

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**
MARCH 2008 NEWSLETTER

St. Stephen the Martyr
Lutheran Church, ELCA

6101 South 51st Street
Greendale, WI 53129
PHONE & FAX: 421-3543
E-MAIL: ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com
www.StStephenTheMartyr.com
OFFICE HOURS:
9-2 M-Th
9-12 F

SSM STAFF

Gail Brodersen-Heins, Pastor
pastorgail@ststephenthemartyr.com
Christopher Owen, Music Director
cowen@ststephenthemartyr.com
Kevan Penrose, 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

PALM/PASSION WEEKEND, MARCH 15-16:

5 PM Saturday,
8 AM and 9:30 AM Sunday

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 20: 7 PM –
COMMUNION WORSHIP**

Fourth/Fifth Graders to receive First Holy Communion

**GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 21: NOON – “WALK
WITH THE CROSS”**

Walk begins at St Thomas of Canterbury and
Ends at St Alphonus Catholic Church in Greendale.

1 PM - Service at St. Alphonus

7 PM - Service at St. Stephen the Martyr

SATURDAY, MARCH 22: 5 PM EASTER VIGIL

With Holy Communion & Renewal of Baptism

SUNDAY, MARCH 23: EASTER FESTIVAL

7 am Communion Service; Easter Breakfast following

9 am Communion Service; Coffee hour following

10:30 am Communion Service; Coffee hour following



inside this issue:

- [From Pastor's Desk](#)
- [Stewardship](#)
- [Women's Ministries](#)
- [Fellowship](#)
- [Family Ministries](#)
- [Music & Worship](#)
- [Human Concerns](#)
- [Other Notes](#)
- [Condensed Council Notes](#)

PASTOR GAIL'S COMPUTER NOTES...

FORWARD—Into Easter Joy

From winter doldrums to Easter joy!

As I contemplate the season, I cannot believe that Easter is less than a month away! The snow outside piles up and the cold is biting, but there is hope under that snow. There is, unbelievable as it may sound, the promise of Easter hiding under our winter doldrums.

But the promise of Easter is much more than weather-related. The promise is earth-shaking: that the crucified Savior lives and reigns eternally. We celebrate and give thanks! But before we get to celebrate, we observe the solemnity of Holy Week.

There is no week in history that speaks the love and grace of God as does Holy Week. This is the time when believers enter into the suffering and death of Christ our Lord.

On Maundy Thursday, March 20, we hear of Jesus' kind of servant love in the 13th chapter of John's Gospel. Our fourth graders will receive Holy Communion for the first time with us. This is the night when we celebrate our institution of our Lord's Supper. Our worship is at 7:00 p.m.

On Good Friday, March 21, the community service is once again at 1:00 p.m. at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church on Loomis Road. Our worship is at 7:00 with the traditional Tenebrae service, or Service of Darkness. We remember again that Jesus "has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." "For our transgressions" he was wounded. "For our iniquities" he was bruised. These griefs and transgressions belong to us—our sins. It was all for us that this dark day fell upon the earth.

The 5:00 p.m. Saturday Easter Vigil will include the Renewal of Baptismal Vows for all. On this holy night, when our Lord passed from death to life, the church invites all to come together in vigil and prayer. The worship begins in darkness and as individual candles are lit from the Christ candle, more and more light symbolize Christ's victory over death.

Our three Easter Sunday Celebrations on March 23 will be at 7:00, 9:00, and 10:30 a.m. This is the Day of days, the Sunday of Sundays, as we celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead and its incredible meaning for our lives. All services will include special music and the celebration of Holy Communion. A full breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. for a suggested donation.

Give thanks to God for the living proof of God's love for you—Jesus Christ.

I look forward to seeing you in Lent, Holy Week, and at the celebration of His Resurrection!

God bless you all,

Pastor Gail

Stewardship

USING THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN US TO DO THE WORK GOD HAS CALLED US TO DO

As we are all aware, the weather has had an impact on both our weekly attendance and offerings, both are down dramatically. There is nothing we can do about the attendance. However, we can strive to get our pledged offerings back to normal. The pledges made for 2008 are important to St Stephen the Martyr as they allow our church to make charitable commitments, and to pay our ongoing expenses which continue regardless of the weather. If you have fallen behind on your pledge, please consider making up the shortage by adding a portion of the shortage to your regular offering until the shortfall is made up.

