

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**
FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

St. Stephen the Martyr
Lutheran Church, ELCA

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

LENTEN SERVICES

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE at 7:00 p.m.
February 6, 2008

Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

THREE WEDNESDAYS IN LENT - February 13, 20, 27
"FORWARD—LED BY THE SPIRIT"

6:00 p.m. - Small Group Bible Study (50 minutes) and Soup
Supper

"Jesus' commandment to love"; "Jesus' commission to the
disciples—and us"

"Blessings and confessions" "Bold faith"

7:00 p.m. - HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER Worship

7:30 p.m. - Small Group Bible Study (50 minutes)

THREE SUNDAYS IN LENT - February 17, 24, March 2
10:40 a.m. - Small Group Bible Study (50 minutes)

"Jesus' commandment to love"; "Jesus' commission to the
disciples—and us"; "Blessings and confessions"; "Bold faith"

Choose a time on either Wednesday or Sunday and sign up for a
small group

Bible Study in the narthex now! Bring your Bible each week.
Make Bible Study and weekly worship a priority this Lent!

SSM STAFF

Gail Brodersen-Heins, Pastor
pastorgail@ststephenthemartyr.com

Christopher Owen, Music Director
cowen@ststephenthemartyr.com

Kevan Penvose, Discipleship Coach for
Family Ministries
stillerz7@yahoo.com

Lynda Shadd, Office Administrator
ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com

Bob Brownell, Maintenance

Bob De Frank, Sunday School
Superintendent

Janet Snyder, Organist



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PASTOR GAIL'S COMPUTER NOTES...

FORWARD—LED BY THE SPIRIT

Last month, I shared some of the exciting news about our Forward Planning process. The greatest emphasis for the whole congregation will be during **the season of LENT**.

Ash Wednesday is February 6th. We come for worship that evening at 7:00 p.m. to receive the precious gift of our Lord's Supper and to receive ashes on our foreheads, to help us remember that we are mere creatures with "one body and one life" to live. The question for us is "how will we live it?" Lent helps us to answer that question: by focusing on all that Christ has done for us in HIS life, his suffering and death on the cross. We need the reminders that we are sinful and broken people. We

need to ponder, repent, and reach out to our God.

This Lent, we have the opportunity to reflect, pray and worship, as well as participate with other members in LOOKING FORWARD together--in Bible Study and in small-group discussions in members' homes.

The following five Wednesday worship services at 7:00p.m. They will be ½ hour long and will use the Holden Evening Prayer service.

Beginning Wednesday, February 13th, you are cordially invited to a **3-week Bible Study. These will be one-hour long** (no longer!) **and will be offered at 6:00 p.m.** (before worship); **at 7:30 pm**, (after worship); **or at 10:40 am on 3 Sunday mornings**—your choice. Groups will be small and scattered around the building, and led either by me or a member. There will be one group for the confirmation students, led by Kevan Penvose.

These studies require no homework, or prior biblical knowledge! You can sign up for one of these on the poster in the gathering area near the fireplace. Bring your Bible to the studies!

Between Feb. 25th and Mar. 15th, there will be about two dozen in-home "cottage meetings" where all confirmed members will be invited to share ideas, visions and dreams for our congregation and its mission in the neighborhood and the world. These will be led by members, trained to facilitate.

I urge you to come to a cottage meeting. Our Forward Planning Committee is working hard on this important process in the life in our congregation. You will be able to attend a meeting at a time convenient to you, and an added benefit—you'll get to visit with members you know and meet new friends as well.

I wish you all a blessed and meaningful Lenten season!

Your partner in the Gospel,
Rev. Gail Brodersen-Heins



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY/LOOSE ENDS LUNCHEON

The Women's Bible Study will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in February, the 13th & 27th at 10:15 a.m. Join us as we study the scripture texts for the following weekend's worship services.

Loose Ends Luncheon

Let's celebrate Valentine's Day and have a great lunch!

February 13, 2008

Branded Steer

1299 W. College Ave. (corner of 13th & College)

11:45 pm at the restaurant

Or, meet at church at 11:30 a.m. if you wish to carpool

The sign up sheet is on the kiosk in the narthex.

