

Martyr Monthly

January 2023



St Stephen the Martyr

Lutheran Church ELCA

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:30 am

Sunday School 9:30 am



Pastor's Page

Dear SSM Faith Family,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you for the many ways that you share the love of the Christ child in your daily walk. As we begin a new year, some may be preparing New Year's resolutions. I personally do not create new things to add to my "to do list." I am learning that sometimes "less is more," and I need to let go of some things to cultivate more joy and

peace in my daily life.

While I do not create a new year's resolution, I do like to think of one word that I will use to frame what I will focus on in the year ahead. This is sort of like a personal mantra to keep me focused. I will be vulnerable and share what my words in the past have been: "Be Bold, Be Brave!" "Focus" "Compassion."

This year my focus word is "Gratitude." I will continue to live into an attitude of gratitude and recognize the abundance in my life along the way. I admit this will be challenging at times, as I know that there will be times of hurt and loss, grief, and situations where it might be hard to be grateful. I am grateful for each day.

What is **ONE WORD** you might use to frame what you'll focus on in 2023? Have fun with this, and let me know if I can be supportive of your journey in any way.

Peace,
Pastor Brian

EPIPHANY BLESSINGS in the new year!



Epiphany Blessings in the New Year

Born in the night, Mary's Child,
a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary's Child,
born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary's Child,
your face lights up the way;
Light of the world, Mary's Child,
dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary's Child,
you tell us God is good;
yes, it is true, Mary's child,
shown on your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary's Child,
you're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary's Child,
walk in our streets again.

- Geoffrey Ainger



Music and Worship

In January, we look toward new beginnings following the celebration of the birth of Christ just days ago. Our church colors remain white for purity and light as we remember the Magi following the star to Bethlehem

(Epiphany).

The following weekend, we will commemorate Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist.

The church colors will then change to green, a symbol of our growth in Christ, during the time after Epiphany.

We value the many contributions of all those who give of their time and talents as ushers, readers, communion assistants, musicians, and more. Thank you! As our committee looks toward the new year, we also look forward to a renewal of energy through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We will continue to seek new volunteers and will approach the congregation throughout the year, asking all members to prayerfully consider volunteering in service to the church.





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kipp Zimmermann	01	Faith Bulson	14
Jenny Koeff	01	Sara Jacobsen	20
Grant Gillespie	01	Travis Lisiecki	20
Kessia Anderson	01	Mason Zoske	21
Jay Chadwick	04	Charlene Weller	22
Mark Winter	04	Keira Revers	22
Bob Rasmussen	05	Kyle Julseth	23
Sally Chadwick	06	Bill Anderson	24
Karen Rasmussen	07	Josh Stuedemann	24
Michael Mayer	07	Debra Onsager	25
Nancy Payne	08	Stephanie Falksen	25
Travis Nehring	10	Kaelyn Bourne	25
Caryl Chmielewski	12	Sandy Petricek	26
Kyle Krause	13	Melissa Cooper	26
Charlie Billman	13	Monica Sweet	26
Hannah Billman	13	Amanda Chadwick	27
Sarah Billman	13	Leigha Anderson	27
Billy Burns	14	Jack Kalman	29



RIC Information

Greetings Faith Family,

As I shared last month, St. Stephen the Martyr (SSM) plans to pursue becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) church. This journey began the summer of 2019, when a team was assembled to learn and explore more about this initiative. The COVID-19 pandemic stopped these meetings and paused this journey for the past two years.

The RIC roster provides a list of Lutheran communities where LGBTQIA+ people can find safe, nurturing, and affirming settings in which to worship, learn and allows us to welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. A general statement of welcome is often heard as meaning “everybody but me,” so it takes a special effort to communicate an authentic welcome to LGBTQIA+ people.

I have reached out to past members of the RIC team and invite all of our members to consider joining to explore ways to build an openly inclusive, affirming, and welcoming faith community. Please contact myself or Pastor Brian if you are interested in joining the RIC team. A meeting on January 15 is planned.



This may involve difficult conversations and I encourage everyone to open their hearts to hear what God is calling us to achieve.

Jason Covert, Council President



Loose Ends Lunch

The January Loose Ends Lunch will be at the Oak Creek Diner on Wednesday the 11th at noon. Contact Sally Kowalewski to let her know you will be attending so reservations can be made.

