

WELCOME TO *St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA*

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



*the* **MARTYR MONTHLY**  
SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

*St. Stephen the Martyr*  
*Lutheran Church, ELCA*

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OFFICE HOURS:  
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**SSM STAFF**

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Bob De Frank, Sunday School  
Superintendent  
Janet Snyder, Organist

**Annual Rally Day Worship & Picnic**  
**Sunday, September 13, 2009**

**Sunday School Kick-off and Teacher Installation**

Fall... it's a time for new beginnings—a new school year, a new crispness in the air, a new landscape as tree leaves begin to change color and autumn flowers bloom.

At St. Stephen the Martyr we are celebrating the beginning of fall with our annual Rally Day Service and Picnic.

Help us kick off a new Sunday School year—experience worship and enjoy great food and fun family activities

There will be one indoor worship service at 9:30 A.M.

Indoor picnic following worship  
Family Activities

A Sign-up for the meal is on bulletin board outside the church office

Hamburgers, brats, hot dogs and beverages will be provided!

Please bring a dish to pass

(Free-will donations to defray the cost of food are gratefully accepted.)  
Please remember to bring your supplies for school bags for needy children worldwide.

HELPERS ARE NEEDED—A SIGN UP IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD



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**MESSAGE FROM PASTOR GAIL...**

From Summer to Fall in Three Easy Steps...

I'm gazing at a beautiful photo of a starfish taken at the California coast in August. It was taken by my 'cousin-in-law' Margaret Heins, and it reminds me of how amazing and wonderful is our diverse planet. Thank God for all the beauty we get to enjoy in summer, and thank God this beauty continues as September in Wisconsin calls to us.

As we move into Fall, I am happy to remind you that God has great things in store for us—things that are beautiful and

meaningful and hopeful.

First of all is WORSHIP. It's a blessing that we have many opportunities to worship together. Rally Weekend is Sept. 12 and 13, with ONE service on Sunday, indoors with a wonderful picnic in the Fellowship Hall. There'll be fantastic food, games for the children and a chance to meet, greet and show off your vacation pictures. After that, on Sept. 20, we add the 8:00a.m. Service—three services each weekend! Three chances to worship God—no excuses!

SUNDAY SCHOOL also begins on Sept 13th, with the children joining us in worship at 9:30 for songs they like, a children's sermon, teacher installation and then they will finish in their new classes. Thanks be to God for our dedication Sunday School staff WEDNESDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY begins at 8:00a.m. Sept. 2nd in the Fellowship Hall. The group continues with the Gospel of Mark, and if you have not experienced the warm fellowship and joy of learning here, you are invited. Bring your Bible or see Pastor Gail to purchase one. We have many!

WOMEN are invited to study the lessons for the following weekend on the SECOND and FOURTH Wednesdays of each month. Note the 2nd Wed. will begin at 9:00 (due to the Crafters' work time following) and at 10:15 on the 4th Wednesday. TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY meets the third Tues. of every month at 7:00p.m. All adults are invited to study Scripture together. Details of the current study are elsewhere in this newsletter.

The RE-DISCOVERING THE BOOK OF FAITH Retreat, a big hit last spring, will be offered for all adults and teens--from those with little Bible knowledge to those who have been studying Scripture. This is a great opportunity for hands-on learning and re-learning Scripture and joyful fellowship. The dates are Friday 6:00p.m. to Saturday noon on Oct. 23 and 24h.

Also, THE BIBLE-BOOK OF FAITH Study will continue this fall with a four-week class on great figures of the Bible—dates and other details are coming...

FALL brings OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OTHERS in Christ's name. Be generous in your giving to the Food Pantries we support, and with school supplies through Lutheran World Relief. (See Human Concerns' article in this newsletter) Plan to serve at The Gathering meal this year, or have your group raise money for the ELCA Hunger Appeal. Let's look for new and creative ways to serve the hungry, the homeless, the jobless, and the hopeless in our community. Having just attended a "Hunger Conference" in Williams Bay with member Pam Gustafson, we are eager to share and listen to ideas on how we can make a difference as Christ's people.

There you have it: THREE STEPS TO AUTUMN—WORSHIP, CHRISTIAN ED FOR ALL AGES, SERVICE TO OTHERS—just a taste. Come and see what God has in store for you at SSM.

I'm looking forward to seeing you—no excuses.

Your partner in ministry,

Pastor Gail

Dear Members,

I am willing, able and ready to call on anyone who would welcome a visit, or who would like Holy Communion brought to them. We also have a small group who would like to begin to call on home-bound members as well. I will be contacting the latter with a request to have one of these terrific members call on you!

