

WELCOME TO *St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA*

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



the **MARTYR MONTHLY**

OCTOBER 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:
9-1 M-Th
9-12 F

Reformation Sunday & Potluck Dinner

October 25th, 2009

Holy Communion at all services

5:00 p.m. Saturday

8:00 and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday

Affirmation of Baptism—(Confirmation of 9th Graders) at the 9:30 worship

Invite family and friends to worship with you!

Special music by the choirs at all services

SUNDAY EVENING:

REFORMATION POT LUCK DINNER at 5:30 p.m.

in the Fellowship Hall, with a brief entertaining program to follow

SSM STAFF

Gail Brodersen-Heins, Pastor
pastorgail@ststephenthemartyr.com
Bill Bravener, Music Director
bbravener@ststephenthemartyr.com
Kevan Penvose, Discipleship Coach for
Family Ministries
stillierz7@yahoo.com
Lynda Shadd, Office Administrator
ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com
Bob Brownell, Maintenance
Bob De Frank, Sunday School
Superintendent
Janet Snyder, Organist



inside this issue:

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

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR GAIL...

October Reflections...

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever." Isaiah 40:8

One of the great hymns we often sing is "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage". In October, we celebrate the 16th century renewal of the Church and its re-claiming of God's Word. This was due to the courage, faith and brilliance of Martin Luther and others.

We celebrate the renewal of our faith on Reformation weekend on October 24th and 25th with great hymns, anthems, Holy Communion, and Reformation Pot Luck on Sunday evening.

It makes sense that the Rite of Confirmation takes place on that weekend. At the 9:30 service, some very special 9th graders will affirm their Baptismal Covenant. Their parents, sponsors, relatives and friends and we, their church family will surround them with prayers as they make promises to hear God's Word, receive the Lord's Supper, tell others of Jesus Christ, and work for justice and peace in all the world. Big promises to keep! They need your prayers and support to keep these promises. The ninth graders affirming their Baptism in the Rite of Confirmation are:

ALYSSA CVIKEL, EVA DODULIK, AMANDA SALAS, NICHOLAS STAWICKI.

Plan on worshipping with fellow members and friends at any service on Reformation Weekend and celebrate!

"God's Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever; to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor."

So many folks have been working hard around our church this summer and fall, and we owe them our thanks.

Jim Arneson, the Property Committee and ALL who helped plan and carry out the parking lot project, the new carpeting, the sanctuary ceiling, the re-trenching at the back of the building, and the landscaping. This including much heavy lifting of furniture, traffic control, the time spent supervising and consulting, overseeing the grounds work. Please take time to thank Jim and his Committee members: Dick Rutzen, Ron Ropel, Bob Brownell, Adam Woerpel.

Thanks to Doug Winter, who has spent many hours planting flowers, moving dirt, rocks and stone, watering, placing stepping stones, and making coffee!

Thanks to Ron Ropel, Dick Rutzen and Vic Peterson for repairing and staining the storage shed on the 'back 40' and replacing its doors.

Thanks to Bob Rasmussen for faithfully tending the narthex plants and hauling aluminum cans to benefit worthy causes.

THANKS TO ALL who volunteer to do so many things at St. Stephen the Martyr and in your community. You are practicing

FAITH ACTIVE IN LOVE.

Your Partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Gail



Reaching Out With Faith...

Jim Hennessy, Chairperson

Be Welcoming to Our Visitors

Visitors are very important at SSM! When you see a visitor, welcome them and let them know we are a friendly church.

Some suggestions for greeting a visitor:

Introduce yourself and say, "I don't believe we've met, have we?" This goes a long way toward solving the problem of greeting unrecognized fellow members and also provides some direction for conversation.

If the person is a visitor, ask, "What brings you to our church today?" This may provide some information on how the church may continue to be of service to that person.

At some point in the conversation, you might want to state in one sentence what you most appreciate about the congregation, such as, "I really like this church because..."

If it can be done graciously, introduce the visitor to someone else who may share some common interest with the visitor.

Invite the visitor to our Fellowship time after the Sunday service.

Don't forget to invite the visitor to return or to attend another service or Bible study of the church.

Remember: What would Jesus do? Being interested, loving and caring is not just the job of the Pastor! We are to be Jesus with skin on at all times and love thy neighbor!

Remember: If you have not had your picture taken for the new church directory, October 27th is the final picture make-up day. Go to: www.ststephenthemartyr.com to sign up, or sign up at church at the weekend services. You can also call the church office and Lynda will be happy to help you sign up.

You are part of our church family.

We really want YOU in our directory!

