



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.

		<p><i>the</i> MARTYR MONTHLY</p> <p>October 2011 Newsletter</p> <p>St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church, ELCA</p>
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Office Hours

Mon-Thur 9 AM - 1 PM
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SSM Staff

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Reformation Sunday



Worship & Potluck Dinner

Join us in celebrating our Lutheran heritage

October 30, 2011

Holy Communion at all services

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00 & 9:30 a.m.

Affirmation of Baptism—(Confirmation of 9th Graders) at the 9:30
worship

Invite family and friends to worship with you!

Music by the choirs at all services

SUNDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES:

REFORMATION POT LUCK DINNER at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship
Hall, with a brief entertaining program to follow

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From Pastor's Desk

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- * Reformation Sunday is October 30th this year. We celebrate the great insights of Martin Luther and other reformers of the Christian Church who brought forth the truth of the central doctrine of Christianity: THAT WE ARE SAVED BY GOD'S GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST. Luther continues to remind us of the centrality of WORD ALONE, GRACE ALONE, FAITH ALONE. We are not saved by our good works, but by means of Christ's loving sacrifice on the cross.
- * On Reformation Sunday, we get to celebrate the AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM IN THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION for three of our precious young people. These ninth-graders will stand before us, confess their faith, share their special Bible verses and say "Yes" to God in their promises to be faithful in worship, servanthood and their every-day lives of prayer and praise to God. Please keep in your prayers ALEXANDRA COVERT, ALEXANDRA FISCHER and MONICA SWEET. Congratulations and welcome to confirmed membership in Christ's One, Holy Church.
- * Worldwide Communion Weekend is October 1st and 2nd. We'll celebrate with Holy Communion at all services, a special display, and prayers for God's worldwide family of believers. Come to receive this Holy Sacrament.
- * There are several Bible Study opportunities available . See articles and the calendar for dates and times. There's a study of John's Gospel on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings, a Monday afternoon study of Acts, a Wednesday 8:00a.m. Men's Study of Romans and even an online study of Mark's Gospel. Check them out; you're always welcome!
- * Our Fall Clean-up is Saturday, October 8th. Come at 9:00, stay as long as you can 'til noon, select a task, enjoy fellowship and a donut.
- * We need to have our main level bathrooms painted. If you could donate some of your time for this project, see Jim Arneson, Property Chair.
- * FaithChests are a wonderful way to mark the faith journeys of our young people. You can help by making a \$20 donation for one, or give any amount. Envelopes are available in the narthex or see Tim Falksen.
- * We have a Good Shepherd program for new members. If you'd like to help a new member get to feeling comfortable and welcome around here, please see John Rech, Sr. or Pastor Gail.
- * We have a "Prayer Power" brochure on the guest book desk, with morning, evening and mealtime prayers. Take one and use it with your family.
- * Our Green Team committee is on hold, looking for some new blood to rejuvenate us. Are you interested in exploring ways we can together be better stewards of creation? See Pastor Gail if that's your passion.
- * Noah, after the flood subsided, opened the doors of the Ark and released the animals. All living things rushed to freedom, except two snakes who lingered in a corner. "Why don't you go forth and multiply?" asked Noah..... "We can't," sighed the snakes. "We're adders!"
- * I wish you a blessed autumn, joyful worship, meaningful prayer, and memorable Reformation Sunday!

Pastor Gail

Family Ministry News

The next FAMILY GATHERING MEETING will be Nov. 12th, 6 pm, held at SSM.

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING 2012

Yes, yes, we've been advertising this for months. So... what are you waiting for? Join us for an amazing time of helping those in need, worshipping God together with thousands of other young people and having a blast! July 18-22, 2012, ELCA youth will gather—again—in New Orleans, not to cheer on the Saints football team, but to stand with the saints of God in that place; those who have built new homes and those still struggling to rebuild. Why go back? Because New Orleans has more to teach us about fresh starts made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. New Orleans has more to teach us about generosity and about how to be good neighbors. New Orleans has more to teach us about the house that God is building.

