

News & Notes

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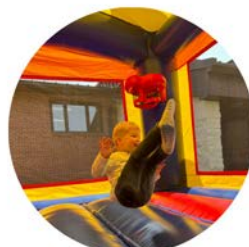
Fall Kick-Off Celebration — Sunday, September 7

Join us for our Fall Kick-Off Celebration as we begin the Fall Programming year!

It's back to school time! Which means the start of our Fall Programming year! All, young and young at heart, are invited on **Sunday, Sept. 7**, to help us get the year started! The day will begin with outdoor worship (weather permitting) at 10 a.m., followed by a meal and fun! Bouncy houses, bubbles, chalk, face painting and more on the West lawn. Worship will be streamed live to YouTube & Facebook as usual.

REMINDERS

- Please park in the South lot, on the street, or close to the Worship Entry doors (reserved for handicap parking)
- Bring your lawn chairs! Hats/sunglasses also recommended.
- For the meal, please bring a salad, side or dessert to share. Burgers, hot dogs, plates, silverware and napkins provided.



Capital Campaign, 2025

Built on a Firm Foundation Campaign

Our Built on a Firm Foundation Capital Campaign officially launched in August and will continue through September. We are deeply grateful to everyone who attended the congregational meeting August 17th—your presence and support mean so much as we begin this exciting phase together.

Thanks to the generosity of several early contributors, we've already raised over half of our campaign goal! This incredible head start sets us up for success and shows the strength and unity of our congregation.

The funds raised will support capital improvements that fall into three main categories:

- **Exterior \$61,000** Exterior includes work on the roof, including a mix of shingling, metal roof pitch and waterproofing, as well as gutter replacement, and grading of the ground around the south and east portions of the building to address leaks and flooding issues. The area that floods is directly above the mechanical room, so a fix will provide protection to our building systems and flooring. The work also includes improvements to lighting at the worship entrance and updated parking lot signage.
- **Mechanical \$220,000** Mechanical is our largest need and includes updating the elevator system and replacing the HVAC units. All systems have a useful life, and these systems are reaching their end. They're not flashy projects, but they provide significant value in keeping our facility comfortable and accessible to all.
- **Worship & Gathering Space \$73,000** After several years of utilizing the remodeled worship and gathering space, we've identified some areas that could be adjusted to provide an even better experience. These include adjusting the lighting height in the sanctuary to make it easier to see, adding acoustic tiles to dampen the sound in the gathering area to make it easier to hear, remodeling the downstairs kitchen to make it more functional for ongoing programming, and replacing worn and damaged flooring to make it more welcoming.

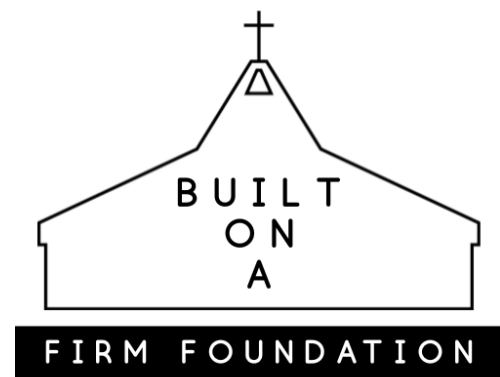
Our goal is not only to complete these needed projects but also to build a reserve fund to address future needs—ensuring our space remains safe, welcoming, and functional for years to come.

Following the congregational meeting, we reached out to vendors and are moving forward with the approved projects. We encourage you to use the QR code to watch the video for an overview of what's ahead.

Commitment Sunday is set for **September 28**. Please plan to join us in taking this important step forward as a congregation. Your participation, whether through a pledge, donation, or prayer—makes a difference.

Together, we are proactively maintaining a space that supports worship, community, and hospitality for all. Thank you for your continued commitment and faithfulness.

