



Where we meet as God's People of Joy
Where we meet as God's People of Joy

for all the SAINTS

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“We are so small. What can we do?” This was a comment I heard over and over again in a previous parish as we struggled to figure out how to deal with the lack of space due to our increasing numbers, but not big enough to afford what we needed to do. “What can we do?” It is a question we have been hearing these last few years in our own culture as people wonder and debate how to deal with big and important issues-whether it be about housing, joblessness, or the economy. For years, the question of hunger on our planet has been difficult for me. How can people die from starvation when we have plenty of food? “What can I do? I am only one person.” My father asked me one question after being confronted by my frustration early in my career. He asked, “What is your sphere of influence?” It might not seem like you are changing the world, but you might be making a difference for those within your influence. That is when I decided to try doing something about it. Since 1993 the Tim Hansen Project has been making music as a way of encouraging and inviting people into the thought about how they can make a difference within their sphere of influence.

Hunger seems like such a big issue. How can we influence the decisions of those who leave box cars of grain sitting on docks in order to starve their own people? How can we possibly solve the issue of distribution? And yet, who knows what gifts God has given us to lend to the discussion, or develop a new process to aid in feeding people. Maybe a little encouragement is a great way to begin.

With their 2nd CD titled, *Lutheran Jello*, THP has begun to do both encouraging and giving to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. With each purchase of a THP CD the cost of the CD goes to the Appeal. To date we have raised almost \$20,000 for the cause of hunger. Along with other benevolences such as Lutheran World Relief and the International Center for Bethlehem, the Tim Hansen Project has helped raise awareness and encouragement for others to participate in their own way.

Whether it is relief projects that are as far away as Japan, or Haiti, or as close enough as flood victims in North Dakota, you participate by your purchase, and your willingness to ponder your own calls to action. This is the dynamic of THP in action.

Each of the musicians that has played in THP has offered their unique God-given gifts to the music and the projects themselves. We come from a variety of music backgrounds and occupations, and yet each finds a niche to offer something and throughout these 18 years together we have developed great friendships. You are welcome to be a part of our ministry as you gather for our 11th Annual Concert for Hunger on Saturday night, November 12th at 7 pm at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church. We ask that you bring a non-perishable food item as a donation for our Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is in need of more food as our normal amount of rations is down as client numbers increase. We will also be taking a

From Our Pastor

Invited!

donation during the show to benefit the work of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. They will have some folks on hand to talk about the work of the appeal and talk about the latest on the Malaria project.

The concert will also serve as the CD Release for our 7th recording project, "Is Anybody Listening?" We are very excited to bring you this new music along with old favorites like, "Lutheran Jello," "It's Tough to Know," and "Amen Jesus."

So, you are invited! It is a great event to begin wondering what does it mean to ask the question, "What can I do?" You are invited to hear some great music, meet some interesting musicians up close and personal, and help the Food Pantry! I hope to see you there in the midst of a packed sanctuary! Bring a friend!

Peace to you!

Pastor Tim



**11th Annual Concert for
Hunger
November 12th
7 pm
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church**

***Admission: non-perishable food item for
the Food Pantry and donations accepted
for ELCA World Hunger Appeal***

Vision Survey

The St. Stephen's Vision Task Force has been at work beginning the discussion about our dreams and visions about where God is leading us in ministry at St. Stephen's. During the next month there will be a random sampling survey that will be sent out to gauge and measure the wide variety of dreams and hopes that you have noted over the course of the summer. After compiling and prioritizing the list, there will be lots of opportunities to look at the results and have discussions about the findings so that we can begin to build consensus through prayer and conversation. If you are one of those asked to complete the survey, we hope that you will help us out by agreeing to take part so that we can get the best results possible. We will keep you posted along the way. Please keep the work of the Vision Task Force in your prayers.

National Youth Gathering

We will have 9 youth (Geeta and Sangeeta Chauhan, Dakota and Javier Clifcorn, Anders Hansen, Erik Romanski, and Abby Ruffridge, plus friends Alyssa Roehr and Sam DiVita) and two adults in our group to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next July 17-23, traveling by bus with 500 others from our synod. At the gathering, 35,000 ELCA youth share in worship, discipleship, and hurricane clean up.

