



WELCOME TO *St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA*

Service Times: Saturday - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

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the MARTYR MONTHLY

AUGUST 2007 NEWSLETTER

St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church, ELCA

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SSM STAFF

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 Bob De Frank, Sunday Sch
 Superintendent
 Janet Snyder, Organist



inside this is

LOOKING AHEAD TO
 Sept. 9th, 2007
 RALLY DAY
 AND
 CHURCH
 PICNIC

One service only @ 9:30 a.m.

Join us for the first Sunday of the fall season and the beginning of Sunday Church School—Meet outside for worship on the back parking lot.

Picnic to follow INSIDE for your dining comfort! (No bees!)
 Bring a dish to pass.
 All else will be provided!

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PASTOR GAIL'S COMPUTER NOTES...

The members of St. Stephen have been busy this summer, with activities that involve sun and sports and leisure, and yes, the work of the church goes on too!

Human Concerns member Pam Gustafson proposed that we assist Salvation Army in providing : to hungry inner city kids, and on a recent Sunday, 350 peanut butter/jelly sandwiches were m

bagged, and delivered. (see article in this newsletter) Thank you to all who helped! Women of our church have many projects, but a new one involves the making of quilts for Luth World. Thanks to Carole Ropel and others who have been cutting, trimming and sewing. They c hands....A worthwhile project indeed!

Our church inside and out looks good thanks to custodian Bob Brownell, Properties Chair Jim , landscaper Doug Winter, and handy men Dick Rutzen and Ron Ropel. Thank you!

Music and Worship volunteers under the leadership of Karen Rasmussen work hard week in an A new feature is the changing of messages on our outdoor sign. Check out the messages and in to do so too. Thought-provoking!

Eighteen of our members (including myself) will enjoy family camp in August, and undertake a service project during the week. Outdoor fun, Bible study and fellowship will make it a good w Laura Giesenschlag, her family and many volunteers helped to put smiles on faces of some spe kids and their family at a unique picnic, the 10th annual at the Milwaukee Zoo in June. (see art newsletter) Way to go, Giesenschlags!

Vacation Bible Time—Avalanche Ranch--well, what can I say?! It was a fantastic, FUNtastic ti learning, and growing in Christ. Job well done, folks!

What projects have you been involved in? Let us know!

Most important of all, we gather together for worship each week. We glory in the Lord's pres Word and in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This summer, we are continuing our every-oth hymn sing 10 minutes before each service, and on some Sundays we continue to learn a new lit the cranberry hymnal. It's never dull at St. Stephen the Martyr.

Come join in worship, service and fellowship.

The donuts and coffee are great, too!

A blessed August to you!

Pastor Coail

HELP SSM KEEP OUR RECORDS UP TO DATE:

Are you moving? Do you have an address, phone number e-mail or status change, a new additio family? Don't forget to contact your church to report any changes for your family records. W like to receive the Martyr Monthly via email? Go to www.ststephenthemartyr.com to sign up! L office know if you want to discontinue receiving the hard copy. Would you like to receive the Monthly in your church mailbox? Call the office @ 414-421-3543 or email us at ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com.



Loose Ends School Bag Sewing Day

Day and Time: Thursday, August 22nd @ 9:00 a.m.

Join our gathering to sew the school bags. We have a fun time doing God's serious business! A help is needed & welcome! Jobs include cutting out, sewing, trimming and pressing material.

We will lunch together, visit laugh and praise the Lord for His goodness to us for being able t others in need! Watch for sign up sheets. All are welcome to join in with the Human Concerns Loose-Ends Groups in this project.

We have need of sturdy fabric for the school bags. Watch for the collection container in Aug and blessings to all for your great generosity to those in need.

PROPERTY

Attention Greendale Residents

A few helpers are needed to help dispose of SSM's refuse!

Please contact Jim Arneson at (cell) 313-6682.

We are looking for several people to help on once a month basis to haul trash to the dump on mornings. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL MISSION TRIP!

From August 5 through 10th, 17 disciples from SSM will travel together on our mission trip, Imago Dei Village's Family Camp. We will serve in a thrift store, a food pantry, and remodel housing in the community, all while enjoying Bible study, worship, camp fires, fun and the relaxation. In addition to this group of people, you are invited to be part of our congregation's mission ways, right here at home:

Send us off from worship on Sunday, 5 August at 9:30 a.m.;

Take home with you a prayer card and keep one of our 16 travelers in prayer throughout the



Welcome our travelers home at our Homecoming Potluck, 5 p.m. on Friday the 10th in the Fellowship Hall. You can sign up on the bulletin board outside the office to bring a dish to share. If you are planning for the pot luck, please call Shelley Rosenstock @ 769-7067 or shelly.rosenstock@ssm.org

UPDATE FOR YOUTH

Hey you! Bored with summer? Want to hang out with friends and do something fun? Each week we are doing something different, something spontaneous. You may get a call sometime the day of an event or you may show up at your door on our way there. If you want to make sure you don't miss out, call us at 769-7067 or what's up each week.

