

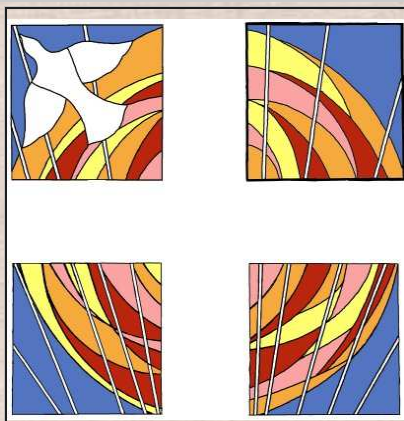


St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA

*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

October 2011 Newsletter

St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Greendale, WI 53129
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Office Hours

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

SSM Staff

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

All Saints Weekend

November 5 & 6 @ SSM

*We mourn those loved ones who have died,
we give thanks for their witness to the faith,
we light candles in their memory, and
we celebrate Holy Communion at all services.*



Giving thanks for the life, death and resurrection
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanksgiving Eve

Join us for a special
Communion Service of Thanksgiving
Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2011 @ SSM
7:00 p.m.

Come and give thanks to our gracious Father for the bounty He's
bestowed on us throughout this year. Let's also bless others by

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bringing non-perishable food items to give to those in need.

From Pastor's Desk

"O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; and His steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 136:1

Throughout Scripture, we read of God's goodness and the call to thank and praise God for so many things! ... In November, we think of that great American holiday Thanksgiving. We might think about who we will spend the holiday with, or about what we are going to serve. Or we might think about football games, or....

Most important of all, we begin to think about the things for which we are grateful.

This fall, I have been thankful for the beauty all around us, for the surprisingly warm autumn days, and then the nice crisp air as it begins to get colder. I have also been grateful for a mini-family reunion in October, where cousins who hadn't seen each other in many, many years got together, laughed and reminisced about days of fun long ago. We also expressed gratitude for parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents who were now with us in spirit.

I am thankful for our congregation, for all the hard work and fun times together with caring members, young and old. I am thankful for a larger church--the ELCA--which reminds us of our mission in the world, and keeps us connected to other congregations and missionaries, and other ministries that are making a difference.

I am grateful that we live in a land where we can freely worship God and where there is freedom for others to worship God in their own traditions. I am thankful for children's love and laughter, and for the wisdom of older folks. I am grateful for ample food, and for the miracles of modern medicine.

I am so very thankful for the gift of Jesus, God's own dear Son, and for his sacrifice of love for this whole world and for the promise of eternal life for all who believe.

And I am thankful for the communion of saints, which we get to celebrate on All Saints weekend, this year it's November 4th and 5th. At all services, we will lift up the names of those who have died, and who have joined the Church triumphant. We will light candles and remember all those in our families and among our friends who now rest from their earthly labors.

Of course, being thankful is only part of our story. Next, we promise to labor for the well-being of others, so that the things we give thanks for will become reality for others: adequate medicine, ample food, freedom to worship, to travel around, to hear the precious Gospel message that all are saved by Jesus Christ--these are things to pray and work for.....

Not only on Thanksgiving day, but every day of the year, we give thanks and we get to act on our thanks.

Come, thank God on Thanksgiving Eve, November 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Bring some non-perishables to share with the hungry.

I am thankful for each of you!

Pastor Gail

Family Ministry News

The next Family Gathering will be on Saturday, November 12th, at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall at St. Stephen the Martyr. Come and join us for Faith, Fellowship, Family, Food and Fun!!

Attention 3rd thru 6th graders!!

BYG (Building Youth Group) will be meeting again on Sunday, November 13th, 2011 from 6pm-7:30pm at St. Stephen the Martyr. For additional information please contact Denise Sanders.

New Orleans Trip

Are you or do you know a young adult (between the ages of 18-25/high school graduate) that would love to visit New Orleans during the 2012 winter break?

The Greater Milwaukee Synod Young Adult Mission Trip to New Orleans is scheduled for January 1st - 10th, 2012.

