

WELCOME TO *St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA*

Service Times: Saturday - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - 9:30 a.m.



the **MARTYR MONTHLY**

AUGUST 2008 NEWSLETTER

*St. Stephen the Martyr
Lutheran Church, ELCA*

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OFFICE HOURS:
9-2 M-Th
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SSM STAFF

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pastorgail@ststephenthemartyr.com
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Lynda Shadd, Office Administrator
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Bob Brownell, Maintenance
Bob De Frank, Sunday School
Superintendent
Janet Snyder, Organist

Mark your Calendars

September 7, 2008

RALLY DAY

and



Celebrate the beginning of another exciting Sunday School year!

One service only @ 9:30 a.m.

Indoor Picnic & Activities following

Sign up on bulletin board outside the office for the meal & your dish to pass Hamburgers, brats, hot dogs and beverages will be provided! Please bring a dish to pass.

(Free will donations to defray cost of food are gratefully accepted)



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PASTOR GAIL'S COMPUTER NOTES...

*"My children, love must not be a matter of words or talk; it must be genuine, and show itself in action."
I John 3:18-20*

This month, I quote from a church newsletter article written by a long-time friend, Pastor Gail Jereb. Gail was pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in So. Dakota and died much too young. She wrote:

"Sitting still in church is not easy, especially when you're little. But on this morning, the girl, almost four, stood next to the center aisle—motionless, watching as people flowed like a river to the front of

the sanctuary. There they knelt in silence. She saw them eat and drink. And she heard: "The body of Christ, broken for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you." Each in turn, given what they came for—each in turn, hearing what he or she needed to hear. "The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace." And then the river of people began to flow back out again—out to where they came from.

But the little girl's eyes saw more than just a 'people river'. Her eyes during the whole time were focused on one special person—a person she loves. Would this special person see her? As the river began to flow back down the aisle, the girl looked for a sign. As the woman came closer and closer, the girl started to raise her head, so she wouldn't miss a sign of recognition that might appear there. Then, just as the girl's face was looking straight up, her Sunday School teacher looked down and smiled. The girl smiled back.

She looked at her mother. Her eyes were glowing. The mother's eyes grew misty, having just witnessed a gift from God to her little girl, almost 4. She whispered a prayer of thanks for this person who showed the love of Christ to her child. As long as they live, both mother and daughter will carry in their hearts this gift from someone they know, the beloved Sunday School teacher who took time to notice and smile.

Parents and teachers and adult friends of our children and teens: the words which we use cannot begin to equal the lessons which we teach by our presence and our caring. Our words about love for God and for God's family are important. Yet one moment shared, in worship, in friendship, in times of working and serving God together speak more than a thousand Sunday School lessons and sermons."

Dear friends: Thank you for your presence and the caring you show each week as we gather as God's family here at St. Stephen the Martyr to praise God and receive strength, comfort and hope from God and from the presence of one another.

May you continue to enjoy God's creation this month.

I hope to see you at worship!

Your partner in the Gospel,
Pastor Gail

Stewardship

GOD'S GIFTS

When I was a child God gave to me
A mom and a dad to take care of me,
A warm cozy house and plenty to eat,
And a feeling of safety when I went to sleep.
Across the world in many a place
There's many a child who knows not God's grace,
Without a mom to look after them,
Or a warm cozy house or something to eat,
And not feeling safe when they go to sleep.

So why did God give good gifts to me?
Without any merit or deserving by me?
Could it be that God's gifts to me
Are really my opportunity?

To help a child find a mom or dad
Or a warm cozy house that they've never had?
To give some food to those in need
And teach them how to plant and read?
To pray against war and plans to fight
So all will feel safe and secure at night?

Could it be that God's gifts to me
Are really my opportunity?

poem by Jean Brown Eittreim

A GREAT EVENING WITH THE GROW-HANSONS!

Saturday, July 12th marked the visit of 'our' missionaries: Rev. Peter and Sarah Grow-Hanson, serving as ELCA missionaries in Senegal, West Africa. Peter preached to an enthusiastic congregation of about 75, relating Jesus' parable of the sowing of the seed in all kinds of ground, rocks, thorns, etc. to the work of Christians there. Following worship, he gave an exciting presentation on evangelism efforts in conjunction with the Lutheran Church of Senegal, which include instruction in the faith (catechism), health outreach, agricultural programs, and literacy classes. The slides helped to put faces and places to Peter and Sarah's explanations.

A big 'Thank You' to Sue Jarchow who led the rest of the Human Concerns Committee and others who helped to prepare and serve a delicious supper of sandwiches, salads, fruit, and desserts. We all had a great evening!

