

# News & Notes

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## Important Update from Pastor Andrea Myers

(from Friday, July 18, 2025)

Dear St. Stephen community –

As you may already know, I have been struggling with fatigue and shortness of breath since late June. After many tests, doctor visits, and several blood transfusions, we learned this week that I have Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL).

The treatment protocols for ALL are aggressive, and require immediate action. On Monday, July 21, I will meet with specialists at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN for further evaluation and treatment planning.

I met with the Congregation Council on Thursday night, and we've begun work on a strategy to cover pastoral leadership needs during the time I'm receiving treatment. St. Stephen is blessed with excellent and capable staff and lay leadership, and I have great confidence in their ability to care for St. Stephen while my attention is turned elsewhere. I've also been in conversation with Bishop Amy Current, and the synod staff will offer their assistance as well.

Things are moving very quickly. There are many things we do not yet know about my illness or what the next weeks will look like. I don't yet know what kinds of help will be most helpful to Ronald and me. Please stay tuned to worship announcements and St. Stephen emails for updates.

In the meantime, I covet your prayers for me, for Ronald, and our healthcare team.

Peace,

*Pastor Andrea*

### Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- 4 He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day  
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.
- 8 The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.



### CaringBridge Page for Pastor Andrea and Ronald

Pastor Andrea and Ronald have created a CaringBridge page, and plan to post regular updates on Pastor's health journey. You can view her page at [caringbridge.org](https://www.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](mailto:revandreamyers@gmail.com)

## A Letter from Your Staff & Congregational Council

Dear Members of St. Stephen Congregation,

As many of you have heard, Pastor Andrea has recently received a serious medical diagnosis. Her treatment is expected to continue for several months, possibly up to a year. During this time, we ask that you continue to lift up Pastor Andrea and Pastor Ronald in your prayers.

The synod is already working closely with us to arrange for an interim pastor. In the month of August, Pastor Chris Lang and Pastor Les Walck will be leading worship and presiding over services. Pastor Chris Lang will also be available to provide pastoral care as needed.

We encourage you to visit Pastor Andrea's CaringBridge page, where updates will be posted regularly. In the coming weeks, we will also share more information about how you can support Pastor Andrea and Pastor Ronald—through donations, acts of care, and prayer.

Please know that your church council is here for you. We are committed to supporting the congregation during this time and are happy to answer any questions you may have. Our staff will continue regular operations and step in where needed to keep everything running smoothly.

In Christ,  
Your Staff and Congregational Council

# Congregational Meeting

## **Special Congregational Meeting – Sunday, August 17 at 11:00 a.m.**

### **Location: Sanctuary (following the 10:00 a.m. worship service)**

August 1, 2025

Dear Members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church,

The Congregation Council has called a special meeting to seek approval for moving forward with an updated Deferred Maintenance Project List, including an elevator contract and flood mitigation work, totaling up to \$350,000.

Since the original maintenance list was approved in May 2024 (which excluded the elevator), several major rainstorms have prompted additional projects, including roof work and landscape grading. We now have a pending elevator bid and a strategy for flood mitigation. The Council is asking for authorization to enter contracts and take out a short-term loan of \$200,000 to complete the full scope of work.

Under our bylaws, congregational approval is required for unbudgeted projects exceeding 5% of anticipated revenue. The bid for the elevator alone is \$150,000. Grouping all proposed and carryover projects together, the total cost is just over \$350,000.

The projects will be paid for using the remaining funds from the house sale (approximately \$100,000) and the short-term loan. Funds raised through the fall 2025 Built on a Firm Foundation Capital Campaign will be used to repay the loan and cover any additional costs, with the balance set aside in the facility designated fund so that we can quickly and responsibly respond to future needs.

The 2025 Deferred Maintenance Project List includes:

- **Mechanical:**
  - Elevator modernization & code updates
  - HVAC replacement (phased)
- **Exterior:**
  - Gutter replacement, metal roof pitch/seal, shingle repairs
  - Flood mitigation via grading
  - Parking lot signage (carryover)
- **Interior (carryover):**
  - Sanctuary lighting
  - Gathering area acoustics
  - Downstairs kitchen updates; hallway painting
  - South entrance lighting
  - Office wing paint & carpet

Approval requires a majority vote of members present and voting (C10.06). No proxy or absentee votes permitted (C10.05). This vote is the sole agenda item.

