

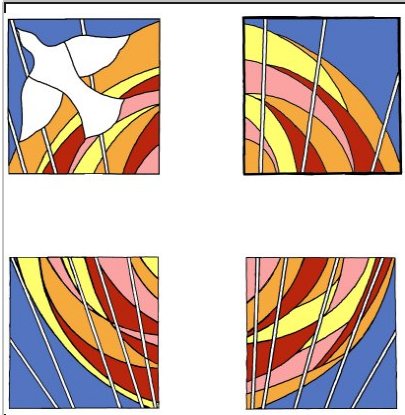


St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA

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 2010 Newsletter

St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church, ELCA

6101 South 51st Street
Greendale, WI 53129
PHONE & FAX: 421-3543
E-MAIL: ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com
www.StStephenTheMartyr.com

Office Hours

Mon-Thur 9 AM - 1 PM
Fri 9 AM - 12 PM

SSM Staff

Gail Brodersen-Heins, Pastor
pastorgail@ststephenthemartyr.com
Bill Bravener, Music Director
bbravener@ststephenthemartyr.com
Lynda Shadd, Office Administrator
ssm@ststephenthemartyr.com
Bob Brownell, Maintenance
Bob De Frank, Sunday School Superintendent
Janet Snyder, Organist

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, April 1st

7 pm Communion Worship

Fourth/Fifth Graders to receive First Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 2nd: Noon

"Walk With the Cross"

Walk begins at St Thomas of Canterbury and
Ends at St Alphonsus Catholic Church in Greendale
1 pm - Service at St. Alphonsus

7 pm - Service at St. Stephen the Martyr

Easter Vigil—Saturday, April 3rd

5 pm With Holy Communion & Renewal of Baptism

Easter Festival—Sunday, April 4th

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



inside this issue:

- From Pastor's Desk
- Family Ministries
- Fellowship
- Human Concerns
- Music & Worship
- Stewardship
- Women's Ministries
- Other Notes
- Council Minutes

From Pastor's Desk

“Christ Jesus lay in death’s strong bands, for our offenses given;
 But now at God’s right hand He stands and brings us life from Heaven;
 Therefore let us joyful be, And sing to God right thankfully
 Loud songs of hallelujah.”

- Martin Luther

You may read this in Holy Week, or it may be when you are basking in the glow of Easter. On Good Friday, we sing “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, on which the Prince of Glory died” and we believe it. On Easter Sunday, we sing “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” and we believe it. On that day, we are filled with joy and hope and assurance!

Our faith is a realistic faith. We know that things aren’t right in the world. And yet our faith tells us that God has done something about it. Because of God, we can live as Easter people who have gone through the grave and gate of death with Christ and have come to know the hope that He brings us. Neither life nor death, nor anything in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God has not abandoned this world! God has not left us on our own, thank God.

And that is what we sing and celebrate! Let this whole Easter season be for you and your loved ones a time of renewed hope. We live in a world where cynicism and hopelessness can drag us down.

But at Easter we are renewed. Look around. See hope in the children and young people in our church. See hope in the volunteers both within the church and community where people work for justice and dignity and peace. See hope where forgiveness is practiced and divisions are conquered by good-will and love.

See hope in the promise of God’s purposes being victorious over sin, evil and death. We have much to sing about; we have much to shout “Halleluiah” about.

I look forward to seeing you at worship, Bible studies and fellowship throughout this exciting Easter season of hope.

You may be interested in providing hope for those in need by contributing to the PASTOR’S DISCRETIONARY FUND. This fund helps the short-term needs of congregational members and others who may need money for food, gas or other things in an emergency situation. This fund is included in the church budget, but this year the fund is already very low because the needs have been great. If you would like to help out, checks should be made out to St. Stephen the Martyr, with a note directing your gift to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund. Thank you for helping those who truly need help.

Your Partner in the Gospel,
 See you at worship.

Pastor Gail

Family Ministry News

Date	Time	Activity
Apr 4	7:30 am	Help server and cleanup the Easter Breakfast
Apr 23-24	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	30-Hour Famine Lock-in
Apr 24	6:00 PM	Spaghetti Dinner (camp fundraiser)
May 1		New Memeber Luncheon -babysitters needed
May 22	6:00 PM	Family Ministries Gathering
TBA		Glow Mini-golf (Southridge Mall)

30 HOUR FAMINE

Join us Friday April 23rd & Saturday April 24th for the 30 Hour Famine.

Open to all confirmation & high school students as well as all adults!

