

WELCOME TO *St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA*

Service Times: Saturday - 5:00 p.m. Sunday - 8:00 & 9:30 a.m.



the **MARTYR MONTHLY** MAY 2009 NEWSLETTER

St. Stephen the Martyr *Lutheran Church, ELCA*

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OFFICE HOURS:
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SSM STAFF

Gail Brodersen-Heins, Pastor
pastorgail@ststephenthemartyr.com
Bill Bravener, Music Director
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Kevan Penvose, Discipleship Coach for
Family Ministries
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Bob De Frank, Sunday School
Superintendent
Janet Snyder, Organist



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COMING IN MAY...

Pentecost Festival Worship Services

With Holy Communion and Special Music
Saturday, May 30th 5 pm
Sunday, May 31st 8 & 9:30 a.m.

"But you shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit comes upon you: and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10th 8 & 9:30 a.m.

The Youth Chime Choir will perform special music; the Loose Ends Ladies Group will give a special gift to all mothers following each service.

Bring YOUR mother!

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR GAIL...

"All I need to know about life I learned from the Easter bunny:
All work and no play can make you a basket case.
Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day.
The best things in life are still sweet.
Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits."
from the Rev. Karl R. Kraft, Mantua, NJ

It's true, Easter is NOT about Easter bunnies, but the Resurrection of God's Son makes us joyful and ready to laugh. We celebrated this great day on April 12th, but we can continue to celebrate our Risen Savior. And we can face each day's challenges because we know who's ultimately in charge. Remember, each Sunday is a "little Easter" as we come together to worship and to receive the Lord's Supper. Remember, we can expect to meet the Risen Lord in the Sacrament, in the fellowship, and as we leave worship, we can expect to meet Him on the road, as the disciples did on the road to Emmaus. We meet the risen Lord as we give of ourselves, our time and our treasures for the good of others. Speaking of giving, I want to thank you members for your generous giving during Lent, Holy Week and

Easter. Through the special envelopes in your packets, you gave:
 \$542.40 to Outreach for Hope, Greater Milwaukee Synod - ELCA
 \$650.40 to the Family Treatment Fund-AIDS treatment in Uganda
 \$489.54 to Schools of the Ev. Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
 \$489.54 to Repairers of the Breach - homeless shelter in Milwaukee
 This is a tremendous outpouring of generosity!

I look forward to life together at St. Stephen the Martyr as we welcome spring and many activities: our very important Congregational Meeting on May 3rd (see the article on pg. 3 and watch for Council President, John Muroń's letter in the mail) and the gala piano dedication concert on that afternoon. Pentecost—the birthday of the Church—is the weekend of May 30-31. We will bring out the 'red' and joyfully celebrate the presence of the Spirit!

Vacation Bible School is on the horizon—June 22-27—an exciting week of growing faith in fun ways! This year we will welcome children from Faith/Santa Fe Lutheran Church. We are exploring partnership opportunities with this ELCA congregation on Milwaukee's south side.

Lots to celebrate!
 The tomb is empty!
 Come worship the Risen Lord!

Pastor Gail

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We will be holding a special congregational meeting in the fellowship hall on:
 Sunday, May 3rd, at 10:45 a.m.

We will be electing new Church Council members and voting on a proposal for additional financing for the purpose of major building and grounds improvements to include parking lot resurfacing, carpeting replacement, and basement foundation repairs.

Even if this is not the usual time you worship, please consider attending this important meeting.

- John Muroń, Council President

Family Ministry News

Upcoming Events		
May 8-9	5:00 PM(Fri) - 6:00 PM(Sat)	30 - Hour Famine Lock-in
May 30	5:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Family Ministry Gathering at the Malinowski's

30 Hour Famine Lock-In

Join us for one of the most anticipated events of the year! All youth in grades 7 -12 are invited to come to the church for a lock-in, beginning at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 8th. We'll learn about hunger and what we can do to help. We'll play games, watch movies, goof around, serve people in our community, grow in faith, have fun with friends, and meet new ones too. Youth from St. Luke's and

Adoration Lutheran churches will be joining us. We'll end with the Saturday evening worship at 5 p.m. You won't want to miss out. Talk to Kevan if you'd like to help plan this event!

