

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**
SEPTEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

St. Stephen the Martyr
Lutheran Church, ELCA

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OFFICE HOURS:
9-2 M-Th
9-12 F

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Bob De Frank, Sunday School
Superintendent
Janet Snyder, Organist



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RALLY DAY & CHURCH PICNIC
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)

Indoor picnic and activities following the service.

Sign-up sheets for the meal & your dish to pass are on the picnic
table outside the church office.

Hamburgers, brats, hot dogs and beverages will be provided!
Please bring a dish to pass.

(Free-will donations to defray the cost of food are gratefully
accepted.)

We need eight large coolers. If you have one we could borrow,
please bring it to church on Saturday, September 8 at 9 a.m.

Thank you.

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

PASTOR GAIL'S COMPUTER NOTES...

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

What a great and beautiful season Fall is! I say that as I sit sweltering in my office in mid August. (Ah...the AC just kicked in!) Even though we hate to see Summer leave, as God's people it's good to look forward to many exciting things going on at our church this Fall.

Do join in worship on Rally Day, Sept. 9th as we praise God in the great outdoors and enjoy some great food and fellowship inside afterward. Sign up now to bring a dish and if you can, to help with set-up or clean-up.....Sunday School begins this day, after children are dismissed from worship with a children's sermon and the installation of some veteran and new teachers. We are so grateful for their faithful service to the Lord and to the kids!

Fall brings Christian education opportunities for all ages. See articles in this newsletter for those opportunities. Third graders will meet with their teacher and me to learn how to use the Bibles they will receive on the first Sunday in October. New members will be received in October, and our Stewardship Campaign will be in full swing.

We are looking for more members to help prepare the communion and to serve communion to join those faithful folks who have done these tasks for awhile. A training session on Sept. 15 after worship will show you exactly what to do. (See Karen Rasmussen, Music & Worship Chairperson for details.)

Speaking of Holy Communion, the Music & Worship Committee and I have discussed the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament more often. Several members also have expressed their strong desire to receive Communion weekly. Accordingly, beginning sometime in November, the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at every 9:30 service. The schedule for the 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. services will remain the

same.....Jesus said "Do this, in remembrance of Me." He did not command how often, but we respond to His gracious invitation with thanksgiving (that is why we sometimes call it 'Eucharist' —which means just that!) Many ELCA congregations now celebrate Communion at all services. In "The Use of the Means of Grace" the ELCA's statement on Word and Sacrament, we read "The Church celebrates the Holy Communion frequently because the Church needs the sacrament, the means by which the Church's fellowship is established and its mission as the baptized people of God is nourished and sustained."
Your partner in the Gospel,



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY & LOOSE ENDS CRAFTING

September's Bible study will meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month, September 12 @ 9:00 a.m. September 26 @ 10:15 am. All ladies are invited as we study the following Sunday's Scripture texts. The Loose Ends Bake & Craft Sale is December 1st & 2nd this year. On September 12, following the Bible study at 10 a.m. the Loose Ends Group will begin preparing for the annual Loose Ends Bake & Craft Sale. We will begin with a simple, but fun project. Please join us...come when you can and stay as long as you are able. Lunch will be ordered in. Call Carole Ropel (262-523-4130) or Diane Moraza (414-281-8677) with any questions.

QUILTS & SCHOOL BAGS

On the weekend of September 29-30, the quilts made by our new Piece Makers Quilting Group will be on display along with the school bags sewn by the Loose Ends Group. In October, both will be sent to Lutheran World Relief who will distribute them to needy individuals around the world. Our thanks to all the women at SSM who have been a part of these projects. We especially thank Betty Kroll and Joyce Miller who have guided the quilters through the growing pains of learning how quilts are put together. Quilting is a year-round effort and we invite any and all interested persons to join us at any time. Watch the Newsletters and Bulletins for the date and time of our get-together. Any questions can be referred to Betty, Joyce or Carole Ropel.

