

WELCOME TO *St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA*

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



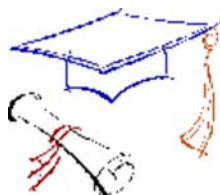
the **MARTYR MONTHLY** JUNE 2009 NEWSLETTER

St. Stephen the Martyr *Lutheran Church, ELCA*

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Greendale, WI 53129
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www.StStephentheMartyr.com
OFFICE HOURS:
9-1 M-Th
9-12 F

SSM STAFF

Gail Brodersen-Heins, Pastor
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bbravener@ststephenthemartyr.com
Kevan Penvose, Discipleship Coach for
Family Ministries
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ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com
Bob Brownell, Maintenance
Bob De Frank, Sunday School
Superintendent
Janet Snyder, Organist



CONGRATS TO OUR GRADUATES!

We will be recognizing all our graduates at the June 6th & 7th worship services. Please join us for a special time of prayer at one or both of these services to bless them in their future endeavors.

To all who are graduating in 2009, either from High School, College, Tech School or University, we celebrate with you one of the great moments of your lives. As you stand at the gate of your future, we would like to congratulate each one of you for the degree you've earned.

Our prayer for you is that the Lord will continue to guide you and lead you. May you cling to the truth that with God, you will never walk alone. Place your hand in God's hand and walk boldly into your future!



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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR GAIL...

Father's Day is June 21st. It sometimes seems that Father's Day is a little neglected compared to Mother's Day, but that's probably not so in your family.

I was blessed to have a wonderful father. The thing I treasure most is that he loved me unconditionally and accepted me. He had a little twinkle in his eye, loved to tease, loved a joke, enjoyed life. He worked very hard at his construction job, and was often tired. But he wasn't too tired to talk and listen to me. He wasn't too tired to go to church on Sunday morning.

Treasured memories were simple things: Sunday rides in the country with my mom and dad holding hands in the front seat, me in the back; my dad's cheery 'hi and how are you?'; dinner together every night; my dad's beautiful red dahlias planted every year and his wonderful tasty tomatoes and cucumbers. I guess that's why I plant them each year.... After my mother died, my dad was faithful in his church attendance, and did a little volunteer work, which was a blessing to him, too. That is also a treasured memory.

Good dads are precious, and we need to thank them every day. I am grateful for my dad's generosity, for his faith, his honesty and integrity. If your dad is near, give him a big hug and say "Thanks dad, for all that you are to me!" If your father now rests in the Lord, pray this: "Thank you God, for the love that my dad

gave to me!"

The evangelist John writes: "Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God...No one has every seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us." I John 4:7,12 Don't forget to mark your calendar for the most convenient week for your family to have a photo taken for St. Stephen's Pictorial Directory (for dates see page 15). We have signed a contract with Life Touch Photos, we have a committee in place, and you will be contacted this summer to sign up for a 'photo shoot'. Remember, this is a fantastic way for all members to get to know each other by sight. It will help our congregation in many ways, especially our outreach to friends and visitors. We want every family included in the book!

Great weather is finally here! Give thanks to God for the beauty around you, and come worship with your family and fellow members each Saturday at 5:00 pm or Sunday at 9:30 am. There will be children's sermons each Sunday, and the donuts continue--yeah!

Your partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Gail

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A great deal of energy was put into the Forward Planning process, which began more than 2 years ago. We have been "forward planning" and now we are moving forward. Certainly, the Forward Planning team helped guide those efforts, but many SSM members contributed to this vision and continue to stay involved today. This was made evident most recently by the congregation's overwhelming support for moving ahead with major improvements to our church building and grounds.

I think that as a congregation we understand that while we need to take care of the church property to insure that is here for years to come, it is the life that WE put into the church which defines us as St. Stephen the Martyr. We continue to be true to our mission by 'Coming together in Word and Sacrament' as witnessed by the strong participation in the new Bible study series and the continued good works of our Music and Worship ministries. We "live and serve in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ" with our ongoing support of our ELCA missions and other community outreaches like the "Gathering", food pantries, and the "Soles 4 Souls" shoe drive which brought in over 1,500 pairs of shoes for the needy.

We are only scratching the surface in what we have to offer as a family in Christ but need to take an inventory as to what talents and time our members have to offer. Later this year, a new Time and Talent survey will be given to every member/household so that we can more effectively match the church's mission needs with those members that can offer their gifts for a specific project.

Yes, we continue to move forward but that is only possible because the faithful members of SSM are supplying the needed fuel.

May God's Peace Be With You.

