

Children's Ministry

April 3 – Food Shelf Sunday
Minnesota Food Share
Daylight Savings Time begins

April 10 – MN FoodShare Finale

Thank you, to Bill Krannich for donating balloons, helium and labor, in order to provide balloon valentines to everyone who attended church on Sunday March 13th.

During the month of March, our congregation has been joining others across the state, collecting non-perishable food, to restock food supplies for people in need, as part of Minnesota Food Share. Congregations like ours are the heart of the campaign. Our Sunday School is trying to collect more pounds of food than our guitar-players combined weight! To meet that goal we need to collect over 500 pounds of food! We have collected 261 pounds at this time! Please help us meet our goal! We have until April 6th to collect both food and cash contributions to meet our goal. Please place cash donations in an envelope marked "MN FoodShare".

The Nursery still has need of additional paid and volunteer caregivers, in order to properly care for our youngest children. Please speak with Deb Nelson, Children's Ministry Director, if you are willing to provide love and care for our beloved little ones.

Our prayers and condolences go to the family of Clarence Wild, who passed away on March 16th; and to Mavis Garrett on the death of her brother.

QUILTS

I want to thank the women who helped make this a very successful Charity Quilt making year – 57 quilts of varied sizes were made – large, medium, youth, crib & baby. Thank you to the working bees: Gerry DeLand, Liz Emert, Bev Gates, JoAnn Hondlik, Betty Nelson, & Ruth Wilm. We missed Beth Groebe who had surgery on her wrists and couldn't help. Another thanks to Chris Daligrodzki (Gerry DeLand's daughter) for sewing and donating 7 youth quilts to our cause. Some of othe quilts are being saved for the Boutique, some for the Women's Abuse Shelter, and a few saved for our sponsored Hmong family yet to come. The rest go to the Hmong community through Pilgrim Lutheran in St. Paul where Joan Regal works. Thanks again – as busy hands get much accomplished. If you are new at church or newly retired from a job, I hope you will join us. I'll be getting organized in October for our next big sewing bee of 2006 (Jan.-March). Thanks to everyone who donated fabric – that's what makes it work. May these quilts keep the people who receive them warm and know that someone cares.

Thank you,
Caroline Felland

LET'S RIDE

If you enjoy motorcycling, come along! Everyone is welcome. Mark calendars NOW for Sunday, July 24th. Any and all makes and models of bikes wanted. Meet at church for the 9 a.m. service. At 10 a.m. there will be a motorcycle blessing followed by a 50 to 100 mile ride. We will stop for lunch along the way. Any questions, call Pete or Mary Lou Linder at 651-770-3791.

CAMPERS!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The St. Stephen's Family Camping Weekend this year will be July 15 to 17. Sign up on Sundays in the narthex. Father Hennepin State Park on the shore of Lake Mille Lacs is the site again this year. Saturday night service and pot luck dinner are part of the festivities.

ADULT FORUM

Objections Answered Video and Bible Study with RC Sproul, will continue after Easter, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1.

Lesson 5: The Church is Full of Hypocrites - Video on April 3

Bible Study on April 10

Lesson 6: Is There Life After Death? Video on April 17 – Bible Study on April 24

Lesson: Why Does God Allow Suffering and Evil? Bible Study on May 1

Sundays, in the Library @ 9 a.m.

The next Steppingstone will go out on April 19th. Articles need to be turned in to the church office by Sun., April 17th.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We had an opportunity at the March 28th meeting to go over all the exciting events that took place this last 2-3 weeks, including a wonderful week of prayer during Holy Week. I applaud all those, who, along with their committees, took part in furnishing the Lenten suppers on Wednesday evenings. Once again, another moving performance from the Fools for Christ during the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday performances. Our special thanks to Matt Millard (Head Fool) for his commitment to make this a success. It was outstanding.

It was extremely exciting to see the quick and excellent effort from Worship & Music in making the new baby grand a reality here at St. Stephen. We have raised enough to pay for the new piano in full. Thank you to all those people that made this a huge success by making special donations and purchasing a key for \$100.

In closing, I would like to say that what we have all experienced this past month really shows faith, unity, and the strengths of this congregation as a whole.

God Bless,
Mike Altendorfer

HOLLY BOUTIQUE

It's never too early to start thinking about the Holly Boutique. All *good things* take time and we have a lot of *good things* to sell at the boutique. It's time to start working on those wonderful crafts. If you would like to teach your favorite craft in a "one-time" class to benefit the boutique, please contact Kathy Anderson (484-0563) or Judy Ruth (426-0869). The 2005 Holly Boutique will be held on November 12.

ST. PAUL AREA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION 2005 CONVENTION

at

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1616 W Olive Street
Stillwater, MN 55082

Non-delegate registrations are due
April 8, 2005.

See the WIM Bulletin Board for more
information.

EAST CENTRAL CLUSTER Women of the ELCA SPRING MEETING

Thursday, May 5, 2005
at

Bethlehem Lutheran
490 N 4th Street, Bayport
6:30 p.m. Registration
\$3.00/Refreshments

See WIM bulletin board
For more information

TANZANIA DINNER

(Traditional African meal)

at St. Stephen

April 30th, at 6 p.m.

\$5.00 person/\$12.00 per family

Program: Reverend Richard Lubowa
(from Iringa)

Missionaries: Pastor Don Fultz &
Eunice Fultz

Call St. Stephen to order tickets
651-777-1107

COOKIE SIGN-UP SHEET

If you would be interested in donating towards our Sunday morning cookies, check out the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex (next to the flower chart).

You can choose to sign up for donating \$10 (half of a Sunday's cookies) or \$20 (all the cookies for a given Sunday.)

Youth

April 22-23 30 Hour Famine

April 30th Paint Ball

Sign up on the Youth Bulletin Board.
Chaperones are needed for this event.
Contact John King (651-777-0967) if you are interested in being a chaperone.