



# ***August 2023***

## ***Martyr Monthly***

**St Stephen the Martyr  
Lutheran Church ELCA**

**Worship Opportunities**

**Summer Prayer Garden Worship Thursday 6:30pm**

**Sunday 9:30 am**

**Sunday School will resume in September**





## Pastor's Page

Dear Community of Faith,

Our youth returned on Friday, July 14 from their trip serving with Youth Works in the Quad Cities. The Quad Cities is actually made up of five cities (Davenport and Bettendorf in Iowa, and Rock Island, Moline and East Moline in Illinois). It was fun for me to go back to the QC as I went to Augustana College in Rock Island.

We had five youth participants and two adult leaders on the trip. We stayed at church in Davenport and brought air mattresses to sleep on. The youth worked hard. We usually woke up around 6:45am or 7am and youth were responsible for preparing breakfast, clean-up, and facility clean-up. They would prepare brown bag lunches to bring to the work sites.

Our theme for the week was, "You are Here." Daily themes were, you are here to love, share, unite and go! Each day included devotions and the gathering (worship). Each night we did one of my favorite things...sharing *Highs and Lows* of the day. I am extremely proud of the insights that our youth shared as they were impacted by their serving at the work sites.

Speaking of worksites, the youth served in a variety of different ways. Some of our youth did home clean-ups, and helped to rebuild a retaining wall at the ARC. Some of our youth served at *Active day*, assisting residents with mental and physical disabilities. The youth were patient and good listeners. They also got to play bingo with some of the residents. Some youth even visited a school, and did some singing, dancing and learned some sign language.

Along with service we had some fun. The kids went for Whitey's ice cream, to a waterpark, saw the work of Charles Schultz, including Snoopy and all the Peanuts characters. We cooked out and played some flag football at a park.

Thank you faith community for supporting our youth with your love, support and prayer. These youth trips are truly faith-forming opportunities. Speaking of faith opportunities, next summer will be the ***ELCA Youth Gathering, July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans, LA***. All high school youth can participate. It would be wonderful to have a group attend.

Peace, Pastor Brian

# Update from Council

At our most recent church council meeting, I was reminded to be thankful for and see all the abundance with which we have been blessed. Our church is blessed with eleven skilled and committed people serving this congregation in council positions. These individuals work together to manage the church's business and they could use a partner who has expertise in building and grounds maintenance. The Property Chairperson works with our church custodian and an ad hoc group of volunteers to ensure that the physical church is well cared for. If you are interested in joining this committed council of volunteers, please connect with Pastor Brian or Denise Sanders, council president.



## QR Codes & How To for VANCO Mobile App.

- 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.



*For google*



For iPhone

# News from Mbaaseny

Pastor Nnko sends greetings from Mbaaseny, Jericho and Canaan with many thanks for our support. He shared photos of the program Mbaaseny held for the elderly and people with special needs in early July. They had a meal and gave them gifts. Over 400 attended!



In June, Mbaaseny held a conference for all children in the Eastern District of the Diocese



Pastor Nnko also shared that Baraka, our 1<sup>st</sup> scholarship student, has completed his secondary education. He has not qualified for college and is attending a school for tourism and international language at this time.

The weather season is winter with cold temperatures for Meru. Pasto Nnko asked for our prayers as these temperatures are especially hard on the elderly. The homes are not well insulated and typically there is not a source of heat other than cooking stoves. Pastor asked for prayers for the chair of their fund committee. He is being treated for heart disease at a hospital.

They are looking forward to our visit and asked for photos of those traveling.

Julie Starks



# Human Concerns

## Food Pantries

Your generosity in providing kid-friendly food items over the summer is greatly appreciated. Many children will be returning to school soon, but the need for food and non-perishable items continues. Food items for August will again be donated to **Bay View Community Center Food Pantry**.

Also in July, funds collected for the food pantries were distributed to the **Bat View Community Center, Unity Food Pantry and ELCA World Hunger**. Each program received \$185.00. The need is great but your generosity seems to be unending. Thank you.

## School Bags

Human Concerns' goal is to fill 150 school bag kits. We have 100 bags that have already been sewn so we would like to complete 50 additional bags. Instructions and fabric are available if you would like to sew some of the bags at home.



We have a surplus of many items that go into the bags. Items still needed **for each school bag kit** are:

Four 70-sheet, single subject notebooks (that's 600 notebooks!) of wide or college-ruled paper

One box of 24 crayons (we need about 100)

One pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well and about 50 are needed)

We will not have a school bag sewing day this year but look for pre-cut bags that are ready for pressing and/or sewing. Instructions are provided.



