

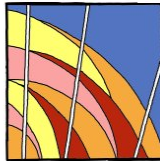


St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA

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

April 2011 Newsletter



St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Bob Brownell, Maintenance
Bob De Frank, Sunday School Superintendent
Janet Snyder, Organist

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

April 6 & 13

Excluding Ash Wednesday, Soup Suppers will be held prior to the Wednesday Lenten service

5:50 p.m. - Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. - "Holden Evening Prayer" Service & "Faith Stories"

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, April 21

7 pm Communion Worship

Fourth/Fifth Graders to receive First Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 22

7 pm Tenebrae Service at St. Stephen the Martyr

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 23

5 pm With Holy Communion & Renewal of Baptism

Easter Festival Sunday, April 24

7 am Communion Service;

8 am Easter Breakfast following

9 am Communion Service; Coffee hour following

10:30 am Communion Service; Coffee hour following



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From Pastor's Desk

Lent & Easter

These weeks of Lent are a blessing to Christians. We examine our lives in the light of God's amazing love. We may seek to 'give up' an indulgence. We have opportunities to practice generous giving, whether it's to the Dollar a Day program for the 40 days, or to the suffering people of Japan through the ELCA Disaster Response, or to hungry folks in our communities. I also encourage you to worship on Wednesdays in Lent as we continue with the faith stories of members.

THE THREE DAYS

Then in Holy week, our Lord leads us on a solemn journey beginning with Palm/Passion weekend. We gather outside the sanctuary, hearing the Word and then processing with palms as we remember His entry into Jerusalem in a humble donkey. We gather for worship again on Maundy Thursday. This year it's April 21st. 'Maundy' is a medieval English word, derived from a Latin word that means 'commandment'. Jesus new command for us is to "Love one another as I have loved you." John's Gospel tells us that as Jesus knelt down and washed the disciples' feet, we are to practice that kind of loving service. The gift of the Lord's Supper, another sign of his great love is celebrated along with the fourth graders who have been preparing for their first Holy Communion. At the end of the service, the altar is stripped bare as a symbol of Jesus being stripped of all power.

Friday (this year, April 22nd) is the day we call Good. Perhaps it comes from the phrase "God's Friday". God's purpose for the salvation of the world is accomplished on this day. The crucifixion seems like a terrible defeat. But it is not God's defeat, but God's victory against evil, sin and death.

Our congregation worships during the night before Jesus rose from death. The Easter Vigil begins in semi-darkness as the Paschal candle is carried in. We light candles, signifying the light that is coming back-- Jesus' rising. We read God's Word, including the Easter Gospel. We renew our own baptismal vows and have the wet cross imprinted on our foreheads once again. This year we will also celebrate the baptism of new little member of God's family!

EASTER

At St. Stephen the Martyr, we have three opportunities to worship our risen Lord Jesus (at 7:00, 9:00 and 10:30--see cover for the complete schedule) I expect to see all members at worship in Holy Week and Easter as we are faithful in our journey through the dark days of Christ's passion and into the glorious light of His resurrection.

May your journey be life-changing. We often lament that we live in a Good Friday world. But we are Easter people. Let us find strength for the journey in worship, prayer, communion and fellowship with other believers.

Then we go out to serve in the name of Christ our Lord. You and I get to proclaim in our words and our actions: "HE IS RISEN! HE HAS RISEN, INDEED!"

Christian Education

A New Bible Study

We at St. Stephen the Martyr are organizing a new Bible Study/conversation group. Every adult is welcome when we get together for an organizational meeting on Monday, April 4th at 1:00 p.m. At this first meeting we will use the article, "Coming to Grips," from the March 2011 edition of the Lutheran Magazine. We will finalize materials and make decisions for the future. Please come with a Bible to enjoy the lesson, have coffee or juice with dessert and talk with other interested people. There will be time to discuss a future course of study. Is it only for true Bible scholars? NO! Is it only for retirees? NO! Is it only for women? NO! Is it only for members? NO! But IT IS FOR YOU!

Questions are welcome. Call Carol Birk at 414-231-9121 or Mary Rockstad at 414-421-4128 with questions or to let us know if you are interested but not available for this first session. Also call if you want a copy of the article before the meeting.

Family Ministry News

The Next Family Gathering

will be held Saturday, May 7th, 2011, in the SSM Fellowship Hall at 6pm.

Easter Breakfast

April 24th We need youth to help serve the breakfast and clean up afterwards during the 9:00 worship. Contact Char if you can help: 801-7349.