Parents Planning Meeting

We had a wonderful time at our first potluck dinner parents planning meeting. If you weren't able to make it then, be sure to connect at our next meeting: Saturday, May 30th 5—7:30 p.m. at Carol Malinowski's home. Bring a dish to share. Kids are welcome to come and play; youth are encouraged to bring their ideas for events and enthusiasm for leadership.

Summer Mission Trip

Plans are being made to do another cross-generational mission trip for youth and families. As soon as we have the dates set, we'll let you know. If you have any questions, please see Kevan or anyone who has gone on the trip in previous years. It's amazing!

Kids! Don't Delay...

Sign up for Vacation Bible School Today!



DATE: June 22-26, 2009

TIME: 4:45 pm to 8:00 pm

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

For ages 3—completed 5th grade

Dinner is included!

VBS Kids Singing June 28th @ 9:30 a.m.



Signing up is easy!

Registration Forms are available on the
Sunday School Bulletin Board or....

Now you can sign up on-line—Just go to www.ststephenthemartyr.com,
click on the Kids Activities link and then click on the registration link!

STATION HELPERS NEEDED: Adults & Youth, we can use your help.

Especially needed: crafts leaders/helpers—Get Plugged-In!

Sign up TODAY!

SENIORS

We will be remembering our High School Seniors and those receiving Advanced Degrees in prayer at worship the weekend of June 6th & 7th.

Please call Lynda in the church office if someone in your family will be receiving any type of degree this spring so we can recognize them. We would like to post their accomplishment in our monthly newsletter as well.

Nursery Schedule

May 2009

3—Karen Penvose

10—Mother's Day—Help Needed

17—Carol Malinowski

24—Jeff Schultz

31—Paula Gray

Contact our Discipleship Coach, Kevan Penvose: H:414-258-0858 C:414-702-2346

stillrz7@yahoo.com

Fellowship

First Friday Potluck

May 1st—6:00 p.m.

On the first of May, smell and enjoy the chicken breasts grilling, as we gather once again for great food and great fellowship! Plan to join the growing group, bring a dish to compliment the chicken (a side dish, salad, or dessert) and a joke or story or two to delight others. Remember, laughter is one of the best medicines!

Sign up on the bulletin board next to the office. A \$2 donation is requested for the entrée. All are welcome, members and friends, especially those who live alone.

Coffee Hour Helpers Needed

Our next coffee hour schedule will be prepared in the next few weeks. If you would like to serve SSM about 3 times per year providing coffee, milk, orange juice and donuts between the 8 & 9:30 services and after the 9:30 service, please see Doug Winter or call (414) 282-1676. It's a great way to enhance our morning worship and provide a tremendous service to the congregation.

It takes a commitment of approximately three hours on the Sunday you are scheduled for. It's relatively easy and it's great to have the whole family working together! Training is provided.

A huge thanks goes out to Bob Rasmussen for another fine job of coordinating the Easter Breakfast! Thank you to all the "Ferch's" diners. We earned \$85.00 in March. What a good job by all!! - Human Concerns

Thank you to everyone who made soup, brought salads and bread, helped set-up, serve and clean-up for the Lenten Soup suppers. The warm soups and good fellowship were enjoyed by all.

- Julie Starks & Shelly Rosenstock

Softball season is Coming!

Our SSM Softball Team will begin competition on Monday, May 4, at Juneau Field, 6500 W. Mount Vernon Avenue, one block south of Bluemound Road. The season runs through the first week of August, weather permitting. Our schedule will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and also in the calendar of the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter. All confirmed male members are encouraged to join the team and enjoy the Christian fellowship and competition. Everyone Plays!!!

All interested members please call Tom Winter @ (414)421-8640.

Human concerns

Next Human Concerns meeting is May 5th at 6:30 pm

Shirley Lieske, Chairperson

HUMAN CONCERNS THANKS YOU!

A BIG THANK YOU to all the "Ferch's" diners. In March we earned \$85.00.

What a good job by all!

STAFF OF LIFE—FOOD PANTRY

We will collect food for Central City Food Pantry for the month of May. Look for details about what kinds of foods to buy on the bulletin board outside the office.

"Anyone who gives generously will be blessed, because they share their food with those who are poor."