Thank you, John Bugajski, Treasurer

THE SIZE OF THE WINDOWS ARE PROPORTIONATE

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (Mal 3:10)

This verse is perhaps the most famous verse in the Bible concerning tithing. But before the Sinai law was given there were examples of tithing by two great patriarchs:

Jacob (Gen 28:22) "And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that You shall give me I will surely give the tenth unto You."

Abraham (Heb 7:2) "To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;"

So we see that a tithe was given unto God not out of compulsion but because of the love these two patriarchs had for God. It was after the law was given at Sinai that God became specific as to what was to be given and how much as we see in Leviticus 27:32.

"And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passes under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD."

Tithing may not be commanded under the laws of the New Testament concerning the church, yet, we give cheerfully and generously because we love God and others and want to see the gospel spread throughout the whole world. If we give ten percent and stop there while possessing the ability to give more, then we have not grasped the dynamic and blessing filled principle of giving.

One thing we can count on is the faithfulness of God in all areas of life including our finances. Giving to God's work teaches us that we are indeed stewards and not owners. Let us look beyond ourselves as we see the needs of others and give cheerfully as lovers of God.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY/LOOSE ENDS LUNCHEON

The Women's Bible Study will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in March, the 12th & 26th 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 the hope of spring and have a great lunch!

March 12th, 2008

Meyer's Restaurant

Spring Mall Shopping Center at Forest Home & Cold Spring

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.

Please contact Nancy Hoffman (529-0552) or see Dolores Dowling if you have further questions.

PIECE MAKERS QUILTING GROUP

Meeting March 17th @ 6:15 p.m.

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

KNIT WITS GROUP

MEETING MARCH 3RD @ 6:30 PM

SSM Ladies Spring Luncheon

April 12th—Ladies, mark your calendars!

Guest Speakers: Shellee Lubus & Mary Sorensen

Further details coming soon!



WE GRIEVE WITH THE ROSY-MURSAL-BARAKE FAMILY

Nearly 4 weeks ago, we received word that Nurto Rosy, a member of the Somali family our congregation has sponsored and worked with for over three years, had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage, after having complained of headaches. Tragically, Nurto died on Thursday, February 14, leaving her husband and five children, including a newborn.

We will all have the opportunity to give to a fund to help Nurto's children. Watch for a special mailing with details and more information about the family, and remember to keep them in your prayers.

Milwaukee Admirals

Attention Hockey Fans!

We have 40 seats on hold for Sunday, April 6, 2008 at 4 p.m. when the Admirals play San Antonio.

More tickets are available so please sign-up early.

Tickets are only \$12.00 for adults and \$9.00 for children 14 and under.

If you are interested, please see the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the church office.

The deadline to sign-up is Monday, March 24.

FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK!

March 7, 2008

6:30 pm

The group will celebrate St. Patty's Day with a festive spirit, special Reuben sandwiches, and the delightful dancing of Kayla Jaskulski, granddaughter of SSM member Diana Gastrau. Kayla, 9 years old, is a member of the Glencastle Irish Dancers and danced for us last year.

All are welcome! Please sign up on the bulletin board next to the office, and indicate your choice of side dish or dessert to compliment the Reuben sandwiches.

Note that this month only, we will begin at 6:30p.m.

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 provide 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 on the Friday morning before, during office hours, or at 4:30 pm before the Saturday evening service.



UPCOMING EVENTS		
March 16	7:00 PM	Revolutions
March 23	Youth to help serve Easter Breakfast	

Parents of 4th graders and older students who may not have attended -- A Reminder:

The Pre-Communion Class will begin on Saturday, March 1 from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please have at least one parent or guardian with your child each week. If you have not received the informational letter contact Pastor Gail or the church office: 421-3543.

SHEPHERD'S CORNER LIBRARY NEWS

Reading with your children is important. 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.

REMINDER—SAVE THE DATE!

This summer's congregational mission trip is August 10-15

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 this summer, mark your calendars now!