Register Now for The 2007 Convention Of The GR. MILW. SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION—WOMEN OF THE ELCA

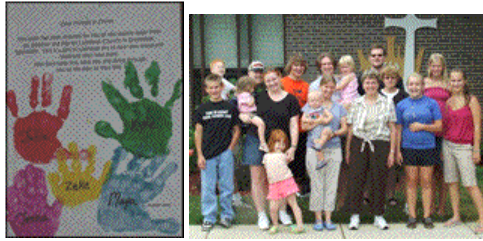
DATE: October 12-13
PLACE: St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Greendale.
Registration begins at 4 p.m. on Friday afternoon with a Banquet following at 6 p.m. Bishop Paul Stumme-Diers will be the Friday keynote speaker. Carol Birk will represent you this year as your delegate. On Saturday, worship will begin at 8:30 a.m. with workshops, speakers, a luncheon and other events taking place throughout the day. The cost is \$75 which includes all meals. If you are unable to attend both days, consider attending either Friday OR Saturday. The reduced costs are noted on the Registration form. These forms and the Scholarship forms are posted on the kiosk. The deadline is September 15th. See the June issue of the Gleanings also posted on the kiosk or call Carole Ropel (262-523-4130) for more information.

PROPERTY

THANKS...
Bob Brownell would like to thank John Drover, John Muroi, Larry Petricek, Ron Ropel and Dick Rutzen for helping with the big job of cleaning the carpets for the church. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated!

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS		
Sept 9	9:30 AM	Rally Day
Sept 13	7 PM	Confirmation Orientation
Sept 16	6-8 PM	Revolution!



MISSION TRIP RECAP

The best way to sum up our experience of the congregational mission trip is: WOW!

We stocked the Marion Thrift Store with their new winter apparel. Braving the heat of the upstairs low-income apartments, we completed the remodeling of one of the units, making it ready for tenants who need a fresh start to move in this fall. The youngest kids (age 1-5) donated dry goods to the food pantry. They also made photo books and wall hangings to welcome the tenants into their new homes, sharing with them God's guiding hand of preparing their way.

With all the hard work, we also played hard and prayed hard at Imago Dei family camp on beautiful Long Lake in Clintonville. Worship and campfires were uplifting, and we all grew closer to one another and to Jesus. Many who could not travel this year still participated by being prayer partners, donating to the mission trip fund, welcoming home the travel team at the potluck dinner, and worshiping with us on Sunday. A low estimate puts us a 200 people being directly involved in our congregational mission trip.

Thank you for your support!

Planning for next year's trip begins this fall, so speak with Kevan if you would like to help.

THANK YOU FROM MAMA'S HOUSE OF HOPE MARION, WISCONSIN

Thank you for your time, dedication to your ministry and hard work this past week! We have felt that our work has been God calling us to help others in need in our community. Your help has helped us reach our vision of being able to offer transition housing to those in need. We worked hard to make Mama's House a reality and we are thrilled by all the blessings for this ministry...

~ Denise Pamperin

YOUTH UPDATE

Hey, Teens! Look for a mailing coming to you soon that will tell you all about this year's schedule. REVOLUTION!, 2.B.1, and re:FUEL are starting soon!

3-4-5 TO PASSING ON THE FAITH

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

The next in the series of passing on our Faith is that the **Home is Church, too**. This is something we need to get away from our 'institutional, programmatic, professional understanding of church' and change it to something Kevan and the rest of the Family Ministries team has been working on to **Live Christ in our lives 24/7/365**.

Another way of putting it, as a friend and colleague of mine put it, is to go old school on this one. Delving once again into the Bible we go to Deuteronomy 6:4-9 where we see God teaching the Hebrews part of what they now teach as the Shema. We are to love the Lord with everything that we have. We are to teach and talk about our Christian lives to our children. To take the laws and the teachings and have them with us all the time. Whether we are **at home**, walking along **the road**, **going to bed** at night or **getting up** in the morning. We are to bind them to ourselves and put them in prominent places in and outside our home.

As a sat with several of the founding members of our church and listened to why they came here and why they stayed here one thing struck me and that was everything that they did when they were first starting out in this church and with their families is that Church was the center of their lives. They had instilled that church and God came before just about anything else in their lives. By us reading the Bible, doing devotions and praying together as a family, whether that is a mom and dad with kids, a parent with their kids, a couple or a group of people together, we can all work together as a family to worship and live Christ in our lives.

Until next time, peace be with you.

Tim Falksen

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

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

RALLY DAY IS ALMOST HERE

Sunday, September 9, 2007

Join us for the beginning of Sunday Church School and to kick off the fall season. The worship service will be held outdoors (weather permitting) beginning at 9:30 a.m. with an indoor picnic following the service. Watch for details in your August Martyr Monthly newsletter.

Please call Shelly Rosenstock at

769-7067 if you are interested in becoming a member of the Fellowship Committee.

SHEPHERD'S CORNER LIBRARY NEWS

Make it a point to stop in at the church library. We have a great supply of Christian children's and adult's books & videos.