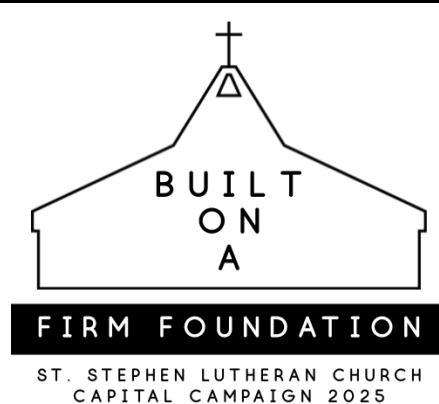
— The Capital Campaign Team



ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2025

Capital Campaign, 2025

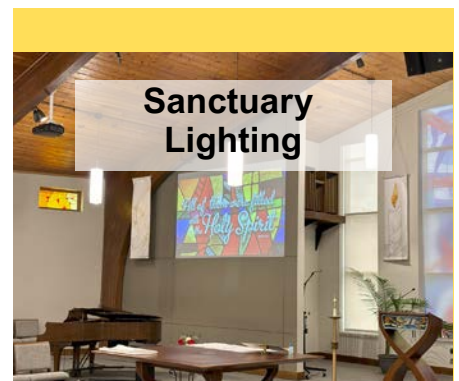
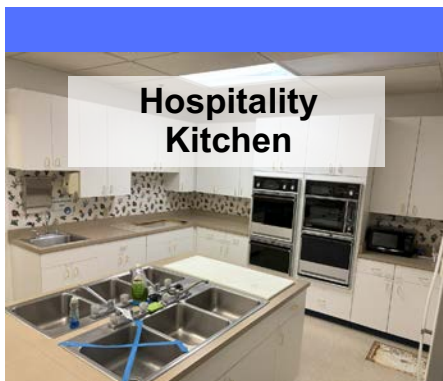
\$350,000 Capital Campaign Begins August 2025!



Our church building is vital to our ministry. From infants in strollers to those with walkers and wheelchairs, as well as individuals who transport food and organize events, our facility serves as a sanctuary for gathering, forming connections, and growing as disciples.

Reaching Our Goal of \$350,000 will Allow Us to
Maintain Functionality • Improve Accessibility • Enhance Experience

Complete Work in Three Critical Areas:
Exterior \$61,000 — Improvements to protect the building during strong rainstorms, and improve lighting and signage
Mechanical \$220,000 — Updates to keep our building systems functioning and our space accessible to all
Worship & Gathering Space \$73,000 — Enhancements to provide an even better experience to members and guests



How Can I Help?

Follow the QR code to a video overview of the work the campaign will support. Prayerfully consider how you might be able to contribute and return the pledge card to the church by Sunday, September 28. Thank you!



A Letter from Dave Critchlow

This past July, I joined over 800 Lutheran members from across the country in Phoenix, AZ, for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly — a gathering held every three years to worship together, discern God's call, and make decisions for our denomination's shared future. I attended, along with 17 others, as a voting member from the Southeast Iowa Synod, and the experience was awe inspiring as well as humbling.



As voting members, we are not just attendees of the assembly. We actively take part in the decision-making. After reading hundreds of pages of reading materials in advance of the assembly, we participated in many plenary sessions, listened to reports from the floor, engaged in debate, and voted on motions, the budget for the 2026, 2027, and 2028 fiscal years, or social statements. But the biggest thing we as voting members did was to elect the next Presiding Bishop. During this process in the assembly, you could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit guiding us.

I didn't know what to expect when I got to Phoenix, but I went in as a blank canvas. I absorbed a lot of information from the plenary sessions, and got to see "how the sausage was made" in a different expression of the church (congregation, synod, and churchwide organization). I also learned more on how each of the expressions work together, and how integral they are to each other. While there, I met not only people from the three Iowa synods, but made friendships with both pastors and lay persons (adult and youth) throughout the country. I also gained a deeper understanding of church governance, and by listening to the debates, how diverse our organization truly is.



Serving as a voting member reminded me that the ELCA is not just a collection of congregations — it's a living, breathing body that prays, wrestles, and dreams together. I returned home grateful for the voices I heard and hopeful for the future we are building together. I look forward to the opportunity to do this again if called to do so!

Dave Critchlow



Brown Bag Book Club Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.

The book club gathers each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the office Conference Room. We will finish *Accidental Saints* on Sept. 3. *Will not meet on Sept. 10.* We will begin ***Learning to Walk in the Dark*** by Barbara Brown Taylor on Sept 17. All are welcome!