Our Life Together

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The Stone Soup Kitchen Garden Recipes *We Nourish, Teach & Serve*

The gardens have been put to bed, but there's still plenty of vegetables in the root cellar! If you don't know what to do with all those delicious Brussels sprouts, parsnips, turnips, black radish or rutabaga, but want to start trying them, mix them in with regular potatoes when you roast or mash them. Try 50/50 quantities at first and scale to your taste. Here's a reminder on how to create delicious, healthy roasted vegetables.



Stone Soup Kitchen Recipe of the Month Roasted Fall Vegetables

1 pound Brussels sprouts, trimmed and quartered
1 ½ pounds small parsnips, peeled and thinly sliced
2 medium red onions, cut into ½" wedges
1 T. chopped fresh thyme leaves (may use dried)

2 T. extra virgin olive oil
Coarse salt and ground pepper
2 T. lemon juice

Toss all vegetables, thyme and olive oil together on a rimmed baking sheet. Season with salt and pepper. Roast at 450 degrees on bottom rack of oven for 10 min. Transfer veggies to top rack and roast until tender and browned in spots, about 15 min. more. Remove from oven. Toss with lemon juice and serve. Makes 4 servings. (Adapted from Everyday Food, Nov. 2011 issue).

Two Thanksgiving Services

Thanksgiving is a wonderful moment to pause and thank God for all the blessings we receive in our lives. We are pleased again to pair with other local Christians to celebrate. On Tue., Nov. 22 at 7:00, we host Immaculate Heart and Monona Methodist in worship. Father Bart Timmerman will preach. See sign ups for ways to help with hospitality. The next evening, Wed., Nov. 23, we continue to worship with Lake Edge Lutheran at their church. Our choirs will join together for the 7:00 p.m. service.

Men's Bible Study

Don't forget Men's Bible Study each month at Tully's II on Monona Dr. We meet at 8 p.m. on Thurs., Nov. 10 for laid-back conversation.



Wil-Mar Thanksgiving Event

For several years, the people of St. Stephen's have graciously provided a Thanksgiving meal for the Wil-Mar Ctr. Members are asked to donate a 12-14 lb. turkey, cook it, take it off the bones and deliver to the church kitchen refrig by Friday, Nov. 18. We'll need about 12 turkeys. The Wil-Mar people deeply appreciate a homemade Thanksgiving! See sign-up sheet in the narthex. Thank you! Questions? Call Barb Kepler (221-8734).

Prayer Vigil for Peace

The next Prayer Vigil for Peace will be on Sunday, November 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Our Life Together

Women's Spiritual Formation

The group will begin studying a book of prayer practices by Daniel Wolpert called *Creating a Life with God*. The group meets from 4 - 5:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month, but will only meet on Nov. 10th due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Some prayer practices described in the book include: the Jesus Prayer, sacred reading, and praying with nature. The group plans to choose a prayer practice together, discuss it and then try it several times. If you would like to expand your prayer life, purchase the book (\$11) and join the journey, please contact Meg Nielsen at churchladymeg@hotmail.com or 838-8274.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study for this year will continue once each month through May 2012. We come together the third Thursday of each month, 1:00 pm in Fireside Room. We are studying the Gospel of Mark. This includes many details of how Jesus in his ministry reached out to many people using parables to extend the messages. GATHER is the new magazine for women. There are many articles – The Power of Parables; Riding out the Storm; Health Wise; found in the November issue. The Bible Study materials are included each month. You can subscribe to GATHER by calling the Subscription Office 800-328-4648 and using your credit card to pay \$12 for a one-year subscription (10 issues). If you have questions, call Jane Dohler 222-3794 or email janedohler@charter.net



Women's Kayaking Trip!

Join us Aug. 17-20, 2012 to kayak the Apostle Islands sea caves, sandy beaches, and historic lighthouses. This trip is for beginners or experienced paddlers. Deposits of \$110 are due by November 30. Space is limited to 10-16 kayakers. Questions? Please call Lisa Hansen at 838-7929.

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Show Me The Money!

Jesus had a soft spot for those without money. But these days – especially in this recession – we may not feel God's care. How can we be content with the money we have and not compare ourselves to others? Join us for Bold Café on Tues., Nov. 15th at 7 p.m. and find out! We will meet at Carla Schubert's (2786 Waubesa Ave., Madison). You may read the topic ahead of time at www.boldcafe.org (hot topic for Nov. 2011). New participants are always welcome and celebrated!

Our Life Together

Beautiful Sunday Worship!