Sign up for reading one of the books on the cart in the narthex, or take a book out from the library and learn more about your faith this fall ...

Proverbs 2:10 "For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul."



Fall brings numerous new challenges to the worshipping community at SSM. On Sept. 16th there will be a workshop to train/ review the details of the set-up and serving of communion. Interested persons are welcome to stay after the second service to learn about these important tasks. Communion services will be occurring more often in SSM's future. New schedules for ushers, communion helpers and readers will be published after Rally Day. Special services are being planned, and Believe It or Not!... Advent is not that far away. If you would like to help Music & Worship with the worship planning, call Karen Rasmussen (414-421-5170) September 12, 6 pm—Music & Worship Planning for Communion Training Workshop September 16, 10:40 am—Communion Training Workshop 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 afterwards 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 way to give to your church. Members who currently either serve or set-up could attend for a brush up or to help train.

His Eye is On the Sparrow

Hymn By Civilla D. Martin, 1869-1948

Mrs. Martin, author of this gospel hymn text, tells of a visit in 1904 to a bedridden friend. Mrs. Martin asked the friend if she ever got discouraged because of her physical condition. Her friend responded quickly: "Mrs. Martin, how can I be discouraged when my heavenly Father watches over each little sparrow and I know He loves and cares for me." Within just a few minutes Mrs. Martin completed the writing of her new text, which has since been a source of encouragement to many Christians. "Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come, why should my heart be lonely and long for Heaven and home, when Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He: His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me. I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free, For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me." Rest and rejoice in the assurance of God's love. Seek to bring a word of cheerful encouragement to some sick individual. Remind him or her of God's loving concern and the truth of this beautiful song. (taken from "Amazing Grace" by Osbeck)



WHAT IS AUTISM? WOULD YOU KNOW IT IF YOU SAW IT?

Autism is a lifelong, neurological disorder that significantly affects how a person perceives the world, interacts with other people, and communicates. It's often referred to as a spectrum disorder, meaning the symptoms and characteristics of autism can present themselves in a wide variety of combinations, from mild to severe. Autism and its associated disabilities, such as Asperger Syndrome and Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), occur in approximately 1 out of every 150 individuals. Autism is four times more prevalent in boys than in girls and knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes & cancer combined, yet autism receives less than 5% of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases. There is no single, specific cause of autism so it has been nearly impossible to find a cure at this point.

Two years ago this month our son, Kyle, was diagnosed with PDD-NOS. When he was about 18 months old Kyle lost the 6 words he was able to speak, he would not play with other children, he didn't make eye contact with anyone and absolutely nothing scared him. Today Kyle looks a "normal" 4 year old boy to almost everyone that sees him, however developmentally he is functioning on about a 2½ to a 3 year old level (which is a HUGE gain from last year!).

Having a child on the autism spectrum has completely changed our lives, just like having any special needs child does. Each day usually brings new challenges, such as trying to find yet another lock for the refrigerator and pantry that Kyle cannot break through or figuring out a new place to hide the crayons so he does not eat them all again, and also great successes like hearing Kyle say "I love you Mommy" for the very first time when he was 3 years old. It has unfortunately become fairly common when we go out that we hear comments from other people about the way Kyle is behaving or we get strange looks from people because Kyle did not answer them when they asked him a question. When we tell these people that Kyle is on the autism spectrum the most common response we hear is "Wow! Really? He doesn't look autistic." Unlike many other disabilities there are no physical signs of autism, this can make it extremely difficult to identify someone on the autism spectrum.

At the beginning of this year a friend, who has 2 daughters on the autism spectrum, and I started a support group for parents in the area who have children on the spectrum because neither one of us could find a group in the area. Our group, Autism Parents of Southeast Wisconsin, meets once a month for dinner without children and we also have another get together with our children and our families. We have grown from our 4 original members in February to close to 30 members today.

Our next big outing with our families is going to be held at the 7th Annual Dylan's Run/Walk for Autism on September 9th at the Summerfest Grounds. We currently have 33 walkers and runners on our team, including our members and their families and friends. All of the money raised for Dylan's Run goes to help fund autism research, training and raising awareness right here in Wisconsin. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible contribution to our team please contact me.

To learn more about autism, please check out our group website at www.asdsewi.org, contact me at StephanieMayer@asdsewi.org or (414) 423-6943 or talk to me at church.

