

Martyr Monthly

June/July 2023



St Stephen the Martyr
Lutheran Church ELCA
Worship Opportunities

Saturday June 3rd 5:00pm

Summer Prayer Garden Worship Thursday 6:30pm (beginning 6/8)

Sunday 9:30 am

Pastor's Page



Dear Family of Faith,

As I ride my bicycle along the Oak Leaf trail and through Boerner Botanical Gardens, it appears that spring is in full bloom. Flowering trees are shades of pink, rose and white. And there are tulips sprouting up at the gardens in shades of reds, yellows, and oranges. As I bike along the trail my eyes and nose also tell me that it is spring with fragrant blossoms and pollen in the air.

After hot and cold weather streaks, there is no doubt that many are ready to be outside, perhaps walking, biking, strolling, gardening, photographing, dining, and watching baseball games.

The Holy Spirit is definitely blowing through the community at SSM and in the world. We will celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is sometimes referred to as the church's birthday on Pentecost, during the weekend of May 27-28. We might think of Pentecost as the grand finale of Easter. Easter comes to full bloom as the Holy Spirit is poured out on the waiting disciples. The good news of resurrection is for all the people of the earth!

As we celebrate Pentecost together, I invite you to wear fiery colors to worship: red, orange and yellow. Pentecost is the fiftieth day of Easter and our Christ candle still burns brightly.

As the earth is in full bloom, Pentecost invites us to see our lives as the realm of God's renewing, passionate, fiery Spirit. The season of Easter may be coming to an end, but each day is a new beginning with opportunities to give thanks, serve, and revel in the abundance of our Easter faith in full bloom.

As we enter the summer months, I remind you, as I remind myself, to be a faithful steward of all that God has blessed you with; your time, talents, and treasure. Don't let a day go by without giving thanks to God for all you have; and remember the grace and love given for us in Jesus Christ. Enjoy the gift of life that the Spirit gives. And perhaps I will see you out in creation at one of our Prayer Garden worship services that will be each Thursday night beginning on June 8 at 6:30pm. Ice cream will be served after our first worship.

Peace,
Pastor Brian

Christian Education

Summer is upon us and it is time for a shift in schedule.

- * The last day of Sunday School for this academic year will be June 4th. It will begin again on Rally day in September. Watch for fun Rally Day details.
- * Men's Bible Study will meet in June on the 7th and 21st but will not meet in July or August. They will resume again on September 6th and will continue at 9:30am on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.
- * Women's Bible Study will meet twice in June on the 14th and the 28th, but not in July or August. Beginning on September 13th the study will resume meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 10:15am.
- * The Monday Monthly Study will not meet in June, July or August, but will return in September on the 11th. This group meets on the 1st Monday of each month at 1:00pm.
- * Confirmation class will resume in fall. Watch for information for meeting times.

The exciting news for the summer is

ReNew Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, June 27th, Wednesday, June 28th and
Thursday, June 29th
from 6pm to 8pm.

Learn about God's wonderful creation through Bible Stories, games, crafts and other activities. Each evening will include an opening, time to play and learn, snack time and a closing session. Registration materials are available on the kiosk in the narthex, on our website or by calling the church office.

Website: www.ssmelca.org

Office: 414-421-3543

Summer Worship Schedule

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).

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.

THURSDAYS IN THE GARDEN
AT
ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Community Worship
every Thursday at 6:30pm
June 8 - August 31

Community Events with Worship

June 8 - Ice Cream Social

July 27 - Spaghetti Dinner

August 17 - Cookout

Speaking of Summer

Even though things seem to slow down during the summer, the church keeps working. Utility bills, and salaries still need to be paid and supplies still need to be purchased. Don't forget to continue your giving habits during the summer while you are away on vacations and enjoying the lighter schedule. Offerings can be sent by mail or electronically any time. Thanks for your continued support.



New QR Codes for VANCO Mobile App.



For google



For iPhone

- 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.

Annual Quilting Bee

This year's Piece Makers Quilting Bee will be held on **July 17th** between 10am and 4pm. Come when you can, leave when you must, any amount of time is appreciated.

You don't need to know how to sew or have any special abilities. There is room for sewers to work on assembling tops, folks to put the layers together into quilts, people who will tie the quilt layers together and others to sew the bindings down. The room will be filled with happy quilters who will show you how to do any of these functions and you can be a part of this wonderful ministry.

