

Martyr Monthly

March 2023



St Stephen the Martyr
Lutheran Church ELCA
WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 9:30 am
Sunday School 9:30 am



Lenten Worship
Holden Evening Prayer
Wednesdays 6:30pm





Pastor's Page



Dear SSM Faith Community,

As we turn the calendar to March, we continue our journey through the church season of Lent, (No, not the stuff in your belly-button, that's "lint"). Historically, Lent was a time when new Christians prepared themselves for baptism on Easter Sunday.

Today, Lent more often is a time when Christians prepare themselves for Easter and are invited to deeper faith, stronger community, and a closer connection to God. This preparation happens through an emphasis on a few basic faith practices: worship, prayer, generosity, self-denial, and service to others.

The word 'Lent' comes from the old English word for 'spring'. Lent is not a time for feeling gloomy or miserable for forty days; it's not even about giving things up for forty days. Lent is springtime and prepares us for that great celebration of spring which is Easter.

During Lent we invite you to take part in Wednesday worship at 6:30pm with the smooth melodies of *Holden Evening Prayer*. I look forward to our Lenten journey together.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Brian

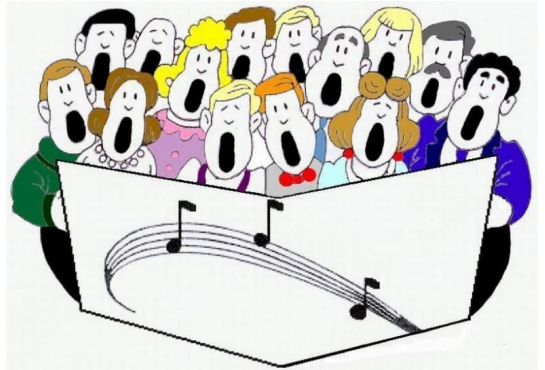


Lent



Music and Worship

Did you sing in your high school or college choir? Do you love to sing? The choir is need of additional members; all voices are welcome! Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. (about an hour) and Sundays at 9:00 a.m. The choir sings in most Sunday services September through May. For more information, talk to Tabitha Moldenhauer or come to a rehearsal.



Lent is a season of 40 days set aside to reflect and remember, but also to look forward. Join us on all March Wednesdays for mid-week Lenten services with the Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m. These 30-40 minute evening prayer services give us a chance to look back on the events of the day with gratitude and confession. We thank God for his abundant goodness, and we ask forgiveness for our sins of that day. It is also an opportunity to look ahead to the nighttime and ask God to protect us through the night. These services will be available online using the same worship link as Sunday mornings.



News from Meru



Comfort Dolls for Meru

Our delegation traveling to Meru this fall will be taking as many of these knitted/crocheted comfort dolls as are made! Click the links below for online directions or look for printed directions at SSM. I have been told these are a great way to use up yarn! Thank-you in advance for any you can make!



Julie Starks jastarks39@gmail.com <http://>

comfortdollproject.com/doll-patterns/

The Hunger Appeal Continues



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.

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.



Christian Education



Bible studies continue into the spring. The Men's Bible Study is looking at Micah and the Women's Bible Study is looking at the epistles not attributed to Paul. Discussions are lively and the conversation is great. The same is true of the Monday Monthly Group. Join one of these groups, they meet:

Men's Group - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 9:30am

Women's Group - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 10:15am

Monday Monthly Group - 1st Monday at 1:00pm

For Zoom information for either the Men's or Women's group contact the church office.

Sunday School is going strong. Sunday School begins in church on Sunday mornings and after the Children's Message the students go off to their grade level classes. The Sunday School staff and Pastor rotate giving the Children's Messages. It is fantastic to hear from so many people.

Confirmation is planning a retreat this spring and these young people continue to prepare for their Affirmation of Baptism.

Vacation Bible School is in the planning stages. Look for this exciting event this sum-

Sunday School is Cool



Loose Ends Lunch



The March Loose Ends Lunch will be held on Wednesday, March 8th at noon at Red Lobster on 76th Street. This month's lunch is hosted by Karen Hoffman. Please let Karen know if you are planning to attend. Call her at 414-432-9249. Even though this lunch follows the Women's Bible Study you do not have to attend Bible Study to come to lunch.

Just let know and show up at Red Lobster.



Human Concerns

Divine Intervention (warming room at Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church for homeless): We are providing a hot dinner on **Friday, March 10th**. The meal serves up to 15 persons. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. You may provide an item for the meal or the breakfast the following day. We ask that all items be delivered to SSM by 12 noon on March 10th. Feel free to contact Shelly Rosenstock if you have any questions. Thank you.

The **Special Offering envelopes** for 2023 have been designated to the ministries listed below. The offerings are usually split with 60% to the designated ministry and 40% to SSM. In February, the executive committee generously agreed to send 100% of the Ash Wednesday offerings to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response to assist following the devastating earthquakes in Turkey, Syria and surrounding countries. Thank you for your support.

