

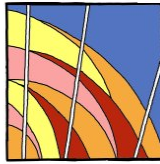


St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA

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

May 2011 Newsletter



St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Office Hours

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

SSM Staff

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

Mother's Day at SSM

Sunday, May 8th
8 & 9:30 a.m.

Vacation Bible School Skit & Bake Sale Fundraiser
Sunday School Kids Singing
Youth Chime Choir Performing
Children's Sermon

Loose Ends Ladies Group will give a gift to all mothers following each service.
Bring YOUR mother!

Virtue and Happiness are Mother and Daughter."
- Benjamin Franklin

"My mom is a never ending song in my heart of comfort, happiness, and being. I may sometimes forget the words but I always remember the tune."
- Gracyie Harmon



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From Pastor's Desk

"Christ is still risen!"

A five-year old boy was watching the movie, "The Terminator." (I agree with you; that's not an appropriate

movie for a child!) The boy heard Arnold Schwarzenegger deliver his famous line, "Hasta la vista, baby."

The little boy climbed into his mother's lap and said, "Mommy, I know what the Terminator says! He says, "I still love Easter, baby!"

And we do too. Even after all the flowers have wilted or been planted in our gardens, after the brunch has been eaten, and all the 'Alleluias' sung, we can still celebrate.

Jesus is risen! We may not understand it, but we believe it. Oh, there will still be days of doubt and struggles with faith, but because God has chosen us in our baptism, each time we receive Christ's body and blood and each time we are blessed in the "name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" with the sign of the cross, then we are reminded we have good news to tell.

God has brought life from death. The women who came to the tomb, and the disciples who followed them first wondered, then questioned, then came to understand that Jesus was alive and among them. He appeared to them. He gave them a holy command, to "go, preach, baptize" and show the world how his people live: with joy, with love and with hope.

The Presiding Bishop of the ELCA Mark Hanson recently visited the President of the Lutheran Church of Haiti. Bishop Hanson says, "As we walked through the ruins that lie in the aftermath of Haiti's earthquake, Pastor Livenson Lauvanus proclaimed, 'We will not be defined by rubble, but by restoration, for we are a people of the resurrection.'

He then states: "We too, are people of the resurrection. We, too, are resurrection messengers. We, too, are about God's work of restoration."

And I add that we can be joyful even in the midst of illness, uncertainty, and death. We can continue to sing "Alleluia". Because Jesus is alive, and he is calling us to live with him here and now, working and playing, singing and praying, giving a word of hope to those who need to hear it. That word of hope is Jesus. Hear it and share it!

See you at worship in this delightful month of May!

Pastor Gail

Family Ministry News

The next family gathering will be held on May 7th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.

30-HOUR FAMINE: Friday, May 6 thru Saturday, May 7th. We are joining several other churches from the Greater Milwaukee Synod at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, W156 N8131 Pilgrim Rd., Menomonee Falls. You can participate if you are in grades 8 (at least 13 yrs. old) thru 12. Check in at Holy Cross will be at 6pm, so we'll carpool from the SSM parking lot, leaving at 5:15p.m. Shirts need to be ordered, so please contact me ASAP with your shirt size. If you are interested or have any questions you can visit the 30 Hour Famine website at www.30hourfamine.org or contact Char Guiliani.

Summer's Almost Here!

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 June 26th - July 1. Family camp will be the week of August 14th. You can find additional information at the Crossways website, <http://www.crosswayscamps.org/>, the flyers in the Narthex or contact Char Guiliani.

Come to NOLA! for the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering!

Any youth entering 9th grade in the fall of 2012 or graduating from high school in the spring of 2012 as well as any age in between is eligible to join us! Please contact Char Guiliani or Tim Falksen at: tfalksen@gmail.com if you are interested in this once in a lifetime event. Check it out at <http://www.elca.org/Gathering>.

Vacation Bible School—July 11-15

PANDAMANIA!

Registration forms are available on the Sunday School Bulletin Board or you can get registration forms online at: www.ststephenthemartyr.com!

Hey Kids! Sign up by Mother's Day and receive a FREE Panda Slap Bracelet!

There will also be a Bake Sale to raise funds for VBS on Mother's Day weekend. Buy a treat for your mother!

Mark Your Calendars!

WHEN: July 11-15, 2011

TIME: 4:45 pm to 8:15 pm

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

FOR: Ages 3 thru completed 5th grade

Dinner is included!

