

# Martyr Monthly

**September 2022**  
**St Stephen the Martyr**



**Rally Day is September 11th**

**WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

*Saturday 5:00 PM*

*Sunday 9:30 AM*

*Sunday School 9:30 AM*



## Pastor's Page

Dear SSM Faith Family

I have heard it said, "I am spiritual, but not religious." What does it mean to be a spiritual person? According to "Strength of the Journey," *Spirituality is how we are in relationship to God, to other people, to the world around us, and to ourselves. Spirituality is the process of staying engaged in these relationships, the intention we bring to them, and how willing we are to evolve as the relationship affects us.*"

Over the years I have tried many different spiritual practices, including: praying with icons, dwelling in the word, stretch and pray, and centering prayer. A centering prayer is a *"modern version of an ancient practice that invites us to place ourselves in God's presence and remain there for a period of time, patiently letting go of our own thoughts as they emerge."*

To begin a centering prayer, select a sacred phrase or image on which to focus your mind and a location that allows you to sit comfortably and quietly. Close your eyes if it feels comfortable. Sit with straight back and hands resting open in your lap. Mentally or verbally, begin to repeat your phrase or focus on your image. Start by doing this for one minute.

Running and biking have become sort of spiritual exercises for me as I feel connected to the earth, let go of my thoughts, and at times just focus on my breathing and putting one foot in front of another on a run. Not everyone is a runner, but if you are able, you might consider walking as a spiritual exercise.

Walking is a spiritual practice that *"yields so many dividends: replenishment of the soul, connection with the natural world, problem-solving, self-esteem, health and healing, and heightened attention. Movement seems to encourage dialogue, leading to richer conversations with soul mates, friends, and even strangers. Artists report that walking activates the imagination and opens up the creative process."*

With walking there are the routines of walking the dog, taking a break, walking around the block, or communing with God at the end of the day. These rituals of everyday spirituality can lift spirits and provide peace and contentment in our stressful times.

Continue to find ways that you can connect to God and each other, whether that is a spiritual exercise or something else. I am more than happy to share more about spiritual exercises with you at any time.

P.S.: If you enjoy bike riding, check out information about the *Outreach for Hope* ride.

Peace, Pastor Brian



2022 FAMILY RIDE RUN WALK  
*Together in Hope*

**Don't delay. Register today and join St. Stephen the Martyr's team at the Waukesha County event.** Feel free to participate at one of the other three sites if that's better option. Complete information for Ozaukee, Racine/Kenosha and Milwaukee sites can be found at: [OFHRRW.org](http://OFHRRW.org).

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2022**

**CORY MUNICIPAL PARK, DOUSMAN**

The Waukesha County event site features the following route options through beautiful lake country:

- A 30-mile road ride for the more experienced rider
- A 14-mile family friendly trail ride on the Glacial Drumlin Trail
- A 2-mile walk
- **NEW THIS YEAR:** A 5K run

A fellowship-only option for those who plan to attend the event, but not participate in a ride, run or walk

All of these options will begin and end at Cory Municipal Park in Dousman. Following the rides/run/walk, all participants will receive an individually packaged box lunch to enjoy outdoors with the community of Outreach for Hope supporters.

### **SCHEDULE**

**7 – 9:30 am:** Check in table is open at Cory Park Pavilion

**8:30 am:** Road ride starts (check in by 8 am)

**9:30 am:** Trail ride starts (check in by 9 am)

**10 am:** Walk and run starts (check in by 9:30am)

**11 am – 12:30 pm:** Family picnic

Not able to participate? Please consider a donation to Outreach for Hope Ride, Run, Walk either online at [OFHRRW.org](http://OFHRRW.org) or through St. Stephen the Martyr. Thank you!



# Stewardship



God, I'm Joyful And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name." -Luke 1:46-49

In a novel, *Dinner at Homesick Restaurant*, Anne Tyler tells a story about an unhappy woman name Pearl. Now blind and near the end of her life, she asks her son Ezra to read aloud the entries from her childhood diaries. He assumed she simply enjoyed reminiscing about her past. But one day...

