



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>September 2010 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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Join the Fun at Rally Day!

Celebrate the beginning of another exciting Sunday School year!

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011

One service only @ 9:30 a.m.

Indoor Picnic & Fun Activities following

Sign up on bulletin board outside the office

Hamburgers, brats, hot dogs and beverages will be provided! Please bring a dish to pass—please sign up on the bulletin board to let us know what you will bring. (Free will donations gratefully accepted to defray cost of food).

Continue the Rally Day celebration by heading to the Brewer's game!



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From Pastor's Desk

September! The sun is at a different angle in the sky. The air feels cooler, but very nice! Little ones are off to their first day of school, and older students haul heavy backpacks and greet the friends they haven't seen in awhile. Teachers wait a few days to pile on the homework (or maybe not).

Life in Wisconsin in autumn is good. And in the church, we 'gear up' for Sunday School, more frequent worship, adult education, and volunteer opportunities. Greeters greet you at church, and friendly visitors go out to visit home-bound members--what a joyful task.

Confirmation classes will meet every other Thursday, not every Thursday, but several learning and service events are being planned for Sunday afternoons. We will meet at Adoration Church and greet their new Pastor Tim Singleton, one of our confirmation teachers.

School bags--need to fill them with school supplies and make more bags! Food pantries--need to replenish the bins! A chance to serve at a Meal Site, too!

As we move into autumn we are reminded that we are approaching the tenth anniversary Sept. 11th, 2001. Whatever you were doing on that day, you likely recall when you first heard the news of hijacked airplanes crashing into buildings in New York and Washington DC and into a field in Pennsylvania. We remember the grief and suffering and all those who died, including the courageous firefighters, police and citizens who gave their lives for others.

Lives have changed since then, especially for those who lost loved ones in that catastrophe. As we approach the anniversary, it's appropriate to examine how far we have come in our relationships since that event. How have we grown in our understanding of the world, and in our understanding of others?

The Wisconsin Council of Churches, the Southeast Milwaukee Interfaith group, and the Islamic Society of Milwaukee are co-sponsoring an event to "reflect on the last decade and address the future."

The "Day of Reflection" is Saturday, September 10th at the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, Layton Avenue at 13th Street--from 9 am to 3 pm.

"What are the challenges ahead as we seek a united commitment to work for peace and justice?" That is one of the themes to be explored by Penn State University Professors Sam Richards and Laurie Mulvey, who will offer a morning key-note presentation, followed by a panel discussion, and an afternoon skill-building workshop, "From Tolerance to Empathy."

Drs. Mulvey and Richards are award-winning teachers who have gathered thousands of Penn State students to come together in an "ideologically neutral environment for dialogue" to express themselves and learn from one another. The Sept. 10th event promises that same atmosphere.

The Sat., Sept. 10th event is free and open to the public. But advance registration is required. Forms and instructions are available at the WI Council of Churches website www.wichurches.org under List of Events or you may call WCC at (608) 837-3108

I look forward to seeing you all at worship in September, especially at the Rally Day worship and picnic on Sunday, Sept. 11th. Come, enjoy the fellowship and give thanks to our awesome God!

Your partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Gail

Family Ministry News

The next Family Gathering Meeting will be September 10th at 5:00 p.m. at Tim & Stephanie Falksen's, 5528 Rainbow Drive, Greendale.

College students are encouraged to send us their email/addresses so we can continue to keep in touch while you are away at college. Email us at ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com.

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

Register NOW for the Greater Milw. Synod Young Adult Mission Trip to New Orleans, LA, scheduled for January 1-10, 2012! This trip is designed for young adults, roughly 18-25 years old to continue with the hurricane disaster clean-up. Yes, it continues to this day! To register, simply go to: www.tinyurl.com/nola2012 and register online! You will find instructions there on payment. You have two options, either by check, or online

via credit card or directly from your checking account (through the synod's online payment service). If you pay by check you can pay a \$50 non-refundable deposit to hold your spot, and then pay the rest by the deadline. If you pay online, they ask that you pay in full in one payment. Trips paid in full by September 30, 2011 are just \$225, and after that it is \$250. All accounts must be paid in full by November 30, 2011. It will be an awesome and blessed time!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email the Greater Milw. Synod: gmsyoungadulttrip@gmail.com! Let the good times roll in New Orleans this January!

