



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

Physical: S214 Willow Street, Mailing: P.O. Box 435
Stephenson, MI 49887

Heather Esmahan, Office Manager
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Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald

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Sunday Worship: 10:30a (Fellowship BEFORE)



Important 2025 Calendar Dates.	1
Birthdays, Anniversaries, Prayer, Deaths	2
Encouragement from Bishop Katherine	3 - 4
80th Anniversary Celebration, Hanging of the Greens	5 - 7
Advent Service Project: Rainbow House	8
Daily Bible Readings: November + December	9 - 10
Council Minutes - October Meeting	11 - 12

Wrapping Up the Calendar Year



Nov 10-29	Contact Pr Linda Forray at 906.374.0159 for any Pastoral Emergencies during this time, as Pastor Brenda is out of town .
November 16	10:30a Sunday Worship led by Deacon Lori Ward
November 23	10:30a Sunday Worship led by the people of St. Stephen's
November 30	1st Sunday in Advent: Joint Worship at <u>St.</u> 10:30a. Potluck lunch to follow!
December 1 - 9	Building CLOSED so Digital Team can install Sound + Video System. YAY!
December 7	SPECIAL <u>Joint</u> Worship at <u>G.</u> 9a (so installation can finish-up). Snacks after.
December 13	Annual Hanging of the Greens at St. 9a. Snacks after.
December 14	3rd Sunday in Advent: 10:30a Worship, Fellowship after.
December 21	4th Sunday in Advent: 10:30a Worship, Fellowship after.
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship: 4p at St and 5:30p at G (No Fellowship)
December 28	NO in-person worship this day. Tune-in online at bit.ly/Dec28Worship or WLUC-TV 6 for a Special Synod-led, Christmas Worship Service .



5 Dennis Davis
5 Cheri Leiphart
5 Taylor Schultz
6 Tammy Francour
9 Ken Chaney
9 Grandma Dot turns 97!
10 Donna Thonne
13 Dorothy Davis
24 Brock Bergquist
26 Jamie Crawford



18 Wayne Thill
24 Steve Tickler
28 Norma Elmer
30 Fred Belec



December 12 Keith + Shirley Olson
December 30 Bob + Shelley Berglin

*We invite you to pray
for those serving in
the military:*

**Jordan Baril
Jay Chapple
Toby Irish
Brent Jurmu**

We continue to hold the following in prayer:

David Carlson	Jim Roubal	Julie Greenwald
Kawaunee Hofer	Rob Boe	Tracy Klatt



We offer the **comfort** and **hope** of the
resurrection to the family and friends of
+Pat Kaczmarczyk+
December 11, 1937 - October 9, 2025
Mother of 2, Grandmother of 5,
Great-Grandmother of 8, Great-Great Grandmother of 1

Thank you for holding the friends and families of our Congregants in your prayers. Contact the Office with any corrections.

Hospitalized? Welcome a visit? Contact the Office at
906.753.4932, or reach out to **Pr Brenda** directly at
720.989.8218 (call/text), and we'll make it happen!





Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

As I make final preparations to leave on sabbatical, I feel it keenly that even if my desk will be clear, there is much in the world that remains messy. As people of faith, we are being challenged in new ways that we may feel ill-equipped to handle.

I see, and feel with increasing pressure, the world trying to divide us and tear us apart. I encourage you to make your community of faith, that is, the body of Christ which you help to animate, your priority. Political divisions are real, but the demonization of those who disagree with you has been brought to a new level. Do not lump people together and join the bandwagon that would declare them to be "of the devil." As we look at our world through the lens of the open tomb, we cannot look at another and not see someone for whom Jesus died. This includes MAGA, the immigrant, the liberal, the refugee, the transgender individual, those on the other side of the political aisle, your neighbor, and those who get their news from only one source. In times of disaster or civil unrest, you will need your neighbor and your community of faith to meet the challenges.

AS WE LOOK
AT OUR WORLD
THROUGH THE
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OPEN TOMB,
WE CANNOT LOOK
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NOT SEE SOMEONE
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JESUS DIED.