We’ll begin fasting at noon on Friday and meet at church at 5PM for a lock-in with games, movies & fun! Saturday we’ll head out into the neighborhood to collect non-perishable food items for local food pantries.

The fasting will end during the Saturday evening service with Holy Communion. Please see Char Guilliani, Stephanie Gordon, Tim Falksen or Kori Kriewaldt for more information.

FAITHCHESTS



It’s time to start

preparing to build the second set of FaithChests that will be presented to approximately 30 students during the 2010-2011 school year. We will be building the FaithChests during family camp week at Imago Dei once again this year. Each chest will cost approximately \$75 and donations in any amount or sponsoring a chest would be greatly appreciated! Please see the display in the narthex or Tim Falsen for more information.



Vacation Bible School



Ahoy Maties! It's Time Ye Sign up fEr VBS!

psst...now you can sign up on-line!

DATES: June 21-25, 2010
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!

REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE ON SUNDAY SCHOOL BULLETIN BOARD or:
Register online and check out our VBS Kids Activity pages at our website.
Go to: www.ststephenthemartyr.com today!

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 27th.

Contact our Council Chair for Family Ministries

Char Guliani

minizmom@yahoo.com & on Facebook

Fellowship

First Friday Pot Luck
APRIL 9, 2010
SPRING FLING!

Spring into Spring by joining in the fun and fabulous food on Friday, April 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a casserole (or other main dish), salad, dessert or bread/rolls/butter and enjoy some great conversation. Bring a joke or funny story (or two or three) and be prepared to laugh. If you are able, also bring a can or two of non-perishable food for the food pantries that we support.

Sign up on the bulletin board next to the church office and indicate what you'll be bringing. If you've never attended, this month is the time to try it!

SSM Men's Softball

Our Softball team will begin competition on Monday, May 3, 2010, at Juneau Field, 6500 W. Mount Vernon Ave. (1 blk south of Bluemound Road). The season will run through the first week of August, weather permitting. The SSM schedule will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex, as well as the bulletin mini-news and monthly newsletter. All confirmed male members are encouraged to join the team and enjoy the Christian fellowship and competition. Everyone plays!

During the past two years, SSM has participated with along with the other churches in raising more than \$1000 for a women's shelter and Central City Food Pantry, as well as contributing more than 800 pounds of food.

Interested members should call Tom Winter (414) 421-8640 to join.

Spring "People of Faith" Program

Come share in our exploration of four more people from the Bible and discuss how their walk with God mirrors our own: a Great-Grandma to a King, a King-Maker, a King, and a Royal Pain (Ruth, Samuel, David, Elijah)

When? We'll be offering the four, 1-hour sessions at three separate times.

Thursdays @ 6:30pm—April 15—May 6

Saturdays After Service (about 6:00pm) - April 17—May 8

Sundays After Service (about 10:45am) - April 18—May 9

Books will be available for \$5. Please sign up today! - Eric Sanders, Christian Education

Tuesday Nite Bible Study

For the next two months we will be viewing a 30-60 min. video with discussion afterwards. We begin at 7:00pm and finish around 8:30pm. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for discussion, learning and snacks!

April 20 - The Life of the Apostle Paul with Rick Steves

May 18 - Women in the Early Church

Both videos were produced by the ELCA and Mosaic Television and include a user discussion guide.

For more information please contact Julie Starks, jastarks@earthlink.net, 414-483-0122.

Human concerns

NEXT HUMAN CONCERNS MEETING WILL BE Tuesday, April 6, 2010 6:30 PM

Going Green

The month of April reminds us of our precious earth and that we are called to care for all of God's creation.

Over 30 years ago, April 22nd was designated as EARTH DAY by Wisconsin's Senator Gaylord Nelson, a leader in conservation and ecology.

Many congregations of our Synod have a "Green Task Force" or committee that gets together to learn more and to find more sustainable ways of living so that future generations may enjoy God's creation too.

It's an interest of mine, and I suspect many of you have this same interest. I propose that SSM have a group or committee (name to be decided) that meets from time to time, supports energy-saving for the church, sustainable efforts in our homes and life-styles and helps teach our children to live less wastefully, too.

I also propose a "GREEN CORNER" article for our monthly newsletter where we can share tips and ideas for more. There will be a sign-up on the office bulletin for those interested in meeting and several proposed dates for a first exploratory meeting. No obligation to attend; just sign up, indicate date you're available and show up.

We'll see what happens!