CONFIRMATION NOTES

- * Confirmation students are reminded to contact their mentors to get together to work on Lenten packets before Easter!
- * Don't forget to sign in on the kiosk each Wednesday Lenten service and plan on attending at least one Holy Week service (see schedule in this newsletter)
- * Regular confirmation classes begin again on Thursday, May 5th at St. Stephen the Martyr. The final class of the year is May 19th!



Students around the world are loving God and fighting hunger. Every year, thousands of students unite to do the 30 Hour Famine. They learn about hunger - and then they do something about it.

We are calling all SSM Youth - 8th (age 13) to 12th grade to join us Friday, May 6th thru Saturday May 7th for this year's 30 Hour Famine.

More exciting details to come!

Please see Char Guiliani, for more information or visit the 30 Hour Famine website at www.30hourfamine.org

Family Camp

Summer is just around the corner so it's time to start planning our adventures at Imago Dei Village! For the youth in grades 8th-12th, Faith Ventures will be held June 26th - July 1, 2011. Family camp will be the week of August 14th, 2011. You can find additional information at the Crossways website, <http://www.crosswayscamps.org/>, the flyers in the Narthex or contact Char Guiliani.



Are YOU Going to NOLA? Join us for the Amazing 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering!

Any youth that will be entering 9th grade in the fall of 2012 or just graduated from high school in the spring of 2012 and any age in between and is interested in attending this event please contact Char Guiliani or Tim Falksen (tfalksen@gmail.com).

Check out this awesome event can be found at <http://www.elca.org/Gathering>.

Easter Egg Hunt

Help needed in planning and organizing an Easter Egg Hunt for the youth. We still need 1-2 more volunteers!

Please contact Char Guiliani (414-801-7349).



DATES: July 11-15, 2011

TIME: 4:45 pm to 8:15 pm

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

For ages 3—completed 5th grade

Dinner is included!

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL BULLETIN BOARD or:

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

Go to: www.ststephenthemartyr.com today!

STATION HELPERS NEEDED: Adults & Youth, let your light shine! We can use your help in these areas: craft leaders/helpers. You can also sign up online!

The VBS Kids will be singing in the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, July .

Contact our Council Chair for Family Ministries

Char Guiliani

minizmom@yahoo.com & on Facebook

Fellowship

First Friday Pot Luck

April Fools!

Yes, we really will have a Potluck on Friday, April 1st! And what fun it'll be, if you come and don't tell what you're bringing! It's a traditional pot-luck, so bring a casserole, salad or other side dish, or a dessert. But keep it a secret. That's what the March group decided and we will see what happens!

Along with your wonderful food, bring some riddles, jokes, April fools teasers or real-life funny stories. Join the fun, even if it's your first Friday pot-luck. All are welcome, especially those who live alone. Bring a friend, neighbor, co-worker or relative. Sign up on the office bulletin board and see you on April Fools evening.

Human concerns

NEXT HUMAN CONCERNS MEETING WILL BE

Tuesday, April 5th, 2011 @ 6:30 PM

40x40x40—A Dollar a Day for Poverty

We hope you are continuing your participation in the 40 for 40 Lenten Project sponsored by our Greater Milwaukee Synod's Outreach for Hope.

40 people in 40 congregations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod are donating a dollar a day for 40 days.

This program is a great part of our 2011 Lenten discipline. Lenten devotions with a story, scripture, prayer, and a highlight of OFH ministries as they walk with the poor of our communities and a donation bank to receive your dollar a day offering.

The funds will be used to support 22 congregations and ministries in the Greater Milwaukee Synod engaged in ministry with the poor.

Pastor Jim Bickel will kick off this program at St. Stephen's with a sermon on March 5th and 6th, and will supply all the details about the programs served with the money.

If you don't want to participate in this particular program, special offerings during Lent and Palm Sunday are also designated for Outreach for Hope.

- Pam Gustafson, Co-Chair

New Format!

Our online Bible Study/discussion group has joined the 21st Century with a blog format! No joining, signing up or even introductory classes to attend! Just go to our web address listed below, read, think, ponder and comment if you like!

Watch for our link on the SSM website, on the left-hand side of the home page. (It replaces Stone's Throw, which...we discontinued)

Thank-you to Mary Kling for setting up our blog! Both Mary and Julie Starks are the Fit and Faithful Blog Moderators. Feel free to contact us with comments, questions or suggestions.

Blog site: <http://fitandfaithful.blogspot.com/>

Julie Starks: jastarks@earthlink.net Mary Kling: poemwritertoo@gmail.com

Music & Worship

Holy Week

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 7th at 6:30 pm. Please note the change in time and date.