NOW IS NOT THE
TIME TO BE BURNING
BRIDGES, EVEN AS
WE, EACH OF US,
ARE CALLED TO
WORK AND ADVOCATE
FOR JUSTICE.

Remember the flooding in the Copper Country not so long ago? And how the larger community rallied to provide water and supplies to those impacted? Or the ice storm that knocked out power to so many for too long? With winter around the corner, you may well need the help of the neighbor you disagree with to plow your driveway. With troubles always around the corner, you may well need the pastor whose sermon and leadership you criticized to proclaim a word of hope and hold your hand in comfort. Now is not the time to be burning bridges, even as we, each of us, are called to work and advocate for justice.

Write your congressional representative *and* extend grace to your disagreeable neighbor. Carry signs in protest *and* forgive those you consider misinformed. Be generous in your giving to those organizations that are on the ground, feeding the hungry, advocating for the immigrant, welcoming the stranger. Try not to be quick to criticize, to judge, to respond in anger or indignation. These are emotionally provoking times which make people vulnerable to manipulation and impulsive actions. Keeping a level head allows for creative solutions and conversations that deepen understanding, even as common ground may still be elusive.

As I write this, common ground regarding immigration policies continues to elude all of us. By the time you read this, our own Pastor Rita Chirala and her son will have left her congregation, and the country, despite our best efforts. Even as immigrants seek to follow good law and order, the system is designed to fail them. And more than a few U.S. citizens have been swept up unlawfully. Even if our own Pastor Rita were to be able to fulfill all righteousness per a system that is stacked against her, I have no confidence, given a Supreme Court's decision that allows for racial profiling, that she and her son would be safe, even if citizenship were secured.

I call out this gross injustice. It is indefensible that people of color should be afraid every day of being arrested on suspicion of being an illegal immigrant, that they should have to carry a copy of their passport to prove citizenship should the arresting agent even take the time to check. Or that immigrants who are striving to "follow the rules" and show up for their scheduled court date are summarily deported, and not necessarily to their country of origin.

I am grateful to our Canadian partners that a call has been secured for Pastor Rita so that she has a livelihood, and I continue to pray that the Canadian immigration lawyer will be able to secure the necessary visa in time. The work of providing comfort and support to Faith, Sault and to Pastor Rita's colleagues and friends continues as they have suffered this abrupt separation even as it was necessary to keep Pastor Rita and her son safe. I do not believe extending grace to people with whom we disagree means acquiescing to systems that are unjust. I pray for affection that transcends political division, for unified mission and purpose that binds us together in the face of all that tries to divide us, and for local community interdependence that is more reliable, generous, and available than government support.

**I DO NOT BELIEVE
EXTENDING GRACE
TO PEOPLE WITH
WHOM WE DISAGREE
MEANS ACQUIESCING
TO SYSTEMS
THAT ARE UNJUST.**

I leave you, for now, with this blessing

(ELW, *Service of the Word*, p. 221)

*The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony
with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, **Amen***

*The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, **Amen***

*The God of all grace + bless you now and forever, **Amen.***

Yours in Christ, Bishop Katherine Finegan



80th Anniversary Celebration

October 26, 2025







**SATURDAY
Morning**



9a on Dec. 13



**Coffee and
Treats after!**

*Hanging
of the
Greens
at
St. Stephen's*



Advent Service Project: ALL of December



Rainbow House Empowerment Beyond Abuse



A little Rainbow House history: In 1978, a group of women concerned with the increase of domestic violence came together and formed a Task Force to pursue the development of a program. The organization operated as an information and referral service for many years prior to acquiring a shelter facility in 1982. Rainbow House provided education and information on stopping the cycle of domestic violence. They've been in their current location, serving survivors since 1984. They established as an independent non-profit in 1993, and continue to serve victims today, through providing prevention, education, and information to communities, families, and schools.