Attention All 7th - 12th Grade Girls... It's a GIRLS NIGHT OUT!

On Wednesday, August 15th all 7th through 12th grade girls are invited to a fun night of fellowship, pizza, bowling and fun.

Join us at SSM at 5:30 pm for pizza and fellowship.

At 6:45 pm we will head to Root River Center for bowling!

Cost is \$5.00 per person.

Transportation to Root River Center will be provided. We will return to church by 9:00 pm. Bring your own water and join in the fun. For more information or to sign up, please contact Suzette Larson at 769-7067

VACATION BIBLE TIME—AN INSPIRING WEEK!

What a WONDERFUL week it was! Many of the staff felt that this was the best VBT thus far. 84 children participated this year. Of that number, 30 were children from SSM, 22 were from other churches and/or friends of children from SSM and 32 children came from Cristo Rey.

The children learned Bible lessons and terrific music, played games and made crafts that emphasized that God is real, God is with us, God is strong and in charge and Jesus died for our sins.

In addition, a total of 81 adults and/or young people were actively involved in the program in some direction during the course of the week.

These include kitchen help from SSM (8), Cristo Rey kitchen help (6), 24 crew leaders and helpers (which came from Cristo Rey and 3 who were non-SSM members), 10 station leaders and their helpers as well as numerous other people who helped with setting up, decorating and tearing down at the end of the week. As you can see, a lot of people invested considerable time, talent and effort into making a successful week. As has been said many times,

VBT is almost a total congregational effort. In addition to the people above, the congregation was so VERY generous in their prayerful and financial support of the program. Many, many thanks! At the end of the week we got on the web to see if any other nearby churches were having VBT. We found the same curriculum and were interested in making use of our decorations and props. Lots of churches were contacted by a Baptist church in the Madison area. Within a few days, they drove down to see what we had. So not only is SSM now known statewide, we are also "interdenominational."

Mark your calendars!

VBT 2008 will be the week of

6/16/2008-6/20/2008 !!!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE CONGREGATION

Thank you to Jenny & Bill Anderson & Bob & Sue DeFrank for their leadership and to all the Vacation Bible Time. It was a lot of hard work & a wonderful week. God's blessings to

A THANK YOU FROM PASTOR CARLOS ARANDA OF CRISTO REY PARI
Greetings! I need to thank you for the opportunity your and your congregation extended to (children to attend the VBT. Our children and leaders enjoyed it a lot. This is a very imp cross-cultural activity for our ministry. Please extend our gratitude to your congregation a possible put it in your monthly bulletin. Thank you very much for your support to Cristo Rey Church.

Contact our Discipleship Coach, Kevan Penvose: 414-258-0858 stillierz7@yahoo.co

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Rally Day Is Coming!



Mark your calendars! **Rally Day is Sunday, September 9, 2007.**

Celebrate the beginning of another exciting Sunday School year! There will be one worship service beginning at **9:30 A.M.** held outdoors (weather permitting). Sunday School begins for our children. An indoor picnic and activities will follow the service.

We will provide the hamburgers, brats, hot dogs and beverages! Please bring a dish to pass. (If donations to defray the cost of food are gratefully accepted.)

Sign-up sheets for the meal and your dish to pass will be on the bulletin board outside the church.

Please bring your supplies for school bags for needy children worldwide.



August!

The final month of summer. Planning for the Fall season begins.

The Music and Worship Committee will be meeting Wednesday, August 1st at 6:00 pm. We are looking for new members.

The first event of the fall will be Rally Day, Sept. 9th. Music and Worship works in cooperation with other committees to make this outdoor service and picnic a great success.

Current ushers are being surveyed as to whether they plan to continue serving during the Fall. Those who would now be interested in ushering, please contact Bob Rasmussen, (414) 421-5170, before August 15th. You will have "on the job" training, being on a team with experienced ushers.

