

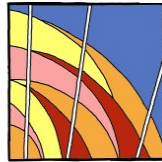
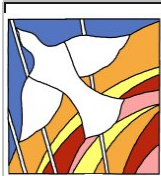


St. Stephen the Martyr, ELCA

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

July 2010 Newsletter

St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church, ELCA

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

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Bob Brownell, Maintenance
Bob De Frank, Sunday School Superintendent
Janet Snyder, Organist

Guess What? Life DOES come with instructions!

Life is messy. Kids, finances, relationships, work, stress... our plates are full, but it doesn't have to be overwhelming.

At St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church you'll find a friendly and loving atmosphere and services relevant for your life today. As we explore God's instruction manual, "The Bible," we will discover practical tools to help build strong families, find personal fulfillment, and put our hectic lives in balance.

Join us for services this summer and bring the kids—even if they're a little sticky! We will have children's sermons and more. Also, when you are vacationing, please try to visit a church and bring a bulletin to share with us.



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From Pastor's Desk

"Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer"....

That's the way the song goes and don't we love to see summer! We wait for warm and sunny weather all year.

I visited my granddaughter's school for the last day before summer vacation. The Pre-K kids had a little picnic outdoors, sitting on the ground with their own brown-bag lunches, talking and waving. There was bubble-blowing after lunch. It started to rain a little. The kids couldn't have cared less, running around like crazy in the grass, laughing and shouting and having a great time. But when it rained harder the teachers called the kids to go in, and they enjoyed cartoons, games in the gym and a treat. A great time was had by all, me included! In summer, it's good to get out and enjoy God's creation. I read Dr. Philip Chard's article about a man who spent his entire work day at a computer, and all his leisure time indoors. He had what the doctor called "brain smog" and the solution was to "Go outside—a lot!"

Dr. Chard writes "Contact with the natural world is vital to mental health and one's efforts to manage chronic stress. Nature has the innate capacity to recharge our brains..." This is good advice and I intend to take it! How about you?

God has given us incredible beauty all around. No matter what your age, take time to enjoy it. Whether it's gardening, playing with kids, biking or other sports, walking, going to the beach, or just sitting on your porch, use all the senses God gave us to drink in what's all around. Enjoy the summer breezes and the sound of the birds. Look up at the stars at night. Give thanks to God each day for God's amazing and bountiful creation! Hats off to the Vacation Bible School leaders of all kinds who will (by the time you read this) have led the kids in outside and inside learning, fun and faith-growth.

Hats off to those who planned and conducted the outdoors Rummage Sale. It was fun and well-pleasing in God's sight as a generous offering was sent to Food Pantries!

Hats off to those who take 'our' kids and families camping this summer and on other outings. Thanks for the work you do!

And hats off to all of you, as you enjoy and also 'steward' God's marvelous creation. Enjoy your family and friends in outdoor fun!

Hats off to our new "Green Team", working to help us all care more effectively for what God has made. Stop at the table in the narthex for more "Green" information.

SEE YOU AT WORSHIP THIS SUMMER!

Your Partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Gail

Family Ministry News

FAMILY GATHERING MEETING

The next Family Gathering will be held on July 24th, 6 pm. Families of all "sizes" (1 or more) are welcome to attend! Time and location is to be determined.

NORTHWOODS CAMPING

We will be "camping" in the Northwoods again, July 30th-August 1. Cost is \$20 per person or \$35 max. for family. Cost includes food, outdoor fun, and indoor plumbing! Please contact Char Guiliani 801-7349 or Shelley Metzler 801-7340 for further details.

STATE FAIR FUN DAY & THIRD DAY IN CONCERT

Join us on Monday, August 9th, 2010, for a day at the Wisconsin State Fair. We will also be going to the Third Day Concert. Contact Tim Falksen for further details (418-6793).

IMAGO DEI FAMILY CAMP

We are going to Family Camp at Imago Dei Village from August 15th-20th AND it's not too late to register! Everyone is welcome! We will be building Faith Chests to be presented in the upcoming year. Please contact Char Guiliani, Stephanie Gordon or Tim Falksen for more information.

Noah's Ark Outing

An outing to Noah's Ark is being planned for the youth grades 6-9th. Please contact Carol Malinowski for further details (423-1041).

Contact our Council Chair for Family Ministries

Char Guliani

minizmom@yahoo.com & on Facebook

Human concerns

HUMAN CONCERNS

Our next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m.
All are welcome to join us!