The ELCA Youth Gathering recommends that youth participants be between 14 and 18 years of age and entering 9th grade the fall of 2012 (completed 8th in the spring of 2012) or just graduated from high school the spring of 2012.

If God is calling you to participate, contact Char Guiliani minizmom@yahoo.com or Tim Falksen tfalksen@gmail.com.

College Road Tour!

A Greater Milwaukee Synod College Tour Road Trip is on for October 27-28 (with a possible extension through the 31st for those who can spare the extra day.) You'll visit 4 of our ELCA Colleges, meet college kids and discover what a smaller, liberal arts school has to offer. The trip is open to the first 30 high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors who apply. Cost is \$30/student. Save YOUR seat! Email Pastor Paul Mittermaier for a registration form/permission slip. pastorstjohns@nconnect.net.

Let's Take A Trip to the Pumpkin Patch!

We are going to Basse's Pumpkin Farm again, on Sunday, October 16th, 2011. Cost is \$5.00 per person which includes a hayride to the pumpkin patch and a pumpkin. A sign-up sheet is located on the kiosk in the Narthex.

Calling All 3rd - 6th Graders!!!

SSM's Youth and Family Ministries group is starting a BYG (Beginning Youth Group). The purpose of BYG is to bring kids together for fun and fellowship; letting them get to know each other outside of Sunday School.

The first event is Sunday, October 9th, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at SSM. Dinner will be provided. Please let Denise Sanders (the.family.sanders@gmail.com or 423-0608) know that you will be there so we can get a count for dinner.

Mark your calendars for future dates: November 13, January 8, February 12, March 11, and May 20.

The Willing

On Saturday, October 22, at 6pm, come and experience "The Willing"- A blend of performance and participation with the purpose of praising God. Hear the power of Hebrews 13 through the gifts of Milwaukee's Poet/Rappers Genesis & Exodus. For more information contact Char or their website www.allpeoplesgathering.org

Hey Middle & High School Youth... Get Lost!! In a corn maze, that is! On Saturday, October 29th, at 5pm, we will join the youth from St. Luke's Lutheran in Greendale in a corn maze adventure at Army Lake Camp in East Troy.

It's a 2 mile corn maze and once we make it to the center we will be able to get something to eat and drink. Space is limited to the first six to sign up. The sign-up sheet is on the kiosk in the narthex. Contact Char for more information.

Contact our Council Chair for Family Ministries

Char Guliani

minizmom@yahoo.com & on Facebook

Fellowship

FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK

OCTOBER 7th at 6:00 PM

We will be having the First Friday Potluck on October 7th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be celebrating the German and northern European heritages this month. In the 1840s, large numbers of German and other immigrants helped grow the Milwaukee area population and with it came bratwurst and sauerkraut! Of course, for our potluck, we will serve them separately for those who like one and not the other! Please bring a complimentary side dish, salad, bread or rolls, or a dessert. Fall is in the air, so get out those favorite fall recipes... maybe a little Schoko-streusal kuchen! M-m-m!

Jokes and humorous stories are welcomed, and perhaps think of sharing a family story of growing up in the culturally diverse Milwaukee area. Or just come to laugh and share fellowship. Friends and neighbors are welcome to join you.

Coffee, tea, and soda will be provided. Please bring a \$2.00 donation for the cost of the meat.

We'd also like to ask everyone to bring one or two non-perishable food to be sent to area food pantries.

Sign up on the office bulletin board and indicate what you will bring.

Please see Pastor Gail or Sue Jarchow with any questions.