Bring your own sandwich for lunch, salads and drinks will be provided and of course there will be desert.

The quilter's group works all year long and this is their big day culminating in many quilts that go to Lutheran World Relief from where they are distributed to grateful people around the globe.



These are may of the folks who attended the 2022 Quilting Bee. The efforts of the Piece Makers provided 184 quilts to LWR. As you can see from the picture participation is not limited to women, all hands work together for this valuable ministry.





Congratulations High School Graduates

It is time to acknowledge our high school graduates:

Leigha Anderson will be graduating from Waukesha North and will be attending WCTC for cosmetology in the fall.

Sarah Billman is graduating from Greenfield High School with High Honors and will be attending Carroll University in Waukesha in the fall to study Music Therapy.

Charlie Billman is graduating from Greenfield High School with Honors and will be attending Iowa State University to pursue Aerospace Engineering.

Hannah Billman will be graduating from Greenfield High School Cum Laude and will be attending UW Stout to acquire a degree in Interior Design.

Alexandra Moldenhauer is graduating from Grafton High School and will be attending Concordia University Wisconsin in the fall majoring in computer science.

Greg Guiliani is graduating from Franklin High School and plans to pursue a career in real estate.

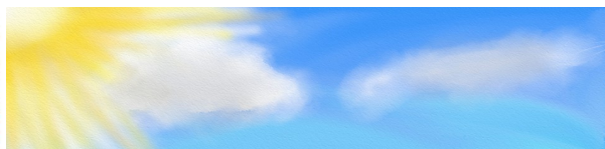
Joe Guiliani is graduating from Franklin High School and is looking to be a heavy equipment operator.

Well done. Congratulations to all of you, may God bless your endeavors.



Aluminum Can Proceeds

Thanks to a half a dozen contributors, 51 pounds of crushed cans were sold this past week. \$31.00 was earned to be used to help buy food for our local food pantries.

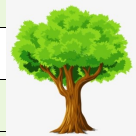


Thursday, 1st	1:00pm	Quilting - Cut & Sew until 3:00pm
Saturday, 3rd	5:00pm	Worship - Holy Trinity
Sunday, 4th	9:30am	Worship - Holy Trinity - Recognition of Graduates
		Sunday School - last day of Sunday School
	10:30am	Special Voters Meeting
Tuesday, 6th	6:30pm	Mega Meeting
Wednesday, 7th	9:30m	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
Thursday, 8th	6:30pm	Prayer Garden Worship
	7:15pm	Ice Cream Social
Sunday, 11th	9:30am	Worship
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
Monday, 12th	1:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, 13th	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 14th	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
Thursday, 15th	6:30pm	Prayer Garden Worship
Sunday, 18th	9:30am	Worship - Father's Day
Monday, 19th	1:00pm	Quilting - Layering until 3:00pm
Wednesday, 21st	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
Thursday, 22nd	6:30pm	Prayer Garden Worship
Sunday, 25th	9:230am	Worship - Council Installation
Tuesday, 27th	6-8:00pm	Vacation Bible School
Wednesday, 28th	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	6-8:00pm	Vacation Bible School
Thursday, 29th	6-8:00pm	Vacation Bible School
	6:30pm	Prayer Garden Worship





Sunday, 2nd	9:30am	Worship
Tuesday, 4th	July 4th Holiday - Office Closed	
Thursday, 6th	6:30pm	Prayer Garden Worship
Sunday, 9th	9:30am	Worship
Tuesday, 11th	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Thursday, 13th	6:30pm	Prayer Garden Worship
Sunday, 16th	9:30am	Worship
Monday, 17th	10:00am	Quilting Bee - until 4:00pm
Thursday, 20th	6:30pm	Prayer Garden Worship
Sunday, 23rd	9:30am	Worship
Thursday, 27th	4:30pm	Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser - Until 7:30pm
	6:30pm	Prayer Garden Worship
Sunday, 30th	9:30am	Worship



The Season of Pentecost begins with Holy Trinity, which this year is the weekend of the 3rd and 4th of June. After that, the rest of the Sundays in the season are numbered with Sunday, June 11th this year being the Second Sunday after Pentecost and so on. We used to call this Ordinary Time, not so much as in not special, but rather because the Sundays are numbered - as in ordinal. The color for this long season, which lasts until the beginning of Advent, is green because the season focuses on the growth of the church in the world. The number of Sundays in this season varies because Easter moves, so some years there are more and some less. The season ends for us Lutherans with Reformation Weekend followed by All Saints Weekend followed by the First Weekend of Advent, a new season. Join us this “green” season to hear what Jesus says about the church and our mission, either on Thursdays in the Prayer Garden or on Sunday Mornings.