"Early this morning," he read to his mother, "I went out behind the house to weed. Was kneeling in the dirt by the stable with my pinafore a mess and the perspiration rolling down my back, wiped my face on my sleeve, reached for the trowel, and all at once thought, Why I believe that at just this moment I am absolutely happy."

That was the end of the entry. He fell silent. "Thank you, Ezra." his mother said. "There's no need to read anymore."

Many of us can recall ecstatic times in our lives - moments of falling in love, of finding one's true vocation in life, of extraordinary prayer experiences, of tremendous success, and of feeling loved and accepted. But as the months and years go on, you experience darker times. In those times people sometimes mistakenly perceive their entire lives as dark and unhappy. When trying to remember joyful moments they dismiss them as delusional and unreal.

Saint Ignatius Loyola, advised that when in consolation one should prepare for desolation. He was not being morbid and was not advising that one spoil a joyful moment by reminding themselves that there are more troubles to come. Instead, he said this because he knew from experience that doubt and cynicism might set in all too soon. How, then, do we use joy to prepare for desolation? The most important way is to be as faithful to prayer during the joyful times of life as when we find ourselves in trouble. This may be difficult to do; I tend to turn to God more often during times of distress than during happy times. But to prepare for desolation, I should take my joy to prayer. I should praise God for it and ask God to show me ways that I might use this joy to build a culture of generosity at St. Stephen the Martyr.

Stewardship chair: Jeremy Hanna



# Quilting Bee



SSM had another successful Quilting Bee. 27 sets of hands came together to create 44 quilts that will be added to our contribution to LWR. Our hands pinned, clipped, sewed, bound and tied the quilts. A day of fellowship, lunch, laughter and prayer for our quilts was enjoyed. Betty would like to thank all who

helped out in the Quilting Bee along with all of the folks who sewed or tied at home and who met during the year to assemble our large number of quilts.



## 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.

## Loose Ends Lunch

The September Loose Ends Lunch will be held at Benny's Café 5354 S 27th St. on the 14th at noon. Contact Sally Kowalewski or the church office to let the ladies know that you will attend.

# Meru Partnership News

**Mbaaseny Education Fund** – Annually we provide funding for three students to attend a Diocese of Meru sup-



ported secondary school (boarding high school). Baraka, Victoria and Pendo are very grateful for the support they receive. They are pictured here with our former partner pastor, Pastor Mbise. Pastor Nnko now leads Mbaaseny and will be providing updates on these young scholars progress.



\$2,000 is needed to cover their tuition (for all

3). Please consider a contribution this fall to support their education. Direct contributions to Mbaaseny Education Fund.

Asante sana.



**Travel to Tanzania** – Are you interested in learning more about visiting our partners in Tanzania? There are tentative plans for a trip in the fall of 2023 led by Julie Starks. The trip would include visits to supported ministries in the Diocese of Meru including

schools, the Mt Meru Coffee project, medical centers and our partner congregations Mbaaseny, Canaan and Jericho. A journey to the Serengeti of 3-5 days will also be a part of the 2-week trip. Overall, cost will be about \$4000 to 5,000/person. An information session will be scheduled later in Oct. or Nov. If you are interested, please contact Julie, [jastarks39@gmail.com](mailto:jastarks39@gmail.com).



# Meru Partnership 25th Anniversary

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Partnership Celebration** – The Greater Milwaukee Synod and the Diocese of Meru will celebrate 25 years of partnership on September 10, 2022. The joint Zoom service will begin at 8:30 am. SSM will host a viewing space in our fellowship hall. Please join us! Contact Julie Starks, [ja-starks39@gmail.com](mailto:ja-starks39@gmail.com) for more information.



## Christian Education

There are exciting things happening this fall. **Sunday School** will resume on Rally Day with an exciting new curriculum. We welcome Billy Jo Kunesh to the position of Sunday School Superintendent. Billy Jo has wonderful plans for a great Sunday School year.



