

WELCOME TO *St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA*

Service Times: Saturday - 5:00 p.m. Sunday - 8:00 & 9:30 a.m.



the **MARTYR MONTHLY**
JULY 2009 NEWSLETTER

St. Stephen the Martyr
Lutheran Church, ELCA

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A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage.
Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your
will.

Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an
honorable way of life.

Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and
arrogance, and from every evil course of action.

Make us, who came from many nations with many different
languages, a united people.

Defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted with
the authority of government, the spirit of godly wisdom, that
there might be justice and peace in our land.

When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and, in
troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. We ask all this
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Author Unknown



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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR GAIL...

Summer is the time to relax...isn't it? Let summer be a time of restoration and re-creation for you this year. Take time to pray, read Scripture and other devotional materials. Recently, I read *The Shack* by William P. Young. It's a moving story of a family tragedy, and how God in all three persons of the Trinity appear in amazing ways to the father of the family and help him to heal from his great sadness. Our church library has a copy of the book. If you would like to be part of a discussion of this book, let me know.

This summer, spend time with God's beautiful creation. Watch children play and if possible, join them! You will find yourself smiling and giving thanks for these free and precious gifts.

Here are a few other things that may be of interest this summer:

Did you know that:

Our upper church parking lot will be completely re-done this summer. The work will be during the week and should cause no disruption to weekend traffic. Therefore, I'll see you at worship!

The interior painting and installation of carpet will commence later on in the summer, and will help our

building look even more inviting than it does now.

By the time you read this, Vacation Bible School will be a memory and once again a wonderful one. I thank all who make it such a success each year!

Hymn sings begin 10 minutes prior to worship every other weekend. In July, the dates are July 5th and 25-26th. Suggest a favorite hymn for us to enjoy. (Note: there is no July 4th Sat. worship)

"An exasperated mom, whose son was always getting into trouble, finally asked him, 'How do you expect to get into heaven?' The boy thought it over and said, 'Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For heaven's sake, Jimmy, come in or stay out!'" (from Heavenly Humor by Bob Phillips)

Ron Ropel and Dick Rutzen built a beautiful new cabinet in the Luther Room for the Quilters' Group to store their supplies and finished quilts. Thank you!

Jim Arneson and Adam Woerpel replaced the hand railings to the lower level with rails that are more 'hand friendly'. Thank you!

Thanks to Bob Soderstrom for washing all our outdoor windows. They needed it!

Our church grounds continue to look lovely thanks to Doug Winter's care of flowers, trees and shrubs, and Bob Brownell, David Salas and new member Jay Rosiewski's care of the lawns & lawn equipment.

Stephanie Mayer will lead the summer children's choir "King's Kids" rehearsals and all kids are invited to join and sing for some Sunday services. It's fun! (see pg. 7 for details).

These are just a few things that are going on. What can you add that's of interest to other members? Let me know!

pastorgail@ststephenthemartyr.com

I pray that your summer is a time of joy in the company of God, friends, family and the family of God at St. Stephen the Martyr.

See you at worship!

Your partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Gail

Family Ministry News

Upcoming Events	
July 12	6:30 - 8:00 PM SMASH for High School Students
July 25	5:00 - 7:30 PM Parents Team meeting at Char Guiliani's house
Coming Events	Upper Elementary and Youth Camp Out; -The Gathering Meal; -Camping & Boating up north -Foxbrook Beach Stay Tuned for more Info!!!

Summer Mission Trip

There is still time for your family or youth to register for our Congregational Mission trip to Imago Dei Village, August 16-21. While we are there, we will be doing several service projects, both in the surrounding communities and at the Village. One of the projects we are planning is to build "Faith Chests".

These small hardwood keepsakes are a wonderful tool for family ministry, a way to promote meaningful devotions in the home and to facilitate telling others about our faith. When people experience a milestone in their faith journey, like a mission trip or receiving forgiveness for example, then a memento is placed in the Faith Chest to help keep the experience fresh on our hearts and on the tips of our tongues.

Within two years, every child and youth in our congregation will receive a Faith Chest as a gift from St. Stephen the Martyr, and

families will be trained in milestones ministries. This summer, we will be raising funds for the building materials. You will have the opportunity to sponsor a Faith Chest, which will be given to one of the children in our congregation. Look for the display in the narthex. A special thank you goes to Tim Falksen for organizing this ministry!

Welcome Char!