HEY KIDS! SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

September 11th @ 9:30 am

We look forward to seeing YOU in Sunday School! Kids experience and hear about the Bible from our loving and caring teachers. You will laugh, smile, play, think, challenge, pray and sing about Jesus! Join us for another great year of learning God's Word together, and... invite your friends!

Check out our church Photo Gallery for pictures of VBS 2011!

Please remember to bring your supplies for school bags for needy children around the world on Rally Day!

FaithChests® Update

The Family Ministry Team will be presenting 21 FaithChests® on Rally Day this year to celebrate the first day of Sunday School for 3 year olds, 1st grade Sunday School students and children that have joined the church in the last year with their families. An additional 25 FaithChests® will be built and distributed over the next year to celebrate Confirmation, first communion and baptisms. FaithChests® are a special box used to collect and store items you receive along your faith journey... baptism candle & cloth, a Bible, church program bulletins, etc. The Family Ministry Team has presented 75 FaithChests® to the youth of our congregation over the past two years and this year will wrap up our three year distribution plan for all of our current Sunday School and Confirmation students. After this year FaithChests® will continue to be given at baptism as well as on Rally Day to children that have joined SSM with their families in the coming years.

Each FaithChest® costs approximately \$20 to make and are built by SSM members & friends. We are still in need of additional funds to cover the costs of this year's FaithChests® for both our Sunday School and Confirmation students as well as any baptisms that will take place. Please help us achieve our goal by either sponsoring a FaithChest® or donating to the project. See Tim Falksen for more details or the display in the narthex.

Detour Ahead!

The Milwaukee County Department of Transportation & Public Works is announcing a new project which members using College Avenue will need to be aware of.

Beginning September 28th, College Avenue will be undergoing improvements from 27th to 51st Streets until about November 30th.

The eastbound lane will be constructed first to be followed by the westbound lane. During the westbound construction, all traffic will shift to the completed eastbound lane. Vehicular access to residences and various businesses will be maintained throughout the project.

All eastbound traffic will be detoured to W. Rawson Avenue. There will be westbound access only.

Contact our Council Chair for Family Ministries

Char Guliani

minizmom@yahoo.com & on Facebook

Fellowship

FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK

SEPT. 2ND, 2011

All are welcome to share food and fellowship on Friday, September 2nd at 6:00 pm. As we return from our summer hiatus, we begin with a good old-fashioned potluck. Bring a main dish, salad, vegetable, or dessert to share. Coffee, tea, and soda will be provided.

Bring a friend, neighbor, or a fellow member and share what you did on your summer vacation.

All are welcome, especially those who live alone.

Sign up on the bulletin board near the office. - Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins and Sue Jarchow

SIGN UP TO HELP FOR THE RALLY DAY PICNIC!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

Volunteers are needed! You can help with set up, clean up, grilling, helping with games, etc. Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board for both volunteering as well as how many will be attending and what dish you will bring.

(See cover for more details).

Human concerns

NEXT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 6, 6:30 PM

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

HELP FILL OUR SCHOOL BAGS!

ITEMS NEEDED TO FILL EACH BAG: Take this handy list with you to the store!

Four 70- sheet notebooks of wide - or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10 & ½"; no loose-leaf

One 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

One pencil sharpener

One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band

Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band

One box of 16 or 24 crayons

One eraser approximately 2 & ½" long

MUM PLANT SALE

Interfaith-Southwest Neighborhood will have their Grandparents' Day Mum Plant Sale at SSM after services on Sept. 10 & 11.

