

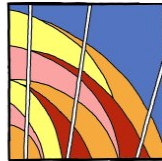


# St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA

*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

March 2011 Newsletter



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

6101 South 51st Street  
Greendale, WI 53129  
PHONE & FAX: 421-3543  
E-MAIL: [ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com](mailto:ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com)  
[www.StStephentheMartyr.com](http://www.StStephentheMartyr.com)

### 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](mailto:pastorgail@ststephenthemartyr.com)  
Bill Bravener, Music Director  
[bbravener@ststephenthemartyr.com](mailto:bbravener@ststephenthemartyr.com)  
Lynda Shadd, Office Administrator  
[ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com](mailto:ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com)  
Bob Brownell, Maintenance  
Bob De Frank, Sunday School Superintendent  
Janet Snyder, Organist

### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

March 9, 2011  
7:00 p.m.  
Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

### **WEDNESDAYS IN LENT**

March 16, 23, 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"  
Wednesday, March 30 at 7 pm,  
the Youth "Mime Troupe" of Ascension Lutheran Church in Waukesha will present a drama portraying the final hours of Christ's life in "mime" ...no words, just actions synchronized to beautiful music communicating the power and poignancy of the Passion Story.



### *inside this issue:*

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- Music & Worship
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- Women's Ministries
- Other Notes

## *From Pastor's Desk*

The beloved German Lutheran pastor and martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, once said "When Christ calls a person, He calls them to come and die..."

We don't like to hear that, I think. It's not exactly the kind of invitation we'd readily accept!

But meeting and following Christ does involve some death: we are to die to our old life and rise to new life in Him. It begins in our baptism, and it continues each and every day. God is the One who saves us. But it involves some work on our part!

Lent is a great time to reflect on this dying and rising. On Ash Wednesday, we gather to have the ashes placed on our foreheads in the shape of a cross. We are reminded that our life here has a beginning and an end, and what we do in between has great significance.

The season of Lent originally meant "springtime" and doesn't that have a life-affirming ring to it! We do not have to go through Lent with a somber face. We can affirm the beauty of creation and the joy of knowing our Savior. That cross on our forehead is the most important symbol of all. It reminds us of our Savior's love for us and for all the world.

The 40 days of Lent (which do not include the Sundays in the season) are a time for us to remember His love and to turn again and again to prayer and praise. And to thank God again and again for all our blessings! One spiritual discipline I suggest is to actually say out loud what things you are thankful for that particular day. Give yourself a goal, whether it is three or five or ten things, and be specific. Thank you God for warm water in the shower, a car that runs, friendly folks in the grocery store, a nourishing breakfast, the Bible! You can name many more. And enjoy listing more the next day, and so on!

The traditional disciplines of Lent are prayer, fasting, and generous giving to those in need. While fasting is much rarer these days, it can be helpful. You may want to set aside more time for prayer and devotions this Lenten season.

One opportunity for giving comes from our Greater Milwaukee Synod's "Outreach for Hope" which funds 22 ministries with the poor in our community through congregations such as Unity Lutheran's Soup Kitchen and Faith/Santa Fe's Food Pantry. Read the article on page 12 to learn how you may participate. The Rev. Jim Bickel, Outreach for Hope director with tell us more on the weekend of March 5-6.

My prayer for us is that we have a meaningful and God-filled Lent, dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ!

A blessed Lenten season to you!

Pastor Gail

## **Christian Education**

### **COMING IN APRIL—A New Daytime Bible Study**

For anyone available during a weekday, we will be offering a new Bible Study.

Watch for details coming soon....

Start Date: Monday, April 4th

Time: 1-2 pm

Contact Carol Birk with questions, (414)231-9121

### **FIT AND FAITHFUL- 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: [www.fitandfaithful.blogspot.com](http://www.fitandfaithful.blogspot.com)

Julie Starks: [jastarks@earthlink.net](mailto:jastarks@earthlink.net)

Mary Kling: [poemwritertoo@gmail.com](mailto:poemwritertoo@gmail.com)

### **LENTEN BOOK OF FAITH**

Program: Philippians

March 13 - April 13

Come together on either Sunday after late service or Wednesday during the Soup Suppers for this 5-week

study of Paul's letter to the Philippians!