The Rally Day Experience—One Awesome Day of Celebration! You couldn't have asked for a better day, hopefully etched positively in the minds of our youngest members. This article is to thank all the volunteers who helped prepare, set up tables, grill brats, serve the food and clean up afterwards. I have a list of about a dozen people who did those tasks but that number expands greatly when I include each and every person who made a dish, dropped a five dollar bill in the contribution basket and those who simply by their presence made others happy around them. To me such a day is the spirit of our Christianity. The love of Christ

shared using all of our talents and gifts to make a great day. The day is recalled with countless special moments: the beautiful organ prelude, the distribution of faith chests, the children's puppet sermon, pastor's homily, the voices of the adult choir, the gathering of friends who contributed delicious salads, casseroles and desserts, the tasty brats and burgers, the somewhat hastily eaten meal, and the departure of many to a winning Brewers game! Those who stayed were able to wrap things up rather painlessly around 1 PM. Thanks again for those special individuals who put in hours of their own time to make this day what it was. - JP Maschke, Fellowship

Human concerns

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 4TH, 6:45 PM

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

The Staff of Life—SSM Food Pantry

We continue our service to the hungry in our community by collecting food for Central City Food Pantry in October. Every day the need is greater. We appreciate all who are able to help.

"The LORD upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. From Psalm 146

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus. Colossians 3:17

A BIG thanks to all who donated to, did sewing or assembling the Book Bags. Also, thanks to all who donated over-the-counter drugs to Unity's Health Clinic. It is very much appreciated by Unity and the people that they serve.

The Defibrillator is Here!

The Human Concerns Committee is very proud to announce that St. Stephen the Martyr now owns a portable defibrillator thanks to a generous donation from a charitable organization and a lot of hard work from Diane Moraza. It is very safe and easy to use. Please watch for upcoming classes for anyone who is interested in being trained to use the defibrillator. This is a valuable piece of equipment that could save someone's life - adult or child.

Bread for Life

Sunday, Oct 16 is Bread for Life Sunday. Human Concerns will have samples of "breads from around the world" for you to sample after the Saturday night and Sunday services. On that day, you can learn the facts regarding: Bread for Life For The World - (fighting hunger around the world.) Donations will be accepted which will go to Bread For The World. Bread for the World, a Christian organization in the U.S. fighting hunger through just policies. SSM is a member congregation.

CROP Walk

The 26th Annual Milwaukee CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday October 9th! 1:30 pm

The CROP Hunger Walk raises funds for global disaster relief, hunger relief, and development. It also collects food for Hunger Task Force which is distributed to food pantries and meal programs throughout the area for free. You can be a part of making a difference - if you are not able to walk with us, it's not too late to donate food or to sponsor walkers!

Walkers, dress for the weather and bring your sponsor sheets with you. (If you are under 18, please have your parent or guardian sign your sponsor sheet). Our carpool will leave from church at 12:30 p.m., the walk starts at 1:30 p.m. near McKinley Marina. We're off to walk for people in our community and throughout the world! We walk for one day for two hours to commemorate those who walk every day for many hours in order to survive. Contact Kelly Sachse (453-6597) for more details.

Music & Worship

The Music and Worship committee would like to extend a warm welcome to all members of SSM to our next committee meeting to be held on October 5, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

PARAMENT COLORS AND MORE

We are knee deep in the fall calendar with many things going on. We have seen the green paraments of the Pentecost season but we will be temporarily changing them to red for Reformation Day which occurs this year on the weekend of October 30th and 31st. This is also the day that our church celebrates Confirmation.

Reformation Sunday

We celebrate our Lutheran heritage on this day, the day of Reformation when Martin Luther, “out of love and concern for the truth,” posted his 95 Theses—objections to the practice of indulgences in the Catholic Church, to the door of the Castle church in Wittenburg, Germany in the year 1517. Luther found in the scriptures that salvation is not earned by good deeds, but received as a free gift of God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ as Redeemer from sin. As Luther wrote, “Christians should be exhorted to be zealous to follow Christ, their Head, through penalties, deaths, and hells. And let them thus be more confident of entering heaven through many tribulations rather than through a false assurance of peace.” Reformation recalls the powerful work of God in preserving the church in times of trial.