Please put completed forms in Sue DeFrank's mailbox.

Confirmation Update

Confirmation students are reminded to contact their mentors to get together to work on Lenten packets if they didn't do so during Lent!!

Regular confirmation classes begin again on Thursday, May 5th at St. Stephen the Martyr. The final class of the year is May 19th.

Meeting for Current & Future Confirmation Student Parents

Friday, May 13th, 7:00 p.m.

SSM Fellowship Hall

Please join us for a discussion about the schedule for future Confirmation classes. We will talk about the current Confirmation class structure (Thursday evenings) and your ideas for continuing or possibly changing this schedule. If you have children currently in 4th-7th grade, this meeting is especially for you, but all are welcome.

- Denise Sanders

Contact our Council Chair for Family Ministries

Char Guliani

minizmom@yahoo.com & on Facebook

Fellowship

FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK

MAY 6th

6:00 PM

It's Fiesta time. Ole!

The May Friday night potluck will be held on Friday, May 6 at 6:00 pm. We will be serving Tacos with all of the trimmings. Sign up to bring the taco shells, ground seasoned beef, beans, cheese, and other topping items to build yourself the ideal taco. We would like other side salads and other dishes to accompany the tacos. Desserts are especially welcomed.

Bring also a non-perishable food item(s) for the food pantry.

Come join us for a time of fellowship, great food and humor. We ask you to bring jokes, stories, and puns to share with others. All are welcome, especially those who live alone. Please sign up on the bulletin board near the church office.

- Sue Jarchow

Human concerns

The Next Human Concerns Meeting will be Tuesday, May 3rd, 2011 at 6:30 pm

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

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

We are grateful to Alicia Ellis and Bob Foley from Central City Outreach Ministry who came and spoke about their food ministry to the needy on Sunday, April 10th.

DIVINE CANDY SALE!

Divine Candy Bars are still available in the narthex for your sweet tooth. Buy fair trade chocolate bars @ \$1.50 each to help Lutheran World Relief and the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Your purchase helps farmers and their families in Ghana to have a better life such as providing clean water to

drink, better education, and medical clinics. Thanks for your loyal support!

- Carol Manning

Human Concerns Committee

RED DOOR CLOTHING STORE

The Red Door clothing ministry to the needy at St. James Episcopal Church, 833 W. Wisconsin Ave. (271-1340) is in need of gently used:

Men's summer clothing, especially large sizes always needed

Women's & Children's summer clothing—all sizes needed.

Please place your donations in the coat room and label them "Red Door." Bob Lieske has graciously offered to take them to the Red Door for us. Any questions, please call Mary Luedtke @ 414-281-5898.

The Red Door Store is open the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of every month from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Located at 833 West Wisconsin Avenue, the Red Door Store ministry serves those in need of clothing in our neighborhood and community.

- Mary Luedtke

Easter Isn't Over!

During your preparations for Easter, you may have heard someone say, "All this work and it'll all be over so soon." Sorry, but they're wrong!

Easter, as a celebration of the return of spring, of the Easter bunny and colored eggs, fancy hats and new spring clothes may be over, but the TRUE meaning of Easter, the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead, is never over for the Christian. Easter is the reminder and the celebration of a continuing fact, Christ, who was raised from death for the remission of sins (for whosoever believes in him), is alive today, tomorrow and forever.

Daily he offers us and the whole world power to begin new life now!

Easter isn't over... He lives forevermore!

EASTER TIME HYMN

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,

For our offenses given;

But now at God's right hand

He stands and brings us life from Heaven;

Therefore let us joyful be

And sing to God right thankfully

Loud songs of hallelujah! - M. Luther

Music & Worship

Music & Worship Meeting is May 4th at 6 p.m. Please come and join us to plan, share ideas and perhaps join our committee.

We celebrated Easter day and the resurrection of our Lord. Now we celebrate the season of Easter for 50 days when we will move into the time of Pentecost. This marks the day the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples in power, so they could carry on His work and establish His church throughout the world.

The Music and Worship committee would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all who assisted in the Lenten services. To Amy Ziegert, Heidi Mayer, George Gifford, and Carole Ropel for sharing their faith journeys with us during the Wednesday Lenten services. Also the "MIME TROUPE" members of Ascension Lutheran Church, Waukesha who presented the last days of Christ's life.

