

Martyr Monthly



St Stephen the Martyr

Lutheran Church ELCA

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:30 am

Sunday School 9:30 am

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd

Services with imposition of ashes at 11:00am and 7:00pm



Pastor's Page

Dear Friends,

One of the cool things I get to do as pastor is meet with local churches/pastors. In our area we have a group called "Green Corners." This group is comprised of churches from Greendale, Greenfield, Hales Corners, and one Catholic church from Milwaukee. The pastors meet monthly for collegiality, support and to plan and organize together. One of the wonderful events that is planned is the Good Friday ecumenical service.

It is great that our local faith partners can work and serve together in partnership. I share all this as it was recently the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, held each year between January 18-25. These days, cooperation between denominations and acceptance of other churches is rather common in many traditions. Many couples I know involve one partner that is or was Roman Catholic, and another that is Lutheran or some other Protestant variety.

Currently, inter-religious dialogue seems to be more cutting edge than ecumenical initiatives. Still, it is good for us to learn about the practices of other Christian denominations. I am grateful for our partnerships with Unity Lutheran and Faith/Santa Fe, and other churches, including Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church supporting the mission of Divine Intervention, which provides meals for the homeless. There is strength in unity.

We can experience unity even while embracing diversity in worship practices or beliefs. As you share conversation with others, be curious about their spiritual heritage or practices. If they are part of a church, synagogue, or mosque, ask them what they appreciate most about it. If they consider themselves spiritual but not religious, inquire what that means to them. If they have been hurt by religion, listen with compassion and empathy.

As we pray for Christian unity, we yearn for a stronger witness to the grace that we experience at the heart of our Lutheran faith (but certainly embraced by others). After all, what we share with everyone is being human. In a time that is filled with bitter political divisions, maybe we need a week of prayer for our common humanity, and greater understanding and unity among the vast diversity and differences in our local community and in our country.

Peace, Pastor Brian

Music and Worship

Most of the month of February is the season of Epiphany. Epiphany is a Greek word for appearing or revealing. Epiphany is the season of light when Christ's light of hope is revealed.

On February 22, we will commemorate Ash Wednesday with two services at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., both with Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes. The following five Wednesdays will bring evening Lenten services.



Have you seen...? A few items seem to have been misplaced. Our committee is missing a few decorative silver trays (the size of a dinner plate and smaller). Additionally, after All Saints, two small, plastic tubs of candles were left on a table in the fellowship hall. If you know what happened to any of these items, please reach out to a member of the committee. Thank you.

SSM Women

Thank you to all who provided cookies and candy to the SSM WELCA Christmas Cookie and Candy Sale. Thank you to all who supported the sale by purchasing cookies. We have already discussed how to make the effort bigger and better for next year, so start thinking now about your favorite recipe.

The sale raised \$834. When added to some other funds that were on hand, it was decided to make the following distributions:

Local Distribution:

Music and Worship (possible eternal candle modifications) \$225

Courage House MKE (provides services and housing to homeless LGBTQA+ youth) . . \$225

World Wide Distribution:

Pastor Hartmut Barsnick \$100

World Central Kitchen \$200

Lutheran Disaster Response \$200



Happy Birthday

<i>Katherine Stockland</i>	<i>01</i>	<i>Tracy Covert</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Carol Jackett</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>Greg Lentz</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Dawn Agee</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>Isabelle Barry</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Tasha Kopplin</i>	<i>03</i>	<i>Nancy Mineau</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Joan Sontvedt</i>	<i>04</i>	<i>Rebecca Kreiter</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Julie Herman</i>	<i>04</i>	<i>Madeline Miller</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Nicole Tanke</i>	<i>04</i>	<i>Sandy Wesolowski</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Doug Winter</i>	<i>05</i>	<i>Bob Lieske</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Carol Manning</i>	<i>06</i>	<i>Mary Ann Jacobsen</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Norah Hooper</i>	<i>06</i>	<i>Hannah Lentz</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Laura Dose</i>	<i>07</i>	<i>Jeffrey Schultz</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Julia Mayer</i>	<i>07</i>	<i>Kaitlyn Burns</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Tessa Hryniewicki</i>	<i>08</i>	<i>Cassie Winter</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Alden Julseth</i>	<i>09</i>	<i>And a special note to</i>	
<i>Romario Ortega</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Pam Maschke whose</i>	
<i>Andi Matusiak</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Birthday is February 29th</i>	



Equipping the Saints

The Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA has a bold plan to renew our life together in mission. The Equipping the Saints Mission Appeal is a campaign that seeks to raise \$2.3 million to support Innovation, Collaboration, and Leadership across the synod.

Funds will support innovative ministry ideas, like the TACOS youth outreach program. Reaching out to all Teens Around the Community of Sussex (TACOS) the program provides a safe place to be in community and fellowship and share love and compassion for others.