Bible studies will also be picking up again in September. The **Men's Bible Study** will begin meeting on Wednesday, September 7th at 9:30am and will continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. They will be looking at the book of Hebrews. The **Women's Bible Study** will meet September 14th at 10:15am and will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. They will start by looking at Worship: where our worship comes from and why we do what we do. Both the men's and women's studies are in person and streamed on zoom. For zoom information please contact either Kipp Zimmermann or Bonnie Zimmermann or the church office.



The **Monthly Monday Study** will resume on September 12th at 1:00pm and then will meet every month on the 1st Monday of the month. The group will be selecting new materials for September.

SUN	MON	TU	WED	TH	FRI	SAT
				1]	2]	3] 13th Weekend after Pentecost 5:00pm Worship
4] 13th Weekend after Pentecost 9:30am Worship	5] Labor Day  <b>Office Closed</b> 	6]  6:30pm Mega Meeting	7] 9:30am Men's Bible Study 5:45pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	8] 10:00am -noon Quilting-Cut & Sew	9]	10] 14th Weekend after Pentecost 8:00am Meru Partnership 25th Anniversary Celebration Joint Worship 5:00pm Worship
11] 14th Weekend after Pentecost 9:30am Worship  9:30am 1st day of Sunday School	12]  1:00pm Bible Study  	13]  6:30pm Council	14] 10:15am Women's Bible Study 12:00pm Loose Ends Lunch 5:45pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	15]	16]	17] 15th Weekend after Pentecost  5:00pm Worship 
18] 15th Weekend after Pentecost 9:30am Worship 9:30 Sunday School	19]  6:30pm Quilting-Layering	20]	21] 9:30am Men's Bible Study 5:45pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22]	23]	24] 16th Weekend after Pentecost Outreach For Hope Family Ride Run Walk 5:00pm Worship
25] 16th Weekend after Pentecost 9:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School	26]	27]	28] 10:15am Women's Bible Study 5:45pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	29]	30	



# School Bags



Shirley would like to thank all of the folks who helped on the School Bag Workday on August 10th. A lot was accomplished and it was a fun day of fellowship. Our school bag project continues. Watch for bags to be pressed and sewn throughout most of September. **Continue to collect those school supplies:**

70 page notebooks - college or regular ruled

Pens - black or blue - no gel pens please

Unsharpened pencils

Erasers 2 1/2 inch

Rulers 12 inches with centimeters

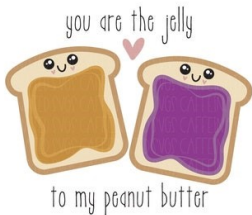
Pencil sharpeners

Crayons 24 count

Blunt end scissors



# Youth and Family



Our wonderful youth and family committee is brewing up some great outings and service projects for the Youth of SSM! On Tuesday 10/4 at 6:30 we will be discussing more

about hosting a Trunk or Treat community event and we'd love to have more helping hands on deck! Please join us if you can. You can also stop by on Rally Day on 9/11 to help the youth decorate lunch bags for their first service project of the school year. We will be decorating the lunch bags for Milwaukee Street Angels (MSA) and packing some of the nonperishable items on this day. MSA provides a hot meal every night to those in need in our Milwaukee community, they also give a bagged lunch to go. SSM youth will be making 70 lunches for this organization! We'd also love to have a few confirmation or high schoolers help run our game stations on Rally Day and for Trunk or Treat! Reach out to chairperson Alex Dollar with any questions or interest in helping this year be a great one for our youth: [alexandradollar@gmail.com](mailto:alexandradollar@gmail.com).

# Human Concerns

The food pantry needs in the Milwaukee area continue to be great. Our food pantry partners appreciate the generosity of SSM. The need is especially great for items that provide protein such as peanut butter and canned meats such as chicken or tuna. There is also a need for non-food items such as tooth paste and brushes, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap and laundry soap. These are items that one cannot buy with food assistance and are difficult to squeeze out of tight budgets.