John Muroi
Church Council President



The committee will be transitioning to new leadership with Jim Hennessy taking over the lead. This year we will be putting together a new pictorial directory. Photos will be taken for a new SSM pictorial church directory on these dates—August 27, 28, 29 & September 24, 25, 26—Have your family photo taken and receive a free 8 1/2 x 11. Please make note of these dates. At this time we are looking for 2 or 3 new members for our committee, any interested persons please give Jim a call at 414-421-7004. This committee meets once a month and is very easy to work with.

Family Ministry News

Upcoming Events	
June	Look for games, picnics, and other random fun events coming soon
Stay Tuned:	for info about our next Parents Team and Family Ministry Meetings

It's now official. Spread the word: St. Stephen the Martyr's Cross-Generational Mission Trip will be **August 16-21**. And get this, they had already decided to cancel that last week of their camping program . . . so we get the whole place to ourselves. So let's fill it up. Our friends at St. Luke's and Adoration are invited to join us. And as always, invite your friends from school. Get ready for a fun week of service projects, swimming, Bible Study, games, worship, great food, and many other ways to grow in your faith relationship

with Jesus and friends.

For teens, you may go on the trip w/o your parents and join your friends in the FaithVentures group. The price is \$395. Remember, for SSM youth who would like to step up in a leadership role, there is still time to help plan one of our ministry events in the coming months and earn up to \$100 worth of Stud.L.I. grants. That's over 25% of your total cost for the trip already covered. The first 4 adult mentors to sign up to be with FaithVentures get the low, low price of only \$250!!!

For families, kids and adults are invited to stay in one of the chalets -- complete with your own kitchen, living room, and bathroom. And parents, the camp assigns a counselor to each family ... so free babysitting just about any time you want to get away for some R & R. Thought you couldn't afford to take a vacation this year? Well, take another look!

The rates for Family Camp are:

Adults	\$325,
youth ages 7 - 15	\$275
ages 3 - 6	\$180
ages 0 - 2	\$35

No matter how many people you have in your immediate family, the maximum cost per family is \$1,290 for the whole week. Plus, get this. Now camp is offering a \$100 rebate for families who recruit other families who have never attended camp before. If you recruit 3 families, that's \$300 off of your family's cost. And of course, you can invite families who are not church members.

Find out more info at www.crosswayscamps.org Check under FaithVentures for teens, Family Camp for families, and Imago Dei Village to get a look at the comfortable retreat center in the north woods.

Vacation Bible School—June 22-26, 2009



At Crocodile Dock, kids will keep an eye out for "God in action" in their everyday lives—and they'll discover how they can be a God Sighting by showing Christ's love.

TIME: 4:45 pm to 8:10 pm

COST: \$20 per child or \$40 per family

For ages 3—completed 5th grade

Dinner is included!

VBS Kids Singing June 28th @ 9:30 a.m.

Registration forms are available on the Sunday School bulletin board.

Now you can also sign up on-line—Just go to:

www.ststephenthemartyr.com & click on the Kids Activities link and then click on the registration link! Hurry! Time is running out!

Graduates of 2009, Congratulations!

SENIORS

Congratulations to all our high school graduates!

Alexandra Connor, Greendale H.S.

Natalya Dodulik, Greendale H.S.

Casey Doucette, Franklin H.S.

Calvin Fischer, Franklin H.S.

Collin Kosinski, Greendale H.S.

Cody Raasch, Milw. H.S. of the Arts

Congratulations to all our college graduates!

Ali Gleason, UW-Madison

Gina Muroi, UW-Madison

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord ... plans to give you hope and a future.." Jeremiah 29:11

8th Graders

Congratulations to all our middle school graduates!

Alyssa Cvikel, Whitnall M.S.

Eva Dodulik, Greendale M.S.

Amanda Salas, Greenfield M.S.

Nick Stawicki, Forest Park M.S.

Nursery Schedule

June 2009

7—Paige Ceku

14—Karen Penvose

21—Carol Malinowski
28—Jeff Schultz

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

Fellowship

June First FRIDAY POTLUCK

June 5th, 2009 @ 6 p.m.— Fellowship Hall

You are invited to enjoy burgers and brats cooked on the grill for our June Potluck. Celebrate the beginning of summer with the group! Bring a salad or other side dish or a dessert. Beverages are provided.

Bring some jokes, a funny story, or share a favorite memory from summers past. Please sign up on the bulletin board next to the church office. Donation of \$2 is requested to help defray the cost for the meat. This is the last Friday Potluck until September. All are welcome, especially those who live alone.

Mark your calendars!

Rally Day & Annual Church Picnic to be held on Sunday, September 13, 2009.