New Members to Be Received

November 1st, 2009

We welcome all those desiring to join SSM! Two orientation sessions on Sun., Oct. 18 & 25 @ 10:40 am (immediately following the service) will be held in the Luther Room. Please let us know if you are interested in becoming a member. Contact Pastor Gail in person or at 421-3543. Reception will follow the Nov. 1st service in the Fellowship Hall.

WANT AD!

Needed: one or two volunteers to help in the SSM Library. Only requirements are a love of books and a few spare hours once or twice a month. Please contact Carol Birk, 421-6162 or Pastor Gail for more info.

Family Ministry News

Attention
Parents:

Coming Up:

LUTHERDALE RETREAT

High School students are invited and encouraged to come to Lutherdale for an overnight retreat with our

The family ministry gatherings are growing and producing many fruits for building our faith in our homes and church. Be sure to speak with Char Guiliani, Tim Falksen, or Stephanie Gordon to get involved and see for yourself. Good Food, Great People, and Fun Times. The next meeting is at SSM, November 14th at 6 p.m.

confirmation students and friends from Adoration Lutheran Church. We'll leave from Adoration on the afternoon of Thursday, October 29th and return before dinner on Friday the 30th. These are the days when most area schools have off for teacher conferences. We'll have campfire, games, Bible study, and we'll do the low ropes challenge course. Be sure to speak with Kevan or Pastor Gail to register, and invite your friends!

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: "SMASH"

Our congregation is partnering with other churches in Greendale and Greenfield for a fun evening of music, faith building, and games. So remember to set aside the second Sunday of each month, 6:30 to 8. Get your homework done early if you need to, so you don't miss out! Hope to see you then at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in the village. Bring your friends.

CHRISTMAS IN A BOX

The Sunday School children have already begun preparing for this year's Christmas program, Christmas in a Box, which will be held on Sunday, December 20th at 6:30PM!

All Sunday School families should have received a packet of information about this years program including a Sunday School calendar & a program music CD to be used for practice at home in your church mailbox on Rally Day.

Cast selection for this years program will be held on Sunday October 11th during Sunday school.

If you did not receive a packet or your child is interested in having a speaking part but will not be in church on October 11th please contact Stephanie Gordon as soon as possible.

YOUTH HANDCHIMES

The SSM Youth Handchime Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, October 4th, following the 9:30 service. Chimes are open to all students in 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th grade. No experience is necessary and you

do not need to know how to read music to join.

The Handchimes will be featured in this years Sunday School Christmas Program, Senior Choir Concert and during Sunday morning services throughout the spring. Please see Stephanie Gordon with any questions or for more information.



THE YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY PARENT TEAM

presented 14 FaithChests® on Rally Day to 3 year olds beginning Sunday School & 1st grade Sunday School students. FaithChests® are a special box used to collect and store items you receive along your faith journey... baptism candle & cloth, a bible, church program bulletins, etc. The Y&F Parent Team will be presenting a FaithChest to each child in our congregation within the next 3 years. Each FaithChest costs approximately \$20 to make and 39 FaithChest were built by SSM members & friends who attended Family Camp this past summer for the children that will be receiving them this year.

However we are still in need of additional funds to cover the costs of this year's FaithChests® as well as the FaithChests® that will be built and presented in the next 2 years. Please help us achieve our goal by

either sponsoring a FaithChest or donating to the project. See Tim Falksen for more details.

Contact our Discipleship Coach, Kevan Penvose: H:414-258-0858 C:414-702-2346 stillrz7@yahoo.com

And our Youth and Family Chairperson, Char Guiliani: 414-801-7349; minizmom@yahoo.com

Look for SSM Family Ministry on Facebook.

Fellowship

Shelly Rosenstock, Chairperson

Rally Day Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Rally Day picnic. Whether you helped set-up, cook, organize activities, and/or provided wonderful side dishes or desserts, your help is appreciated. A special thank you to everyone who stayed 'after the party' to help with the clean-up.

First Friday Potluck

Friday, October 2nd, at 6:00 pm

Join us for vegetarian lasagna served with crab strudel and other casseroles made by our SSM members and guests. Please sign up on the bulletin board by the office. Include what side dish, salad, dessert and/or casserole you will be bringing. Beverages are provided.

Bring a joke, funny fall story and enjoy the fun of eating and fellowshiping together!

Any questions, see Pastor Gail or Sue Jarchow.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 25 when we will be holding our Reformation Potluck Supper.

Reformation Day is an important festival that is celebrated by Lutherans and Christians of many Protestant denominations. It commemorates Martin Luther's posting of his Ninety-five Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517. This act triggered the movement in world history known as the Reformation. The historical observance date is October 31st, but most churches celebrate on the last Sunday in October.

