

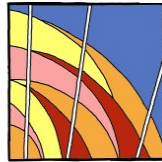
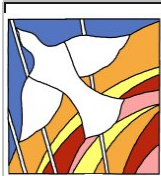


St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA

We come together in Word and Sacrament that we might go to live and serve in the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



the MARTYR MONTHLY

May 2010 Newsletter

St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Office Hours

Mon-Thur 9 AM - 1 PM
Fri 9 AM - 12 PM

SSM Staff

Gail Brodersen-Heins, Pastor
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Lynda Shadd, Office Administrator
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Bob Brownell, Maintenance
Bob De Frank, Sunday School Superintendent
Janet Snyder, Organist

Coming in May...

Pentecost Festival Worship Services

With Holy Communion

Saturday, May 22nd 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 23rd 8 & 9:30 a.m.

"But you shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit comes upon you: and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 9th 8 & 9:30 a.m.

The Youth Chime Choir will perform special music; the Loose Ends Ladies Group will give a special gift to all mothers following each service.

Bring YOUR mother!



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From Pastor's Desk

There's something about the month of May... May brings delight to the eye and ear and nose, as our senses tell us that our Creator has blessed us with delight and beauty all around. Take time to notice and enjoy. Take time often this month to thank God for the gift of new life and the promise of what's in store this spring and

summer.

The Church celebrates the unfolding story of our risen Lord this May:

Our tradition says that forty days after Easter, Jesus led his disciples to a place where he would bless them and give a commission to follow in his footsteps. We call that day the ASCENSION. We get to celebrate Jesus' Ascension with the invitation from Ascension Lutheran Church, 1236 S. Layton Blvd. in Milwaukee to worship with congregations of our Synod. The date is Thursday, May 13 at 7:00p.m. Join SSM confirmation students, teachers and parents for a joyful and exciting Holy Communion worship. Area church choirs are invited to participate. If you'd like to sing with the mass choir, see our Music Director Bill Bravener for details. Car pooling to Ascension can be arranged. See me about that.

PENTECOST is celebrated this year on Saturday and Sunday, May 22-23. RED is the color to wear! The Day of Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian Church. The living and ascended Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit on his disciples, fulfilling his promise to "send another Counselor," who with a lively wind and fire, energized the disciples. Come worship as we are renewed and refreshed by the Spirit's power and the presence of the risen Lord Jesus!

Mother's Day is not a Church festival, but we salute all mothers on the weekend of May 8-9 and thank them for their year-around love and devotion. If you read this newsletter, you will see that there are several special ways we'll celebrate!

Finally, remember to honor the gifts of creation with which God has entrusted us. We will try harder to be a conservation-minded congregation, and you can help by recycling bulletins and other paper. There is an attractive basket in the narthex for this purpose. A "Green Committee" (whose name may change) is forming and we are looking for your ideas and ways that you take care of God's good earth, sky water and its creatures. Watch for upcoming articles and signs. See me if you'd like to meet to share visions and ideas.

CELEBRATE CHRIST'S RESURRECTION AND OUR NEW LIFE IN HIM! See you at worship.

Family Ministry News

Date	Time	Activity
May 1		New Member Luncheon -babysitters needed
May 22	6:00 PM	Family Ministries Gathering
TBA		Glow Mini-golf (Southridge Mall)

Come Get Your Hot Dogs!

During the Human Concerns rummage sale on Saturday, May 22nd, Family Ministries will be selling hot dogs, chips and soda. We need families and teens that will be going to camp to help setup, sell and clean up. The funds raised will help defer the cost of Family Camp for those members helping out.

The next family gathering will be held on May 22nd at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

We are looking for a few babysitters for the New Member's Breakfast on Saturday, May 1st. Contact Char Guiliani (414) 801-7349 if you are interested in helping out or have questions.

Summer's Almost Here!

Join Us At Camp!!

Still trying to plan a summer vacation? Come to camp! We'll be heading to Imago Dei Village in Clintonville, WI from Sunday August 15th through Friday August 20th. With six action-packed days, all meals provided, private lodging, top-notch summer staff, and great Christ-centered activities, this is the supreme family getaway! Families of any size are welcome! Any teens attending without their families will be "adopted" by a family for the week. Three fundraisers have already been scheduled to help offset camp costs! Registration deadline (with \$25 deposit/family) is May 31st. Please see Char Guiliani, Stephanie Gordon, Tim Falksen or Family Ministries section of the kiosk for more information & registration forms.



