



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.

		<i>the</i> MARTYR MONTHLY August 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
www.StStephentheMartyr.com

Office Hours

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

SSM Staff

Gail Brodersen-Heins, Pastor
pastorgail@ststephenthemartyr.com
Bill Bravener, Music Director
bbravener@ststephenthemartyr.com
Lynda Shadd, Office Administrator
ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com
Bob Brownell, Maintenance
Bob De Frank, Sunday School Superintendent
Janet Snyder, Organist

Rally Day is Around the Corner!

Celebrate the beginning of another exciting Sunday School year!

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011

One service only @ 9:30 a.m.

Indoor Picnic & Fun Activities following

Sign up on bulletin board outside the office

Hamburgers, brats, hot dogs and beverages will be provided! Please bring a dish to pass—please sign up on the bulletin board to let us know what you will bring. (Free will donations gratefully accepted to defray cost of food).

Continue the Rally Day celebration by heading to a Brewer's game!



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From Pastor's Desk

Jesus said: "Let the little children come to me, do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." Mark 10:14

This week, July 11-15, I've had the pleasure of being with children, lots and lots of children! What fun! I suspect that all the other adults at Vacation Bible School would say something like this: "It was very tiring, but it was such fun! And seeing the children learn more about God in a great atmosphere, it was worth the work!" It was so great to see adults, teens and children talking, laughing, singing, dancing, learning, eating and making things together. What a wonderful week, like every week of Vacation Bible School through the years here. I've had the chance to talk with some older members who remember VBS in summers gone by, and they say the same thing: lots of work, but oh, so rewarding.

Children do have faith. Children do experience God. Sometimes they renew OUR faith! This week's Bible School theme has been "Pandamania--Where God is wild about you!" We've been singing songs and experiencing Bible stories about God paying attention to us, listening to us. In our small groups we ask each other every day where we have seen God recently. One of 'my girls' said she saw and heard God as she prayed and one said she saw God in her dreams! I thought that was awesome!

Being together in a small group for over three hours each night, we get to know each other. One little girl was having some problems and was crying one night. That happened in other groups, I know, too. I did the best I could to comfort her, listening yet knowing I couldn't solve it. But I reminded her that God too was watching over her. Later I watched her having fun with the other girls, and I saw one of them hug her.

In the summertime, it's great for families to spend time together, especially getting to know each other across the generations. In congregations, we do that too. Take advantage of each opportunity to grow in faith with the precious little ones not only in your own family but in your church family.

Parents, a reminder that we have children's sermons each Sunday in the summer, often with a hand-out or activity for them to do. Bring the whole family and your out-of-town guests. You'll be glad you did!

See you at summer worship as we enjoy the precious August days and each of our precious members, young and older.

Pastor Gail

Family Ministry News

The Next Family Gathering Meeting

is September 10th, 6 p.m. at Tim and Stephanie Falksen's. Join us!

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

How would you like to go to a Brewers game and continue the Rally Day celebration??

If you would, come with us on September 11th, 2011 at 1:10pm to cheer the Brewers on to a victory against the Phillies! Tickets are \$13 each, which includes parking, hot dog and soda. We will enjoy the Rally Day celebration and then car pool from the SSM parking lot. There are only 60 tickets available, so please sign up early! The sign up sheet is in the Narthex on the kiosk. Any questions please contact Char Guiliani at 414-801-7349 or minizmom@yahoo.com and facebook.



So, Are YOU Going to NOLA?

Join us for the Amazing
2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans!

If you are entering 9th grade in the fall of 2012 or graduating from high school in the spring of 2012 or any age in between and you

want to attend this awesome event, please contact Char Guiliani or Tim Falksen (tfalksen@gmail.com). More information at <http://www.elca.org/Gathering>.

Three Cheers for Vacation Bible School!

In July, our VBS theme "Pandamania —Where God is Wild About You" was a wild celebration of God's unconditional love! At PandaMania VBS, kids discovered that God has a purpose and a plan for everyone and that he crafted each one with his own loving hands.

What an amazing week it was! The weather was beautiful; the children were enthusiastic; the curriculum was volunteer & kid friendly, fun and engaging, and the decorations really made it special for a life changing time! Approximately 95 children participated (48 from SSM and 41 from Faith/Santa Fe, 2 from Unity, and 4 from our

community).

