

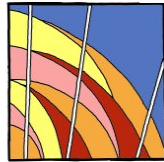
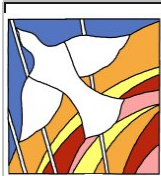


St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA

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

November 2010 Newsletter

St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church, ELCA

6101 South 51st Street
Greendale, WI 53129
PHONE & FAX: 421-3543
E-MAIL: ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com
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Office Hours

Monday 9 AM - 1 PM
Tue - Thur 9 AM - 2 PM
Fri 9 AM - 12 PM

SSM Staff

Gail Brodersen-Heins, Pastor
pastorgail@ststephenthemartyr.com
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Bob Brownell, Maintenance
Bob De Frank, Sunday School Superintendent
Janet Snyder, Organist

All Saints Weekend

November 6 & 7 @ SSM

We mourn those loved ones who have died,
we give thanks for their witness to the faith,
we light candles in their memory, and
we celebrate Holy Communion at all services.

Giving thanks for the life, death and resurrection
of Jesus Christ our Lord.



inside this issue:

Thanksgiving Eve

*Join us for a special
Communion Service of Thanksgiving
Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010 @ SSM
7:00 p.m.*

Come and give thanks to our gracious Father for the bounty He's
bestowed on us throughout this year.

Let us also bless others by bringing non-perishable food items to
give to those in need.

- From Pastor's Desk
- Christian Education
- Evangelism
- Fellowship Ministries
- Human Concerns
- Music & Worship
- Stewardship
- Women's Ministries
- Other Notes

From Pastor's Desk

GIVE THANKS!

I am writing this article as I watch in amazement as the first of thirty-three Chilean miners is lifted to the surface after two months underground! What a miracle is unfolding! What joy we see as this man is embraced by his two young sons and his wife. Hundreds of people have camped out around the mine for weeks, and tonight there they are waiting along with world-wide media and even the President of the country. Are there any more thankful people in all world then these miners and their families? This night their joy stretches to the far corners of the earth, as we all share in giving thanks to God for the agreeable way they lived together in harrowing circum-stances and now, for this miraculous rescue.

Maybe our lives haven't taken such a dramatic turn. Maybe we don't feel very blessed these days. It's so easy for us to take for granted all that we have. Has God given you good things? In our culture, that often implies a big house, a fancy car, and steak for dinner. But if you have a home that you love, an older car and dinners of mac-and-cheese sometimes, you are blessed with good things, indeed. Good things don't have to cost a lot of money.

Your best relationships are priceless. Think of your beloved family members, even the eccentric or crabby ones. Think of your reliable and supportive friends. Think of fellow church members. They, too, are gifts from God, who knows how to give the best.

What about a sunset filled with vibrant colors, a simple ride in the car on a Sunday afternoon, a drink of water that quenches thirst as no other beverage can? God has given generously, in many more ways than we often consider.

This month we get to observe All Saints weekend, as we remember to give thanks for the gift of loved ones who have died and who now rest in the loving arms of the Savior.

We also get to show our thanks to God for the many blessings we receive by making a pledge to give generously for the many ministries of our congregation. Prayerfully consider how you will support your church with your monetary gifts in the coming year.

And on the eve of the national holiday we call Thanksgiving, we will come together to worship and praise God and to receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, a most precious gift. We give thanks for Jesus who gives us forgiveness, life and salvation. Plan to worship with the family of faith here on Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 7:00 p.m.

I give thanks for so many blessings. I give thanks for all of you, and for your faithful witness to the love of God. See you at worship!

Your partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Gail

Evangelism

NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED

Sunday , November 14th, at the 9:30 a.m. Service

Extend a hand of hearty welcome to those who will be received into membership on November 1st! There will be a coffee and cake reception in their honor immediately following the 9:30 service in the Fellowship Hall. Please introduce yourself, wear your nametag, and continue to make these brothers and sisters feel at home. If you are part of a committee, Bible study, music group, etc., invite them personally to join you. Offer to pick them up! Get to know them! Our church is made strong by the Holy Spirit and also by the spirit of fellowship and shared ministry.