We are rapidly approaching Resurrection Sunday, which is late in April- the 24th. As you may know, Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first Spring Equinox.

Please attend the weekly Lenten service each Wednesday at 7:00 pm during Lent. We hear the liturgy, faith journeys of SSM members and sing the lovely Holden Prayer Service. It is a wonderful experience.

Beginning April 16th we will prepare for the Lord's Resurrection, April 24th. See front page for times of services.

The Music and Worship committee would like to extend Easter Blessings to all!

Susan Jarchow, Music and Worship Co-Chair

FLOWERS FOR EASTER

In the midst of this Lenten season, it is time to think about ordering Easter flowers to enhance our Sanctuary. You can order flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, or in celebration of the Lord's resurrection.

The poster, with the order forms, is in the narthex. Orders are due by April 3rd. Any questions on flowers please contact Faith O'Connell at (414)421-7315.

EASTER BREAKFAST

Our traditional Easter breakfast, served at 8:00 am on Easter Sunday will include: scrambled eggs, baked ham, applesauce, peaches, hot rolls, homemade coffee cakes, coffee, tea, juice and milk.

Suggested donation: \$6.00 per adult; for children under 15 -parent's discretion.

The breakfast is a Fundraiser and a great experience. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will match donations up to \$800. Thrivent's condition is that we direct the monies toward a non-profit organization. The money received plus the grant money will go to the Bay View Community Center Food Pantry and the Central City Food Pantry. Because these organizations have contacts, they can purchase large quantities of food, cheaper than we can buy at a supermarket. It should be our congregational goal to raise a combined total of \$1,600 to feed the hungry through these neighborhood food pantries. Your generous gifts will be greatly appreciated.

Please sign up if you plan to join us for breakfast. The sign up poster will be on the bulletin board in the narthex. It promises to be a grand event! Indicate if you can bake something to enrich our tables.

Questions? See JP Maschke or

Bob Rasmussen, Coordinator

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

HAPPY EASTER!

Many thanks to our choirs and musicians for their additional work throughout Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

Your dedication in sharing your time and talent is a blessing to all of us. I am especially grateful for your

cooperation and for the joy we experience in making music and sharing music in worship.

A blessed Easter to all of you. See you at worship.

- Bill Bravener

Be sure to join me at 10:50 a.m. for a Bible Study of the book of Philippians on Sunday, March 6th & 13th in the Luther Room.

THE GERMANS ARE COMING! THE GERMANS ARE COMING!

Martineum is a Senior High School in the the East German town of Halberstadt, 140 miles west of Berlin. This school proudly bears the title of a UNESCO School, having partnerships with high schools in a number of countries, e.g. Czech Republic, Tanzania, and France. However, they would love to find a partner-school in the English-speaking world, preferably in the U.S.A.

So, a delegation of eight students, one teacher and one mother, will come to Milwaukee on April 6th for four days, making contact with local schools. Pastor Hartmut Barsnick (a long-time friend of St. Stephen the Martyr) who is serving at Wellington Park Lutheran for some months, is busy organizing this meaningful and hopefully, successful visit.

This visit to the Milwaukee area will be incomplete without participating in an American worship service.

Therefore, the students and adults will worship with the people of St. Stephen the Martyr on Saturday, April 9th at the 5:00 worship. At 4:30 p.m. they will present a video which they made, introducing their school and their hometown.

By the way, Martineum is named both after St. Martin and after Martin Luther.

Please come and meet the young Germans and make them feel at home.

- Pastor Gail



THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in April, the 13th & 27th at 10:15 a.m. Join us as we study the scripture texts for the following weekend's worship services.

LOOSE ENDS LUNCHEON

Let's celebrate the hope of spring and have a great lunch!

Wed. April 13, 2010

Harmony Inn, 5601 Broad St. in Greendale

11:45 pm at restaurant

Or, meet at church at 11:30 a.m. if you wish to carpool

The sign up sheet is on the kiosk in the narthex.

Please contact Ruth Hoppe with questions: 414-281-5896.

KNIT WITS KNITTING

Meets April 4th @ 6:30 p.m. Knitters, crocheters and wanna-bes, join us! All are welcome.

Mark Saturday,

May 14, on your calendar! And plan to attend the Women of the ELCA, Greater Milwaukee Spring Retreat being held at Ascension Lutheran Church, 1236 South Layton Blvd., Milwaukee. This is a day just for you, a chance to share a day of exploring the connection between our bodies and the Bible through interaction, simple exercises and singing. You will leave feeling spiritually refreshed while having fun and learning to be a savvy health care consumer.