LOOKING FOR DECORATORS!

The Music and Worship committee is looking for members of SSM who are willing to assist in some way and for those who do not want long term commitment as we approach the Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas season in the church. We need members to assist in decorating the church sanctuary and narthex. Any assistance that one can give us would be greatly appreciated.

Chairpersons,

Cathy Peterson (325-6628) or Sue Jarchow (526-9785)

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

Choir rehearsals are off to a great start; however, there is always room for more. Please join us for Handbell Choir on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. or Senior Choir on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Please consider joining in on the 7-session Bible study on the Gospel of John. There are two opportunities - Sundays or Thursdays beginning this month. There is a sample book to check out in the narthex.

See you at worship.

- Bill

Sing to the Lord A New Song!

Have you done any singing today... in the shower, or your car? We're used to singing at church, yet to a lot of people, singing during a typical day might seem strange. But the Bible talks about the power that comes from singing praise to God. The book of Psalms alone makes sixty-eight references to singing to the Lord.

I travel a lot, and I often take along a hymnal or a book of worship choruses. I'm no great singer, but I love to sing to the Lord.

I can think of times when it felt like there was a dark cloud hanging over my spirit. But as I've sung to the Lord—sometimes with a trembling voice and my eyes filled with tears—so often the cloud has lifted and the sunlight of God's peace has poured in. Why not try singing to the Lord today?

- Author Unknown

Stewardship

Commitment Weekend is November 5th & 6th

October The Positives of Pledging

Pledging is spiritual.

Whether we call it a pledge, a commitment, an intent, or something else, it all comes down to the same thing: a statement that a proportionate share of our monetary resources is to be given for the proclamation of the Gospel. It says that our Christian giving is not only on par with everything else in our household budget, but indeed is at the top of the list! We want to give the first fruits for the Lord's work!

Pledging is spiritual because a decision is reached only after prayerful consideration. Our giving is more a spiritual decision than a financial one.

Pledging is faith in action. If we view pledging only as a financial decision we miss the point. In the offertory prayer we say, “we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us ----.” If we truly mean that,

there should be no difficulty in pledging to return a portion of that which has first been given to us.

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Children in Church:

Six year old Angie, and her year old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough.

“You’re not supposed to talk out loud in church.”

“Why? Who’s going to stop me?” Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, “See those two men standing by the door? They’re hushers.”

- Your Stewardship Committee

Quotes by Martin Luther: “We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.”

“So when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: “I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also!”

“You have as much laughter as you have faith.”

“I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.”



The Women’s Bible Study will meet at 10:15 a.m. on October 12 & 26. Everyone is invited to come as we study the following Sunday’s texts.

Loose Ends Lunch

Where: Benny’s Café, 5354 S. 27th St.

When: Wednesday, October 12th

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—call Dolores Dowling, 327-4185.

Please Help by Contributing Layette Items to the Hope Center

Each year at the convention of the Women of the ELCA, an organization is chosen to receive gifts donated to it by the women of Greater Milwaukee. This year’s recipient is the Hope Center, a non-profit organization that has been serving the basic needs for women and children of food, clothing and child care, along with financial assistance, for more than 20 years. The Layette items most appreciated are: Size #1 diapers, newborn clothing, crib sheets, hooded bath towels, burp cloths, Onesies, baby blankets, baby wipes, diaper pads, baby bottles, baby wash, baby shampoo, and baby lotion. Gently used clothing, sheets and blankets will be accepted.

You will find a bin in the Narthex of our church to collect donated items through October 2nd. Contact Carole Ropel with any questions.

Piecemaker’s Quilting Group

Our group will meet for the last time this year on October 17th. There will be no quilting in November or December. Our first time together in the new year is scheduled for January 16, 2012.

Attention SSM Crafters

The Loose Ends, Women of the ELCA, Bake and Craft Sale is scheduled for December 3-4, 2011.

