

Martyr Monthly

May 2023



St Stephen the Martyr

Lutheran Church ELCA

Worship Opportunities

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

Sunday School 9:30 am

**Sunday morning service is streamed on zoom*

Pentecost

Saturday May 27th 5:00pm and Sunday May 28th 9:30am

Pastor's Page



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you, thank you, and thank you!

During my first call in Minnesota, I remember visiting a man and his wife. They could no longer leave their home to attend worship. I would regularly visit and share Holy Communion with them. They were a fun couple, and we were both mutually blessed by the visit. At SSM we have a wonderful Caring Visitor program. Trained volunteers bring communion and the word to congregation member's homes. Please

reach out if you would like a caring visitor.

Back to my Minnesota story...When I would make my way to the door to leave, the husband, Gus, would always say, "Thousand thanks, a thousand thanks for all you do for us!"

Well, I feel a little like Gus. I so appreciate all that you do at St. Stephen the Martyr. Thank you very much! A thousand thanks! To those who volunteer, to those who sing or teach or usher or read scripture or help to keep the building looking so nice. To those who make us feel welcome here. To those who work with our children. To those who serve on committees. To those who work countless hours behind the scenes making sure everything goes so smoothly.

Thank you, thank you, and thank you. There are many people to name here. But I want you to know I appreciate all that you do. Your willingness to help out makes ministry more productive and enjoyable. It is a joy to serve with you.

A Fellow Servant,
Pastor Brian

May 14th



Equipping the Saints - THANK YOU!

Since the weekend of March 25-26, many SSM members participated in the Equipping the Saints campaign to help complete the funding needed to make sure that our congregational leaders are trained and equipped, and our congregation ministry is enhanced as we walk together with Lutherans across our Synod.



A huge thank you to all who participated! We know that our partnership with our Synod is critical for sharing the Good News of Jesus today.

“Equipping the saints for the work of ministry; Building up the Body of Christ”
Ephesians 4:12

Summer Family Choir



Here's a chance for families and individuals to sing in worship during the summer months!

We will meet most Sundays in June, July, and August from 8:45AM to 9:15AM to learn anthems, songs, and hymns, and will sing during worship about once a month.

Everyone is welcome! If you haven't tried choir before, this would be a great introduction! Music reading skills are not necessary. Current SSM choir members are supportive and always happy to help new members! Music is provided. There is no age limit. Children should be able to read proficiently to participate.

Please contact Tabitha with any questions or for a complete schedule.

Loose Ends Lunch

The ladies will meet for lunch on May 10th at Cinco De Mayo Mexican Restaurant, located on the northwest corner of N. 84th Street and Morgan Avenue, Greenfield. Lunch will begin at noon. Please contact Karen Hoffman, 414-421-9249 if you are interested in joining the group for lunch, they will meet at the restaurant.



SSM in Pictures



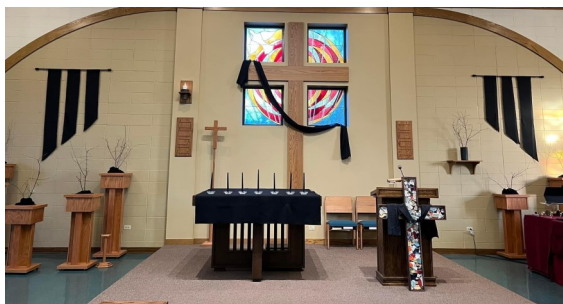
Easter Egg Hunt -April 1st



90th Birthday Celebrations - April 2nd



Maundy Thursday - April 6th



Good Friday - April 7th



SSM in Pictures



Easter Vigil - April 8th



Easter Garden Worship
April 9th



Easter Sunday - April 9
Children's Message



Quilters at Work - April 6th



Meru Coffee Project Volunteers



The Mt Meru Coffee Project Is Seeking Volunteers:

The Mt Meru Coffee Project started 25 years ago as a partnership between the Greater Milwaukee Synod and the coffee farmers of Mt Meru. The premise is simple: coffee is grown there, purchased from the farmers at rates above the market rate, imported, roasted and then sold directly to coffee drinkers within the congregations of the Synod. The farmers receive a fair price for their coffee, and the extra income allows them to pay school fees for their children and invest in their farms. Through ups and downs, different leaders here and in Tanzania and a global pandemic, **the Coffee Project has continued to improve lives for the farmers, their families and communities.** The Coffee Project is but one of the many ways in which our Synod partnership with the Meru Diocese is manifest.