The program entitled "Body and Soul....what our bodies teach us about faith" will be presented by Sharon Fox Bogen an Associate in Ministry and by Lynn Heinrich, a registered nurse who has been a Parish Nurse and is now working for Aurora Health Care.

The registration form is posted on the kiosk. Please send your form to Jan Fox by May 6, 2011. The \$15 registration fee includes lunch. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m. It is anticipated that the program will end between 3 - 3:30 p.m. Call Carole Ropel with any questions - (262-523-4130).

This N That

If you are making prayer shawls for the Women of the ELCA, a bin will be placed in the narthex in early May to collect them for shipment. See your February newsletter (you can find it online also) of the Martyr Monthly for detail on this project or call Carole Ropel for detail.

There are still a few days for you to register for the Women of the ELCA, Greater Milwaukee Synod Cluster gathering on April 2nd at Luther Manor, 4545 North 92nd Street, Wauwatosa. Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins and

Julie Starks are presenting a program on their recent trip to Tanzania. Since the registration deadline is past, please call Jan Fox at 262-782-5680 to register.

Other Notes

Thank you very much to Ron Ropel & Dick Rutzen for making and installing the beautiful cabinets in the bathroom, as well as the table top next to the copy machine.

Natural Disasters Increase Need for Quilts...

The Piecemaker's Quilting group invites you to spend approximately two hours with them on the third Monday of each month, beginning at 6:15 p.m. to assist in putting together quilts that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief in October. With the many natural disasters that have been happening in our world lately, the need for quilts is greater than ever.

The last few months we have had only six or seven individuals that have been with us to work on the quilts.

While this group is doing a great job, more can be done with more people.

Most of our Monday evening time is spent just putting quilts together. It does not require any sewing skills....only pinning. If you have sewing skills there is work for you to do also. Once the quilts are pinned, they do have to be sewn together. Squares need to be cut from our donated material and then they are sewn together to form the quilt covers.

Come and see what you may be able to do. We welcome your participation. Any questions, please call Betty Kroll (414-421-1802) or Marge Muroi (414-423-1316).

Congratulations!

Congrats to Char Guilliani for completing the Youth Ministry Certification training through our synod. The graduation was the weekend of March 19-20. After extensive studies, each student was required to produce a "ministry plan" for youth/family ministry in their own congregation.

Congratulations to Kyle Mayer, who is the national Easter Seals poster child for 2011. This is a great honor for Kyle and his family. Way to go, Kyle!

Congratulations go out to Gunnar Raasch who recently achieved Eagle Scout, Troop #612, the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America. This is a tremendous accomplishment!

The Memorial Committee met March 11th. We discussed the recent purchase of 6 (six) new tables for the Fellowship Hall. They arrived in late December. The new tables are lightweight so moving and storage is much easier for set-up and take downs.

The communion flagon was repaired for \$498. at Stempers. The committee discussed new narthex chairs similar to our pew chairs, also from Stempers. We decided to do more shopping. A small sub-committee is being formed to work on chairs, new pillars for the altar area and perhaps new paint inside our wooden arch behind the altar.

Plans were made to make cabinets for the men's room under the cabinet area. (It is now finished and looks wonderful!) The women's restroom has a new storage bin. Those who use the Koala changer can find liners in the new bins. 2010 Memorial contributions are on file in the Memorial Book in the narthex. It is an impressive listing of special giving to the church. Check it out!

We moved funds to the garden fund per prior commitments. Pastor suggested we purchase traveling communion sets, those will be added to our approved list and the memorial brochure is going to be updated. Our next meeting is set for June 11 at 9:30 a.m. If you have ideas or comments, contact your memorial committee members: Sandy Petricek, Pastor Gail, Dick Kroll, Karen Hoffman, Carol Birk, Shirley Rau, Marge Muroi, and me... Faith O'Connell.

Lenten Reflections

"Of all the duties enjoined by Christianity none is more essential and yet more neglected than prayer." - Fenelon

"To be much for God, we must be much with God. Jesus, that lone figure in the wilderness, knew strong crying along with tears. Can one be moved with compassion and not know tears? Jeremiah was a sobbing saint. Jesus wept. So did Paul. So did John... Though there are some tearful intercessors behind the scenes, I grant you that to our modern Christianity, praying is foreign." - Ravenhill

A group of University of Toronto scientists has found that belief in God relieves stress and induces happiness. "Religion provides meaning in people's lives," noted Michael Inzlicht, a psychology professor at Toronto who participated in running tests on what relieves stress in people.

