

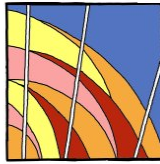


# St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA

*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

January 2011 Newsletter



## *St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church, ELCA*

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# *HAVE A HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR!*



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“In his hand is the life  
of every living thing  
and the breath of  
every human being.”

*Job 12:10*

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### *From Pastor's Desk*

#### *Thoughts on the New Year*

Let us pray: As once the wise men beheld the shining star in the East and were led by its light to bring their gifts to the Christ child, grant us the wisdom to learn where we may find him in our daily lives. And may we be led to bring our gifts of devotion and service. This we ask in Christ's name. Amen.

And so another new year comes--it's hard to believe! What will it bring? What challenges and joys lie ahead for us? We ask God for guidance, courage and faith for the coming year. We ask God to help us use our "gifts of devotion and service" as the prayer above states.

No doubt there are challenges ahead. But don't let that scare you. Our faith and our attitude are critically important as we face those challenges. God has promised to go with us into this new year, I truly believe it. I hope that you do too!

Our congregation is gifted in so many ways. Members share their talents in teaching our children, showing generosity, giving glory to God in music, administering the building and the budget, providing hospitality, serving others in the community, being friendly and kind. We have a warm atmosphere and a positive outlook, all of which we'll have to credit to the Holy Spirit! Let's give thanks to God for these things. Let's include in our New Year's resolutions to build on these values and to increase them as a congregation.

Let's increase our devotion and service, as we respond to Bible study opportunities and invitations to pray for others. Let's be more courageous in inviting others to come to worship with us. Let's increase our participation in food pantries, meal serving, ELCA Hunger Appeal, Bread for the World, Southwest Interfaith for the Elderly, and the missionaries we support.

We can explore a new opportunity for partnership with Unity Lutheran Church, where Kevan Penvose leads a congregation of service-oriented folk who have several ministries to hungry people, and also increase our participation with Faith/Santa Fe Lutheran Church, where bodies are nourished and spirits are fed by God's Word. What could such partnerships mean for these congregations and for us? How might we grow in faith together? How might we grow in our sense of being part of Christ's mission in and too the world, not just maintain ourselves? While each congregation is unique, what can we do together and have some fun while doing it?

These are some questions to think about. What are you thinking our congregation can and should be doing in 2011?

Let's begin with faithful and regular worship. See you there!

A BLESSED NEW YEAR TO YOU, FELLOW DISCIPLES!

Pastor Gail

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# Family Ministry News

<b>Upcoming Events</b>		
Jan 8	6 PM	Family Gathering @ SSM
Jan 22	6 PM	Hostyle Gospel concert @ St. Luke's in Greendale
Jan 30	10:40 AM	Congregational Meeting

## *Calling all Youth!*

We need you to help with the congregational brunch on January 30th during the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Hey, confirmation students! This is a good opportunity to earn community service hours. Contact Char Guilliani for details.

## *Youth Concert at St. Luke's Lutheran January 22nd!!!*

Hostyle Gospel will be giving a performance at St. Luke's Lutheran Church - 6705 Northway - Greendale, WI - January 22, 2011 at 6p.m. They are "a

dynamic Christian hip-hop group merging musical talent with the Word of God to point souls to Christ. With pulse pounding rhythms and raw lyrics, Hostyle Gospel is igniting a fire of passion for the Lord."

Tickets will be on sale at the door or ahead of time from any of our youth, or the church office, for \$5. Any proceeds will be divided between the Hunger Task Force and our high school summer mission trip to upstate New York. To reserve tickets or if you have any questions you can call Zach Wolf at 414-421-1670 or e-mail him at youthfamily@sbcglobal.net. For more information about the group visit them at [www.hostylegospel.com](http://www.hostylegospel.com)

## *Youth and Family Gathering at SSM*

January 8th, 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be discussing our goals for the upcoming year.

Contact Char if you have any questions.

## *Confirmation Classes Begin January 6th.*

7th & 8th graders: Confirmation classes will start up again on Thursday, January 6th, 7 pm, right here at St. Stephen the Martyr.

## *CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS*

The Sunday School Children's Program on December 19th was a joyful success. All in attendance were thrilled by the music and enthusiasm of the children who participated. Thanks go out to director Stephanie Gordon and accompanist Kelly Sachse & Bill Bravener, (drums) for their excellent work.

An offering was taken for Heifer International. The children will soon vote to decide where to disburse the funds.

The children brought hats, gloves and mittens—gifts for the Christ child, which will be distributed to the needy. Thanks to all the Sunday School teachers, helpers and Superintendent Bob DeFrank, for all the hard work in putting this program together.