Vacation Bible School—June 21-25

Set sail this summer on a High Seas adventure and loads of VBS fun! Feel the sea spray on your face and watch the sea gulls soar overhead as you experience the deep rolling waters of God's love!

Join us Monday, June 21 through Friday, June 25 from 4:45 to 8:15 pm

\$20 per child or \$40 per family, for ages 3 to completed 5th grade

Dinner is included!

Registration Forms are available on the Sunday School Bulletin Board or you can:

Register online and check out our VBS Kids Activity pages at our website..

Go to: www.ststephenthemartyr.com



VBS Leader Meetings

VBS Station Leader Meeting

Sunday, May 23rd,

10:45 a.m. following the 9:30 service

Meet in the pre-school room in lower level for a discussion of the new VBS program and receive your materials.

Station Leader & Crew Leader Training Meeting

Sunday, June 13th,

10:45 a.m. following the 9:30 service.

In lower level preschool room

Crew leaders needed—See Sue DeFrank

Annual VBS Fundraiser—Sue's Bake Shop Treats

Saturday, May 8th & Sunday, May 9th

Bill Andersen & Stephanie Gordon will be presenting a special skit for the 9:30 service on Sunday, May 9th.

And Sue DeFrank will be baking up some goodies to raise monies for this year's VBS.

Please help us to be able to continue offering this exciting summer event for our children and those of our partner church, Faith/SantaFe Lutheran. If you would like to help sponsor a child from Faith/Santa Fe please contact Sue DeFrank.

Contact our Council Chair for Family Ministries

Char Guliani

minizmom@yahoo.com & on Facebook

Fellowship

First Friday Potluck

MAY 7th 6:00 PM

We will begin our spring season of potlucks with a cookout with hamburgers and bratwursts. This will give a taste of the approaching summer time.

Bring a salad, dessert, or side dish to tempt our taste buds.

Bring also jokes, stories, or share a favorite memory.

Please sign up on the bulletin board by the church office. A \$2.00 donation is requested to assist in the cost for the meat.

All members and friends are welcome, especially those who live alone.

Where else can one find such good fellowship, humor, and good food.

SSM Member Wins National Peace Essay Contest!

Gunnar Raasch, 11th grade student at Milwaukee High School of the Arts, is the first place winner for the State of Wisconsin in the National Peace Essay Contest. He will receive a \$1,000 scholarship when he goes on a five-day, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June. Gunnar and students from each state and U.S. Territory will visit embassies, meet legislators, foreign policy scholars and diplomats, and study international peace initiatives.

Gunnar's essay on the theme, "The Effectiveness of Nonviolent Civic Action" focused on the Singing Revolution of Estonia, a national movement in which music played a central role in a nonviolent protest against Soviet rule. Over 1,200 essay entries were submitted nationwide.

Congratulations, Gunnar!

Human concerns

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

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

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

CONTINUING TO HELP THE COMMUNITY

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

RED DOOR CLOTHING STORE

The Red Door, at St. James Episcopal Church, at 833 W. Wisconsin Ave. (271-1340) is in need of gently used:
Men's light summer clothing, especially large sizes
Women's & Children's summer clothing.
Please place your donations in the coat room. Any questions, please call Mary Luedtke @ 414-281-5898.

Live Simply So Others Can Simply Live Rummage Sale

Plans for the May 22nd Rummage Sale are moving along. Church members can start dropping off their donations Sunday May 16th. They should be placed in the coatroom next to the Sanctuary. Sign up for jobs started Sunday, March 14.

We could still use more helpers and the sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board by the church office. All proceeds from the sale will go to our two local food pantries, Bayview Community Center and Central City Food Pantry.

We are especially looking for children's items, both clothing and toys. We will not be accepting adult clothing. Please save your bags as we will need them for the sale.