Items can be placed in the bin in the church narthex or if preferred, cash donations can be made - just mark your contribution "food pantries".

On August 19th, Human Concerns helped with Tippecanoe's Friday bagged lunch program. We provided 20 lunches that included two meat and cheese sandwiches, fruit, chips, dessert, breakfast bar and bottled water and were handed out at Christ Church UCC. Twenty bag lunches will be provided again on September 9th. Funds for these lunches were left from the generous donations received in April for this mission. Thank you.



## Meet your new council members.



Back Row: Pastor Brian; Shelly Rosenstock, Human Concerns; Denise Sanders, Vice President & Music and Worship; Jeremy Hanna, Stewardship; Lorin Schuchardt, Fellowship; Jane Miller, Financial Secretary; Kipp Zimmermann, Council Secretary; Kristy Knipple, Evangelism; Jeff Dose, Property; Front Row: John Muron, Treasurer; Eric Sanders, Finance; Jason Covert, President; Bonnie Zimmermann, Christian Education; Alex Dollar, Youth and Family.

# Organ Recital and Dedication

## Sunday, October 9, 2022 at 4:00PM.

The congregation and community are invited to attend this performance on the newly installed Casavant Frères pipe organ.



The twenty-three rank instrument, Casavant Frères Ltée. Opus 3324, was originally installed in Norwood Park Lutheran Church in Chicago in 1976. After that parish closed in 2018, the instrument was moved to St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church in Greendale by Ericksen, Christian & Associates, Chicago area organbuilders. Significant work was done on the instrument, including a new façade, voicing changes for the new room, and updated electronic control systems.

The recitalist will be Andrew Schaeffer, Director of Music and Organist at Luther Memorial Church in Madison. A native of Chicago, Mr. Schaeffer was a member of Norwood Park Lutheran Church and spent many hours with this instrument in its original location as a beginning student organist. He holds degrees from St. Olaf College and Yale University and is a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate in organ at the University of Oklahoma. Schaeffer also



serves as the Editor-at-Large of *The Diapason*, one of the oldest and largest American journals devoted to organ, harpsichord, and church music.

Questions regarding this event may be directed to the St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church office: 414-421-3543 or [office@ssmelca.org](mailto:office@ssmelca.org).

### Volunteers Needed

Volunteers will be needed to bake cookies, serve as ushers/greeters, and staff a coffee and cookie reception following the recital. Watch for a sign-up coming soon.

# Choir and Handbells

Handbell and Choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 7. New members are always welcome!

Handbell rehearsals run from 5:45PM until 6:45PM, and Choir rehearses from 7:00PM until 8:00PM or so.



Regardless of your amount of musical experience, you are welcome to join either (or both) of these caring, fun groups at SSM.

Please contact Tabitha or the church office with any questions..



George Jacobsen	02
Lynn Manning	03
Brandon Larson	03
Caleb Dose	03
Tom Knipple	04
Darlene Waters	05
Sierra Manning	05
Joanne Hoeft	06
Alex Matusiak	08
J.P. Maschke	09
Natalie Dietrich	09
Sue DeFrank	10
Isaac Kling	10
Joshua Dietrich	10
Stephanie Julseth	12
Marion Walton	14
Sharon Behling	14

Dana Chybowski	14
Joy Kilimann	15
Lori Salas	15
Mark Malinowski	16
Danielle Ziegert	16
Henry Ferguson	16
Roxanne Farrell	17
Ron Ropel	22
Nancy Hoffman	22
Deb Perl	23
Troy Lisiecki	25
Paula Gray	27
John Bugajski	28
Joe Konop	28
Fred Mueller	29
Ezrie Fuentes	29
Jameson Miller	30





# Council Minutes Aug. 9, 2022

Present: John Muroi, Jeremy Hanna, Shelly Rosenstock, Jane Miller, Bonnie Zimmermann, Jason Covert, Kristy Knipple, Denise Sanders, Eric Sanders, Pastor Brian Hooper, Lorin Schuchardt, Alex Dollar, Jeff Dose, Kipp Zimmermann

Meeting called to order by J. Covert at 6:40pm.