Reconciling in Christ (RIC)



Our team has been hard at work taking steps to move towards becoming a part of the community of churches with the designation of Reconciling in Christ. With this designation, SSM will be included in a list to let those persons who are part of the LGBTQIA+ along with people of color know that our church is a **SAFE** place to worship. In the coming months, we will continue to provide information about the program and are looking to enhance our library with books on these topics. We are planning to hold a “town hall” educational meeting sometime in late September for our congregation to learn, discuss and answer questions. If you missed the pulpit exchange on May 7, 2023, led by Pastor Char Guiliani, please see the link posted on our website www.SSMELCA.org to our YouTube channel to watch the service. Any questions about the RIC team you have can be directed to Pastor Brian or Jason Covert.

Loose Ends Lunch

There will be no Loose Ends Lunches during June, July or August. Lunches will resume in September. Loose Ends Lunches are typically held on the second Wednesday of each month (except during the summer) at 12 noon at a local restaurant. The ladies take turns selecting the restaurant and hosting the lunch.





June Birthdays

Heidi Mayer	02
Donna Kopplin	03
Karen Foerster	04
Eric Sanders	06
Ryleigh Revers	06
Ander Ceku	07
Jacob Zoske	09
Sydney Covert	11
Diane Stojanovich	12
Susan Jarchow	12
Andrea Hanna	13
Bennett Ceku	14
Lynda Johnson	16
Jaxson Easterlin	16
John Winter	17
Bobbi Jo Hinkley	19
Dalton Hinkley	19
Mason Hinkley	19
Pamela Gleason	20
Pat Rojik	22
Elyse Walker	22
Erin Malinowski	23
Roger Lehman	24



July Birthdays

Owen Sanders	01
Trent Lisiecki	02
Kyle Mayer	05
Don Manning	06
Paige Ceku	08
Geri Lucchesi	09
Julie Starks	09
Gail Zuleger	10
Laura Nehring	10
John Rech	12
Leah Jajtner	15
Payton Manning-Fuentes	15
Denise Sanders	16
Steve Mayer	17
Kelly Sachse	18
Heidi Dietrich	18
Dylan Dietrich	18
Paisley Julseth	19
Jim Hennessy	20
Patti Winter	20
John Hoffman	21
Jane Miller	21
Gary Lentz	22
George Gifford	24
Billi Jo Kunesch	24
Cody Raasch	25
Tyler Myszkowski	25
Mila Marie Gorecki	25
Clare Stockland	26
Debbie Barth	30
Patrick Rafalski	31
Lisa Lisiecki	31
Morgan Gillespie	31

Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser



TANZANIA TRIP A group representing St. Stephen the Martyr (Julie Starks, Patti Nelson, Sara Raasch and Lois Mueller) will be traveling to Tanzania this Fall 2023!

Though each traveler pays their own way, funds are needed when they visit several ministries while there. It is a customary to bring gifts to each location, in appreciation

of their generous hospitality. Also, there are several other areas where your support is needed. **Please see the display highlighting all of the planned ministry visits and consider making a gift of any of the items from the Giving Tree. In addition, the Human Concerns Committee will be hosting a fabulous spaghetti fundraising dinner on Thursday, July 27 from 4:30-7:30 PM.** Come one- Come all! Pay at the door prices (no pre-sales) are \$12 adults, \$5 children (3-12) and 2 and under are free. It will include spaghetti, meatballs (optional), breadsticks, salad, beverages AND dessert! Carry-outs available. Please see the kiosk display for additional ways you can support this worthwhile event through food donations, attending or volunteering at the event. **Asante sana!**



Human Concerns

During the school year many children in our area depend on school breakfasts and lunches for their nutrition. During summer vacation this goes away. We want to supply our food pantry partners with foods that children can prepare for themselves without the use of a stove while they are home. Please help by bringing in items such as microwavable macaroni and cheese, canned pasta items, especially those with meat included (pull tab cans are easiest for children) and other easy to prepare items. Also needed are nutritious snacks such as granola bars, breakfast bars, fruit cups, peanut butter, jelly and crackers to put the peanut butter and jelly on. Your help is greatly appreciated by the Human Concerns Committee, the Bay View and Unity Food Pantries and by the folks we are providing with the food.



