

# *September 2023*

## *Martyr Monthly*

*Rally Day September 17th*



**St Stephen the Martyr**

**Lutheran Church ELCA**

**Worship Opportunities**

**Saturday 5:00pm (Beginning September 9th)**

**Sunday 9:30 am**

**Sunday School 9:30am (Beginning September 10th)**

# Pastor's Page



Dear Family of Faith,

At the end of August, it always seems like we are asking, “Where did the summer go?” School supplies are once again being collected in homes, the hours of daylight are diminishing, and we have had some cool nights mixed in with some extreme heat.

As we head into the fall months, I invite you to page through our newsletter. You will find that mission and ministry are kicking into high gear. On September 3, youth can bring their backpacks for a ***Blessing of Backpacks*** during the children’s sermon. After worship that day we will have an informational meeting for youth in grades 8-12 who might like to attend the ***ELCA National Youth Gathering***, which will be held in New Orleans, July 16-20, 2024. ***Sunday school*** classes will resume on September 10 and our ***Rally Day*** celebration will be on September 17.

Bible studies, handbells, and choir and other programs are also beginning soon. As we settle into the fall I again invite you to worship, to deeper connections with God and community, where all are loved, all are cared for, and all are welcome. Maybe there is a program or activity that you would like to take place at SSM. Let me know and we can work together to make it happen.

I also share with you that I recently completed training as a PCC (professional certified coach) and have been certified as an “End of Life and Grief Coach.” I am available if there is a life or grief topic that you would like to discuss. I am also hoping to have a grief group at SSM in the fall, let me know if this might be of interest to you. More details to come.

As we step into this new time and season, be sure to take a moment to breathe. It will all be okay! Appointments will be met, events will take place, homework will get done, meetings will happen. Just take each in stride and do the best you can! God is good!

Peace, Pastor Brian

# Stewardship

I am increasingly convinced that the task of church leaders is to help nurture a truly welcoming community, one that is able to maintain and nurture a richness of life that is both difficult—because of differences in matters like race, age, sexual orientation, and social standing—and vital, for the same reasons. To be that kind of church is to live life that really is courageous. When we live this life, we are guided by our hopes more than our fears. When we live this life, we love and pray for our enemies, whether personal, professional, or political—accepting what is perhaps the most difficult invitation of Jesus (Matt 5:43–48). When we live this life, we are courageous enough to admit that much of the time we fail to be our best selves and our best community.

So what is Christian stewardship? It is simply our courageous attempt, having experienced the generosity and hospitality of the God we know in Jesus, to live a life that reflects that generosity, the life that really is life. Be strong, and let your heart take courage, . . . so that you may take hold of the life that really is life. A life where we meet God through our relationships with others through peace and love.

Reflecting Generosity - Hermann Weinlick



National  
Food Bank Day  
September 1st



Labor Day  
September 4th



# OUTREACH FOR HOPE

2023 FAMILY RIDE RUN WALK

MILES FOR HOPE

**Don't delay. Register today and join St. Stephen the Martyr's team at the Waukesha County event. Pre-registration closes Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.**

Feel free to participate at one of the other three sites if that's a better option. Complete information for Ozaukee, Racine/Kenosha and Milwaukee sites can be found at: [OFHRRW.org](http://OFHRRW.org).

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

## **CORY MUNICIPAL PARK, DOUSMAN**

The Waukesha County event site features the following route options through beautiful lake country:

- A 30-mile road ride for the more experienced rider
- A 14-mile family friendly trail ride on the Glacial Drumlin Trail
- A 2-mile walk
- A 5K run

A fellowship-only option for those who plan to attend the event, but not participate in a ride, run or walk

All of these options will begin and end at Cory Municipal Park in Dousman. Following the rides/run/walk, all participants will receive an individually packaged box lunch to enjoy outdoors with the community of Outreach for Hope supporters.

## **SCHEDULE**

**7 – 9:30 am:** Check in table is open at Cory Park Pavilion

**8:30 am:** Road ride starts (check in by 8 am)

**9:30 am:** Trail ride starts (check in by 9 am)

**10 am:** Walk and run starts (check in by 9:30 am)

**11 am – 12:30 pm:** Family picnic

Not able to participate? Please consider a donation to Outreach for Hope Ride, Run, Walk either online at [OFHRRW.org](http://OFHRRW.org) or through St. Stephen the Martyr. Thank you!