Following Affirmation of Baptism and Reformation Sunday celebrations on Oct. 30, November is filled with great things in worship:

- Nov. 6 is All Saints Sunday, when we remember those departed saints who shaped our lives, especially those from St. Stephen's who died this past year: Everett Bewick, Betty Smith, Gloria Kopplin, Gordon Napstad, Rudy Hovland, Arlene Bahler, Ernest Nale, John Dahl, Evelyn Twining, Scott Werner, Vyrgil Breitwieser and Richard Keyel.
- Nov. 13 is the culmination of focusing on Facets of Faith, with the chance to celebrate how God uses our offerings at St. Stephen's and how we can grow in our devotion this next year.
- Nov. 20 is Christ the King Sunday, the grand finale of the church's calendar year. Also that morning at the 10:00 service, we will be giving the St. Stephen's Award for the 25th time.
- And Nov. 27 is already the 1st Sunday of the season of Advent!



Crochet/Knit Ministry

The main group normally meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 1-3 p.m. with a drop-in group now meeting the 1st and 3rd Friday from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Both groups meet in Fireside. They are busy making wraps, scarves, hats, baby ascots, fingerless mittens and shawls for the bazaar in November. All are welcome! For info, call Karen Baier (279-5648).

3rd Annual Fall Bazaar

Our 3rd annual St. Stephen's Fall Bazaar will be held on November 20th from 1-5 p.m. It will include arts, crafts, a silent auction, live music, lefse and baked goods sale, chili or soup lunch and games for the kids. We are looking for bakers, lefse makers, crafters and items for the silent auction! The first two years were successful because of your participation! A sign-up board will be located outside the sanctuary. Silent auction money will go to the Food Pantry to help families through the holidays and other raised funds will be used to purchase items for the church. We hope that we can count on your participation. Thanks! Committee Members: Kriss Besch, Ann Schroeder, Karen Kordela, Becky Mitchell and Brent Ruffridge

Adult Forums

Each Sunday at 9:10 in the library, we have great conversations of what our faith means today. Here's what's coming up:

- Nov. 6 and 13: Earthbound!, a DVD on why Lutherans care for the earth
- Nov. 20: Holden Village intro, on what the trip will be like next summer
- Nov. 27: concealed weapons at St. Stephen's, led by Amy Johnson, Director of Lutheran Office for Public Policy in WI



Summer Canoe Trip

We have dates for another trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota. For around \$400, join youth and adults in beautiful, rugged canoeing July 1-6. Deposits are due by Jan. 15.

Our Life Together

October 20, 2011 Ministry Board Meeting Highlights

The pastors reported the programmatic ministry is in full swing. Financials reveal we need a strong finish in the last quarter to catch up for the year. The Gifts & Resources Team is working on their stewardship program. The next Capital Fund Appeal will begin next fall.

The Visioning Team has prepared a survey, comprised of dreams and ideas offered by congregational members about priorities in our ministry at St. Stephen's, that will be sent to randomly-selected congregational members.

The Building & Grounds Committee has been busy with needed repairs and is actively planning for future needs.

A group of parents, nursery staffers and building people have been discussing Nursery needs to make sure we are offering the best opportunities of care to enable young families to worship.

The Ministry Board approved the Finance Committee recommendations in response to the Wegner LLP Report involving St. Stephen's financial procedures. The Ministry Board thanks the Finance Committee for taking the initiative to have our procedures reviewed and for their diligence in following through with Wegner's recommendations. The Foundation and Food Pantry Board has also reviewed their procedures and have begun to implement appropriate changes as discovered in the Wegner Report.

Host Road Home

Our next opportunity to host families transitioning from homelessness will be Thursday, November 3, at Lake Edge UCC. Sign up to prepare/serve supper, spend time with families, and to stay the night. Also, please mark your calendars for the next time we serve – Thursday, December 8.



Wednesday Bible Study

Okay, we've done some breathing. This is God the Spirit's primary work in us and all creation. Now you may ask, what else do we expect of the Holy Spirit? The conversation continues Wednesdays at 9:00.

Sharing Bibles

As part of our shared promise in baptism to place in children's hands the holy scriptures so they may learn God's great love, we will be giving Bibles to kindergartners, 3rd graders and 6th graders in worship on Nov. 13.