We look forward to the next time that the Grow-Hansons can join us. May God bless them in their efforts to share the Gospel with the people of Senegal, and may we always lift them up in prayer.



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 13 - Bible Study at 10:15 a.m.

August 13 - Loose Ends Luncheon at 11:45 - Southwoods Restaurant

August 15-17 - Pine Lake Women's Retreat, Waupaca Wisconsin

August 18 - Piece Makers Quilting

August 20 - Sewing of School Bags - 9 a.m.

September 27-28 - ThankOffering Services - Women of the ELCA

October 3-4 - Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Convention @ St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa

Women's Bible Study/Loose Ends Lunch

We will then be meeting for lunch at Southwoods on August 13th, 5404 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Cudahy.

We will leave church at 11:30 a.m. for those carpooling, and meet at the restaurant at 11:45 a.m. Please sign up on the kiosk and indicate if you will need a ride from your home or if you want to car-pool from church. Any questions, call Dolores Dowling, 327-4185.

JOIN US AT THE PINE LAKE WOMEN'S RETREAT

WAUPACA WI

AUGUST 15-17, 2008

Enjoy a weekend away with a caring community of friends and be part of the Pine Lake experience.

We invite you to join us at Pine Lake Camp, located in the northern woods near Waupaca Wisconsin. The weekend starts with a light supper on Friday and ends with lunch on Sunday. The cost is \$80. There is a \$5 late fee assessment after August 5th. Registration forms are posted on the kiosk under Women of the ELCA. Scholarships are available to help defray the cost to you. Any questions?

Call the Camp Dean, Sue Jarchow at 414-421-9031 or Carole Ropel at 262-523-4130.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE 2008 CONVENTION OF THE GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION WOMEN OF THE ELCA

...being held on October 3-4 at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Shirley Lieske will represent you as this year's delegate from St. Stephen the Martyr. The theme is "Here I am Lord - Send Me". Workshop presenters will be from Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Lutheran Social Services, Interfaith, Youth and Family Ministry and Next Door Foundation. In-Kind gifts will be collected and distributed to Lutheran Social Services Foster Care Kids. Worship Offerings will be divided between the Women of the ELCA, Churchwide and Habitat for Humanity. Registration begins at 4 p.m. on Friday, October 3rd followed by the evening banquet at 6 p.m. The evening closes with a Taize service. Morning worship followed by workshops, a luncheon and business sessions will take place on Saturday.

Registration forms are posted on the kiosk along with Scholarship forms that may help you defray the cost associated with the Convention.



Please call Shelly Rosenstock at 769-7067 if you are interested in helping on the Fellowship Committee.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Join us on

August 2nd

2 to 4 p.m.

Invite your family, friends and neighbors for ice cream and entertainment.

Anyone interested in helping can contact Shelly Rosenstock at 769-7067 or Erin Arneson at 281-2987.

There will be NO 1st Friday Potluck in August.

Join us again on September 5th.

I would like to thank everyone who generously donated cookies or cash for Operation Freedom. We had 3 large grocery bags of cookies and \$70 in cash with which I purchased at cost, more cookies from Melody Cookies in Oak Creek. I am very happy to report we actually had cookies leftover which were then given to a program that assists homeless veterans here in Milwaukee County.

Rose Ann Dieck

You are invited to a Graduation Party

FOR WHOM? OMAR MURSAL

Omar graduated Valedictorian with high honors from Washington High School in June of 2008 and he will be attending Marquette University in September.

We would like to have him know how proud we are of his accomplishments and have a chance to wish him well!

When:

Sunday August 3, 2008

Where:

St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church

Time:

After 9:30 a.m. services

A light lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m.

If you are interested in coming to the party, please sign up on the office bulletin board or call Nancy or John Bugajski @ 414-467-3887 or Carole Ropel @ 262-523-4130 or email: johnbugajski@tds.net.



UPCOMING EVENTS		
August 10-15		Mission Trip at Imago Dei Village
August 17	7:00 PM	Revolution!

St. Stephen the Martyr's Mission Trip

It's time to turn in your M & M's Minis Tubes with your donation for the Mission Trip Fund. Back on Father's Day, I gave out the tubes of candy as a way of inviting you to share in my spiritual discipline of prayer while encouraging everyone to support the mission trips we do throughout the year at SSM. I began fasting from candy so that every time my sweet tooth gave me a craving, I'd remember to pause and pray for you, for

your stewardship, and for the people going on this summer's mission trip. Boy, did I do a lot of praying!!! You'd be surprised how much candy you notice and want to eat when you're fasting from it. Now our summer spiritual journey is coming to an end . . . or rather, a new beginning.