There are just a few spots left. For more information please contact Char Guliani.

Mark Your Calendars for the Following Youth Events

Snow tubing at Sunburst is being planned for Saturday, January 28th, 2012, in the morning.

More details will be coming!

The 2012 30-Hour Famine will be held on

Friday, April 20th - Saturday April 21st.

This great event is open for middle and high school youth (at least 13 yrs. old).

Invitation to Serve

The Greater Milwaukee Synod's High School Youth Gathering, Invitation to Serve, is being held on January 27th-28th, 2012. Come join us and Practice Discipleship, Justice, & Peacemaking. More information and registration materials coming soon!

We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; He chastens and hastens his will to make known;

The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing, Sing praises to his name: He forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;

So from the beginning the fight we were winning; Thou, Lord, wast at our side, All glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.

Let thy congregation escape tribulation;

Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free! Amen

--Traditional Dutch Hymn of Thanksgiving

(Translation by Theodore Baker: 1851-1934)

Contact our Council Chair for Family Ministries

Char Guliani

minizmom@yahoo.com & on Facebook

Fellowship

FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK

NOVEMBER 4TH AT 6:00 PM

Come and join in a Thanksgiving Potluck on the first Friday of November. It promises to be a harvest of great food and fellowship. We will be serving Roast Chicken. You bring the side dish--potatoes, cranberries, salad, pumpkin pie, apple cake or whatever you enjoy making during these crisp fall days.

Please sign up on the bulletin board next to the office. A \$2.00 free will donation will be requested for the poultry. Also, please bring 1-2 non-perishable food items for the food pantry.

This is a good time to invite a fellow member, neighbor or friend, especially one who lives alone. Please bring a joke or two to share, perhaps a story of past favorable Thanksgivings that you have celebrated or perhaps read about.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

SAVE THE DATE!

The annual hors d'oeuvres and dessert reception will be held on Saturday, December 10th, immediately following the 5 pm Advent concert.

Watch for more information in the December newsletter.

Human concerns

Next Human Concerns Meeting: November 1, 6:30 PM

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

CHRISTMAS GIFT COLLECTION FOR BAY VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

This year St. Stephen the Martyr will again be helping the Bay View Community Center with their annual Christmas project of providing gifts to needy children and elderly adults.

Our gift collection will begin November 27th. Look for our display in the narthex with gift suggestion cards for each of our 15 children and 15 seniors. We hope to collect 3 gifts for each person. The cards will have suggestions for gifts - there is no minimum or maximum you are asked to spend. The gift does not have to be wrapped, but be sure the card is securely attached to the gift so that it reaches the right person.

Each year we receive wonderful thank you notes from our gift recipients. They are truly thankful and we are blessed to be able to provide a joyous Christmas for them.

ADVENT 2011 --ELCA WORLD MALARIA CAMPAIGN-WORLD HUNGER CAMPAIGN

Malaria is a disease contracted through the bite of an infected mosquito. It affects all age groups and is especially harmful to children, pregnant women and their unborn babies. Did you know that in Africa, a child dies every 45 seconds from malaria!

But you can make a difference. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted to join the global movement to end deaths from malaria by 2015. Malaria is treatable and preventable and we know what it takes to stop malaria.

What is the ELCA going to do? There will be funds to treat, educate, and prevent malaria.

How can you help?

\$10.00 provides an insecticide treated mosquito net and education to protect a family from malaria

\$50.00 provides enough medicine to treat 25 people infected with malaria.

\$100.00 trains a village health team to treat and prevent malaria in their community.

Even more importantly, you can also pray for the health and well-being of all and for our work to stop deaths from malaria.

In addition to the malaria campaign, we urge you to consider a gift to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

The Human Concerns Committee, & SSM's Women of the ELCA

Crop Walk

Twelve faithful walkers represented St. Stephen the Martyr for the 2011 CROP Walk on October 9th. We were fortunate to have sunny blue skies on Sunday and walked to raise money for those who have to walk every-day just to survive. We will announce how much our team raised when all the pledges are collected. A big thank you too to all those who sponsored a walker or brought food for the Hunger Task Force.