- Pastor Gail & the Evangelism Committee

Family Ministry News

<i>Upcoming Events</i>		
Date	Time	Event
November 5	7:00 PM	Kutless Concert @ Elmbrook Church
November 13	6:00 PM	Family Gathering Meeting @ SSM

CALLING ALL YOUTH & YOUNG AT HEART

Come and hear contemporary style music intended to reach many with Christ's love at an awesome concert by the Christian group, Kutless, with Sidewalk Prophets and Above the Golden State

Date: Friday, November 5th, 2010 Time: 6 p.m.

Cost: \$16

Place: Elmbrook Church, 777 South Barker Rd

Brookfield, WI 53045

Anyone interested, please call Char at 801-7349. Check out their website at www.kutless.com.

FAMILY GATHERING EVENT

Sat. November 13, at 6 pm.

Come join us at the next Family Gathering! Families of all sizes and all youth are welcome. We will discuss a mission statement and goal(s) we would like to set for our group, along with ideas for upcoming "winter" events. It's going to be held at St. Stephen the Martyr. If you have any questions or if you would like to host this event, please contact Char Guilianani at 414-801-7349

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING 2012

July 18-22, yes, 2012, ELCA youth will gather—again—in New Orleans, not to cheer on the Saints football team, but to stand with the saints of God in that place: the young and the old, the privileged and the uninvited, the lonely and the claimed, the powerful and the shamed, the weak and the strong, those who have built new homes and those still struggling to rebuild.

Why go back? Because New Orleans has more to teach us about fresh starts made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. New Orleans has more to teach us about generosity and about how to be good neighbors. New Orleans has more to teach us about the house that God is building.

The ELCA Youth Gathering recommends that youth participants be between 14 and 18 years of age and entering 9th grade in the fall of 2012 (completed 8th in the spring of 2012) or just graduated from high school in the spring of 2012. Check out cool details at: www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Youth-Ministry/Youth-Gathering.aspx

If you want to attend this radical event, contact Char Guilianani minizmom@yahoo.com or Tim Falksen tfalksen@gmail.com.

Bell Ringers, Unite!

It's that time of year again, bells will be ringing! Actually, we will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army. The Youth and Family date is Saturday, December 11, 2010 from 10a-9pm. Sign up for an hour, or more if you would like. There will be a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the narthex. If you can't make this date, please contact John Rech, he has additional dates available.

Any questions please call Char Guilianani 414-801-7349 or John Rech 414-546-1576.

"A Piece of Christmas"

The Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 19th at 6 p.m.

A piece of fabric brings the Christmas story to life as it weaves its way through every detail of the birth of our Lord in this wonderful faith-filled musical, A Piece of Christmas. With new Christmas songs and fresh arrangements of traditional carols, you will be reminded that the best piece of Christmas is the Savior . . . the one who fills our lives with love, joy and hope.

Program Rehearsals:

December 4—Speaking parts only (9-10 am)

December 11—Christmas Program Rehearsal (9-10:30 am) and Senior Choir Concert during the 5 pm Service.

Children warm up at 4:30 in Luther Room

December 18—Dress Rehearsal (9-10:30 am)

December 19—Program begins at 6:00 pm.

Children will warm up at 5:30 p.m. in the Luther Room

Chimes warm up at 5 p.m.

December 26th—No Sunday School

Kids! What Was for Dinner on the First Thanksgiving?

The first Thanksgiving was a celebration of rejoicing with harvest foods between the Pilgrims and Native American Wampanoag Indians. Traditionally back in 1621 they would have had deer, wild turkey, fish, duck, goose, wild cranberries, blueberries, cherries, carrots, turnips, onions, cabbages, and corn (maize). It was a feast to celebrate God's faithfulness even in hardship, the freedom they now had to worship Him in this new land, for the harvest, and for their new friendships with the native people. This celebration of feasting and games lasted for three days! Here's a Thanksgiving treat you can make:

Turkey Hand Print Cookies

Sugar Cookie dough

White frosting

Candy corn for beaks and feet

Red hots for the eye

Roll sugar cookie dough out on floured surface. Place kids clean hand on the dough and with toothpick trace around hand. Remove their hand then cut out with sharp knife.

Place on greased cookie sheet or parchment paper lined cookie sheet. Continue with all dough. Bake at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes. Let cool. Have kids decorate with white frosting, a candy corn beak, 2 candy corn feet and a red hot for an eye.