As we prepare to begin our trip on August 10, please return your tube with your donation to the display table in the narthex on Sunday, August 3rd or 10th. The word around town is that you can fit \$21.50 worth of quarters into one tube. Already with a few people returning their tubes early, we've raised more money for the mission trip fund than I initially spent on the candy. Now it's time to see how fruitful our journey has been and watch the return on our investment multiply.

Thank you for supporting all who participate in mission trips at SSM!

Please keep our missionaries in your prayers:

- Eric, Denise, Duncan & Owen Sanders
- Keith Myren
- Kyle, Kevin & Kara Giesenschlag
- Amy, Rachel & Danielle Ziegert
- Amanda Salas
- Vickie Lawrence
- Nick Stawicki
- Kevan, Maya & Zeke Penvose
- Kori Kriewaldt

- Andrea Waldera

King's Kids Summer Choir
will continue to meet on Sundays in August following the 9:30 service. Join us!

SHEPHERD'S CORNER LIBRARY NEWS

The Bible tells us to 'study to show yourself approved unto God, a worker that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.' Remember to use your library during the summer! We have lots of great books & videos for all ages!

Proverbs 2:10 "For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul."

3-4-5 TO PASSING ON THE FAITH

(from Frogs without legs Can't Hear by David W. Anderson & Paul Hill)

Rituals & Traditions

The last key is Rituals & Traditions. These are patterns of behavior that repeat with regularity. They communicate meaning, values, and relationships that exist between people and with God. These are the things that we do habitually over and over. Like going to be with family for Christmas or Thanksgiving, going to church on Saturday or Sunday. We can help the youth and new families to develop new traditions in their lives that include meeting for devotions together. Sitting down for coffee after church and asking how the week has been.

The rituals that we create and do bring us a sense of comfort. Any disruption in that ritual and we don't feel comfortable anymore and we look to find a way to bring that order back again. With doing rituals in a certain way we know that all is right in our portion of the world.

It happened with me when I was going through a difficult time and finally took the time to look back at my life and see what was happening when things were going better and the one thing that keep coming back up was church. Being in a new community I started looking for someplace to worship again, after being gone from the church for several years. After looking at a couple I came to be at SSM and enjoy the traditions that are in this church and the family that I now have here.

Until next time, peace be with you,
Tim Falksen

Contact our Discipleship Coach, Kevan Penvose: 414-258-0858 stillerz7@yahoo.com



Sue Jarchow & Cathy Peterson, Co-Chairs

The Music & Worship committee is extending an invitation to all members of SSM to join us for a meeting on August 6th to see what this committee is all about. We are looking for people to join our team as we start to plan the new fall schedules. We will be discussing out plans for Rally Day to be held on September 7th.

In August, we also start our next set of schedules for ushering, communion set-up and service, readers and greeters.

If you would consider assisting/ volunteering in helping with one or more of these tasks or if you have any questions about duties, please contact the following member who assigns these tasks:

Ushering: Bob Rasmussen, 421-5170

Readers: Bob DeFrank, 761-2165

Greeters: John Rech, 546-1576

Communion Set-up or Serving: Cathy Peterson, 325-6620 or Sue Jarchow, 526-9785

Summer Choir—August 3rd

Join us at 9 a.m. to rehearse the anthem Sunday morning. All are welcome!

AUGUST HYMN-SINGS!

Our summer hymn-sings have been a wonderful time to share your favorite hymns that may only get sung once or twice a year and we continue them in August.

The August Hymn-Sing

Dates are:

Sat. & Sunday Aug. 9 & 10

Sat. & Sunday Aug. 23 & 24

We will gather in worship at 4:50 pm on Saturday and 9:20 am on Sunday on the dates that the hymn-sings take place. Come and enjoy your favorite hymns!

Choir Picnic

The Senior & Bell Choir end-of-summer picnic will be on Wednesday, August 27th at Bob and Rose Ann Dieck's at 5121 Russell Court West. Activities start at 6:00 pm. Please bring a dish to pass and your own meat for grilling. If you are interested in joining the choir for the upcoming year please join us. RSVP to Rose Ann at 421-9337 or if you have any questions.

Think About It

Think about it! Is there any reason why YOU couldn't become one of the GREETERS at SSM? In spite of what you may have heard, the greeters team is not a closed club, in fact we are in the middle of an open enrollment period right now. It is our desire to have greeters at both the main and lower entrances at the Sunday, 9:30 a.m. service, so we are expanding our team.