Lasagna Dinner Reflections

Approximately 80 people attended the Lasagna dinner held on Saturday, April 25. Thank you to everyone who helped plan, set-up, and clean-up. Hats off to lasagna makers Erin Arneson, Rae Bauman, Bob DeFrank, Betty Kroll, Carol Malinowski, Jane Miller, Deb Perl, Cathy Peterson and Mary Rockstad for some of the best homemade lasagna in Milwaukee County.

We would also like to thank those who donated items for the fundraiser prizes. Your support helped raise over \$560 for Soles4Souls and area food pantries.

Shelly Rosenstock, Fellowship

2009 MEN'S AFFILIATED SOFTBALL PROGRAM

SSM Monday Softball Schedule

Juneau Field—6500 W. Mt. Vernon Ave., Milwaukee

Date	Time	Playing
June 1	9:15 PM	SSM vs. Our Savior
June 8	9:15 PM	SSM vs. Pentecost

Human concerns

Next meeting is...

June 2nd at 6:30 pm

Shirley Lieske & Carol Birk, Co-Chairs

STAFF OF LIFE—FOOD PANTRY

We will collect food for Bay View Food Pantry for the month of June. 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*

Thank You To All the Aluminum Can Givers

May 14th a check was delivered to the Bay View Community Center Food Pantry for \$75. The money was realized from the sale of your aluminum cans. It is hoped that the sale of more cans will result in enough money to make a similar donation to Central City Food Pantry in June.

This will only be possible if the cans continue to come in. The price per pound for cans has dropped with the slowed economy, so it will take more cans to make our gift...KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. Crushed cans are much appreciated.

THE RED DOOR CLOTHING THE NEEDY

The Red Door Clothes shop is currently accepting lightweight shirts, jackets and jeans. They are mostly in need of men's clothes, and specifically men's shoes, all sizes.

They will accept the above items in women's clothing as well.

Donations can be left in the coat room, or you can take them to the Red Door as well.

Days for dropping off clothing:

M W F 9-12:30 p.m.

T & TH 1-4:30 p.m.

Please call Red Door prior to going.

414-271-1340 (833 W. Wisconsin Ave)

Days for obtaining clothing:

1st & 3rd Saturday of the month

8:30 a.m. —10:30 a.m.

Mt Meru Coffee Project News

We have received news from the Mt Meru Coffee Project that in spite of these challenging economic times, coffee sales for the first 3 months of 2009 are running ahead of the same period in 2008. This is excellent news, both for the Project and for the coffee farmers in Tanzania who are also experiencing a downturn in their economy. Higher sales means that we can continue to order 9 or more tons of coffee this year and that more funds can be generated for social justice programs in the farmer's communities. We try to have a variety of Mt Meru coffee on hand in the narthex. Each bag costs \$9.00. Thanks for your continued support.

The Human Concerns Committee

Patriotic Holiday Project

America cherishes its independence, its flag and the people who fought and died for the freedoms we enjoy. The Human Concerns committee will be celebrating the upcoming patriotic holidays with a service project for our brave young men and women who continue to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan. We will be collecting items from Memorial Day to Flag Day to Independence Day (July 4th)! Please drop any of the following items in the patriotic box, which will be displayed in the Narthex starting Memorial Day Weekend:

- Batteries (AA or AAA)
- Gum & Candy (no Chocolate)
- Summer Sausage
- Salty Snacks
- Disposable razors
- Magazines
- Lip balm/Chapstick
- Cheese and cracker snack packs
- Nuts
- Monetary donation to defray cost of postage

Thank you for your participation in this project. Let's join in showing our support of the brave men and women who continue to serve in defense of our country. Thanks, Pam Gustafson

Operation Freedom - July 5, 2009 - 9 am - 6 pm

At the Milwaukee County Zoo

Operation Freedom is a joint effort of Milwaukee County and the Military Order of the Purple Heart to say thank you to our veterans and current service personnel and their families for all their sacrifices for our country. Admission is free but a wristband is needed for each attendee. A free lunch and beverages are provided.

All foods items are donated. One of the items we never have enough of is cookies. I would like to invite the families of St. Stephen the Martyr to help fill this need by donating cookies for this event. Starting June 13th there will be a container labeled for Operation Freedom in the narthex so you can donate cookies. If you would like to donate cash toward the purchase of cookies that would be great. Cash donations may be placed in my mailbox. Home baked or store bought will be accepted.

For veterans and current service members, wrist bands will be available beginning June 1st from the County Veterans Service Office at the VA, or if you call me I will make sure that you get wrist bands. If you have any questions please give me a call.