Our Experiences in New Orleans, LA

Ali Gleason

"During the first week of January, Melissa Stevens, Courtney Farrell, Kevan Penvose and Ali Gleason went on the Greater Milwaukee Synod Mission Trip to New Orleans. We spent 4 days driving, 4 days working, and 1 day sight-seeing. Not only did we get to assist local families in re-building their homes, but we also had the opportunity to get to know them and their stories. The following are a few that we have been eager to share:

When we pulled up to a house on our first day of work, we were greeted by a friendly little black cat. Ebony was a survivor of Hurricane Katrina. She went missing a few days before the storm hit, and when her owners couldn't find her, they were forced to evacuate without her. A week after the storm, flood waters still very high, the owner took a boat to his house to survey the damage. He was struck by grief when he realized that almost everything he owned was completely under water. It was at that moment that he heard a 'meow' from the garage. He followed the sound, and found Ebony in the rafters. Almost every family that lost so much to the hurricane also seemed to discover one meaningful item miraculously intact. For one man it was his wedding ring that was placed in an open container, and for another couple it was a picture of their son above the sink. For this family, it was Ebony, the friendly little black cat."

Courtney Farrell

"On my first day of work, I worked at a warehouse where hundreds of hotels, stores, and even college campuses had donated furniture. When we first arrived at the warehouse, I was a little upset because I wanted to be out in the community helping out a family rebuild their home, not stuck in a big, dirty warehouse full of boxes and pallets full of furniture.

However, as we started working and taking the furniture off the pallets to set it up, it began to look very nice and inviting. I was glad I got to work in the warehouse the first day. Although I wasn't at a family's house helping, I was helping a whole community of families by allowing them to get new furniture in their houses to make it feel like home again.

The warehouse opened to the community later in the week and everyone was just amazed and thankful about how much furniture was there. I'm very happy to say that I had a part in helping these people of New Orleans rebuild their lives and their homes."

Kevan Penvose

"During our first two days in New Orleans, I worked with a crew at Ms. Karen and Mr. Lucky's house. He told us that people always ask him, "why rebuild?" His response is simply, 'because it's home.' Mr. Lucky said, "People live in tornado alley and near the fault line in California. We might think that's not the best idea, but to them it's their home. That's the same with us. My family has been here since the 1700s. All of our friends and family are here. That's why we rebuild, and if we get another hurricane then we'll rebuild again."

While taking a tour of their property, Mr. Lucky and Ms. Karen kept telling us how lucky and blessed they are for how much worse the damage could have been, even though to our eyes they had lost almost everything they owned. I felt blessed with God's presence by meeting them, receiving their warm hospitality, and helping them rebuild."

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



MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE

March 6th @ 6:00 pm

LENT

We are now observing Lent with a series of sermons called Forward—Led By the Spirit. The 7:00PM Wednesday Lenten services also include the music from the Holden Evening Prayer Service which we have come to love in the last two years. Soup suppers are held at 6:00PM prior to the service.

EASTER BREAKFAST

SSM's breakfast on Easter has become a tradition that many members and visitors have come to enjoy. Hopefully, this year's breakfast will be better and bigger than ever. It will be served after the first service about 8:00AM.

The menu will include:

scrambled eggs, baked ham, applesauce, hot rolls, home-made coffee cakes, coffee, juice, milk, and tea. Suggested donation: \$6 per adult & a donation for children under 15 (parent's discretion).

As well as a wonderful social experience, the breakfast is also a Fundraiser. The profits received will be split between the Summer Mission Trip, expenses for Vacation Bible Time, and the fund for the replacement of the SSM parking lot. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will supplement the monies that are raised from the breakfast. Your generous gifts will be greatly appreciated.

To help the cooks know how much food to buy, please sign up in advance if you plan to join us for breakfast. The sign up poster will appear soon on the bulletin board in the narthex. There will also be a space to indicate if you can bake some breakfast items to enrich our tables. Questions about the breakfast can be addressed to Dick Kroll, Bob Rasmussen, or Sandy Peterson.

Easter Flowers

It's again time to consider ordering a plant to beautify our sanctuary for Easter Sunday.

With Easter so early, the deadline for the ordering of Easter plants is coming up very soon...

MARCH 9th.

Payment/order forms are available from the display in the narthex. Payments can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. The mailing idea will work well if the bad weather Sundays continue!

Please call Karen Rasmussen (414) 421-5170 or the church office, if you need more direction.