Contact our Council Chair for Family Ministries

Char Guliani

minizmom@yahoo.com & on Facebook

Human concerns

NEXT MEETING:

NOVEMBER 3, 6:30 PM

Call Pam Gustafson, 817-3290, with any questions. We welcome any member who'd like to join us.

CROP WALK UPDATE

This year's 25th annual Greater Milwaukee CROP Walk on October 10th was a great success with absolutely fabulous weather! Thank you to everyone who participated by walking, sponsoring a walker or donating food to help those who have to walk everyday just to survive. A preliminary tally shows SSM walkers raised almost \$1,300! We'll announce the official total after all pledges are collected.

Walkers for SSM were

Pastor Gail, Tim Falksen, Alex Fischer, Sammie Humphries, Jacob Malinowski, Karen Miller, Mike and Tracy Wholean, Jessica, Lauryn and Reyna Ramintho, Shelly Rosenstock, Kelly Sachse, Julie Starks, and Alissa Voegeli (from Adoration Lutheran), We hope you'll consider joining us next year!

- Kelly Sachse, coordinator

WORLD HUNGER APPEAL

The last Sunday in November will begin the season of Advent. Each year during the Advent season, the Human Concerns Committee highlights the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

One billion of our neighbors are living in poverty. They struggle to live on less than a dollar a day, without enough food to eat or clean water to drink. The ELCA is working to change this. The ELCA World Hunger Appeal responds to global hunger and poverty by addressing its root causes. Each gift to this cause, no matter how large or small, is greatly appreciated.

Watch for World Hunger Appeal coin boxes and envelopes which will be available November 28th.

CHRISTMAS GIFT COLLECTION FOR BAY VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

Once again this year we will provide Christmas gifts for fifteen children and fifteen senior adults through the Bay View Community Center.

By late November we will have the information available to donors to choose a gift for a child or an elderly adult. We have been informed that Bay View will be picking up the gifts at St Stephen the Martyr on Monday, December 13th. Therefore, we will need to keep this deadline in mind as we prepare for the Christmas holiday. Watch for more information soon and watch for our display in the narthex. Thanks for your

enthusiastic support for this project each and every year!

- Carol Birk

Coffee News

Mt. Meru Coffee is a great complement to your Thanksgiving meal!

We have coffee available for purchase on the table, but if you do not see what you want you may place an order on the sheet provided. Coffee can be ordered on Sunday and is usually delivered by Friday. Each bag whether reg. or decaf, bean or ground, is only \$9.00.

Doing Justice Never Tasted So Good!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Warm thanks to all for helping with the "School Bag" project! Whether you donated supplies or fabric, sewed, cut, pressed bags, helped fill or pack them—all help was greatly appreciated. Special thanks to the Sunday School children for their help filling the bags—we certainly enjoyed their smiling faces!

Simple things can mean the difference between despair and recovery for children and families in the aftermath of a crisis. Thanks for putting your faith to action—we sent out 275 bags to the Lutheran World Relief project.

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 fall/ winter clothing:

Any men's clothing, especially large sizes

Women's & children's: jeans, sweatshirts, lg sleeve shirts, hats, coats, mittens or gloves are also needed for this time of year.

Please place donations in the coat room. Any questions, please call Mary Luedtke @ 414-281-5898 or 208-1744.

PICK 'N SAVE HELPS 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 SSM as your designated charity: # 813560.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Dale and I mail care packages every month to our troop members. They are packed with a variety of items such as snacks, batteries, powdered drinks, etc. and personal notes (which they love to receive), etc. Please call 414-221-9793 with your address of a family member or friend that is serving our great country.

If you are from a business or a person who wants to help by showing your support for our troops, please contact us for a detail list of items that our troop members would like. Arrangements can be made for picking up or dropping off of donations.

- Sherry & Dale Magner



Music & Worship

Next Music & Worship Meeting

Wednesday, November 3rd at 6:00 pm

During the month of November, we will be celebrating:

All Saints Day—November 6 & 7

The liturgical colors will be white. Holy Communion will be served at all services. This festival commemorates all the baptized people of God who have died in the faith. SSM traditionally has a memorial service involving the lighting of candles on this day.