Plans are in process to have a Communion Set-up/Server orientation after the 9:30AM service on Sunday, Sept. 16th. This training is for preparing the communion elements and cleaning up afterward and also for serving the elements during the service. You can volunteer for either and/or both. The committee would like to encourage families to be trained in communion set-up. It is a wonderful gift to your church. A flyer with complete information will be in mailboxes later in August. Members who currently either serve or set-up could attend for a brush up or to help train. Watch for notification meeting times. New members are always welcome.

Our choir program, chimes and bells will resume in September.

As September approaches, there are many challenges in planning the worship at SSM. JOIN

Karen Rasmussen, Chair
(414) 421-5170

CHOIR—Summer or Fall

Did you ever think about joining the choir, but you weren't sure choir was right for you? Afraid of a long term time commitment due to a busy work or family schedule? Then SUMMER CHOIR is for you! Summer choir will sing once more on Sun., August 19.

We meet at 9 am in the Sanctuary to go over the piece for that morning. No previous experience necessary and everyone is welcome!! Give it a try!

FALL CHOIR rehearsals will begin again on Wednesday, September 5th at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining the choir, come and meet the present members!



Roy & Laura, Kyle, Kevin and Kara Giesenschlag

Kevin Giesenschlag lived the first eleven years of his life receiving nourishment not in the usual way with the use of a "G-tube". There were many tough days and nights, for him and for his family. One day, as he and his mom were walking through the halls of Children's Hospital, he saw for the first time another child with a G-tube. He was glad to see that he wasn't the only one.

Kevin and Laura came up with an idea: how about planning a really fun event, a great big picnic for tube-fed children and their families? And they were off and running. The 1st picnic was in 1995. Its success caused every year's to be bigger and better. This annual event is due to the tremendous work of Laura, most of all. This summer her work and the work of many volunteers resulted in an attendance of 956 happy people!

Each summer on a special Sunday, the families are admitted free to the Milwaukee Zoo, where they get to eat delicious picnic food, make crafts, and enjoy a beautiful day together. The children get their removable tattoos, have their nails painted and hair braided, see the animals and ride on the trolleys. The badge for the picnic declares "Uniting Tube-Fed Children—A Journey of Family Strength" and features a different design each year. There are many stories of family courage and determination told during and after the picnic.

Dad Roy Giesenschlag is an Oak Creek firefighter and the firefighters have supported the event. He made a wonderful speech to them, and a donation of \$1,200 was given. A fire truck appears at the picnic each year for the kids to explore.

In the last few years, the G-I Dept. of Children's Hospital has become a great supporter. Nurse Sherry helped Laura begin a Support Group for the families, and in this 10th anniversary year she presented the awards ceremony. Several doctors were recognized. Kevin Giesenschlag was so proud to give out certificates to children, who like himself, have 'graduated' and no longer need a tube-fed! Yea!

There were also certificates given to Bob and Sue DeFrank, who have helped all 10 years; and to the volunteers the Russ Mayer family, whose award was received by Alyssa Mayer; and Jenny and Anderson and their children.

Laura Giesenschlag has done wonders with her tireless work for this great event. She says the emphasis is always that "people are not alone; they are here for each other, and God is with them." Her husband and all her children are so proud of mom, and are glad to be part of this effort.

Kyle says that "it doesn't matter what's on the outside of a person. It matters what's on the inside." For this family and for all the great supporters and volunteers of the Uniting Tube-Fed Children's Hospital, the rewards are great. And what's inside of them makes all the difference. Thanks be to God!



Mt. Meru Coffee

Another container of Mt. Meru Coffee arrived in Milwaukee this spring. The coffee sold in Milwaukee area congregations helps to bring hope to the families living on the small coffee farms of the Diocese in Tanzania. Paying these farmers a price that is far higher than even Fair Trade stores would pay for health care, education and the basic necessities of life that we in America sometimes take for granted.

Coffee is available for purchase or can be ordered at the Mt. Meru table in the narthex.

Cost: \$8.00/bag; \$4.00/mug

Thank you for your continued support.
Doing Justice Never Tasted So Good!

Aluminum Can Donations

Did you know that your donation of aluminum cans helps fight hunger? Your donations make it help ELCA World Hunger. Please continue to donate your cans by dropping your bagged recycled aluminum cans at the church garage, in the lower parking lot.

Thank You!

THE STAFF OF LIFE

SSM FOOD PANTRY

SUMMER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

...because hunger never takes a vacation...

We are continuing our service to the community by collecting food for Central City Food Pantry August. When school is in session, many needy children receive breakfast at school, but tragic the summer months these same children go without. Please be generous this month as hunger takes a vacation.

"The LORD upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, and lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous." Psalm 146

SKOOL DAZ! SKOOL DAZ!