Family Ministry at SSM is really buzzing with energy as many adults and parents are leading ministries. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to one of our new leaders, Char Guiliani, who is the new Family Ministry Chairperson on council. She is a wonderful blessing! And thanks go to each of you for your willingness to serve our Lord and raise up disciples of Jesus.

King's Kids Summer Choir

will be starting on Sunday, July 5th following the 9:30 service.

The choir is open to all kids who have just completed 1st-6th grade. If you need any other information about it please contact Stephanie Mayer at 423-6943 or stephaniemayer@wi.rr.com.

SHEPHERD'S CORNER LIBRARY NEWS

The Bible tells us to 'study to show yourself approved unto God, a worker that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.' Remember to use your library during the summer! We have lots of great books & videos for all ages!

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

THE FAMILY BIBLE

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. 'Mama, look what I found,' the boy called out. 'What have you got there, dear?' With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, 'I think it's Adam's underwear!'

LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLE

Available for Purchase in the Office

Often people will ask "What's a good translation of the Bible for me to purchase?" I am happy to recommend the new Lutheran Study Bible. The translation is New Revised Standard Version, which is acclaimed for its accuracy, clarity, and inclusivity. This edition has notes and helps on every book and every chapter. There are 15 maps and articles like: "Lutheran Insights that Open the Bible", "The Small Catechism" and "The Bible and God's Mission". Every book has a comprehensive introduction written by a biblical scholar.

This edition was produced in conjunction with the ELCA's "Bible-Book of Faith Initiative". At St. Stephen the Martyr this fall, there will be more Bible Study opportunities—a mini-retreat and weekly classes. Have your new Bible ready for personal study and Bible Study with members and friends! A dozen copies are available for purchase at a very reasonable \$18.75 in the church office. Pastor Gail and the Parish Ed. Committee

Contact our Discipleship Coach, Kevan Penvose: H:414-258-0858 C:414-702-2346
stillerz7@yahoo.com

Fellowship

NOTICE:

There will be NO 1st Friday Potluck in July or August.

Join us again on

September 4th.

Mark your calendars!

BREWER GAME!

SSM members and friends: mark your calendars for a Brewers' Game, Sunday, Sept. 27, 1:05pm, with a tailgate party after church, then on to the game! Tickets are \$10 ea. which includes a hotdog and soda. There are 24 tickets available, please contact Char Guiliani (801-7349) if interested.

Human concerns

Next meeting is August 4

at 6:30 p.m. We will be planning for the school bags. Call Shirley Lieske: 761-0734 for more information.

COMING SOON! SCHOOL BAG PROJECT

As in years past, July is our time to start thinking and planning our "School Bag Project". School supply "SALES" start in July. So lets start watching for our needed items listed below. Thanks in advance for your help and also for your past help.

God Bless, - Human Concerns

The items needed are listed below.

- Notebooks of ruled paper (8 1/2 x 11—150-200 sheets of paper-no loose leaf)
- One blunt scissors (safety with imbedded steel blades)
- 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 -unsharpened
- 12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors
- One box of 24 crayons
- One eraser approximately 2 1/2" long

Sturdy fabric for the school bags is also needed.

NO KNIT WITS MEETING THIS SUMMER

We are taking a well deserved break due to holidays and vacations. We will resume on the 2nd Monday of the month, September 8th ; so we can honor Labor Day.

Chemo-caps are always available; please see any Knit Wit for details if needed.

MT. MERU COFFEE PROJECT

We have several kinds of Mt. Meru Coffee available in the narthex. Try a bag soon and enjoy! The cost is \$8.00 per 12 oz. bag.

Doing Justice Never Tasted So Good!

THE STAFF OF LIFE - SSM FOOD PANTRY

SUMMER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

...because hunger never takes a vacation...

We are continuing our service to the community by collecting food for Bay View Food Pantry in July.

Food for children is especially needed in the summer months. Thank you all for your continued support.

"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

Phil. 2:13

Music & Worship

SUMMER HYMN SING

Our summer hymn-sings are a wonderful time to share your favorite hymns. Several times this summer, we will begin our worship with the opportunity to sing some of the congregation's favorite hymns. We handed out forms to write your favorite hymns down, but we will also take requests from the pews on those days as well. Come prepared!

July Hymn-Sing Dates are:

Sunday 7/5, Sat. & Sunday 7/18/19, We will gather in worship at 4:50 pm on Saturday and 9:20 am on Sunday on the dates that the hymn-sings take place.

Music Notes from Bill Bravener, Director of Music/AIM

You are all welcome to sing in the next Summer Choir which will be July 5th at 9:00 a.m. Come give choir a try!