Christ the King—November 20 and 21 This is the last Sunday of Pentecost. On Christ the King Sunday, Christians recognize and worship Christ as king of heaven and earth for all time without challenge and without end. The liturgical color for this day is also white. The new church liturgical calendar begins.

Thanksgiving Eve—November 24th

There will be a special Wednesday evening service to celebrate our thankfulness for God's many blessings at 7 p.m. with Holy Communion. Join us in giving thanks!

Advent begins on the Sunday closest to November 30th; this year it is November 27th and 28th, and continues

for four weeks— ending on Christmas Eve.

It is the time of waiting and preparation for the arrival of Christ. The liturgical colors are blue, for hope and anticipation.

Decorating the Church for the Holidays

The Music and Worship is looking for volunteers to assist our committee in decorating the sanctuary, narthex, and other areas of SSM during the upcoming season of Advent and Christmas. It may be a one time opportunity for you or maybe more if time permits. Anyone wishing to assist the committee in any way, please contact Sue Jarchow, 414-526-9785; Cathy Peterson, 414-325-6628; or Karen Rasmussen, 414-421-5170.

Loving As Jesus Loved

The passion of Jesus for the lost should be an ever-motivating love among the people of God. We remind ourselves that we are to love and care for those who disagree and even oppose us. The church's purpose, as declared and demonstrated by Jesus, is to seek and to save the lost. So despite the outward obstacles and the inner fears, God's people engage the unconvinced in conversation about the Good News. Spread the News today!

Save the date!

The annual hors d'oeuvres and dessert reception will be held on Saturday, December 11th, immediately following the 5 pm Advent concert.

Watch for more information in the December newsletter.

MUSIC NOTES FROM BILL BRAVENER, Director of Music, Associate in Ministry

During this month when we are especially thankful for all of God's blessings, I again express my thanks to all of you. Thank you to the loyal choir members who faithfully share their time and talents. Thank you to all who attend worship which gives the choirs and me the opportunity to share our music as we glorify God. Thank you to my colleague, Pastor Gail; the church staff; and all the volunteers who all dedicate their skills to the church.

Please mark your calendars for our Advent/Christmas Concert, "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" on Saturday, December 11 at 5:00 p.m. The choirs are busy preparing music for the event which will be followed by a reception. Please plan to attend.

See you at worship.

- Bill

"For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."

Ephesians 1:15-17

Stewardship

Next Stewardship meeting is

November 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

MAKE IT SIMPLE BY GIVING WHAT YOU HAVE

Do you remember the story of two country boys talking over the back fence; one asked, "Bob, if you had a million dollars, would you give me half of it?" Bob replied, "George, you know I would." So, George questioned again, "If you had a thousand dollars, would you give me five hundred?" "George, we have been friends for over twenty years," Bob continued, "you know I would give you five hundred dollars if I had a thousand." Well, George scratched his chin and asked, "If you had two hogs, would you give me one?" Bob shouted loudly, "That's not fair! You know I have two hogs."

Have you ever heard people say something like that? Most of us have heard people say if God would let them win the lottery, they would give half of it to the church, spend a lot on helping the poor, and live on the rest. Clearly, God never requires of us to give what we do not have. All He asks of us is to share with Him what He has given to us—in good times and in uncertain ones. Simply, He asks us to share what we have.

In following Jesus in these changing times, we remember his encouraging words—"Do not worry! God has provided for all your needs!"

Commitment Weekend is November 6th - 7th. In preparation, we ask you to reflect on Matthew 6:25-33: Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life ...But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

We also ask you and your family to please pray on how best to respond in completing your annual pledge card. You are God's Good Steward. Continue to trust in His abundance, grace, and love. Give generously from what He has given to you. It is that simple.

Thank you for your continuing support.

—Your Stewardship Committee



THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will meet at 10:15 a.m. on November 10 & 24. Everyone is invited to come as we study the following Sunday's scripture texts.

LOOSE ENDS LUNCH

Where: Casa Di Giorgio, 3137 W. Rawson Ave, Franklin

When: Wednesday, November 10th

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Please sign up by November 7 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 can be directed to Karen Hoffman at 421-9249.

PIECEMAKERS QUILTING

There will be no quilting during the months of November and December. Quilting resumes on January 17, 2011.