God Bless! Stephanie Mayer

Joe's Run

Imagine not being able to zip up your pants or not being able to fold your shopping list to put it in your purse. Think about not being able to drive a car and consequently being at the mercy of the bus schedule or the schedule of friends and family. These are a few of the many challenges facing people with Cerebral Palsy. While their lives can be frustrating, there are community organizations that exist to help handicap persons meet and adapt to these challenges. One such organization is United Cerebral Palsy (UCP)

Joe's Run is a fundraiser for United Cerebral Palsy. This agency has been serving people with disabilities and their families for over fifty years. They help people with disabilities to reach the goal of independent living—to live, work and play independently and to freely participate in all the community offers.

Vickie Lawrence, a disabled member of our congregation, benefits greatly from the services of this organization. Each year she participates in this run to give back to the agency which supports her. The Human Concerns committee asks that individual members support her and UCP by pledging money for this run.

Vicki along with other members of the Human Concerns committee will be in church Sunday September 8 and Sunday September 15. Donations will be accepted and greatly appreciated at this time. If you are unable to be in church either of these Sundays; donations can be left in the church office in an envelope labeled Joe's Run.

Checks can be made out to either "Joe's Run" or "United Cerebral Palsy."



NEXT MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 4TH AT 6:30 P.M.

CALL SHIRLEY LIESKE WITH QUESTIONS: 761-0734

SCHOOL BAGS FOR KIDS

Keep those school accessories coming! Thank you for your generous donations thus far. The items needed are listed below.

- 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
- 12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors
- One box of 3, 16, or 25 crayons
- One cloth bag approximately 12" x 14" with cloth handles—to be sewn by Loose Ends

MT. MERU COFFEE PROJECT

Attention Coffee Drinkers! We have several kinds of Mt. Meru Coffee available in the narthex. We have bean, drip, regular or decaf. Try a bag soon and enjoy! The cost is \$8.00 per 12 oz. bag. Give it a try! Doing Justice Never Tasted So Good!

KNIT WITS begins again on September 10th, 6:30 p.m.

Join us whether you know how to knit or crochet—we will teach you! We will make caps and other items for cancer patients and for sale at the December Bake & Craft Sale.

CANS - CANS - CANS

SSM's Aluminum Can Collection has continued to provide extra money for SSM kitchen items and gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

Please leave donations of cans at the side door of the garage. And remember, aluminum drink cans only. Keep those cans coming! Thanks for all the help!

THE STAFF OF LIFE — SSM FOOD PANTRY

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

All food pantry donations for the month of September will go toward the CROP Walk on October 14th. Donations of canned goods and cereals are acceptable.

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

Interfaith-Southwest Neighborhood will have Their Grandparents' Day Mum Plant Sale at our church after services on Sept. 8th and 9th.

We are a sponsoring congregation and support 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 older adults to remain in their own homes longer.

Brochures and information about Southwest Interfaith will be available along with beautiful mum plants to take to grandparents or any older friends or relatives.

The Interfaith-Southwest representatives from your congregation are:

Bob Lieske @ 761-0734 or

Shirley Devecka, 421-7342

Thank you for promoting this worthy fundraiser for the older adults in our area.

OTHER NOTES

HELP US KEEP OUR RECORDS 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.

FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK STARTS AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER

Come one, come all to the 1st Friday Potluck on September 7th at 6:00 p.m.!

It'll be a good ol'fashioned barbeque, with hamburgers and brats, soda and coffee supplied. Smell the charcoal grilling, enjoy meeting new friends and long-time ones.

Bring a dish to pass, maybe a salad or dessert, a veggie platter or whatever favorite you want to share.

If you can, bring a joke or two, or a story about how you spent your summer! ALL members and friends are welcome, especially those who live alone.

Please sign up on the bulletin board near the office. If transportation is a problem, contact Pastor Gail at 421-3543 (church office).

New Member Class to BEGIN Saturday Sept. 15th

All who would like to become members of St. Stephen the Martyr are invited to a 5-session class on Saturday afternoons, beginning Sat., Sept 15th at 3:30p.m. The class is one hour each time, and focuses on the Bible and how we understand it as Lutherans, worship and the Sacraments, our Lutheran heritage, and what it means to be a disciple in all areas of our lives.

A letter will be sent out to all who have expressed interest. If you know of someone desiring to join, please inform me or Lynda Shadd in the church office: 421-3543.

EVERYBODY OUGHT TO GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL.....

Have you ever wondered where Sunday School originated? Sunday schools began as the first schools for poor children in England around 1780. The schools also provided elementary instruction to working adults on their free day. By the 1790's there were several of these schools in the United States.

