

WELCOME TO *St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA*

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

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



the **MARTYR MONTHLY**

APRIL 2009 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
Bill Bravener, Music Director
bbravener@ststephenthemartyr.com
Kevan Penvose, Discipleship Coach for
Family Ministries
stillrz7@yahoo.com
Lynda Shadd, Office Administrator
ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com
Bob Brownell, Maintenance
Bob De Frank, Sunday School
Superintendent
Janet Snyder, Organist



Easter Services

Easter Vigil

with Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Saturday, April 11, 5:00 PM

Easter Festival

Sunday, April 12 7 am Communion Service; Easter Breakfast following
9 am Communion Service; Coffee hour following
10:30 am Communion Service; Coffee hour following

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AN EASTER MESSAGE FROM PASTOR GAIL

HOLY WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR—April 9-12, 2009 There is no week in human history that speaks the love and grace of God as does Holy Week. This is the week when we believers really enter into the way of the cross with Christ our Lord and ponder again the suffering and death of our Savior.

On **MAUNDY THURSDAY**, worship is at 7:00 p.m. Prior to that the families of 4th graders will have a dinner together in the Fellowship Hall. This is the first time these children will receive Holy Communion. Together with all the gathered, they will 'take the bread and drink the cup', the body and blood of Jesus Christ. This is the night He made the Passover meal into a new meal--the Lord's Supper.

At 1:00 p.m. on **GOOD FRIDAY**, worshippers from area churches will gather at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church on Loomis Road for an ecumenical service. Before that at noon, (weather permitting) those who are able will meet at St. Thomas of Canterbury to walk with the cross to St. Al's, stopping along the way for prayer. This is a very meaningful walk. It is always a joy to meet and greet each other and worship God together. I will participate in the service, and our Music Director Bill Bravener will play the organ.

On **GOOD FRIDAY EVENING**, 7:00 p.m. is the time of our 'Tenebrae Service'--a service of decreasing light, signifying the darkness which came upon the earth on that day. As the candles are gradually extinguished, we remember that it was for the benefit of us all that this dark day came. We leave in silence and sorrow for the Lord's sacrifice.

On Saturday, the **EASTER VIGIL** is at 5:00 p.m. with a service of increasing light! On this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we will celebrate an infant's baptism and remember our own. As we come together in vigil and prayer, we honor the memory of Christ's death by hearing His word and celebrating this awesome mystery.

Our three **EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS** will be at 7:00, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. with a bountiful breakfast served at 8:00 a.m., and coffee hour served after the 9 and 10:30 services.

This is the Day of Days, the Sunday of Sundays, as we celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead and the victory of our Lord over death and sin. We rejoice in the promise that He lives, and that we will live with Him forever.

All Easter services will include the celebration of Holy Communion, joyous hymns and a bounty of special music from all our choirs. God loves you. Jesus is living proof. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good and His mercy endures forever. This is the day of fifty days of Easter rejoicing! Invite a friend to worship. Sing the Easter songs all day. Pray and give thanks at your dinner table. Read the Scripture again in the evening. **SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!**

See you in Holy Week, Easter, and the weeks after!
God's peace and joy,

Pastor Gail



Forward Planning News

Several initiatives coming out of the Forward Planning process have begun. Below are the activities that have occurred over the past 3 months.

- Obtained and now reviewing parking lot quotes (Facilities)
- Obtained and now reviewing carpeting quotes. (Facilities)
- Obtained and reviewed quotes for the water leakage issue in lower classrooms (Facilities)
- Opening the Book of Faith Bible study series begun. (Music and Worship)
- "Soles 4 Souls" underway. (Mission & Outreach)
- Finalizing new Time and Talent survey. (Time/Talent/Treasures)

All members are strongly encouraged to become a part of the Forward Planning process in any way they believe beneficial. To get involved or if you just have a question, please feel free to contact any member of the Forward Planning Team.

The members are: Jim Arneson, Pastor Gail, Bob DeFrank, Tim Falksen, Bob Gleason, Eric Sanders, Julie Starks and John Muroi.