Rose Ann Dieck Phone: 414-421-9337 Email: radiack@yahoo.com

Music & Worship

Next Meeting: June 10th @ 6:00 pm

Sue Jarchow & Cathy Peterson, Co-Chairs

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MUSIC & WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We are inviting all members to come, talk, share ideas and think about joining us on the Music and Worship committee. We welcome all!

The new communion, usher, greeter schedules are arriving in your mail box in the narthex. Please take them, checkout the dates that you are scheduled, write them on your calendar so that you do miss out on all of the important things that you do for SSM and the worship services.

If you cannot make one of the times, please switch with someone else from these lists and let the office know for bulletin information changes.

We have 20% of the congregation members involved in the worship service area. This is awesome and we thank you for your commitment.

LOOK AROUND

When you finished your spring cleaning, did you notice some items that you aren't sure just where they came from? It could be that you may have taken some things from the church kitchen with the intention of returning them later and forgot.

In recent time it has been discovered that we are missing several of SSM's tablecloths, casseroles and other kitchen items. This reminder may jog your memory as to where your mystery items belong.

THANKS FOR LOOKING!

Music Notes from Bill Bravener, Director of Music/Associate in Ministry

Thanks to the members of the Senior Choir and the Handbell Choir for your faithful dedication to our music ministry throughout the year. I sincerely appreciate you sharing your time and your talent. The choirs will be taking a break from their regular rehearsals for the summer.

Summer Choir will meet the first Sundays of summer: June 7, July 5, and August 2 at 9:00 a.m. and will sing at the 9:30 worship service. All are welcome. This is a great time to give choir a try.

I look forward to our Hymn Sings throughout the summer. Please be thinking of your favorite hymn to suggest.

See you at worship.

-Bill

Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS...

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

This month's stewardship musings begin with words from a CHRIST IN OUR HOME devotional: On Stewardship Sunday, one pastor in her sermon told of the virtues of the congregation's biggest giver. Listing reasons, the pastor said, "He gives his best; he gives from love; he gives freely; he gives to everyone; he gives because of faith, and he gives for eternity".

At the sermon's conclusion, the pastor revealed the text as John 3:16; thus revealing the identity of the giver. "God is the biggest giver in any church," she said. The sermon's 'punch line' tied it all together. "When we evaluate our giving", she said "let us not compare ourselves with what others give. Let's compare ourselves only with what God has given and continues to give to each of us in Christ."

Christian stewardship is based on our heartfelt thanks to a God who simply cannot be out-given. As you give to the mission and ministry of your congregation, remember the generosity of God. Honor your giving pledge as you are able. Give from the heart.

And give thanks! Give thanks to the God who gave everything for us!

- Your Stewardship Committee



BIBLE STUDY CHANGE

For the summer months of June, July and August there will be Bible Study only on the second Wednesday of each of those months, beginning at 10:15 a.m.

The Loose Ends luncheon following Bible Study for June:

Place: THAT'S AMORE, 5080 S. 108TH STREET, HALES CORNERS

Date: June 10th, 11:45 a.m.

Please sign up on the kiosk by June 7th. Also indicate if you need a ride from home or church. We will leave church about 11:30 a.m. Any questions: contact Carol Birk, 421-6162 or Diana Gastrau, 304-8284.

The Bible Study on the 4th Wednesday of the month will resume in September.

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON, JUNE 20, 2009

Don't forget to sign-up for the Women's Luncheon being held at SSM on June 20, 2009. Use the Registration Form that was placed in your SSM mailbox 3-4 weeks ago. Additional copies can be found on the kiosk. The deadline for Registration is June 7, 2009. Should you need to register after that date, please call Judy Merritt at 414-421-3795, the Luncheon Registrar. The cost is \$5 for SSM members and \$9 for other guests.

The day begins with registration check-in at 8:30 a.m. The program starting at 9 a.m. includes a Bible Study with Pastor Gail, a vintage clothing fashion show "The First Ladies of Fashion" presented by Goodwill Industries Volunteer Services and concludes with a luncheon. You'll also want to take time to shop at Trails

to Bridges Fair Trade Store which will be set-up at SSM for that entire weekend.

Quilter's News and Needs...

The Piece Markers Quilting group at St. Stephen the Martyr (SSM) is asking for your help. Our supplies are running low and we are seeking donations so that we can continue this important ministry. Here are some ways can help:

Donate material you or someone of your acquaintance may have. Place it in the bin at SSM marked for this purpose.

Purchase flat, twin size sheets from Wal-Mart. Choose any color except white. If you are able, remove (rip) all the stitching, wash and iron the sheets and bring them to church. If you are not able to remove the stitching just bring the sheets to church and place them in the bin marked for your donation.