## *SHEPHERD'S CORNER LIBRARY NEWS*

Reading is a great way to pass the cold winter months and educate yourself with good Christian materials! Cuddle up with a good book and renew your faith!

Make it a point to stop in with your children at the Shepherd's Corner Library. We are a great resource for Christian children's books & videos.

We have some very good books for adults as well for your reading enjoyment.

Grow in your faith with a book from your Shepherd's Corner Library.

## *WHAT'S IN A NAME?*

Think of all the names that swirl through your head in a day: names of your friends and family, famous celebrities, product brands. How about the name of Jesus?

We read about the name of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, which reports, "He was called Jesus, [Yeshua] the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb."

The apostle Paul tells us some more about the significance of that name in Philippians 2. He writes, "God has highly exalted and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth."

The name of Jesus can't be compared with any other name. His Name is above every name—above all earthly kings and rulers, above the wealthiest, the brightest, and the most famous.

Take time today to worship the One whose name is above all other names!

Contact our Council Chair for Family Ministries

Char Guliani

[minizmom@yahoo.com](mailto:minizmom@yahoo.com) & on Facebook

# Fellowship

## ***FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD & ONE ANOTHER***

I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

As your new Fellowship Chairperson I want to thank everyone who helped bring people together in work and play over the past year. I am impressed with the spirit of cooperation and volunteering that is within SSM. It's really impressive to see so many people sign up and assist in the special events of the day. The Fellowship Committee thanks you!

The Lenten 'Soupou': Although this year Lent is quite late, March 9th to April 23rd, I want to start people thinking of their favorite soups. Perhaps we can do SSM's version of the Groupon internet offers (2 soup portions for the price of one?). Those of you who like meddling with soup can offer up your 'thyme' and talents for the next series of Soup suppers prior to our Lenten services. You'll see a list forming sometime in January. Happy New Year. —JP Maschke

## ***FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK CELEBRATION!***

January 14th, 6 p.m.

Come celebrate the fifth anniversary of the First Friday Pot-Luck on January 14th. (Maybe the weather will be better the second Friday!) In any case, the main dish will be Lasagna, just as it was at the very first gathering in January, 2006.

Join the fun and bring a salad, other side dish, garlic bread, or dessert. Beverages will be provided. Bring some jokes or funny new year's stories! There will be a short game or two.

Members and friends are cordially invited, especially those who live alone. Start out the new year with some fun, good food and great friends, old and new!

## ***KITCHEN NOTES...***

People who brought treats to the church should pick up their plates and trays from the kitchen.

## ***Human concerns***

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

## ***THANK YOU FROM HUMAN CONCERNS!***

Many thanks for your generous spirits this past Christmas season. You enabled SSM to send many lovely gifts to Bay View Community Center, and thanks also for helping to put warm s-ocks on people's feet this winter!

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me," Jesus said.

Our heartfelt thanks to all! God's peace in the new year!

## ***ALUMINUM CANS...***

Bring in your cans!

Please leave donations of cans at the side door of the garage. Remember, we can accept aluminum drinking cans only. Please crush or flatten the cans if you can!

## ***FOOD PANTRY NEWS***

We will collect food for Bay View Community Food Pantry for the month of January.

## ***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 Clothing, especially large sizes

Hats, coats, mittens or gloves are also desperately needed this time of year.

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

### *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 St. Stephen the Martyr as your designated charity. Our #: 813560.

### *DO WE STEREOTYPE THE HOMELESS?*

One night a meeting was held at a Lifetree Café, sponsored by Group, in a Florida city, which featured a topic titled "Hearing from the Homeless." This topic invited people to share their opinions on the issue of homelessness in America and hear other perspectives on the subject. Participants began to share some fairly stereotypical opinions about homeless people. One man stood to share his story-the story of how he became homeless.

This man told about moving here from across the country to work for a company that went out of business shortly after he arrived, leaving him without a paycheck and no way to pay for his apartment. In the course of just two months, he went from employed to homeless with nowhere to turn. He said many homeless people aren't bums looking for a handout; they're just people, even families, who've found themselves in a difficult, but temporary situation. As his words hung in the air, you could have heard a pin drop in the room.

That night a lot of lives were changed. May it change your life today. Pray for those who are less fortunate, give of your means to those who have none, be 'Jesus' to others.

May we all be blessed by someone who tears down walls of misunderstanding, and begins to mold hearts in a new way. God bless us all, everyone!



