

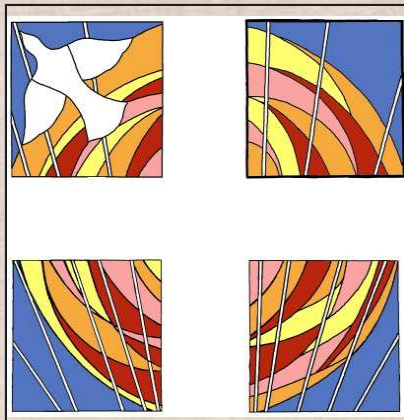


# St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA

*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

April 2012 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](mailto:pastorgail@ststephenthemartyr.com)  
Bill Bravener, Music Director  
[bbravener@ststephenthemartyr.com](mailto:bbravener@ststephenthemartyr.com)  
Lynda Shadd, Office Administrator  
[ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com](mailto:ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com)  
Bob Brownell, Maintenance  
Bob De Frank, Sunday School Superintendent  
Janet Snyder, Organist

### **Lent & Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm/Passion Weekend,**  
arch 31 & April 1

5 pm Saturday, 8 am and 9:30 pm  
Holy Communion at all services

**Maundy Thursday,**

April 5, 7 pm Communion Worship  
Fourth Graders to receive First Holy Communion

**Good Friday,**

April 6: Noon - "Walk With the Cross"  
- Walk begins at St. Thomas of Canterbury &  
ends at Greendale High School  
1 pm - Service at Greendale High School  
7 pm - Tenebrae Service at St. Stephen the Martyr

**Saturday,**

April 7: Easter Vigil  
5 pm With Holy Communion & Renewal of Baptism

**Sunday,**

April 8: Easter Festival  
7 am Communion Service  
8 am Easter Breakfast  
9 am Communion Service; Coffee hour following  
10:30 am Communion Service; Coffee hour following



#### inside this issue:

- From Pastor's Desk
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## From Pastor's Desk

### HOLY WEEK & EASTER GREETINGS!

Who can understand the width and the height and the depth of the miracle of Easter? It really is almost unbelievable! The Bible helps us of course. Our faith helps us, strong sometimes, puny at other times. We pray for faith and strength and courage, and God does respond....

The weather even helps us to believe the Easter miracle--especially this year. This Spring seems a miracle, too: the warmer temperatures, the buds and flowers coming out in March, for heaven's sake! There are robins singing outside my window right now. The world itself glorifies God in all its beauty.

But what if we lived in the southern hemisphere? Would we be able to celebrate the miracle of Easter even then, when April brings not warmth but cooler days and dying nature? Of course, we would! Because the miracle does not depend on us or on nature, but on God! God sent the Son, and God promised that through Jesus, we might experience eternal life, starting here and now. And so we thank God for what God has done, even when we fall back on our sinful ways and when the world is far from perfect.

The apostle Paul says that for Christians, everything hinges on the Resurrection. If Christ didn't really rise from the dead, then we have no hope. In the 15th chapter of I Corinthians, Paul launches into a monologue about why this is so. He concludes with this great faith statement:

"BUT NOW, CHRIST HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD" (I Corinthians 15:20)

That changes everything, Paul says. Christ IS risen, so we do know that we too, will be raised. We know that suffering and sorrow are not the last word. We know that our faith is not in vain and that God can be trusted. We know that we can live in this world with joy and hope and strength to love and serve others.

BECAUSE CHRIST IS RISEN, we can come together to worship and praise God and celebrate Christ's rising and ours! We can and want to do this each week, sharing love and forgiveness and fellowship.

We have the best news to share in all the world! I urge you, dear members, to bring someone to worship with you this Easter and the weeks following. Invite someone to know Jesus Christ and the forgiveness, hope and joy that He brings!

Please see the Holy Week and Easter schedule in this newsletter. I look forward to sharing with you these meaningful holy days.

A blessed Easter! See you at worship!