THE PIECE MAKERS QUILTING GROUP

Meeting February 18th at 6:15 p.m.

To continue making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Join us! Little to no experience necessary!

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

LOOSE ENDS BAKE & CRAFT SALE

The ladies of Loose Ends thank you again for your many donations and purchases that led to a very successful Bake & Craft Sale this past December. We are also thankful for the matching funds received from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Here is how those proceeds are being distributed:

\$300 to the Red Cross of SE Wisconsin for the Kenosha Area Disaster Recovery

\$300 to Lutheran Campus Ministry divided equally between UW, UW-M & Marquette

\$300 to the Office of Children's & Youth Ministries of the Lutheran Church of El Salvador

\$300 to Joy House, the family shelter for women/Milwaukee Rescue Mission

\$300 to the Maasai Girls of Tanzania

\$250 to the Youth/Family Ministries at SSM

\$200 to The Gathering

\$200 to the Piece Marker's at SSM to cover the purchase of batting for quilts.

In addition, contributions are also being made to SSM's Vacation Bible Time, to the churchwide Women of the ELCA, to Omar Mursal for college expenses this fall, to a Needy Family of SSM and for Mother's Day recognition flowers.

Isn't it amazing what the purchase of a couple dozen of cookies can do!!!!

With a grateful heart, Carole Ropel,

Acting Coordinator

SSM-Women of the ELCA

Family Ministry News

UPCOMING EVENTS		
Feb 3	after services	Souper Bowl
Feb 10		Trip to Sunburst
Feb 13, 20, 27		Lent Bible Study
Feb 17	7:00 PM	Revolutions

WHAT'S UP: SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES ~

The Souper Bowl: No that's not a misspelling. On the day of the big game, you can make a big difference. We're looking for youth to help raise money toward world hunger relief by standing at the doors of the sanctuary with soup kettles following worship on Saturday evening February 2nd and Sunday morning February 3rd. See Tim Falksen if you would like to help.

Ushers During Lent: Our worship committee is looking for youth who would like to usher during the Wednesday evening worship services in Lent, February 6 - March 12. Sign up in the narthex. After worship, there will be a Bible study with Kevan for all youth.

TUBING AND SNOWBOARDING

Our friends at Adoration Lutheran Church have invited us to join them on Sunday, February 10th, at Sunburst. Cost for rental is \$12. Talk to Kevan if you want to go.

'SAVE THE DATE'

A week of mission work together as family and friends for the whole congregation this coming August! If you need to request vacation time for next summer, mark your calendars for:
August 10 - 15!

3-4-5 PASSING ON THE FAITH

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

Now that we have gone through the 5 principles, we are going to look at some keys to use to put them into practice. These are not keys to your house, car, locker or anything else. These are key things to do to put faith practices into our lives, and most of these we already do and just didn't realize it.

This time we are going to look at the first key of Caring Conversations. This is one first and some times easiest and sometimes the hardest key to do. This is taking time out during the day or week to spend time with one another and listen and talk about things going on in our lives. This might be over the dinner table, during a ride in the car, during commercials while watching TV. They can happen anywhere and anytime. Sometimes we need to schedule time, even 5 minutes, to sit and quietly and calmly talk to one another.

This is a good way for us to pass on our beliefs and our faith. As we see in Proverbs 6:20-22, we are to listen to our parents and do what they have taught us. When we have meaningful conversations with one another, after the conversation is over, we might not remember all that was discussed during it but we remember the care and commitment the other person had for us and took their time to listen to us.

Until next time, peace be with you.

Tim Falksen

SHEPHERD'S CORNER LIBRARY NEWS

Reading is a great way to pass the cold winter months! Cuddle up with a good book and renew your faith! Make it a point to stop in with your children at the Shepherd's Corner Library. We are a great resource for Christian children's books & videos.

We have some very good books for adults as well for your reading enjoyment. Grow in your faith with a book from your library.

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

Music & Worship

The next Music & Worship Meeting is March 6 @ 6 p.m.

As January closes we need to thank Jim Arneson, Adam Woerpel, & Jason Covert for the big job of removing the Christmas trees.