The last week of July, I will be the Handbell Choir Director for the 2009 Young Lutherans Sing which is a music camp for middle school and high school students sponsored by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians at Carthage College in Kenosha. I look forward to working with the students.

See you at worship. - Bill

Stewardship

Stewardship is a lifestyle.

It is "what we do after we say we believe." It is discipleship in action. We can say it in a thousand ways, but every way we say it, stewardship boils down to our commitment to Jesus Christ.

During the summer months as you vacation, remember your commitment to St. Stephen the Martyr

Church.

Our thanks to Carol Malinowski for her leadership on the Stewardship Committee and a welcome to Jason Covert as the new chairperson.

Thanks to you for your commitment of time, talent and resources to the ministries of St. Stephen the Martyr. You are a blessing!

"The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close."
- From Luther Seminary web site.



COMING EVENTS

Women's Bible Study/Loose Ends Lunch

We will join for Bible study at SSM at 10:15 a.m. and then meet for lunch at Applebees, 7135 S. 13th Street, Oak Creek. We will leave church at 11:30 a.m. for those carpooling, and meet at the restaurant at 11:45 a.m. Please sign up on the kiosk and indicate if you will need a ride from your home or if you want to car-pool from church. Any questions, call Diana Gastrau, 304-8284.

PINE LAKE WOMEN'S RETREAT AUGUST 21-23, 2009

Come join us for the weekend of August 21-23 at the Pine Lake Women's Retreat, located near Waupaca, Wisconsin. This is the 80th year celebration of this retreat so it will be a special time. The theme is "Called to Serve". We'll be looking at various passages from both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Pastor Christy Schoob from Trinity Lutheran Church in West Bend will help us see how we can be connected, created, called, saved and sent to serve.

What can you expect at this retreat? There will be Bible Study, free time, a program and a Taize service. There will be a Cross Walk for those who want to participate. All meals are included in the \$85 cost for the weekend. The Loose Ends group of the Women of the ELCA at St. Stephen the Martyr are offering two \$80 scholarships to help you pay the cost, if needed.

Registration forms and Scholarship Application Forms are posted on the kiosk. Registration is due by August 4, 2009. A late fee of \$5 will be assessed for registrations postmarked on or after August 5th. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Jarchow at 414-526-9785 or Carole Ropel at 262-523-4130.

22nd ANNUAL CONVENTION

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

GREATER MILWAUKEE

"COME LIVE IN THE LIGHT"

October 9-10, 2009

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

W156 N8131 Pilgrim Road, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

The format of the Convention has changed this year and we are hoping it will be more appealing to all who attend. While everyone is welcome to attend on both days of the Convention, it is only necessary for the Delegates to attend on Friday. We will be conducting the business of the Convention on Friday, allowing the Delegates more time on Saturday to attend workshops and other events on Saturday. On Saturday all others, usually referred to as Visitors, will then attend the Convention along with the Delegates. This makes the cost lower for Visitors. Both days will include a dinner. Our Bishop Paul Stumme Diers will join us for our noon dinner on Saturday.

We are pleased to tell you that Faith O'Connell will represent St. Stephen the Martyr as its' delegate this year. Thank you, Faith.

There will be seven workshops available to Visitors and Delegates — you will choose to attend two. We will have two individuals from The Women of the ELCA in Chicago joining us this year. Betty Brandt, Secretary of the Executive Board will represent our Churchwide President, Beth Wrenn, and Inez Torres Davis, Director for Anti-Racism and Cross-Cultural Ministries. Workshops on Saturday will include:

Diakonia - Laura Trass

Racism: It's Not Just About Color - Inez Torres Davis

Women in the Church of Tanzania - Pastor Elias Nassari

Women in the Church of El Salvador - Linda Muth

Is God Calling You? - Mary Ellen Kiesner

Pregnancy Support Connection - Tami MacDonald

Sacred Spaces - Inez Torres Davis

See more information including the Registration Forms and Scholarship Applications on the kiosk under

OTHER NOTES

The Family of Paul Eklund says thank-you!

Thank-you to the many, many people who made the Memorial Service for Paul very meaningful and set-up in a way as if Paul was leading! I want to thank the many coordinators by name and so many others who attended, sent cards, prayed, brought food and contributed memorials. Thank-you to Pastor Gail for leading the service, for your many visits and for the support you provided to Paul, our family and me. Thank-you to Carole Ropel for coordinating the luncheon, to Doug Winter and Bob Brownell for preparing the church for the service, to Bill Bravener and the choir for the special music, to Jim Arneson for setting up his sound system in the fellowship hall and to 3 fine young ladies, Melissa, Kory and Amanda for providing child care.