## Outreach for Hope

The annual Ride, Run, Walk will be held on Sunday, September 30th at four sites. To register and learn more, please visit: **OFHRRW.org**

2023 FAMILY RIDE RUN WALK  
MILES FOR HOPE

# Music and Worship

As we enter August, we remain in the season of Pentecost. This long season of the church year is marked by the color green that represents the spiritual growth of the Church and its members.



Please join the Greendale community in worship on Sunday, August 13 during Village Days. The service will be in the village center at 9:00am. Please watch bulletin announcements for more information.

## Volunteer Opportunities

As the school year approaches, it's time to look at worship volunteer opportunities here at SSM. If you are interested in assisting with any of the following, please see Sandy Wesolowski or Pr. Brian.

Usher

Greeter

Reader

Communion Set-up and/or Server

Altar Guild

Choir

Handbells

Special Events: All Saints, Christmas decorating



## Service Schedule Change

The Thursday services will be ending on August 31st, and SSM will be returning to Saturday 5:00PM services in September.

# Ushers Needed



A new usher schedule will soon be prepared for the remainder of the year. More ushers are needed to keep teams at full strength. You may serve at the 5:00PM Saturday service or the 9:30AM Sunday worship.

No experience is necessary, as you would be teamed with ushers who would train you. Men, Women, Teens and Confirmation students are welcome to usher.

Presently, ushers serve every 4 weeks or so, and when your assignment conflicts with your personal schedules, you may trade dates with another usher or arrange for a substitute. Let the SSM office know of the change.

If you are interested in ushering, contact Bob Rasmussen with a note in the church mailbox, by [email:rjkorasmussen@gmail.com](mailto:rjkorasmussen@gmail.com), by phone: 414-421-5170 or let the Pastor know you wish to volunteer.

Thank You

## Reader's Schedule

A new reader's schedule will come out soon for September, October, November and December. If you are interested in being a reader for either Sunday morning or Saturday evening services please contact the office.

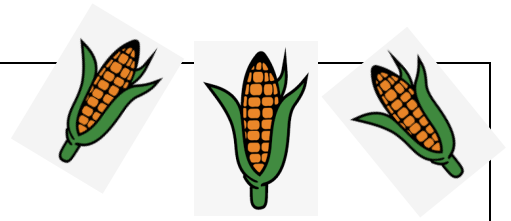


## A Friend in Need

Some members of our congregation have received a letter from Pastor Hartmut Barsnick, who formerly has visited SSM and explained his mission work in Tanzania. In the past, he led former pastor, Gail Brodersenheins and her husband, and a group to Germany, to see the sites where Luther lived, preached, and was buried. Now, Pastor Barsnick is too ill to perform his mission work in person. Rather he does it remotely, to raise money for the orphans, to develop schools, and promote health care and clean water. If anyone is inclined to make a donation to Barsnick's ministry, more information can be obtained from the church office or from Bob Rasmussen at 414-421-5170.



2023



<b>Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Mega Meeting
<b>Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Prayer Garden Worship
<b>Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:45am</b>	Family Summer Choir
	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
	<b>10:45am</b>	Coffee Hour
<b>Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Council Meeting
<b>Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Prayer Garden Worship
<b>Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Outdoor Worship in Greendale Village
<b>Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>4:30pm</b>	Cook Out
	<b>6:30pm</b>	Prayer Garden Worship
<b>Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:45am</b>	Family Summer Choir
	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
	<b>10:45am</b>	Coffee Hour
<b>Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Prayer Garden Worship
<b>Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:45am</b>	Family Summer Choir
	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
<b>Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Prayer Garden Worship

### Other Fun August Dates:



State Fair  
8/3 to 8/13



Nat'l Polka  
Day 8/9



8/8



Lefthander's  
Day 8/13



8/16



8/30



# Christian Education

Vacation Bible School **ReNew**, was three evenings of games, learning, crafting, snacking and staying indoors (because of the Canadian wildfire smoke that caused poor air quality). There were 15 students in attendance and many helpers, adults and young people. We all learned about God's wonderful gift of our earth and how we can take care of it. Each evening another part of the parable of the sewer was discussed and we all planted seeds talked about protecting our environment and sang songs. A big **THANK YOU** Patti Nelson, our VBS Coordinator and all of her helpers: Denise Sanders, Eric Sanders, Andrea Woerpel, Jenny Resterhouse, Alex Dollar, Chris Dollar, Heidi Hennessy, Pastor Brian, Bonnie Zimmermann and youth helpers Sarah Billman, Quinn Schuchardt and Regan Kunesh.



In other Christian Education news - The Monthly Bible Study will begin on Monday, September 11th at 1:00pm. The Men's Study will have their first meeting on Wednesday, September 6th at 9:30am and the Women's Study will start up again on Wednesday, September 13th at 10:15am. Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 10th and Rally Day will be Sunday, September 17th. Watch for more information on all of these events in the September Martyr Monthly.