Alarm clocks
Aluminum Foil
Band-Aids
Bathroom Cleanser
Body Wash
Brooms w/ Dust Pans
Buckets
Can Openers
Cash Donations
Deodorant (men + women)
Diapers: Size 4 + 5
Dish Soap
Fabric Softener
Floor Cleaners
Garbage Bags 13 + 30 Gallon
Garbage Cans
Gift Card: Aldis
Gift Card: Amazon
Gift Card: Fuel
Gift Card: Jacks
Gift Card: Walmart
Hair gel/mousse
Ice Cube Trays
Kitchen Cleaner

Rainbow House
serves victims
and children of
domestic
violence in
Oconto and
Marinette
Counties, WI
and Menominee
County, MI.

All items go
DIRECTLY to
those affected.

AVAILABLE AT:

Amazon
Walmart

(look for Rainbow House on Registry)

Kleenex
Laundry Pods
Laundry Soap (S or Med)
Mop Buckets
Mops
Pails
Paper Towels
Pizza Pans
Plastic Dish Sets (4, new)
Postage Stamps
Printer Paper
Razors (men + women)
Saran Wrap
Shaving cream (men + women)
Shower Curtains
Shower Curtain Rings
SOS Pads
Toasters (new)
Toilet Cleanser
Toilet Paper: 1 ply
Vacuum Cleaner (new)
Windex
Ziplock Bags: Freezer, Gallon
Ziplock Bags: Regular, Gallon

**Look for ornaments
with these items
once our Angel Tree
is put up on
December 13th!**

**Helping is as
easy as 1-2-3**

- 1. Take an ornament**
- 2. Purchase the item**
- 3. Bring the item
to church and
place it under
the Angel Tree!**

Daily Bible Readings: November 2025

Sat, Nov. 1	Elijah and the Prophets of Baal	1 Kings 18:20-46
Sun, Nov. 2	God Visits Elijah	1 Kings 19:1-18
Mon, Nov. 3	Naboth's Vineyard	1 Kings 21:1-29
Tues, Nov. 4	Elijah Is Taken Up to Heaven	2 Kings 2:1-12
Wed, Nov. 5	Elisha Is Chosen to Succeed Elijah	2 Kings 2:13-25
Thurs, Nov. 6	Miracles of Elisha	2 Kings 4:1-44
Fri, Nov. 7	The Reign of Jeroboam II	2 Kings 14:23-29
Sat, Nov. 8	The Reign of Azariah (Uzziah)	2 Kings 15:1-7
Sun, Nov. 9	Let Justice Roll Down	Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24
Mon, Nov. 10	Micah's Warning and Promise	Micah 2:1-13
Tues, Nov. 11	A Savior from Bethlehem	Micah 5:2-5
Wed, Nov. 12	Hosea's Assurance of Forgiveness	Hosea 1:1; 14:1-9
Thurs, Nov. 13	The Call of Isaiah	Isaiah 6:1-13
Fri, Nov. 14	Hezekiah Consults Isaiah	2 Kings 19:1-7
Sat, Nov. 15	Isaiah's Prophecy to Hezekiah	2 Kings 19:14-28
Sun, Nov. 16	A Light in the Darkness	Isaiah 9:1-7
Mon, Nov. 17	The Lord's Judgment	Isaiah 9:8-21
Tues, Nov. 18	Vision for a Peaceful Kingdom	Isaiah 11:1-9
Wed, Nov. 19	Jeremiah's Call	Jeremiah 1:4-19
Thurs, Nov. 20	Jeremiah Prophesies Exile	Jeremiah 25:1-14
Fri, Nov. 21	Jeremiah Prophesies Exile Again	Jeremiah 27:1-22
Sat, Nov. 22	Judah Is Taken into Exile	2 Kings 25:1-21
Sun, Nov. 23	Hope for the Future	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14
Mon, Nov. 24	Prophecy of Exile	Jeremiah 29:15-23
Tues, Nov. 25	Prophecy of Return from Exile	Jeremiah 30:1-11
Wed, Nov. 26	Prophecy of Abundance	Jeremiah 31:1-14
Thurs, Nov. 27	A New Covenant	Jeremiah 31:31-40
Fri, Nov. 28	Daniel Comes to Babylon	Daniel 1:1-21
Sat, Nov. 29	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	Daniel 2:1-6, 24-30, 45b-49
Sun, Nov. 30	The Fiery Furnace	Daniel 3:1, [2-7] 8-30