Donate cash used to purchase batting which acts as the filler for the quilts. Make your check payable to St. Stephen the Martyr and on the memo line designate it for "Quilters".

Have you noticed the new cabinet that has been built in the Luther Room that will be used to store our quilting supplies and the finished quilts? Many, many thanks to Ron Ropel and Dick Rutzen who have donated so much time to building this much needed space for us. And many thanks also to the Memorial Committee for their generous donation to help cover the cost of the building materials needed for this cabinet.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR PINE LAKE RETREAT.....

Two \$80 Scholarships are available for women from SSM to attend the Pine Lake Women's Retreat, near Waupaca, Wisconsin on August 21-23, 2009. These Scholarships are being donated by our Loose Ends group, Women of the ELCA. The theme for camp this year is "Called to Serve" with Pastor Christy Schoob, Trinity Lutheran Church, West Bend serving as our Pastoral leader for the retreat.

There will be a Bible study, a program, a "Taize" Meditation, a Cross Walk, worship and some free time. Cost for the weekend is just \$85 and includes meals and lodging. Your cost will be only \$5 with the Scholarship. Car-pooling from SSM can be arranged.

Registration forms for anyone wishing to attend camp and the Scholarship Application forms are posted on the kiosk. Scholarship Applications should be placed in the SSM mailbox of Carole Ropel. Questions can be addressed to Carole at 262-523-4130 or Sue Jarchow at 414-526-9785. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JULY 12, 2009. REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 4, 2009.

OTHER NOTES

A Personal Note from John Rech, Greeter Coordinator

To all greeters, past, present and future,

After more years than I can remember, I regrettably find that the time has come for me to retire as Greeter Coordinator.

Whether you've greeted for many years, or have begun recently, I want you to know how much I have appreciated your faithful and conscientious cooperation and service to our church and to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I also owe a deep debt of gratitude to Lynda Shadd and Nancy Hoffman for all their help and assistance in getting out the greeter's schedule over the years, without which I would have been unable to do the job.

As I step aside as coordinator, and join the ranks of regular greeters, I am extremely pleased to tell you that Jenny Koeff has agreed to replace me.

I met Jenny and her husband Kurt when they began visiting our church a few years ago. After becoming members, they became enthusiastic greeters and are now active lay readers, communion servers and in other ways, enthusiastic members.

I know that I leave the job in good hands (probably better!) and I am confident that you will all give Jenny the same faithful cooperation that I've been so blessed with by you over these years.

God bless you all.

-John

Help Keep Our Records Up to Date so we can Keep You Up-to-Date!

Are you moving? Do you have an address, phone number, e-mail or status change, a new addition in your family, an adult child moving out? Don't forget to contact your church office to report any changes for your family records.

Would you like to receive the Martyr Monthly in your church mailbox? Call the office @ 414-421-3543 or email us at ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com.

Sunday Humor

One Sunday in a midwest city, a young boy was "acting up" during the morning worship hour.

The frantic parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle.

Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out..

Just before reaching the safety of the foyer, the little one called loudly to the congregation,

"Pray for me! Pray for me!"

In the words of Plato...

"By education I mean that training in excellence from youth upward which makes a man passionately desire to be a perfect citizen, and teaches him to rule, and to obey, with justice. This is the only sort of education which deserves the name. That other sort of training which aims at acquiring wealth or bodily strength is not worthy to be called education at all."

Keeping Your Church Secure

If you are in charge of an activity at church or just open a window at any time, please make sure ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS ARE CLOSED AND LOCKED when you leave the building.

The Greendale Police gratefully keep a watchful eye on our premises. We are grateful for their concern, but please do your part and check all doors and windows. Thank you!

Closing the Books on Soles 4 Souls

For those who like numbers, here are the final tallies on our shoe collection drive for Soles 4 Souls:

- 100 Pages of decorated shoes tracking donations of shoes and \$\$
- 40 Boxes loaded onto a truck for shipping on April 27
- 1,399 Shoes delivered on May 6 to Alabama Warehouse
- 1,991 Pounds of our collection of shoes
- 700 \$\$ donated to S4S from SSM
- 0 Cost to SSM for shipping shoes
(Thank-you Custom Express, Milwaukee & Airways Freight Corp., Fayetteville, AR)

Thank-you again to EVERYONE who participated in this effort! Please continue to take the extra step to reach out and help others.

CONDENSED COUNCIL MINUTES

The Council Minutes from the May 12th meeting can be found on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

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

Contact Webmaster webmaster@ststephenthemartyr.com