The Mt. Meru Coffee Project Board of Directors completed a long-range plan over the past year and is now seeking new volunteers committed to our mission: *Living the Gospel by building economic justice and respect together with Mt. Meru coffee farmers.*

We are seeking volunteers with various skills, from operations to board level positions. Of particular interest are volunteers with skills and experience in marketing, internet marketing e-commerce, and sales.

If you or if you know of someone who would be interested in learning more about ways you can positively impact the Mt. Meru Coffee Project through volunteering, please contact Board Nominating Committee Chair Patti Nelson at (414) 399-0593 or via email at secretary@mtmerucoffee.org

May 6th



May 4th

May 16th



May 9th

Meru Coffee

Mt. Meru Coffee Project: **The Makumira Farms Spring Selection** is a collection of coffee beans from small coffee farms in the Makumira region of Mt. Meru. This selection of beans had the highest cupping scores of the Mt. Meru harvest. Combined with a lighter Vienna roast it makes for that perfect brew for your enjoyment this spring. Cupping notes (natural flavors) include: dark chocolate, citrus and coffee blossom. Cost is **\$15.00** per bag. Ansante sana.



Meet the Farmer: Ndekesio Nasari, a widow with four children, has been coffee farming for three years. She farms about 100 plants on a one acre farm she owns at 5,400 ft. elevation on Mt. Meru. The higher prices for coffee cherries she receives by participating in the Project allows Ndekesio

to send her children to college and improve the condition of their home. Ndekesio is pictured on the upper left with one of her daughters who performed so well in secondary school that she received a full college scholarship and will graduate next semester. Sadly, almost 70 per cent of Tanzanian children aged 14–17 years are not enrolled in secondary education according to UNICEF. And, fewer than 30% of Tanzanian students enroll in college level education, according to the World Bank, so the accomplishment of a college degree by a student from a rural area is remarkable. Ndekesio took advantage of the training offered by the Mt. Meru Coffee Project cooperative, and learned about new higher-quality varieties, how to manage the farm, and how to spray and fertilize for high quality and output. She hopes to continue to add more coffee plants, obtaining high quality ones through the cooperative.



Supporting Families • Growing Futures • Changing Lives.



May 2023



Monday, 1st	1:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, 2nd	6:30pm	Mega Meeting
Wednesday, 3rd	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 4th	1:00pm	Quilting - cut and sew until 3:00pm
<i>Fifth Weekend of Easter - Guest Pastor Char Guiliani</i>		
Saturday, 6th	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 7th	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Confirmation Class
		RIC Meeting
Tuesday, 9th	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 10th	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal




May 29th



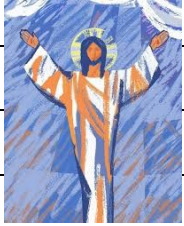
May 20th



Sixth Weekend of Easter

Saturday, 13th	5:00pm	Worship	
Sunday, 14th Mother's Day	9:30am	Worship	
		Sunday School	
	10:45am	Coffee Hour	
Wednesday, 17th	9:30am	Men's Bible Study	
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	

Seventh Weekend of Easter

Saturday, 20th	5:00pm	Worship	
Sunday, 21st	9:30am	Worship	
	9:30am	Sunday School	
	10:45am	Confirmation Class	
Wednesday, 24th	10:15am	Women's Bible Study	
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	

Pentecost

Saturday, 27th	5:00pm	Worship	
Sunday, 28th	9:30am	Worship	
		Sunday School	
	10:45am	Coffee Hour	

Monday, 29th

Memorial Day - Office Closed

Reconciling in Christ (RIC)

The RIC team has been meeting since early this year to take steps towards gaining the Reconciling in Christ designation for our church. Over the next coming months, look for information in the bulletins, on the kiosk and through videos we will share. Any of the team members are also happy to answer questions or discuss concerns you may have. We will be further discussing and voting on this with the congregation at the Annual meeting in January.



The purpose of Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration and advocacy of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; work for racial equity and to commit to anti racist work and to support the national program.

Since 1983, the Reconciling in Christ program has been a public way for faith communities to see, name, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the Lutheran Church. The RIC Program is made up of congregations, synods, colleges, seminaries, outdoor ministries, and other Lutheran organizations.