# Equipping the Saints - Thank You

This past spring, 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 congregational ministries are enhanced as we walk together with Lutherans across our Synod.

A huge thank you to all who participated! Our congregation contributed nearly \$20,000 in three-year pledges or one-time gifts to this important work. 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*

If you would still like to make a commitment to the campaign, you can find intent forms on the kiosk in the church’s gathering space, or by calling the church office.



## Music and Worship

Handbell and Choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> with a potluck between rehearsals. New members are always welcome to either group! Handbell rehearsals run from 5:45PM until 6:45PM, and Choir rehearses from 7:00PM until 8:00PM or so. Regardless of

your musical experience, you are welcome to join either (or both) of these caring, fun groups at SSM! Please contact Tabitha or the church office with any questions.

SSM is in need of more volunteers for communion setup and serving and ushering. If you are interested, please see Pastor Brian or Sandy Wesowski.



# Meru Partnership News

**Spaghetti Dinner** – A huge success! Asante sana to all who donated food, who planned and worked at the event, who ate, and who donated funds! 75 people were served and \$1400 was raised just through our dinner! These funds will aid our partnership ministries in the Diocese of Meru!



**Giving Tree** – Donations given through our Giving Tree were due to SSM by August 20! This allowed these funds to be counted in preparation for a wire transfer to Tanzania. Many thanks for your generous gifts to our ministry partners.

**Save the Date!** – A joint prayer service will be held via Zoom with members from the Greater Milwaukee Synod and the Diocese of Meru on **Saturday, September 23, 7AM!** The service will be recorded and available for viewing later. Contact Julie Starks, [jastarks39@gmail.com](mailto:jastarks39@gmail.com) if you would like the zoom link. Our Partnership Joint Day of Prayer is Sunday, September 24 where we will lift up prayers for each other during our worship service.

**Meru Travel** – Our travelers are very grateful for the support and generosity the people of SSM have shared about travel to visit our partners in Meru. Please keep them in prayer as they depart on Sept. 26 and return on Oct. 12. Asante sana, Julie Starks, Patti Nelson, Sara Raasch and Lois Mueller.



## Blessing of Back Packs

Bring your back packs or other back to back to school items to church on Sunday, September 3rd for a blessing during the Sunday service as we head back to school to begin another year.



National Beer  
Lover's Day  
September 7th



National  
Guacamole Day  
September 16th



Talk Like  
A Pirate  
Day  
September  
19th

# SEPTEMBER 2023

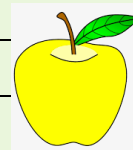


14th Weekend after Pentecost		
Sunday, 3rd	9:30am	Worship - Blessing of Back Packs
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
Monday, 4th	Labor Day - Office Closed	
Tuesday, 5th	6:30pm	Mega Meeting
Wednesday, 6th	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
15th Weekend after Pentecost		
Saturday, 9th	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 10th	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School Begins
Monday, 11th	1:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, 12th	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday 13th	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
16th Weekend after Pentecost		
Saturday, 16th	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 17th	9:30am	Worship - Rally Day
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Rally Day Celebrations





<b>Wednesday, 20th</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Men's Bible Study
	<b>5:45pm</b>	Handbell Rehearsal
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>17th Weekend after Pentecost</b>		
<b>Saturday, 23rd</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, 24th</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
		Sunday School
<b>Wednesday, 27th</b>	<b>10:15am</b>	Women's Bible Study
	<b>5:45pm</b>	Handbell Rehearsal
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>18th Weekend after Pentecost</b>		
<b>Saturday, 30th</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, Oct. 1st</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
		Sunday School



## News from the Women of the ELCA at SSM



Get your recipes ready!! The women of SSM are planning their second annual Christmas Cookie Bake Sale on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds will go to both local and international charities. More information to come. Thank you!

# Human Concerns



Human Concerns would like to thank everyone who has donated school supplies for the school bags, or helped press and/or sew the bags. The Sunday School children will help fill the school bags with supplies on **Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**. **Please have completed bags returned to church by Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!