Respectfully, Jim Arneson, Chairman - Forward Planning Committee

Stewardship

A Wonderful Theme for 2009!

In our faith journey, as we "Walk With Jesus," we affirm this precious faith by our actions. These actions shine through the use of our gifts and talents and our acts of stewardship.

The deeper and stronger our faith, the more we will support our mission here at St. Stephen the Martyr and across the globe as we walk with Jesus daily.

Acts 20:35 "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Would you be willing to give of your time and talent on the Stewardship Committee? Help us plan our Stewardship emphasis for the year. If you are interested, please contact Carol Malinowski (423-1041).

We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm and YOU are welcome to join us. **Six basic Dynamics which Giving builds into our lives:**

1. It teaches us to look beyond ourselves as we see the needs of others.
2. It teaches us we are stewards and not owners.
3. It arrests greed and self-centeredness.
4. It opens the door for a sacrificial, God-honoring life.
5. It teaches us that we can trust God with money which opens the door to trust Him with many other things.
6. It teaches obedience. We obey God's word because we love Him.

Special Offering Envelopes

For Ash Wednesday and the Wednesdays in Lent

The Outreach for Hope Fund of our Greater Milwaukee Synod-ELCA will be the recipient of 60% of the special offerings for Ash Wednesday and the other five Wednesdays in Lent. Please be generous!

Outreach for Hope helps to fund special ministries of our Synod congregations in the inner city of Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha. These include kids' summer programs, tutoring, community gardening, meal programs, Bible classes for neighborhood children, etc. Faith/Santa Fe Lutheran on S. Layton Blvd. in Milwaukee is one recipient of Outreach for Hope funds. St. Stephen is inviting Santa Fe children to our Vacation Bible School this year.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, April 22 at 10:15 a.m. There will be no Bible study on April 8th. All are invited to come as we study the following Sunday's Scripture texts.

LOOSE ENDS LUNCHEON

Date: April 8th
Where: CHAMPS (5030 S. 74th St.)
Time: 11:45 a.m.

Carpooling: If you want to car-pool from church, we will leave around 11:30 a.m. Please sign up on the form posted on the kiosk in the narthex by April 5th, indicating if you will need a ride. Direct any questions to Jean Switala (414-817-0826) or Karen Miller (414-761-1455).

Women of the ELCA Bible Study Seminar at Wartburg Seminary From The "LUTHERAN WOMAN TODAY" Magazine

The annual seminar at Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa will be held on May 20-21, 2009. It is designed to provide an in-depth introduction to the September through May study of the Women of the ELCA that will appear in the Lutheran Woman Today Magazine. This year's study will be on the Book of Romans. The speaker and author of the study is the Rev. Dr. Sarah S. Henrich, a Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. The cost is: Early Bird Tuition, postmarked by May 6, 2009 - \$50 Tuition cost after May 6, 2009 - \$55 Meal Package (3 meals) - \$25 Hotel Accommodations: Best Western, 3100 Dodge/Hwy 20, Dubuque \$69 per night, plus tax Heartland Inn, 4025 McDonald Drive, Dubuque \$55 per night, plus tax Complete details can be found on the kiosk under Women of the ELCA. Carpooling may be available. This event is becoming more and more popular so early sign-up is important. Talk with Carole Ropel for specifics (262) 523-4130.

Ladies! Save the Date! JUNE 20, 2009 for our Women's Spring Luncheon at SSM sponsored by the Loose Ends group. We'll begin at 8:30 a.m. for registration and coffee, followed by a Bible Study, and a vintage fashion show entitled "The First Ladies of Fashion". We'll end our time together with a luncheon. You will also have the opportunity to shop for fair trade items, displayed by Trails to Bridges. This fair trade company is dedicated to helping the poorest workers of the world to step out of poverty. They offer for sale, jewelry, baskets and many other items designed and created by women and men from Third World countries. Watch your SSM Mailbox and other communications for Registration Forms, cost detail and the Agenda for the day.

