

WELCOME TO *St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA*

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

Sunday - 8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.



the **MARTYR MONTHLY**
NOVEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

St. Stephen the Martyr
Lutheran Church, ELCA

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SSM STAFF

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Bob De Frank, Sunday School
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Janet Snyder, Organist



inside this issue:

ALL SAINTS WEEKEND

Nov. 3 & 4, 2007 @ SSM

We mourn those loved ones who have died,
we give thanks for their witness to the faith,
we light candles in their memory, and
we celebrate Holy Communion at all services
Giving thanks for the life, death and resurrection
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

THANKSGIVING EVE

Join us for a special
Thanksgiving Eve Communion Worship Service
Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 @ SSM
7:00 p.m.

Let us give thanks to our beneficent Father for His many blessings
to us through the year.

Let us also bless others by bringing non-perishable food items to
give to those in need.

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PASTOR GAIL'S COMPUTER NOTES...

In November, we pause and give thanks for many blessings. Of course, we get to do this on our national holiday called Thanksgiving. And at St. Stephen, we can do that at worship the evening before, Wed., Nov. 21st in a service of Holy Communion and with hymns of thanks and praise. Come join in this special joyful worship at 7:00 p.m.!

In November, we also remember our beloved sisters and brothers in Christ who have passed from the Church on earth to the Church Triumphant. I have had the joy of living and working among a lot of saintly people here at St. Stephen and at the four churches where I have been a member. We believe that saints are not perfect people! But these folks were committed Christians, seeking to serve others as their Lord served, knowing all the while that following the Way of Jesus is a tough road, filled with prayer and potholes, joy and sorrow, smiles and tears, satisfaction and sin, forgiveness and mostly: life lived in the presence of God.

Come celebrate the festival of ALL SAINTS with your congregation on November 3rd and 4th at all

services, when we remember those who have lived that kind of life and now rest from their labors. We will have the opportunity to light a candle in their memory along with other family members and friends who we love and miss. They would want us to remember them, but to give thanks to God who sent us forgiveness of sins and salvation through Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God!

See you at worship.

Pastor Gail



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY & LOOSE ENDS CRAFTING/BAKING

November 14th

Bible Study, 9 a.m.

followed by Crafting at 10 a.m. Lunch will be ordered in.

November 28th

Bible Study, 10:15 a.m.

November 29th

Candy making, pricing of items and set-up for Bake & Craft Sale at 9 a.m. Lunch will be ordered in.

PIECE MAKERS QUILTERS

There will be no quilting meetings during the months of November and December. Beginning in January, 2008, we will meet on the 3rd Monday of every month, beginning at 6:30 p.m. In the meantime, there will be squares available on the ledge beneath the church mailboxes that can be sewn together, and you could purchase twin sheets, wash and iron them after the seams are ripped. That will give us a good start as we begin making quilts again after the first of the new year. See you on January 21, 2008.

Carole Ropel

SSM Women's Ministries, Acting Coordinator, Women of the ELCA

WOMEN OF THE ELCA CLUSTER MEETING—ALL WELCOME!

Date: November 17, 2007 Time: 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Place: St. Stephen the Martyr Cost: \$9.00 (includes lunch)

Event: Cluster Meeting for Clusters I, II, III, & IV

Join the Women of the ELCA at SSM for our fall cluster meeting. The theme for this meeting is "Our Father's Keeper." Pastor Gail will be leading us in Bible Study and Marion Walton-Marotske will be presenting "Caring for the Caregiver."

SSM women please sign up on the kiosk to bring a dessert such as bars, cookies, cakes etc. for dessert at the luncheon.

Registration forms are posted on the kiosk. Any questions, contact Sue Jarchow at 421-9031.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: November 10, 2007

BAKERS NEEDED FOR THE LOOSE ENDS BAKE AND CRAFT SALE - DECEMBER 1ST AND 2ND

Please sign-up to bring your donated baked goods for the annual Loose Ends Bake and Craft Sale. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Bulletin Board outside of the church office. Cookies are an especially big seller but we will appreciate whatever item(s) you are willing to donate. Bring your baked goods to church on December 1st or as early on the 2nd as possible.