News from Mbaaseny

Pastor Nnko, our partner pastor from Mbaaseny (and Canaan and Jericho) recently shared these photos and some of the “happenings” at our partner parish. They have had some rain, maize is growing and the parish held a gospel meeting recently! Coming up is a children’s conference at the end of June and in early July, a lunch for the disabled, poor, elderly and widows. Watch for our upcoming trip Giving Tree for opportunities to support our partner parish!



Council Minutes, May 9, 2023

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

Meeting called to order by Jason Covert at 6:31 pm

Pastor Brian Hooper led a devotion on Acts 16:6-15

Minutes of the May Council Meeting were approved as corrected.

Financial Reports

J. Miller – April giving was on target. The congregation is doing well. Ash Wednesday gifts were generous for the earthquake victims in Turkey.

J. Muroi - The disbursements are on target. The endowment is part of the \$111,000 CD at Old National Bank. Thrivent Choice dollars are consistent every year.

The Organ loan as of 5/7/23 is at \$9489 remaining to pay.

Financial reports were approved.

Pastor's Time

The Pulpit exchange with Pr. Guiliani was excellent. Pr. Guiliani preached a powerful sermon and participated with RIC meeting afterwards.

Pr. Penvose at Unity reported that community meals will return on June 7, 2023.

The Community Worship in the village is being discussed in the Green Corners group.

Pr. Hooper will be on vacation June 9-21, 2023.

Current Action

The "mask friendly" sign will remain on the door since the national emergency has been declared over.

RIC committee discussed education opportunities regarding the topic in September along with another pulpit exchange. There has been discussion about putting books on the topic of LGBTQ+ in the library.

The Roof repair over the sanctuary has been authorized and the work is awaiting scheduling.

Summer Schedule

For the Summer months the Saturday service will be moved to Thursday evening in the Prayer Garden.

In June 8th there will be an Ice Cream social.

The Spaghetti supper will be July 27 to raise money intended to be gifts to the ministry in Tanzania when our members visit.

There will be a cook out in August. The date will be announced

Rally Day is September 17 and there will be a cook out following church that day.

VBS is June 27-29 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. We will be using the VBS material that came with our Spark House Sunday School material.

Council Minutes, May 9, 2023 *Cont.*

The Congregational Meeting to elect council members will be June 4 immediately following service and Council installation will be June 26.

Newsletter submission due date May 15.

Land Lease and Tower

The Congregation received an offer of \$325,000 to buy out the lease. The council voted to turn down the offer and continue with the monthly lease arrangement.

Committee Comments

Evangelism – K. Knipple has access to the public page on the Facebook account so that she can add to it.

Worship and Music – They are still awaiting the 3rd bid on the sound system. D. Sanders said that Sandy Wesolowski will accept the nomination for the Worship and Music position on council. The congregation has purchased an electric eternal light for the sanctuary.

Finance – E. Sanders reported that counters will be counting every other week. They require additional help with counting.

Education – The Men's and Women's Bible Studies will end in June as well as the Monday group. VBS will meet.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

Pastor Hooper closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kipp W. Zimmermann
Secretary



July 1



July 14



June 18th



June 14



June 19



July 25



June 21



June 18



Independence
DAY
July 4

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 JUNE 3RD 5:00PM

THURSDAY PRAYER GARDEN AT 6:30PM

BEGINNING JUNE 8TH

SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 27, 28 & 29 6:00-8:00PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLOSING JUNE 4TH

(WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER)

*SUNDAY SERVICES ARE IN PERSON AND STREAMED
VIA ZOOM, FOR ZOOM INFORMATION CONTACT THE
CHURCH OFFICE

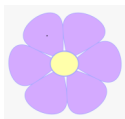


St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

6101 S. 51st Street

Greendale WI 53129

(414) 421-3543



June/July 2023



Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others