Pastor Gail

DID YOU KNOW... that thousands of Christian pilgrims converge on Jerusalem every year to celebrate the Holy Week of Easter? On Palm Sunday, pilgrims march through the Holy City, waving palm branches and retracing the steps of Jesus as he made his triumphal entrance. Then, five days later, pilgrims walk solemnly along the "fourteen stations of the cross," reenacting Jesus' procession toward his crucifixion.

# Family Ministry News

## **The Next Family Gathering**

will be held Saturday, May 5th, 2012, in the SSM Fellowship Hall at 6pm.

Save the Dates: We've scheduled the following dates for the year's 2012 Family Gatherings: May 5th, July 7th, September 8th & November 10th. Please add to your calendar so you can join us for Faith, Fellowship, Family, Food & Fun!

## **Easter Breakfast**

April 8th

We need youth to help serve the breakfast and clean up afterwards during the 9:00 worship. Contact Char if you can help: 801-7349.



Students around the world are loving God and fighting hunger. Every year, thousands of students unite to do the 30 Hour Famine. They learn about hunger - and then they do something about it.

We are calling all SSM Youth - 8th (age 13) to 12th grade to join us Friday, April 20th thru Saturday April 21st for this year's 30 Hour Famine.

More exciting details to come!

Please see Char Guiliani, for more information or visit the 30 Hour Famine website at [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org)



There are over 600 students & adults planning to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering this July. The Greater Milwaukee Synod is holding a 50/50 "This is not a raffle." The goal is for the Milwaukee Synod to sell 6,000 tickets. 50% of the proceeds will go toward sending youth to the Youth Gathering and three names from the "this is not a raffle" ticket sales will be drawn at the Synod Assembly. The winners will decide \*where the remaining 50% goes! Help us win by purchasing a "Not-a-Raffle" Ticket!

In an effort to support the youth and future leaders of our church we are selling "raffle" tickets for \$10 each. Each donation is tax deductible. Please see Char for additional information and raffle tickets. \*Five options available

### ***Vacation Bible School***

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

DATES: July 25-29, 2012

TIME: 4:45 pm to 8:15 pm

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

For ages 3–completed 5th grade

Dinner is included!

Get your registration forms on the Sunday School Bulletin Board.

STATION HELPERS NEEDED:

Adults & Youth, let your light shine! We can use your help in these areas: craft leaders/helpers. You can also sign up online!

The VBS Kids will be singing in the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, June 31.

### ***CONFIRMATION NOTES***

\* Confirmation students are reminded to contact their mentors to get together to work on Lenten packets before Easter!

\* Don't forget to sign in on the kiosk each Wednesday Lenten service and plan on attending at least one Holy Week service (see schedule in this newsletter)

\* Regular confirmation classes begin again on Thursday, April 19th at SSM. The final class of the year is May 17th!

### ***Family Camp***

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 held \_\_\_\_\_. Family camp will be the week of August 14th, 2011. You can find additional information at the Crossways website, <http://www.crosswayscamps.org/>, the flyers in the Narthex or contact Char Guliani.

Contact our Council Chair for Family Ministries

Char Guliani

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

# Fellowship

### ***FIRST FRIDAY POT LUCK***

April 13, 6 pm

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a fun, traditional "mystery dish" potluck. Sh-h-h.... Don't tell anyone what you are bringing... it is to be a mystery!

Bring a casserole, entrée, side dish, salad or dessert to share with all. Sign up by the church office bulletin board to say that you will be coming but do not tell what you are bringing, and we will see what delectable dishes you come up with!

Please also bring a non-perishable item or two for our food pantries. Don't forget to bring a humorous story or joke to share with each other. The potluck is for all ages. And invite your friends and neighbors.

## ***Easter Breakfast***

April 8, 2012

The congregation can look forward to a traditional Easter breakfast at 8AM on this celebratory morning. We recommend \$6 per person as your voluntary contribution. All money collected will go towards food needs for low income programs. Thrivent will likely not be able to match our contributions this year. Please sign up and list the number in your party who will enjoy this bountiful breakfast. Consider bringing a bakery or other food item. Bob Rasmussen has obtained 99% commitment for the necessary jobs for this event. We love on the spot volunteers!

