

Martyr Monthly

August 2022



St Stephen the Martyr

Lutheran Church ELCA

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM

Prayer Garden Worship August 11th 6:30PM



Pastor's Page

Dear Friends,

If it's August



If it's August, we've had our share of hot and humid days, but soon we will notice the shortening of days as autumn will be here before we know it.

If it's August, enjoy the bounty of the garden and field. Fresh fruits and vegetables abound. Take in a farmer's market. I am sure going to miss fresh cherries when I am eating the frozen variety in the colder months. Enjoy the mouth-watering fresh foods of the season!

If it's August, we've had a lot of "green" Sundays, and in August we will hear more powerful stories of Jesus teaching about hospitality, humility and healing. Enjoy the "green" of outdoor worship on August 11.

If it's August, we are celebrating another awesome week of VBS, and thankful for the youth and leaders that participated.

If it's August, details are coming together for assembling school bags and folks are getting ready for the "Quilting Bee."

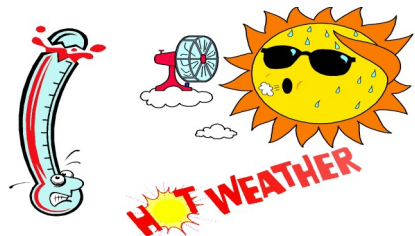
And if it's August we are in the midst of many preparations for all the wonderful fall programming. Rally day kickoff will be September 11 with some fun activities and packing of bag lunches for Milwaukee Street Angels.

And so, if it's August, take some time to savor these days with a slower pace.

Summertime blessings to you.

Peace,

Pastor Brian



Notice of Congregational Meeting: July 31, 2022

We will be holding a special congregational meeting in the sanctuary and on Zoom immediately following service on Sunday, July 31. The sole purpose of the meeting is electing new Church Council members.



We will elect three-year terms to the positions of Evangelism, Human Concerns, Fellowship and Youth and Family. The church is seeking a candidate to represent **Fellowship** on Council. Nominations will be accepted from the floor and Zoom during the meeting if a candidate has not already been found.

Please make an effort to attend this important meeting. We hope to see you there!

Jason Covert, Council President



Outreach for Hope
PO Box 341695
Milwaukee, WI 53234
414-671-1212



Saturday, September 24, 2022 | OFHRRW.org

Join all of your friends at the Outreach for Hope 2022 Family Ride Run Walk, and help fundraise \$165K for grants to central city congregations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod!

IN-PERSON SITE OPTIONS:

Each site offers a **NEW 5K run, 2-mile walk, and road and trail bike ride** unless otherwise noted, as well as a **fellowship only** participant option:

- **Waukesha County:** Meets at Cory Municipal Park, Dousman
- **Ozaukee County:** Meets at Grace Lutheran Church, Grafton - no road rides
- **Racine/Kenosha County:** Meets at Petrifying Springs Park, Kenosha
- **Milwaukee County:** Meets at Washington Park, Milwaukee - no bike rides

Pay-what-you-can registration includes a free event t-shirt, picnic lunch, and access to our online fundraising platform.

Registration opens July 15: OFHRRW.org
Sign up to volunteer: tinyurl.com/volunteerOFHRRW

Stewardship "Joy Wins the Day"

John 11:25-26 - [Jesus said] "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Rare is the life that at some time isn't affected by great distress in this world. On planet earth, where tragedy seems to be a constant, where sin, misery, and grief are evident all around us, the shedding of tears is all too familiar in our lives. Most of us cry. Most of us weep. Almost everyone shed tears over some personal sadness. Think back to the last time you cried.

Even Jesus shed tears in this world. Centuries before His Bethlehem birth, the Old Testament prophet Isaiah had, by the Holy Spirit's inspiration, described the Savior in sobering detail. He said our Lord Jesus would be "despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief ... He was oppressed, and He was afflicted ... stricken for the transgression of My people" (see Isaiah 53). How true this proved to be!

Look at Jesus and you will not see a general who sits far removed in a command center while His troops march off to engage the enemy in battle. He is not a chairman in a walnut-paneled boardroom who dictates commands to His company while the men on the assembly line press on to fulfill those orders. No, Jesus was in the trenches with us, sweating with us, giving us His life so we might truly live.

Jesus became one of us so He might—in our place—fulfill the Law we completely disobeyed. He became true Man so that the ultimate price our sins demanded might be paid in full. Because of His sacrifice and resurrection victory, He is the "Resurrection and the Life," and those who live and believe in Him will never die.