To committee members: Karen and Bob Rasmussen, Cathy Peterson, Faith O'Connell, Karen Miller, Bob DeFrank: for coordinating volunteers for the decorating, and services. A special THANK YOU to Pastor Gail for shepherding the flock throughout the Lenten season. THANK YOU To Bill Bravener and the musicians for all of the wonderful music.

- Sue Jarchow & Cathy Peterson, Co-Chairs

Fullness of Joy

The Bible calls us to surrender our lives to God, but sometimes we hold back, worried about what we might

have to give up.

We might say, "Sometimes I feel like if I do what God wants, I won't have any time for fun."

The problem is, the things we want to hold onto don't really satisfy.

"I'll give myself to God—as long as I don't have to give up ____" (fill in the blank). We want freedom to do what we want, but sometimes that just puts us in greater bondage.

Nothing can satisfy our hearts like God Himself. Surrendering to Him could mean giving up some of those things that don't really satisfy. But is that so bad?

As the psalmist said, "You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Are you working in your own strength for things that don't really satisfy? Or are you trusting God to give you life's richest pleasures?

"You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." Psalm 16:11

Music Notes from Bill Bravener

Director of Music/Associate in Ministry

This month our choirs will be completing their rehearsals for the summer. This again gives me the opportunity to express my thanks to the members of the Senior Choir and the Handbell Choir. Thank you for sharing your time, your talent, and your faith. I am so blessed to have the opportunity to work with these choirs, and the choirs are blessed to share their music at worship.

Thanks to Tim Falksen, Senior Choir Librarian, who does an excellent job of keeping our music well organized. St. Stephen's has a wonderful choral library, and it's a big job to keep the music labeled, numbered, and filed.

Thanks to Denise Sanders who keeps our handbell music organized and assists me with bell assignments.

There will be opportunities for summer choirs. Watch for the dates for Summer Choir and Summer Handbell Choir. It's a great way to give choir a try.

See you at worship.

- Bill

NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES IN SENEGAL, PETER AND SARAH GROW-HANSON

Dear Friends at St. Stephen the Martyr,

Thanks for your email messages and blessings.

We will be leaving Senegal at the end of June and moving to St. Paul, MN, at least initially. There we will take some time to "re-enter" and discern what lies ahead for us as a family, personally and professionally.

We won't be visiting any of our congregations during the summer since we did a lot of visits last year. We will keep you posted as to our plans as they develop with our newsletter.

Thanks for your support and prayers, especially during this transition time. Our prayers are also with you during this Lenten season as we look forward to Easter's resurrection.

Peace,

Sarah and Peter

Note from Sue Jarchow: We have enjoyed getting to know the Grow-Hanson's as our church supported missionary family. They visited St. Stephen when they were home from Senegal during the summer months and we enjoyed hearing about their ministries in Senegal through newsletters which we posted for you to read. We wish them well in their new endeavors. God bless them.

Stewardship

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and, even when he is old, he will not turn from it."

Proverbs 22:6

The teen years can be times of turbulence and testing of family values. Tithing, or giving 10% to God, is an important family value for many. Additionally, money for most teens is limited as is their ability and willingness to tithe.

Recently, my daughter, a single parent, gave permission to share the story of her son - my grandson, as a good teen steward. Here's her story and mine.

Helping a family friend with yard work in the fall of 2010, my grandson earned \$30. Quietly, and without prompting, he put 10% of his earnings -three dollars, in the offering plate the following Sunday.

One week later, he put two dollars in the offering plate. "I have \$27 in my pocket, Mom. But I didn't have seventy cents to make the 10% for God." he explained.

As time passed, his yard work earnings and offerings left only one dollar in his pocket on the second Sunday in Lent. Serving as an acolyte -robe and all, he realized his last dollar was in his pocket as the offering plate was

passing. While front and center of the congregation, and, without hesitation, he raised his robe and began digging in his pocket. My daughter, embarrassed, couldn't imagine what was going on. "What is he doing?" she wondered. She did not have to wait long to see her son pull something from his pocket and, while signaling the usher to wait, he put that last dollar in the offering.

On the way home from service, he matter-of-factly explained, "I gave my last dollar because I know giving to my church will do some good."

Yes. I'm proud of my grandson. Yes. I'm proud, too, of my daughter who trained her son on the value of what it means to be a responsible steward of God's treasure. As reflected in this Proverb, she continues to train her son "... in the way he should go (because) when he is old, he will not turn from it."