News & Events

**Important Fall
Programming Dates!**

Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 10:
 Supper at The Table: 5:15 p.m.
 Worship at The Table: 6:00 p.m.
 SSLC Praise Band rehearsal: 6:30 p.m.
(note new time)
 EMERGE: 6:30 p.m. *(note new time)*
 ELES: 7:30 p.m.

Beginning Sunday, Sept. 14
 Spark Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Supper Club, Friday, Sept. 19, 6:30 p.m.

Please join us for our first Supper Club of the fall season! Supper Club provides once per month informal socializing in someone's home. Open to any adult — with hosting not required. Just bring an appetizer to share and your beverage of choice. Please let our hosts, Gloria and Don Herman know that you are attending: know that you will be attending (gloriaherman2009@gmail.com).



Save the Date!

Join us on **Sunday, Sept. 14** as we celebrate Kris Shay's 20th Anniversary as director of the SSLC Chapel Chimers!



Fall Choir Schedule

SSLC Chancel Choir rehearsals will return **Tuesday, Sept. 9!** Please see the September and October schedule below. Please talk with Jana Taylor if you would like to be added to the Choir email list!



Tues., Sept. 9: Rehearsal (Sanctuary), 6:30 p.m.
Tues., Sept. 16: Rehearsal (Sanctuary), 6:30 p.m.
Sun., Sept. 21: Worship Performance; 9:30 a.m.
 warm-up
Tues., Sept. 30: Rehearsal (Sanctuary), 6:30 p.m.
Tues., Oct. 7: Rehearsal (Sanctuary), 6:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 12: Worship Performance; 9:30 a.m.
 warm-up
Tues., Oct. 21: Rehearsal (Sanctuary), 6:30 p.m.
Tues., Oct. 28: Rehearsal (Sanctuary), 6:30 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 2: Worship Performance; 9:30 a.m.
 warm-up

Property Day, Saturday, Sept. 20, 8 a.m.

We need your help to maintain and beautify our church. We typically work for 2-3 hours as needed. **Please check the Friday email on Sept. 19 for any special instructions.** If Saturday morning doesn't work, contact Jerry Strawman for an alternative time.



Brain Styles, Sunday, Sept. 28

Have you ever wondered why people think, feel, and do things the ways they do? Why people experience God, participate in worship, or pray differently? Chances are it has something to do with their brain style. God created people with all kinds of brains and brain styles. To learn more about what this means for you, St. Stephen, and the Church outside of our walls, join us on **Sunday, Sept. 28, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.** for learning and conversation, led by Dr. Krista Brittain-Dial.

Outreach



CaringBridge Page for Pastors Andrea & Ronald Myers

Pastor Andrea and Ronald have created a CaringBridge page, and have been posting regular updates on Pastor's health journey.

You can view her page at caringbridge.org then search for "Andrea Myers."

In addition, cards/care packages can be mailed to Pastor Andrea and Ronald's home address, which can be found in the directory.

Andrea's email address: revandreamyers@gmail.com



MealTrain for Pastors Andrea & Ronald Myers

Meal Train is a free meal calendar tool that makes planning meals among a wide group easy and less stressful. We will be providing some physical meals at this time but continue needing funding for take-out/delivery meals and cash to cover extra expenses.



If you wish to bring a meal or make a donation, scan the QR code to sign up.

Urbandale Food Food Pantry Collection for September, 2025

In **September** we will focus on gathering **toothbrushes, toothpaste, soup, rice, Hamburger Helper: beef or tuna**. Please place items for the Urbandale Food Pantry in the shopping carts (Gathering Area). Financial gifts marked "food pantry" are always welcome, and can be shared in worship or sent to the church office.

Free Little Pantry

Donate "dry goods" groceries by placing them in the Free Little Pantry itself. If there's not enough room in the Little Pantry, overflow can be placed in the designated tote inside the Office Entry door. Please be sure to close and latch the pantry door to keep weather and critters out.