Two important points from the Reformation are: Justification by Faith - we cannot earn God's love or forgiveness by works. Luther helped rediscover the good news of salvation by grace through faith alone in Christ Jesus, God's only son.

The Priesthood of All Believers - every Christian has his or her own personal relationship with God, reading the Bible and worshipping in his or her own language, and praying directly to God without anyone's going in between (mediation).

On Reformation Day, we glorify God for what He accomplished in 16th century Germany through His servant, Martin Luther, and those who came before and after him.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31)

Human concerns

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

MT. MERU COFFEE PROJECT

We have a supply of Mt Meru Coffee in the narthex and encourage you to try a bag. Bean, drip and decaf are available for \$9.00 per bag.

The Greater Milwaukee Synod is a partner with the Meru Diocese in Tanzania. Pastor Elias Kitoi Nasari, a pastor in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, whose family grows coffee in Tanzania, sends us a message. He states "Asante sana Rafiki" { thank you so much friends}and the Mt Meru Coffee Project for your supportI continue to receive good news and information of how this project has continued to be life-changing and life-transforming among the coffee growers in the foothills of Mt Meru in Arusha, Tanzania.

Thank you for continuing to buy Mt Meru coffee. Doing justice never tasted so good!

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 October 21st 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. Just a heart to serve.

CROP Walk—Stamp Out Hunger!

Get your walking shoes on... it's CROP Walk time again! Mark Your Calendars!

CROP Walk is October 11th. We will carpool from church at 12:30 p.m. and the walk starts at McKinley Marina at 1:30 p.m. Go to the CROP Walk table in the narthex for more information.

It's not too late to walk or to sponsor walkers. Please bring your non-perishable food items to be taken down to the CROP Walk. Help to make a difference in the lives of so many people!

Red Door Ministry

The Red Door 'Store', at St. James Episcopal Church, at 833 W. Wisconsin Ave. (271-1340) is in need of gently used: Men's Clothing, especially large sizes

Hats, coats, mittens or gloves are also needed for the coming winter season.

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

PICK AND SAVE WE CARE FUND

Our Human Concerns has received a quarterly check of \$203.48 from the Pick and Save grocery stores for our "We Care" fund. This check was received because many of our members have signed up for an Advantage Card and have indicated the SSM # 813560, so that we can receive a rebate of 1% of the tape total. We use the rebate checks for the needy, hungry or homeless both here and around the world.

The Human Concerns Committee will be sending a check for \$200.00 to support "The Gathering" for their programs to feed the hungry.

Thank you for your continued support.

Music & Worship

Next Music & Worship Meeting
Wednesday October 7th, @ 6 pm
Cathy Peterson & Sue Jarcow, Chairs

LOOKING AHEAD

We are now entering into October of the church calendar with many things going on. We have seen the green paraments of the Pentecost season but we will be temporarily changing them to red for Reformation Day which occurs this year on the weekend of October 24th and 25th. This is also the day that our church celebrates confirmation. Reformation is a day for giving thanks for Martin Luther and many others who ushered in the Reformation of the church. Reformation recalls the work of God in preserving the church in times of trial. Martin Luther is often referred to on this day as one of the defenders of the truth and a promoter of the gift of God's grace to all.

Decoration Help Is Needed!

The Music and Worship committee is looking for people willing to assist in some way but do not want to make a long term commitment.

We need members to help in decorating the church sanctuary and narthex for the upcoming months for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. Any help that you can give us, would be greatly appreciated. Call Sue Jarchow (526-9785) or Cathy Peterson (325-6628) with any questions or see us at church.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

The Sr. Choir concert is being planned for 5:00 pm, Saturday, December 12th.

The Sunday School Children's Concert, "Christmas in a Box," is 6:30 p.m., Sunday, December 20th.

Please mark these dates on your calendar.

Sue Jarchow & Cathy Peterson,
Co-Chairs

REMEMBER November 1st is the End of Daylight Savings Time "FALL BACK!"

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

Choirs are off to a great start. You are still welcome to join us. We will soon begin preparing music for the Christmas Concert on December 12 at 5:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars.

On October 4 our Handbell Choir will participate in the Clergy of the Greens gathering at St. Alphonsus Church. Please join us for a time of food, music, and fellowship.

On October 12 and 13 I will be leading worship services for the Fall Theological Conference of the Greater Milwaukee Synod at Green Lake. I will also be participating in the Book of Faith retreat here at St. Stephen's on October 23 and 24.

Blessings always. See you at worship.