Wednesdays, 5:45-6:45pm, March 16 - April 13

Sundays, 10:50am - 11:50am, March 13 - April 10

"Philippians is a letter from Paul to the community of faith in Philippi. This community had supported Paul's ministry and Paul writes from prison to reassure the community that his ministry continues despite his situation. This study uses four paradoxes as lenses to look at Paul's letter."

How Can the Bible Be Studied?

(review of Opening the Book of Faith)

Individual Community

Joyful Suffering

Free Slave

Downward Ascent

A donation of \$5 will help offset the cost of materials. Early registration helps us plan our materials, so sign up today, or just show up when you can!

## NEW MEMBER CLASS

New members will be welcomed into the St. Stephen the Martyr family on April 10th at the 9:30 service.

For those desiring to join and coming from a non-Lutheran background, I will lead 5 one-hour classes on Saturday afternoons beginning Saturday, March 5th at 3:15 pm. A discussion guide will be provided.

An orientation for all will be on April 3rd at 10:40 a.m. Please contact me if you or a family member is interested.

Current members are also welcome for this review of basic teachings.

- Pastor Gail

# Family Ministry News

Upcoming Events		
Mar 5	6:00 PM	Family Ministry Gathering @ SSM
April	TBA	30-hour Famine

Thanks!

We would like to send out a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who donated to our SouperBowl of Caring!!! The total from the three Services collected was \$486.79!!! We would also like to send out a thank you to Jack & Cole Larson, Alex & Sydney Covert and Alaina & Kessia Andersen for their help.

## FAMILY GATHERING

The next Family Gathering will be held in the Fellowship Hall at St. Stephen the Martyr on March 5th, 2011, at 6pm. We will be discussing some of our goals and activities for 2011. Come join us for Fellowship, Faith, Family, Food and Fun!! Contact Char Guilliani at 801-7349 for further information.

## EASTER EGG HUNT

If anyone is willing to help plan/organize an Easter Egg Hunt for the youth, please come to the next Family Gathering (see date above). If you cannot attend please contact Char Guilliani (414-801-7349) on or before March 5th.

## We're Going Back to NOLA!

The 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering is meeting in New Orleans again to continue the good work of helping the struggling city in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Yes, there is still so much to do! While the work in New Orleans is important, the ultimate goal of the gathering is to inspire youth and adults to return to their own communities to live out their baptismal call to "serve all God's people, following the example of Jesus." Any youth entering 9th grade in the fall of 2012 through graduation from high school in the spring of 2012 who is interested in attending this awesome event, please contact Char Guilliani (minizmom@yahoo.com) or Tim Falksen (tfalksen@gmail.com). More information can be found at: <http://www.elca.org/Gathering>

Contact our Council Chair for Family Ministries

Char Guliiani

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

# Fellowship

## **FIT AND FAITHFUL - New Format!**

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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: [www.fitandfaithful.blogspot.com](http://www.fitandfaithful.blogspot.com)

Julie Starks: [jastarks@earthlink.net](mailto:jastarks@earthlink.net)

Mary Kling: [poemwritertoogmail.com](mailto:poemwritertoogmail.com)

## **Lenten Soup Supper Slogan: Simply Supply Super Supper Soups**

Ok, well I'm unable to keep up the alliteration. In the next two weeks the soup parade begins. So that our Lenten attendees do not have to worry about making supper before the 7 PM Lenten service, 10 homemade soups will be needed (not on the same day).

The congregation would like to have two choices of soups at each of the five Lenten services beginning on March 16th. Please sign up on the bulletin board. If you are not the soup making type please consider bringing a salad, jell-o, bread or other simple foods. We also need at least two individuals each night to set up, wash a few dishes and put things away.

We especially encourage the youth of the church to assist in some of these tasks. If they are in the confirmation class they can earn community service hours.