The comfort those words have given to people over the centuries cannot be measured.

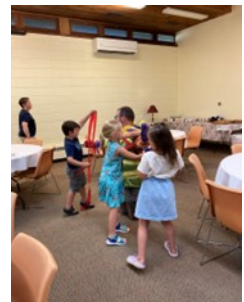
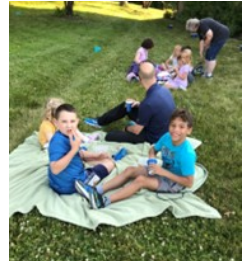
Jesus' words mean that death does not hold the final claim on our lives. As Christians, we know that those who mourn now will find their grief overcome by joy when this life is over. They will know the victory won for them by Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is perfect and everlasting. Christ's nail-pierced hands are stronger than death and, because this is so, in heaven every tear will be replaced by laughter and joy in Jesus.

WE PRAY: Heavenly Father, please accept our thankful hearts which know that the time is coming that, because of Jesus, all of our tears will be wiped away. In His Name we pray. Amen.

From "Tears of Laughter," a devotion from Rev. Dr. Kenneth Klaus,

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School was a smashing success with double the amount of kids from 2021. We had 16 participants and numerous adults helping and leading. Special thanks to Patti Nelson for coordinating, Eric Sanders for leading the Bible Stories, Jenny Resterhouse and Kelly Miller for leading Imagination Station, Alex Dollar for leading the Games and Outdoor Fun, Denise Sanders for leading the opening and closing sessions, Andrea Woerpel for leading the kindergarteners and Bonnie Zimmermann for the snacks. We would also like to thank the many other helpers, Dan Resterhouse, Kipp Zimmermann, Jeanette Kowalski from Adoration and Pastor Brian. Here are some pictures of all of the fun to share.



Watch the bulletins and the September Newsletter for information about Sunday School and Bible Classes picking up again in September and for more information about Rally Day on September 11th.

Meru Partnership News

Greetings from Pastor Nnko who writes, “Habari yako dada Julie, Rafiki mbaaseny, ubarikiwe sana. Hello dear friend, shalom, we thank our God very much, despite the challenges of drought and famine, we are still looking to God. Thank you very much for your support, your generosity, SSM, be blessed all.” He continues “About three students, are doing well in their studies, they are in school. I request about them to write a thankful word. Currently are in examination (national exams) but I will go before they close school. Wishing you good health.”

Pastor Nnko shared photos of a youth day in early July where they had a collection of “hygienic” items and some food to share with the poor and disabled.



Blessing of the gifts.



Presentation of the gifts to the congregation



A gift of food (maize or beans)



Mbaaseny Parish buildings



Hunger Appeal - The Meru Hunger Relief Task Force was formed in June to provide assistance to our partners during ongoing drought conditions.


*Approximately 60% of the Diocese of Meru has serious drought conditions as seen in this recent photo. Crops have not been able to grow for the many who live on small farms in the Eastern and Southern districts. (Our partner parish, Mbaaseny is in the Eastern District.)

***About 8,000 Families are in URGENT NEED.**

The cost of food has doubled, and in some cases tripled, with post COVID-19 inflation, the war in Ukraine reducing grain supplies, and food shortages all driving prices up.

The Greater Milwaukee Synod is collecting funds to send for the Diocese of Meru to distribute to those who are in the greatest need to buy maize (corn), beans, and cooking oil.

TANZANIA HUNGER CRISIS



220-pound bag of shelled corn costs
\$52- \$65 USD
Provides 65 meals for \$.90 per meal



220-pound bag of beans costs \$86-
\$99 USD
Provides 175 meals for \$.53 per meal

Scroll down to Meru
Diocese Gifts
4th one down: **Meru
Hunger Relief—Food
Crisis**



The need is ongoing and every gift makes a difference. Gifts can be made directly through the Greater Milwaukee Synod or through SSM. **Clearly identify gifts with “Meru Hunger Appeal”.** Funds will be wire transferred monthly as they are received. Asante sana!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1]	2] 6:30pm Mega Meet- ing	3]	4] WISCONSIN STATE FAIR	5]	6] 9 th Weekend after Pentecost 5:00pm Worship
7] 9 th Weekend after Pentecost 9:30am Worship 1:00pm Milkmen Game	8]	9] 6:30pm Council	10] 9am-4pm School Bag Work Day 	11] 6:30pm Prayer Garden Worship	12]	13] 10 th Week- end after Pente- cost 5:00pm Worship
14] 10 th Weekend after Pentecost 9:30am Worship	15] 10am- 4pm Quilting Bee	16] 	17]	18]	19]	20] 11 th Weekend after Pentecost 5:00pm Worship
21] 11 th Weekend after Pentecost 9:30am Worship	22] 	23]	24]	25] 	26]	27] 12 th Weekend after Pentecost 5:00pm Worship
28] 12 th Weekend after Pentecost 9:30am Worship	29] 	30]  				