Walking for St. Stephen's this year were: Pastor Gail, Sydney, Alex and Tracy Covert, Tim and Stephanie Falksen, Jacob Malinowski, Dianne Niese, Kelly Sachse, Duncan Sanders, Julie Starks and Tammy Young-blood. Thanks everyone!

Food Pantry News...

Don't Forget Food Donations!

Please remember to bring food donations or make a cash donation if possible. Since we are donating to more than one food pantry, it would help if we could increase donations. Let us remember to help those in our area who are unable to provide proper meals for themselves and their families. We can make a difference!!!

Missions Minded

The Grow-Hanson missionary family we have been helping to support no longer needs our help. The Human Concerns Committee is looking at alternative missionary support in Africa. This may include helping to support a school, teachers, medical equipment, or farming supplies such as seeds and etc. As we prayerfully consider how to help our brothers and sisters in Africa, we want to partner with and get to know the people and follow their lives. We hope to include projects that could even involve our Sunday School.

Nancy Mineau/Human Concerns Committee

Defibrillator Training

As you know, we have purchased a defibrillator. A sign up for training will be announced soon. It is not dangerous and very simple. Many members of our congregation can be trained even if they have no medical training. These portable defibrillators are meant to be used by the general public. Watch for further announcements.



The next Music & Worship Meeting will be

Wednesday, November 2nd at 6:00pm

November Events

The month of November brings the celebration of several special days, including All Saints' Day, Christ the King, Advent and Thanksgiving.

All Saints' Day: November 5th & 6th. The liturgical color is white. Holy Communion is distributed at all services. This traditional festival commemorates all baptized people of God who have died in the faith. We celebrate the memory of those SSM saints who've passed on with a memorial service and the lighting of candles.

Christ the King: November 19th & 20th. It is a reminder that the Son of God who humbled himself by becoming human and dying on the cross is King of King and Lord of Lords for all eternity. As we reflect on Christ the King, we remember that His path to kingship led along the via Dolorosa, the way of suffering. Though "being in very nature God," wrote Paul to the Philippians (2:6-7), He "made himself nothing, taking the nature of a servant...." White is also the liturgical color for this day. The new church liturgical calendar begins.

Thanksgiving Eve: November 23rd. We celebrate this national holiday in the spirit of thankfulness for God's many blessings to us at a special Wednesday evening service with Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m. Come and share what you are thankful for!

Advent: November 26th & 27th. Advent continues for four weeks - ending on Christmas Eve. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ—Immanuel, whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. It is a time of waiting and preparation. The liturgical color is blue, for anticipation and hope as well as for royalty.

Decorating the Church for the Holidays

Yes, We Need You!

The Music and Worship committee is looking for volunteers to assist our committee in decorating the sanctuary, narthex, and other areas of SSM during the upcoming season of Advent and Christmas. It may be a one time opportunity for you or maybe more if time permits. Anyone wishing to assist the committee in any way, please contact Sue Jarchow, 526-9785, Cathy Peterson, 325-6628, or Karen Rasmussen, 421-5170.

Communion Wafers

Don't forget: St. Stephen the Martyr offers Gluten Free Communion Wafers at all communion services. These wafers are for people with food sensitivities. The Gluten Free Wafer is a light, small round soy free wafer made with filtered water, sweet rice flour, potato flour, palm oil potato starch, methylcellulose, sunflower, lecithin, Ener-g baking powder, and mono-calcium phosphate. If you or a family member would like to request these wafers for communion, please see Pastor Gail before the communion service.

- S. Jarchow

Music Notes from Bill Bravener,

Director of Music/Associate in Ministry

Greetings! Our choirs are preparing some great music for the upcoming special worship services in November. We are also preparing for our Advent/Christmas Concert which will be Saturday, December 10th. The theme of the concert is "Light of the World" and will feature music by the Senior Choir, Handbell Choir, Sunday School Choir, and Chime Choir. Guest musicians from Unity Lutheran may also participate in the concert. Watch for future information regarding the concert

See you at worship.