Last Call For Recycling Old Cell Phones

Please bring in your old cell phones for recycling no later than April 19, 2009. The nationwide collection of old cell phones by the Women of the ELCA winds down on April 30. These old phones will be recycled and the proceeds used to fight poverty. Some of the phones will be reprogrammed as 911 phones for use by people at risk. Many thanks to all for your donations.

Fellowship

First Friday POTLUCK

April 3, 2009 6 p.m. Come enjoy a special ham dinner! Bring a dish to compliment: side dish, salad, or dessert. Bring a smile and a joke or two or three, or a special story about spring! It's here, and Easter's on its way. Halleluia! Sign up on the office bulletin board and indicate what you will bring. A small donation is requested for the ham, and a non-perishable food item or two for our food pantries. All members and friends are welcome, especially those who live alone.

SPRING CLEANING AT SSM! Please join us for a morning of sprucing up the church! Coffee & Donuts Provided! Saturday, May 2, 9-noon.

Mangia! An Italian dinner will be served at St. Stephen the Martyr on Saturday, April 25 beginning at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The menu will include a variety of homemade lasagnas (several SSM members will each prepare their favorite recipe), salad, garlic bread, dessert, coffee, tea, milk and wine. A silent auction will also be held. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$4 for children ages 5 to 13, and free for children under 4. Advanced, paid reservations are required. Members of the dinner planning committee will be available at Saturday evening services or between Sunday services to accept reservations and payment beginning Saturday, April 4. A sign-up sheet will also be posted, however reservations are not confirmed until payment has been received. Soles4Souls, and possibly a second charity, will benefit from the proceeds. If you are interested in helping with the dinner, or would like more information please contact Shelly Rosenstock at 414-769-7067 or shelly.rosenstock@gmail.com, Erin Arneson at 414-281-2987 or erina@wi.rr.com, or Carol Malinowski at 414-423-1041.

Family Ministry News

Contact our Discipleship Coach for Family Ministry Kevan Penvose

Email: stillerz7@yahoo.com & on Facebook

Phone: H:414-258-0858 C: 414-702-2346

Here's what's happening

April 3 Milwaukee Admirals game.

We'll meet at the church at 5:30 to leave for the game. However, I will have already collected the money

by Sunday, March 22 for all who are attending the game. \$12 for ages 14 and up, \$9 for kids.

April 5 Soles 4 Souls.

After the late worship (about 10:45) the youth will be creating a big cardboard shoe and signs for our community drop off site later in the month.

April 12 Easter Breakfast.

We need youth to help serve the breakfast and clean up afterwards during the 9:00 worship.

April 18 Soles 4 Souls.

Youth with help at our community drop-off site. I don't yet know all the details, but Julie Starks would know.

April 26 Rock concert and dinner. St. Luke's Lutheran Church has invited us to join them for this fundraiser. This takes the place of SMASH this month.

Kids! It's Time to Sign up for Vacation Bible School!

Now you can sign up on-line

Just go to www.ststephenthemartyr.com, click on the Kids Activities link and then click on the registration link!



DATES: June 22-26, 2009

TIME: 4:45 pm to 8:00 pm

COST: \$20 per child or \$40 per family For ages 3—completed 5th grade Dinner is included!

The VBS Kids will be singing in the 9:30 a.m. service on June 28th

STATION HELPERS NEEDED: Adults & Youth, let your light shine! We can use your help in these areas: craft leaders/helpers. You can also sign up online! **REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE ON SUNDAY SCHOOL BULLETIN BOARD** or: Register online and check out our VBS Kids Activity pages at our website. Go

to: www.ststephenthemartyr.com today!

Nursery Schedule

April 2009

- 5—Jeff Schultz
- 12—Easter – 9 am Karen Penrose
- 10:30 am Help Needed
- 19— Paula Gray
- 26—Paige Ceku

Music & Worship

MUSIC and WORSHIP Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 2nd @ 6:00 pm

We are entering into the final weeks of the Lenten season. Lent is a time for preparation, prayer and quiet reflection. We move then into the joyful celebration of Easter.