School Bags & Quilts

School Bag News

The annual School Bag Work Day is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10th in the Fellowship Hall between 9am and 4pm. Come for whatever part of the day you can. There is a need for folks to cut fabric, press fabric and sew the fabric into school bags. No experience is necessary, there will be plenty of experienced people to show you the simple steps that are required. There will be a lunch break.

It is time to start collecting school bag supplies if you have not already done so. Here is a list of what is needed. Please do your best to stick to the list. We cannot use items not on the list.

70 sheet spiral note books (college or regular ruled)

Black or blue ball point pens (no gel pens please)

Number 10 unsharpened pencils

Small pencil sharpeners

2 1/2" erasers

Blunt end scissors

Rulers 12" with centimeter markings as well

Crayons - 24 per box



It is Quilting Bee time. The annual Quilting Bee will be on Monday, August 15th from 10am to 4pm. Come when you can and leave when you must. You do not have to sew to help. There is a need for people to press, sew, layer and tie and no experience is necessary. There will be plenty of folks to help beginners. There will even be a lunch break.



This is a great time for fellowship and service to others.

Human Concerns

CAN WE COLLECT PEANUT BUTTER, TUNA AND OTHER CANNED PROTEINS (LIKE CANNED CHICKEN) for our Food Pantries, Unity and BayView??? They are in great need of protein based items. Also, Macaroni and cheese and cereal are needed too as children are home for the summer. The folks at the BayView pantry said that the demand in June 2022 was even higher than during the height of the pandemic. The need is great.



DO YOU HAVE ANY GENTLY USED WINTER COATS? If so, please hang on to them. Bay View Community Center will be collecting coats sometime in late fall

or early winter. Please keep them at your home because SSM does not have room to store them with school bag and quilt projects this fall. Thanks!

Remember if you cannot get out to buy things for the food pantry, a donation can also be made with your offering. God bless!



SSM WELCA News

The women of SSM will have a Christmas Cookie/Candy Sale on December 10 and 11th. All proceeds will go to local and international charities. We will be asking families in the congregation to donate a batch of their favorite Christmas cookies or candies. We will be creating assortments of different cookies/candies to sell. More details to come in newsletters and bulletins this fall.



Sunday, October 8th the Greater Milwaukee Synod Women's Organization will hold a **Gathering of Women**, Registration forms are available now on the kiosk in the narthex or by calling Karen Hoffman, 414-421-9249.

Women's
Ministry

Music and Worship



The Sundays after Pentecost or the “green season” are a span of two dozen weeks from Holy Trinity to Christ the King Sunday. The color for this season is green—meaning “growth”. This time is a season of growing by using Jesus’ extensive teachings for our spiritual growth.

YOU ARE NEEDED! Volunteer opportunities abound for both one-time and regular activities. Just a few of them are listed below. If you are interested, please reach out to Denise Sanders or Pastor Brian.

Event Organizer: Are you a party planner? As we continue to return to in-person fellowship activities, we need an individual(s) who like to organize. Can you take on one upcoming event? Responsibilities include planning, recruiting and supervising volunteers, and promoting the event.

Candle Box Set-Up: Two or three people are needed to set-up the candle boxes during the week preceding All Saints Weekend (November 5-6). This does require some lifting.

Worship Team: Help our worship services run smoothly by becoming an usher, greeter, or reader.

Music Team: Want to join the choir, the handbell choir, or provide solo or small group music for worship services? All musicians are welcome!

Behind the Scenes: Who sets up communion? Who takes care of all those linens? Who changes the colorful banners and altar pieces? Who makes deci-

There are plenty of spots for up-coming weeks to provide flowers for the altar in memory or honor of a loved one or just in appreciation of the wonderful things God has done. The flower chart is on the office door or you can call or email the church office with the information.