The Human Concerns Committee extends heartfelt thanks to all of those members who contributed to the success of the rummage sale. We raised over 1,000 dollars for Hunger and we spent a joyous day together. It was wonderful to get to know each other, in a spirit of fellowship. Thanks again.

- Pamela Gustafson

SCHOOL KITS—SCHOOL KITS!

Once again tis time to start our LWR "School Kit Project". These kits may provide the only supplies for children returning to school after the disruption of war or other tragedies. May also be used in adult literacy classes. Tis our eighth year of helping LWR with this project. I pray we will make it a GREAT one.

Items needed to fill each bag:

- Padded or spiral notebooks of ruled paper approximately 8" X 10 ½" totaling 150-200 sheets (if using 70-sheet notebooks, please include three) do not include loose-leaf paper
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- One pencil Sharpener
- Six new, unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- One 30 - centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One eraser approximately 2 ½" long
- 12 sheets of construction paper assorted colors
- One box of 24 crayons
- Also need donations of sturdy fabric for making the bags.

A sewing, cutting, pressing day will be set up soon. Watch for the announcement and sign-up sheet for the date and time. After our sewing and cutting day, ready to sew bags will be available to pick-up and sew at home.

God's riches & blessings to all, Shirley Lieske & Human Concerns

Music & Worship

Next Music & Worship Meeting:

Wednesday, August 4th at 6:00 pm

We are praying that all members and friends of SSM are enjoying their summertime. Though the summer months are a slower and more relaxing time for many as vacations are planned with family or friends, the ministries of SSM do not take a rest. We still need YOU during the summer! If you can help as an usher, greeter, lay reader, or communion assistant, please let us know. If you are assigned to volunteer in any of these ministries and can not make your assigned date, please find a replacement and Lynda in the office know.

- Sue Jarchow & Cathy Peterson, Co-Chairs

THE COLORS OF PENTECOST

We are now in the season of Pentecost. We 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 liturgical color for the days of Pentecost is green, symbolizing this as a time of growth for the church.

BIBLE SOCIETY REP TO SPEAK AT SSM

A representative of Gideon International Bible Society with speak briefly at worship on Sat., July 17 and Sun., July 18. The Gideons, begun in Boscobel Wisconsin, seek to get the Bible into the hands of as many people as

possible, placing Bibles in hotel rooms and other places nationwide and around the world. They have helped to translate God's Word into hundreds of languages and dialects.

MUSIC NOTES from Bill Bravener, Director of Music/ Associate in Ministry

Summer Choir will rehearse at 9:00 a.m. on July 4 and will sing at the 9:30 worship service. All are welcome. Give choir a try!

The weekend of July 10 & 11 both worship services will be preceded by a ten minute hymn sing. Please think of your favorite hymns to request.

Summer Handbell Choir will rehearse at 8:30 a.m. on July 18 and 25 and will ring at the 9:30 worship service on the 25th. All are welcome. Give handbell choir a try!

July 27 - 31 I will be serving on the faculty of the 2010 Young Lutherans Sing at Valparaiso University. YLS is a national music camp for middle school students, and I will be directing handbell choirs and assisting with worship.

I hope you are having a great summer. See you at worship.

- Bill

Summer Choirs Schedule:

July 4 - 9:00 a.m. Summer Choir

July 10 & 11 - Hymn Sing

July 18 - 8:30 a.m. Summer Handbell Choir

July 25 - 8:30 a.m. Summer Handbell Choir

Stewardship

Each person should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

10-10-80

This sounds like a formula for a garden fertilizer. In reality, it is a very effective formula for growing the financial part of our lives; one successfully used by many that plan and manage finances from a faith perspective.

Let's see how this formula works. The first 10% of income is given to God's work through the church and the church's outreach. Next, 10% is put into a sound financial savings plan. The remaining 80% is for living expenses.

While this sounds pretty challenging at first, it becomes easier to do and helps individuals and families achieve financial goals. Few people save 10% of their income. Living on 80% requires prayerful discipline. It forces us to ask how many of those latte coffees we really need or whether we must have that new outfit.

More importantly on our faith journey, this 10-10-80 formula brings joy and satisfaction in the knowledge that our stewardship offering is serving not only our personal or family needs but also the needs of others.