If you are a crafter and plan to make a donation of your hand-crafted goods, please contact Carole Ropel, 262-523-4130 with a description of the item(s) and the quantity, by November 19th.

Proceeds from this event will be sent to benevolent type organizations and used for needed projects at SSM.

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

| UPCOMING EVENTS | | |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Nov 3 | | Make-A-Difference Day |
| Nov 4 | 5:00 PM | re:FUEL |
| Nov 10 | | Girls Night! |
| Nov 16 | | Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser |
| Nov 18 | 6:00 PM | REVOLUTIONS! |

JOINING FORCES, MAKING FRIENDS, GROWING IN FAITH

You will notice some new events listed in the left hand sidebar this month. These ministries are a result of our collaboration with Adoration Lutheran Church in Greenfield.

For many years, our church has partnered with Adoration for our 7th and 8th grade confirmation ministries. We've been so blessed that we have decided also to team up with Adoration for 7th thru 12th grade youth and family ministries. This new journey together allows us to share resources and continue the friendships we make during confirmation. Join us this month as our adventure in faith grows deeper with the help of our friends.

ATTENTION PARENTS AND ADULTS

We're looking once again to start up a new year of 2B1, our cross-generational ministry for families and mentors to pass on the faith to our young disciples. We will be starting in December with a new small group gathering in our homes. More details to come soon!

HOLD ON TO YOUR HAT, IT'S CHRISTMAS!

This year's Sunday School Christmas Program is **Sunday December 16th @ 6:30 PM**. All speaking and acting parts have been assigned and we're almost half way through learning the new music. The children have been working hard during our practices but it would be extremely helpful to also practice at home with the CD that was sent with them on Rally Day. If you have misplaced your CD or didn't receive one please contact me right away for a new copy. We will be having three Saturday morning practices this year, **December 1st** is for the speaking and acting parts only, **December 8th & 15th** for all Sunday School students. All rehearsals will begin at 9AM sharp in the sanctuary. The children have been asked to perform during the **Sr. Choir Christmas Concert on Saturday December 8th during the 5PM service**. Please have children to church on **December 8th at 4:30** for warm-ups in the Luther Room. Once again this year I am asking that all of the students wear a plain white shirt/blouse & black skirt or pants for the program on December 16th and we will meet for warm-ups at 5:45 PM in the Luther Room. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

God Bless!

Stephanie Mayer

3-4-5 PASSING ON THE FAITH

(from Frogs without Legs Can't Hear by David W. Anderson & Paul Hill)

In this month's article we will look at the last of the five principles and see that **if we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults/parents**. This principle ties in closely with the last one: **faith is caught more than taught**. With this we look at Proverbs 4:1-4 in which the author is writing as if he is speaking to a group of young students. He says to listen to your father and his teachings. This would include listening to our mothers and all the wisdom that they have to offer us. He is telling his listeners that when he was growing up he listened to his parents and their teachings.

This principle is one that tells us that if we want to see our children grow up and stay in the Christian faith then we need to set the example of being involved in our congregation and the Church, reading the scriptures and leading by example at home. That means attending church during worship times, having family devotion times, involving ourselves in service activities such as bringing in food donations, giving to the church, helping serve at The Gathering, or any of the numerous opportunities the church provides to be 'Jesus with skin on.' We can set a wonderful example of what it means to be a Christian by how we lead our lives and not just put on a good face while we are at church. Our kids learn by what they see us do more so than what we tell them to do.

Until next time, peace be with you.