Ash Wednesday:	ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response for Middle East Crisis (Earthquake)
Lent:	Outreach for Hope
Palm Sunday:	Lutheran Social Services Refugee Fund
Maundy Thursday:	ELCA World Hunger
Good Friday:	Bread of Healing Clinic
Easter:	Mbaaseny Parish
Thanksgiving:	Hunger Task Force
Christmas (1/3 ea.):	Sunday School Animal Project Faith Santa Fe Lutheran Church Unity Lutheran Church



Food Pantries: Collection of all non-perishable foods and toiletries is ongoing, with special focus on high protein items (such as peanut butter, canned meat, mac and cheese). We currently support two community locations. **Bay View Community Center food pantry** serves four zip codes with many low-income families. **Unity Food Pantry** serves local neighbors and ‘campers’ (homeless).

Government subsidies that provided increased financial help during the pandemic for lower income individuals and families have come to an end. This greatly increases the need for people to rely on local sources for food. Please continue supporting this vital mission. Thank you!

Meru Coffee



The Mt. Meru Coffee Project is part of the Partnership between the Greater Milwaukee Synod and the Diocese of Meru in northern Tanzania. *We are living the Gospel by building economic justice and respect together with Mt. Meru coffee farmers.*

- Meet Mt Meru Coffee Farmer Sara Palangyo - Sara joined the Women Farmers Initiative organized at the Makumira Processing Center of the Mt. Meru Specialty Coffee Growers Association. Her farm con-

sists of only one acre at 4,460 ft. elevation up Mt. Meru. Providing for her six children and grandchildren is driving Sara's hard work on the coffee farm, and she is relying on better providing for her family through her fair-trade proceeds, higher than the market rate. The training provided by the Project and Association prepared her, she believes, for better crops and a better life for her and her family. Support Sara and all our Mt Meru Coffee Farmers by purchasing through Shelly Rosenstock or ordering online at mtmerucoffee.org

If you drink Mt. Meru coffee, we would love to hear from you!



Scan
QR code
or
visit url



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mmcptest>



Wednesday, 1st	9:30am	Men's Bible Study	
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	6:30pm	Lenten Worship - Holden Evening Prayer	
	7:15pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Thursday, 2nd	1:00pm	Quilting - Cut & Sew	
Second Weekend in Lent			
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	Bible Study	
	12 noon	Loose Ends Lunch	
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	6:30pm	Lenten Worship- Holden Evening Prayer	
	7:15pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Third Weekend in Lent			
Saturday, 11th	5:00pm	Worship	
Sunday, 12th	9:30am	Worship	
	9:30am	Sunday School	

Tuesday, 14th	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 15th	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:30pm	Lenten Worship - Holden Evening Prayer
	7:15pm	Choir Rehearsal



Fourth Weekend in Lent

Saturday, 18th	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 19th	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Confirmation Class
		Coffee Hour



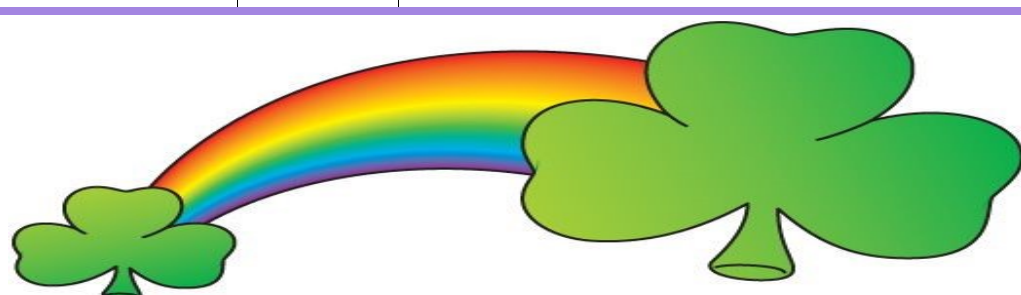
Monday, 20th	1:00pm	Quilting - Layering
Wednesday, 22nd	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:30pm	Lenten Worship - Holden Evening Prayer
	7:15pm	Choir Rehearsal



Friday, 24th	Confirmation Retreat Begins	
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Fifth Weekend in Lent

Saturday, 25th	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 26th	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School





Adam Mildren	02
Joan Schroeder	03
Pat Schroeder	03
Shirley Lieske	07
Orlando Dean	10
Marc Manning	13
Jennifer Myszkowski	15

Amy Ziegert	18
El Schneider	19
Sally Kowalewski	19
Phoebe Mildren	20
Delaney Stuedemann	21
Nichol Manning	22
Annika Tanke	26
Hannah Tanke	27
Betty Kroll	28
Pamela Rothwell	28
Michael Wholean	29
Eleanor Salb	30
Rae Bauman	30
Sherry Wagner	30
Alexis Jajtner	30



Thrivent Choice Dollars



Thank you to all of you who forwarded your Choice Dollars to SSM during the year 2022. Be reminded that if you have forgotten to deal with your 2022 Choice Dollars you can still do that until the end of March. You also can donate your Choice Dollars during this year as you earn them. Check every few months to see if you have some, and then direct them to do good.