THE LOOSE ENDS ANNUAL BAKE & CRAFT SALE

DATE: DECEMBER 4 - 5

Our crafting and preparation continues for the annual December Bake and Craft Sale. The upcoming dates are: November 3, November 17, and December 1, all beginning at 9:15 a.m.

You are welcome to join us and we'd be happy for your help.

If you have any questions, please call Carole Ropel at 262-523-4130.

READY, SET, BAKE!

Your donations of baked goods would be most appreciated at our December sale! So that we know to expect your contribution, please place your name on the sign-up form outside of the church office. All baked goods should be brought to the church on Saturday, December 4th between 10 a.m. - noon, or between 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. or as early on December 5th as possible.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS

If you have homemade crafts you are donating to the Bake & Craft Sale, please notify Carole Ropel (262-523-4130). Please have your donations to the church by December 1st. A BIG thank you from Loose Ends for all your contributions.

"SEEDS OF FAITH"

is the Theme of the Fall Event Offered by the Women of the ELCA, Clusters III and IV and Women of the Coalition

We are honored to have Venice Williams as our speaker. Venice is the Executive Director of SeedFolks Youth Ministry, and the Community Program Coordinator of Alice's Urban Garden.

When: Saturday, November 13, 2010

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church, 5500 West Greenfield Ave, West Milwaukee

Cost: \$7

Registration: 8:30 am

Breakfast: 9 am, served by the women of St. John's

Welcome & Announcements - 9:45 am followed by a brief Worship service.

Bible Study and Program - Venice Williams

The Registration deadline is November 3rd. Forms are on the kiosk. Mail your check and Registration Form to:

Jan Fox, Treasurer, 4120 Carnaby Lane, New Berlin, WI 53151

Other Notes

FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK

NOVEMBER 5TH AT 6:00 PM

Come and join in a Thanksgiving Feast on the first Friday of November. It is a harvest of great food and fellowship. Betty Nowicki and Sue Jarchow will prepare the turkey and you are asked to bring a side dish: potatoes, cranberries, salad, pie, cake or whatever you like to make during these crisp fall days. Please sign up on the bulletin board next to the office.

A \$2.00 free will donation will be requested for the bird.

Also, please bring some non-perishable food items for the food pantry.

This may be a good time to invite a fellow member, neighbor or friend, especially one who lives alone. Please bring a joke or two to share, perhaps a story of past favorable Thanksgivings that you have celebrated or perhaps read about.

- Sue Jarchow

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING BULLETIN

The sign up is almost filled! Will you join us? It is always an honor to ring bells for the Salvation Army. We are here to help them meet basic needs for many who are without. Here at SSM we're expecting more men, women and children than ever to join our little bell ringing army.

SIGN UP DATES:

3 SATURDAYS DECEMBER 4TH,
11TH (YOUTH & FAMILY DAY) OR THE 18TH

OTHER RESERVED DATES:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 10 AM-9 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 10 AM-9 PM

SATURDAY DECEMBER 18, 10 AM-9 PM

Each day we will be ringing in Southridge Mall at the lower inside entrance to J.C. Penney. We enthusiastically invite all to experience the fun and satisfaction of ringing the bell, warmly greeting passersby, and adding to your own Christmas spirit.

Reserve your time(s) now. You can sign up at church or by email. See email addresses below.

Ring as an individual, couple, family, or other combination, and you can sign up for one or more hours as you choose. For more details, contact any of us, Erin, Char or myself, John Rech, Sr. (546-1576), We look forward to hearing from you!

Questions- Call: John Rech, Sr., Schedule Coordinator 414-546-1576;

Erin Arneson 414-281-2987; erina@wi.rr.com or Char Guilliani 414-801-7349; minizmom@yahoo.com

A MESSAGE FOR OUR THRIVENT MEMBERS

Have you designated your Thrivent Choice Dollars to your favorite charity? In these hard times these designated monies could mean hundreds of dollars to charities, including SSM. This new program grants this money based on the type and amount of your investments with Thrivent.

There is no work involved other than to call the company at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice". A personable operator will explain more. To begin, you can also visit their website:

www.Thrivent.com/choicedollars.

Last month we were able to buy needed shades for the back Sunday School Classroom.

This "free" money could greatly benefit our church or another charity. Any questions, ask me. I've done it!

- Bob Rasmussen

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