Please attend and reach out to a Council or Capital Campaign Committee member with questions.

Peace,

St. Stephen Congregation Council  
2025 Capital Campaign Committee

# Capital Campaign, 2025

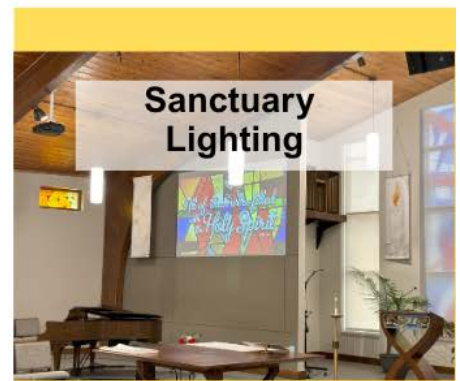
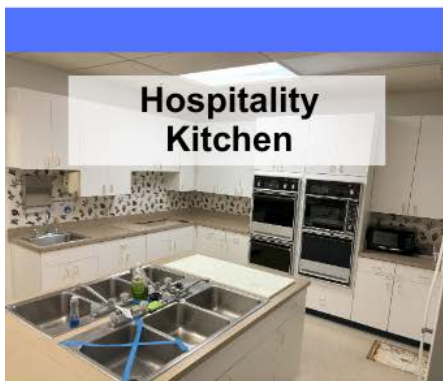
## \$350,000 Capital Campaign Begins August 2025!



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?

Read the Friday emails for more details on the proposed plans, talk to a campaign committee member, and watch for campaign materials to arrive mid-August. Then prayerfully consider how you might be able to contribute. **A video overview is available at the QR code (right).**



## News & Events



This summer, join us on the 2nd and 4th Sundays for a Hymn Sing! On **Sundays, Aug 10 & 24**, we will gather in the Sanctuary prior to worship at 9:50 a.m. when you can request to sing your favorite hymns from the ELW.

**Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, August 17, 11:00 a.m.**

**Location: Sanctuary  
(following the 10:00 a.m.  
worship service)**

### Prayers for Healing, Sunday, August 24

Once each month, Sunday worship includes an opportunity for individual prayer for healing and anointing (the sign of the cross placed on your forehead in oil). If you wish to receive this ministry, simply proceed to one of the healing ministers once you've received communion.

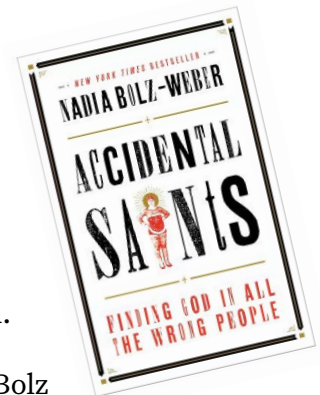


### Property Day, Saturday, August 16, 8:00 a.m.

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 August 15 for any special instructions.** If Saturday morning doesn't work, contact Jerry Strawman for an alternative time.

### 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 are currently discussing **Accidental Saints** by Nadia Bolz Weber. All are welcome!



### Save the Date!

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



## News & Events

# WHIZ KIDS

Olmsted  
Elementary  
Students

**GRADES  
3-5**

Volunteers are needed to  
tutor 3-5 grade students  
at Lion's Park Shelter,  
Thursdays 3:30-5:30 PM  
September-December



Contact [info@urbandalenetwork.org](mailto:info@urbandalenetwork.org)



Urbandale Community  
Action Network

Whiz Kids is a tutoring and mentoring program designed to help students struggling with literacy, math and other subjects. The program is sponsored by the Urbandale Community Action Network (UCAN), with the support of the Urbandale Lions Club.

Tutors will work with students, on a one-to-one or one-to-two ratio, helping with reading, math, or homework. Students will be selected by school staff, who will alert volunteers to areas of need for each student. The only requirements of tutors are a commitment to volunteer on Thursday afternoons, a completed application including a background check, and a generous spirit.

Please consider helping a child in need today!

## News & Events



### Summer Office Hours

During the summer, the church office will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (not T/W/F), 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Office: (515) 276-4628

## Around the Church — Jazz in June



## Around the Church — ELES in Chicago



## Around the Church — ELES in Chicago



# Outreach

## Urbandale Food Food Pantry Collection for August, 2025

In **August** we will focus on gathering **deodorant (men’s and women’s), canned tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter and cereal**. 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.



