

Martyr Monthly

April 2023



St Stephen the Martyr

Lutheran Church ELCA

Worship Opportunities

Saturday 5:00 pm and Sunday 9:30 am*

Sunday School 9:30 am

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday 4/6 7:00pm*

Good Friday 4/7 7:00pm*

Cross Walk beginning at St. Thomas of Canterbury 2:00pm

Ecumenical Worship at St. Alphonsus 3:00pm

The Easter Vigil 4/8 5:00pm

Easter 4/9 7:00am and 9:30am*

**These services will be streamed on zoom*



Pastor's Page

The first day of spring was March 20. Signs of new life are appearing, from buds growing on trees, greening of grass and green shoots of daffodils peeking through the once dormant soil. As we think about new life and new beginnings I look forward to celebrating the resurrection of our Lord this Easter. Details of our Easter and Holy week services can be found in this newsletter.

During Easter we might reflect on care of creation and care for each other. I want to say thank you for the congregation response after a recent medical emergency during a worship service. There was a sense of calm and urgency as several nurses responded quickly and the congregation quickly evacuated the worship space so emergency personnel could attend to the one who needed care. It was wonderful to see so much care, concern, and people working together. The congregation member received the care that they needed.

As we think upon the health and wellness of our congregation, I want to share a few things with you. We have a strong connection with our Greendale health department. Through our partnership with the health department, we have NARCAN nasal spray onsite. Narcan is used if there is an opioid overdose. We also have fentanyl test strips available.

Fentanyl and its many forms are a powerful type of synthetic opioid that is about 100 times more powerful than morphine. *There is no way of knowing if any kind of drug received from a pharmacy has fentanyl, unless it is tested.* If you need Narcan or fentanyl strips for you or a loved one, they are available here. No questions asked.

Did you know that SSM also has an AED device? An AED, or automated external defibrillator, is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. We also have onsite a Finger Pulse Oximeter. This is a small device that clips to your finger and measures the amount of oxygen saturation in your red blood cells. It also has the capacity to check heart rate. These devices can be found outside of our worship space.

For the fall we are putting together details for hosting the Arthritis Foundation's, *Walk With Ease Program*. It is a program to help reduce the pain of arthritis and improve your overall health. More details to come.

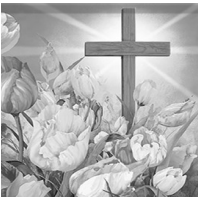
In the past we have also had a CPR training at SSM led by our local fire department. Are you interested in being CPR certified? Contact me or the church office if you are interested in this training. I am also looking for someone to coordinate this effort with the Fire Department. Let me know if you would like to lead this initiative.

Thank you for caring for each other, for caring for our earth and our community. As always if you have any concerns, or in any need of pastoral care. Please reach out.

Peace, Pastor Brian



Saturday/Thursday Worship - Seasonal Shift



For the summer months, we will offer an evening outdoor worship service on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. This service is a temporary, seasonal shift from our regular Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. The Thursday evening services will utilize our prayer garden and allow worshippers to connect with the natural beauty of this space. Various music options will be included as is feasible. The scripture lessons and message for Thursday services will match up with the Sunday that follows.

We are hopeful that this shift will provide a worship opportunity to those who will be out of town, who are working, or have other scheduled activities on the weekend. There are also plans starting to form on ways to engage the local community in this outdoor worship service (including possible social events following worship).

The first Thursday service will be June 8th and weekly services will run through August 31st.

The last service on a Saturday will be June 3rd and weekly Saturday services will resume September 9th.

Questions regarding this season shift can be discussed with Pastor Brian, Jason Covert (council president), or Denise Sanders (council vice president and music and worship chair).

Music and Worship

Holy Week in Christianity is the week just before Easter. It is also the last week of Lent, and includes Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

For **Palm/Passion Weekend, April 1 and 2**, we will start worship in the gathering space and process together into the worship space, reminding ourselves of Jesus' triumphant procession into Jerusalem.



Our **Maundy Thursday service, April 6th at 7:00 p.m.** (and on Zoom), will commemorate Christ's Last Supper. Maundy comes from the Latin word for "command" and is taken from Jesus' words to the disciples: "I give you a new command-

ment, that you love one another as I have loved you." At our **Good Friday service on April 7th at 7:00 p.m.** (and on Zoom), we will remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. SSM will host an **Easter Vigil service on Saturday, April 8th at 5:00 p.m.** This service reminds us to keep watch and prepare for Christ's resurrection.