Bob Rasmussen

JP Maschke

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## ***Human concerns***

THE NEXT HUMAN CONCERNS MEETING WILL BE Tuesday, April 3rd, 2012 at 6:45 PM

### ***SSM Prayer Garden Success!***

We are very excited and pleased to announce that we received the funds needed to start work on the Prayer Garden! Phase I will start as soon as we can get on the schedule with David J. Frank Landscape Contracting Inc. Phase I ground-breaking consists of placing the granite boulder retaining walls, the earth work and topsoil to shape the area and give definition to the space. Jeff Miller, contractor, is helping us divide up the project into phases. Phase II will be to add the stones on the path and in the circles. Phase III will be the plantings.

We have planned our 2012 spring/summer activities. We invite you and guests to participate in any or all of the upcoming events. They are open to the community.

Here are activities you can put on your calendar:

March 31st plant workshop given by SSM member Jerry Seroka on Plant Propagation (starting plants indoors from seed ) from 10:00 - 11:00 am at SSM

Planting Prayers presentation and lunch at SSM on April 21 from 9:00 to 12:30. See article.

May 5 -6 the Sale of Garden Stones (over 50 to choose from) before and after services. Just in time for a Mother's Day gift! Garden stones were designed by Jerry Seroka with help from Linda Chaplock and painting by Debra Perl. Colored glass was donated by Les' Glass. Prices will range from \$10 to \$20.

May 19th and 20th will be a sale of herb plants and planters at SSM before and after services.

June through August we will be at the Greendale Market on Saturdays selling garden stones and herb planters.

June 23, July 7 & 21, August 4, 18 & 25

See you there!

### ***Planting Prayers***

Is your spiritual life growing? Try adding prayer to your daily life. Are you itching to start gardening? You can start now with container gardens.

On Saturday, April 21 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, the SSM's "Loose Ends" (Women of the ELCA) and the Prayer Garden committees invite you to a springtime presentation on prayer and container gardening. Get into the spring fever mindset. Pastor Gail Brodensen-Heins will lead a meaningful Bible-study related to prayer. Debra Perl, SSM member, will speak about releasing worries and prayer. SSM member, Jerry Seroka, will provide a demonstration on setting up a container garden useful for apartment or condo living or for putting plants on your patio. He will also provide information from his vast knowledge as a former Milwaukee County horticulturist on gardening now by planting in a container. He will provide garden stone centerpieces, some of which will be raffled off. A light lunch will be served at which time Jerry will answer questions relating to gardening.

Any adult is invited to attend. The cost is \$5 for SSM members and \$10 for guests. Registration is due April 15. Look for information and registration materials in the Sunday bulletin and display poster located in the Narthex.

### ***Meru Partnership Meeting*** - Sunday, April 22

After much discussion with the Greater Milwaukee Synod Meru Partnership Committee, the Human Concerns Committee, along with the Church Council, is encouraging the members of SSM to enter into a partnership with a parish {church} in the Meru Diocese in Tanzania. The Meru Diocese is in partnership with our synod, the Greater Milwaukee Synod. Many churches in our synod are already in partnership with a parish in Meru, including Adoration Lutheran Church.

On April 22, after the 9:30 service, a meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall to discuss the possibilities and to begin the formation of a partnership committee. Anyone interested in finding out more about this one on one partnership with the Mbasseny parish in the Meru Diocese is encouraged to attend.

Pastor Gail visited the Mbasseny parish when she was in Tanzania. This parish was officially formed in 1967 and

they now have a membership of 750 adults. The pastor's name is Ndelikwa Pallangyo. They are very excited about joining in partnership with a church in the GMS. The idea is to open lines of communication, pray for our new partners, and perhaps eventually meet some of the folks from Mbasseny.

Pastor Pallangyo writes: "I hope that God will give us time to contact and then you will have an opportunity to learn more from us and we will learn more from you. We pray that this friendship will be watered by the Holy Spirit and grow more to witness Jesus Christ. God bless Tanzania & God bless Milwaukee Synod {ELCA}"

If you have questions, would like to attend the meeting but can't on April 22nd, please contact Pastor Gail or Carol Birk.