If you or a family member is entering the hospital or care facility, please contact me or Lynda Shadd in the church office (421-3543). If there is an emergency, call that number or my home number--543-2060.

In Christian love,  
Pastor Gail

## Family Ministry News

Please join us for the next Youth & Family Ministry team planning meeting on Saturday, September 19th at 5PM at the home of Bob & Paula Gray. We ask that everyone attending please bring a dish to pass for a potluck dinner. Kids will have play time with friends from church while the teens and adults plan the future Youth and Family Ministry Events. All are welcome & be sure to bring your kids along! Please see Kevan Penvose or Char Guiliani for more information.

### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Another fall is quickly approaching. It's time for students to return to the classroom and for fall schedules to resume. SSM will be having a Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone celebration on Sunday August 30th during the 9:30am service. We are asking that students of all ages come with their backpacks or any other student bag. The Blessing of the Backpacks will include students, parents or other caregivers to be present for recognition and prayers. Every parent wants their child to have all the advantages possible for a good education! This year, that includes a blessing. Please contact Stephanie Gordon (Mayer) or Tim Falksen with any questions.

### Nursery Schedule

Sept. 2009 - 9:30 am

6—Karen Penvose

13—Jeff Schultz

18—Paige Ceku

25—Paula Gray

### **Study to Show Yourself Approved!**

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:14-16

Here at St. Stephen, we offer a variety of Bible studies for all age groups.

Please join us for one or more as we study God's Word together.

### **"Rediscovering the Book of Faith" Weekend Retreat**

Friday evening - Saturday noon

October 23-24

If you didn't attend the spring retreat, you'll want to sign up for this exciting encounter with God's Word in a friendly, hands-on atmosphere.

Watch for details coming soon!

### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Sept. 2nd & 16th @ 8 a.m.

Men's Bible Study meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. We welcome all men of SSM (invite your friends, too!).

Please join us for thought-provoking and poignant discussion and fellowship!

Doughnuts and coffee are served.

### **Tuesday Nite Bible Study**

The Tuesday Nite Bible Study group will meet the third Tuesday of September (15th) at 7 pm to begin another season of Bible reading and discussion about our readings and about life in general. Our faithful group, which has met for several years, welcomes new members. We will begin the study of the Book of Romans found in the Lutheran Woman Today Magazine.

Everyone is welcome! We enjoy good fellowship and a special treat to eat.

If you would like a copy of the first lesson ahead of time, please contact Carol Birk (414) 421-6162.

### **HEY KIDS! SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS ON RALLY DAY**

September 13th @ 9:30 a.m.

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

Check out our Kid's Activity Pages

on the Web!

Go to [www.ststephenthemartyr.com](http://www.ststephenthemartyr.com) and click on "Kid's Activities" and check out our church Photo Gallery for a WHOLE bunch of new pictures!

Contact our Discipleship Coach, Kevan Penvose: H:414-258-0858 C:414-702-2346 [stillerz7@yahoo.com](mailto:stillerz7@yahoo.com)

## **Fellowship**

Please call Shelly Rosenstock at 769-7067 if you are interested in becoming a member of the Fellowship Committee.

### **First Friday Potluck**

All are welcome to share food and fellowship on Friday, September 4th at 6:00 pm. As we return from our summer hiatus, the potluck meals and time together begin the season with a good old-fashioned BBQ with brats and hamburgers grilled to perfection by our chefs, John and Bob. Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert to accompany the grilled items. Coffee, tea, and soda will be provided. Come, bring a friend, neighbor a fellow member and a joke or a funny story or even share what you did on your summer vacation.

There will be a \$2.00 donation requested. All are welcome, especially those who live alone.

Sign up on the bulletin board near the office.

- Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins and Sue Jarchow

### **Rally Day is almost here! Sunday, September 13th**

Volunteers are needed! Sign up if you can help with set up, clean up, grilling, helping with games, etc. A sign up is posted on the bulletin board for both volunteering and how many will be attending/what dish you will bring.

### **BREWERS GAME**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 27 AT 1:05PM**

Cost: \$10 (includes a ticket to the game and a voucher for a hotdog and soda)

There will be a tailgate party in the SSM parking lot before the game. The tailgate will start immediately following the late service. If interested in the tailgate, the cost will be \$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family. Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex. All are welcome to tailgate regardless of game attendance. We will be leaving the church parking lot at noon. For additional questions contact Char at 801-7349 or Kevan Penvose.