## Music & Worship

The next MUSIC AND WORSHIP meeting will be held on January 12th, at 6:00 pm.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all members of SSM to come and join our committee. Your service can be long term or short term. If you would like information about the committee and the duties or would like to volunteer to serve, please contact one of the following members of Music and Worship by phone or by contacting them at church:

Readers: Bob DeFrank 761-2165

Ushers: Bob Rasmussen 421-5170

Greeters: Jenny Koeff 425-0773

Communion Setup or Serve: Cathy Peterson 325-6628 Sue Jarchow 526-9785

### *THANKS TO ALL!*

Many thanks to Bill Bravener, Stephanie Gordon and all of the wonderful musicians who blessed us on December 11th with the "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" Concert. It was a glorious occasion.

Also a big thanks to the all who prepared and served the Hors d'oeuvres and dessert reception following the concert.

### *PARAMENT COLOR CHANGES*

We are now in the time of the twelve days of Christmas from December 25th to January 5th. White is the color symbolizing the light and purity of Christ. The season of Epiphany, the coming of the kings to Bethlehem begins January 6th continues until Lent, March 9th of this year. The paraments are white on the first and last Sundays of Epiphany and green as a symbol of life and growth.

### *WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY*

Welcome Father Alan Jurkus Saturday, Jan. 15th

The "Clergy of the Greens" will participate in a Pulpit exchange during the 2011 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at our Saturday evening worship, January 15th.

We welcome Father Alan Jurkus from St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Greendale.

Fr. Jurkus will preach and lead worship that evening (not on Sunday this year) Pastor Gail will preach at St.

Alphonsus that evening. We will be back in our own churches on Sunday. This exchange is a great privilege and we give thanks to God that we can share the Gospel in our different congregations and rejoice in the unity that

we have together in Christ!

### *DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ ASSOCIATE IN MINISTRY*

Thanks to all of our musicians for the beautiful music during Advent and Christmas. I sincerely appreciate the time and talent that you so generously share.

This year we have the joy of experiencing an extra long Epiphany season. Christmas is not over! Although we may take down our Christmas decorations and lights, the light of Christ continues to shine throughout this dark winter and throughout all time. May the light of Christ continue to shine through us.

See you at worship.

Choir Schedule:

January 5

5:30 Handbell Choir rehearsal

7:00 Choir Epiphany Eve Party

Remaining Wednesdays:

5:30 Handbell Choir rehearsal

7:00 Senior Choir rehearsal

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## Stewardship

Next meeting: January 4th - 7:00 pm

### *GIVING IS GOOD FOR YOU*

"It is more blessed to give than to receive"

Acts 20:35, NIV

We are all familiar with the above Bible verse, but do you know that giving is good for you? In an article from Martha Stewart Living magazine, written by Mary Duenwald, it states, "No matter how little we have, it feels good to give—to donate money or time, to offer help to people and organizations. And it turns out that giving does more than just lift our mood. Scientists have found evidence that it improves our health--boosting our energy, helping us avoid illness, and even extending our lives."

"Positive feelings relieve stress and the ailments that accompany it. And, when we're happier, we usually feel more energetic and healthy". "We possess a deep instinct to help and to give. It feels good because it's something we need to do, and we know that it may reward us."

January is the month of new beginnings and possibilities. Here at St. Stephen's we have many opportunities to experience the joy of giving. In 2011 consider helping in the nursery, joining a committee, visiting a shut-in, donating food to the Food Pantry, helping at the Gathering, donating to ELCA World Hunger, or increasing your weekly giving to help support the many programs at our church.

Consistent with our Stewardship theme for 2011, Make it Simple - giving is good for you.

Happy New Year!

Your Stewardship Committee

- Shirley Rau

### *HUNGER BOXES*

ELCA World Hunger Boxes may be returned anytime but especially on Epiphany weekend, January 8th & 9th.

The Sunday School children will be able to bring them into church on that weekend.

Thank you for your generosity to hungry people at home and around the world!



THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in January, the 12th & 26th 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 fellowship together with a New Year's luncheon!

When: January 12, 2011

Where: LaToscana at 8405 S. 27th St. in Franklin

11:45 pm at the 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.

Contact Jean Switala (817-0826) for more information or with any questions.

### ***THE PIECEMAKERS QUILTING GROUP***

will resume their monthly meetings on January 17th at 6:15 p.m.

Join us as we continue making quilts on the third Monday of every month for Lutheran World Relief through the month of October. The process is simple, no experience or expertise is necessary. Call Betty Kroll (414-421-1802) or Marge Muroi (414-423-1316) with any questions.

### ***KNIT WITS KNITTING GROUP***

Meets January 3rd @ 6:30 p.m. Knitters, crocheters and wanna-bes, join us! All are welcome.