Special Offerings Touch Many with the Practical Love of God

God's blessings and many thanks! Because of your generosity through our "Special Offerings" we were able to help support the following:

Ash Wednesday—El Salvador Endowment Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Synod—\$343.00

Lent—Outreach for Hope of Greater Milwaukee Synod—\$935.00

Palm Sunday—Outreach for Hope of Greater Milwaukee Synod—\$233.00

Maundy Thursday—ELCA Missionaries, the Grow-Hanson's—\$282.00

Good Friday—ELCA Missionaries, the Grow-Hanson's—\$152.00

Easter Sunday—Repairers of the Breach 1/2, Meru Diocese 1/2—\$927.00

We offer our deep appreciation for your help in support of these important causes! "Whatever you do to the least of your brothers and sisters," Jesus said, "that you do unto me."

Music & Worship

Music & Worship Meeting is May 5th at 6 p.m. Please come and join us to plan, share ideas and perhaps join our committee.

We celebrated Easter day and the resurrection of our Lord and now we celebrate the season of Easter for 50 days when we will move into the time of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples so they could carry on His work and establish the church throughout the world. The primary color for Pentecost is red for zeal and fire.

The time after Pentecost comprises the liturgical season approximately half of the church year. This season may have 24-28 Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. The paraments and banners will be green after the Pentecost weekend. The Sundays after Pentecost focus on the ministry and teachings of Jesus. It is a season of growth for the church, as the people of God listen to the call of the Holy Spirit and respond in faith.

The Music and Worship committee would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all who assisted in the Lenten

services. We would also like to mention committee members: Karen Rasmussen, Karen Miller, Cathy Peterson, Faith O'Connell, Bob DeFrank, Bob Rasmussen for coordinating volunteers for the services and decorating. A special THANK YOU to Pastor Gail for all of her time shepherding the flock throughout the Lenten season. Thanks to Bill Bravener and all of the musicians for the wonderful music.
- Sue Jarchow & Cathy Peterson, Co-Chairs

Easter Breakfast in Retrospect

Members of St. Stephen the Martyr - you did it! Take a bow! You reached and then exceeded the goal to raise \$800 to feed the hungry. When all donations were counted, exactly \$1,003 had been given. Added to this will be an \$800 match of money from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to help us contribute to the needs of two community food pantries.

Imagine the joy when Central City and Bay View food pantries receive checks for \$901.50 each, to help them purchase food for the needy.

A big thank you is extended to all who attended the breakfast and donated so generously. It is to be noted that the number of people served at our breakfast was 184, which was an all-time record for the number of guests served in our church history.

To provide the food and service for this year's breakfast, 45 adults unselfishly worked to produce a delicious meal of scrambled eggs, hard-boiled eggs, hot ham, fresh rolls, home-baked sweet breads, fruit, juice, and coffee.

And to serve the food, eight of our red-aproned youth volunteered to wait tables under the watchful eye of Carol Malinowski. Special recognition goes to our youth - Alaina Anderson, Alex Covert, Sidney Covert, Kyle Kriewaldt, Cole Larson, Jack Larson, Jacob Malinowski, and Monica Sweet for being at SSM so early to serve the food.

Finally, it is interesting to note, that the great majority of men and women who worked for the breakfast are returnees, veterans, who volunteer year after year to do the same jobs out of love and unselfish devotion to their church. For this we owe them our sincere gratitude and respect.

Co - Chairs : Bob Rasmussen & Shelly Rosenstock

Music Notes from Bill Bravener

Director of Music/Associate in Ministry

The church calendar for the month of May includes Ascension, Pentecost, and the Holy Trinity. The secular calendar for the month of May includes Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day. It's truly another busy month.

This month choir rehearsals conclude for the summer. This gives me the opportunity to again thank the dedicated members of our Senior Choir and Handbell Choir for their fine work. These talented individuals gladly share their time and talent, and we all owe them a word of thanks. I appreciate their fine music which plays an important role in our worship services. I appreciate their dedication in attending rehearsals and worship. Whenever I ask them to go the extra mile, they are always willing to do so. I am honored to direct these wonderful musicians. God's blessings to all of you!

See you at worship!

- Bill



The Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, May 12 & May 26 @ 10:15 am. All are invited to come as we study the following Sunday's Scripture texts.