I believe he is well on his way to remaining a life-long "Good Steward." His training as a child is serving him well - a wonderful example for all teens, and for all of us.

- Shirley Rau

Stewardship Committee



The Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, May 11 & May 25 @ 10:15 am. All are invited to come as we study the following Sunday's Scripture texts.

LOOSE ENDS LUNCHEON

Where: Red Lobster, Greenfield, 4645 S. 76th Street

When: Wednesday, May 11th

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Please sign up by May 8th. The form is posted on the kiosk in the narthex. Indicate if you will need a ride from your home or if you want to car-pool from church. We will leave church around 11:30 a.m. Questions: Call Diana Gastrau at 414-304-8284.

Spring Retreat

The Event: Women of the ELCA, Gr. Milwaukee Spring Retreat

The Place: Ascension Lutheran Church

1236 South Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, 53215

Date: May 14, 2011 beginning with registration at 8:45 a.m.

Program: Body and Soul...what our bodies teach us about our faith.

Presenters: Sharon Fox Bogen, Associate in Ministry and Lynn Heinrich, R.N. & former Parish Nurse

Cost: \$15 registration and lunch.

Registration forms are posted on the kiosk. Mail it and your check to Jan Fox, 4140 S. Carnaby Lane, New Berlin WI 53151 by Friday, May 6th.

Any questions, call Carole Ropel 262-523-4130.

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED On October 7-8, the Women of the ELCA, Greater Milwaukee will hold their 24th annual Synodical Convention at St. John Lutheran Church, Brookfield. We are pleased to announce that SSM member, Karen Hoffman, has agreed to serve as your delegate to the Convention and will represent you during the business portion of the meeting.

Further detail about the convention will be published in the June issue of our quarterly newsletter, The Gleanings, along with the registration form. In the meantime, Carole Ropel will be happy to answer any questions for you.

If you have been making prayer shawls for our Women of the ELCA, Triennial Convention/ Gathering in July, please place them in the gray container in the Narthex marked

"Prayer Shawls for Spokane". In early June, they will be packaged and sent to the host city, Spokane, and distributed from there. We are hoping to send 12-15 shawls. Our sincere thanks to all who participate in this ministry.

Other Notes

Library Notes

Book lovers, we have several new books in our Shepherd's Corner Library!

One of interest is "Crazy Love" by Francis Chan. Is today's church "lukewarm" as spoken of in the book of Revelation? Chan challenges us to take responsibility for apathy and engage in self-examination.

For all our Scripture historians, we have Karen Armstrong's work, "The Bible." Armstrong not only describes how, when and by whom the Bible was written, she also examines some 2,000 years of biblical interpretation. Keeping you engaged in quality reading!

Overdue Books!

We want to remind everyone who has taken out library materials, you are welcome to use them at your leisure, as we are thrilled to be able to provide good quality books and videos for you and your family, but remember to return them in a reasonable timeframe, so others can enjoy them. Thank you!

VISIT A HOME-BOUND MEMBER? BE A CARING VISITOR!

Would you enjoy visiting approximately once a month with a home-bound or nursing-home bound member? Three or four enthusiastic women have already volunteered to do this, but we need more visitors. They are called CARING VISITORS, and there is a brief training available.

The next meeting is SATURDAY, MAY 7TH at 9:30 a.m.

Current visitors are encouraged to bring comments and suggestions, and new visitors are welcome to come for training. You will be 'matched' with a member if you agree to be a visitor, but you may also just come to 'check it out'. The meeting will last approximately 1-1/2 hour.

- Pastor Gail

Congregational Meeting—May 22nd

It is time once again to elect members for your Church Council. For this reason, we need to hold a special congregational meeting to conduct the voting. These elections will be held immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, May 22nd. Even if this is not the usual time you worship, please consider attending this meeting. All confirmed members are encouraged to vote.

Biographies of those standing for election will be available prior to the meeting. Please join us for this important election.

- John Muroi, Council President

New Adult Bible Study/Conversation

The new adult Bible Study group will meet for the second time on Monday, May 2 at 1:00 p.m. YOU are cordially invited to join us as we begin to study the book of Acts. Please call Mary Rockstad at 414-421-4158 to order your copy of the book we have chosen or with questions about the class. We hope you will join us.

BULB PHOTO SHOW!

Ready, set, click! Many of the daffodils are blooming and the tulips aren't far behind!

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

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

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