**"The shelves are bare!"** That's the communication received from **Unity Lutheran Church** in the middle of

August. St. Stephen's food donations for the month of September will be given to Unity. For the Unity's homeless population, please consider donating food items that can be opened without the use of a can opener. High-protein, non-perishable foods such as canned meats and peanut butter are always in demand. Non-food items such as toothpaste and brushes, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper, paper towels, and laundry soap are also appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.



# Loose Ends Lunch

Lunch is back - The ladies will meet for Loose Ends Lunch on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon at That's Amore Italian Restaurant at 5080 S 108th Street in Greenfield. Please call Karen Hoffman to let her know that you are coming so that reservations can be made, Lunches will continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month, watch each month for the exact date and contact person.



# Living Lutheran News

In the March issue of *Living Lutheran Magazine*, it was announced that the last issue would be the November/December 2023 issue. The intent is to focus on on-line content. They are working on ways to reach those readers who do not have the internet. Be sure to pick up your copy of *Living Lutheran* for this month and the remaining months for more information on how you can continue to stay in the know.



George Jacobsen	02	Marion Walton	14
Lynn Manning	03	Sharon Behling	14
Brandon Larson	03	Dana Chybowski	14
Caleb Dose	03	Joy Kilimann	15
Tom Knipple	04	Lori Salas	15
Darlene Waters	05	Mark Malinowski	16
Sierra Manning	05	Danielle Ziegert	16
Joanne Hoeft	06	Henry Ferguson	16
Andy Matusiak	08	Roxanne Farrell	17
J.P. Maschke	09	Samir Reyes	20
Natalie Dietrich	09	Ron Ropel	22
Sue DeFrank	10	Nancy Hoffman	22
Isaac Kling	10	Deb Perl	23
Joshua Dietrich	10	Penny Whitmore	23
Stephanie Julseth	12	Troy Lisiecki	25
		Paula Gray	27
		John Bugajski	28
		Joseph Konop	28
		Fred Mueller	29
		Ezrie Fuentes	29
		Jameson Miller	30

# Christian Education

The new academic year is here and things at SSM are in full swing in September. Important upcoming education opportunities are:

**Blessing of Back Packs** and other school and work supplies be take place at the 9:30am service on Sunday, September 3rd.

**Sunday School** will begin on September 10th. There will be 3 classes: preschool age, grades 1, 2 and 3, and grades 4, 5 and 6. Every Sunday students will begin their Sunday School learning in the 9:30am Sunday service and then will go to their grade level classes after the Children's Message. Sunday School lessons will follow the same lessons that the adults hear during worship.



## Bible Study



**The Monday Bible Study Group** will begin meeting for the season on September 11th at 1:00pm. They will usually meet on the first Monday of the month (unless that is a holiday as is the case in September). This is a self-lead group which engages in thoughtful discussion around bible centered topics.

**The Men's Bible Study Group** will start up on September 6th at 9:30am. They will continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Their first topic will be the book of Revelations.

**The Women's Bible Study Group** will begin on September 13th at 10:15am and will start with a study of Luther's Small Catechism. They will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

Both the Men's and Women's Bible Studies are in person and streamed on zoom. For zoom information please contact the office or Kipp Zimmermann for the Men's Group or Bonnie Zimmermann for the Women's Group.

We look forward to another exciting year of Bible study for both adults and children here at SSM. We would like to start a week-night zoom Bible study for busy adults who cannot make Wednesday morning sessions but would perhaps enjoy an hour or so of Bible engagement after the kiddos are in bed and the workday is done one evening a week.

Watch for more information about this, as we will be exploring what people are interested in and what timing would be best.



# Have You Seen ?



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Please check your linen closet to see if you have some satin striped white tablecloths that you aren't sure where they came from, The church is missing both the round and the rectangular banquet size table cloths that were purchased some years ago. They have been missing for awhile. Hopefully they are hiding somewhere and can be discovered

and returned. Contact the office or just bring them in and put them in the Fellowship Hall if you find them. Thanks.