LOOSE ENDS LUNCHEON

Where: That's Amoré, Hales Corners (Hwy 100 & Edgerton)

When: Wednesday, May 12th

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Please sign up by May 9th. The form is posted on the kiosk in the narthex. Indicate if you will need a ride from your home or if you want to car-pool from church. We will leave church around 11:30 a.m. Questions: Dolores Dowling 414-327-4185 or Mary Luedtke 414-281-5898

NEEDED –

ORGANIZERS FOR THE LOOSE ENDS LUNCHEONS

Ladies, please consider offering to organize the once a month Loose Ends Luncheons.

We have had organizers through the month of May but have need of volunteers for the months of June, July and August.

It is not a difficult position. You get to determine where the luncheon is to be held and contact that restaurant with an anticipated number attending. You will send Lynda Shadd a notice for the SSM Newsletter with the date and location by the 15th of the month prior to the luncheon, place a sign-up sheet on the kiosk about three weeks before the event, and call the restaurant with the actual number attending a day or so before the luncheon.

Please call Carole Ropel (262-523-4130) with your offer to serve. Thank you so much.

REMINDER... A FIVE STAR RETREAT Relax—Renew -Reconnect—Refresh—Rejoice

A reminder that there are still a few days left to register for the Five StaR Retreat that is being held on May 14-15 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Watertown. Registration forms are on the kiosk with complete detail including the Agenda. Here are the basic details:

When: May 14-15 (You may choose to come only on the 15th)

Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 211-213 North 9th Street, Watertown WI 53094 (an approximate one hour drive from Greendale.)

Cost: \$10, plus a free-will offering taken at lunch to defray the cost of the meal

Hotel for Friday evening: Super 8, 1730 S. Church Street (Hwy. 26)

Cost: \$72.79 for two people. Call 1-800-800-80000 for reservations. Mention you are with the Women of the ELCA.

Other Notes

Memorial Committee News

The Memorial Committee met on March 20th, 2010.

We approved funds for two new Easter Banners, which arrived just in time to be displayed on Easter Sunday. Discussions were had in regard to a pair of long banners for regular viewing, non-seasonal. Funds were approved for that future purchase also.

Dick Kroll is updating the giving items suggested in our brochure. The need for energy efficient windows in the office was discussed and funds were approved for that purpose. The Property committee will be notified. The Memorial Garden project was referred to the Council for their input. A committee will be assembled to explore the next steps to be taken. If anyone is interested please contact any members of the Memorial Committee.

The next regular meeting of the committee will be June 12th, 2010. Your committee members are: Sandy Petricek, Pastor Gail, Dick Kroll, Shirley Rau, Carol Birk, Marge Muroi, Karen Hoffman and me...

- Faith O'Connell

Stone's Throw Blog

INTRODUCING OUR NEW BLOG: STONE'S THROW

(Written by Julie Starks)

Target launch date is June 1! You will find a link on the side panels of the SSM website now, but we won't begin posting until June 1: www.ststephenthemartyr.com

The St. Stephen the Martyr website based blog will initially revolve around book discussions. We will begin with the bestseller "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. This is the story of how a young mountaineer, Greg Mortenson, became an internationally known humanitarian for building schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The story begins in 1993 and continues today with Mr. Mortenson's Central Asia Institute. For more information on his work go to: www.ikat.org.

Why blog? A blog is a way for people to share comments on a topic that respects today's busy schedules.

Participants can drop in anytime, read, comment (or not) as they wish. My hope is that this opportunity will connect more of our congregation through technology in a discussion-like format. And this format is not limited to our congregation! We may find that friends, relatives and friends of friends from many places will join in on our exploration of various topics.

Why Stone's Throw? With this blog, we are just a "stone's throw" from conversation with fellow members of St. Stephen the Martyr. And the stone is a reference to how Stephen was killed and became the first martyr for the early Church.

Want to participate? What to do next? We will begin discussion of "Three Cups of Tea" in early June.

Find a copy of the book and begin reading.

Go to: www.threecupsoftea.com and note the reading guide questions. We will use that guide to begin our

discussion.

Send me an e-mail to let me know you want to participate. I will e-mail more information as we get the blog set-up! jastarks@earthlink.net

Watch for updates in the weekly bulletins and on a poster in the narthex (sometime in May) on how to access our blog.