It's that time of year again! We are a sponsoring congregation and support Southwest Interfaith's work of providing services to older adults in our community through volunteers and financial contributions. Southwest Interfaith volunteers assist older adults by providing transportation, help with shopping, friendly visits and minor household chores, thus enabling older adults to remain in their own homes longer.

Brochures and information about Southwest Interfaith will be available along with beautiful mum plants to take to grandparents or any older friends or relatives.

Interfaith-Southwest representatives from your congregation are:

Bob Lieske @ 761-0734 or

Shirley Devecka, 421-7342

CROP WALK

Join us for the 26th Annual Greater Milwaukee CROP Walk at the lakefront on October 9th at 1:30! CROP Walks are held all around the country to raise funds for hunger relief in local communities and around the world. Watch for details in upcoming bulletins or contact Kelly Sachse at (414) 453-6597 or kgsachse@sbcglobal.net.

THE FOOD PANTRY

Food will be collected for CROP Walk during the month of September



Next Music & Worship Meeting: Wednesday, September 14 at 6:00 pm

Worship is more than a slot we fill on Sunday morning. True worship begins before the music starts... when no one is looking. Worship is not just an emotional experience, but a way of life, of giving oneself to God daily.

Music Notes From Bill Bravener,

Director of Music/Associate in Ministry

There will be one more Summer Choir opportunity. Summer Choir will rehearse at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 4 and will sing at the 9:30 worship service that day. All are welcome. Come give choir a try!

The choir picnic will be Wed., Sept. 7th, 6 pm at Tim & Steph Falksen's.

Choir members should have received information in their mailboxes regarding the picnic. Contact me if you have any questions.

Speaking of choir, choir rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 14 with Handbell Choir at 5:30 p.m. and Senior Choir at 7:00 p.m. Please consider joining us. There are some exciting plans in place for the coming choir season.

Thanks to all of the musicians who provided music for us throughout the summer. It always seems like a daunting task to schedule music for every week throughout the summer; but before I know it all the weeks are full. Thanks to everyone for sharing your talent.

See you at worship.

~ Bill Bravener

Stewardship

Thoughts on balancing budgets...

We can do four things with our money. Earn it, spend it, save it, and give it away.

We Americans do pretty well with the first two and not so well with the last two. The 10/10/80 lifestyle of the Bible is given for good reason. However, we are slow to learn it.

When receiving a paycheck, pay God first and then pay yourself second and all others come in third. Sadly, we Americans have it all backwards. We pay others first, then a little to ourselves by way of savings, and perhaps a little to God last of all. Then we wonder why budgets get out of balance.

Like many political leaders recently debated, without a balanced budget it is no wonder we are in such an economic mess. Clearly, when God is last in our lives, we are in a mess -spiritually and economically. The teachings of the Bible are for our good. Yet, we just won't believe it.

There is one positive step we can all initiate starting this very day -get our spending priorities under control. This is the first and most important step towards financial freedom and on being a good steward.

~ Marion Walton Marotske & Your Stewardship Committee

Source: Pastor Paul Harrington, Campus Pastor at Luther Seminary

A Surprise for God ...

A mother asked her small child, "Why are you taking your three dollars of birthday money to church?" The child excitedly replied, "To surprise God! I usually only give him pennies."



Women's Bible Study meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month, beginning 10:15 a.m. September 14 & 28. Come study the scriptures with us!

Loose Ends Luncheon

Where: Applebees on 13th & Rawson (7135 S. 13th)

When: Wed, September 14th

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Please sign up on the kiosk in the narthex by September 6th. Also indicate if you need a ride from your home or church. We will leave the church about 11:30. Contact Karen for more details. 414-761-1455.

You Still Have Time to Register.....