We rely on a few regulars to make soups as they have done in the past but we want to find new talent as well. If you have a recipe in mind, make it into a soup! - JP Maschke

## **Easter Breakfast**

### **A GRAND TRADITION AT SSM!!**

SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH

Bob Rasmussen has written a letter to many in the church who have helped put together this wonderful festival morning. The experienced volunteers are the backbone of this effort. Again we encourage each of you to consider signing up for one of the many job duties developed specifically for the joyous event of Easter Day. Some of the bravest will sign up for the "To be assigned" category. We look for the most creative and adventurous for that position.

The sign-up sheet will go up around mid-March. Everyone will have fun participating in this morning event. You will be in good company!

## **1st Friday Potluck Dinner**

Celebrates St. Patrick's Day! Friday,  
March 4th—6:00 pm

Come for fine food and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. Join SSM members and friends for home-made Reuben sandwiches with all the trimmings. Bring a side dish, salad or dessert (think green if you can) and a can or two of green vegetables of some kind for the food pantry. We'll share jokes (think St. Paddy's day as you search for some) and sing some Irish songs (bring a song if you like) and we'll celebrate the coming of Spring too! All are welcome, especially those who live alone. A donation of \$1.00 is requested for the sandwiches.

Please sign up on the bulletin board near the church office.

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## **Human concerns**

### **A Dollar a Day for Poverty**

The Human Concerns committee is asking for participation in a Lenten Project sponsored by our Greater

Milwaukee Synod's Outreach for Hope.

They are looking for 40 people in 40 congregations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod to donate a dollar a day for 40 days.

This program can be part of your 2011 Lenten discipline. You will receive daily 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

Have a Heart to

Save a Heart

Thanks to all of you who purchased cookies for the "Have a Heart to Save a Heart" program. This is a great start to purchasing a defibrillator for our church. Your donation will help fund the machine, a cabinet to store it in, training, and maintenance. Our fund raising goal is \$2000.

## Baby Clothing Needed

The Human Concerns committee is looking for gently used baby girl clothes and other infant necessities. If you or any one you know have baby items please leave them in the coat room at church and contact Pamela Gustafson (817-3290) so they get to the needed family. Could also use: newborn diapers and baby skin care toiletries.

*"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had." Acts 4:32*



## Music & Worship

### THE NEXT MUSIC & WORSHIP MEETING WILL BE MARCH 2, AT 6:00 PM.

All are welcome to join us as we discuss and plan the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday is on March 9th at 7:00 pm with full communion, imposition of ashes, and liturgy.

### GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION WAFERS....

SSM offers Gluten Free communion wafers at all communion services. The wafers are for people with specific food sensitivities. These Gluten Free communion wafers are a light, plain, small round wafer, and are soy free. The ingredients are: filtered water, sweet rice flour, potato flour, palm oil, potato starch, methycellulose, sunflower lecithin, ener-g baking powder, potato starch, and monocalcium phosphate.

If you or a family member or friend would like to request a Gluten Free wafer, please see the pastor before any Communion service or mention it as you are being served.

### A FRIENDLY REMINDER About Worship Etiquette....

Each of us comes from different walks of life, each unique. When we walk through the doors of St. Stephen the Martyr to worship, we become one community present to praise and worship God. And to ensure that everyone is able to enjoy a meaningful worship experience, here are a few friendly reminders:

Join us in the sanctuary for worship. The narthex is a place to meet and greet before and after worship. Please limit conversing during the worship.

Remember to silence cell phones and other electronics before worship begins.

St. Stephen has a nursery. Though we welcome ALL children to attend the worship service, if your child is being slightly disruptive, please use the nursery.

Food and drinks should remain in the Fellowship Hall. This is to ensure that our carpeting, cushioned seats, and hymnals are kept in good condition.

We understand that there are circumstances that lend themselves to our entering and leaving the sanctuary during worship services. Please enter and exit during times of least distraction, such as during a hymn or communion, etc.

Make good use of your bulletin following the service. Please take it home with you, especially the mini-newsletter which has lots of good info about what's happening here at SSM!

Thank you for your presence here. Thank you for your respect and consideration for ALL who worship at SSM. God bless you!