Human Concerns

In November, the Council approved \$1,500 Thrivent Choice funds to be disbursed by the Human Concerns committee. There was also \$1,019 in undesignated donations for a total of \$2,519 to be disbursed. At the December meeting, Human Concerns chose the following ministries/organizations to receive these funds. \$500 each went to: ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Outreach for Hope, Lutheran Social Services, and Sojourners Family Peace Center. \$250 each went to the Milwaukee Diaper Mission and the Mbaaseny Education Fund.

January Food Collection Unity Lutheran Church is one of St. Stephen the Martyr's partner congregations and since the pandemic, they have been struggling to get their Soup Kitchen opened again. They hope to accomplish this early in 2023. In the meantime, Unity has been providing prepared sandwiches and canned goods on Wednesday evenings for guests to take with them. Because some of the guests are "campers" (homeless), Unity is asking for donations of canned foods that have a ring tab or pouches that can be opened without needing a can opener. Thank you.

Divine Intervention Hot Meal Divine Intervention Prayer Vigils/Warming Room has reopened after being closed during the pandemic. DI is a ministry of Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church in Bay View that is open every night from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m., December 1st through March 31st. They accommodate 20 guests per night and provide them with a hot meal, fellowship, laundry facility, and a warm place to sleep. Human Concerns will provide the hot meal on Friday, January 19th. Please watch for more information on how **YOU** can help.



Bay View Community Center The Christmas Gift Program was a great success. Gifts were provided for 20 children and 10 seniors by SSM and in total gifts were provided for over 200 children and 30 seniors. The food drive done in conjunction with the Youth and Family committee collected a total of 555 pounds of food and other items. This was greatly appreciated.

The generosity of the members of St. Stephen the Martyr continues to be a blessing to so many neighbors who are less fortunate. Thank you!

Christian Education

Bible Studies continue to meet, the Men's Study on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:30am and the Women's Study on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 10:15am. You are welcome to join either in person or on zoom, for zoom information contact the church office or Kipp Zimmermann or Bonnie Zimmermann. The monthly Bible Study continues their look at Growing Older & Wiser on the 1st Monday of each month at 1:00pm.

Sunday School continues to gather for worship on Sunday mornings and splitting off into their grade level classes after the children's message. Thank you to the Sunday School teachers and Pastor for taking turns delivering the children's message in the service.

The Confirmation class went to the Elizabeth Residence to sing Christmas Carols on December 11th after service and individual class members have been helping out with projects to complete their service hours. They continue to meet with Pastor twice a month after Sunday morning worship.

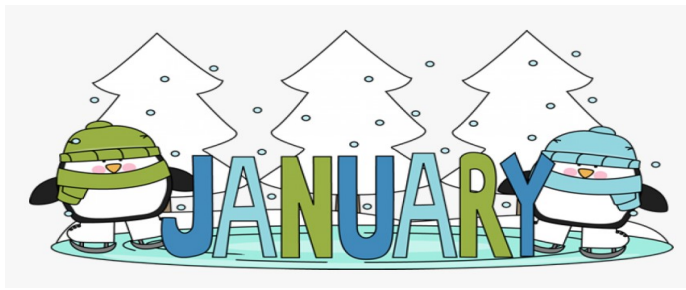


Looking forward to the rest of the year, watch for this summer's Vacation Bible School information later in the spring.

Christmas Offering Envelopes



Don't forget to use your special Christmas Envelope. The Human Concerns portion of the funds received in this special envelope will be divided between Unity, Faith Santa Fe and ELCA Good Gifts. If you don't usually use your envelopes any special offerings marked "Christmas" will be added to this total. Thank you for supporting the Human Concerns causes with your special envelopes.