Daily Bible Readings: December 2025

Mon, Dec 1	Daniel Called to Interpret	Daniel 5:1-12
Tues, Dec 2	Daniel Helps the King	Daniel 5:13-30
Weds, Dec 3	Daniel Thrown in the Lions' Den	Daniel 6:1-18
Thurs, Dec 4	The King Commands Loyalty to God	Daniel 6:19-28
Fri, Dec 5	Ezekiel's Call	Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:1-10
Sat, Dec 6	Called to Be a Prophet	Ezekiel 3:1-11
Sun, Dec 7	Valley of the Dry Bones	Ezekiel 37:1-14
Mon, Dec 8	Prophecy of Israel's Restoration	Ezekiel 39:25-29
Tues, Dec 9	The End of the Exile	Ezra 1:1-11
Weds, Dec 10	Worship Begins in Jerusalem	Ezra 3:1-7
Thurs, Dec 11	Rebuilding the Temple	Ezra 3:8-13
Fri, Dec 12	God's Restoration of Israel	Isaiah 52:3-10
Sat, Dec 13	God's Covenant of Peace	Isaiah 54:1-10
Sun, Dec 14	Seek the Lord	Isaiah 55:1-13
Mon, Dec 15	Wisdom in Creation	Proverbs 8:1; 22-26
Tues, Dec 16	Wisdom at Creation	Proverbs 8:27-31
Weds, Dec 17	A Psalm of Creation	Psalms 8:1-9
Thurs, Dec 18	Prophecy of the Messiah	Isaiah 11:1-9
Fri, Dec 19	The Annunciation	Luke 1:26-38
Sat, Dec 20	The Magnificat	Luke 1:46-55
Sun, Dec 21	The Word Became Flesh	John 1:1-18
Mon, Dec 22	John the Baptist's Birth Is Foretold	Luke 1:5-25
Tues, Dec 23	John the Baptist Is Born	Luke 1:57-66
Weds, Dec 24	Zechariah's Song	Luke 1:67-80
Thurs, Dec 25	The Savior Is Born	Luke 2:1-20
Fri, Dec 26	Jesus Is Dedicated and Named	Luke 2:21-38
Sat, Dec 27	Boy Jesus at the Temple	Luke 2:41-52
Sun, Dec 28	The Lamb of God	John 1:19-34
Mon, Dec 29	Description of Elijah	2 Kings 1:7-8
Tues, Dec 30	God Will Send Elijah	Malachi 4:5-6
Weds, Dec 31	John the Baptist Preaches	Luke 3:1-18

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church: Council Meeting **MINUTES** Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 2:15p in Pastor's office

Present: Cheri Leiphart, Kami Salo, Donna Tennesen, Pr. Brenda Greenwald

Absent: John Starzynski, Donna Thonne

Opening Devotions: Cheri

Meeting CALLED TO ORDER: 2:15p



AGENDA APPROVAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion to Accept: Cheri