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## Human concerns

Next meeting is September 1st at 6:30 p.m. Call Shirley Lieske with questions: 761-0734

### SCHOOL BAGS FOR KIDS

Keep those school accessories coming! Thank you for your generous donations thus far. Take this handy list with you when you shop for school supplies.

- Notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" x 10  $\frac{1}{2}$ " totaling 150-200 sheets (if using 70-sheet notebooks, please include three); Please, no loose-leaf paper
  - One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
  - One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
  - One pencil sharpener
  - Six new, unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
  - One eraser approximately 2  $\frac{1}{2}$ " long
  - 12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors (if necessary, fold in half to fit into the school kit bag)
  - One box of 16 or 24 crayons
  - One cloth bag approximately 12" x 14" with cloth handles—to be sewn by Loose Ends
- If you have sturdy fabric, please consider a donation to this worthwhile project!

### Grandparents' Day Sale

Interfaith-Southwest Neighborhood will have Their Grandparents' Day Mum Plant Sale at our church after services on Sept. 12th and 13th.

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.

The Interfaith-Southwest representatives from your congregation are:

Bob Lieske @ 761-0734 or

Shirley Devecka, 421-7342

Thank you for promoting this worthy fundraiser for the older adults in our area.

### KNIT WITS begins again on September 14th, 6:30 p.m.

Join us whether you know how to knit or crochet—we will teach you!

We will make caps and other items for cancer patients and for sale at the December Bake & Craft Sale.

### Aluminum Cans Needed!

SSM's Aluminum Can Collection has continued to provide extra money for SSM kitchen items and gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

Please leave donations of cans at the side door of the garage. And remember, aluminum drink cans only. Keep those cans coming! Thanks for all the help!

### CROP Walk 2009!

The Annual CROP Walk for Hunger will be on Sunday, October 11th.

Plan on walking with members and friends to help stamp out hunger locally and world-wide!

### THE FOOD PANTRY

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

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# Music & Worship

Next Music & Worship Meeting:  
Wednesday, September 2, 6 p.m.

**Volunteers:** please check your mailbox for the next set of schedules for the Fall and mid-Winter season. The schedules are a very important part of the Music and Worship at St. Stephen the Martyr. If you find that you can not attend a service assigned to you, please contact the coordinator of the schedule or please switch with another member. Also, please let Lynda Shadd, Office Administrator, know for bulletin information. The Music and Worship committee thanks everyone in advance for their service to SSM.

**Readers:** Bob DeFrank 761-2165

**Greeters:** Jenny Koeff 425-0773

**Communion set up and serving:** Cathy Peterson 325-6628 or Sue Jarchow 421-9031

**Ushers:** Bob Rasmussen 421-5170

The new fall season starts off with Rally Day on Sunday, September 13, 2009. This worship service begins at 9:30 am and will be held indoors. There will be communion by intinction and the installation of the Sunday school teachers and aides.

Following the worship service, our SSM Rally Day picnic begins, held in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the bulletin board by the office for any assistance in the set-up, serving, and cleanup. Signup if you will be in attendance and also if you would bring a dish to serve.

On September 26th and 27th, there will be a WELCA Thank-Offering Service. At all services, women of SSM will be the greeters, ushers, communion assistants, and lay readers.

With monies allocated from the Memorial Committee, SSM recently purchased a large print edition of our cranberry hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship. This 850 plus page copy will be available starting on September 1, 2009 to SSM members and visitors. Due to the size and weight of this hymnal, each week we will make the hymnal available in a condensed form. Using a smaller binder, we will be putting in copies of the bulletin for each service, liturgical service pages for that weekend, and pages of the hymns.

This hymnal will be available on the tall round table by the cloak room, in the corner of the narthex. Please be sure to return it to the table after each service, to make it available for the next service. If you are interested in using the large print hymnal, please contact Lynda in the office.

Faithfully Submitted,

Cathy Peterson and Sue Jarchow

## Music Notes From Bill Bravener,

### Director of Music/Associate in Ministry

Choir rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 9th.

Handbell Choir rehearses at 5:30 p.m., and Senior Choir rehearses at 7:00 p.m.

Please consider participating in either or both of these fine groups. I look forward to preparing music for worship with these choirs and to the fellowship and food which is also part of being in a choir. New choir members are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thanks to all of the musicians who provided music for worship throughout the summer.

See you at worship. - Bill

## Stewardship

Next Stewardship Meeting is  
September 1st at 7:00 pm.

The Stewardship Committee encourages all members to consider making a charitable contribution to SSM when reviewing their investment portfolio with their financial professional. Have you ever considered donating a portion of your portfolio, such as shares of stock, to SSM? Perhaps this could be an opportunity to cover a portion of the pledge commitment you made for the current year.