Live Simply So Others Can Simply Live

Plans for the May 22nd Rummage Sale are moving along. Church members can start dropping off their donations Sunday May 16th. They should be placed in the coatroom next to the Sanctuary. Sign up for jobs started Sunday, March 14. We could still use more helpers. The sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board by the church office.

All proceeds from the sale will go to our two local food pantries, Bayview Community Center and Central City Food Pantry.

We are especially looking for children's items, both clothing and toys. We will not be accepting adult clothing. Household items welcomed. - P. Gustafson

The Red Door—Clothing the Poor

The Red Door is in need of light clothing of all sizes for spring and summer for men, women and children.

Men's jeans and shoes of all sizes are always needed.

Over 130 people come in every 2 weeks and 50 or more children's items are taken in that period. The Red Door is very grateful to Bob Lieske for bringing the clothing each month. A big thank you to St. Stephen for all your many donations. Phone Mary Luedtke with any questions: Home: (414)281-5898; Cell: 208-1744.

Mt. Meru Coffee Project

Celebrating Our Tenth Year!

The Mt. Meru Coffee Project has been helping to bring economic and social justice to the families of the small coffee farmers of the Meru Diocese in Tanzania. Purchasing select coffee from these farmers at a price that is higher than international "Fair Trade" standards is helping to increase the standard of living in the dioceses. The additional income this has brought to these families allow more of their children to attend school and allows more families to address their health needs. Most families live on plots of about 3 to 5 acres. Most of the crops grown on these sustenance farms are for their own sustenance and it is important that the income derived from growing coffee is sufficient to fund their other needs.

The Mt. Meru Coffee Project Story is told on the back label of each Mt. Meru Coffee package. Purchasing Mt. Meru Coffee allows the Project to import more coffee from the from the coffee farmers of the Meru Diocese. This person to person project allows us to have a relationship with the growers of the coffee we drink while helping to support their families in a practical and God honoring way. Help us celebrate our 10th anniversary by buying Mt. Meru Coffee!

Your Cans are Feeding the Hungry

Give yourselves a "pat on the back"! Since the first week in January, 132 lbs. of cans were turned in by members of SSM, and sold to West Allis Salvage Company. This yielded \$82.20 . Accordingly, a check for \$80 has been cut to send to Central City Food Pantry to assist them in buying food items that are desperately needed for their clients. Please continue to help by donating aluminum cans to the door of the church garage in the lower parking lot area. Remember, no steel cans, no beer bottles, no aluminum foil crushed up, no aluminum bakery pans, -- only cans made of 100% aluminum. Remember, Cans = dollars = food. Thank you!

Music & Worship

Music & Worship Meeting is April 7th at 6 p.m.

Holy Week

We are entering into the final week of the Lenten season—"HOLY WEEK". This final week is a most dramatic and significant week of the church year.

Within Holy Week we find these special days:

MAUNDY THURSDAY: The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum* , which means "commandment". It recalls the Last Supper (a Passover meal) that Jesus celebrated with his closest disciples in the Upper Room. Jesus offered up bread and wine, and asked that those who believe in Him do likewise in remembrance of Him. The light of the "Paschal Candle" is extinguished.

GOOD FRIDAY: The worshipping community remembers how the innocent Son of God suffered and died on the cross for the sins of the world. The colors of the church are black to signify humility, mourning and death.

EASTER VIGIL: Also called the Paschal Vigil, is a service held in many churches as the first official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. Historically, it is during this service that people (especially children) are baptized. Here at St. Stephen we celebrate a renewal of our Baptismal Vows.

We pass this night waiting in eager anticipation of Sunday morning, resurrection morning, the most important and glorious day in church history!

EASTER: " ALLELUIA" Christ has risen. The resurrection of our Lord "ALLELUIA" . The church colors are white symbolizing joy. God's plan for salvation is now fulfilled.

Because of Christ's death and resurrection, all who believe in Him will live eternally in heaven.

The light of the "Paschal candle" is lit again on Easter morning. It symbolizes Christ's victory over the darkness of sin and death.

He is risen... He is risen indeed!

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

As you know, Easter, like Christmas, is not just a day but a season.

Throughout the fifty days of this Easter season, we continue to celebrate Jesus' resurrection in word and song. The "alleluias" return to our liturgies and hymns; and we shout, "Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!" May that Easter greeting not fade in the weeks ahead but remain strong in our hearts and minds every day.

My sincere thanks to all the musicians who have provided and will provide music for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. You are a true blessing!

See you at worship.