Holden Village 2012

St. Stephen's will again offer a train trip to Holden Village, a fabulous Lutheran retreat in the mountains of Washington. The dates are August 5-13. Total cost, based on coach train fare, will be around \$700. Deposits are due before Jan. 1, 2012 and reservations for sleeper cars are best made ASAP.



Recently Hospitalized

Barb Wedekind, Charles Hitt, Jr., Kathryn Felleron, Ardell Dahl, Phil Tygum, Bob Seiler, Betty St. John, William Kopplin, Dennis St. John, Dale St. John, Bob Schuller

New Mortgage Information

Original Balance (10/1/2010)	\$1,361,512
Interest Paid to Date	47,659
Principal Paid to Date	21,265
Remaining Balance	\$1,340,247

Hospitalized – It is not automatic that we know when somebody has been hospitalized. If you or a loved one is planning on going into the hospital, please let the office know so a pastor can pray with or for you.

Preparing the Way (thru 6th quarter – November 2009 thru April 2011)

Pledged to Date	\$ 214,039
Received to Date	\$ 204,652

Prayers for Deployed Military

Please keep in prayer the following people currently serving in the military:

Jim Bahler deployed to Iraq

Chris Hudson deployed to Kosovo

Greg Post deployed to Germany

If you know of others to add, please call the church office.



Leaving Telephone Messages

If you need to leave a message for the staff after the office closes at noon on Fridays, be sure to enter that staff member’s “specific” extension as any messages left on the “office” extension aren’t retrieved until Monday. Pastor Tim is ext 13, Pastor Nick is ext 12 and Rebecca is ext 16.



Baptism—

Jack Hudson Duarte,
son of Tara and Richard Duarte

Adeline Pearl Schmidt,
daughter of Eric & Sarah Schmidt

Ned Thomas Redmann,
son of Stephen & Rebecca Redmann

*Please continue to pray for these children
who have new life in Christ.*



New Staff Emails

Please Note the Changes

With some IT upgrades, the St. Stephen’s staff has new email addresses. You can find them on the back of this newsletter.



Set Your Clocks Daylight Saving Time Ends

Before you go to bed Saturday, Nov. 5, don’t forget to set your clocks back one hour or you’ll be early to worship on Nov. 6!

Community – For upcoming **HospiceCare** events, call 608-276-4660 and for upcoming **Alzheimer’s Assn.** events, call 608-232-3400.



Food Pantry Need – The Pantry is in need of the brown grocery bags .

With a Thankful Heart

- to Kristen Davies and Heide Powers for graciously stepping in and facilitating Choir and GosBells rehearsals while Rebecca was starting to learn to be a mommy.
- to Chris Gantz, Meg Nielsen, Angela Heyworth, and Karen Baier for sharing their lovely voices as cantors during Oct.
- to Lisa Hansen, for playing piano for the worship services at Heritage, Monona Hills, & Ecumenical Morning Prayer during Oct.
- to Lisa Hansen and Alex Whitaker, for accompanying the Sept./Oct. Peace Vigils.
- to the members of GosBells & the Sanctuary Choir for their patience during Rebecca's absence in October.
- to Jim Knutson, Belle Heberling, Kristen Davies, Stephen Redmann, Mishan Han, David Hansen, Glenn Nielsen, Anders Hansen, Tim Hansen, Julie Buss and Mary Kay DeMaris, for sharing their musical skills and talents with us on Reformation Sunday.

Dear Kristen, Nick, Jill, members of St. Stephen's Ecoteam, Community Gardeners and all those who hosted us Moving Planet Caravaners,

Thanks so, so much. Breaking bread in your Koinonia space was a heart-warming experience. Sincerely, Seth (from Permaculture Peace)

Fall Lunch at the Wil-Mar Center

Many thanks to the following volunteers who whipped up and served a mean bunch of BBQ to 70 guests at our monthly Wil-Mar meal on Oct. 15th: Teri & Jim O'Connor, Becky Mitchell, Chad & Cheri Schweitzer, Donna Schroeder, Jim Reichling, Lisa and Alex Rogers.

Coming up is our BIG THANKSGIVING meal – the best meal we serve all year! Would you also like to donate some warm clothes or shoes for our guests? Please contact John Esser (jresser@charter.net) to volunteer, Barb Kepler (barbek@charter.net) to donate turkey and Becky Mitchell (becky7matt@gmail.com) to donate clothes or shoes.