- Bill

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee is excited to bring back to St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church (SSM) our stewardship program for 2012, Make It Simple. This program provides important opportunities for our congregation for reflection and discussion about the choices we make in our daily lives in these times. We are excited to bring you ideas to help everyone reflect on how we are giving of our time, talent and treasure at SSM. The Make It Simple program is a resource for our congregation to help us grow as stewards with a focus on simplicity, generous living, and the faithful use of God's abundant blessings.

The Make It Simple program is based on four important themes. Please read and discuss with your families the following bible verses:

Following Jesus - Matthew 6:25-33

As a vital part of God's abundant creation, we adorn God's world and cherish His abundant blessings.

Facing the Truth - Mark 4:37-41

The parades of our lives are often disrupted as we face the truth that faithfulness, simplicity, and generosity are not always easy to live out.

Acting Together - John 13:34-35

Looking beyond ourselves, we see clearly that we are not alone in living out God's will for the world. We are disciples in the body of Christ.

Sharing Enough - Philippians 4:11b-13

Our lives are blessed with the gift of God's "enough", and so we can be satisfied with what we have.

This is a very important time for SSM, allowing for the support and planning of the ministries that will be carried out throughout the year. Commitment Weekend is scheduled for November 5th and 6th, at which time pledge cards will be turned in. Thank you for your current and continued support.

- Jason Covert & The Stewardship Committee



For questions on any of these notices, please call or em-mail Carole Ropel @ 262-523-4130 or caroleropel@wi.rr.com

THANKS TO YOU!

...for your generous con-tributions to the Women of the ELCA's Thankoffering appeal this past September. A total of \$1,000 has been sent to our Churchwide organization from the members of St. Stephen the Martyr. You are awesome!

- for your many contributions of baby items that were contributed to Hope Center in Waukesha. The items donated by members of our church were added to con-tributions brought in by Women of the ELCA from all over the Greater Milwaukee Synod at our Convention held on October 7th and 8th . The Hope Center was amazed at your genero-sity and most grateful.

SON-SHINE TEAM MEMBERS

Please plan to attend a short meeting on November 13th, immediately after the 9:30 worship service. We'll meet in the Sunday School Room, just beyond the washrooms on the lower level.

Notify Carole Ropel as soon as possible if you are unable to join us.

WELCA CLUSTER MEETING NOVEMBER 12 at UNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

You are invited to attend the Joint Cluster Meeting of the Women of the ELCA, Greater Milwaukee Synod being held on November 12, 2011.

PLACE: Unity Lutheran Church, 1025 East Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee WI 53207

REGISTRATION: Begins at 8 a.m.

COST: \$8 (Includes breakfast being served at 8:30 a.m.)

OFFERING: Will be taken during worship. A special table offering will be designated for the ELCA Malaria Campaign

PROGRAM: Bible Study by Pastor Kevan Penvose. After the Bible Study, we'll view the DVD, "Really Bad Girls of the Bible".

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE ON THE KIOSK

LOOSE ENDS BAKE & CRAFT SALE – DECEMBER 3-4

Please mark Wednesday, November 30th on your calendar to join us for making of candy and other treats, pricing and set-up. We'll be meeting at 9 a.m. and will order-in lunch. We are always in need of extra hands on this day as there is much to do. We welcome your participation.

CRAFTERS—In the past, many of you have made donations of your handiwork to the Sale and we invite you to do so again this year. If you will be contributing, please indicate your intention on the sign-up sheet posted on the Bulletin Board outside the church office.

BAKERS - There is also a sign-up sheet for you to indicate what you will donate to the Sale on the Bulletin Board outside Lynda's office. Last year we were short on bakery items. We very much welcome your donation of cookies, breads, pies, candies, or whatever you wish to share. Thanks so much.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We will meet at 10:15 a.m. on November 9 & 23. Everyone is invited to come as we study the following Sunday's texts.