Proverbs 22:9

The Red Door

NEEDS: Jeans, all sizes (continual need)

Spring (light) jackets, short sleeve shirts, T-shirts

NEW NEED: Children's Clothing—all sizes

Contact Mary Luedtke for more details: 414-281-5898.

The Gathering Meal

We invite you to serve a dinner at the Milwaukee Outreach Center. We will be serving the on Wednesday, May 20th, meeting at SSM at 3:15 pm. Please sign up on the office bulletin board if you can help out.

A Memorial Day Tribute

We celebrate with parades, picnics, and memorial services. Memorial Day is the time for Americans to reconnect with their history and core values by honoring those who gave their lives for the ideals we cherish.

More than a million American service members died in the wars and conflicts this nation fought since the first colonial soldiers took up arms in 1775 to fight for independence. Each person who died during those conflicts was a loved one cherished by family and friends. Each was a loss to the community and the nation.

As Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

By observing Memorial Day, you are making a difference. You are not forgetting the sacrifices of our soldiers, not forgetting that our freedom is not free. Observed May 25th. Patriotic Holidays

Do you realize how many Patriotic holidays there are in the next couple of months? May 25th is Memorial Day. A few weeks after that on June 14th is Flag Day, and then on July 4th we celebrate Independence Day! America cherishes its independence, its flag and the people who fought and died for all the freedoms we enjoy.

The Human Concerns committee would like to package these three holidays into one service project for our brave young men and women who continue to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan. This collection will start on Memorial Day and end July 4th. Please drop any of the following items in the patriotic box, which will be displayed in the Narthex starting Memorial Day Weekend:

Batteries (AA or AAA)

Gum

Summer Sausage

Salty Snacks

Candy (no chocolate)

Disposable razors

Magazines

Lip balm/chapstick

Cheese and cracker snack packs

Nuts

Monetary donation to defray cost of postage Thank you for your participation in this project. Let's join in showing our support of the brave men and women who continue to serve in defense of our country.

Thanks, Pam Gustafson

Bread for the World

Barb Czerwinski, Human Concerns

Bread for the World 2009 Offering of Letters

Remember a world where a first class stamp costs 4 cents. John F. Kennedy had just been inaugurated as present, the Berlin Wall has just been built, and a gallon of gas costs 27 cents. That's the way the

world was in 1961.

Today a stamp costs 44 cents, and gas costs, well... a lot more than 27 cents a gallon! The Berlin Wall fell 20 yrs ago. And we just inaugurated the first African-American president. THE WORLD HAS CHANGED. As Christians & Americans we believe it's the right thing to do to help hungry & poor people around our world. But we're operating within a system created nearly fifty years ago.

We need to bring our country's foreign aid system into the 21st century. Bread for The World's Offering of Letters is asking our members of Congress to make foreign assistance more effective in reducing hunger and poverty in today's world. We need a better coordinated, more efficient approach to providing aid. Fixing foreign aid will allow the money we spend to go further and help the people who need it the most.

We are urging Congress to make poverty reduction a primary goal of our foreign assistance, and elevate global development as an instrument of U.S. Foreign policy alongside defense and diplomacy.

On May 2nd & 3rd, 2009, members of St. Stephen the Martyr will be asked to spend 2 minutes of their time to write a letter to one of their Congressional representatives. While you are having that donut and coffee, please sit down and write a letter. All supplies will be provided as well as a copy of the letter to be written.

Music & Worship

Music & Worship Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 6th @ 6:00 pm

All are welcome to come and join us.

Sue Jarchow & Cathy Peterson, Chairpersons

We celebrated Easter day and the resurrection of our Lord and now we celebrate the season of Easter for 50 days when we will move into the time of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples so they could carry on His work and establish the church throughout the world. The primary color for Pentecost is red for zeal and fire. (Make sure you wear red that day!!)

The time after Pentecost comprises the next liturgical season, approximately half of the church year.

This season may have 24-28 Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. The paraments and banners will turn to green after the Pentecost weekend. The Sundays after Pentecost focus on the ministry and teachings of Jesus. It is a season of growth for the church, as the people of God listen to the call of the Holy Spirit and respond in faith.