I cannot ask for a better, supportive and caring church family than the one I have in St. Stephen the Martyr.

Thank-you! - Julie Starks

A Moment in American History: Independence Day Quotes

"I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity with triumph in that Day's Transaction, even although We should rue it, which I trust in God We shall not." - John Adams (1776)

"It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, guns, bells, bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more." - John Adams

News from Our Missionaries , Peter & Sara Grow-Hanson

We live in Senegal, a country whose population is nearly 95% Muslim; so naturally, Thursday, May 29th, we had the day off for Ascension Day. Like the rest of the Christian holidays (Easter Monday, Pentecost Monday, Assumption, All-Saints, and Christmas Day), Senegal's observance of Ascension Day is a vestige of French colonialism. At the same time, these holidays function to help put flesh on Senegal's stated virtue of mutual respect and understanding among the religions, as well as its official status as a secular state. As it turns out, there are 14 public holidays each year in Senegal--six Christian, five Muslim, and three national or international.

"On est ensemble," the Senegalese are fond of saying, "we are together, and we all celebrate each others' holidays." That's true enough, but much more so for the major holidays. Christians are often invited to their Muslim neighbors' homes or receive prepared dishes delivered to their doors for Korité (the end of Ramadan) and Tabaski (the feast that celebrates God's faithfulness to Abraham). Christians, particularly from Roman Catholic and Lutheran communities, prepare a special dish called "Ngalax" for Good Friday and deliver it to the homes of many of their Muslim neighbors. And everybody seems to celebrate Christmas--either with the sense that it's the celebration of the birth of Jesus (the Messiah to Christians, and a revered prophet for Muslims).

So, how does one celebrate Ascension Day in Senegal? We went to the beach. The weather is getting warmer, there's still about six weeks of school left, and it's a rare pleasure to have a day off in the middle of an otherwise busy week. I'm sure that some people went to church--although an Ascension day worship is not big part of the tradition of the Lutheran Church of Senegal or any other Protestant community here. But I imagine that for most people --our family included-- Ascension Day was more of a long-awaited break. A calm before the storm of end of year compositions and exams, before so many of our friends and colleagues leave Senegal, some for a summer's home assignment, others moving on to somewhere else.

The day after Ascension day, in a meeting of the ELS evangelism team, my colleague and friend Dirk Stadlander read the text from Acts 1:4-10. This text is full of many great reminders for Christians in general, and Evangelists in particular. Sometimes we are called to wait. We wait until the Holy Spirit empowers us to act. We are witnesses to God's reign, made known to us in Jesus Christ. What happens with that? When? To what extent? That's not always ours to know--that's God's own business.

But we will be, and we are Christ's witnesses to the ends of the earth. So we wait--but ours is an active waiting. We don't just stand there, looking up into the sky. No, we are called to gather together, to share the word, to share our meals, to share our lives, to share the good news. We wait--the calm before the storm, perhaps--in order to be gathered and scattered and gathered again.

It's tempting to laugh off the fact that a country like Senegal gives us the day off for Ascension Day. But maybe it's a good time for us to be reminded that we are Christ's witnesses to the ends of the earth. We wait for the spirit-filled and spirit-led opportunities to share the good news that we have received in Jesus, doing so in an atmosphere of deep respect and mutual understanding.

"On est ensemble," and we do celebrate with one another. Even on an otherwise random Thursday in May.
Ba bennen yoon, Peter

Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly Overview—2009



God's purpose for the Greater Milwaukee Synod:

Ignited by God's love
Burning for justice
We embrace the world

I had the privilege and opportunity to attend the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly in May. This being the first Synod Assembly I have ever attended, I didn't know what to expect.

There was some business to attend to throughout the three day assembly. Elections for different positions were held, there were five separate resolutions that needed to be voted on and the 2010-11 Budget Considerations were presented.

Resolution #1 - Social Statement on Human Disability

Resolution #2 - Ending Poverty and Raising Dignity

Resolution #3 - A Memorial Concerning Human Sexuality From the Greater Milwaukee Synod to the 2009 Church-wide Assembly

Resolution #4 - Advance Process for Identifying Potential Nominees for Bishop

Resolution #5 - Resolution Regarding Synodical Youth Representation

All the resolutions were passed. If you would like to read more on the resolutions you can get more information at www.elca.org.