At least 50 staff were involved in some capacity from station helpers, crew leaders and helpers to kitchen crew. We are so thankful that we didn't even have to "recruit" staff. A host of volunteers came forward to make this VBS a great experience for a lot of kids. We thank the entire team for their eternal investment in the lives of our children... thousands of seeds planted for the kingdom of God!

We already look forward to next year's program.

- Bob & Sue DeFrank

Contact our Council Chair for Family Ministries

Char Guliani

minizmom@yahoo.com & on Facebook

Fellowship

Rally Day Volunteers Unite!

Mark your calendars! Sunday, September 11th. Volunteers from far and wide will be called upon to do familiar picnic tasks. Whether you've helped for years or simply have a knack for the picnic arts, sign the sign-up sheets hanging just outside the office to volunteer. We also have a sign up for those individuals or families who will be attending noting your dish to pass (salad, dessert or appetizer). We look forward to your presence even if totally unprepared!

First Friday Pot-luck

Friday, September 2nd @ 6:00 p.m.

All are welcome to share good food and fellowship! As we return from our summer hiatus, we begin with a good old-fashioned potluck. Bring a main dish, vegetable, salad or dessert to share. Coffee, tea, and soda will be provided.

Being a friend, neighbor, or fellow member and share what summer adventures you had. Bring a summer joke or a short story to share. Bring a non-perishable food item for our food pantry. All are welcome, especially those who live alone. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the church office.

Human concerns

NEXT MEETING

AUGUST 2 6:30 PM

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

PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION

The School Kit Project is Upon Us Again!

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) school kits provide important tools for education and a glimmer of hope for a child in need. Please help as we start our 9th year with this project. There is a new style for this year's school bag: a drawstring bag that can also be used as a back pack. It's looks neat and is a bit larger. We will again need donations of sturdy fabric such as denim, twill, corduroy, upholstery, etc. A sewing, cutting, pressing day will be held Wednesday - August 24th, 9 a.m.—? Watch for the sign-up sheet!

ITEMS NEEDED TO FILL EACH BAG:

- Four 70- sheet notebooks of wide - or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10 & ½"; no loose-leaf
- One 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One eraser approximately 2 & ½" long

Please note the changes -

1. Have added 5 ballpoint pens
2. Removed colored construction paper

Also note - For this year we can still send last year's style bag and items. So if you have some of these bags at home as I do, please finish and bring in. Thank you all for your help. God Bless! Shirley Lieske

Care Packages For Our Troops

Dale and Sherry Magner continue to mail care packages 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). Your donations are greatly appreciated. Please call Dale or Sherry at 414-221-9793 for more details. Also, if you have a family member or friend who is serving our country, please let them know and they will add them to the list of troops receiving care packages. Also, please inform us in the office!

Mt. Meru

Please continue to support Mt. Meru Coffee Project.

Due to the world-wide coffee market, Mt. Meru prices have gone up, but it is still a reasonable price at \$10 per bag.

We appreciate your continued support of this important project to help coffee farmers in the Meru Diocese of Tanzania.

The Staff of Life— SSM Food Pantry

...because hunger never takes a vacation... neither can we.

We continue our service to the community by collecting food for Central City Food Pantry in August.

Thank you to all for your continued support.

"The LORD upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, and lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous." Psalm 146

Aluminum Cans Needed

Thank you, thank you - to all who have contributed cans this year. So far in 2011, \$191 has been gained through the sale of 277 lbs. of cans at the West Allis salvage yard. The money has mostly been divided and given to the two food pantries SSM supports. (Central City and Bay View Community Center pantries)

The need for food continues so please continue to contribute your cans. Crush them if possible and drop your bag off at the garage door in the lower parking lot. Remember, no steel cans, no aluminum foil, no glass/plastic bottles, just pure 100% aluminum cans are saleable. Thanks for your help!

- Bob Rasmussen



 **Music & Worship**

The Music and Worship committee would like to extend a warm welcome to all members of SSM to our next committee meeting to be held on August 3, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

We would love for you to team up with us as we plan the new fall schedules for greeters, ushers, lay readers, and communion setup and servers.