The Leadership initiative will include support for a new assistant to the bishop for authentic diversity and leadership as well as a long-term funding strategy for Lutheran Campus Ministries.

*“Equipping the saints for the work of ministry;
Building up the Body of Christ”*

Ephesians 4:12

You will have the opportunity to learn more about the Equipping the Saints campaign in February and March. For more information, including videos and stories of impact, go to <https://www.equippingthesaintsgms.org/>. Questions within the SSM congregation can be directed to the campaign team: Denise Sanders, Pat Schroeder, and Pat Burns.



Loose Ends Lunch



The Loose Ends Lunch Ladies will meet on Wednesday, February 8th at noon at Erv's Mug, located at 130 W. Ryan Road in Oak Creek. Please contact Mary Luedtke to let her know that you are coming so that the right number of reservations can be made.

Human Concerns



Community Center. Thank you for supporting these important ministries.

Thank you for donating food items to Divine Intervention's hot meal on January 27th. Human Concerns will be providing another hot meal at Divine Intervention on **Friday, March 10th**. More information to follow.

Thank you to all who donated food in January for **Unity Lutheran Church's Food Pantry**. The donations of both food and non-food items collected in February will be directed to **Bay View**



From the RIC Team

SSM RIC Team Planning Update:

SSM re-engaged our Reconciling in Christ team with a meeting on Jan. 15, 2023 (after a pandemic induced pause). Participants included, Council President Jason Covert, Pastor Brian Hooper, Keri Whitmore, Kristy Knipple, Lorin Schuchardt, Jenny Resterhouse, Debbie Barth, Mason Resterhouse, Jonah Miller, Bob DeFrank, Andrea Woerpel, Nancy Mineau and Julie Starks. A common theme shared by individuals for participating in this group is to extend SSM's already warm welcome to all of those who enter our building for a more visible welcome to all who consider entering our

space. We will be sharing more information about the Reconciling in Christ process and what it means for our congregation soon! Please check out the Reconciling Works website, Facebook page or Twitter feed to learn more.

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Christian Education

What better way to spend the cold winter month than with your fellow seekers and learners at St. Stephen the Martyr. Adults are welcome to join in on the Women's Bible Study to look at the letters in the New Testament not written by Paul or the Men's Bible Study who are looking at the Old Testament Prophet, Micah. The women meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 10:15am and the men meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:30am. Both studies are in person and streamed on zoom. For zoom information contact either Bonnie Zimmermann, Kipp Zimmermann or the church office.



The Monthly Group meets on the 1st Monday of each month around the fire place to discuss “Growing Older and Wiser” utilizing scripture as a guide.



Kids can learn more about the lessons read in church each Sunday by joining their adults for the beginning of Sunday worship at 9:30am, then going to their grade level classes after the Children's Message.

Confirmation youth continue to meet with Pastor twice a month prepare for this stepping stone in their Christian life.

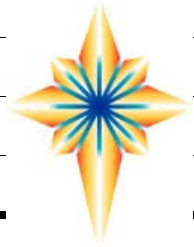
Watch this space for information about Vacation Bible School soon. A great summer activity to look forward to during the dead of winter.

February 2203

Wednesday, 1st	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal

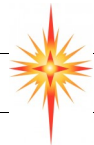
Fifth Weekend after Epiphany



Saturday, 4th	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 5th	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Confirmation Class
		Coffee Hour
Monday, 6th	1:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, 7th	6:30pm	Mega Meeting
Wednesday, 8th	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	12 Noon	Loose Ends Luncheon
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal



Sixth Weekend after Epiphany

Saturday, 11th	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 12th	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Summer Youth Trip Meeting



Tuesday, 14 th	6:30pm	Council Meeting		
Wednesday, 15 th	9:30am	Men’s Bible Study		
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal		
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal		
Transfiguration				
Saturday, 18 th	5:00pm	Worship		
Sunday, 19 th	9:30am	Worship		
		Sunday School		
	10:45am	Confirmation Class		
		Coffee Hour		
Wednesday, 22 nd	9:30am	Women’s Bible Study		
	11:00am	Worship		
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal		
	7:00pm	Worship		
	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal		
First Weekend in Lent				
Saturday, 25 th	5:00pm	Worship		
Sunday, 26 th	9:30am	Worship		
		Sunday School		
February is Black History Month				
2 nd Groundhog Day	14 th Valentines Day	20 th Presidents Day		
8 th National Pizza Day	17 th Random Acts of Kindness Day	21 st National Pancake Day		

Aluminum Can Report

For the year 2022, a total of 263 lbs. of "scrap" cans were sold at the West Allis Salvage yard. This earned \$190 for the year, and this sum was given to the local food pantries our church supports.



We are grateful to the many people in our SSM family who contributed bags of cans this year. Continue to save them in your homes until we begin in April of 2023.