Holy Week is the final week in the season of Lent. It is a most dramatic and significant week of the church year. Within Holy Week we find these special days:

Palm Sunday: It is also known as the Sunday of Passion, recalling the sufferings of Jesus between the night of the Last Supper and His death. The colors of royalty are purple. Palm Sunday is a day of both triumph and sorrow.

Maundy Thursday: is observed on the Thursday before Easter. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin word mandatum, which means "commandment". It recalls the Last Supper (a Passover meal) that Jesus has with His closest disciples in the Upper room. Jesus offered up bread and wine, and asked that those who believe in Him do likewise in remembrance of Him. The light of the "Paschal candle is extinguished.

Good Friday: The worshipping community remembers how the innocent Son of God suffered and died on the cross for the sins of the world. The colors of the church are black to signify humility, mourning and death.

Easter: "ALLELUIA!" Christ has risen. The resurrection of our Lord "ALLELUIA!" and the celebration lasts for 50 days. The church colors are white symbolizing joy. God's plan for salvation is now fulfilled. Because of Christ's death and resurrection, all who believe in Him will live eternally in heaven. The light of the "Paschal candle" is lit again on Easter morning. It symbolizes Christ's victory over the darkness of sin and death.

The Music and Worship Committee wishes all SSM members and their families a most blessed

Easter season.

Music Notes from Bill Bravener, Dir. of Music/Associate in Ministry

The choirs are busy rehearsing music for the Holy Week and Easter services, and we look forward to sharing the music with you and to participating in those worship services. I will also be participating in the Synod's Holy Week worship service at St. Luke's in Greendale at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8 and at the 1:00 p.m. Good Friday worship at St. Alphonsus. Please watch for information regarding the dedication of our new piano during a concert on Sunday, May 3. A blessed Easter to you. See you at worship! - Bill

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 at about 8:00AM.

The menu will include:

- scrambled eggs
- baked ham
- applesauce
- peaches
- hot rolls
- homemade coffee cakes
- coffee
- tea
- juice and milk

Suggested donation: \$6.00 per adult and 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 go to the fund for the replacement of SSM's carpeting. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will supplement the monies that are raised from the breakfast. Your generous gifts will be greatly appreciated. Please sign up in advance if you plan to join us for breakfast. The sign up poster will be 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 Bob Rasmussen or Shelly Rosenstock. - Bob Rasmussen, Coordinator

FAIR TRADE PALMS

This year we have again 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 Lutheran World Relief-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 sustainable 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. 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 farmers in Texas, Mexico and Guatemala.

Human concerns

Next meeting is April 7th at 6:30 pm

Call Shirley Lieske with questions: 761-0734.

OUR DESIGNATED RECIPIENTS FOR A PORTION OF EASTER SUNDAY OFFERINGS 1/2 to "Repairers of the Breach" a shelter site for the homeless here in Milwaukee. They offer a hand up not a hand-out, a day time refuge offering safety, security, sobriety spiritual renewal and health care to mention just a few. The other 1/2 portion will go to Evangelical Lutheran Church and Schools in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). These people are much in need of our prayers and support. In Christ, Human Concerns Committee call 761-0734 Shirley Lieske

STAFF OF LIFE—FOOD PANTRY

We will collect food for Central City Food Pantry for the month of April. 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*

THE GATHERING MEAL

The mission of The Gathering is to provide meals and associated services to those who would otherwise go hungry. Join us on April 22nd to serve a meal. Meet at church to carpool to the site at 3:15 pm. We will assist in final food preparation and set up, serving and clean up. Dinner is from 4:00-6:00 p.m. No training needed; no long term commitment. Appropriate for families with children 8 years old and above and youth groups.

PICK 'N SAVE HELPS THE COMMUNITY

Please help SSM benefit from 1% of YOUR Pick 'N Save purchases! Register at the Customer Service Desk and tell them you would like to have St. Stephen the Martyr as your designated charity. Our #: 813560

Mt. Meru coffee is a great complement to your Easter meal! We 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 \$9.00. The Mt. Meru Coffee Project has made a huge difference in the Meru Diocese in Tanzania.