We will also be discussing the plans for Rally Day to be held on September 11, 2011.

We will also begin preparing the schedules for these tasks. If you would like to consider volunteering, please contact one of the following members:

Ushers: Bob Rasmussen, 421-5170

Readers: Bob De Frank, 761-2165

Greeters: Jenny Koeff, 425-0073

Communion Set-up or Serving: Cathy Peterson, 325-6620 or Sue Jarchow, 526-9785

Attention Ushers!

All men ,women and teens who have ushered for worship services in the past are asked to check their SSM

mailboxes for the fall usher questionnaire.

Please complete this questionnaire and return to Bob Rasmussen's church mailbox ASAP. It is hoped that all ushers who have served in the past will be able to return to duty for the coming Fall and Winter season. Anyone new, interested in serving as an usher - either at the Saturday 5 PM service, or either of the Sunday services, should contact Bob Ras-mussen at 421-5170, or in person at church, to indicate their desire to help. New volunteers are always welcome, and will be assigned to work with veteran ushers who will be glad to train you in the fine art of ushering.

St. Stephen the Martyr is blessed to have about 38 people who have served loyally this past year, and have provided service to welcome parishioners to service, handed out bulletins, taken the collection, and guided people to take communion.

Your past help has been greatly appreciated by all who attend services. Thank you!

- Bob Rasmussen

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

Summer Choir opportunities are again offered in August. On August 7th Summer Choir will rehearse at 9:00 a.m. and will sing at the 9:30 worship service. All ages are welcome, and families are also welcome to sing together with the choir. Please join us.

Summer Handbell Choir will rehearse at 8:30 a.m. on August 21 and 28 and will ring at the 9:30 worship service on the 28th. All are welcome.

See you at worship.

- Bill

'Faithful Men' Coming to SSM

On Sunday, August 21, Faithful Men, the men's choir from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Watertown, WI will be singing at our 9:30 a.m. worship service. Please plan to welcome this fine group and their director, Rebecca Whelpley. We have waited many months to get them scheduled, and you will enjoy their music.

Choir Picnic

The choir picnic and first Senior Choir rehearsal will be on Wednesday, September 7 at SSM. The first Handbell Choir rehearsal will be on Wednesday, Sept. 14. Watch for more information in next month's newsletter.

News from Former Music Director Matt Masko

Our former Music Director, Matt Masko, received the Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa in May. Matt has been called to serve Fordville Lutheran Church, Fordville, North Dakota and its sister congregation Quale Lutheran, eight miles out in the country. These two congregations are near Grand Forks, home of the University of North Dakota where Matt's wife Meganne will begin work as Assistant Professor of Music Therapy in the fall.

Matt was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on Thursday, July 14 in Iowa City, Iowa where the family had lived prior to their move to the seminary four years ago. Matt sends his greetings and thanks for your support and prayers. He, Meganne and son Max are looking forward to their new life as God calls them to ministry in North Dakota.

Stewardship

As a new member of the Stewardship Committee I thought it should be one of my first tasks to share what my thoughts are regarding stewardship and what it means to me. In the past when stewardship was mentioned, my first thought and the first thoughts of many went straight to money and how much I was going to commit to for the next year or whatever timeframe was being discussed. Then a few years ago I went on a retreat and one of the subjects that came up for discussion was stewardship and what role it plays in each of our lives. Now maybe it was the fact that a good majority of the people attending the retreat were in the choir at this particular church but the conversation transitioned from money to time and talent and what we could do with what God had given us to share. I carried those thoughts around with me for a while and when an opportunity came up to be on the Endowment Committee at that church I offered my services not knowing what I was getting into but I was sure it was part of God's plan for me and my personal stewardship at that time. I found it to be a very uplifting experience and one that led me to participate in other activities around the church and the church community. In most cases I did not know what to expect but in each and every case it led to a closer relationship with God and other members of the church.