There were several different workshops offered to attendees. The workshops I attended, "Gift and Trust:" Human Sexuality Social Statement, Diakonia - Looking for a Spiritual Journey? and Project RETURN: Returning Ex-Offenders To Urban Realities and Neighborhoods, were informative and helpful. My experience with the assembly was wonderful! The Worship Services were very spiritual, energetic and inspiring. The Fresh Expressions: Mission Directions were presented with enthusiasm and in such a way you wanted to hear more of what they had to say. If you have the time and opportunity to attend the assembly in the future I would recommend it.

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? Don't forget to contact your church to report any changes for your family records.

Attitude for Everyday Life...

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, the education, the money, than circumstances, than failure, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our Attitudes." ...C. Swindoll

Don't Forget To Attend Church This Summer!

Please try to visit a church where you are vacationing—bring back a bulletin to share with us!

Flower Chart

If you desire to adorn our worship with flowers from a floral shop or a bouquet of your own garden flowers during the summer months, please write your name on the Flower Chart on the office door and specify the month and week that you will be providing flowers. Also, please write a brief note stating whether the offering is in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion in the family. You can bring your flowers in on the Friday morning before worship during office hours.

CONDENSED COUNCIL MINUTES

The Council Minutes from the June 9th meeting can be found on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

President John Muroni called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Council members present were: J. Arneson, J. Bugajski, J. Covert, C. Guiliani, J. Hennessy, S. Lieske, S. Lubus, J. Miller, J. Muroni, C. Peterson S. Rosenstock and E. Sanders. Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins and K. Penvose were also present. S. Jarchow was excused.

J. Bugajski led the devotion.

Approvals:

The Secretary's minutes from the May 12th, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved. The Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed. The Treasurer's Report was discussed. We are currently \$5,205.26 short in offerings thru June 7th. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Pastor's Time:

Pastor gave a big thank-you to all of the Sunday School teachers and helpers. She officiated at the memorial service for member Rich Rothwell on May 28th. She also officiated at the wedding of Tim Holm and Liz Ross on May 30th. Pastor stated that all newsletter articles were due no later than June 15th as L. Shadd is going on vacation from 6/19 to 6/26. Pastor will be taking some vacation days and preaching in her absence will be P. Bauman. Pastor H. Barsnick is scheduled to preach the weekend of June 20th and June 21st.

Old Action Items:

Update on Capitol Improvement Loan and Projects - J. Bugajski stated we are only awaiting the check now, as all of the paperwork has been filed. J. Arneson commented that the contractors have been scheduled and everything is in place for the parking lot to be resurfaced and for the painting and carpeting to be done inside church.

New Action Items:

Council Retreat - J. Muroni asked Council members to consider a date for the annual retreat for sometime in October and also to start thinking about some topics for the retreat.

Summer Schedule - Council agreed to combine July and August meetings into one, set for Tuesday, July 21st.

Gr. Milw Synod Assmbley Review - C. Guiliani commented about her first time experience in attending the Synod Assembly. She stated it was a great experience and recommended that all church members should go to at least one to see the inner workings of the church and be able to vote on important social issues within the church.

Committee Reports:

Family and Youth Ministries - C. Guiliani stated the second Youth and Family dinner held at C. Malinowski's house was successful. Several youth and family projects such as weekend camping, a trip to Cool Waters and working at the Gathering are being planned. K. Penvose commented about the upcoming Family and Youth Mission Trip scheduled for 8/16 to 8/21 and that if anyone else is interested the should contact the church. K. Penvose also spoke on a potential fund-raiser in which T. Falksen would make "FaithChests" for interested members. The idea behind a FaithChest, is that every family that has one puts articles of faith into this wooden chest, such as baptism candles, confirmation pictures, etc.

Human Concerns - S. Lieske said the collection for armed forces will run thru the 4th of July. In July they will start the annual school supply drive.

Christian Education - E. Sanders stated that Vacation Bible School was set to begin on June 22nd to June 26th and they were still looking for volunteers to help with the program.

Stewardship - J. Covert stated his committee met and that he is getting acclimated to the position and that the next project would be to pick the annual Stewardship theme.

Evangelism - J. Hennessy stated that his committee is in need of at least two to three more members and encouraged anyone interested in joining please contact him. His committee's next big project is the church pictorial that will start in August.

Adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21st, 2009

Respectfully Submitted,

Shellee Lubus,

Council Secretary