Susan Jarchow & Music and Worship Committee

## SPECIAL LENTEN DRAMA— Ascension Lutheran Youth Mime Troupe

On Wednesday, March 30, our mid-week Lenten worship service will be led by the Youth Mime Ministry group from Ascension Lutheran Church in Waukesha. Over the past 17 years, The Passion has been performed before thousands of people at more than 200 churches in Wisconsin and Illinois. The youth of Ascension have made it their mission to touch people's hearts with God's message of love, hope, and forgiveness through Jesus Christ as they re-enact the drama of the Last Supper, the betrayal, the trial, the crucifixion and the sorrow surrounding Jesus' death.

Each year, 9th - 12th grade youth at Ascension perform this story during the season of Lent at churches and other venues throughout the region. The powerful story touches the lives of both the audience and performers allowing greater understanding of the impact of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection in our faith.

I hope you can attend this special presentation. This group is in high demand, and we have been on a waiting list to schedule them for nearly two years. We are grateful to be included in their schedule this year.

A blessed Lent to you. See you at worship.

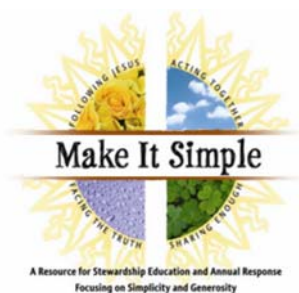
- Bill

## Lenten Reflection:

It is important that we not confuse the useful, helpful spiritual disciplines of Lent with the true purpose of Lent: to fix our eyes on Jesus and to ponder the purpose, reasons and necessity of our Lord's suffering and death for us.

Jesus said, "But when you fast..." not "But if you fast..." Fasting is indeed a good, outward, bodily discipline, as Luther himself states in the Catechism. But it is never fasting, for the sake of fasting. When I cut back on the amount of food I'm eating and I feel that twinge, or even a sharp stab of hunger, I am immediately reminded: Oh, yes, hunger. Yes, Lent. Yes, Jesus suffered for me. He felt the deep sharp stab of thorn and nail, for me.

## Stewardship



## Fourty Somedays

This Lenten Season is Filled With Forty Somedays!

Most people live on an eight-day week - not a seven-day week. They have Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and SOMEDAY.

So often, the most important things in life are saved for SOMEDAY:

Someday we will tell our friends how much we have appreciated them.

Someday we will tell our neighbor what Jesus has done for us and why we follow Him.

Someday we will do something about that big dream we have.

Someday we will make time for daily prayer.

Someday we will visit a homebound friend.

Someday we will reflect thankfully on our gifts of life, treasure, and talents from God.

And ...

Someday we will consider what time and talents we will give to God's work as His good stewards.

But SOMEDAY rarely comes. Many of these important things never are done. The work of God must never be a SOMEDAY project.

Lent in 2011 begins on March 9th. Lent is always filled with forty somedays! How will we spend our somedays of Lent -and beyond, as stewards of God's gifts?

Speak up Loudly  
for the Lord!

The Bible, according to children: "The people who followed Jesus were called the twelve decibels." - author unknown, thankfully.

by M. Walton and Your Stewardship Committee

Next Stewardship Meeting:

March 1st, 6:30 p.m.

## Special Offerings for 2011

- Ash Wednesday--The El Salvador Endowment Fund of the ELCA
- Lent--Outreach for Hope sponsored by the Greater Milwaukee Synod
- Palm Sunday--Outreach for Hope sponsored by the Greater Milwaukee Synod
- Easter Sunday--Outreach for Hope and the ELCJHL (church in the Holy Land)
- Maundy Thursday--The Grow-Hansons ELCA Missionaries
- Good Friday--The Grow-Hanson ELCA Missionaries
- Easter Sunday--Repairers of the Breach and the Meru Diocese
- Thanksgiving--Hunger Task Force Milwaukee
- Advent--ELCA World Hunger Appeal
- Christmas--1/2 Heifer Project and 1/2 Hope House



## Women's Bible Study/Loose Ends Luncheon

THE MARCH WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will meet only on the 4th Wednesday, March 23rd 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! Note the special date!

March 23, 2011

Casa Di Giorgio's, 3137 West Rawson Avenue, Franklin

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 Karen Miller with questions: 414-761-1455.