## Music & Worship

### ***Celebrate Jesus' Resurrection With Us!***

Our next meeting is in May. There will not be an April Music and Worship meeting.

We are rapidly approaching Resurrection Sunday, April 8th.

The Music and Worship committee would like to extend Easter Blessings to all! Cathy Peterson & Susan Jarchow, Music and Worship Co-Chairs

### ***DID YOU KNOW...***

that the trumpet shape of the Easter Lily is considered symbolic of the heralding of Jesus on his entry into Jerusalem? Biblical scholar also say that lilies may have grown in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Judas betrayed Jesus.

SSM Uses Eco Palms for our Palm/Passion Celebration

Purchasing Eco-Palms through LWR ensures that the harvesters were paid fairly for the palms and helps protect important forests and sustainable livelihoods in the harvesting communities.

### ***EASTER BREAKFAST***

Our traditional Easter breakfast, served at 8:00 am on Easter Sunday will include: scrambled eggs, baked ham, applesauce, peaches, hot rolls, homemade coffee cakes, coffee, tea, juice and milk.

Suggested donation: \$6.00 per adult; for children under 15 -parent's discretion.

The breakfast is a Fundraiser and a great experience. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will match donations up to \$800. Thrivent's condition is that we direct the monies toward a non-profit organization. The money received plus the grant money will go to the Bay View Community Center Food Pantry and the Central City Food Pantry. Because these organizations have contacts, they can purchase large quantities of food, cheaper than we can buy at a supermarket. It should be our congregational goal to raise a combined total of \$1,600 to feed the hungry through these neighborhood food pantries. Your generous gifts will be greatly appreciated.

Please sign up if you plan to join us for breakfast. The sign up poster will be on the bulletin board in the narthex. It promises to be a grand event! Indicate if you can bake something to enrich our tables.

Questions? See JP Maschke or

Bob Rasmussen, Coordinator

## Stewardship

### ***Reflections of Easter***

What do you think of when you hear the word "Easter"? Admittedly, my mind wanders back to those childhood days of Easter egg hunts, baskets of candy and learning the unfortunate disappointment of hollow chocolate. Later it became crossing my fingers that the dye wouldn't stain the table or the floor as my children colored their eggs, continuing to pluck stray pieces of shiny plastic "grass" out of the carpet well into June and discovering how much more expensive solid chocolate really is.

But as the more traditional memories of Easter fade into the past, I find myself contemplating a deeper meaning. It's knowing Jesus died for our sins so that we may have new life. What do you do with such an enormous gift? My thought is to share it. But how?

Fasting comes to mind. Perhaps not from my favorite foods but something a little more challenging like negative thoughts, ill will or passing judgment on others.

Forgiveness. Not only for unpleasant things others of have done to me but by forgiving myself as well. It's okay that I am not perfect - as long as I not only make apologies for my shortcomings but that I learn from them and

allow them to make me a little bit better of a person each day.

New Life. Celebrating the peace I find within myself after fasting from negativity and embracing forgiveness - and sharing that renewed spirit with those around me. I can be a more positive person at home. I can appreciate the blessing that I am still employed by doing my best and not worrying about what anyone around me is or is not doing. I can not only attend church services, but find my own ways to live the messages we receive. In public, I can not only hold a door open for a Stranger but take it one small step further by smiling and saying "hello".

The joy of Easter can be celebrated in so many ways. What will you do?

-Mike & Tracy Wholean



THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in April, the 11th & 25th at 10:15 a.m. Join us as we study the scripture texts for the following weekend's worship services.

### **LOOSE ENDS LUNCHEON**

Let's celebrate the hope of spring and have a great lunch!

When: Wed. April 11th

Where: Benny's Café on 27th St. north of Grange

Time: 11:45 pm at restaurant or, meet at church at 11:30 a.m. if you wish to carpool

The sign up sheet is on the kiosk in the narthex.

Please contact Ruth Hoppe with questions: 414-281-5896.

### **KNIT WITS KNITTING**

Meets April 2nd @ 6:30 p.m. Knitters, crocheters and wanna-bes, join us! All are welcome.