Why is the Reconciling in Christ program so important?

Many LGBTQIA+ people have learned by experience they are not welcome in faith communities, even in those that state, “All are welcome here!” A general statement of welcome is often heard as meaning “everybody but me” so it can take a special effort to communicate an authentic welcome to people of the LGBTQIA+ community ----Excerpt from the reconciling works website. **You can find more information at the RIC website: reconcilingworks.org.**

Pastor Char Guiliani will be our special guest Pastor on May 6th and 7th to talk about RIC. Don't miss this chance to visit with Pastor Char and learn more about this important program

New QR Codes for VANCO Mobile App.

The VANCO Mobile Faith Engagement App. Can now be accessed using the QR codes below to make downloading the app easier for everyone. Use you smart phone camera to focus in on the QR code appropriate for your phone type. Your phone will prompt you to open the app on your phone and then you can proceed to set the app up for giving to St Stephen the Martyr with a few simple steps.

- 1 -Enter the church's name **St Stephen the Martyr E.L.C.A. (note that there is no period after "St")**. Click search, then select our church.
- 2 -Select your fund, donation frequency, then select payment method. and enter your credit card, debit card or bank account information. You can save this payment method for future donations.
- 3 -You can choose to cover the donation processing fees by adding a small amount on top of your gift. Click the button to opt in.
- 5 -Review and complete your gift by clicking Submit.

This is a great way to keep up with your contributions if you are away during the summer and any time you join worship on zoom.



For google



For iPhone

Human Concerns



Food Pantry: It won't be much longer and schools will be out for the summer. Children who receive lunches at school may not have access to adequate food during that time. For the months of **May and June**, Human Concerns will be collecting foods that are easy for children to prepare without the use of a stove. We are looking for cereals, fruit cups, granola bars, microwavable macaroni and cheese or canned pastas. Of course, proteins like peanut butter and canned tuna or chicken are always needed. Thank you.

Aluminum Can Time is Here

Now that Spring is here, it is time to bring your saved bags of cans to the church garage in the lower parking lot.

Please contribute aluminum cans only. The salvage yard does not want steel cans, nor pie tins, nor balls of aluminum foil. The metal in these is not pure enough for the recycle company to accept. Kindly crush or flatten the cans, as you are able. More bags of cans can be carried on each trip to the salvage yard, giving a greater return for the gas used to transport them.



All money obtained from sales goes to support our friends at the local food pantries that SSM supports. Thank you for your help in this fundraising effort. Bob Rasmussen, Can Coordinator



Bob DeFrank	02	Herb Leppien	15
Dianne Niese	03	Simone Haasch	16
Derrick Mayer	03	Anthony Revers	17
Isabelle Wassweiler	04	Nancy Bugajski	19
Shirley Devecka	05	Pat Burns	22
Cathy Peterson	05	Derek Dietrich	22
Alaina Anderson	05	Anthony Gagliano	22
Andre Dean	05	Jordan Esterlin	24
Rachel Ziegert	06	Hayes Kreiter	24
Cherish Pearson	07	Ken Kahl	25
Wayne Lunde	08	Mary Luedtke	25
Vick Barth	10	Sara Raasch	26
Dan Resterhouse	12	Marisa Burgmaier	26
		Neil Stockland	26
		Madelynn Lentz	27
		Bob Gray	28
		Nora Ferguson	28
		Janet Sweet	29
		Joyce Gagliano	30
		Austin Larson	30

Meru/Tanzania Donation Guide

Tanzanian comparable to USA/Wisconsin

Diocese of Meru	partners	Greater Milwaukee Synod
Common Basket Fund	Special Fund	Equipping the Saints
Drought/Hunger Appeal	Special Fund	Outreach for Hope
Mbaaseny	Congregation partners	St. Stephen the Martyr
Education Fund	Scholarships	Unity Scholarship Fund

This chart compares gifts to various areas in Tanzania with a comparable area here in Wisconsin.

This information will help in specific designations for your gifts. Asante sana!

A gift to “**Meru**” (**Diocese of Meru**) would be similar to a gift for the **Greater Milwaukee Synod**. Adding a specific designation is acceptable but not necessary. Gifts designated to “**Meru**” will be used by the Diocese for an area of greatest need. The Diocese has a “**Common Basket**” fund that especially assists parishes who do not have US partners that provide support. The entire region of **Meru** is suffering from drought. The



Hunger Appeal directs funds to purchase and distribute food throughout the area.