Plants can be picked up following the 10:30AM worship service on Easter Sunday.

Fair Trade Palms

The question was raised at the Annual Meeting, "What are fair trade palms?"

This year we have ordered 60 full palm branches to be given to the SCS children on Palm Sunday.

These branches have been purchased from Eco Palms (associated with LWR). Eco Palms are grown in Mexico and Guatemala, in a way that is friendly to the environment and allows the farmers/ harvesters a fair wage. The Eco Palms project teaches villagers sustain-able harvest techniques, eliminates the middlemen, pays more for harvesting, sorting and packaging, thus providing an economic incentive to protect the tropical and subtropical forests in whose shade the Chamaedora palms grow. This type of palm is also heavily used by florists.

The smaller strip palms, Sabal palms, are grown in the south of Texas. The fronds are taken off the palms only up to a height of 8-10 feet. If ladders are needed, there is more danger to the harvesters. Once these palms become too tall, they are sold for landscaping purposes and the land is reforested. The supplier of these palms has 75% of their seasonal workers return every year because of the fair working conditions.

As you wave your palm remember you have helped the environment and people in Texas, Mexico and Guatemala.

NEW PARAMENTS FOR EASTER

Our new (White) Easter paraments have been purchased with Memorial funds.

We can all think of our loved ones as we worship our Risen Savior during the Easter Season.

The symbol on the altar is the Conquering Lamb of God. The Font parament shows the cross covering the world. Together these symbols remind us of our work as the Church is to reach out to the community and ultimately to the whole world.

Thank you to Faith O'Connell for fitting the parament to our baptismal font.

Thank you also to all the people whose memorials made these new paraments possible.

Karen Rasmussen, Chairperson

Human concerns

Next meeting is March 4th at 6:30 pm Call Shirley Lieske with questions: 761-0734.

DINE OUT IN DOWNTOWN GREENDALE & SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH!

Ferch's Malt Shoppe & Grille

Presents...

Family Night Out

Take a night off from cooking! And join us to raise funds for SSM.

Thursday, March 13

3:00 pm—8:00 pm

Flyers will soon be handed out at church. Present the flyer to any Ferch's staff when ordering and they will write the total amount of your order and save it to calculate the funds. St. Stephen will receive 10% of the total we have spent during the 5 hour period on that day.

Hope to see you there!!

The more the merrier!

Mt. Meru Coffee

We grow coffee. You drink coffee. Would you consider buying your coffee from us? We have a variety of coffee in the narthex—regular, bean and decaf. All bags are \$8.00. Sales of coffee help the growers in the Meru Diocese in Tanzania. Asante Sana, Thank you.

STAFF OF LIFE—FOOD PANTRY

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

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

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 still 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.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GROWING NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN NEED

Milwaukee-Adult volunteers are needed to help with the growing number of children waiting for a Big Brother or Big Sister mentor in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties. Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Metro Milwaukee is seeking adult volunteers, 18 years and older, to mentor more than 1,000 area children between the ages of 6-16. More than 70 percent of waiting children are boys in need of Big Brothers.

Volunteers mentor children one-on-one, three to four times a month. Mentoring programs with varying time and scheduling options are available. The Community-based program centers on volunteers setting up regular activities with the child. Activities include going to the park, hiking, swimming, attending plays, sporting events, and concerts or participating in simple everyday activities such as fishing, hiking, gardening and carpentry.

The Site-based program, offered during the school year, allows volunteers to meet one-on-one with their match at one of 17 schools or clubs in Milwaukee and Waukesha. At the sites volunteers assist a child with homework and play games.

For information or to enroll, contact BBBS of Metro Milwaukee at 414-258-4778 x-251 Anita Johnson or visit - www.bbbsmilwaukee.org.

ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION...

The SSM can collection provides extra money for SSM kitchen items and gifts to ELCA World Hunger. Keep 'em coming!

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.

YOU WERE GENEROUS—THANKS!

On Super Bowl weekend, SSM members were asked to give to the "Souper Bowl of Caring", to those who are hungry in the world through the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

You responded generously by placing dollars in soup pots that day to the tune of \$583.57.

Thank you very much! Your giving will be a blessing to many!