It's that time of year once again! Soon we will be sewing School Bags for needy children and we begin collecting items to fill them. Watch for the poster and collection box in the narthex. Upon receiving a shipment of school kits, a teacher from Peru, said, "This surprise fills me with emotion. I tell the people who are responsible for sending these kits that we thank them from the bottom of our hearts. The children will carry these gifts in their hearts, and in their minds they will know that there are people in far away places that care enough to share and send help to people in need. I will show the children how to use each item they received, since there are some items that they have never seen before." Lutheran World Relief is helping children around the world attend school with these wonderful kits. Won't you help LWR help a needy child today?

Here is a take along list of items we need for each kit.

- Pads or notebooks of ruled paper (8 1/2 x 11—150-200 sheets of paper)
- One blunt scissors (safety with imbedded steel blades work well)
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- Six new pencils with erasers & one eraser approximately 2 1/2" long
- 12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors
- One box of 8, 16, or 24 crayons
- Strong material for cloth bag approximately 12" x 14" with cloth handles—to be sewn-s

GRANDPARENTS' DAY PLANT SALE

Southwest Interfaith Neighborhood Outreach Program will have a Grandparents' Day Mum Plant Sale at SSM after service on Saturday, Sept. 8 and Sunday, Sept. 9th. We are a sponsoring congregation that supports Southwest Interfaith's work of providing services to older adults in our community through volunteers and financial contributions.

Southwest Interfaith volunteers assist older adults by providing transportation, help with shopping, friendly visits and minor household chores, thus enabling them to remain in their own homes. Leaflets, Brochures and information will be available along with beautiful mum plants to take to grandpa or any older friends or relatives.

Your Interfaith-Southwest Reps,
Shirley DeVecka and Bob Lieske

SANDWICH SUNDAY —A REAL SUCCESS!

The Human Concerns committee would like to thank those blessed saints who donated items and volunteered after church to make sandwiches. There was a very generous response to our appeal. We received twice the amount of peanut butter and jelly that we needed. The extra was donated to the food pantry collection. All together we made 350 sandwiches which were delivered to the Scout Troop Monday Morning.

Thank you all!

CONSENSUED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MTG. HELD ON JULY 1

(A Complete Set of Minutes can be found on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex.)

All Council members were present except E. Sanders and K. Giensenschlag. Pastor Gail Broder and Kevan Penrose were also absent. Guest: Sunday School Superintendent B. DeFrank.

Approvals: The Secretary's minutes from June 12th, 2007 were reviewed and accepted. The Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed and accepted. The Treasurer's Report was discussed. Bugajski reported that we are currently \$10,009.47 short in year to date offerings. He suggested limiting spending for the next two months. J. Miller reported she has researched six banks to that pays the highest interest for our account.

Pastor's Time: President Muroi gave the Pastor's report in her absence. She is counseling couples that will marry in July, and she thanked everyone that worked on the VBT, especially Anderson and DeFrank family. She also thanked the Martin and R. Mayer family for their monetary donation.

Old Action Items: J. Muroi asked that ideas for the fall retreat be presented by the next meeting.

New Action Items: Guest B. DeFrank stated that 84 children participated in this year's VBT. He acknowledged the other 81 people it took to put on this year's VBT.

Committee Reports:

Property – J. Arneson stated that there are two leaks that need to be fixed. The Council is spending \$1050.00 to have these leaks fixed. He also stated there was a problem with taking to the Greenfield dump. He is establishing a volunteer list of residents/members that can take on Mondays.

Stewardship - C. Malinowski discussed a new Time and Talent Survey (Shared Ministry) for the church would look for volunteers based on upcoming activities. A lively discussion followed on how to get and keep volunteers. J. Arneson suggested a bulletin board in the narthex with upcoming volunteer opportunities. J. Muroi suggested this be a discussion for the council retreat.

Fellowship - S. Rosenstock is still looking for volunteers for the planned Rally Day on September 14th.

Human Concerns: S. Lieske reported the volunteers made over 300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on July 8th, 2007.

Music and Worship: K. Rasmussen reported new usher and communion service schedules for being scheduled now. There was a discussion regarding communion servers and the need for more training session in the near future.

Youth: - S. Larsen talked about the upcoming girl's night out for 7th thru 12 graders. Bowling is planned for August 15th, 2007, starting at 5:30 P.M.

Rosy- Mursal Family: The family still owes \$3,000 in travel expenses.

Adjournment: 8:50 P.M. - Next meeting is August 14th, 2007.

Yours Respectfully, Shellee Lubus, Council Secretary