2023

Sunday, 1st New Year's Day	9:30am	Service of Lessons and Carols
Monday, 2nd	1:00pm	Monthly Bible Study
Wednesday, 4th	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, 7th	5:00pm	Epiphany/Baptism of Our Lord - Worship
Sunday, 8th	9:30am	Epiphany/Baptism of Our Lord - Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Confirmation Class
Tuesday, 10th	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 11th	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	12 noon	Loose Ends Lunch
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, 14th	5:00pm	2nd Weekend in Epiphany - Worship
Sunday, 15th	9:30am	2nd Weekend in Epiphany - Worship
		Sunday School

Wednesday, 18th	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Choir
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, 21st	5:00pm	3rd Weekend in Epiphany - Worship
Sunday, 22nd	9:30am	3rd Weekend in Epiphany - Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Confirmation Class
		Budget Review Meeting
Wednesday, 25th	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, 28th	5:00pm	4th Weekend in Epiphany - Worship
Sunday, 29th	9:30am	4th Sunday in Epiphany - Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Annual Congregational Meeting

Important 2023 Envelope Information

There has been a production delay with our church offering envelopes. Even though we usually have them available by now, they are not yet available for 2023. It was decided that the envelope numbers will not change for 2023, so you can use any envelope. Just put your name, the date and envelope number on the outside and you will get credit. If you have unused 2022 envelopes you can use them in 2023, you may want to change the date on the front. Thank you for your patience. We will get the 2023 envelopes out as soon as we can.



December Pictures



Julane Sebastian is retired and likes to do crafts, entertain and read. She enjoys Bible Class and is thankful to be welcomed into the SSM family.

Joan and Pat Schroeder moved to Franklin to be closer to family and you may have seen us with the littles in church. Joan was married to an ELCA pastor and together they served at several churches throughout Wisconsin. Pat currently works in insurance. They are revisiting the wonders of the Milwaukee area and are happy to have met many people during the SSM coffee hour.



Todd Massey, Angela Grobden and

Carol is retired from Delphi and is a loyal Packer owner, Brewer, Bucks and Badger fan. She enjoys spending time with her family, especially all the little ones, and her dog. She thinks giving to those less fortunate is important and joining SSM gives her the opportunity to help others in the community.



Meet Our New Members



Keri is the Assistant Director of the Franklin Public Library. She enjoys cooking, crafting, enjoying the outdoors and reading in her free time. Penny is a 4th grader at MacDowell Montessori school where they enjoy being involved in Art Club, Book Club, soccer and dance. Vivian is a 2nd grader at MacDowell and she loves taking classes at First Stage, playing with her big sister and doing arts and crafts.





Gifts for 20 children and 10 seniors all packed up and ready to be picked up by folks from the Bay View Community Center. They are always appreciative of the help from SSM.



The SSM Women of the ELCA group raised funds for several worthy causes with cookie donations of home made cookies from generous SSM members, which were then purchased by other (and some of the same) generous SSM members.



Zirwes Education Scholarship Application 2023

Unity Lutheran Church Endowment is offering a Zirwes Educational Scholarship opportunity for those who are members of the Unity community and partnerships. Applicants must be confirmed and at least 14 years of age or older. The scholarship will be directly applied towards education. Applicants are asked to provide detailed evidence on how they owned and/or participated in actions related to Unity's mission of Discipleship and Servant Leadership through its guiding principles to serve our commUNITY over the past year (June 2022- January 2023) to be considered. Email the application and any additional documents or references to:

endowment@unitymilwaukee.org

Entries must be received no later than January 29, 2023 to be considered.

Email Address:

Name of Applicant:

Phone Number:

Date of Birth:

Confirmed: Yes or No



Please share and provide evidence in reference to the following mission topics of **See, Do, and Invite**:

See: Where have you seen Jesus in this last year and how has it had an effect on your life?

Do: What have you personally done to help and participate in our commUNITY to serve others? How have you lived your faith on a daily basis? Please provide detail as to the events and actions taken and what you took away from the experience. (During June 2022-January 2020)

Invite: when have you given witness to your faith in Jesus and have invited others to join or participate in learning more about Jesus and serving our commUNITY. Please provide specific example(s).

Which Unity Partnership Community do you belong to?

Unity Lutheran Church

St. Stephen's the Martyr

All applicants will receive a confirmation that their application was received within 48 hours. If a confirmation is not received, we request that the applicant contact Unity's Endowment Board immediately as late submissions will not be considered.

Meru Partnership News

Greetings from our Partner Mbaaseny and Pastor Nnko

On Dec. 1, 2022 I received Advent greetings from Pastor Nnko via WhatsApp as well as many photos of the sub-parish buildings at Jericho (recently completed) and Canaan (expanding!).