The Music and Worship committee would like to extend a thank you to all members of SSM who assisted with the Holy Week and Easter Sunday in setting up the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and preparing the wonderful Easter breakfast. Also to Bill Bravener and all of the musicians who graced our many services with wonderful music. Thanks to all who served as ushers, communion servers and set up, greeters, and lay readers. A special big thank you to Karen and Bob Rasmussen for leading us throughout the Easter season. Their endless guidance is most appreciated.

Thank you to Pastor Gail for all of her time in shepherding the flock of SSM throughout the season.

NEW SCHEDULES FOR THE SUMMER

The next schedule for communion helpers, greeters, and ushers will be prepared in May. If you would like to serve SSM in this way contact:

Ushers - Bob Rasmussen (414) 421-5170

Greeters - John Rech - (414) 546-1576

Lay Readers - Bob DeFrank - (414) 761-2165

Communion Set up/Servers - Sue Jarchow - (414) 421-9031

Cathy Peterson - (414) 325-6628

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

On Sunday, May 3, at 3:00 p.m. our new Boston grand piano will be dedicated at a concert which will include music by soloists, ensembles, and Senior Choir. Please plan to attend. A reception will follow.

Thanks to all of the musicians who participated in our Holy Week and Easter worship services. I sincerely appreciate your willingness to share your talents.

Beginning this month I will be giving piano lessons at St. Stephen's on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon/evening. All ages welcome! If interested, please contact me.

In June, July and August, a summer choir will meet at 9:00 am on the first Sunday of each month to rehearse an anthem for the 9:30 worship service. All are welcome to join us. Please mark your calendars. See you at worship.

Easter Breakfast - a successful fundraiser

By Bob Rasmussen - Breakfast Coordinator

"Wonderful, delicious, better than ever" -- these were comments received as the recent breakfast came to an end at SSM on Easter morning. Yes, it was a successful event as 160 guests consumed most of 30 dozen eggs, 26 lbs. of baked ham, 180 fresh-baked rolls, scores of home-made bakery, over 500 oz. of peaches/applesauce, and gallons of juice, coffee, and one tea. (She asks for tea every year!)

Not only was the food savored, but so was the social interaction, as families enjoyed this traditional event with one another.

No meal, serving so many guests in a sit-down, waiter-served setting, could be prepared so smoothly without the hard work and dedication of a willing team of volunteers. Bob Rasmussen would like to thank the 54 people who gave so selflessly and labored together to produce this breakfast. Gratitude goes to the youth, and older men and women who purchased food and supplies, set up tables and chairs, decorated and set out dishes and silverware on the tables, baked coffee cakes, cooked eggs, baked and plated the ham, set out food, waited on tables, made coffee, cleared away soiled dishes, washed dishes and cookware, broke down tables and put away chairs, vacuumed carpeting, and hauled away trash and recyclable material. Thanks to those who washed linens, counted donations, and did the necessary correspondence to secure support from Thrivent Financial. Wow! That's teamwork!

And of course, thank you to all who attended and gave so generously! When all donation money was counted, it was learned that \$825 had been given by guests plus numerous donations of food.

Because of our volunteer-time based fund-raising effort, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans granted us \$600 for our event. We are grateful to Thrivent for their generosity. Thus, a total of \$1,425 will be applied toward the purchase of new carpeting for our church, thereby reducing the amount of money we must borrow and pay interest on to finance the new carpeting.

Many "hands" and talents made this possible - "hats off" to the 2009 team that made our breakfast a success.

Ushers Needed!

The summer season is approaching and beginning in June, our church worship schedule changes to two services only. The Saturday 5 PM service remains as usual, but on Sunday, there will be only one service - at 9:30 AM - for June, July, and August.

To help our services run smoothly, we need more usher volunteers. Typically, the ushers who work the fall, winter, and spring schedules, often take needed breaks from duty during the summer. Hence there is need to recruit "new people" to help fill vacancies.

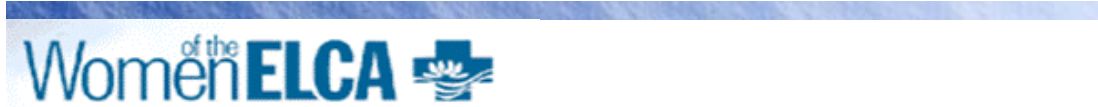
Thus, "hear ye! , hear ye! ", Your church needs both women and men, and older children and teens working with a parent, to volunteer to usher.