- Bill

Thank yous

I would like to extend my thanks to all who help in the preparation of the bulletins and newsletter mailings, especially during this busy Easter Season! We are blessed by your ministry! We could not get the news out without YOU! Your help does not go unnoticed! God and his people see your generous hearts!

- Lynda Shadd

Stewardship

Acting Together

John 13:34-35 "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

We live in a culture that often worships individualism. It is hard to comprehend this commandment in a time where we all seek something more—more house, more car, more status, more power, more "stuff." In this drive for "more" we may find ourselves isolated and feeling alone. We are driven to protect our stuff. So we fear our neighbor, we build higher fences and security systems, we live in fear of losing what we have accumulated.

Jesus commands us to love one another—he calls us into relationships, he calls us into his community. His command is to love one another "as he has loved us!" In this community we move into a relationship with Jesus and one another.

The Stewardship Committee would like to commend our congregation for the sense of community it has shown. During the first few months of 2010, we have contributed over \$5,000 in special donations and offerings. These funds have benefited Haiti Disaster Response programs, ELCA World Hunger and local food pantries.

Is there even more that we can do in sharing our time, talent and treasure? Yes, of course there is. Giving to God opens our hearts and changes our relationship not only with God but also with everyone around us in our community. Together, we walk with Jesus.

- Your Stewardship Committee

Join us in worship each week as we 'Praise the Lord'!

Christians are indeed the Easter People! And Hallelujah is our song! But what does that mean? Loosely translated, our song is, "Praise the Lord!" Easter season is indeed a time to praise the Lord! We praise God for His Son rising from the grave on Resurrection morning so He could bring new life to all of us. What a reason to celebrate! Celebrate with us as we experience the miracle of new life in Christ Jesus and the power of God's love to bring hope and joy to our lives. We look forward to seeing you at weekend services!

DO NOT ABANDON YOURSELVES TO DESPAIR. WE ARE THE EASTER PEOPLE AND HALLELUJAH IS OUR SONG.

- Pope John Paul II



THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in April, the 14th & 28th 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!

April 14, 2010

Famous Dave's, 5077 S. 27th St., Greenfield

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 Dolores Dowling with questions: 414-327-4185.

KNIT WITS KNITTING

Meets April 5th @ 6:30 p.m. Knitters, crocheters and wanna-bes, join us! All are welcome.

A FIVE STAR RETREAT

Relax...Renew...Reconnect...Refresh...Rejoice!

With five dynamic speakers, (including Pastor Gail) free time, good meals, worship and fellowship, the upcoming Five StaR retreat is one you and your friends will not want to miss. Registration for this joint retreat with the women of the South Central Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA is just \$10.

The Agenda is flexible enough to meet your personal and spiritual needs. If you want a night away, you can come on Friday evening for Bible Study, fellowship and a movie. Your evening meal is on your own. Just be sure to reserve a room at the Super 8 Motel. When you call, mention you are with the Women of the ELCA for the special group price.

If you can only attend on Saturday, you will have a wonderful day covering all five R's. The schedule, registration form and more details are in the brochure posted on our kiosk in the narthex.

When: May 14-15, 2010 (You may choose to come only on the 15th)

Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church 211-213 North 9th Street, Watertown WI 53094

Cost: \$10

Hotel: Super 8 Watertown (Cost \$72.79 for two people-\$36.40 each) 1730 S. Church St. 1-800-800-8000 for reservations.

Car pooling can be arranged as needed. Call Carole Ropel with any questions, 262-523-4130.

Thank you Cookie Bakers!

The Women of the ELCA in Greater Milwaukee were asked to furnish the refreshments for the recent Installation of the Rev. Jeff Barrow as Bishop of our Synod. Over 20 churches in Greater Milwaukee stepped up to the call, including the women of St. Stephen the Martyr. A special thanks to each of you who contributed to the request and especially to Carol Manning who did the organizing. The leftover cookies and bars were donated to the House of Hope (LSS) in Waukesha.

- Carole Ropel

Other Notes

Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DATES

Thursday, June 3rd to Saturday, June 5th, 2010

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.

Council Minutes

CONDENSED MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON March 9TH, 2010

President John Muroi called the meeting to order at 7 :00 PM.

Council members present were: J. Arneson, J. Bugajski, J. Covert, C. Guiliani, J. Hennessy, S. Jarchow, S. Lieske, S. Lubus, J. Miller, J. Muroi, C. Peterson, S. Rosenstock and E. Sanders. Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins also attended.

Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed.

Treasurer's Report: J. Bugajski stated we have already fulfilled our 2010 monetary commitments to Lutheran Social Services, Southwest Interfaith and the Grow Hanson Missionaries account, totaling \$3200.00. As of March 7th, 2010 total offerings were short \$1,7,93.36 or 96.87% of the weekly budgeted amount.

Correspondence: S. Lubus read thank-you letter from Bay View Community Center for our donation of \$222.00 to be used for their Food and Infant formula pantry.

Pastor's Time: New members to be received Sunday, 4/18 at 9:30 AM service. Pre-communion classes in session. They will have first communion Maundy Thursday. Pastor thanked Pastor L. Westfield for preaching on the 20th anniversary of her ordination. Mid-week Lenten services are going well. She presided at the baptism of I. Wassweiler, March 6th. Greater Milwaukee Synod, Cluster III, of which SSM is a part, is hosting their annual meeting 3/21. Pastor welcomes any members to attend. She is looking for two voting members to attend the Synod Assembly June 3rd thru June 5th. Our new Synod Bishop, Rev. J. Barrow to be installed 3/21 @ 3 PM at

Holy Cross, Meno. Falls. Pastor presented Council a list of about 40 names to be removed from membership due to inactivity in the past two years or longer. Council passed a motion to remove the names. Pastor will send out a formal letter to the members letting them know their status. More than a third of those on the list had moved out of state. A complete list of names will be posted with the minutes on the bulletin board. Pastor will be on vacation from 4/7 thru 4/12 and Pastor Bauman will preach in her absence.

New Action Items:

2010-2011 Council Terms - E. Sanders will be forming a search committee to find members to chair our Human Concerns committee and Fellowship Committee. If interested in serving on Council, please contact E. Sanders. **Request to Purchase Portable Defibrillator and Oxygen Tank** - J. Muroi read an email from one of our members asking the Council to consider purchasing both a portable defibrillator and oxygen tank. Council agreed this was a very good idea and will be looking into cost and necessary training. **Thrivent Update** - J. Muroi announced that if you belong to Thrivent, you could now direct a portion of your money to a charity of your choice and/or a congregation of your choice. **Sponsorship of Yusuf Mohamed's Son** - J. Bugajski reported that the adult son of member Yusuf Mohamed is currently in Africa and is trying to come to the United States to be reunited with his parents. After a discussion on what role SSM would have in helping Yusuf's son live here, Council passed a motion to "sponsor" Yusuf's son. **Committee Reports:**

Family and Youth Ministries - C. Guilliani stated many activities have happened this past month. She highlighted the Admirals hockey game and the tubing events. She along with S. Gordon are considering attending a school that would certify them to work with the youth. Family Camp is scheduled for 8/15 to 8/20 and all are welcome to experience camp. Several fund raising ideas are being discussed, such as a pancake breakfast and/or spaghetti dinner.

Human Concerns - S. Lieske reported that the rummage sale is being planned for May 22nd, and will be held outside, weather permitting. She encouraged members to participate by bringing in items that can be sold at the rummage. As far as clothes, the rummage sale will only feature children's clothes. Human Concerns is still running their Health Kit project through Lent.

Christian Education - E. Sanders reported that the May 9th intergenerational music program will not be held this year. Instead the SSM Sunday School children have been singing once a month at Sunday services.

Stewardship - J. Covert reported that 140 members still have not completed a Time and Talent survey and that once all of the forms are completed his committee will be putting that information on a database. He credited S. Rau for all of her hard work involving the Time and Talent surveys. J. Covert also stated that each week there would be a financial update on our monetary contributions. **Music Church and Worship** - S. Jarchow stated that her committee is preparing for Easter services. She is setting up training for members that read the scriptures at the services. Readers are having some difficulty with the readings due to the new equipment at the lectern.

Fellowship - S. Rosenstock reported her next project is Eater Breakfast and everything is in place for that annual event.

Evangelism - J. Hennessy reported his committee added two new members and future meetings are being planned.

Property - J. Arneson asked the Council about spending money to fix the old lawn mower. After discussion, the board decided it was not worth the investment. Discussion also continues on where to put the one shed Greendale will allow on the property and what to do about the crack in the sanctuary.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6th, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shellee Lubus, Council Secretary

[About Us](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact Us](#)

PHONE 414-421-3543 • FAX 414-421-3543 • 6101 S 51st St, Greendale, WI 53129 • SSM@ststephenthemartyr.com