Tim Hinkley	01	Rae Ann Smley	20
AJ Taylor	01	Joseph Ferguson	21
Joan Retzlaff	02	Braden Anderson	22
Jeremy Hanna	04	Tracy Wholean	23
Jenna Dose	05	Henry Burmeister	23
Barb Fritschel	07	Collette Haasch	23
Charles Ferguson	09	Erin Ankebrant	25
Ruth Hoppe	12	Christopher Rafalski	28
Carolyn Birk	12	Robert Soderstrom	29
Brian Stoddard	14	Mary Kling	29
Barbara Davies	16	Jay Rosiewski	29
Jim Palasz	16	Diane Flohr	30
Jordan Schultz	17	Judith Hryniewicki	30
Morgan Schultz	17		

Aluminum Cans

A Gentle Reminder



This is a reminder that empty aluminum cans are still wanted to sell to the salvage company. Bring cans to the church garage and leave outside the pedestrian door.

Crushed cans are most appreciated as more cans can be carried to sell on each car trip.

Money earned is given to local food pantries we support.

To date, \$132 has been earned from can sales this year. Thank you to all who have been supporting this ministry.

Bob Rasmussen - Can Coordinator

Youth and Family

During Rally Day on 9/11 we invite everyone to stop by the God's Work Our Hands table to help our mission of packing 70 bag lunches for the Milwaukee Street Angels. We will be decorating lunch bags and packing all the non-perishable food items on this day.

We are in need of the following items to fulfill all 70 lunches. Look for a signup in the narthex in the coming weeks.

Signups for items can also be emailed to Billie Jo Kunesh (billiejokunesh@yahoo.com).

Peanut Butter 15oz – 4 jars

Strawberry Jelly 20oz – 3 jars

Bologna Lunch Meat 16oz – 8 pkgs

American Cheese 24count – 2 pkgs

White Bread – 6 loaves

Granola Bars 12+count – 6 boxes

Fruit Cups 12count box – 6 boxes

Snack sized chip bags 18/24 variety pack (any kind) – 4 boxes

Hostess Individually wrapped snack cakes 8-10count (any kind) – 10 boxes

Water bottle Powdered Drink Mix Packets 10+count – 7 boxes

Plastic Spoons 96 count – 1 box

Brown Lunch Bags 100 count – 1 pkg

Napkins 100 count – 1 pkg

Sandwich Bags 100 count (sealed Ziploc style) – 1 box



Watch for more information in the coming months as many fun and interesting activities are in the works for kids, teens and folks of all ages.

Council Minutes July 12, 2022

President Jason Covert call the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Council members present: A. Dollar, J. Covert, K. Knipple, J. Miller, J. Muroi, S. Rosenstock, D. Sanders, E. Sanders. Pastor Brian also attended.

The minutes of the June 14 council meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections.

Financial Reports: Miller reviewed the Financial Secretary's report, noting that giving remains strong. Muroi reviewed the Treasurer's reports. The financial reports were approved.

Pastor's Time: Pastor Brian reviewed his report, noting several collaborations with area churches, as well as upcoming meetings in the synod and with youth and family volunteers

Current Action Items:

Reopening Church Council noted that while there has been some increase regionally in COVID-19 cases, current policies will remain the same. This includes a reminder to worshippers that they should worship online if they are not feeling well.

Congregational Meeting A congregational meeting to elect new council members will be held on July 31. Letters are arriving this week.

Council Retreat Council is considering dates in early to mid-October for a retreat. Members brainstormed some possible discussion topics.

August Newsletter A reminder that the newsletter deadline is July 15.

Committee Comments

Rally Day is tentatively set for September 11.

The Human Concerns committee is organizing a sewing event for the school bag project on August 10.

E. Sanders noted that he and J. Dose are in contact regarding the exploration of a new sound system for the church building.

President J. Covert adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Denise Sanders, Vice President

OFFICE HOURS

9:00-2:00 M-Th

9:00-12:00 F

SSM STAFF

Brian Hooper, Pastor

pastorbrianhooper@gmail.com

Tabatha Moldenhauer, Music Director

Mark Breutzmann, Saturday Musician

Jim Hennessy, Church Maintenance

Bonnie Zimmermann, Ministry Assistant

SSM Website: www.ssmelca.org

Email: office@ssmelca.org

Phone: 414-421-3543

WORSHIP AT SSM

SATURDAY AT 5:00 PM

SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM*

*SUNDAY SERVICE IS IN PERSON AND

STREAMED VIA ZOOM, FOR ZOOM

INFORMATION CONTACT THE CHURCH

OFFICE

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL RESUME IN

SEPTEMBER



St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

6101 S. 51st Street

Greendale WI 53129

Greendale, WI 53129

August 2022

Martyr Monthly



Welcome to St. Stephen the Martyr

Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others