Duties include handing out bulletins, passing collection plates, and guiding people to take Holy Communion. Training will be given via written instruction sheets, & on-the-job-help, working with a friendly experienced usher.

Depending on the total number of ushers that can be recruited to work the Summer schedule you will be needed about once a month.

If interested in ushering for the Summer and/or beyond, contact Bob Rasmussen @ 421 - 5170, or put a note in his SSM mailbox saying you'll be willing to help.

When you usher, you'll benefit personally. You'll meet more people, make new friends, and gain a satisfaction that you are serving your church and your Savior.



Women's Bible Study & Loose Ends

The Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, May 13 & May 27 @ 10:15 am. All are invited to come as we study the following Sunday's Scripture texts.

LOOSE ENDS LUNCHEON

Where: Benny's Cafe -5354 S.27th St.

When: Wednesday, May 13th

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Please sign up by May 10th. The form is posted 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: Jean Switala 414-817-0826 or Karen Miller 414-761-1455

Women's Luncheon

The Women of the ELCA at SSM

invite you to their Women's Luncheon

At: St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran

Date: June 20, 2009

Time: Registration at 8:30 a.m.

Cost: \$5 for SSM Members, \$9 for all Guests

Program includes: A Bible Study "Be All That You Can Bee" and a Vintage Clothing Fashion Show - "The

First Ladies of Fashion," Presented by Goodwill Industries Volunteer Services. Also: Time to shop at Trails to Bridges Fair Trade Store.

Registration deadline: June 7, 2009

Registration forms will be placed in your SSM Mailbox early in May.

The forms can be duplicated.

Would YOU be willing to represent St. Stephen the Martyr as its DELEGATE to the 22nd Annual Convention of the Women of the ELCA, Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization on October 9-10, 2009?

The convention is at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Pilgrim Road in Menomonee Falls. Friday will begin about 4:30 pm with registration. Dinner will be served. You will be a voting delegate at the business portion of the gathering on Friday evening. Your evening will end with a Taize Meditation. Saturday morning, Delegates will be joined with Convention Visitors beginning with worship, hearing from our Churchwide Representative, Betty Brandt and other guests, you will be able to attend at least two workshops during the day, there will be some special entertainment, Bishop Paul Stumme-Diers will join us for our noon time luncheon and the day will end with the installation of the 2009-10 Executive SWO Board. Your Registration Fee will be paid by our church.

You must be active in one of the women's groups at St. Stephen the Martyr...Bible Study, Loose Ends projects, Piece Makers Quilting Group, Son Shine Committee, etc. Please submit your name and questions to Carole Ropel no later than May 22nd. Anyone who previously served as a delegate is welcome to again serve in this capacity.

- Carole Ropel

OTHER NOTES

Help Keep Our Records Up to Date so we can Keep You Up-to-Date!

Are you moving? Do you have an address, phone number, e-mail or status change, a new addition in your family, an adult child moving out? Don't forget to contact your church office to report any changes for your family records.

Would you like to receive the Martyr Monthly in your church mailbox? Call the office @ 414-421-3543 or email us at ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com.

Flower chart

If you desire to adorn our worship with flowers from a floral shop or a bouquet of your own making, please write your name on the Flower Chart on the office door and specify the month and week that you will provide flowers. Please state whether the offering is in memory of a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion in the family. You can have them delivered, bring your flowers in on the Friday morning before, during office hours, or at 4:30 pm before the Saturday evening service.

SSM MEMBERS To Attend Synod Assembly

This year, five St. Stephen the Martyr members will attend the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly May 28-30 at the Country Springs Convention Center in Waukesha. Shellee Lubus, Char Guiliani, Bill Bravener, and Pastor Gail will represent our congregation and Carole Ropel will also be representing the Women of the ELCA-Greater Milwaukee Synod as its current president, at the event.

There will be reports from our Bishop, various committees, worship, workshops and an emphasis on visioning for the future under the theme "Fresh Expressions". It is also a great opportunity for visiting with and learning from members of other congregations. Please keep us and all voting members in your prayers that weekend.