Tim Falksen

Contact our Discipleship Coach, Kevan Penvose: 414-258-0858 stillerz7@yahoo.com



Next Music & Worship Meeting
Wednesday November 7 @ 6:00 pm

A big thank you to Sue Jarchow, Cathy Peterson, and Marilyn Mayer for conducting the Communion Training Workshop on September 16th. There were a number of new volunteers both to set-up and to serve communion. The Fall-Winter Schedule for Communion Set-Up/Serve has now been published. Thanks to all the people, new and experienced, that do this important work most every service. Beginning in November, there will be communion at every 9:30a.m. service. The additional communions will be served by intinction. Preparations for the Holidays have begun...
WORSHIP WITH US
Thanksgiving Eve, 7:00 pm

POINSETTIA ORDERS

'Tis the season to begin the process to beautify our sanctuary for Christmas! Can you believe it! It's that time again. Look for the poster in the narthex to pick up an order/payment envelope. Please place your order and payment in the offering plate at any service by Sunday, November 25th. Poinsettias—RED, WHITE and PINK in 6 1/2 inch pots will again be available for \$8.00 each. They will be available for pick-up after the Christmas Day service.

WHY PARAMENT COLORS CHANGE

All Saint's Day is Nov. 1st, but it is observed on the Sunday following that date. This festival commemorates all the baptized people of God who have died in the faith. The liturgical color is white. SSM traditionally has had a memorial service involving the lighting of candles on that day. The last Sunday of the Church year is Christ the King Sunday. This year it is on November 25th. White is the celebration color. The following Sunday begins Advent when the color is royal blue. It is the season of waiting and expectation.



The passion of Jesus for the lost should be an ever-motivating love among the people of God. We remind ourselves that we are to love and care for those who disagree and even oppose us. The church's purpose, as declared and demonstrated by Jesus, is to seek and to save the lost. So despite the outward obstacles and the inner fears, God's people engage the unconvinced in conversation about the Good News.

SSM FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

The scripture admonishes us to "Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15) A caring community grows stronger when victories are shared and celebrated together. And so we rejoice with you...

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Carole Ropel, newly elected President of the Greater Milwaukee Synod Women of the ELCA. Carole has been very active at SSM and in the Synod with WELCA, getting a group started here. She has been a Board member and the planner of last year's Synod Convention. We're proud of you, Carole!

Michael Hennessy, star quarterback for Greendale High School's winning team (8-1). Mike has led the team to win the Divisional championship in the Woodland Conference. Yeh, Mike!

URGENT NEED FOR APPLIANCES/FURNITURE

Our Somali family will soon be moving to Northlawn Housing Development near N. Villard Avenue, where other family members already live. They are excited to have a three bedroom, first floor apartment with a yard. They are very much in need of: (in order of importance)

- * Electric stove
- * Refrigerator
- * Washer & Dryer
- * Sofa
- * Chairs
- * Bedding

If you can help, or you know of someone who can, please call John & Nancy Bugajski (282-7279).

Human concerns

Next meeting is November 6th at 6:30 p.m. Call Shirley Lieske with questions: 761-0734

KNIT WITS

Meeting is at 6:30 pm on November 5th. Anyone who loves to knit or crochet or who wants to learn, please join us!

CROP WALK UPDATE

This year's Greater Milwaukee CROP Walk on October 14th was a rainy day (it hasn't rained during a CROP Walk in Milwaukee since 1990!), but a great success! Thank you to everyone from SSM who participated by walking, sponsoring a walker or donating food to help those who have to walk everyday just to survive. Watch for totals on dollars raised by SSM to be announced as soon as all donations are collected.

A BIG thanks to our "never give up" walkers for SSM this year: Pastor Gail, Paul Eklund, Tim Falksen, Calvin Fischer, Mitchell Fischer, Linda Johnson and her Girl Scout troop, Vickie Lawrence, Sherry and Dale Magner, Kelly Sachse, Amanda Salas, Julie Starks and Nick Stawicki. We hope you'll consider joining us next year!

- Kelly Sachse, Coordinator

THE STAFF OF LIFE— SSM FOOD PANTRY

...because hunger never takes a break...

We want to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the members of St. Stephen the Martyr who so diligently support the food pantry.

The food pantries in our area all have great and continual need for donations. The number of people requesting food has increased in all pantries.