Stewardship

Forward – Led by the Spirit

Next Stewardship Meeting is
November 3rd at 7:00 pm.

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

Parking lot repair, foundation work, painting, carpeting is complete (Facilities)
Additional youth been invited and participating in ushering, reading and greeting (Music and Worship)
Successful Family Camping Experience, Brewer Game Outing (Intergenerational)
Pictorial Directory arrangements finalized (Mission and Outreach)
Survey and planning for another Bible study offering (Christian Education)

If you would like to get involved in any aspect of Forward Planning implementation or have a question, please feel free to talk to any member of the Forward Planning Team.

The members are: Jim Arneson, Pastor Gail, Bob Gleason, Eric Sanders, and John Muroi.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY & LOOSE ENDS CRAFTING

We will meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month, October 14 @ 9:00 a.m. & October 28 @ 10:15 am. Please join us as we study scripture and enjoy the fellowship of our sisters in Christ.

The Loose Ends Bake & Craft Sale is
December 4th & 5th.

LOOSE ENDS - OCT. 14TH @ 10 a.m.

All crafters are invited to attend the October meeting of the Loose Ends group being held at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We'll work on craft projects for the Bake and Craft sale. We will order lunch. Questions? Carole Ropel (262-523-4130).

PIECEMAKER'S QUILTING GROUP

The last get-together for the year will be on Monday, October 19th at 6:15 p.m. There will be no quilting during the months of November and December. On the 19th, we will meet to do an inventory of our supplies so we can determine what our needs will be when we meet again on January 18, 2010.

On Monday, October 5th, a few individuals are needed to assist with packing the quilts for shipping to Lutheran World Relief. If you are available to help with this task, please call Betty Kroll at 414-421-1802 as soon as possible.

We hope you enjoyed seeing our quilts displayed on September 26 & 27, our Thankoffering weekend. We have so much to be thankful for....the contributions you made of material, thanks to those of you who offered to sponsor a quilt, to those of you who donated sheets for backing, for the many hours the quilters themselves donated to this project.

MANY thanks to Betty Kroll, who leads this effort. We all benefit from her dedication and skill. We pray that our quilts will warm the individuals who will receive them both literally and in spirit!

OTHER NOTES

THE CLERGY OF THE GREENS will be preaching at each others' congregations the weekend of Oct. 3-4. This is World-wide Communion Sunday and a great opportunity to share our common faith. At SSM on Sat. Oct. 3rd Sister Eileen Kazmierowicz, of St. Alphonsus, will be speaking. On Sun., Oct 4, 8:00 am will be Pastor Gail; 9:30 am will be Father Bill Burkert.

ALSO--on Sat. Oct. 3rd at 11:00a.m., as a part of Greendale's "Hay Days" Clergy will bless the pets of any who bring them to the parking lot in front of the Harmony Inn. This is long tradition of the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches, and we will participate!

ON SUNDAY EVENING Oct. 4th from 5:30-7:30, St. Alphonsus Catholic Church will host us all for a time of food, music and fellowship. Each congregation is asked to bring appetizers and dessert and a desire to meet and greet our sisters and brothers in the faith. Our handbells will also be ringing!

A message of forgiveness... A man named Ernie Cassutto received a surprising invitation from a man who had run a Nazi concentration camp during World War II.

Ernie was a Dutch Jew who had suffered in that very camp. While Ernie was still in prison, he was struck by the forgiveness that Jesus showed, and he asked God to help him learn to forgive.

Now, years later, he got that opportunity as he visited the man who had persecuted him. His former jailer was now very sick and struggling to breathe. Ernie writes, "A voice from inside me urged, 'Go kiss him.'"

When Ernie kissed his oppressor's forehead, the elderly man started to weep and apologize. Right there, Ernie led his former jailer to Jesus. This amazing display of God's redeeming grace would never have taken place if Ernie hadn't taken seriously Jesus' words, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

BIBLE STUDY RETREAT Back By Popular Demand!

If you haven't experienced this fun and informative retreat, sign up now for the "REDISCOVERING THE BOOK OF FAITH" Mini-retreat, Friday and Saturday Oct. 23-24. This study is for adults and teens, members and friends. No prior knowledge of the Bible is necessary. No one will be required to speak, and no tests will be given! It's also a great way to meet and get to know others.

This three-session study explores how the Bible came to be our Book of Faith, and what it means for our lives today.

The Bible invites us into a relationship with God. As we hear the Old and New Testament stories and as we study the life of Jesus, we too are formed as God's people of faith.

A sign-up poster is in the narthex. If you have question, see me, Eric Sanders, Bill Bravener, or Pastor Paul Bauman. Sign up soon and bring your Bible.