## Spring Event on Global Christianity

The Women of the ELCA, Greater Milwaukee Synod, Clusters I, II, III, & IV

invite you to our Spring Event on Global Christianity

"Travel to Tanzania" with Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins and Julie Starks as they present their experience at the Spring Cluster Event being held on Saturday, April 2, 2011 at Luther Manor, 4545 N. 92nd St., Milwaukee 53225.

8:30 a.m. Registration

9 a.m. - noon Bible Study and Program

Noon Luncheon (Chicken Salad Croissant/Fresh Fruit

Cost: Registration and Luncheon \$10

Registration only (no lunch) \$2 (Cost includes mid-morning refreshment break)

Registration deadline is March 22. Registration Forms are posted on the kiosk.

Let's show our support of Pastor Gail and Julie by attending this event. Car pooling can be arranged as needed.

Call Carole Ropel

(262-523-4130) with any questions.

## *Other Notes*

### **Distribution of Proceeds From The 2010 LOOSE ENDS BAKE & CRAFT SALE**

We are grateful to all who participated in our December, 2010 Bake & Craft Sale by donating baked goods or crafts. We express our gratitude to all involved with the preparation and clean-up of the sale and, of course, to those of you who made purchases at the sale. Your generosity of time, effort and purchases will help many, as shown below.

Determined by the Steering Committee of the Women of the ELCA at St. Stephen the Martyr, proceeds from the Loose Ends Bake & Craft Sale will be distributed as follows:

SSM Additional lighting in Sanctuary \$1,000

Sojourner Family Peace Center \$200

Kujichagulia Lutheran Center \$250

Seedfolks Youth Ministry \$250

Women of the ELCA-General Fund \$100

ELCA World Hunger-Water Project \$500

ELCA Disaster Response \$500

Wartburg Seminary/Ev. Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land Libraries Project \$200

SSM Prayer Garden \$400

Scholarship for SSM women to attend events of the Women of the ELCA \$ 75

Shipping of prayer shawls & socks to Spokane Triennial \$ 50

Omar Mursal for college expenses \$200

Lutheran Woman Today subscriptions \$125

for new members at SSM

Mother's Day recognition for SSM members \$150

Total \$4,000

Thank you again for helping us help others.

Carole Ropel, Coordinator

### **WOMEN FOR MACC PASTA FEST**

Sunday, March 6th

11:30 to 5:30

At Serb Hall

Are you looking for a fun family event to help get you through the end of winter? Please join me at Pasta Fest.

This Women for MACC fundraiser offers a delicious pasta dinner, both a general raffle and grand raffle as well as clowns, entertainment and local celebrity guest appearances.

Please check the bulletin board for a flyer with more details and a pre-order ticket form.

All proceeds go to the MACC Fund to support childhood cancer research. Questions? Contact Heidi Hennessy @ 421-7004

### **THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD** of the ELCA

will be held at the Country Springs Resort, Waukesha Friday evening, June 24 through Sunday afternoon the 26th.

SSM is allowed two voting members in addition to Pastor Gail and Bill Bravener. Please contact Pastor Gail if you are interested!

### **Prayer Garden Meeting**

Tuesday, March 1st, 6:30 pm

Join us for a brainstorming meeting. Your ideas are welcome!

### **It's All About You...**

I remember receiving ads in the mail from two different companies. One was from a stationery supplier and the other from a chain of retail stores. The headline for each was, "It's all about you."

The philosophy behind those ad campaigns is almost as old as the human race. In effect, that's what the serpent

said to Eve. "It's all about you." It's a crafty campaign he's been running ever since.

Think about how often we're tempted to be self-centered:

How does this affect me?

Why did this happen to me?

I don't care. It's my turn.

She hurt my feelings.

I need my space.

He's not sensitive to my needs.

I want it now! I deserve it.

We're all tempted to think that it's all about us. But Revelation 4 shows a different way of thinking: "Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."" This Lenten season let us remember to be God-centered instead of self-centered. It's really all about Him!

## Hugs & Kisses to You!

Our seniors would like to extend their thanks to all the Sunday School kids who participated in sending Valentine's Day cards to them. They were lovely and very appreciated.