Any man, woman or child (under 13 accompanied by an adult) who can smile and exchange hand shakes is eligible to join! You can greet as an individual or as a family! This is not necessarily a long-term commitment. It is not like a bank CD; you can withdraw at any time you wish or need to without penalty! Think about it! What a satisfying way to enter the sanctuary for worship - knowing you have touched lives by greeting and exchanging smiles and handshakes with fellow members and visitors. Please get in touch with me if you have any questions or are ready to join our team of greeters. You are welcome!

Your Servant,
John Rech, 546-1576
Greeter Coordinator

The Heart of Worship

The word "worship" comes from an old English word "worth-ship" meaning to acknowledge the worth of someone. For the Christian it means to acknowledge the worth of God.

We sometimes equate worship with singing hymns or choruses. Others equate it with a more traditional approach where the main meetings on the Lord's Day are called "worship" services—both of which are an important part of worship.

The heart of worship is more than this. We should live our lives in worship to Him, like when we appreciate God's hand in a beautiful sunset, a new-born baby, a singing bird, an amazing animal, the ocean, in sunshine or in rain, on a mountain, in the desert—whether we are at home, school, work, or play—as well as at church.

We should constantly acknowledge the worth of God, bringing that attitude of worship with us to church. Going through the motions when the heart isn't in it may be religiosity, but it isn't true worship. Worship truly is an attitude of the heart.

God said David was a man after His own heart. David wrote, "I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High." And again, "I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly." Now that's true worship—with or without music, in and out of church. Let us live our lives daily worshipping our God.

Let us pray: "Dear God, please help me to understand the true meaning of worship and learn how to worship you in spirit and in truth. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' name, Amen."



Next meeting is August 5

at 6:30 p.m. We will be planning for the school bags. Call Shirley Lieske: 761-0734 for more information.

SCHOOL BAGS FOR KIDS

Hard to believe—the children are barely out of school, yet soon it will be that time of year to once again collect school supplies. The 'best' sales begin in July! We will again be collecting items for our "school kits" LWR project. If you are early school supply shoppers for your family, please keep our school kits in mind.

The items needed are listed below.

Pads or notebooks of ruled paper (8 1/2 x 11—150-200 sheets of paper-no loose leaf)

One blunt scissors (safety with imbedded steel blades)

One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
One pencil sharpener
Six new pencils with erasers -unsharpened
12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors
One box of 16, or 24 crayons
The cloth bag approximately 12" x 14" with cloth handles, will be sewn by Loose Ends
Sturdy fabric for the school bags is needed. Sewing Date: Wed. August 20, 9:30 am.
Please bring your supplies for school bags for needy children on Rally Day!



MT. MERU COFFEE PROJECT

US Ambassador Mark Green recently visited the Mt. Meru Coffee Project in Tanzania, including a visit to a family on their one acre farm, a visit to a coffee processing center and a luncheon at the Meru Diocese Guest House.

He appreciated the invitation by Mt. Meru Coffee Project board member, Walt Chossek, who met him there and escorted him during his tour. Ambassador Green said he enjoys highlighting things that are good in Africa. "It highlights something that is good. Too often Americans only hear about things that are happening in Darfur and Zimbabwe. These are terrible, terrible tragedies. People don't get to see the small victories that are happening every day such as the Mt. Meru Coffee Project. People taking charge of their own futures, building for their children." The Ambassador was pleased to see the high quality coffee as well as the introduction of new plants to help make the project sustainable.

We have several kinds of Mt. Meru Coffee available in the narthex. Try a bag soon and enjoy! The cost is \$8.00 per 12 oz. bag.

Doing Justice Never Tasted So Good!

Aluminum Can Donations NEEDED!

Did you know that since January 1st, over \$200 has been raised by our church through the collection and sale of aluminum cans?

Last month money from our can sales went to feed the hungry. A \$50 check was given to the Central City Food Pantry at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, and a second \$50 check was given to the Bay View Community Center Food Pantry. Both pantries were very appreciative of these gifts.

Let's continue the good work begun. Please save and turn in empty cans at SSM. Drop off your bags of cans either at the North door of the church by the upper parking lot, or by the garage on the lower parking lot.

Flattening cans is a big help as more cans can be transported on one trip to the scrap yard, when gas is over \$4 a gallon.

Scrap aluminum cans are now worth 75 cents a pound, and recently 60 pounds were sold. Keep up the great work to help feed the hungry. Thanks to all who contribute!

Help SSM Conserve and Care for God's Creation!