The beginning of Lent marks a change of season in the church. Be sure to attend Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6th, for the traditional imposition of ashes and communion. The following week, Feb. 13th, there will be soup suppers at 6 pm before each Wednesday night worship service as well as Bible Study before & after each service.

WHY DO THE PARAMENT COLORS CHANGE?

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, the paraments are purple, the color of penitence. Lent consists of 40 days, the Sundays in between are not "of Lent" but "in Lent."

The final week of Lent is Passion Week. In our church, purple is also the color for Palm Sunday. Later in the week, on Maundy Thursday, the altar is stripped. On Good Friday the church is stark and any accent color would be black. White (or gold) appears for Easter Sunday and the Easter season (white) lasts for 50 days.

Worship as God desires, brings us into His presence. We experience Him in communion with us. As Christians, we need to experience both private and corporate worship. Both expressions of worship should be personal. Worship is a participatory event. We want our worship services to be styled with dignity and majesty that is pleasing to God. We must be personal but not casual, for God is holy.

Worship is for fellowship with God who loves us.

Our praise is much desired by God, for Jesus states in John 4:23 "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks." God hears the refrains of our beautiful choir and congregational singing along with the swelling tones of the organ or keyboard and one can imagine Him singing along. Let us rejoice in God our savior!

But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation always say, "Let God be exalted!" Psalm 70:4

Flower chart

If you desire to adorn our worship with flowers from a floral shop or a bouquet of your own making, please write your name on the Flower Chart on the office door and specify the month and week that you will be providing flowers. Please state whether the offering is in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion in the family. You can have them delivered bring your flowers in or on the Friday morning before, during office hours, or at 4:30 pm before the Saturday evening service.

Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD & OTHERS

I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

When we walk as children of God, we have fellowship one with another, and it is a time for rejoicing.

The Fellowship Committee is looking for members to join our team. Please contact Shelly Rosenstock at 449-3554 if you have any ideas or questions about the Fellowship Committee.

WARM-UP WITH LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Lenten Soup Suppers begin on Wednesday, February 13 @ 6 pm and continue for five Wednesdays during Lent (Feb 13, 20, 27, March 5 & 12).

Sign-up sheets for those wishing to attend and/or to provide soup, salad or bread will be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

This intimate group provides nourishment for the body and the soul.

FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK!

February 1, 2008

6 pm

Join the friendly and warm-hearted group of SSM members and friends for some great food and gentle humor at our Valentine's Potluck! Rotisserie chicken will be the main dish. Bring a salad, bread, side dish or dessert to compliment. A \$2.00 donation is requested.

Sign up on the office bulletin board, and please be specific about what you will bring and how many are

coming. Friends are always welcome!

EASTER BREAKFAST IS A-COMING!

With Lent upon us, the planning meeting for the Easter breakfast will be Feb. 10th after the 9:30 a.m. service, in the sanctuary. The people who worked last year will receive a letter of invitation in the mail.
Bob Rasmussen (421-5170) Coordinator
Shelly Rosenstock, Fellowship Chair



Next meeting is Feb. 5th at 6:30 p.m. Call Shirley Lieske with questions: 761-0734.

BOOKS OR BUCKS

The Human Concerns committee will collect books (or bucks if you don't have any books) for Tracy Elliot (Brownell's) inner city classroom. These students do not have the funds to buy school supplies or books to practice their reading.

Could you look in your storage area to see if you have any children's books you could donate? We are specifically looking for books (in good condition) written at a first to eighth grade level. There are a wide variety of levels in Tracy's classroom and we want to make sure we have books to meet the needs of most of the children.

If you do not have any books you can purchase new books or donate bucks, and we will buy the books for you.

Look for a display in the narthex where you can drop off books or drop bucks into a jar. This collection will run from January 27 to February 24. As always the generosity towards those less fortunate is greatly appreciated.

Today a reader, tomorrow a leader. ~ W. Fusselman ~



MT. MERU COFFEE

The Mt. Meru Coffee Project creates a direct connection between farmers and consumers. It offers justice through a fair price for the farmer.

Growing out of a partner-ship between Lutherans of the Milwaukee Synod (ELCA) and the Diocese of Meru (ELCT) in northern Tanzania, coffee grown on the slopes of Mt. Meru is purchased directly from small farmers through their local coops. It is shipped to Milwaukee, roasted to order, then distributed to consumers through 60+ congregations and is also shipped to supporters nation wide.