Sign-Up & Be A Part of Our "HELPING HANDS" Team

The Women of the ELCA at SSM encourage both our women and our men to be part of our Helping Hands Team.

This group of individuals will:

Set-up, serve food and clean-up for gatherings after funerals or other special events at SSM. This group will be activated as needed. One or two individuals will be specified as crew leaders and will be expected to contact however many individuals are needed for an event.

We would also like to organize a list of anyone who would be willing to prepare food, such as casseroles, salads or desserts for a funeral luncheon for our SSM members, if requested by the family.

Lastly, as part of the Helping Hands team, we are looking for women and men who can commit to giving our kitchen a good cleaning every month to six weeks. We envision this would include wiping down cabinets, washing coffee pots and carafes, wiping the stove and microwave, the refrigerators, silverware drawers and other general cleaning. Hopefully, we will have enough volunteers so that the responsibility can be alternated. There will be Sign-Up forms included with our Bulletins on the weekend of March 31/April 1 and again on April 14/15. Complete the information asked for and then place a checkmark in front of the area(s) for which you are volunteering to be a participant. You can choose one or all three of the tasks. Any questions, please contact Carole Ropel at 262-523-4130. We are very appreciative of your willingness to serve our Lord and your church.

### ***You are encouraged to Attend the 2012 Women of the ELCA Spring Retreat!***

Date: May 18 - 19 (You may choose to attend only on Saturday)

Location: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 211-213 North Ninth Street, Watertown WI 53094

Time: May 18-Friday 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; May 19-Saturday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost: \$12

Overnight Housing available at Super 8-Watertown. Cost \$63.79, call 1-920-261-1188 to make your own reservation

Registration Deadline for the Retreat: May 10, 2012.

The Greater Milwaukee Synod, Women of the ELCA and the South Central Wisconsin Synod will again have a joint Spring Retreat on the dates shown above. The theme is "What's Your Story".

Our keynote speaker is The Rev. Jason Chesnut, a master storyteller. His style is entertaining and engaging. Also highlighting this event will be a skit put on by three St. Stephen the Martyr members, Ruth Urdahl, John Goelz and Bob DeFrank. SSM members will not want to miss that!

There will be music, worship with communion and other activities as we tell and hear the stories which make us bold Women of the ELCA in today's world. Dress is casual. Questions can be referred to Carole Ropel - 262-523-4130.

### ***Other Notes***

### **Unity Soup Supper & Clothes Closet**

Sign up to help serve a dinner at the Unity Soup Kitchen at 3 pm, Wed. April 25th to help prepare meals, 4:30 for set-up, serving and cleanup. Contact Bob & Shirley Lieske for more details: 761-0734.

Clothing Items Needed at Unity "Clothes Closet"

Help us clothe those in need! Unity Ev. Lutheran in Bay View provides free immediate need clothing for men and women and are open every Wednesday 5pm-6pm. Clothing Needed Includes:

Men's Jeans: 30, 32, 34, 36 waist.

Women's Jeans: size 12 and up

Casual Short Spring Coats: L, XL, XXL, XXXL

Sturdy Gloves (i.e. work gloves)

Good quality shoes and work boots

Sweat shirts, T-shirts

### **Shared Ministry Coordinator**

St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church has created a new role to enhance its membership involvement and level of member fulfillment. This position will facilitate and coordinate new and existing members' involvement in the church by matching ministry needs with members' gifts. This person will: work closely with committee leaders, council, and pastor; maintain a consistent presence at events, programs and worship; demonstrate strong communication, organizational, and administrative skills along with computer literacy. This is a part-time, salaried position, that will require an average of 20 hours per week.

Applicants should have or be actively working toward a Bachelor's Degree, while significant life experience may be considered. Please visit the St. Stephen the Martyr website for a detailed job description at [www.ststephenthemartyr.com](http://www.ststephenthemartyr.com).