On **Easter Sunday, April 9th**, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, with two services. The **7:00 a.m. service** will be held outside in the Prayer Garden (weather permitting) – bring a chair. The **9:30 a.m. service** will be a full festival service in the sanctuary (and will be streamed on Zoom). Join us for breakfast between services.



The season of Easter begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on Pentecost (June 9). For these 50 days, we adorn the church in white, recalling the joy of the resurrection.

Easter Breakfast News

After being in hibernation for five years mark April 9th on your calendar for the SSM 2023 Easter breakfast. Join us between 8:00 am and 9:00 am for a wonderful breakfast that will include pancakes, sausage, fruit, easter eggs, fellowship, and more. In order to get an idea of how much food we will need please sign up on the attendance sheet posted on the bulletin board. There will also be a volunteer sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We will be looking for people to help set up tables on the Friday before Easter from 9 am to 11am, to decorate and for food prep on Saturday from 10 am to noon, for servers and cleanup on Sunday and for people to bring coffee cake and similar breakfast sweets. There will be voluntary freewill donations at the tables. All donations will go to local food pantries and other charities. All are welcome even if you are not able to sign up in advance. Kick off your Easter 2023 with great neighbors and good food. Hope to see you there!



Happy Easter!



Youth and Family

Join us on Saturday, April 1 for an SSM community egg hunt! Stop by anytime between 1-3pm for some egg hunt fun, crafts, cookies, and a goodie bag. A few volunteers are needed to help greet and welcome families at each station mentioned above. Reach out to Alex Dollar if you are interested in helping make this another successful community event: AlexandraDollar@gmail.com





Human Concerns

Food Pantry Donations for April: Food donations for April will be divided between **Bay View Community Center food pantry** and **Unity Lutheran food pantry**. There is a need for household and hygiene items (toilet paper, dish soap, laundry detergent, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, etc.) in addition to high protein food items (such as peanut butter, canned meat, mac and cheese). Thank you for your generous support.

Thank you to everyone who provided food items for **Tippe Divine Intervention's** meals. The meals were greatly appreciated by the guests and hosts who spend the night at the warming room. We hope to continue supporting this mission when they reopen in December.

April has many celebrations and commemorations, each of which comes with its own special envelope. As usual special envelope proceeds are divided between funds allocated by Human Concerns (60%) and the general fund (40%). This years special envelope proceeds will be disbursed as follows:

Palm Sunday:	Lutheran Social Services Refugee Fund
Maundy Thursday:	ELCA World Hunger
Good Friday:	Bread of Healing Clinic
Easter:	Mbaaseny Parish

Your generosity is appreciated.



Memorial Committee Invitation

Would you like to help us make choices on releasing funds given as memorials to our church? The Memorial Committee meets four times a year, usually on a Saturday morning. We review donations given as a memorial for a deceased member or to remember an important occasion, such as an anniversary, etc. As a committee we have guidelines to follow when disbursing donations. If interested, please contact Sandy Petricek, chairperson, at 414-336-9495 for more information. Our next meeting is May 13th. You are invited to join us.



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 Farmers Michael Nnko and Elituliza Ndelekwa, a hard-working married couple with separate coffee farms and five children. Michael Nnko is a highly capable farmer despite having lost a leg in a motorcycle accident five years ago. His farm is 3.5 acres with 2,600 trees including 1,900 of the newer disease-resistant variety available through the farmers' cooperative.

Elituliza has a separate 3/4 acre plot purchased in 2020 with proceeds from her and Michael's coffee the prior year. She has planted 340 new trees which are now beginning to produce.

Proceeds from their coffee farms supports their family, improves their living conditions and their children's access to school. **Support Michael, Elituliza, their family and all our Mt Meru Coffee Farmers by ordering through Shelly Rosenstock or online at mtmerucoffee.org**






April



2023

Passion Weekend

Saturday, 1st	1:00pm	Community Easter Egg Hunt	
	5:00pm	Worship	
Sunday, 2nd	9:30am	Worship	
		Sunday School	
	10:45am	Confirmation Class	
		RIC Team Meeting	
		Coffee Hour	
Monday, 3rd	1:00pm	Bible Study	
Tuesday, 4th	6:30pm	Mega Meeting	
Wednesday, 5th	9:30am	Men's Bible Study	
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, 7th	1:00pm	Quilting - layering
	7:00pm	Worship