The objectives of the project are to bring economic and social justice to the small farmers and people of Mt. Meru.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE is present in a fair price paid to the farmer. Close to two dollars per pound is received by the farmer, far exceeding the income provided by other coffee buyers. This fair price for the quality coffee supplied by the farmers provides them with a sustainable living and the ability to support their families with dignity.

SOCIAL JUSTICE is fostered when approximately three dollars per lb. sold to consumers is used to support programs of education and health care for the people in the Diocese of Meru
Please consider trying a bag of Mt. Meru Coffee available in our narthex. The cost is only \$8.00 per bag.

Asante Sana—Thank you!

RED DOOR CLOTHING STORE

Previously called "The Avenue" Red Door is now at St. James Episcopal Church at 833 W. Wisconsin Ave. (271-1340).

The Red Door is in need of gently used:

Men's Clothing, especially large sizes

Hats, coats, mittens or gloves are also needed for this time of year.

Please place your donations in the coat room. Any questions, please call Mary Luedtke @ 414-281-5898.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

We will collect food for Central City Food Pantry for the month of February. Look for details about what kinds of foods to buy on the bulletin board outside the office.

Proverbs 22:9 "Anyone who gives generously will be blessed, because they share their food with those who are poor."

HUMAN CONCERNS THANKYOU

Many thanks for your generous spirits this past Christmas season. You enabled SSM to send 90 gifts to Bay View Community Center, helped with many small gifts to the House of Correction, and many toys for the children of Cristo Rey. Plus, we baked over 500 cookies for the women in the Waukesha county jail. Picture the happy faces! Our heartfelt thanks to all! God's peace in the new year!

PICK 'N SAVE HELPS THE COMMUNITY

Please help SSM benefit from 1% of YOUR Pick 'N Save purchases!

Just register at the Customer Service Desk and tell them you would like to have St. Stephen the Martyr as your designated charity.

Our #: 813560.

CANS... GREAT MONEY MAKER

\$231.20 was collected from the sale of aluminum cans in 2007. Each can has a scrap value of about 2-1/2 cents. The SSM 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.

Remember, we can accept aluminum drinking cans only. If you can crush or flatten the cans, that helps to reduce the volume. Keep those cans coming. Thanks for all the help.

Galatians 5:13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature ; rather, serve one another in love.

Stewardship

Using the gifts God

has given us to do

the work God

has called us to do.

MANAGING GOD'S GIFTS

When people hear the word "stewardship," many think of giving money to church and that is a good start. But being a good steward entails so much more. Stewardship actually involves caregiving and managing. We accept the responsibility of caring for something or someone knowing that what we manage is not truly ours. Whether time, possessions, relationships, or the world around us--God has entrusted us to manage wisely and care thoughtfully for gifts we do not own.

Stewardship focuses on many different areas of life. By understanding that all we have is God's, we create great possibilities for our future and the future of God's Kingdom on earth.

FINANCE

Volunteers Needed to Count Offerings

We are looking for 6-8 volunteers to join the SSM Counting Teams. Due to retirements and expansion, we are looking to form two new teams of Counters. One team will count once a month. The second team will count on the "5th Sundays" which occur four times a year.

Training will be provided. Green eye shades optional! Please contact Jane Miller at 425-2342 or jusjmillier@aol.com if you would like to help with this important function. Thank You!

OTHER NOTES

Greetings From our Missionary Family in Sénégal, the Grow-Hansons

As we look back on the last year, we have several highlights worth noting:

We are thankful for the visits we had from family and friends.

With help from Global Mission, Peter was able to start a Doctorate at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. Junes and Januaries for three years will be devoted to the pursuit of a degree in Global and Ecumenical Studies.

In August, we spent a fabulous three week vacation in France. We started in Paris, visited our old haunts in Besançon, before discovering Burgundy, the Taizé community, and finally two weeks of pretending we lived in a little village in the Perigord. Words can't express...

On the threshold of a new year, we look forward to 2008 and all it will bring:

We'll ring in the New Year in Linguère with good old friends and good new ones.