Introductions of council member

Approval of July meeting minutes postponed until the next meeting.

## Financial

J. Miller reported that giving has remained constant throughout the summer. The giving is over budget attributed to remote giving through Vanco and Simply Giving.

J. Muroi reported that we are ahead of last year's to date giving. He also reported that he transferred money to the building reserve.

Approved the financial reports.



## Pastor's Time

Pastor Brian is considering a High School youth group

Krause Funeral Homes is going to present a workshop on preplanning

Three families are currently considering new membership at SSM

Pastor Brian is continuing coaching certification

Pastor Brian presented a letter of thanks from Santa Fe

Unity LC is in need of \$15,000 repair of a pipe

Outdoor worship in the garden will be held on Thursday, August 11.

## Current Items

Congregation Safety – Council determined based on CDC numbers to remain “Mask Friendly”. We will continue to post that status on the front door.

The council determined to return the Christmas Concert this year with a reception afterward.

The council approved the Organ Recital with the reception to follow.

The council approved continuation of the hybrid Sunday Worship Service as it is regularly used.

Rally Day is September 11, 2022 – there will be games, lunch, and projects.

The Sound System is still in progress of being investigated.

# Council Minutes Continued

## Council Retreat

A Council Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, October 15 from 8:30 am to 11:30 or 12:00 noon at St. Alphonso.

## Equipping the Saints

Council viewed a video presentation of the Synod. The program is an appeal to grow ministry for the community and congregation. Council will investigate how SSM may participate.



## Committee Comments

Property – there will be a fire inspection coming very soon.

J. Dose reports that the AC unit in the Kitchen has lost refrigerant. Repairs will be re-searched and made.

Council approved a proposal to repair the chimney.

Human Concerns - September 10 marks the 10-year anniversary of the partnership with the Meru Diocese. There will be a virtual celebration on that day at 8:30am. More information to follow.

Stewardship – J. Hanna is working on the beginning of Stewardship in the fall, “Creating a Culture of Generosity”.

Reformation Sunday will be Confirmation Day.

Finance – J Muroni will send a break down of each committee’s budget.

Music and Worship – Organ Recital will be held October 9, 2022 at 4:00 pm. The recital will be free and a freewill offering basket will be available, the proceeds will go to our food pantry partners.

Youth and Families – Rally Day activities to be offered to the community. Youth and Family plans are moving along utilizing the prayer garden.

Christian Ed – Sunday School will start along with the Men’s and Women’s Bible Studies and the Monday afternoon group.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Pastor Hooper led a closing prayer.

goodbye, august  
hello, september

## OFFICE HOURS

9:00-2:00 M-Th

9:00-12:00 F

## SSM STAFF

Brian Hooper, Pastor

[pastorbrianhooper@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbrianhooper@gmail.com)

Tabatha Moldenhauer, Music Director

Mark Breutzmann, Saturday Musician

Jim Hennessy, Church Maintenance

Bonnie Zimmermann, Ministry Assistant

SSM Website: [www.ssmelca.org](http://www.ssmelca.org)

Email: [office@ssmelca.org](mailto:office@ssmelca.org)

Phone: 414-421-3543

## WORSHIP AT SSM

SATURDAY AT 5:00 PM

SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM\*

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM

BEGINNING ON RALLY DAY SEPT. 11

\*SUNDAY SERVICE IS IN PERSON AND

STREAMED VIA ZOOM, FOR ZOOM

INFORMATION CONTACT THE CHURCH

OFFICE



## St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

6101 S. 51st Street

Greendale WI 53129

(414) 421-3543

**August 2022**  
**Martyr Monthly**



*Welcome to St. Stephen the Martyr*

*Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*