The other thing that I noticed as I involved myself in more church activities was that in most cases it was the same core group of people who wore numerous hats and were always involved in what was going on in and

around the church. It didn't matter what the size of the congregation was or what stewardship opportunities presented themselves. I often wondered why more of the members of the congregation were not actively involved and using their God given talents and time to share as part of their stewardship. Are you wondering? We may not be able to contribute as much monetarily to the church as we would like but we certainly have the God-given talent and time...if we really think about it to show our stewardship. You never know what hidden talents or qualities you may possess unless you first get involved. I have been fortunate enough to have an OK voice for signing and kick myself every day for not having used it more to express the words of God in song. I certainly had no clue what I was in for when I volunteered to be on an Endowment Committee and have found that the more I get involved the more fulfilling my walk with God can be.

Thank you for listening to my stewardship story which is by no means over and thank you for having me as part of your congregation.

- Mike Wholean



The Women's Bible Study will meet at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday, August 10th. All ladies are invited to come as we study the following Sunday's texts—Bring a friend!

Loose Ends Lunch

Where: That's Amoré, Hwy 100 & Edgerton

When: Wednesday, August 10th

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Please sign up by August 7th 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.

Contact Carol Birk for more details at: (414)231-9121.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

There is still time to take advantage of the "Early Bird" special fee, if you register for the Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization Convention (SWO) before August 20th.

This annual event is being held at St. John Lutheran Church, 20275 Davidson Road, Brookfield, WI 53045 (Barker Road and Davidson Rd.) on October 7th and 8th. The business portion of the convention will be held on Friday, beginning with registration at 4:30 p.m. and dinner at 5:35 p.m. All delegates must be in attendance on Friday and Saturday. If you are not a delegate, you may choose to attend only on Saturday at a lesser cost, although all are welcome to attend both Friday and Saturday. Scholarships are available to you for Saturday only, if needed. Scholarship forms through our SWO are posted on the kiosk, along with Registration Forms. The Loose Ends group from St. Stephen the Martyr, also have scholarships available for Saturday only. Please call or e-mail Carole Ropel (262-523-4130 or caroleropel@wi.rr.com) for further information.

Our pastor, Gail Brodersen-Heins, will preside at Saturday's worship, which begins with a Hymn Sing at 8:15 a.m. We are honored to have our Greater Milwaukee Synod Bishop, Jeff Barrow, as our preacher, and workshop leader. Julie Starks, Char Guiliani and Erin Clark will present a workshop entitled: "Social Media? Why Me?".

Other workshop presenters are, Venice Williams, Pastor Rachel Young-Binter, and Kate Pillan.

On Saturday, you will have the opportunity to attend two workshops, enjoy a nice luncheon, and at the end of the day, Goodwill Industries will present one of their well-know style shows. The Convention closes at approximately 4 p.m. Karen Hoffman will serve as our SSM delegate and Diane Moraza has agreed to be our Convention Nurse. We welcome you to be part of this special weekend. Any questions, call Carole at the above noted addresses.

CAN YOU HELP?

Each year at our October Convention, our Synodical Women's Organization, Women of the ELCA, selects a Milwaukee area group to receive our In-Kind gifts. This year, these gifts given by Women of the ELCA, will be donated to the Hope Center in Waukesha. During the month of September, a container will be in our church narthex to collect any donated items. We are focusing on Layette Items that may include: Size #1 diapers, Newborn clothing, crib sheets, hooded bath towels, Burp Cloths, Onesies, Baby blankets, Baby wipes, Diaper bags, Baby bottles, Baby wash, Baby shampoo and/or Baby lotion. Gently use clothing, sheets & other items will be accepted.

Hope Center is a non-profit organization that has been serving the basic needs of financial assistance, food, clothing and child care for more than 20 years. We appreciate and thank you for your consideration. Carole Ropel will answer any questions you may have.

Other Notes

The Annual SSM Bill Gray Memorial Golf Outing will be held on Sunday, October 1st at Whitnall Park Golf Course. Tee times will begin at 1:04 p.m. and continue at 8 minute intervals.

Our day will include an opportunity to stroll through Whitnall Park with family and friends, play nine holes of golf (Best Ball) with a motorized cart, and gather and church for fellowship, food, beverages & prizes.

COST: Golf, cart & dinner—\$35

Dinner Only—\$10

Look for the sign up sheet on the Kiosk in the Narthex. You can sign up individually, as a twosome, threesome, foursome or for dinner only. Deadline for golf is the 18th of September.