We are making a few changes in our "foods needed" lists. The pantries have asked for 4 items that are in greatest need. You will find bags to choose from in the container each month. We hope this will encourage more people to give by donating one item.

We serve three pantries over a one year period: Bay View Community Center, Central City and Cristo Rey Food Pantries. Each month we collect food for one of these pantries and deliver it after the last Sunday of the month.

All food pantry donations for the month of November will go to the Central City Food Pantry.

"He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do like-wise."
(Luke 3:11)

Thanking God for Your Servant Heart,
Human Concerns

SHEPHERD'S CORNER LIBRARY NEWS

We are planning a book sale!

Saturday, Nov. 3rd &

Sunday Nov. 4th

The library is restocking its shelves with new books, so we need to make space. Look for these sale items in the narthex. Prices for books will be very reasonable—stop by and buy!

Some new reading for young & old:

Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting

The Little Lutheran Books, Sept. & Oct.

Ben Hurry

New DVD's

Opening the Door to Luther

Glory to God Alone: The Life of Bach

The Morning Star of Wittenberg

Chicken Soup for the Soul

Veggie Tales: The Wonderful Wizard of Ha's

Some member favorites:

The Atonement Child, Rivers—Jenny Koeff remarks, "I loved it."

Annie's People series, Beverly—Denise Sanders says, "I enjoyed the first 2 books in this series so much that I had to read the third! I bought it, read it, enjoyed it, and am now giving it to the SSM library to

complete the Annie's People series."

Your comments are welcome. Check out a book soon and give us your review!

KEEP RECYCLING THOSE ALUMINIUM CANS!

As Fall and Winter approach don't forget to drop your aluminum cans at the door to the garage in the lower parking lot.

One hundred dollars of the money recouped from the sale of the cans was recently sent to ELCA World Hunger.

KEEP THEM COMING!



COFFEE NEWS

Don't forget to check out the Mt. Meru coffee table. We try to have coffee available for purchase on the table, but if you do not see what you want you may place an order on the sheet provided. Coffee can be ordered on Sunday and is usually delivered by Friday. Each bag whether reg. or decaf, bean or ground, is only \$8.00.

The Mt. Meru Coffee Project has made a huge difference in the Meru Diocese in Tanzania.

Asante sana (Swahili for "Thank you very much!")

Doing Justice Never Tasted So Good!

Stewardship

Next Stewardship Meeting is November 6th at 7:00 pm.

Using the gifts God has given us to do the work God has called us to do.

Wouldn't it be neat if we weren't so uptight about money? Wouldn't it be great if our society didn't value a person on how much or how little they made? Wouldn't it be neat if we could honestly and happily share with one another what money means to us? Whether we like to spend, save, or give.....Wouldn't it be great if we could really tell each other how we feel about giving it to those things which are dear to us?

Randy Alcorn is the author of a little book called "The Treasure Principle". He writes a lot about joyful giving. "Recently I was attending a gathering of givers. We went around the room and told our stories. The words fun, joy, exciting, and wonderful kept surfacing. There were smiles and laughter, along with tears of joy. One older couple eagerly shared how they are always traveling around the world, getting involved in the ministries they're giving to...Their children say 'fix up your house or buy a new one.' 'We tell them, 'Why? That's not what excites us!'"

A roomful of givers. What fun it would be to be part of that gathering!

Whether we can go see first-hand what good our offerings do in the world, or not, our sense of stewardship is what's important. Our treasures do not belong to us, but to God, and the good news is, we get to manage them, asking God for direction. The joy of giving some of that treasure away is like no other joy. May we feel that joy!

- Stewardship Committee

OTHER NOTES

FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK

You are cordially invited
to come to our

Thanksgiving Potluck!

All are welcome, especially those who live alone.

November 2, 6:00 pm

On the menu: Roast Turkey!

Bring a dish to compliment—sign up on the bulletin board.

Donation: \$1

Questions: Call Sue Jarchow @ 421-9031

SSM FASHIONS COMING SOON!