Easter Breakfast Fund Raiser



Mark your Calendars - What are you doing for dinner on Tuesday March 7th? Get out of the house and join us at Billy Sims Barbeque located at 7358 West Rawson Avenue in Franklin. Dine in, carry out or use the drive through. Ten percent (10%) of all sales for the entire day (11 a.m. - 8 p.m.) will be donated to SSM. Spread the word, Invite your neighbors, relatives, co-workers, friends and enemies, All are welcome.



Besides great sandwiches I have it on expert authority that they have some of the best macaroni and cheese in the area. Try it and find out for yourself. Proceeds will be used towards the 2023 Easter breakfast. Hope to see you there.

The fellowship committee.



From the RIC Team

SSM's Reconciling in Christ team held a meeting on February 26, 2023. The focus was to review the Reconciling Works website on how to become an RIC Partner and the public commitments this involves. Please join us if you are interested in learning more! Monthly meetings are being held; please watch the weekly bulletins and announcements for the next meeting.

The RIC Team will be planning an information session to share more information about the Reconciling in Christ process and what it means for our congregation! Please check out the Reconciling Works website, Facebook page or Twitter feed to learn more. <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



SSM in Pictures



Piecemakers

Cut & Sew

Feb. 2nd



Sunday School - Good Gifts

In February the Sunday School Students and Teachers met with Mr. De-Frank to decide how to spend the \$500 allotted to them to distribute. They chose to send these funds to ELCA Good Gifts and purchased the following items:

Chicks

Rooster

Goat

Piglet

Share of a fish farm

Honey bees

Water filter

School fees and uniform for a girl

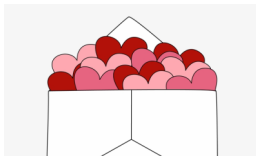
Seeds and gardening tools

Mosquito nets for a family

Clinic visit for a child



They also sent out hand made Valentine Cards to those in our congregation who are young at heart.



Thank you Sunday School.



Council Minutes, February 14, 2023

Present: J Covert; D Sanders; E Sanders; A Dollar; S Rosenstock; B Zimmermann; K Zimmermann; Pastor B Hooper; K Knipple; J Dose

Meeting Called to order at 6:30pm by Jason Covert

Community Mapping led by Pastor Hooper

January Minutes approved as corrected.



Financial Report

J Miller's written report shows some fluctuation in giving in this first of the year, nevertheless the congregation is moving forward.

J. Muroi's written report showed that we received more than we spent in this first month.

Financial reports were approved.

Pastor's Time

Another delivery of Narcan was received from the Greendale Health Dept. Four kids are signed up for Lutherdale Bible Camp, subsidy will be available as needed.

A possible youth outing is in planning for this summer (July). There will be a Synod Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2024.

A request to provide space for an Arthritis Walk with Ease class has been received, three times week for six weeks. The council tentatively approved the request and Pastor will reach out to finalize arrangements.

Pastor is continuing grief coaching and has offered help to members of SSM.

There is discussion of making a seasonal shift in summer worship opportunities from Saturday night to Thursday at 6:30pm. Music and Worship will take up the discussion and planning.

Current Action

We will continue supporting those who wear masks.

The Annual Meeting went smoothly. Alex said that she would like to offer more structured support for the kids who stay in the future.

Future Objectives: RIC group is being reconvened with 15 members participating.

Council is evaluating how to better connect to our community.

Newsletter deadline is February 15, 2023.

Council Minutes, Feb. 14, 2023 - Cont.

Old Action

February 26 – March 26 will be our appeal for Equipping the Saints. Videos will be used as part of our Wednesday Lenten services. There will be some speakers during this period.

Sound System – the committee is still waiting for one response.

Evangelism – Kristy and Dick Kroll met during the meeting last Tuesday to review use of the New Website.

Eric said that he will stream the Ash Wednesday Service.

Safety issues – Jason reopened some discussion of indoor and outdoor safety including topics of active shooter, and the use of security system cameras.

Committee Comments

Youth and Family/Fellowship – The committees are planning a community Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Breakfast. They are planning a pancake breakfast on Easter.

Administration – Bonnie asked to replace the table in the narthex with the kiosk to display the material currently on the table. Youth and family will take up use of the bulletin board between the two bathrooms.

Music and Worship – Lenten services are set. After Ash Wednesday we will use Holden Evening Prayer.

Human Concerns – The committee has chosen the recipients of the special envelop giving this year. The feeding offered by Divine Intervention was successful. They had to reduce the number of people served to 10 people. We will participate in the event again March 12. Lutheran Disaster Relief will receive 100% of the Ash Wednesday offering.

Christian Ed – We will be using old VBS materials as the current children will not have participated when the materials were last used. Sunday School's last Sunday will be June 4th.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:29pm.

Pastor Brian led the prayer

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

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES
6:30PM*



***THESE 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

March 2023



Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others