## 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*



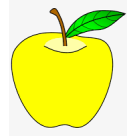
# Council Minutes, August 8, 2023

Present: D Sanders; L Schuchardt; J Miller; J Muroi; K Zimmermann; S Rosenstock; K Knipple; A Dollar;

E Sanders; Pastor Hooper; B Zimmermann; J Hennessy, Guest

D. Sanders called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Kipp Zimmermann lead the devotion.



**Jim Hennessy** gave a report on the building maintenance: Another sprinkler leaked and collapsed the ceiling over the fire place. Repairs are underway. Front doors and the auto opener were not operating correctly but have been repaired. The roof has been completed. The sanctuary roof and the narthex roof combined cost \$110,000. The bill has been paid. The prayer garden sprinkler is causing a problem. All of the trees around the church need to be trimmed. Jim and Lorin are getting quotes. Jim proposed getting the carpets cleaned. Estimates are around \$1000.00 to \$1200.00. Jim is investigating snow removal for the winter. The push mower is broken. Jim is looking into a used mower which he believes will do well. Jim is investigating repainting parking lot lines.

June minutes were approved with corrections.

Financial Reports: J Miller reports that the giving numbers appear to be ahead of the yearly averages because several people gave their entire yearly donation at once. J. Muroi reports that the roof repairs are paid in full.

Financial Report approved.

Pastors Time: Kim's mother's funeral (Laura Sussman) will be held in August. Pastor has completed the Coaching Course and is certified as a grief coach. He has used the skill with members of the congregation as well as others. Pastor is part of the developing coaching ministry of the synod. The youth ministry completed a mission to the Quad Cities. The Church Wide Youth Gathering in New Orleans is planned for next summer. Pastor is working toward having our youth attend. Pastor is aiming at having a monthly youth event at SSM. Pastor announced a Fall ecumenical gathering planned with a grant from Marquette University.

Current Action Items:

The Synod is offering a workshop, "Deconstructing Racism" at St. Matthews, Wauwatosa. D. Sander plans to attend.

Rally Day is planned for September 17 with a cook out to follow the service.

Sunday school will begin the week before, September 10th.

Garage organization and storage review is planned to reorganize and clean out what needs to be removed.

Council Retreat is planned for Saturday Morning, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

# Council Minutes Continued

The cell tower company made a higher offer to buy the contract for \$375,000. The offer was rejected. The council feels that it is to our advantage to keep leasing the property to them.

## Old Action

RIC has not met, but will resume in September.  
There is a proposed pulpit swap with Pastor Char.  
The Council is looking for a property chair.



With regard to the sound system, we now have 3 proposals. Two of the proposals merit a second meeting for any updated information. The target date for presentation to the congregation is the annual meeting.

## Committee Reports

Music and Worship is planning an organ recital. Date and time to be set in the future.

Stewardship – Stewardship Sunday is scheduled for October 15. More interviews are planned and Jeremy Hanna is looking for individuals who could participate.

A Vanco survey has been completed regarding credit card use. We do not use credit cards nor do we plan to.

Human Concerns – S. Rosenstock reports that school bags will be assembled and with the quilts will be blessed and sent in the fall.

Youth and Family – Trunk or Treat is planned for October 21.

Education – Sunday School materials are in. Materials were ordered from Spark, some ordered from them and some printed in house.

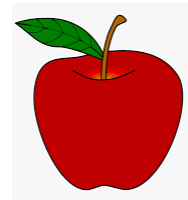
Men's and Women's Bible studies will begin In September.

Next meeting will be September 12

Meeting adjourned 7:47 pm.

Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Kipp W. Zimmermann, Secretary



String Cheese  
Day

September 20th

Hobbit Day  
September  
22nd



## 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

SATURDAY AT 5:00PM

(BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 9TH)

SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM\*

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM

(BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 10TH)

## RALLY DAY SEPTEMBER 17TH

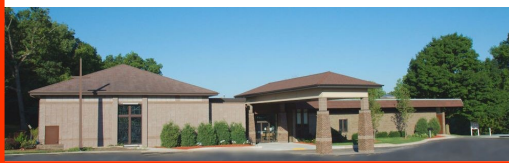


## St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

6101 S. 51st Street  
Greendale WI 53129  
(414) 421-3543



## September 2023



*Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*