Many of you have made donations to the Sale of your handiwork in the past 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 of Lynda’s office. In November, a sign-up sheet will be posted for those planning to donate bakery items.

November 30th will be our Baking, Pricing and Set-Up Day at SSM for the Sale. We always are in need of extra hands on this day, there is much to do. Please mark your calendar and join us.

Only a Few Days Left to Register

If you haven’t already registered for the Greater Milwaukee, Women of the ELCA, Convention on October 7 - 8, there are still a few days to do so. Registration forms are on the kiosk. The Convention is being held at St. John Lutheran Church, 20275 Davidson Road, Brookfield, WI 53045. Come and join other women from the Greater Milwaukee area, as well as numerous women from St. Stephen the Martyr at this event. Questions?? Call Carole Ropel at 262-523-4130.

Other Notes

Note to Anyone Interested in Becoming a Member at SSM Please notify Pastor Gail if you'd like to join our church. A class will be scheduled soon.

Please contact Pastor at 414-421-3543 or home, 414-543-2060.

The Memorial Committee News

Our committee met September 10, 2011. We approved the purchase of 4 traveling communion sets, to be used for outreach to homebound members. Pastor Gail ordered them.

We discussed the narthex furniture replacement briefly, more shopping and research needs to be done. Ditto the pillar project, the subcommittee needs to meet and flesh out the plans.

The Prayer Garden committee reported on the successful herb sales. Classes on herb preservation and wintering were being discussed. New ideas for fund raisers include garden stepping stones and bird/prayer houses.

The Special Giving brochure was discussed and the gift suggestion list will be updated before the holidays.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or would like to join us please contact a committee member: Sandy Petricek, Pastor Gail, Dick Kroll, Carol Birk, Shirley Rau, Karen Hoffman, Marge Muroi or me... Faith O'Connell

HERB WORKSHOP OCT. 22, 10-11 AM

What Will I Do With My Herb Plants Now?

Retired Milwaukee County Horti-culturist and SSM member, Jerry Seroka will offer a workshop on caring for the herbs you planted this spring. Topics include:

Growing plants under lights including flowering plants and herbs

You can turn your basement into a greenhouse, inexpensively

Drying herbs

What herb plants are perennials and can be kept outside

Learn how to grow plants indoors over the winter

Ask questions from an expert! Jerry Seroka has years of horticultural experience at Boerner Botanical Gardens and Grant Golf Course.

Address Changes? Let Us Know When you Move!

Are you moving or have you moved? Do you have an address, phone number e-mail or status change, a new addition in your family?

Don't forget to contact your church to report any changes for your family records, as we have to pay a fee when we send a newsletter out to an address that's been changed.

Let Lynda know in the office and she will make the change for you.

You can also receive the newsletter by email as well as viewing it on our website.

Coming Soon to a Church Near You!

An exciting new program from the Evangelism Committee, designed not to gain new members, (although it will probably also help in that area), but to help retain members and help them feel more comfortable in their new church home during their early months at SSM. Our committee has spent months discussing this new approach, much thought as well as some field testing has gone into it to ensure its success. In the coming months, watch your church bulletin for more information and the details that will help you determine whether you would like to participate in this very important and rewarding new program.

One of the key words is "Good!" To find out more, contact John Rech, Sr., Jim Hennessy or Keith & Lynne Myren.

-Evangelism Committee

Fall Church Cleaning Day

October 8th,

9 am

Donuts & coffee provided. Sign up on the bulletin board.

Let's get the church 'spruced' up for the fall/winter holidays!

Kiddie Keep Helpers Needed

At SSM we love children! And we want our little ones to have a safe and happy place to go so parents can attend worship. If you have felt God calling you to help in our Kiddie Keep nursery, please give Paige Ceku a call at 526-1950.

Students needing service hours: you can volunteer to fill in once in a while.

Thank you, and the little ones thank you too!



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