### ***THANK YOU!***

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Loose Ends, Women of the ELCA, Bake and Craft Sale that was held the first weekend in December. You may have been on the Planning Committee or perhaps you donated items to be sold that you had made, or you may have purchased bakery or crafts ... whatever your role, we are very thankful for your support. Our Steering Committee will meet within the next month or two to determine how the proceeds from the Sale will be distributed. That information will appear in one of the upcoming SSM Newsletters.

Gratefully, the Women of the ELCA Steering Committee and Loose Ends Members

### ***FOR YOUR CREATIVE SIDE - PHOTOGRAPHERS***

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say "Rejoice." Philippians 4:4

For the upcoming Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in Spokane, WA you are invited to submit photographs that respond to the theme Renew, Respond, Rejoice! and Philippians 4:4. Photographs can be of your church community celebrating baptisms or confirmations, participating in a Habitat for Humanity project or of any event that embodies the call to Renew, Respond, and Rejoice! You need not attend the gathering to submit photographs.

Watch for details in upcoming newsletters. For now, use your camera with this purpose in mind!

- Julie Starks

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## ***Other Notes***

### ***MEN'S BIBLE STUDY***

Men's Bible Study is meeting January 5th & 19th @ 8:00 a.m.

We will be studying the book of Hebrews. The donuts are fresh and the coffee is hot. All men are welcome to join us! Bring your friends, too.

### ***NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING***

Date: January 30, 2010

Time: 10:40 a.m.

Your council needs your input at this meeting. We will be sharing ideas on the ways in which we can build our church, our own Christian lives and how we can better impact our community and the world in which we live.

As is our custom, a brunch will be served by our youth during the meeting to make the best use of our time.

It is important that all confirmed members of St. Stephen the Martyr attend and vote at this annual meeting. It is your opportunity to have a voice in our church. We hope to see you there!

### ***Thanks to All Who Do So much for SSM***

#### ***Many thanks to...***

- Pastor Gail for shepherding the flock of SSM throughout 2010 and into 2011.
- Vic Peterson and Bob Rasmussen for hanging the outdoor wreath and for bringing down the Christmas boxes.
- Jim Arneson and the Property Committee for hanging the outdoor nativity and putting up the evergreen trees in the sanctuary.

- Bill Bravener for his musical leadership, and to Jan Snyder and Mark Breutzman for their musical talent on Saturday evening.
- All the musicians who participated in the SSM Christmas concert and other beautiful music throughout the year.
- Bob and Sue De Frank for their tireless work with our Sunday School children and to all the faithful Sunday School teachers.
- To Stephanie Gordon for planning the Children's Christmas Program.
- Bob Rasmussen, Jenny Koeff, Bob De Frank, Cathy Peterson and Sue Jarchow for the Usher, Greeter, Lay Reader, Communion setup and serving schedules throughout the year, and especially for recruiting for the special services.
- To our offering counter teams, and to the ushers, communion assistants, readers, and greeters.
- The Eric Sundquist family for the donation of the sanctuary evergreen trees.
- David Alfvín, Debbie Perl, and Chuck Marotske for painting and restraining the outdoor Nativity and cross.
- Bob De Frank and crew for setting up the Chrismon tree.
- Lori Salas and Mary Luedtke for decorating the Chrismon tree in the narthex.
- Karen Rasmussen, for her untiring weekly assistance in decorating the narthex and sanctuary, and for her continuing guidance and dedication to the Music and Worship committee.
- J. P. Maschke for his leadership on the Fellowship committee and his hard work coordinating special dinners and receptions held at SSM.
- Bob De Frank & helpers for hanging the garland in the narthex.
- Faith O'Connell for coordinating and ordering the plants and poinsettias.
- Karen Miller and Cathy Peterson for decorating the sanctuary with Christmas plants and poinsettias.
- Bob Rasmussen for watering the poinsettias, other flowers and all our green plants throughout the year.
- Karen and John Hoffman for the chili supper and for all of the carolers who visited the shut-ins.
- John Rech, Char Guilianni and Erin Arneson for coordinating the Salvation Army Bell Ringer schedule and to all who rang!
- All who donated gifts to the Bay View Community Center, to our sock drive and to other outreach programs.
- Bob Brownell and Jay Rosiewski for all the extra clean-up for so many activities.
- Char Guilianni and Tim Falksen for all of their work with the Youth Group.
- Our Council Members, Committee Members, and all the many Volunteers, who work tirelessly to build up the body of Christ at St. Stephen the Martyr.
- Lynda Shadd for her untiring fortitude and diligence in performing so many varied tasks for SSM. Nancy Hoffman for her office help on Mondays.
- To Carol Wagner & Andrea Woerpel for their expertise in creating the lovely bulletin boards in the narthex!
- Louise Becker, Jean Brownell, Donna Carver, Ellen Chipman, Mary Freiburger, Joanne Hoeft, Karen Hoffman, Ruth Hoppe, Jean Kurowski, Sandy Peterson, Shirley Rau, and Diane Stojanovich, for help with the bulletins, newsletter, and other office work in 2010.
- All who have given generously of time and talent and resources to SSM in 2010. Your service to our Lord will not go unnoticed by Him. You are a blessing to the body of Christ!
- We sincerely apologize if we have left anyone out—you are all such a blessing to SSM!