"Soles 4 Souls"

Drive-Thru Shoe Drop-off at SSM April 18th Noon-4 PM

St. Stephen the Martyr will host a community drive-thru shoe drop-off in our parking lot on Saturday afternoon, April 18th. This will be the last opportunity to donate shoes before they are packed for shipping to the national warehouse in Alabama. The youth will be working on creating a HUGE shoe to symbolize our efforts and to hold collected shoes.

HELP WANTED! We need: Colorful posters to advertise around the community Parking lot attendants to receive shoes and to direct traffic into our lot Packers to prepare shoes for shipping Press releases sent to local media Your ideas to add to this event, evangelism brochures? Contact Julie Starks, jastarks@earthlink.net or 414-483-0122 to volunteer!

EASTER PRAYER

Heavenly Father and God of mercy, I believe that Jesus is alive and has become the Lord of life. From the waters of Baptism you have raised me with him and renewed your gift of life within me. Increase in my mind and heart the risen life I share with Christ and help me to grow in your wisdom and grace. Lord Jesus, you appeared to your apostles after the resurrection and filled their hearts with joy when you said to them "Peace be with you". May the peace of your presence abide with me and make each day you give me the most beautiful day of my life. Lord Jesus, you triumphed over death and destroyed the power of death in me, may I live only for you. Risen Lord, you brought confusion on the guards at your tomb but joy to your disciples, grant me the fullness of joy as I serve you in spirit and truth. You promised to be with your disciples, Lord, to the end of the world, stay with me today and remain with me always. King of glory, center of my life, grant that when you come again, I may be one with you in glory. Lord, remember me as in my own way I minister to your people, may my life be holy and an example to your people. Lord Jesus, purify my heart with your truth and guide me in the way of holiness, so that I may always do what is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

OTHER NOTES

The Lutheran A Cappella Choir of Milwaukee, under the direction of David Mohr PRESENTS A SPRING CONCERT "Guided By the Spirit" on Friday, April 24th at 8:00PM @ Peace Lutheran Church in New Berlin, and on Sunday, April 26th @ 3:00PM at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa. Featuring works by composers J.S. Bach, W.A. Mozart, K. Jennings, J. Ferguson. Also featuring masterfully-arranged spirituals by British composer John Rutter. Our guest soloist for these spirituals, collectively entitled "Feel the Spirit", will be mezzo-soprano Jillian Bruss. Ticket prices will be \$13.00 for Adults and \$10.00 for Seniors (60+) and Students. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance from any choir member.

GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED

The annual Assembly of the Greater Milwaukee Synod-ELCA will be held at the Country Springs Inn, Waukesha on Thursday evening, May 28th through Saturday noon, May 30th. Pastor Gail and Music Director/Associate in Ministry Bill Bravener will attend. SSM also is to be represented by two delegates. Please consider this opportunity for inspiring worship, Bible study, general sessions, lively presentations and good conversation with other Lutherans. See Pastor Gail if you are interested in this opportunity to serve your congregation and Synod.

SOFTBALL SEASON IS COMING! Our SSM Softball team will begin competition on either Monday, April 28 or May 5, at Juneau Field, 6500 W. Mount Vernon Ave, one block south of Bluemound Road. The season runs through the 1st week of August, weather permitting. Our schedule will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and also in the calendar of the weekly bulletin. All Confirmed Male Members are encouraged to join the team and enjoy the Christian Fellowship and Competition. Everyone plays! All interested members should call Tom Winter 414-421-8640.

A MESSAGE FROM THE WORD: *"The LORD has already told you what is good, and this is what He requires: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."* Micah 6:8 People have tried all kinds of ways to please God, but God has made His wishes very clear: He wants His people to be fair, just, and merciful, and to walk humbly with Him. In your efforts to please God, examine these areas on a regular basis. Are you fair in your dealings with people? Do you show mercy to those who wrong you? Are

you learning humility? Only those who obey God live in a proper relationship with Him. Let fairness, justice, mercy, and humility guide your actions today and everyday.

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION APRIL 26TH, 9:30 AM SERVICE Our new members will be received at the 9:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, April 26th. Plan on greeting them at the coffee hour reception in their honor that day!