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### *Council Notes*

#### Highlights of the Church Council Meeting—February 8th, 2011

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

J. Muroni welcomed our new financial secretary, Jeff Schultz.

**Approvals:** The Secretary's January minutes were not approved pending changes to be made by S. Lubus. Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed. The Treasurer's Report was given. J. Muroni filled in for J. Bugajski and reported that as of 2/6/11 our total offerings were almost \$3,000 more than what is budgeted for 2011 . Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Pastor's Time:** Pastor Gail reported it was a privilege to participate in the Clergy Exchange for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Father A. Jurkens preached on Jan. 15 and Gail preached at St. Alphonsus in Greendale. SSM hosted the Clergy of the Greens group on 1/26. The next meeting of the Unity Lutheran/Faith Santa Fe Lutheran/SSM will be Sunday 2/20 at 3 PM at Santa Fe on 27th & Mineral. She encouraged Council members to get involved. Pastor welcomed back organist J. Snyder who was out for three months, recovering from back surgery. During the weekend of 3/5 & 6 Pastor J. Bickel from Outreach for Hope will be at SSM talking about his program and asking 40 members to pledge one dollar a day during Lent. Members removed due to inactivity: K. Jozwiak, V. Lawrence, S. Staude and family and N. Buetow. A recent fire tragedy displaced members of the Mohamed family. Pastor asked the Council/Human Concerns Committee to coordinate with the family as to what they will need.

#### **Old Action Items—**

**Annual Meeting Review-** J. Muroni thanked everyone who get their reports in on time and to C. Guiliani for the luncheon. There were 95 members in attendance, up from 80 the previous year. C. Guiliani suggested that the meal be served "family style" next year, as a way to save time.

#### **New Action Items-**

**ELCA Website Developer** - The Council discussed SSM website as to who uses the site, who maintains the site, etc. J. Arneson and E. Sanders agreed to form an ad hoc committee with other SSM members to discuss how the site can be upgraded, more user friendly, etc. J. Muroni asked for a report in 60 days.

**Thrivent Matching Funds and Easter Breakfast** - J. Muroni reported that R. Rasmussen and J.P. Maschke would be responsible for the Easter breakfast this year and that the money raised this year would be matched up to \$800.00 from Thrivent. Thrivent would then send checks to our designated food pantries, Central City and Bay View.

**Synod Congregational Leaders Event** - President Muroni encouraged Council members to attend the upcoming Synod leaders one day event scheduled for 2/19. He has attended several in the past and found them to be very informative. Pastor Gail informed members that half of their fees would be paid by the church.

**Annual Meeting Table Discussion** - The Council received a breakdown of the suggestions made by SSM members during the Annual Meeting. The comments revolved around the need for either an associate pastor, a volunteer coordinator or a Youth and Family Coordinator. J. Arneson suggested a cottage type meeting with

members to discuss what position is needed most. J. Muroli suggested that Council should focus more on what types of programs we need at church and then choose what position would best fit those programs. There will be further discussion on this issue.

**Committee Reports:**

**Youth and Family:** C. Guilianni reported that the Sunburst Ski event is scheduled for 1/27. The next youth & family night will be at SSM on 3/5. Souper Bowl Sunday netted \$486.69. The youth group will be participating in the 30-hour famine project with St. Luke's & Adoration.

**Property Committee:** J. Arneson reported that the lights at the rear of the sanctuary and by the choir area need to be upgraded.

**Human Concerns:** C. Birk reported that on February 12-13 there will be a cookie sale to raise money for a defibrillator.

**Stewardship:** J. Covert stated that the next Steward of the Month is member M. Yeutter, currently attending UW-Madison, involved with Campus Ministry.

**Music and Worship:** S. Jarchow reported that her committee is busy planning the upcoming Lenten Services and that the members will be asked again this year to discuss their faith journeys during the Wednesday Lent services.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8th, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted, Shellee Lubus Council Secretary

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PHONE 414-421-3543 • FAX 414-421-3543 • 6101 S 51st St, Greendale, WI 53129 • [SSM@ststephenthemartyr.com](mailto:SSM@ststephenthemartyr.com)