OTHER NOTES

Cottage Meeting Hosts:

Times & Dates of Meetings

Name	Date	Phone	Time
Rockstad, Mary & Dean	3/1	421-4158	7:00 PM
Winter, Doug & Melinda	3/3	282-1676	7:00 PM
Mayer, Marilyn	3/4	483-5866	7:00 PM
Hoffman, John & Karen	3/6	421-9249	7:00 PM
Mayer, Heidi	3/8	761-5849	7:00 PM
Arneson, Kay & Gene	3/9	423-9870	7:00 PM
Gray, Nancy	3/11	281-8548	7:00 PM
Gifford, George & Rae	3/15	421-6232	1:30 PM

IN-HOME COTTAGE MEETINGS

If you haven't already done so, sign up now to attend a Cottage Meeting. Find a time & location that works for you, and enjoy a 1-1/2 hour small group discussion as you share ideas about the present & future of our congregation. A facilitator will pose questions & record comments for use in planning our future.

CONDENSED MINUTES— FEBRUARY 12, 2008

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

All Council members were present except J. Bugajski, K. Giesenschlag, C. Malinowski and S. Rosenstock. K. Penvose was also absent. Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins led the devotion.

Approvals: Secretary's minutes from Dec. 18th meeting accepted with change under Guest Presentation that an upcoming Sunday School program is being planned. A fund raiser to help defray the cost of VBT is also being planned for the same day. The Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed & accepted. The Treasurer's Report was discussed and approved. J. Miller reported that as of 1/31/08 our budgeted offerings were \$31,000.01 which reflects 9.42% of the \$329,000 budgeted for 2008.

Pastor's Time: Pastor thanked J. Muroi, T. Falksen and all council members for the fine Annual Meeting. There were 60 people in attendance for Ash "Thursday" service. She encouraged all to attend the Bible study sessions and cottage meetings that are planned in Lent. Pastor distributed information to the council about the Greater Milwaukee Synod's Congregational Leader's event scheduled on Saturday, March 1st and encouraged council members to attend. She, along with a council member will be attending a Cluster III spring meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 17th, 2008 at St. Luke's in Greendale. Pastor Gail presided at one member's funeral, Phyllis Domroes, on January 23rd and one non member funeral on January 20th. New member classes start Saturday, February 16th and will be received on Sunday, April 6th.

Old Action Items: J. Muroi thanked everyone for their work on the Annual Meeting, especially S. Larson for the nice lunch. J. Arneson reported that members of the Forward Planning Committee are encouraging everyone to sign up for the upcoming cottage meetings. J. Muroi distributed a chart showing council members how our weekly offerings have steadily increased since 2004. It was suggested to use this grid at next year's annual meeting.

New Action Items: S. Lubus talked about a Bring Your Own Bag campaign where the membership would be able to purchase cloth or canvass bags with the church logo on them. The idea would be to emphasize conservation, with less use of plastic bags and raise money for one of the church's worthy causes. Council also revisited taking the anti racism training provided by the Greater Milwaukee Synod Anti Racism Team. It was decided that the training be offered to anyone interested, and dates for the

training would be selected after Lent activities are finished. J. Muroi discussed the upcoming Council openings and stated that both K. Rasmussen (Music and Worship) and J. Bugajski (Treasurer) would be leaving in the spring. A nominating committee would be formed with an election of officers scheduled for the 4/27/08 service.

Committee Reports: Human Concerns - S. Lieske stated that they are currently running the "Buck or a Book" campaign to help stock the school library at Urban Day School. There will be a Family Night Out at Ferch's Malt Shoppe in Greendale, 3/13 @ 3-8pm, proceeds to go to a charitable fund. Music and Worship - K. Rasmussen stated that new paraments have been purchased for Easter. Fair trade palms will be used for the 1st time. Evangelism - E. Arneson reported the new pictorial directory would be their biggest project for 2008. Finance - J. Miller stated there is still a need for counters on the occasional 5th Sunday service.

Rosy, Mursal, Barake Family Update: Pastor Gail reported on the condition of Nurto, stating that she suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and is in very serious condition at St. Joseph's Hospital. She had a baby two weeks ago.

Next Council meeting is Tues., March 11th, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shellee Lubus,
Council Secretary

PHONE 414-421-3543 · FAX 414-421-3543 · 6101 S 51st St, Greendale, WI 53129 · ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com