Simon looks forward to playing basketball this year, and also likes reading, writing, taking piano lessons, science and drawing.

Elijah continues to like math, soccer, drawing, and guitar, although he wishes more people here played baseball!

Sarah will welcome 22 US students to Dakar as she begins her eighth semester at SIT study abroad—a job she still loves! Peter will be the preacher at the Lutheran Church of Senegal's annual festival and will continue in Leadership Development.

We'll have the chance to see many of you during our third Global Mission home assignment this summer. Again we'll be based out of GM's St. Paul apartments.

Happy New Year!

We wish you a very peaceful and joyous new year!

With love, Peter, Sarah, Simon and Elijah Grow-Hanson

Check out Peter's blog!
"A Lutheran in Senegal"

growhansonseNEGAL.typepad.com

Please keep in touch with us:

Address: BP 8150

Dakar-Yoff

Sénégal, West Africa

Email: growhanson@orange.sn

NEW MEMBER CLASS TO BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH

A new-member class for those wishing to join St. Stephen the Martyr and coming from a non-Lutheran background will begin Saturday, Feb. 16th at 3:30p.m. The class will be informal and require a small amount of reading an informational booklet.

It will consist of one-hour sessions for five consecutive Saturdays.

New members will be received after Easter. If you have questions, contact Pastor Gail at the church office: 421-3543.

CONDENSED MINUTES— DECEMBER 18,2007

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

All Council members were present. Pastor Gail Broderson-Heins was also present and Kevan Penvose was absent.

Guest Presentations: R. DeFrank attended the Council meeting to state that the Sunday School children would be doing a fund raiser to help defray the costs of the Vacation Bible Time. T. Falksen also attended the meeting to ask all Council members to give their annual reports to him, so that he can put together the power point presentation for the meeting.

Approvals: The Secretary's minutes from the December 18th meeting was reviewed and accepted. The Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed and accepted. The Treasurer's Report was discussed. J. Bugajski reported that as of 12/31/07 our budgeted offerings were \$310,970.30, which reflects a 98.16% of the 2007 actual budget of \$316,800.00. J. Bugajski reported that he has already sent checks to Southwest Inter-Faith, Lutheran Social Services and Hanson-Grow Ministry for our 2008 commitments to these organizations.

Pastor's Time: Pastor thanked all who helped make the Christmas celebration a festive and meaningful event, especially K. Rasmussen and the Music and Worship Committee. She stated the New Year's Eve service with St. Luke's Lutheran was well attended and that St. Luke's would like to come back in 2008. Pastor complimented the Forward Planning Committee and acknowledged all their hard work so far. We will have the traditional Ash Wednesday service on February 6th and then in subsequent weeks the liturgy will be the Holden Evening Prayer, both proceeded and followed by a Bible study for those that want to participate. Pastor presided at one non-member funeral on Saturday, January 5th.

Old Action Items: C. Malinowski talked about the successful craft and bake sale and how well the new volunteer bulletin board worked out getting new people to make or bake something for the sale. The volunteer board will be used at future events. J. Arneson gave the council an update on the Forward Planning Committee. J. Muroi stated everything was falling into place for the Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 27th, 2008. The Council was asked to re-review the 2008 budget based on additional costs for next year, such as increases in utilities. The Council unanimously voted that the 2008 budget would not exceed \$331,000.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship - C. Malinowski reported that giving is up 9.1 % from last year and that everyone should have received offering envelopes for 2008.

Human Concerns - S. Lieske stated that her committee's next project is to sponsor a "Bucks or Books" campaign to help stock the school library at Urban Day School in Milwaukee.

Music and Worship - K. Rasmussen acknowledged several people, including Eric and Diane Sundquist for their purchase of the trees that were in the sanctuary during the Advent season, and also Roger and Judy Lehman for their purchase of the poinsettia plants that atop the pillars in church.
Property - J. Arneson reported the Fellowship Hall had new lights.
Rosey, Mursal, Barake Family Update - J. Bugajski reported that the children received some nice Christmas presents and that the family is still in need of an electric stove.
The meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M. Next Council meeting: Tuesday, February 11th, '08.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shellee Lubus,
Council Secretary

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