Pastor Nnko wrote *“I greet you in the name of God of Jacob! We have started the Advent season safely. We have had autumn rains although the bananas and coffee have dried up. We are planting anew! We are doing well. We have strengthened our choirs and mid-week prayers. In order to encourage young people we have started a trumpet class. We have almost eight trumpets. We thank our God because the pig project is going well. We hope they will start giving birth in the second month of 2023.*

We thank Him very much for the support of SSM, be blessed and more ...I wish you Christmas preparations, we have started to grow flowers, Christmas songs, choirs meet three times a week.”

We continue to support 3 students from Mbaaseny and these 2 sub-parishes with secondary school tuition fees. This support provides not only schooling but boarding and meals. With the continuing drought conditions, food expenses continue to be a challenge for all. While some rain has arrived, new seed and more rain is needed for crops to provide food for so many. Your support for our partner is appreciated. Please indicate the area of support with any gifts shared. Our next wire transfer will be sent in early January. For more information on this partnership, please contact Julie Starks, ja-starks39@gmail.com Asante sana!



Jericho parish completed building and interior altar area.



Canaan Parish building expansion.

Council Minutes December 13, 2022

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

Called to order at 6:38 pm

Minutes were approved as corrected.

Financial Reports – giving has been ahead of expectations. And the balance sheet reflects that we continue to be in good shape. The benevolence giving to Synod and the outside organization combined is at about 15.5% of our income – Financial Reports were approved.

Pastor's Time – There had been several funerals and new members who joined in the month. – We had seen several people return who had been missing for some time. – SSM will be hosting our Conference Meeting on January 19. – Unity scholarships can be applied for in January.Current Action

In the current Covid 19 status we will continue to function at our current level of prevention, MASKS ARE WELCOME. We will continue to practice of no handshaking at the peace of the Lord.

The Annual meeting will be January 29.

RIC – Jason Covert has been polling former members involved on the RIC Committee and reports that 2/3 seem willing to return to the committee. Council is seeking to reconvene the committee.

Equipping the Saints – The program will run from February 26 through March 26. It will be presented to the congregation and individuals will have the opportunity to make pledges to the Synod.

Sound system – 3 bids have been received. The plan is to seek approval at the Annual Meeting.

Envelopes – Since our envelopes have not yet arrived for next year Bonnie and Jane Miller propose that we ask people to continue to use the extra envelopes in their current box. Their number will remain the same for next year. People can also use a regular envelope and put their number on it.

Newsletter deadline is December 15.



Council Minutes December 13, 2022, Con't.

Committee Comments

Stewardship – 55 pledges received and 27 of them raised their giving level.

Youth and Family – The concert reception will include activities for kids.

The potluck is on hold but in the works, and they are looking toward the Easter Breakfast.

Fellowship – Easter Breakfast is being looked at. Committee is looking for ways members can tell their stories.

Music and Worship – The poinsettias will be in place for the Christmas Concert. December 31 and January 1 will be services of Lessons and Carols.

Education – Men's and Women's Bible continues to meet. The Monday monthly Bible study has drawn a few new members.

Human Concerns – The Christmas gifts for Bay View have been picked up and their team conveyed their gratitude for SSM's continued support of their mission. The January food drive will ask for canned food that has the pull tops for those who are homeless and have difficulty getting can openers.

Property – Since the leak in the sprinkler system pipe there have been no problems. After the holidays we will resume consideration of what needs to be done next.

Meeting adjourned 8:28pm and Pastor closed with prayers

Respectfully submitted, Kipp W. Zimmermann, Secretary



Mobile Numbers Needed

It is 2023 -and we have decided that it is about time we utilize our ability to text members with important notifications. In order to do that we need to have as many cell phone numbers as possible. If you would like to be part of this communication chain, and your phone can receive text messages please get your cell phone number to Bonnie in the office. You can leave a note in the office mail box, email the information or call it in. It is possible that we have your cell number but do not know that it is your cell and not a land line. Thanks for your help with this.

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

Sunday School email:

sundayschool@ssmelca.org

WORSHIP AT SSM

SATURDAY AT 5:00 PM

SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM*

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM

**SUNDAY SERVICES ARE 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**



JANUARY 2023



Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others