SPRING CLEANING AT SSM!

Please join us for a morning of sprucing up the church!

Coffee & Donuts Provided!

Saturday, May 2, 9-noon.

CONDENSED COUNCIL MINUTES

Condensed Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held On April 14th, 2009

President John Muroni called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Council members present were: E. Arneson, J. Arneson, J. Bugajski, S. Jarchow, S. Lubus, J. Miller, J. Muroni, S. Rosenstock and E. Sanders. Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins and K. Penvose were also present. S. Lieske, C. Malinowski and G. Raasch were absent.

E. Arneson led the devotion.

Approvals: The Secretary's minutes from the March 10th, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved. The Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed. The Treasurer's Report was discussed. We are currently \$3,270.12 short in offerings thru April 9th. J. Bugajski reported that SSM recently donated over \$1600.00 to various organizations. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Guests To Council Meeting: B. DeFrank attended the April Council meeting, asking the Council to approve a bake sale fund-raiser to support the upcoming Vacation Bible time. The fund-raiser was approved and is scheduled for the weekend of May 2nd to May 3rd, 2009. S. Rau and J. Goelz also attended the April meeting to finalize their work on the church property inventory. Pastor Gail and the Council complimented these two members for all of their hard work on logging all of our property, the value of the items, taking pictures, etc. S. Rau stated that when any church member now buys something or donates any items to church, the receipts should be kept and that information should be kept in the inventory book.

Pastor's Time: Pastor complimented S. Jarchow and C. Peterson and all the Music and Worship members for their hard work during Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Pastor thanked the Human Concerns committee for all of their hard work, and especially acknowledged J. Starks for the great Soles 4 Souls campaign. The Opening the Book of Faith Bible studies continue to go well and will finish up next month. We will have a new pictorial directory. Life Touch Photography will be taking pictures Thursday thru Saturday the last full week of August and also Thursday thru Saturday, the last full week of September. Pastor officiated at two baptisms, Breleigh Joy Kopplin on Sunday, March 22nd and Keira Marie Gifford on Saturday, April 11th. She officiated at the funeral of D. Rosiewski, father of member D. Gassenhuber and soon to be member J. Rosiewski. We will have 12 new members joining SSM on Sunday, April 26th.

Old Action Items:

Building Fund Discussion - The Council approved the Building Resoluton written by J. Muroi. It reads "So be it resolved, the establishment of a building fund account starting with the 2009 fiscal year, in which monies contributed to the "Building Fund" be solely used for regular mortgage payments, or at the sole discretion of the Church Council, be used for mortgage principle reductions and nonrecurring expenses directly related to the maintenance and upkeep of the church building and grounds. Shortages in the "Building Fund" related to these expenses will be paid for from the church's General Fund, while overages in the "Building Fund" account will carried forward to following year. J. Muroi will be sending out a letter to all of the members regarding the resolution and the congregation will be discussing and voting on the resolution at an upcoming congregational meeting.

Parking Lot, Carpeting and Basement Repair Update - J. Arneson presented the findings of the committees that had evaluated the costs of these remodeling projects. The projects include resurfacing of both parking lots, new carpeting in the narthex and fellowship hall, fixing the crack in the basement wall and a few other beautification projects. Total cost would be approximately \$122,000.

Nominating Committee - E. Sanders announced the following Council positions were being vacated and the committee is currently looking for new volunteers. The positions open are Stewardship, Evangelism and Youth Leadership.

New Action Items: Financing the Capitol Improvements - J Bugajski presented a financial report to the council outlining what are the options regarding refinancing the church's current mortgage. The council voted to approve the project list presented by J. Arneson and that our refinancing would not exceed \$125,000. The financing options will be discussed at a special congregational meeting the first weekend in May.

Committee Reports:

Family and Youth Ministries - K. Penvose reported that the youth and their families had a successful family night last month. The next one is scheduled for May.

Property - J. Arneson reported that new stair railings are being worked on and should be in place shortly. Spring Clean up is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd.

Music and Worship - S. Jarchow reported her committee is currently doing a new schedule for ushers and communion servers.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 P.M. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12th, 2009

Respectfully Submitted,
Shellee Lubus,
Council Secretary