Mbaaseny is our partner congregation that is a 3-part parish. It includes 2 “sub-parishes, Canaan (who has a kindergarten and is enlarging their worship space) and Jericho (who completed a new worship space and has an award-

winning choir). **Mbaaseny** also has an incomplete, “new” (begun in 2014 with some use begun in 2017) worship space.

Gifts to **Mbaaseny** are used as they decide.

The **Mbaaseny Education Fund** supports 3 parish member students attending Diocese supported boarding schools (equivalent to our high school level). We currently need \$2,000/year to support them. **Questions?** – Contact Julie

Starks, jastarks39@gmail.com



Council Minutes, April 17, 2023

Present: Jason Covert; Denise Sanders; Eric Sanders; Alex Dollar; Bonnie Zimmermann; Kipp Zimmermann; Pastor Brian Hooper; Kristy Knipple; Jeff Dose; Jane Miller; John Muroi; Lorin Schuchardt; Jeremy Hanna; Julie Starks (visitor);

Meeting Called to order at 6:32pm by Jason Covert

Julie Starks presented the request for a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on July 27th to raise money for gifts to the various Meru Diocese programs that they will visit when a group goes to Tanzania . Council approved the project.

March minutes were approved.

Financial Reports

J. Miller reported that the giving is behind the budget. However, at this point it doesn't present a major concern. Easter and Holy Week have yet to be counted.

J. Muroi reported that he combined the Endowment Fund, special donations, and undesignated money into a CD at Old National Bank. The interest was higher and the account is covered under FDIC.

Financial Reports approved.

Pastor's Time

Holy Week went well. Thanks to all who participated and helped.

Five young people will go to the Quad Cities July 9 to 13 as a service project. Pastor and a female chaperone and going. Both are receiving background checks.

Pastor is finishing up grief coaching with several people.

There will be a pulpit swap with Pastor Char Guiliani on May 7.

The Walk with Ease program will use our building beginning 10/2 on T/Thu.

In the Summer months, Saturday service will be moved to Thursdays from 6/8 to 8/31 in the prayer Garden. Music for the service is still under consideration.

Current Action

RIC – The group has been meeting and continues discussion. They conducted a survey as to where they thought we were and determined that we were moving at a moderate pace.

Equipping the Saints

There were generous pledges over the three-year plan totaling \$14,405 and more are expected.

Community Engagement

Walking with Ease will be the result of community outreach.

We will make public our outdoor worship as community outreach.

Several other community events are being planned.

Council Election

The offices of President; Vice President; Music and Worship; and Property will be open. There has been some outreach for replacements. Elections and installation will take place in June.

Council Minutes, April 17, 2023 *Cont.*

Synod Assembly will be held June 2 and 3. Volunteers to attend are needed.

May Newsletter articles due 5/19.

Cell Tower has transferred to a new company. We are waiting to hear from them.

Old Action

Sound System – the committee has heard from a third company with a bid.

The council discussed the criteria for having a key for the church and the possibility of retrieving keys from people who no longer have a need for them.

Committee Comments

Property – Jeff received three bids to replace shingles on the sanctuary roof. Jeff requested approval for expenditures up to \$35,000. Council approved the request as we have the money in the Capitol Fund already for emergency repairs. Council approved and the congregation will receive a letter reporting the repair.

Lower parking lot was postponed as it is a lower priority.

Christian Education – VBS will be held at the end of June using the Spark House material already paid for with the Sunday School materials.

Youth and Family – Kids are painting rocks for the Greendale rock project in progress.

Evangelism – Kristy is exploring print ads and will make a report at the next meeting and will make inquiries into a pictorial directory.

Fellowship – The Easter breakfast was successful and went well.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm. Pastor Brian closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Kipp W. Zimmermann, Secretary

Christian Education

Sunday School is moving along quite well, with attendance usually in the mid 20s each Sunday. Coming this summer for the kids is a new curriculum for Vacation Bible School, which will be held June 27th, 28th and 29th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Plans are being made and preparations are in progress for:

 **Renew - Green** 

Watch for more information and registration materials.

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

May 2023



Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others