If you have a heart and passion for God and would like to have a greater involvement in ministry, please submit a cover letter and resume by e-mail to [ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com](mailto:ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com). If you have any questions about the Shared Ministry Coordinator position, please also submit those by e-mail and include your telephone number.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Jason Covert

### **SPRING BOOK OF FAITH PROGRAM:**

#### **GALATIANS**

May 11th & 12th

Come together this spring for a retreat-style study of the book of Galatians--a thought provoking study exploring what it means to live as a Christian in today's world! Please plan to set aside some time for your own spiritual learning and growth this spring. Paul's letter to the Galatians shows Paul at his most youthful, least understating and most non-compromising. In this letter, he provides us with a clear confession of the Christian faith. This 4-session Bible study explores Galatians through four key questions. Take a look at the guidebook and get all the details on the poster in the narthex. Cost is \$5 for the study.

Fri May 11th

6:30 - Fellowship

6:45 - What happens to people pleasers?

7:45 - Break

7:55 - Is there one, and only one, Gospel (good message)?

9:00 - Good night!

Sat May 12th

8:45 - Coffee & rolls

9:00 - So...what about God's rules now?

10:00 - Break

10:15 - How do we live by the Spirit?

11:15 - Closing Prayer

Early registration helps us plan our materials and food, so sign up today! Contact Heidi Mayer for more details.

See you there!

**DID YOU KNOW...** that 95 percent of the world's Easter Lilies are produced along the California-Oregon border? Known as the Easter Lily Capital of the world, this area sees more than 15 million lily bulbs planted each year to meet the Easter demand.

### **Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly**

TWO SSM MEMBERS ARE NEEDED to be VOTING MEMBERS at the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly Thurs. evening, June 3rd through Sat. noon, June 5th. Past attendees have said they enjoyed the vibrant worship services, the plenary or business sessions, the fellowship and learning from other church members in our Synod.

Join Pastor Gail and Bill Bravener for an exciting two days at the Country Springs Inn, Waukesha. Car pooling will be arranged. See Pastor Gail if you are interested.

## **Condensed Council Minutes**

Condensed Minutes of Council Meeting March 13, 2012

**Guest Presentation:** SSM member B. DeFrank talked to Council Members about having a bake sale fundraiser on Mother's Day Sunday, May 13th, to raise money for the upcoming SSM Vacation Bible School program.

**Approvals:** The Secretary's February meeting minutes were approved with the following corrections: Under Finance, we have three more counters, rather than three more teams. S. Petricek's name and T. Falksen's name were misspelled. Under Christian Education, Bible study will start after Lenten Services, and not during Lenten Services.

Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed. The Treasurer's Report was given. J. Bugajski stated that as of 2/26/12 total offerings were \$226.39 over budget with a 100.43%. Bugajski stated that as of April 15th our new mortgage payments will go into effect. Over the course of the next ten years, we will save about \$30,000 because of the refinance. He also highlighted that the Prayer Garden received some notable donations recently bringing the amount of the money in that account to over \$12,000. The first milestone has now been reached to start the meetings with the architects and planners for the Prayer Garden. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Pastor's Time:** Pastor Gail stated that the Lenten season is proceeding well and thanked B. Bravener and Pastor B. Snyder and J. Snyder for help with the mid week Lenten services and to J.P. and P. Maschke for coordinating the soup suppers. New members classes will soon start and there may be up to seven new adults and four children joining the congregation. Nine SSM members attended the recent partnership meeting with Unity and Faith Santa Fe. Items discussed were upcoming VBS, the new position of the Shared Ministry Coordinator, the possibility of joint programs between the churches and a thank-you for attendance at SSM's & Santa Fe's Christmas events. Pastor is looking forward to a meaningful Holy Week and Easter and encouraged everyone's participation. She presided at the funerals of two members, Leslie Dahms on February 24th and David Signer on February 27th. Pastor is looking for two members to join her and B. Bravener at the upcoming ELCA Annual Synod Assembly scheduled for May 31st to June 2nd.