10-10-80 does sound like it could be a fertilizer formula. In a way it is because it nurtures personal financial growth and acknowledges God's grace and blessings. It is an important way to "go green".

- from Marion Walton-Marotske and Your Stewardship Committee



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will be held on July 14th, beginning at 10:15 a.m. Join us as we study the scripture texts for the following weekend.

LOOSE ENDS LUNCHEON

July 14th

Pantheon Restaurant in Franklin (76th & Rawson)

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 Karen Hoffman (421-9249) if you have further questions.

PINE LAKE WOMEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT

August 20-22, 2010

This year's Pine Lake Retreat theme is: "Reflecting God". Through Bible Study with Pastor Laurie Veenendahl, we will be looking at various passages from both the Old and the New Testaments. We will learn how we can be connected, created, called, saved and sent to serve. Pastor Laurie is from Lakeview Lutheran in Madison. In addition to Bible Study, there will be a program, a Taize service, a Cross Walk and free time.

The Loose Ends group of the Women of the ELCA at St. Stephen the Martyr is offering an \$80 scholarship to help you pay the registration cost, if needed. Registration is due by August 5, 2010. The cost for the weekend that includes all meals, materials and cabin space is \$85. You may choose to stay at Evergreen, a new lodge, for a cost of \$105. Bedding and towels are furnished if you stay at Evergreen. If you stay in the regular cabins you must bring those items with you. Send your registration to Kathy Holat whose address is included on the registration form posted on the kiosk under the Women of the ELCA. Additional information on camp is sent by Kathy after she receives your registration form.

Pine Lake is located near Waupaca, Wisconsin. If will arrange car pooling, depending on the number of women wishing to attend camp. Call Sue Jarchow (414-526-9785 or Carole Ropel (262-523-4130) with questions.

TO MY CHURCH FAMILY:

Thank you for making the bumps along my life's path a little less severe. You have given so much to me: many, many prayers, a listening ear, a soothing voice, a caring heart, a helping hand, a healing hug, a cheering smile. My "thank you" seems so small compared to all you have done, but it comes from the heart. Gratefully,
Carole Ropel

CONGRATULATIONS TO STEPHANIE GORDON

Each year, the Women of the ELCA offer scholarships to women in various stages of their life. Some are single mothers, some have been retired and are now re-entering school and some have left a previous profession in order to enter seminary. Regardless of age, location or experience, they all have accepted the call to serve their church and community in great ways.

We are very happy that Stephanie Gordon, from St. Stephen the Martyr, is a recipient of the Cronk Scholarship, 2010. Stephanie has already completed her first semester at Alverno and is working toward a teaching degree. Stephanie is grateful to the Women of the ELCA for their help and support of the expenses she will incur for this coming school year.

If you are so inclined, a special gift to the Women of the ELCA scholarship programs gives you the opportunity to support this ministry.

Your gift is passed in total to this program. Make your check payable to "Women of the ELCA", note on the memo line, "Scholarships Programs" and mail it to Women of the ELCA, P. O. Box 71256, Chicago, IL 60694-1256.

23RD ANNUAL SWO CONVENTION - OCTOBER 1ST & 2ND

Theme: "FILL MY CUP, LORD"

Place: Atonement Lutheran Church, S70 W16244 Martin Drive, Muskego WI

Debra Perl has responded to the call to act as your delegate at the 23rd Annual Convention of the Women of the ELCA, Greater Milwaukee Synod. Deb will participate in the business portion of the meeting on Friday at which we will elect new Board members, delegates to the Triennial Convention being held in July, 2011 in Spokane, Washington, and conduct other business issues of our organization. Thank you, Debra for your participation.

All interested individuals (referred to as Visitors), are welcome to attend on Friday, but you do have the option of attending only on Saturday along with the delegates. Both days will include a dinner. We will all worship together on Saturday morning. There will be four workshops available to Visitors and Delegates....you will choose to attend two of the four. Charlene Walker-Horton will bring greetings and other information from our churchwide president, Beth Wrenn. You'll witness the installation of the new Board and our day will end with special entertainment and a Sending.

Registration forms are posted on the kiosk. Take advantage of the "Early Bird" special to save a few dollars by registering before that deadline of August 9th. Scholarships may be applied for by completing the form also posted on the kiosk. Don't miss this opportunity to be in fellowship with other women from our Greater Milwaukee Synod. Call Carole Ropel with any questions (262-523-4130).