Helping the Homeless

Thank you to those who contributed jackets and sleeping bags to the homeless. They were used the same day they were brought to Bethel. As cold weather approaches the homeless continue to have further needs such as: men's sweaters, sweatshirts, flannel shirts, socks, gloves, hats, scarves, boots and pants. The shelters only provide a place to sleep (plus 2 meals), so the homeless are out on the streets during the day. The shelters are already at capacity so there will be many more people sleeping outdoors. The needs for warm clothes are great. Thank you so much for your generosity. God bless!

As we're celebrating our gracious faith with Reformation Sunday, I figured you might like some extras of Luther's bold, life-giving words. Enjoy!

Where is God? God must be essentially present at all places, even in the tiniest tree leaf. The reason is this: It is God who creates, effects, and preserves all things through his almighty power and right hand, as our Creed confesses. Therefore, indeed, he himself must be present in every single creature in its innermost and outermost being, on all sides, through and through, below and above, before and behind, so that nothing can be more truly present and within all creatures than God himself with his power.

Can we see God? One could very well say that the course of the world, and especially the doing of his saints, are God's mask, under which he conceals himself and so marvelously exercises dominion.

Where do we look for God's work? God can be found only in suffering and the cross.

What is the "daily bread" we ask God for? God gives daily bread even to all evil people. It means everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Why doesn't God's work seem more miraculous? They say: "Oh, is that such a great thing that

the sun shines, or fire warms, or the earth yields grain, or a woman bears children, or a hen lays eggs? That happens every day!" My dear Mr. Simpleton, is it a small thing just because it happens every day? It is a discouraging thing that humans are so damnably ungrateful and blind. God showers upon them such great and rich miracles, and they do not thank Him for it! But if some clown shows up who can walk a tightrope or who has monkeys to display, him they admire, praise, and exalt.

How should we saints regard our sin? God does not save people who are only fictitious sinners. Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world.

What does baptism mean each day? It signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Do we have free will? Scripture represents the human as one who is not only bound, wretched, captive, sick, and dead, but in addition to his other miseries is afflicted, through the agency of Satan his prince, with this misery of blindness, so that he believes himself to be free, happy, unfettered, able, well, and alive.

The human will is like a beast of burden. If God rides it, it wills and goes where God wills. If Satan rides it, it wills and goes where Satan wills.

Luther Say?

What are law and gospel? There are two kinds of doctrine and two kinds of works, those of God and those of humans. The gospel teaches exclusively what has been given us by God, and not—as in the case of the law—what we are to do and give to God.

Where do I look in the Bible to find such good news? John's Gospel and St. Paul's epistles, especially that to the Romans, and St. Peter's first epistle are the true kernel and marrow of all the books. It would be advisable for every Christian to read them first and most. For in them you find depicted in masterly fashion how faith in Christ overcomes sin, death, and hell, and gives life, righteousness, and salvation. This is the real nature of the gospel.

What does it mean to be "little Christs?" Just as our neighbor is in need and lacks that in which we abound, so we were in need before God and lacked his mercy. Hence, as our heavenly Father has in Christ freely come to our aid, we also ought freely to help our neighbor through our body and its works, and each one should become as it were a Christ to the other that we may be Christs to one another.

What about music? A person who does not regard music as a marvelous creation of God deserves to be called a clodhopper; he should be permitted to hear nothing but the braying of asses and the grunting of hogs.

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Facets of Faith

Many of you had the chance to attend a session on God's gifts and the Facets of our Faith. On Nov. 2, Confirmation families will also talk about how we respond to God. And we are coming close to a chance to make our commitments and share our offerings. November 13 in all three worship services, you will have the opportunity to bring your gifts and pledges forward in worship. Watch your mail and listen in worship for more info. Thank you for the many ways you attend to the Facets of Faith and make the ministry of this community vibrant.

Confirmation Schedule

This is an exciting, varied month for Confirmation students. Nov. 2, 6th-9th graders and parents gather with mentors to think about how God works in our lives and how we respond. Nov. 9, 7th-9th graders share pizza and the question "Why are there so many versions of the Bible?" On Wednesday, the 16th, 7th-9th grade attend the synod's Confirmation Extravaganza, 6:00-8:30 at the Alliant Energy Center. Nov. 19, from 10-12 the 6th grade Pre-Confirmation class has their mini-retreat. The week of Thanksgiving there is no class, for the chance to worship together. And by Nov. 30, we begin our schedule of Advent meals and evening prayer.

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