Thank you! Bob and Karen Rasmussen - Coordinators

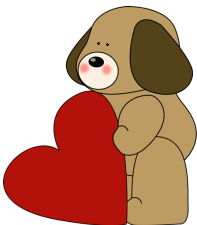
Thrivent Choice Information



A big thank you to those of you who forwarded your Choice Dollars during the year. Recently, the Council designated \$1500 of Choice money to be distributed by Human Concerns to various agencies, to do good in the community. This was possible because of YOU.

Please be reminded that it is not necessary to wait for the end of the calendar year to donate your Choice Dollars to SSM. If you forgot to forward your Choice Dollars from 2022, this can still be done until March of 2023.

Summer Youth Trip



A Summer Youth Trip is being considered for grades 6-12. If you are interested in attending or would like more information there will be a gathering after worship on Sunday, February 12th to discuss it.





Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP ON THE HORIZON

The fellowship committee will be starting a “What's Happening in Our Congregation Community” post. This will include a monthly post in the SSM newsletter and a church bulletin board. This could include such things as a member’s bio, their community involvement, good deeds, accomplishments, happy stories or concerns. Even recipes or news about good report cards could be stories. The possibilities are endless. I will just need people to reach out to me with information and ideas. Not to worry I will be happy to do the write up. As Pastor Brian would say all ideas are welcome!

Potential things on the horizon include:

- * Easter Breakfast
- * Restaurant fundraiser to support the Easter breakfast
- * Easter egg hunt

If you enjoy working with a great group of people, planning fun events, helping others and having a great time with a minimum commitment, reach out to join the fellowship committee or one of the other SSM committees. There are no long-term contracts or mandatory meetings.

The more the merrier and all are welcome.

Lorin Schuchardt

Fellowship Committee

SSM in Pictures

Children's Message, January 8th



Guest Handbell Choir
Director Charlotte assisted
Tabitha on January 11th

2006



Tanzania Travel Update



A small group of SSM members and friends will travel to our partners in Tanzania in late September (depart on Sept. 26 or 27) for a 2 week visit. The trip includes a 4 day safari to Tarangire National Park and to the Ngorongoro Crater; visits with our partner congrega-

tions Mbaaseny (pictured here), Canaan and Jericho; and visits to coffee farms, Diocese of Meru supported medical clinics and schools. Airfare will be purchased soon and deposits made for safari reservations. Please keep our travel group in prayer as we prepare for this trip. For more information please contact Julie Starks, jastarks39@gmail.com



Council Minutes, January 10, 2023

Present: D Sanders; Pastor Hooper; J Muroi; E Sanders; B Zimmermann; J Covert; J Miller; S Rosenstock; L Schuchardt; K Knipple; A Dollar; K Zimmermann; J Dose.

Meeting Called to order at 6:35pm by Jason Covert
Devotion lead by Lorin Schuchardt
Minutes approved as corrected.

Financial Report

J. Miller reported that the regular giving has maintained better than expected levels. The Building Fund giving is below expected rates of giving, it is in good shape.

J. Muroi reported that the congregation is in a good position. We created reserved funds for the organ, the sound system, and capital reserves. There is a planned audit for January 14, 2023 prior to the annual meeting.

Financial Reports were approved.

Pastor's Time

Christmas Services went well

Continuing the coaching ministry

Sunday Services average 20 Zoom logins per service

SSM will host the regional Conference Meeting January 19, 2023

We are in preparation for Lenten Services

Current Action

Health and wellness action continues as people have been self-regulating wearing masks as needed and staying home when they don't feel well.

The Executive Council presented a Budget. A deficit will be presented for the congregation to consider. An increase in salaries and benevolence is proposed. Pastor's salary shows a higher increase attributed to the need to cover the entire insurance.

The Budget was approved for presentation to the congregation.

Council Minutes, Jan. 10, 2023 – Cont.

The congregation budget meeting is set for January 22, 2023 and the Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2023. Light food will be provided at the meeting.

Newsletter deadline is January 15.

Old Action

Sound System – We are awaiting a 3rd bid.

Committee Comments

Christian Ed – Men’s Bible Study will pick up the Prophet Micah while the Women’s groups is beginning the “Universal Epistles”. The Monday group is continuing. Sunday School is going well. Plans for VBS are in progress.

Property – Jeff Dose reported that the sprinkler system will be flushed next month. All else is on hold.

Music and Worship – Decorations are down. Ash Wednesday services will be at 11:00am and 7:00pm.

Human Concerns – January 27 the a hot meal for Divine Intervention, a ministry of Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church is planned. This month Unity receives our food drive efforts.

Youth and Family – Teens would like to team up with Elizabeth Residence. A Saturday Potluck is in the plans.

Evangelism – no updates.

Fellowship – Easter Breakfast is still in discussion in conjunction with Youth and Family.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kipp W. Zimmermann, Secretary



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**

**ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND
SERVICES AT 11:00AM AND 7:00PM**

St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

**6101 S. 51st Street
Greendale WI 53129
(414) 421-3543**

February 2023



Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others