Sunday schools not only taught the Bible, reading and writing, they taught proper behavior, enforcing cleanliness, providing Sunday clothing to the poor, and reprimanding children for lying, swearing, talking in an indecent manner, or other misbehavior. By 1820, there were hundreds of Sunday schools in the U.S. It was believed that teaching the Bible was essential for moral living and good citizenship. Knowledge of the Bible, they felt, would teach students the duty required of them as social, rational and accountable beings. Teachers encouraged students to commit to memory large portions of the Bible for which weekly prizes were awarded to those who memorized the largest number of verses.

Proverbs 22:6 reinforces the importance of early training in forming a person's lifelong character: "Train up a child in the way he/she should go [and in keeping with his/her individual gift or bent], and when he/she is old he/she will not depart from it." (Amplified Version)

HEY KIDS! SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL (SCS) BEGINS ON RALLY DAY,

September 9th @ 9:30 a.m.

We would love to see YOU in Sunday School! Kids experience and hear about the Bible from our loving and caring teachers. You will laugh, smile, play, think, challenge, and sing about Jesus! Join us for another great year of learning God's Word together, and... invite your friends!

Now you can check out our NEW Kid's Pages on the Web!

Go to www.ststephenthemartyr.com and click on "Kid's Activities" and check out our church Photo Gallery for a WHOLE bunch of new pictures!



LADIES DINNER

HEAR YE!

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

LADIES OF SSM, YOU ARE INVITED TO A ROYAL FEAST!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2007

Ladies, a reminder to save the date for the upcoming SSM Ladies Dinner, 7:00 PM, Friday November 9, 2007. You will be receiving an Invitation to the Royal Feast in your SSM Mail Box on or about Rally Day, September 9, 2007. The dinner, to be "catered" by the men of SSM, is especially for you in recognition of you just being you. This will be an opportunity for you to put on your "meeting Royalty" outfit and enjoy a meal fit for a Queen.

The proposed menu is:

Appetizers - Smoked Salmon on Hazelnut Cheddar Wafers and Stuffed Mushrooms served with Pomegranate Fizz Cocktails

Soup - House of Stuart Butternut Squash and Pear Soup

Salad - House of Windsor Salad with Apples, Pears and Walnuts

Entrée - Pork Wellington with an Apple, Cranberry, and Pear Chutney, Queen Victoria Twice Baked Potatoes with Cheddar Cheese and Elizabeth II Apricot Glazed Carrots. This will be served with a Mirassou Pinot Noir.

Dessert - Poached Pears in Raspberry Sauce served in Chocolate Bowls

Tickets, \$25.00, will go on sale at the beginning of October. Look for further information in the Bulletin and the poster in the Narthex.

Tuesday Night Bible Study

You are invited to St. Stephen the Martyr's Tuesday Night Bible Study. The group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30 pm. We will begin again on September 18th. We will be using a Bible study from the Lutheran Woman Today magazine entitled: "Blessed to Follow: The Beatitudes as a Compass for Discipleship."

In a world according to God, blessings rule. Once our ears are tuned to the frequency of blessing, we hear them everywhere. Like a song you can't get out of your head we find blessings throughout the Bible. Trained to see them in Scripture, we begin to trace the path of blessings in our own lives. All are welcome—no experience necessary—invite a friend to join you—come when you can!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Sept. 5th & 19th @ 8 a.m.

Men's Bible Study meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. We welcome all men of SSM (and invite your friends!).

This fall we begin our study with viewing and discussion of the "Luther" film. Then we will continue with a 6-Part video discussion of "The Gospels—Four Stories, One Jesus".

Please join us for thought-provoking and poignant discussion and fellowship!

Doughnuts and coffee are served.

CONSENSUED MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MTG.

HELD ON AUGUST 14, 2007

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

Highlights of the Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on August 14th, 2007

(A complete set of Minutes can be found on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex)

Treasurer's Report: We are currently \$20,047.87 short in year to date offerings. Stewardship will send a letter asking congregation to evaluate stewardship commitments.

Pastor Gail attended an ELCA Synod Leaders Hunger Conference & will share ideas with Human Concerns Committee.

Thanks to K. Penvose for organizing the Camp & Mission Trip to Imago Dei. Kevan thanked all who attended camp & those who helped with the welcome home pot luck.

Property Report: Roof leaks not as serious as first thought; skylight in kitchen needs repair, play set has been removed; garbage is being taken to dump by several Greendale residents.

Human Concerns: Need help sewing school bags & volunteers for Gathering meal.