10:11-14-25, Mark 13:1-8

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon — Nov. 18	Daniel 8:1-14	Hebrews 10:26-31	Psalm 13
Tue — Nov. 19	Daniel 8:15-27	Hebrews 10:32-39	Psalm 13
Wed — Nov. 20	Zechariah 12:1—13:1	Mark 13:9-23	Psalm 13
Thu — Nov. 21	Ezekiel 28:1-10	Acts 7:54—8:1a	Psalm 93
Fri — Nov. 22	Ezekiel 28:20-26	1 Corinthians 15:20-28	Psalm 93
Sat — Nov. 23	Daniel 7:1-8, 15-18	John 3:31-36	Psalm 93

Sun. Nov. 24 — Christ the King Sunday

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Psalm 93, Rev 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen*

Mon — Nov. 25	Daniel 7:19-27	Revelation 11:1-14	Psalm 76
Tue — Nov. 26	Ezekiel 29:1-12	Revelation 11:15-19	Psalm 76
Wed — Nov. 27	Ezekiel 30:20-26	John 16:25-33	Psalm 76
Thu — Nov. 28	Nehemiah 9:6-15	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Psalm 25:1-10
Fri — Nov. 29	Nehemiah 9:16-25	1 Thessalonians 5:12-22	Psalm 25:1-10
Sat — Nov. 30	Nehemiah 9:26-31	Luke 21:20-24	Psalm 25:1-10



Well, the reviews are in...people **LOVED** the **Sauerkraut Dinner!** Over **200** guests were served, and close to **\$2K** was raised! **WOW!**