Schedule:

Friday, Oct. 23 6:00 - Meal and Fellowship

6:45 - I - "Rediscovering the Family Album of God's People

8:30 - Good night!

Sat., Oct. 24 8:45 - Coffee, juice and rolls

9:00 - II - "Rediscovering the Good News of Jesus"

10:30 - Break

10:45 - III - "Rediscovering God's Gift of Grace"

12:15 - Closing Prayer

Shoo the Flu!

The flu season is here!

Seasonal Flu shots & Pneumonia shots will be offered to SSM members on November 15th.

VNA will bill Medicare & Medicaid, just bring your cards with you. They will not bill private insurance companies, but will give a statement to send to your insurance company.

Cost: Flu shot: \$30.00

Pneumonia shot: \$45.00

Blood pressure checks will be done also. Please Note: No one under 9 yrs. will be able to get a flu vaccination. Questions: contact Rae Bauman @ 817-8502

CONDENSED MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2009

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

The 2009 Council members had their annual picture taken for the Church Pictorial directory.

Approvals: The Secretary's minutes from the July 21st, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved with the following corrections. J. Miller was also absent from the July meeting.

Correspondence: S. Lubus read two thank-you letters; one was from Wartburg Seminary for a money donation and the other one was from Santa Fe Lutheran Church for allowing their children to attend our recent Vacation Bible Time. The Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed. The Treasurer's Report was discussed. We are currently \$14,096.47 short in offerings thru September 8th, 2009. The Treasurer's Report was approved. There was a discussion on the loan improvements. All projects have been completed and paid for and there is a \$9,265.63 surplus in the account.

Pastor's Time: Pastor Gail thanked P. Bauman and K. Penrose for preaching in her absence and she was very grateful to have preached at the 20th anniversary of the ordination of Pastor Laurie Stumme-Diers. Confirmation classes are being planned with Pastor S. Ruehle from Adoration and K. Penrose and T. Falksen from SSM. P. Gustafson and Pastor attended a Hunger Conference sponsored by Wi Council of Churches. Pastor presided at one non member wedding of M. Olson and S. Sonnenberg. She officiated at one baptism on July 26th of M. Lentz. There will be a worship and a reception 9/20 in honor of Bishop Stumme-Diers at 3 PM at St. Luke's Lutheran in Waukesha. Clergy of the Greens will involve a blessing of the animals and a clergy exchange, slated for 10/3 and 10/4. SSM will be receiving new members on November 1st, 2009.

Old Action Items: Council Retreat Location and Ideas - J. Muroni asked that the retreat be held at SSM. Pastor Gail asked that another church, possibly St. Luke's might be able to host the retreat. The location is still not set in stone so the council was asked to email their suggestions to J. Muroni

New Action Items:

Family Camp - Several Council members highly praised their recent family camping experience. **CAMP WAS AWESOME!**

Pictorial Update - J. Hennessey stated that the August dates were highly successful and there is a need for an additional date in September & possibly October. All members are encouraged to sign up and have their pictures taken for the directory.

Committee Reports:

Family and Youth Ministries - The youth were treated to an overnight stay at C. Guiliani's house up in northern Wisconsin. Four teens participated in the recent Family Camp. The next family gathering will be at the Gray house on Saturday, 9/18/09. The Brewer's game is scheduled for 9/27, with a tailgate party at church and car-pooling to the game. 60 people have signed up for the event.

Human Concerns - S. Lieske stated that her committee met and are currently working on the School Bag project and will be filling the bags with the Sunday School children on October 4th; they donated \$200.00 to We Care, Flu Shots are scheduled for 11/15 and the next Gathering is set for 9/23/09. Her committee also suggested a church rummage sale to benefit different associations that feed the hungry. This will be held next spring.

Stewardship - J. Covert stated his committee did meet and they decided to go with the Walk with Jesus campaign. Pledge cards are slated to be mailed out to the membership on October 5th. Temple talks will start the first weekend in October.

Music and Worship - S. Jarchow stated that her committee met and reviewed their forward planning goals. Once a month there will be communion bread served instead of communion wafers. She will be ordering additional cranberry hymnals.

Fellowship: S. Rosenstock stated that the next big event is Rally Day/Church picnic scheduled for 9/13/09. There are 55 people slated to attend. Reformation pot luck is scheduled for October 25th, 2009.

Evangelism - J. Hennessey encouraged any member to contact him that is interested in being part of evangelism.

The next Council meeting will be part of the annual retreat on October 16th and 17th.

Respectfully submitted, Shellee Lubus, Church Council Secretary