Children’s Books for Little Library – Our Free Little Library is in need of children’s books!  
Please place in the box in the Office entryway.

## Social Ministry Report for July, 2025

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

### Urbandale Food Pantry Collection

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

30	rolls of toilet paper	1	bag of beans
5	boxes of cereal	2	cans of soup
14	canned fruit	1	bag of sugar
6	condiments	62	Total Items and weighing 50 pounds
1	peanut butter		



## God’s Work. Our Hands

We have reached out to Karen Acres Elementary School, and we are waiting to hear back from their new Community Outreach person. We should be hearing from them any day now.

## August 2025 Calendar

### Sunday, August 3, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.  
 Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.  
 Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 12:00 p.m.  
 Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 5:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, August 6

Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.  
 Emerge Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

### Thursday, August 7

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Saturday, August 9

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.  
 Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

### Sunday, August 10, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.  
 Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.  
 Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 12:00 p.m.  
 Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 5:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, August 12

Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, August 13

Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.  
 SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.

### Thursday, August 14

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Saturday, August 16

Property Committee, 8:00 a.m.  
 RFC/SSLC Partnership Meeting, 11:00 a.m.  
 Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.  
 Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

### Sunday, August 17, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.  
 Congregational Meeting, 11:00 a.m.  
 Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.  
 Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 12:00 p.m.  
 Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 5:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, August 20

Life of Faith Team, 10:00 a.m.  
 Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.  
 SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.

### Thursday, August 21

Care Companions, 5:00 p.m.  
 AA Meeting, 6:30 a.m.

### Friday, August 22

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

### Saturday, August 23

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.  
 RFC Women's Conference, 5:00 p.m.

### Sunday, August 24, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion (with Healing Prayers), 10:00 a.m.  
 Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.  
 Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 12:00 p.m.  
 RFC Women's Conference, 5:00 p.m.

### Monday, August 25

Personnel Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, August 26

Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, August 27

Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.  
 SSLC Band Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.

### Thursday, August 28

AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### Saturday, August 30

Redeemed Fellowship Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m.  
 Redeemed Fellowship Center, 4:00 p.m.

### Sunday, August 31

Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m.  
 Coffee and Donuts Fellowship, 11:00 a.m.  
 Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 12:00 p.m.  
 Redeemed Fellowship Center Worship, 5:00 p.m.

## August Celebrations

### August Birthdays

**August 1** Freeman, Bill  
**August 5** Tracy Hersom, Mark Middleton  
**August 8** Jill Chapman  
**August 9** Emilia Amundson, Marcia Klindt  
**August 11** Dave Amundson  
**August 12** Loney Baugher, Rosalie Baugher, Allen Reiman  
**August 13** Brad Edmondson, Gina Moriarty  
**August 14** Kay Riel  
**August 15** Mackenzie Henderson, Kris Shay  
**August 17** Carey Boysen  
**August 18** Adelaide Kruse, Charlotte Monson, Daphne Monson, Ann Torrey  
**August 20** Caleb Acaley  
**August 21** Art Gustafson  
**August 23** Carol Mahlendorf  
**August 24** Robert Lydon  
**August 25** Tom Bailey  
**August 27** Lila Ewing  
**August 28** Alec Drown  
**August 29** Celeste Minick-Gude  
**August 30** Lesley Stucker  
**August 31** Sandra Jacoby, Melissa Stole

### August Anniversaries

**August 2** Doug & Kathy Winger  
**August 5** Jeff & Julie Lorenz  
**August 6** Ben & Sarah Tomjack  
**August 7** Terry & Bev Lantz, Don & Karen Rumelhart  
**August 9** Harlan & Julie Bohnsack, Dan & Pam Walck  
**August 10** Bill & Marilyn Gift, Larry & Connie Richman  
**August 11** Cory & Michelle Weinberger  
**August 12** Shelly & Mark Anderson  
**August 13** Greg & Leslie Dahm  
**August 14** Brad & Cathy Edmondson  
**August 15** Leo & Billye Jo Ryan  
**August 16** Aaron & Kristen Walck  
**August 17** Ron & Mary Hintz  
**August 19** Ronald & Andrea Myers  
**August 29** Gina & Tim Moriarty  
**August 31** Jim & Kelsey Walker, Chris & Sharon Zinselmeier

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