Submitted by Susan Jarchow

### *Flower Chart*

Flowers are a beautiful way to adorn our worship. If you would like to provide a bouquet, please write your name on the new Flower Chart on the office door and specify the month and week that you will be providing flowers.

Please state whether the offering is in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion in the family.

You can have them delivered on Friday 9-12 pm, or you can bring your flowers in yourself on Friday morning, during office hours, or at 4:30pm before the Saturday evening service.

### *ETERNAL CANDLE CHART*

Right next to the Flower Chart you will find a separate chart for the Eternal Candle.

Simply print your name next to the month you would like to sign up for, and don't forget to state whether it is in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion in the family.

Eternal Candle is \$25 for the month. Place your check in the offering and state what it is for.

## Council Meeting Notes

Notes on the Dec. 14th Council Minutes

Council members present were: J. Bugajski, J. Covert, C. Guiliani, J. Hennessy, S. Jarchow, S. Lubus, J. Miller, J. Muroi and E. Sanders. Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins was also present. J. Arneson, J. P. Maschke and C. Peterson were excused. C. Birk substituted for P. Gustafson.

Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed.

The Treasurer's Report was given. J. Bugajski stated the total offerings as of 12/12/10 were short \$5041.65 or 98.4% of the weekly budgeted amount. The Treasurer's Report was approved. Under the Treasurer's Report that was a motion made, approved and seconded that \$215.00 be given back to the Bay View Food Pantry.

**Pastor's Time:** Pastor thanked all the talented and committed musicians who participated in the Advent/Christmas concert on Saturday, 12/11. 194 people attended the event. She thanked all of the men and women who prepared and worked at the Loose Ends Craft and bake sale and noted that all of the proceeds would go to SSM improvements and charities. She has been serving communion to as many shut-ins and home bound members as she is able this month. Pastor presided at one baptism, Sophia Sharon, daughter of new members E. and J. Sharon on Nov. 20. She conducted the memorial Service for member J. Patzke on December 4th and the graveside service on December 6th. Pastor asked that we all consider attending the Concert and Piñata Party at Santa Fe Church, located on 27th and Mineral, which will be held on Saturday, 12/18 at 6 PM. She also asked that SSM learn more about the Greater Milwaukee Synod's Outreach for Hope Fund by inviting its director, Reverend J. Bickel to preach in early 2011.

**Old Action Items:**

**Annual Meeting Update:** - J. Muroi asked that all Council Committee Chairs submit their 2010 Summaries for the Annual Congregational meeting by mid-January. It should be noted that for 2011, the brunch served by the youth would occur during the January 30th Annual meeting as opposed to after the meeting.

**New Action Items:**

**Financial Secretary Update** - J. Muroi reported that SSM member J. Schulz has accepted the position of Financial Secretary replacing B. Kroll. He will start at the beginning of the year.

**2011 Budget Review:** The Council spent the majority of the meeting reviewing the Annual budget submitted by J. Miller. After careful review the following motions were made, seconded and approved by the Council. 1) A motion was made to give Pastor G. Brodersen-Heins a \$500.00 bonus on her first paycheck for 2011. 2) A motion was made to give B. Bravener a \$300.00 bonus on his first paycheck for 2011. 3) A motion was made to give the lay employees of L. Shadd, N. Hoffman and B. Brownell a 20% raise in 2011. In regards to the entire budget a motion was made to approve the 2011 budget not to exceed \$330,000.

**Committee Reports:** Due to the length of the meeting, there were two Committee Reports. Under Youth and Family Ministries, a motion was made, seconded and approved to give \$225.00 each to K. Lawson, M. Peterson and C. Guiliani for their upcoming Mission trip to New Orleans. Also, J. Bugajski reported that the Memorial Committee spent \$950.74 for six folding tables.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11th, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shellee Lubus  
Council Secretary

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