# Summer Pictures

## Roof Work



## Summer Family Choir



VBS Kids singing for the Thursday Service held indoors because of smoke conditions from Canadian wildfires.



# Can You Help with Cans?

Picnics, Parties, and Outings mean BEVERAGE CANS. Recycled aluminum cans mean more dollars to go to the food pantries that SSM supports as well as helping the environment. This year, to date, \$56 has been raised from can sales. HELP by leaving your bags of cans at the side door of the church garage.



		Jordan Schultz	17
		Jordan Schultz	17
		Morgan Schultz	17
		Rae Ann Simley	20
		Joseph Ferguson	21
		Braden Anderson	22
Tim Hinkley	01	Tracy Wholean	23
AJ Taylor	01	Collette Haasch	23
John Retzlaff	02	Henry Burmeister	23
Jeremy Hanna	04	Erin Ankebrandt	25
Jenna Dose	05	Christopher Rafalski	28
Charles Ferguson	09	Robert Soderstrom	29
Borgne Raasch	10	Mary Kling	29
Ruth Hoppe	12	Jay Rosiewski	29
Carolyn Birk	12	Diane Flohr	30
Brian Stoddard	14	Judith Hryniewicki	30
Barbara Davies	16	Samuel Jacobsen	30
Jim Palasz	16	Jackson Massey	30



# Quilting Bee - July 17



51 more quilts added  
to the pile in one day







The goal for 2023 is 200 Quilts



# ***Council Minutes, June 13, 2023***

Present: K Knipple; L Schuchardt; A Dollar; J Miller; S Wesolowski; E Sanders; D Sanders; B Zimmermann; K Zimmermann

Meeting called to order by Denise Sanders at 6:33pm  
Eric Sanders led the devotion.

May Minutes were approved as corrected.

Financial Report - The month's giving was good because one member gave 90% of their annual gift. Building fund is a little low but we usually catch up during the year. The last of the Amazon Smiles funds were received because Amazon discontinued the project. Thrivent Choice dollars continue to come in. There is only \$6000 remaining to pay off the organ.

Financial Reports approved.

Pastor's Time - Pastor Brian was on vacation.

## Current Action

Kristy Knipple now has updated the Facebook page.

Tanzania trip – Council has designated \$1500 of the Choice dollars for donations to the various ministries that will be visited by our delegation.

The Greater Milwaukee Assembly is involved in an Authentic Diversity Audit and presented a handout of findings. Our RIC work appears to be headed in the right direction.

## Old Items Removed

The Health and Wellness mask issue. We will remain mask friendly for the foreseeable future.

Move the Community Engagement to the Pastor's report.

Table the Sound System.

Digital presence moved to Kristy and evangelism.

Table the discussion of Safety at Church.

Eliminate Columbarium.

July Council meeting and Mega Meeting cancelled.

Roof Project will be finished next week. The Organ is being covered by the organ builder prior to the beginning of the roof work.

# Council Minutes Continued

August Newsletter due July 15.

## Committee Concerns

Christian Ed – Sunday School was successful. There 10 to 12 kids registered for VBS. Monthly, Men's and Women's Bible Studies end in June and will resume in September.

Fellowship – The Milkmen game is scheduled for 7/23.

Youth and Family – Rally Day is scheduled for the first Sunday of September.

Worship and Music – We have a new electric Eternal Candle in the sanctuary. The Greenfield Village Worship is scheduled for 8/13. There will be no worship at SSM that day.

Human Concerns – The spaghetti dinner is scheduled for 7/27.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kipp W. Zimmermann, Secretary



## **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

As we begin August, be reminded that you can designate your Choice Dollars, as you earn them during the year. Check every few months to see if you have earned dollars, then direct them to SSM. Information is available in the "Thrivent Choice Resources" section on [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com). You can also call Thrivent at 1 (800) 847-4836 and listen to the menu for further information.



## OFFICE HOURS

9:00-2:00 M-Th

9:00-12:00 F

## SSM STAFF

Brian Hooper, Pastor

[pastorbrianhooper@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbrianhooper@gmail.com)

Tabatha Moldenhauer, Music Director

Mark Breutzmann, Saturday Musician

Jim Hennessy, Church Maintenance

Bonnie Zimmermann, Ministry Assistant

SSM Website: [www.ssmelca.org](http://www.ssmelca.org)

Email: [office@ssmelca.org](mailto:office@ssmelca.org)

Phone: 414-421-3543

Sunday School email:

[sundayschool@ssmelca.org](mailto:sundayschool@ssmelca.org)

## WORSHIP AT SSM

THURSDAY PRAYER GARDEN AT 6:30PM

SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM\*

SUNDAY SCHOOL 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

**August 2023**



*Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*