Other Notes

CHRISTMAS BELL RINGERS FINAL REPORT

As I write this, the school year has ended and students are awaiting their report cards. So it seems appropriate to give you your grade for the past Christmas season! It's a little like Christmas in July!

We recently received the following Certificate of Appreciation from the Salvation Army:

The Salvation Army of Greater Milwaukee gratefully acknowledges the contributions of St. Stephen the Martyr Church.

2009 Outstanding Bell Ringing Group Award

Heartiest congratulations to each of you 89 men, women and children who rang for us last season.

You collected \$2,657. That's over \$900 more than 2008, and over \$500 more than our best previous year. You must really have had your bells ringing and been greeting people warmly. Great job! That brings our total amount collected over the last five years for the Salvation Army to help feed, clothe and provide for needy people to \$10, 516.00! You have certainly earned the grateful thanks of myself, our congregation, and hundreds of unknown folks whose lives you have made a little more livable. Your grade.... a great big "A+!"

The certificate will be displayed in the narthex on the bulletin board.

I can't thank you enough! It's a joy being your coordinator. - John Rech

COME TO A PICNIC at Pastor Gail's house on Monday, July 12th, beginning at 6:15 p.m. Hamburgers, brats, and hotdogs will be served. Bring a side dish, salad, or dessert. Beverages will be provided. All ages are welcome; bring the kids and a lawn game if you'd like. A few lawn chairs are needed.

THEN on to the 8:15 p.m. SSM Softball game at Juneau Field, 65th and Mt. Vernon (one block south of Blue Mound at 65th) where we'll cheer our team to victory over Our Savior's Lutheran. If the hour is too late for the kids, just come for the picnic! Sign up will be on the office bulletin board. Questions: Contact Pastor Gail.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

The Memorial committee met on June 12th, 2010.

We discussed the new Ten Commandments and Holy Trinity banners currently on display. They will be interchanged with the green seasonal ones already in our inventory.

The Prayer Garden committee gave us their findings. The consensus was; that more information needs to be disseminated as to concept and costs. The price has many variables including work groups, youth or Scout work parties and plantings from members would all be factors to bring costs down. The landscapers are agreeable to those variations and will work with us as to time and costs. After additional presentations, a survey of congregational members is contemplated. The Garden group meets on the forth Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Monies were approved to fund Faith Chests, and the Vacation Bible School. We are looking for an appropriate container for the baptismal water as it is transported to the font.

The next regular meeting of the committee will be Sept 11th, 2010. Your committee members are: Sandy Petricek, Pastor Gail, Dick Kroll, Shirley Rau, Carol Birk, Marge Muron, Karen Hoffman and me...

- Faith O'Connell

PASTOR HARTMUT BARSNICK, of Athenstedt, Germany, will preach at the 5:00 p.m. Worship Service on Saturday, July 10th. After the service there will be time for conversation, coffee and lemonade.

Pastor Barsnick is serving Wellington Park Lutheran Church in Milwaukee for five months this year: May, June, July, September and October. He served as Associate Pastor there in the mid-1970's. In his retirement, he has been a missionary to the Lutheran Church in Tanzania, South-Central Diocese.

GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD ASSEMBLY NOTES

The theme of the 2010 Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly was "Beyond the Walls". The focus of the assembly revolved around these words. After the business meeting on Friday morning, we visited the Beyond the Walls Ministry Fair. At the "fair" we learned how the ministries of the GMS go beyond the walls of our churches with the good news of Word and service.

The displays included: the Anti-Racism Team, Care to Military Families, Care for Creation, Seedfolks Youth Ministry, the El Salvador and the Meru Companion Synod Ministry Teams, and many more. It was a special learning experience. In addition, there was a tasty lunch featuring El Salvadorian and Tanzanian food specialties.

Along with the reports and business meetings, we heard Bishop Jeff Barrow and the ELCA representative Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdal. There also were two inspiring worship services. - Carolyn Birk, SSM Delegate

HELP US BE GREEN! RECYCLE YOUR ALUMINUM CANS!

ALUMINUM CANS = CASH = FOOD FOR THE PANTRIES

A sincere "thank you" is offered to all who have donated cans this past half year. To date, \$149 has been obtained selling empty aluminum cans at West Allis Salvage Yard. A large portion of this money has been sent to the two food pantries we help support.

Please continue to donate your empty aluminum cans. Crushing the cans helps a lot to carry more cans per van load.