There was lengthy discussion on a program endorsed by Greater Milwaukee Synod Bishop Jeff Barrow, asking congregations to help financially support young people that want to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Money would be raised by members selling a 50/50 ticket for \$10.00 each, for a possibility of \$60,000. There are 6000 tickets to be sold throughout the Greater Milwaukee Synod area. The three fortunate winners would then have an option of donating \$30,000 to any ELCA congregation, including their own, the Greater Milwaukee Synod Campus Ministries, Outreach for Hope, or the global partnerships in Tanzania and El Salvador, or the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

A motion was made and seconded that the church buys 75 tickets for \$750.00. Discussion followed. E. Sanders stated that the money would increase our benevolence. Members discussed how we would sell these tickets. C. Guiliani volunteered to write an article for both the newsletter and bulletin explaining how the 50/50 "Not a Raffle" works. Another motion was passed by a 7 to 5 margin that we would buy 50 tickets for \$500 rather than seventy-five. H. Mayer volunteered to sell some tickets to members, in addition to what the church would pay for.

### **Old Action Items:**

Shared Ministry Coordinator Position - job description is ready to be published on the ELCA List Serve web site, our SSM website, our newsletter and upcoming church bulletins.

The Congregational Leaders Conference E. Sanders talked about the upcoming Congregational Leaders Conference scheduled for Saturday, March 24th, 2012. There are several workshops available for Council members and others to attend.

Defibrillator Update: The Defibrillator is now available and several members have been trained on how to use it.

### **New Action Items:**

Helping Hands is now being revived by the Women of the ELCA and C. Ropel. These volunteers would be involved with funeral setups and cooking as well as clean up after funerals.

April Council Meeting was cancelled, as this is Easter week.

Spring Cleaning is being planned.

Patch.com, a new community newsletter web site sent out an email asking us if we were interested in promoting their web site in exchange for them promoting our church.

Saturday Service Snow Shovelers: J. Hennessy asked that we have snow shovelers available for Saturday services. J.P. Maschke and C. Guiliani volunteered if needed.

Small Shed on Property: There was also a discussion on having a small shed next to the side door of the church. This would allow us to keep salt and shovels readily available for staff and volunteers. J. Bugajski volunteered to look into putting a shed by the door.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Youth and Family** - C. Guiliani stated the 30-Hour Famine will involve over 100 young people and take place the weekend of April 20th and 21st at Holy Cross in Menomonee Falls. Easter Egg Hunt will be conducted during Sunday School on Palm Sunday. Promotion is underway to have families go to weekend camp, rather than a week long camp experience. C. Guiliani stated that she is considering having the 6th Graders have a lock-in to help create the scenery for VBS. Unity and Santa Fe have been asked to participate too. These churches have also been asked to join us at the annual Brewers game /tailgate outing.

**Human Concerns** - C. Birk reported that her committee is working on setting up a possible partnership with the Mbaaseny Parish of the Meru Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. This parish began in 1952. The pastor is Reverend Pallanyjo, who has already met Pastor Gail. There will be a meeting after church on April 22nd, to discuss this pending partnership.

**Stewardship:** J. Covert stated that the Stewards of the Month for March are Tim and Stephanie Falksen.

**Fellowship** - J.P. Maschke reported that Soup Suppers are taken care of for the next two weeks and he also complimented R. Rasmussen for organizing volunteers for the Easter breakfast. Thrivent will not be matching funds this year due to a change in how they distribute their donations.

**Christian Education** - H. Mayer reported that the next Adult Bible Study will be a retreat format of the study of the Book of Galatians, to be held during a weekend in May. The dates discussed were May 11th/May 12th or May 18th/May 19th.

**Evangelism:** J. Hennessey reported that the new member orientation will be on April 22nd. New members will be received April 29th, and a new member breakfast is scheduled for May 19th. He complimented J. Rech for his involvement with the Good Shepherd program, which pairs up new members with established members.

**Music and Worship** - S. Jarchow reported that there were 55 in attendance at the daytime Ash Wednesday Service. Maundy Thursday will involve the 4th Grade Sunday School children receiving their first Holy Communion. There will be a Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7 PM and three services on Easter morning. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM. The April Council meeting has been cancelled.

Respectfully Submitted, Shellee Lubus, Council Secretary

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