Good Friday

Friday, 7th	2:00pm	Cross Walk starting at St. Thomas of Canterbury
	3:00pm	Ecumenical Worship at St. Alphonsus
	7:00pm	Worship

Holy Saturday

Saturday, 8th	5:00pm	The Easter Vigil
----------------------	---------------	------------------

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, 9th	7:00am	Easter Garden Worship	
	8:00am	Easter Breakfast	
	9:30am	Easter Worship	

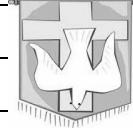


Wednesday, 12th	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
<i>Second Weekend of Easter</i>		
Saturday, 15th	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 16th	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
Monday, 17th	1:00pm	Quilting - layering
	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 19th	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
<i>Third Weekend of Easter</i>		
Saturday, 22nd	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 23rd	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Confirmation Class
Wednesday, 26th	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
<i>Fourth Weekend of Easter</i>		
Saturday, 29th	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 30th	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Coffee Hour

IT'S
COFFEE
TIME!



Confirmation Class





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Schneider	01	Jeffrey Sweet	15
Kurt Koeff	01	Kyle Gorecki	15
Julane Sebastian	02	Chelsea Gagliano	18
Trevor Nettles	03	Charlie Krauske	18
LaVerne Morgan	04	Ben Hooper	19
Dave Simley	05	Molly Myszkowski	19
Carolyn Kahl	05	Al Behling	20
Judy Lehman	05	Maggy Hanna	20
Reese Ceku	05	Dennis Lucchesi	21
Vance Ceku	05	Shelley Burns	21
Michael Osanger	06	Philip Morgan	22
Hans Tanke	06	David Salas	22
Montana Bruckner	07	Bob Gleason	23
Gordon Flohr	08	Jacob Malinowski	23
Karen Miller	11	Kristy Knipple	24
Andrew Wassweiler	11	Donna Carver	25
Christy Zoske	11	Dick Rutzen	25
Susan Stasiewski	12	Linda Sweet	25
Sue Herman	14	Ayla Dose	25
Fred Ankebrant	14	Bonnie Zimmermann	26
		Andy Stockland	26
		Brenda Sweet	26
		Mary Freiburger	27
		Tom Payne	28
		Andrea Woerpel	28
		Richard Sontvedt	30
		Jason Covert	30

Christian Education

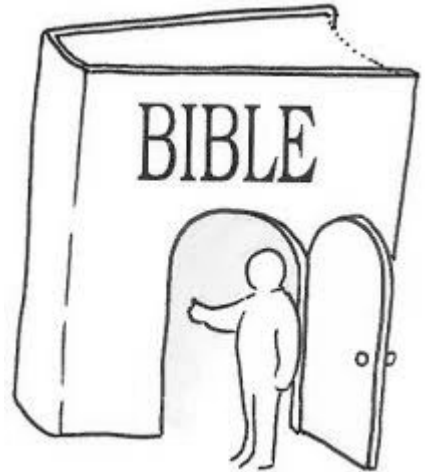


Sunday School continues in full swing. Thank you to the Sunday School teachers who take their turns presenting the Children's Message during the Sunday service.

Watch later in spring for information on VBS for this summer. This is always a great time for the kids and the adults who help out. Planning has begun.

Pastor is leading the confirmation students toward their affirmation of faith, They meet twice a month on Sundays after worship.

Bible Studies continue - please consider joining the monthly study which meets on the first Monday of each month at 1:00pm. This group is looking at growing older with scriptural guidance. The men's study continues on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:30am. They are looking at the prophet Micah. The Women's Study meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 10:15 and is reading the epistles not written by Paul. Contact Kipp Zimmermann, Bonnie Zimmermann or the church office for zoom information for either the men's or women's study.



Loose Ends Lunch

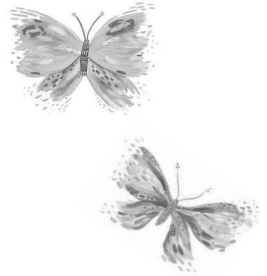
The Loose Ends Luncheon will be held April 12 at noon (after the morning bible study) at Lychee Garden, 7920 W Layton Ave. Please call Bonnie Daleness at 414 477-8706 if you plan to join us. Remember that you don't have to attend Bible Study to join everyone for lunch, the timing is just so that everyone can join in.