LOOSE ENDS LUNCH

Where: Olive Garden, 4760 S. 76th St.

When: Wednesday, November 9th

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Please sign up by October 9th 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—contact Carol Birk @ 231-9121.

Other Notes

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES STUDY GROUP

Monday, November 7th, 1 p.m.

You have an invitation to join in the new study group reading through Acts. We meet on the first Monday of each month at the church and discuss a portion of this interesting book from the Bible. Please call Mary Rockstad (414-421-4158) to get a copy of the student guide or with questions.

There is an empty chair and a hot beverage waiting for you! Join us!

The Salvation Army Bell Ringers Bulletin

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Of course we will be ringing bells again for the Salvation Army! Did you have any doubts?! We have the best location, the best times of the month, and the finest team of ringers in southeastern Wisconsin!

Last year our little battalion consisted of 115 adults, youth and children who collected \$2350 to help the Salvation Army “do the most good.” In the last five years you terrific people have collected \$10,800 as we have resolved to feed, clothe and shelter a great many people in need. I think you can feel pretty good about that! My hearty congratulations!

Where: Inside Southridge Mall at the Lower Mall Entrance to JC Penney.

When: The first 3 Saturdays in December (3rd, 10th & 17th), Thursday, December 22nd; & Friday, December 23rd

Times: 10 am—9 pm

We invite any of you who haven't rung bells before to give it a try. You'll be reaping incredible blessings and having fun in the process as you add to your Christmas spirit, the spirit of Christ's love for others. You don't have to believe me, just ask anyone has rung in the past. Join our ranks! We need you to make a difference in someone's life.

Sign up sheets are in the narthex.

Questions, give me a call!

- John Rech, 546-1576

Condensed Council Minutes

President Eric Sanders called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

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

Approvals: The September meeting minutes were approved with the following corrections. Under Christian Education, the seven week Book of Faith started on October 2nd, not October 9th. Under Guest Presentation, the partnership with Unity would go into effect after membership approves it at the annual meeting in January, 2012. J. Schultz was also present at the September meeting.

Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed. The Treasurer's Report was given. J. Bugajski stated the total offerings as of October 9th, 2011 were short \$6205.19 or 97.3% of the weekly budgeted amount. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Pastor's Time: Pastor Gail thanked E. Sanders for teaching three sessions 3RD Grade Bible Class. Students received their bibles. Confirmation classes are now meeting every other Thursday. Parents and students met on October 2nd and on October 6th, students met with their mentors. She thanked H. Mayer for leading the Book of John class. Pastor was honored to be the Presiding Minister of the Greater Milwaukee Synod WELCA convention held at t. John's on Saturday, October 8th. Pastorally she presided at the funeral of long time member Jean Dahms on Saturday, October 1st and baptized Alyssa Ann Turberville on Saturday, October 8th.

Old Business: None

New Business: During the annual retreat the Council discussed the upcoming Carry Concealed Weapons Law that will go into effect on November 1st. A motion was made and passed unanimously that signs stating No Weapons Allowed On Property will be posted on all entry doors. For safety reasons involving the physical security of the church property, the Council also discussed re-keying the entry doors. If any member has a current key to church property you must see property chair J. Arneson or Church secretary L. Shadd to obtain a

new key. A motion was made and passed unanimously to donate \$2000 to Unity Church to use as they deem necessary.

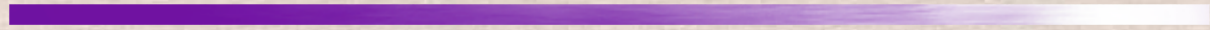
Committee Reports:

Human Concerns: P. Gustafson reported that the Bread for Life is scheduled for Sunday, 10/16/2011.

Fellowship - J.P. Maschke needs volunteers for Reformation Pot Luck and is encouraging members to attend the event.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM. The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8th at 7 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shellee Lubus
Council Secretary



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