Second : Kami

FAVOR

Motion to Accept: Kami

Second: Cheri

FAVOR

PASTOR'S REPORT

September 24, 2025-October 14, 2025

CALENDAR ITEMS	☐ Funerals/Deaths	10/15/25	+Pat Kaczmarczyk+	St. Stephen's
		10/16/25	+Pat Kaczmarczyk+	Burial, Stephenson
		10/16/25	+Sandy Baumler+	Burial, Bethesda
	☐ Surgery	10/22/25	Carpal + Cubital Tunnel Surgery	Green Bay
		12/10/25	Carpal Tunnel Surgery	Green Bay
☐ Vacation	11/10 - 11/29	South Carolina + Colorado, Asked Deacon Lori to Preach		
☐ Weddings	7/11/26	Calvin Voss + Sarah Shilts Carp River Gardens		
☐ Worship	9/28/25	Indigenous Day of Remembrance Worship		
	10/26/25	80th Anniversary Celebration - over 90 people RSVP'd!		
MINISTRY MOMENTS	☐ Bethesda	New Shadow Box to be on wall at St. to bring awareness IN the building		
	☐ Community	Continued conversations with "bonus" members		
	☐ Concerns	<i>(to be shared verbally at meeting)</i>		
	☐ Digital Ministry	Streaming issues solved - G, Installation Backed-up - St.		
	☐ Faith Formation	Thrilled for Carla, Angela, Cheri, and Stephanie + KIDS!		
	☐ Fortune Lake	Fall Fest a success! Over \$26,000 raised for the Camp		
	☐ Jordan Project	Team established, and meeting monthly.		
	☐ LWR	Boxcar IN place and loaded on 10/11/25. WHEW and WOW!		
	☐ Ministerium	Seeking Bookkeeper, IRS Status in Progress, Peshtigo Food Pantry		
	☐ NGL Synod	We pray for Bp Katherine (Sabbatical) and A2B Rev. Sharolyn Swenson		
	☐ Nursing Homes	Harbors: Jack Wittgren - 4 th Tuesday of each month		
		Luther Home: Karen Anne needs folks to be on call		
		Menominee Health: Worship - 4 th Tuesday of each month		
		Roubal's: Called-in for visits with new residents		
		Astrea/Spectrum switch: HAVOC at St, smooth at G, EEK at Parsonage:		
	☐ Random			
	☐ Visits	Homes: 2	Hospital: 0	Retire. Home: 6 Office: LOTS
		Phone: DAILY	Text: CONSTANT	Squad Calls: 2

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion to Accept: Donna Te

Second: Cheri

FAVOR

BRIEF MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

Bethesda (<i>Pr B</i>)	Faith Formation (<i>Kami</i>)	Fellowship (<i>Cheri</i>)
A shadow box is being built by Wally Majkrzak for in the fellowship hall for our 80th anniversary. It will be filled with items pertaining the Bethesda Church.	Taylor Schultz and Shaw Salo were asked to lead the young children in Faith Formation. They will start heading downstairs with the kiddos come November or so.	Fellowship Time is being well - attended before worship.
Living Trust (<i>Pr B</i>)	Memorial (<i>John</i>)	Property (<i>John</i>)
White Microphones on backorder. Just waiting for the full shipment before we install. SOON!	<i>None at this time</i>	The carpet in the Fellowship Hall is badly in need of cleaning.
Social Ministry (<i>Donna Th</i>)	WELCA (<i>Donna T</i>)	Worship/Music (<i>Cheri</i>)
The Celebration Kids made up by the congregation were donated to the Food Pantry in Peshtigo, WI. (<i>The Food Pantry Director didn't seem to think Stephenson folks would like them. Pr B disagrees.</i>)	WELCA organized +Pat Kaczmarczyk's+ funeral luncheon at our meeting on Sunday October 12. We will need to pick which Sunday of the month to have our meeting so it can be published In the bulletin.	It was agreed that the music chosen for Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools was AMAZING.

Motion to Accept ALL Updates: Kami

Second: Donna Te

FAVOR

ON-GOING BUSINESS

80th Anniversary Celebration Last Details

- 90 plus signed up to attend the celebration.
- Decorations are being made for the fellowship tables, outside and In the sanctuary.
- Pictures and other items have been collected.
- The main dishes for the banquet meal will be ordered from Jack's In Menominee this Saturday. Sign-up sheets have been filled for desserts, beverages and worker bees.

NEXT STEPS

- Next Council Meeting:** Wednesday, November 5, 2025 2:15 p
- Devotions for November:** Donna Te
- Motion to Adjourn:** Pr. Brenda **Time Adjourned:** 3:10p



THE LORD'S PRAYER was prayed
at the conclusion of the council meeting.
Submitted by Donna Tennessen, Secretary