Drop off your cans at SSM's garage in the lower parking lot.

Thank you, Bob Rasmussen

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.

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

Some years ago, a church-goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I can't recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

HELP US KEEP OUR RECORDS UP TO DATE!

Please don't forget to contact your church to report any changes for your family records.

Please let us know when you have an address, phone number, e-mail or status change, or a new addition in your family.

Address Change Note: You can help us save money! Each newsletter is mailed with a mandatory service endorsement stating, "Change Service Requested."

We must pay \$.50 for every change of address that comes in from the post office. It adds up! Please contact us as soon as possible when you have a change of address. Thanks!

Highlights of Council Minutes, June 8, 2010

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

Correspondence:

Pastor read a thank-you card from S. Lieske, in appreciation of her gift for serving on Council.

Approvals: The Secretary's minutes (prepared by C. Peterson, for S. Lubus) from the May 2010 Council meeting were approved. Financial Secretary's Report was reviewed. The Treasurer's Report was given: J. Bugajski stated as of June 6th, 2010 total offerings were short \$2,405.64 or 98.1% of the weekly budgeted amount. The Treasurer's Report was approved. Bugajski reported that the rummage sales were \$1167.00. Of the \$1167.00, \$1000.00 was split evenly amongst the Central City and Bay View food pantries.

Pastor's Time:

Pastor thanked P. Gustafson and her crew for the very successful rummage sale. She also recognized members of the Music and Worship committee for a colorful Pentecost weekend. Pastor Gail talked about the recent Synod Assembly and stated two resolutions passed. One dealt with declining payments to retired roster leaders and the other one was about the need for better representation of our youth at the Synod Assemblies. She also thanked C. Birk, C. Guiliani B. Bravener and P. Bauman for representing SSM at the assembly. SSM's Green Team now has eight energetic members who have expressed their ideas about recycling, saving energy tips,

etc. They will be working hand in hand with the Property Committee. She will host a picnic at her house on July 12th for members of SSM's softball team & SSM members. Pastor baptized Owen Paul Ostrowski on May 29th. She is also taking a brief vacation from 6/18 to 6/21/10. Pastor Frederickson will be handling emergency calls in her place.

Old Action Items:

S. Jarchow commented that it was important to keep the church inventory updated with new purchases.

New Action Items:

Council Schedule - J. Muroli stated that Council would not meet in July, but resume normal dates in August.

Council Terms: Council is still looking for a member to chair Fellowship and a youth member to also be part of council.

Synod Assembly: C. Guiliani reported that the Conference was another invaluable experience and she encouraged other members to attend next year.

Committee Reports:

Family and Youth Ministries - C. Guiliani reported on the following: the Gathering on 5/22 was very well attended; 15 families participated in the recent 30 hour famine; the youth made about \$240.00 selling spaghetti dinners during the rummage; the next family Gathering is scheduled for 7/24, with a potential site of the Northwoods.

Human Concerns - P. Gustafson reported that the rummage sale was very successful and that her committee has two new members. The 'Big Pants to Fill' project continues the 4th of July and their next project will be school bags. Last Sunday, our members donated 250 pairs of shoes and \$330.00 was raised during the Soles for Souls Campaign.

Christian Education - E. Sanders reported that VBS slated for 6/21 to 6/25 is moving forward but we are in need of more children from either SSM or the immediate neighborhood.

Stewardship - J. Covert reported that Steward of the Month would start in August. The 2011 Stewardship theme will be "Keep it Simple" and that Commitment weekend will be either the 3rd or 4th weekend in October.

Music Church and Worship - S. Jarchow stated the committee is currently working on the fall schedule for ushers and readers and several members volunteered to be readers after receiving the recent training provided by her committee members.

Property - J. Arneson gave an update as to what the Green Team's suggestions were for the Property Committee to consider. They are: replacing L. Shadd's office windows; motion lights in the bathrooms; recycling bin for the kitchen in lieu of a separate dumpster for plastics; a programmable thermostat for the fellowship hall would be too costly. He further reported on the suggestion of putting a sidewalk where the handicap parking spaces are, thus allowing members to walk on the sidewalk to their cars, rather than in the parking lot; this discussion was tabled as some Council members thought that the original cost of \$10,000 was too much and questioned the need for a sidewalk.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10th, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shellee Lubus

Council Secretary

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