For those of us with IRA accounts, if you are over the age of 59.5 and choose to take an IRA distribution, you could pass your distribution to SSM or another charity, tax-free. Work closely with your financial advisor, bank, or brokerage firm when working through this process.

Utilizing your retirement assets to make a contribution to SSM could be of great benefit to you and will most certainly be greatly appreciated and used effectively by SSM to benefit the lives of many. The Stewardship Committee asks you to consider this carefully and most respectfully.

Together, we continue our .

*II Corinthians 9:6-9 "God provides all you need to do what God calls you to do. You have more than enough talent, leadership, imagination and money available. Make an effort to encourage, discover and identify the assets God has entrusted to you care. God is extravagant with you. You can do far more than you ask or imagine."*



## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY & LOOSE ENDS CRAFTING**

### **CHANGE IN TIME FOR WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Beginning on September 9 and including October 14 and November 11, the Women's "2nd Wednesday of the Month" Bible Study will begin at 9 a.m. instead of the usual 10:15 start time. Please mark your calendar indicating this three month change in time.

The starting time for the fourth Wednesday of the month, Women's Bible Study, remains at 10:15 a.m.

### **LOOSE ENDS BAKE/CRAFT SALE WILL TAKE PLACE ON DECEMBER 4-5**

In preparation for the Bake and Craft Sale we are in need of individuals who are interested in helping with the crafting aspect of the Sale. One of our needs this year is people who are familiar with SCRAPBOOKING. A project that we have in mind will be greatly helped by those who have the "how to" knowledge. This project is not limited to scrapbooker's, we need help from everyone who is interested in crafting.

Our first work date on the project is September 9th beginning at 10 a.m. at St. Stephen the Martyr. If you are available to help us get started, we'd be most appreciative. Please sign-up on the form posted on the kiosk. Any questions can be answered by Carol Birk 414-421-6162 or Carole Ropel 262-523-4130. If you are not available during the day, but would be available in the evening, indicated that on the sign-up form.

## **22nd ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

### **GREATER MILWAUKEE**

#### **'COME LIVE IN THE LIGHT'**

**OCTOBER 9-10, 2009**

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

W156 N8131 PILGRIM ROAD MENOMONEE FALLS

There is still time to register to attend the Annual Convention of the Women of the ELCA, Greater Milwaukee. If you are unable to attend both days, sign up to attend only on Saturday. Carpooling from St. Stephen the Martyr is available. And, if the cost is a problem, we invite you to apply for one of the two Scholarships being provided by our Loose Ends group to encourage your attendance. Application for the Scholarships, as well as the Convention Registration forms, are posted on the kiosk under Women of the ELCA.

Saturday morning opens with Registration, followed by a very meaningful worship service. You'll hear from representatives from Churchwide in Chicago, you'll have your choice of choosing two workshops that you'll attend, one before the noon dinner and the other after. You'll witness the installation of the new Board of the Women of the ELCA, Greater Milwaukee and be entertained by a group of four women who specialize in comedy and familiar music and have been singing together for over 12 years. They call themselves "The Blue Plate Special".

Any questions? Please call Carole Ropel at 262-523-4130.

### **A SPECIAL WEEKEND...**

This year's Thankoffering weekend at St. Stephen the Martyr (SSM) will be September 26 and 27. At all three worship services you will see the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America participating as ushers, greeters, readers and communion assistants.

You will see the quilts displayed in the sanctuary that were made by the Piece Marker's Quilting group, you will see items made by the Knit Wits along with school bags sewn by the Loose Ends ladies and other helpers from our church community. We will take the time to thank and honor all the women, and men, who have been involved with these projects and other events of the Women of the ELCA at SSM throughout the past year. Each one is a blessing to all of us and others throughout the world.

The wider expression of Thankoffering weekends invites us to look beyond the walls of our church to extend our blessings to others in different ways. The Women of the ELCA look at our Thankoffering services as a way to give offerings in thanks for the many blessings we have been given, offerings that will be used to support the ministries of the Women of the ELCA churchwide. Ministries like grants and scholarships distributed annually, international efforts, publications and support to all church units in the United States, programs, publications, Bible Studies, to name a few.

The money received from this special offering 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 contributions to SSM.

Like so many groups and organizations, the contributions going to churchwide are down considerably from years past. In a few weeks you will receive a brightly colored envelope in your Bulletin that can be used for your contribution. Give as you are able and know that we at SSM and our Churchwide Sisters in Christ are grateful for whatever that may be.

Carole Ropel ,

Coordinator—Women of the ELCA-St. Stephen the Martyr