Back by popular demand will be a wide selection of casual-wear: shirts, sweatshirts, fleece jackets and t-shirts for men, women and children. All items will be embroidered with the traditional St. Stephen the Martyr logo. Selections include many new color choices and a variety of styles. There will be a display of all items in the narthex beginning Sunday, October 28th. Orders will be taken from 10/28 thru 11/18 with the hope for delivery before Christmas! Contact Erin Arneson—erina@wi.rr.com or Julie Starks—jastarks@earthlink.net if you have any questions.

CAN YOU HEAR THOSE CHRISTMAS BELLS?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be ringing bells for an hour or so in a warm shopping mall at the height of the Christmas season representing not only the Salvation Army, but your church as well? Now you can find out! Please join us!

This year we have reserved

SATURDAY DECEMBER 15, 10 AM-9 PM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 10 AM-9 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 10 AM-9 PM

SATURDAY DECEMBER 22, 10 AM-9 PM

We will be ringing at the lower inside entrance to J.C. Penney at Southridge mall. Contact me as soon as possible if you'd like to reserve a particular time. (414-546-1576)

~ John Rech, Sr., Schedule Coordinator

LOOKING FOR AMAZING GIFTS?

THIRD WORLD SHOPPE—A MISSION OUTREACH OF CAPITOL DRIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Items Made by Artisans from 42 Countries—Fair Trade Income for Craftsmen
5305 W. Capitol Drive, Milwaukee, WI

Open Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call for other hours: 445-2065

We're planning a shopping trip to the Third World Shoppe! If you are interested in joining us we are looking at going on Saturday, November 24th. Please see pastor Gail for more details. Car-pooling would be arranged. Start your Christmas shopping by supporting this wonderful mission!

Help Keep Our Records Up to Date so we can Keep You Up-to-Date!

Are you moving? Do you have an address, phone number, e-mail or status change, a new addition in your family, an adult child moving out? Don't forget to contact your church to report any changes for your family records.

Would you like to receive the Martyr Monthly via email? Go to www.ststephenthemartyr.com to sign up!

Let the office know if you want to discontinue receiving the hard copy.

Would you like to receive the Martyr Monthly in your church mailbox? Call the office @ 414-421-3543 or email us at ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com.

CONDENSED MINUTES—OCTOBER 19-20, 2007 COUNCIL RETREAT

(Abbreviated Meeting Held at Council Retreat)

All Council members were present except K. Giesenschlag, S. Lieske, J. Bugajski and J. Arneson. Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins and Kevan Penvose were also present.

Approvals: The Secretary's minutes from September 11th 2007 were reviewed and accepted. J. Miller presented a four-page report on the financial status of the church. The report includes the Financial Secretary's Monthly Report, the Treasurer's Report and the Budget Summary. The Council reviewed these documents and approved the reports as written.

Pastor's Time: Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins stated that both Sunday School and confirmation were in full swing. She recognized G. Jacobsen for teaching the third grade Bible class this year and also gave special thanks to E. Sanders for his involvement in the Sunday School program. She also thanked G. Gifford for helping her with the new member class and also recognized the Evangelism committee for helping her to welcome four adults and two children on October 14th. The following members will be confirmed Sunday, October 28th at the 9:30 am service: Vince Dodulik, Ryan Eurich, Brennan Johnson, Alyssa Mayer and Gunnar Raasch. The council unanimously voted on moving these young people from their baptized status to their confirmed status. Pastor Gail, K. Penvose, T. Falksen and 10 confirmation students will be attending a retreat at Lutherdale the weekend of October 25th and 26th. Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins encouraged members to attend the upcoming Reformation service and potluck dinner scheduled for Sunday, October 28th, 2007. Bob and Sue Mitchell have requested a transfer to Peace Lutheran in Las Cruces, New Mexico and Brian, Maria and Karlee Whyte have requested a transfer to All Saints Lutheran. There were No Committee Reports at this meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.
There will be a regular board meeting on November 13th, 2007
Respectfully Yours, Shellee Lubus, Secretary

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