If you haven't already registered for the 24th annual Women of the ELCA, Greater Milwaukee Synod Convention, you may still do so through September 16th. Registration forms are on the kiosk. The Convention is being held at St. John Lutheran Church, 20275 Davidson Road, Brookfield, WI 53045, on the corner of Barker Road and Davidson Road, on October 7th and 8th. This year's theme is "Open My Heart, Lord". Bishop Jeff Barrow will preach at worship on Saturday, our pastor, Gail Brodersen-Heins, will officiate. Stephanie Falksen, Denise Sanders and Amy Billman will sing during worship while our long time friend, Amy Kiesner, signs to "I, the Lord". Karen Hoffman will represent you as SSM's delegate this year and will attend both Friday and Saturday of the Convention. You are welcome to attend both days also but may choose to come only on Saturday, at a lesser cost. Julie Starks, Char Guiliani and Erin Clark will present one of five workshops, entitled "Social Media? Why me?" Other workshop leaders include, Bishop Barrow, Greater Milwaukee Synod bishop, Kate Pillman, from SE WI Citizens & Organization Active in Disasters, Venice Williams, from SeedFolks Youth Ministry and Pastor Rachel Young-Binter from Lutheran Campus Ministry-UWM. Your convention offering will be shared between the Women of the ELCA Churchwide and the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

On Saturday, you will have the opportunity to attend two workshops, enjoy a nice luncheon and at the end of the day, Goodwill Industries will present one of their well-known style shows. The convention closed about 4 p.m. on Saturday. Standing by, in case of an emergency, will be Diane Moraza who has again offered to be our Convention Nurse. Many thanks to all the participants from St. Stephen the Martyr and thanks also to those of you who will attend.

PLEASE HELP BY CONTRIBUTING layette items that will be donated to 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 are being collected by the Women of the ELCA, Greater Milwaukee Synod at their October Convention, for the Hope Center. The Hope Center welcomes gifts such as: Size #1 diapers, Newborn clothing, crib sheets, hooded bath towels, Burp cloths, Onesies, Baby blankets, Baby wipes, Diaper gabs, Baby bottles, Baby wash, Baby shampoo and/or Baby Lotion. Gently used clothing, sheets, and blankets will be accepted. You will find a bin in the SSM Narthex to collect any donated items. Call Carole Ropel with any questions. Thank you so much.

Notice: SSM Crafters

The Loose Ends ladies, Women of the ELCA, are beginning plans for their annual Bake & Craft Sale being held on December 3-4, 2011. If you are thinking about donating any of your handiwork to the sale, please notify Carole Ropel at caroleropel@wi.rr.com or at 262-523-4130. More detail will be in the October SSM Newsletter.

THANKOFFERING WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 24-25 Gifts of Gratitude

On this special weekend, you will see the Women of the ELCA participating at SSM as ushers, greeters, readers and communion assistants. You will also see the quilts made by the Piece Markers Quilting group on display on our church pews. Also on display will be the school bags sewn by the Loose Ends ladies and other helpers from our church community and items made by our Knit Wits group. We are grateful for the many hours donated by those involved with these groups. And let's not forget to be aware of the time devoted by other Women of the ELCA, our Sunday School teachers, Council members, Committee members, the work of the Son Shine ladies, the Loose Ends Bake and Craft Sale participants, Choir members, Bible Study participants....and the list goes on.

A special offering will be taken on September 24th and 25th that will be passed on to the Women of the ELCA Churchwide. The money received does not go to any one benefit or cause....it becomes part of the annual churchwide budget and is used to support all the functions of the Women of the ELCA, just like your regular contributions to St. Stephen the Martyr. Please use the Special Envelope that will be included in your bulletin the weekend before and the weekend of the Thankoffering services. If you are writing a check, make it payable to St. Stephen the Martyr and mark it "Thankoffering" on the memo line. Be certain to include your SSM envelope number on the special envelope so that your gift is properly recorded.

A sincere thank you from the Women of the ELCA at St. Stephen the Martyr and from our Churchwide Organization.