- Source: The Globe and Mail, 03/05/09

Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DATES

Thursday, June 3rd to Saturday, June 5th, 2010

TWO SSM MEMBERS ARE NEEDED to be VOTING MEMBERS at the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly Thurs. evening, June 3rd through Sat. noon, June 5th. Past attendees have said they enjoyed the vibrant worship services, the plenary or business sessions, the fellowship and learning from other church members in our Synod. Join Pastor Gail and Bill Bravener for an exciting two days at the Country Springs Inn, Waukesha. Car pooling will be arranged.

See Pastor Gail if you are interested.

BULB PHOTO SHOW!

We worked hard to sell & plant these bulbs now let's see the fruits of our labor!

Take photos of your blossoming bulbs, print your best results (4x6 or 5x7 is fine) and bring to church for display. Watch for a basket in Fellowship Hall for dropping-off prints.

Please print your name on the back of each print so we can return them to you.

Council Notes

Condensed Council Minutes from March 8, 2011

President John Muroi called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Council members present were: J. Arneson, J. Bugajski, J. Covert, C. Guilliani, P. Gustafson, J. Hennessy, S. Jarchow, S. Lubus, J.P. Maschke, J. Miller, J. Muroi, E. Sanders and J. Schultz. Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins was also present.

Approvals:

The Secretary's January meeting minutes were approved with the following changes: S. Jarchow was not present at the January meeting and J.P. Maschke's name was misspelled. The February minutes were approved with the following correction(s). Under the Stewardship report, M. Yoder should read M. Yeutter.

Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed. Treasurer's Report was given. J. Bugajski stated that as of 3/6/11 total offerings were \$2,503.47 over budget with a 104.32%. Treasurer's Report was approved.

Pastor's Time:

Pastor Gail had a training session for what she is now calling "Caring Visitors" on Sat. Feb. 12. Four SSM members will visit their assigned home-bound members approx. once a month. She will train two more when it can be scheduled. Pastor and J. Drover attended our Synod's congregational leaders event at Christ Church in Mequon. She stated that the Clergy of the Green Corners, our ecumenical group is busy planning the Good Friday afternoon service at St. Alphonsus. We will participate as pastors and possibly with a joint choir. The new member class began last Saturday. It will be a smaller group, but again some great people will be joining on Sun., April 10th. She was inspired by Pr. J. Bickel, from Outreach for Hope and is grateful to members for talking with him, and for taking the banks and devotions. She presided at one baptism: Lillian Jane Mildren, daughter of Adam and Susan, on Sun., Feb. 20, 2011.

Old Action Items:

Synod Congregational Event - J. Muroi stated that he and Pastor Gail attended the event and it was a very worthwhile experience for him.

New Action Items:

Annual Meeting Table Discussion - President Muroi stated that the Council Executive Committee would be studying the results from the Annual Meeting Round Table discussions to see what staff position(s) should be added in the best interests of the church.

Committee Reports:

Youth and Family - C. Guilliani reported that 61 youth and adults attended the Sunburst event. There will be an outing to an Admirals game on April 1st, with special emphasis on autism. Stephanie Gordon and Kyle Mayer are the featured speakers. The 30-hour famine project with St. Luke's and Adoration is scheduled for May 7th and 8th and SSM will host the event. SSM Youth in grades 8 to 12th will participate in Faith Ventures camp scheduled for 6/26 to 7/1/11. Family camp will be held the week of 8/14/11.

Property Committee - J. Arneson reported that the locks on the church's doors have new closures; the snow blower was fixed; the compressor was replaced and that the outside shed was broken into - nothing was stolen - only damage done to the sliding doors.

Human Concerns - P. Gustafson reported that \$300.00 was raised for the defibrillator.

Stewardship: J. Covert stated that the Steward of the Month is put on hold in April due to Lenten and Easter

celebrations.

Music and Worship - S. Jarchow reported Lenten services will feature members speaking about their "faith journeys" & the Holden Evening Service will be used during worship. A mime group will be featured during service, Wednesday, 3/30/11.

Evangelism - J. Hennessy stated that his committee has regrouped and thanked J. Covert for joining his committee.

Fellowship - J.P. Maschke reported that he was still looking for volunteers to prepare and serve the soup suppers held on Wednesday before service. He thanked R. Rasmussen for all of his work on organizing the upcoming Easter Sunday breakfast.

Christian Education - E. Sanders stated that Bible study would be starting after church on Sunday, 3/13/11 and after Wednesday services during Lent.

Financial Secretary - J. Schultz stated he is working with J. Miller to improve the counting process to help eliminate errors.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is scheduled for Tues, April 12th, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shellee Lubus, Council Secretary

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