Free Little Library

Donate books for all age groups by placing them in the designated tote inside the Office Entry door. Contact the church office for assistance with an after-hours donation.

For assistance with the Free Little Pantry or Free Little Library, please contact our team: Sarah Tomjack, Krista Dial, and Janet Davis.



Social Ministry Report for August, 2025

Committee members: Jane Dieseth, Tracy Sabus, Sue Koch, Leslie Dahm

Urbandale Food Pantry Collection

For the month of **July**, we collected:

6 laundry soap	2 condiments
10 packages of pasta	14 cans of beans
2 pasta sauce	6 bars of soap
9 canned vegetables	49 Total Items and weighing 62 pounds



September 2025 Calendar

Monday, September 1, Labor Day Holiday

Wednesday, September 3

Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.

SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.

Thursday, September 4

SSLC Chapel Chimers Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 6

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 7, 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Fall Kickoff Outdoor Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Lunch & Yard Games, 11:00 a.m.

RFC Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 9

SSLC Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 10

Supper at The Table, 5:15 p.m.

Worship at The Table, 6:00 p.m.

SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

EMERGE, 6:30 p.m.

ELES, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 11

SSLC Chapel Chimers Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 13

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 14, 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Spark Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Reception for Kris Shay, 11:00 a.m.

RFC Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 16

SSLC Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 17

Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.

Supper at The Table, 5:15 p.m.

Worship at The Table, 6:00 p.m.

SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

EMERGE, 6:30 p.m.

ELES, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 18

Care Companions, 5:00 p.m.

SSLC Chapel Chimers Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

AA Meeting, 6:30 a.m.

Friday, September 19

Supper Club, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 20

Property Committee, 8:00 a.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.

RFC Women's Conference, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 21, 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Spark Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

RFC Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23

Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 24

Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.

Supper at The Table, 5:15 p.m.

Worship at The Table, 6:00 p.m.

SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

EMERGE, 6:30 p.m.

ELES, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 25

SSLC Chapel Chimers Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 27

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.

Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 28, 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Spark Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.

Conversation about Neurodiversity, 11:00 a.m.

Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.

RFC Worship, 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 30

SSLC Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

September Celebrations

September Birthdays

Sept 2	Julia Moats
Sept 4	Alma Grove
Sept 5	Noah Amundson
Sept 6	Jeannette Haugen, Alaina Turner
Sept 7	Emma Anderson
Sept 8	Julie Bohnsack, Betty Torgerson
Sept 11	Judy Beckley, Dave Bishop, Ann La Fontaine
Sept 12	Jeff Holdorf
Sept 13	Gordon Jorgensen
Sept 14	Lane Yager
Sept 15	Larry Richman, Tracy Sabus
Sept 16	Mya-Lisa Gude
Sept 17	Leslie Garman, Keith Swanson, Rob Torry
Sept 20	Pam Walck, John Williams, Jr.
Sept 22	Nick Dial
Sept 23	Cathy Edmondson, Linda Greethurst, Karen Huntley, Dan Walck
Sept 24	Gail Espe
Sept 25	Beth Halverson
Sept 27	Katie Trunnel
Sept 28	Aaron Walck
Sept 29	Dave Arens, Deb Wickham
Sept 30	Jon Marcotte

September Anniversaries

Sept 2	Brandon & Anna Marcotte, Kevin & Kris Shay
Sept 3	Jeff & Julia Moats
Sept 4	Don & Gloria Herman
Sept 5	Marlin & Barb Huey
Sept 7	Loney & Audra Baugher
Sept 10	Vickie & Pat Linthicum
Sept 15	Bill & Cindy Scarpino
Sept 26	Bill & Beth Goebel
Sept 27	Alma & Luke Grove
Sept 30	Brad & Kim Story

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
3510 72nd St.
Urbandale, IA 50322
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

God's Work. Our Hands

For the month of September we are collecting School Supplies for Karen Acres School in Urbandale. Please bring all items to the church by **Sunday, Sept. 21.**

The School Supply List:

- Headphones — around \$10.00 (over the head)
- Rulers with inches & centimeters
- Fidget toys
- Sharpies

Reward Box Items: suggestions — funny pencils, small figurines, key chains, small squishies, & fuzzy animals