Make your check payable to St. Stephen the Martyr and indicate "Golf Outing" on your envelope.

Contributions beyond the \$35 are greatly appreciated. All proceeds exceeding our costs will be given to the SSM Endowment Fund in honor of Bill. The event is open to members, friends, and friends of friends.

Thank you for your support.

- Doug W.

GREATER MILW. SYNOD ASSEMBLY "GOING PUBLIC" - JUNE 2011

Melissa Stevens, Kelly Lawson, Bill Bravener, and Pastor Gail attended the Synod Assembly at the Country Springs Resort Friday and Saturday, June 24 - 25th. We joined voting members from most of the 134 congregations that make up our Greater Milw. Synod of the ELCA. SSM member Carole Ropel, Synod Women of the ELCA President, also attended and gave an enthusiastic and information-packed report from that organization. Carole also thanked Synod members and our Bishop for keeping her in their prayers as she successfully battled cancer over the past year. This is Carole's last year as Synod W-ELCA President; she has served with distinction!

Member Char Gulianni was among the graduates of the Synod's Diakonia program who were prayed over at the Assembly Opening Worship. It was great to share Char's joy as these men and women were recognized for their two years of study and their commitment to work as knowledgeable volunteers in their congregations and who may go on to further study as Char is planning.

The Assembly theme "Going Public" had to do with our desire as a church to "get out into our communities" and even partner with other churches and reflect our Christian values in our discipleship. While SSM delegates were not able to attend, there was an opportunity to "get out and worship" in four different Synod congregations on Sunday the 26th. This was a great idea. Throughout the assembly, ministries were highlighted such as our Synod partnership with the Lutheran Churches in El Salvador and Meru Diocese, Tanzania. We can be proud at SSM that we are among those congregations partnering with others like Faith/Santa Fe and Unity Lutheran.

A report from the ELCA Churchwide office was given by the Rev. Walter May Jr., Ex. Director for Synodical Relations and Liaison with all 65 Synod Bishops. We also learned of the good work of our two Lutheran Campus Ministry sites at Marquette University and UW-Milwaukee. If you have college students at those institutions, please encourage them to 'check out' Campus Ministry there!

Our Synod Bishop Jeff Barrow gave an inspiring report. He said among other things: "I believe that the strength of a church, any church, lies...in the hearts of the true believers. As I travel throughout the synod, one of the things that impresses me most is the daily activity of the laity. In almost every congregation, there are people who are faithful servants, people who long to connect faith to daily life."

Resolutions were discussed, passed or tabled. The Anti-racism and Reconciling in Christ Ministry submitted a resolutions "Calling the Church to Speak and Act to Prevent Bullying, Harassment and Related Violence" which passed. Luther Memorial Church submitted a resolution to "Establish a Synod Evangelism Task Force" which passed. The Synod Diakonia Steering Committee submitted a resolution to encourage congregations to make members aware of the benefits of Diakonia and support members who may seek to learn more about their faith, and to possibly provide financial support for them. This resolution passed.

Resolutions to "Support Lutheran Campus Ministry in our Synod" and to "Encourage Wellness for Rostered Leaders" also passed.

A resolution submitted by the congregations of Cluster I "For the Protection of Collective Bargaining" was discussed at great length. Our Bishop and the Reference and Counsel Committee recommended that this resolution not be considered, and asked for further study and discussion "by the members of the synod on a much deeper level". The rationale: "This is a divisive issue and the Greater Milw. Synod would not be able to adequately deal with it properly in the limited time available at this assembly.

Therefore it was tabled and further discussed is encouraged at congregational, committee and Synod Council

levels. A 2012-13 Budget of \$2,319,640 was passed. This includes giving to Campus ministries, two ELCA seminaries, committee work, partnership ministries, staff salaries and Synod office expenses, benevolences to various Lutheran organizations like Luth. Outdoor Ministry, Lutheran Volunteer Corp., Native Amer. and Hmong Ministries and our \$1,237,009 support to the ELCA Churchwide for its many and varied ministries.

I thank our SSM voting members for attending the 2011 Synod Assembly and encourage others to consider attending next Spring!

Pastor Gail

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