We are now making reusable SSM Shopping Bags available to help conserve on the use of plastic or paper bags for your shopping convenience. These are nice size, durable shopping totes with the SSM label to spread the word that we care about God's creation. The cost is \$3 each or 2 for \$5. Checks should be made payable to SSM. Payment can be placed in the can marked for collection in the narthex.

THE STAFF OF LIFE SSM FOOD PANTRY

SUMMER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

...because hunger never takes a vacation...

We continue our service to the community by collecting food for Bay View Community Food Pantry in Aug.

Thank you all for your continued support.

"The LORD upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, and lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous." Psalm 146

OTHER NOTES

HELP US KEEP OUR RECORDS UP TO DATE!

Are you moving? 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.

Would you like to receive the Martyr Monthly in your church mailbox, instead of by mail? Let Lynda know in the office and she will make the change for you.

HELP NEEDED

I am seeking two families/individuals to take over the periodic care of the Children's Activity Bags used during worship services. This involves cleaning the bags and their contents, as well as replacing used/broken materials. The commitment would be once every other month. If you are interested in serving the youngest members of our congregation in this way, please contact Denise Sanders at (414)423-0608 or email, the.family.sanders@gmail.com.

- Denise

Flower Chart

If you desire to adorn our worship with flowers from a floral shop or a bouquet of your own garden flowers during the summer months, please write your name on the Flower Chart on the office door and specify the month and week that you will be providing flowers. Also, please write a brief note stating whether the offering is in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion in the family. You can bring your flowers in on the Friday morning before worship during office hours.

COUNCIL MINUTES

CONDENSED MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 24TH, 2008

(A complete set of Minutes can be found on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex)

All Council members were present except S. Larson, C. Malinowski and J and E. Arneson. Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins was present. Kevan Penvose was absent.

This was a rescheduled meeting.

J. Bugajski led the devotion.

Approvals: The Secretary's minutes from the May 13th were reviewed with no corrections. The Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed. The Treasurer's Report was discussed and the following changes were approved: \$55.00 in the Cristo Rey account was moved to the Food Pantries account. \$88.49 from the New Lights in Fellowship Hall account was moved to the Parking Lot Repair Fund and \$52.25 in the Project Gifts Fund was also moved to the Food Pantries account. President Muroi recommended that S and R. DeFrank, S. Mayer and K. Penvose receive gift certificates in recognition of their hard work on Vacation Bible Time. Council approved this recommendation. Pastor Gail asked that thank-you letters from the Council also be sent to these members.

Pastor's Time: Pastor especially thanked the following for their work on Vacation Bible Time, stating it was a great and worthwhile ministry to our children and the children from Adoration Lutheran: B. and S. DeFrank, S. Mayer, K. Penvose, E. Sanders, A. and S. Mildren, T. Falksen, S. Jarchow, C. Peterson, M. Mayer, J. Switala, K. Miller, L. Salas and V. Lawrence. Pastor thanked C. Ropel and L. Falksen for attending the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly. She had one member visitor training session and there is another training scheduled in July. Pastor presided at one non member funeral, a D. Goelz on May 15th and at the wedding of members A. Lentz and J. Stuedemann. Pastor will be on vacation from 8/7 to 8/18 and will miss the August Council meeting. Pastor Fredriksen will be on call for her.

Old Action Items: Forward Planning Update - Answers to the cottage meeting questionnaires are available electronically on the church's web site. A summarized report is forthcoming. **Cloth Shopping Bags:** S. Rosenstock discussed the cloth shopping bag project that features SSM's logo. An example of the bags that can be purchased for \$3.00 apiece are currently on display in the narthex.

New Action Items: Search Committee for Music Director: E. Sanders reported that one of the candidates, a B. Bravener could also assist Pastor Gail in other ministry duties, as well as serve as the Music and Choir Director. The search committee was preparing to interview B. Bravener. There is a reception planned for C. Owens on 7/27/08. Cards and letters are welcome. **Building Concerns:** J. Muroi reported that during the recent hard rains, there was a major leak found in the basement wall, needing almost immediate attention. The company, American Foundation, was recommended and has presented a two stage plan to fix the problem to President Muroi and Pastor Gail.

Committee Reports: Human Concerns - S. Lieske reported that her committee is organizing the school bag project again and are looking into providing flu shots and blood pressure checks to members in the fall. **Christian Education** - E. Sanders reported that VBT was a great week, with an attendance of 71 children. **Rosy, Mursal, Barake Family Update** - J. Bugajski reported that the church is sponsoring a reception for Omar, who graduated with honors, after the church service on 8/3/08. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

There is no Council meeting scheduled for July. The next Council meeting will be on August 12th, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shellee Lubus,

Council Secretary