SSM in Pictures



Worship on March 5th,
Children's Message given
by Alex Dollar, Choir
Anthem, "God So Loved the
World" -Stainer



Easter Breakfast Fund
raiser at Billy Simms
BBQ on March 7th



Holden Evening Prayer Worship
Leaders, March 8th

Mbasseny Education Fund



We continue to support 3 students from our partner parish Mbasaseny. Baraka, Pendo and Victoria were chosen to receive this support from their parish. Pendo and Victoria shared notes of thanks and Christmas greetings with us at the end of December (Pastor Nnko shared photos of their letters with me via Whatsapp).

Annually, we need \$2,000 to cover their tuition which includes room and board and exam fees. In 2022 we sent \$1,200. As all Meru families struggle with continued drought, providing a good education for their children is important for their future success. Please consider a gift directed towards the Mbaaseny Education Fund to continue supporting these students.

Asante sana! Julie Starks, jastarks39@gmail.com

Information from Thrivent

In 2022 we received \$2,221 in Thrivent Choice Dollars[®] grant funding. We have access to a variety of resources and programs:

Thrivent Choice: If you have certain Thrivent products you can direct 2023 Choice Dollars[®] to SSM any time there is an accumulation. Materials are available in the “Thrivent Choice Resources” section on [Thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com).

Thrivent Action Teams: Thrivent Clients can apply for a Thrivent Action Team to support a program..

Thrivent clients bring together friends and family to form a volunteer team – Thrivent provides up to \$250 in seed money and promotional resources to jump-start the volunteer project. In the past these have been used for quilting, school bags, Bay View Christmas Gifts and Food Pantry Drives.



Council Minutes, March 14, 2023

President Jason Covert called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

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

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

Financial Reports

Miller reviewed the Financial Secretary's report, noting that it was a normal month. The Treasurer's reports were also reviewed with comments provided before the meeting by Muroi. The financial reports were approved.

Pastor's Time

Pastor Brian reviewed his report, noting several upcoming events, including a summer youth mission trip to the Quad Cities. He is considering the creation of a grief support group. There will be a pulpit exchange with Incarnation (Pastor Char) on May 6 and 7.

Current Action Items

Easter Worship Times and Breakfast Support: A pancake breakfast will be served buffet-style at 8:00 a.m. between two worship services. The 7:00 a.m. worship will be outside in the prayer garden and the 9:30 a.m. worship will be a full festival service in the sanctuary. The fundraiser to support the breakfast went well. A free will donation request at the breakfast will go to food pantries.

Community Events: Council members brainstormed some possible community events for the summer months, particularly seeking ways to open our doors and invite the community to join us. Two events of particular interest were a CPR and/or AED training class and an ice cream social to follow a Thursday evening worship service.

Rally Day: It was determined that Rally Day will be September 17.

RIC Update: Covert provided an overview of the work being done by the RIC team, including ongoing meetings, and plans to coordinate educational/informational activities. He noted that the church will have certain responsibilities to undertake to become an RIC church.

Council Minutes, March 14, 2023 *Cont.*

April Newsletter: A reminder that the newsletter deadline is March 15.

Equipping the Saints Mission Appeal: The campaign will run for two more weeks, culminating in a visit from Pastor Marilyn Miller.

Digital Strategy: Knipple noted that there has been some organic creation of increasing digital awareness and promotion.

Safety at Church: Interested parties will begin consideration of door replacements.

Committee Comments

Music & Worship reviewed plans for a seasonal shift of the Saturday service to Thursday evenings. More details will be included in the newsletter and upcoming bulletins.

Youth and Family is planning a community Easter egg hunt event on April 1, starting at 1:00 p.m.

The Human Concerns committee is completed their sponsorship of a third meal at Divine Intervention.

Property worked to have the sprinkler system flushed, replacing one bad section. Dose is getting some newer quotes on parking lot work, as well as carpet cleaning. The boilers were recently checked.

The next council meeting will be Monday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

President J. Covert adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY 4/6 7:00PM*

GOOD FRIDAY 4/7 7:00PM

CROSS WALK 4/7 BEGINNING AT ST.

THOMAS OF CANTERBURY 2:00PM

ECUMENICAL SERVICE 4/7 AT ST.

ALPHONSUS 3:00PM

EASTER VIGIL 4/8 5:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY 4/9

7:00AM AND 9:30AM*

*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



April 2023



Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others