Triennial Reflections, July, 2011

Renew, Respond, Rejoice: the theme for the Women of the ELCA's Triennial Convention and Gathering wonderfully describes the hope for many "getaways." Spending a week in Spokane, WA with 2,000 like-minded women (and a few men) did just that for me. The workshops, keynotes and even business meetings certainly

did their part to renew my passion for living my faith. But those “chance” meetings with women from all over the U.S. put a realness to the actions called for from the various podiums. These occurred throughout each day while walking about, sitting at meals and even while shopping the booths in the display area. These women are active in so many ways and are living their faith through Bible study, youth gatherings, disaster relief efforts, food pantries - just like the so many opportunities we have here at St. Stephen the Martyr. Seeing that present in a country-wide scale was uplifting.

We rejoiced in the election of a new Board to govern the future of the Women of the ELCA. We rejoiced in being present with Bishop Hanson. We rejoiced in worship and in receiving communion.

Then there is “respond.” A week away is wonderful. Being invigorated with so many others is validating. But how one responds shows the true impact of an event like the Triennial Gathering. One response I have taken on will be to moderate an online Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark. Our blogsite, <http://fitandfaithful.blogspot.com/> will be the host while the Women of the ELCA magazine, newly titled, “Gather” will be our resource. Please join in on the study and discussion beginning in late August! Begin now by reading the 16 Chapter Gospel of Mark.

- Julie Starks

Other Notes

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Sept. 7th @ 8 a.m.

How is God addressing us through scripture? The Men's Bible Study will look into this on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Our first meeting will be a planning session to decide the next topic of study. We welcome all men of SSM to share their thoughts... and bring your friends!

No prior Biblical knowledge necessary! This is a good time to “try out” the group.

Doughnuts and coffee are served.

Dress Me Jesus

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

(Ephesians 6:11).

Dear Jesus,

You told me to resist the devil and he would flee from me,

But I have no resistance.

You have all the power and resistance I'll ever need, so give me the power to resist.

You told me I could move my mountains

If I had faith even as a mustard seed;

Yet my mountain won't move

Even though my faith in You is as great

As I can conceive it.

You made the heavens and earth;

Please move my mountain.

You said, “Flee the very appearance of evil!” So I ran hard,

But sin overtook me

In my finest hour of effort.

You have power

Over all the power of the enemy

With miracles, signs and wonders.

Deliver me from the trap of Satan.

I don't even have the strength to put on the whole armor,

So dress me as my armor-bearer.

Do for me what I know I cannot do for myself.

- poem by D. Wilkerson

KNIT WITS begins again Monday, September 12th, 6:30 p.m. Join us whether you know how to knit or crochet—we will teach you! Normal meeting time is the 1st Monday of each month.

Family Bike Ride

for Outreach for Hope, the ministry of the Greater Milwaukee Synod to support churches serving with the poor in our Synod. It takes place Saturday, September 10, starting in Dousman, WI, for families (14 miles or less) and avid bikers, (30 & 40 mile routes), followed by a picnic in the park. Details and registration at www.outreachforhope.org. Click on the Family Bike Ride page for all the details. You don't have to ride to

help! Sponsor a biker or donate online for your gift to be matched by a generous challenge grant.

Thank you!

We have been blessed to have so many wonderful friends who helped us celebrate our 40th Wedding Anniversary on July 31st in style.

We will certainly remember that day with fond memories for many years to come. We also want like to thank everyone who made donations in our honor to the Mission Endowment Fund and the Memorial Fund.

- John and Karen Hoffman

Online Bible Study The Gospel of Mark

Fit and Faithful, our online Blog,

fitandfaithful.blogspot.com will return to more regular discussion beginning in late August with a guided Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark. We will follow the study in the newly titled magazine "Gather" published by the Women of the ELCA.

The theme verse for the year is from Mark 10:49b, 'Take heart; get up, [Jesus] is calling you.' That verse alone drew me to this study. It is encouraging, take heart; active, get up and personal, Jesus is calling you. And together, these words are very powerful!