FYI, the second book in our discussion will be "The Faith Club, A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew - Three Women Search for Understanding". We will begin that discussion in the fall.

Council Minutes

CONDENSED MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON April 13, 2010

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

Approvals: Secretary's minutes from March 2010 Council meeting approved with minor changes. Stewardship Committee will provide monthly financial update rather than weekly update. Yusuf Muhammad's name was misspelled and should have been Yusuf Mohamed.

Change to November 2009 minutes: regarding a garden to be planted at rear of church lot. Minutes should have said the garden would either be considered a Peace Garden or a Memorial Garden. Also, the garden is not dedicated to her late husband, P. Eklund, but some of his memorial money and other money dedicated in memory of other members will be used toward garden.

Treasurer's Report was given by J. Bugajski. As of April 11, 2010 total offerings are short \$2,420.55 or 97.18% of weekly budgeted amount.

Pastor's Time: Pastor expressed many thanks to Music & Worship Committee for their hard work during Holy Week and Easter services. She also thanked B. Bravener, S. Rosenstock B. Rasmussen and D. Winter for the wonderful music and successful Easter breakfast. She thanked everyone who participated in Good Friday Clergy of the Green Corners Walk. Four adults will be joining SSM at upcoming New Member service. She encouraged everyone to become a "greener" congregation; greening activities to be highlighted April 24/25. She presided at wedding of K. Myren and L. Mundigler on March 20th. Members invited to join her at Ascension at 1236 S. Layton on May 13 at 7 PM, Festival of Ascension, which our confirmation students and parents will be attending.

Old Action Items:

2010-2011 Council Terms - E. Sanders is in process of finding members interested in chairing Fellowship and Human Concerns Committees. Also looking for a youth to serve on Council.

Guest Presentations: Bob DeFrank requested approval from Council to have annual bake sale to help fund Vacation Bible School (VBS). Also wants members to sponsor a child from our partner church, Santa Fe. The cost for sponsorship is \$20.00 a child or \$40.00 per family. Bake sale scheduled weekend of May 8/9.

J. Starks, S. and L. Petricek reported on progress of Memorial Garden. \$5,000 has been raised, & cost for everything, except plants is at \$24,000. The committee of seven will have a booth in narthex so members can see progress of project and give input.

Committee Reports:

Family and Youth Ministries - C. Guiliani highlighted this month's activities: Admirals game - 14 adults and 10 children attended. 30-Hour Famine: April 23-24. Students will sleep in cardboard boxes outside of church. Spaghetti fundraiser scheduled April 24. Next Family Ministries event will take place May 22.

Human Concerns - S. Lieske reported rummage sale is May 22, & will be held outside, weather permitting. Members should participate by bringing in items to be sold at rummage. Committee prepared 65 health kits. Still looking into purchasing a defibrillator for church, but cautioned against buying an oxygen tank, as it is dangerous to operate.

Christian Education - E. Sanders reported that People of Faith series will be held Thursdays, Saturdays & Sundays. Sign up in narthex. Starting June 1, J. Starks will lead an inspirational and religious book club blog on our web site.

Stewardship - J. Covert reported 26 out of 140 members have completed a Time & Talent survey and once all forms are completed they will be putting information on a database. Encouraged members to complete forms and leave them in his church mailbox or hand them to him personally.

Music Church and Worship - S. Jarchow thanked her committee for all of their efforts during the past Easter season.

Fellowship - S. Rosenstock thanked B. Rasmussen for his never ending involvement with the Easter breakfast and that a little over a \$1,000 was raised and 184 people participated in this year's meal.

Evangelism - J. Hennessy stated that his committee will be hosting a new member reception this Sunday and on Saturday, May 1st there is a brunch being served for all members who have joined SSM within the last 2-3 years. This is a great way for newer members to connect with older members. The breakfast starts at 9 am.

Property - J. Arneson reported that April 24th is the Spring Clean Up Event and that he is soliciting ideas on how we can store property on the outside the church building. He also commented that the Forward Planning Committee is reconvening to talk with Committee Chairs about the progress made in relation to the Forward Planning goals set up last year.

Next Council meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted, Shellee Lubus

Council Secretary

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