Job Seekers

Join fellow job seekers to learn how to tackle a job search during tough times at Mount Carmel Lutheran Church, 8424 W. Center St., Milwaukee, WI on Saturday, April 4, from 9:00-11:00am. This workshop will begin the process to help you clarify your career goal, identify your skills, communicate your skills and experiences effectively and master networking. Attendees should come prepared with a resume and a career goal. Presented by Laura Kestner, Director of Career Services at Marquette University and member of Mount Carmel. All are welcome to attend. Enter on Center Street. Diane Roznowski Special Ministries Coordinator (414) 771-1270 ext. 17 Mount Carmel Lutheran Church

CONDENSED COUNCIL MINUTES

March 10, 2009

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

President John Muroni called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Council members present were: E. Arneson, J. Bugajski, S. Jarchow, S. Lieske, S. Lubus, C. Malinowski, J. Miller, J. Muroni and E. Sanders. Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins and K. Penvose were also present. S. Rosenstock, and G. Raasch were absent.

Approvals: Secretary's minutes from the February 10th, 2009 were reviewed and approved. The Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed. Treasurer's Report was discussed. We are currently \$3,145 short in offerings thru March 9th. Council approved that property expense of \$12,646.25 from snow plowing incurred in December of 2008 not be carried over to the 2009 treasurer's reports. Treasurer's Report was approved.

Pastor's Time: Pastor commented that the retreat program of Re-discovering the Book of Faith was a huge success as 36 people participated in the program. She thanked E. Sanders, B. Bravener and P. Bauman for their preparation and leadership. We are now in the middle of three sessions of "Opening the Book of Faith", that is being taught for the next seven weeks on Wednesdays during Lent and on Sunday mornings. Pastor Gail has been busy meeting with couples preparing for marriage, as well as parents who are having their children baptized. She has been working with the pre-communion classes for 4th graders and staying busy with the Wednesday Lent services. Pastor will meet on Sunday April 5th with members about to join SSM. She anticipates 12-15 new members will participate in the special service on April 26th, 2009. J. Muroni K. Penvose and the Pastor will attend the Synod's "Fresh Expressions" event for congregational leaders being held on Saturday, March 4th, 2009.

Old Action Items:

Building Fund Discussion - The Council is currently working on a resolution to determine how monies contributed to the Building Fund account should be used. J. Muroni asked the Council to review the proposed draft and bring their comments to the April Council meeting.

Forward Planning Communications - J. Arneson reported that the Forward Planning Committee would be making quarterly reports to the Congregation.

New Action Items:

Search Committee - President Muroni notified the Council of the terms that are ending in May of 2009. E. Sanders will chair a Search Committee to find members interested in filling the openings, in particular the Youth and Family representative.

Lasagna Dinner Request - The Council approved the request made by Fellowship Chair, S. Rosenstock, that wine be served at the upcoming Lasagna Dinner, scheduled for Saturday, April 25th.

Carole Ropel Request - The Council approved the request that Trails to Bridges be able to sell their merchandise during the upcoming Women's Luncheon scheduled for June 20th. They will be selling merchandise during the Saturday evening service and the Sunday services.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: C. Malinowski reported that she is still looking for suggestions on how to improve the Time and Talent survey and asked all Council members for their input. J. Muroni asked that the forms be available before new members join SSM in late April.

Family and Youth Ministries - K. Penvose reported that the youth and their families are trying a dinner round robin, with the first one being on March 21st at B DeFrank's house.

Property - J. Arneson reported that he has received several quotes on repaving the upper parking lot. The median quote is approximately \$60,000. He has also received several quotes on replacing the carpeting in the narthex and fellowship hall. The average quote was approximately \$16,000. The Council will make a final decision on these projects by the April Council meeting.

Music and Worship - S. Jarchow reported her committee is busy with the Easter season activities. Her committee is also looking into scheduling a workshop for lay readers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shellee Lubus,

Council Secretary

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

Contact Webmaster webmaster@ststephenthemartyr.com