There are 9 sessions that we will cover over 9 months. Each session will build on past sessions but the author promises that one can join in at any time and participate fully. I will add new material to the blog weekly, to cover material in the monthly session. Check the blog regularly - not only for my materials but to read and ponder comments from others!

The Gospel of Mark was the first attempt to collect the stories of Jesus. It begins with Jesus' baptism and has a sense of urgency as events occur "immediately" after one another. As the theme verse indicates, it is not only about Jesus ministry but calls out to the disciples to continue this work.

In Advent of this year, we will begin to hear readings from Mark for the gospel lesson each Sunday through summer of 2012. Our study readings will not necessarily coincide with the Sunday readings but we will have a more deep appreciation and understanding of these readings (I hope) from our timely study.

If you are unfamiliar with blogs, feel free to contact me at jastarks@earthlink.net.

You do not need to register to read the blog or to comment. Go the address at the top of this article and begin reading! To comment, click on the word "comment" at the bottom of an entry and type your comments. You can include your name by clicking on the drop down menu "Select profile" and choose "Name/URL". Just type in your name (leave the URL box empty). You may also post as "Anonymous." Click on "Post comment."

To get started now, read through the entire book of Mark in one sitting. The 16 chapters should take about one hour to read. Please feel free to seek out a copy of Gather (there is one on the table in the Narthex) or go to the Women of the ELCA website, click on "Lutheran Women Today" (the former title of the magazine) for an introduction to the Study. I look forward to our conversations!

- Julie Starks

The Annual SSM Bill Gray Memorial Golf Classic Outing

Sunday, October 2nd, 2011

Whitnall Park Golf Course

Tee times begin at 1:04 p.m. continuing at 8 minute intervals.

Look for the signup on the Kiosk in the Narthex.

You can sign up individually, as a twosome, threesome, foursome or for dinner only. Deadline for sign-up is Sunday, Sept. 25th.

Cost: \$35 for golf, cart & dinner

\$10 for dinner only, 5 pm

Our day will include an opportunity to stroll through Whitnall Park with family and friends, play nine holes, scramble format (Best Ball) with a motorized cart, and gather at church for fellowship, food, beverages and prizes.

Make check payable to St. Stephen the Martyr & indicate "Golf Outing" on your envelope. Contributions beyond the \$35 are greatly appreciated.

All proceeds exceeding our costs will be given to the SSM Endowment Fund in memory of Bill. The event is open to members, friends, and friends of friends.

Contact Doug Winter for more info: (414) 282-1676

New Adult Bible Study/Conversation

The adult Bible Study group will meet again on Monday, September 12th at 1:00 p.m. You are cordially invited to join us as we study the book of ACTS.

Please call Mary Rockstad at 421-4158 to order you copy of the book or if you have any questions about the

class.

We hope to see you there!

TRANSFORMED

Some churches have “Harvest Parties” in October, where kids dress up in costumes and have fun. But that’s not the only time people wear costumes to church.

Some people are selfish, angry, bitter, harsh, or even slothful during the week. Then they put on the “good Christian” mask before coming to church. But that costume doesn’t make them more like Jesus.

Imagine the girl at the Harvest party in a butterfly costume. Yes, it is adorable, but it doesn’t make her a butterfly. But when a caterpillar wraps itself in a cocoon and emerges as a butterfly, real transformation has taken place. That’s what Christ offers us—real transformation.

Enduring, everlasting transformation: 2nd Corinthians 3:18 says, “We . . . are being transformed into his likeness.” One very prominent theme in Scripture is the putting off of ungodly practices and putting on of Godly practices in the process of biblical change into the likeness of Christ. Scripture reveals that change is important and that change is a process.

Are you willing to be transformed? Get radical! Remove the mask, confess sin, and ask God to make you more and more like Jesus.

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