

October 2023

Martyr Monthly



St Stephen the Martyr
Lutheran Church ELCA
Worship Opportunities
Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 9:30 am
Sunday School 9:30am



Pastor's Page



Dear Family of Faith,

Fall is my favorite time to go walking, running or biking outdoors. What I truly enjoy about the fall is the cool air and the beautiful changing landscape. The leaves of shades of red, orange and gold illuminate this beautiful earth. It is as if the leaves are dancing as they twirl from the branches high above.

Biking outdoors there are sometimes acorns to dodge along the roadways, and squirrels to avoid as they scamper all around burying their treasures for a winter treat.

I can still visualize my favorite places to go and gaze at the beautiful changing scenery. Where is your favorite place to gaze at the changing leaves?

As I think of changing trees and leaves, I can't help but think about how each tree has a beginning. Some were planted by school children or families, some by landscapers, some on streets by city work crews, some by Johnny Appleseed. Others are a product of nature's chance; saplings developing from seeds dropped from another tree, or carried by a cardinal to a safe location and then forgotten.

Each tree had a beginning, and their height and beauty came through a long process that involved many years. Seedlings grew into saplings; saplings into mature trees. As the trees grow they often go through pruning and trimming.

In some ways, we are like trees. We are a work in progress. Some days it may seem that we go forward two steps and then back one step. As we continue to grow in faith lives we will be:

Pruned: In John 15:2 Jesus says, *"The vine grower removes every branch in me that bears no fruit, he prunes to make it bear more fruit."* Pruning cuts away the parts of our lives that aren't needed or damaged so that new growth can begin.

Nourished: We are fed by hearing God's word, gathering in worship together, and staying connected to God through prayer and through healthy relationships with our brothers and sisters in faith.

Cultivated: God sometimes digs around our "roots" to loosen the soil so that we might be more receptive to God's teachings and free to move out of our comfort zone; free to move in the direction God leads us.

In this fall season let us thank God for the beauty all around us, and for raising us up to be God's faithful people in mission through the changing seasons of a lifetime.

Peace, Pastor Brian

P.S.: I will be taking Fridays as my day off instead of Mondays. I am always available for pastoral emergencies.

Exciting Up-Coming Event at SSM
Organ Recital
November 12 4PM
Greg Zelek, Organist



Praised as “extraordinary in the classical music world” (Jon Hornbacher, PBS Wisconsin Life) and a “musical star” (Bill Wineke, Channel 3000), Greg Zelek is the Principal Organist of the Madison Symphony Orchestra and Curator of the Overture Concert Organ, where he regularly performs and oversees all of the MSO's organ programming. Since September 2017, Greg has proudly held the Elaine and Nicholas Mischler Curatorship.

In addition to concertizing throughout the United States, Greg performs with orchestras as both a soloist and ensemble member, including the MET Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony, Florida Orchestra, New World Symphony, Ridgewood Symphony, Miami Symphony, and Madison Symphony.

Highlights of the upcoming 2023-24 season include return appearances as the Artist-in Residence of the Organ Series of the Jacksonville Symphony, concerts as the Visiting Guest Artist at St. John's University, performances with cellist Thomas Mesa and also with trombonist Mark Hetzler, as well as solo concerts throughout the country.

Greg also released his first recording on the Overture Concert Organ in the Fall of 2022. In 2016, Greg was chosen by The Diapason magazine as one of the top “20 Under 30” organists, a feature which selects the most successful young artists in the field. He was the First Prize winner in the 2012 Rodgers North American Classical Organ Competition, 2012 West Chester University Organ Competition, and 2010 East Carolina University Organ Competition, as well as the Audience Prize winner of the 2016 Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition. A recipient of the inaugural Kovner Fellowship, Greg received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees, as well as an Artist Diploma, from the Juilliard School as a student of Paul Jacobs .



Music and Worship

A reminder that SSM will be hosting an organ recital given by Greg Zelek, Principal Organist of the Madison Symphony Orchestra, on Sunday, November 12 at 4:00PM. All are welcome! Please invite friends and family to what promises to be a stellar musical event!

October continues the season of Pentecost. Altar paraments will remain green to symbolize growth until the last Sunday of October, when they will be changed to red for Reformation.

On October 28 and 29, we will celebrate Reformation and have Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation Sunday, October 29 during the 9:30AM service.

Confirmation Class of 2023 – Reformation Day, October 29, 2023



Breleigh Kopplin
Kyle Lemberger
Madelynn Lentz
Romario Ortega
Keira Revers

Pet Blessing

On October 8th, at 4:00pm Pastor will lead a service of Pet Blessing in the Prayer Garden. (The regular 5:00pm Saturday worship will take place as usual.) Bring all of the furry, feathered and non-human members of your family.



Human Concerns



Food donations throughout the fall/winter will be alternated monthly between Bay View Community Center and Unity Lutheran Church. October's food donations will benefit the

Bay View Community Center food pantry. Items such as peanut butter (jelly, too) and canned meats such as chicken or tuna are great sources of protein and are in high demand. Personal hygiene products, toilet paper, paper towels, dish and laundry soap are also needed. If you prefer, cash donations can be made and placed in the offering plate. Please remember to indicate your contribution is for **Food Pantries**. Thank you!

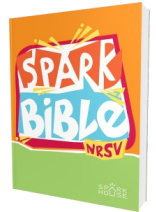
On Saturday, October 21st and Sunday, October 22nd a volunteer from Tippecanoe/Divine Intervention will be joining us at worship to provide information about volunteer opportunities available with this ministry.

As you begin shopping for new winter coats, please consider donating your **clean, gently used** winter coats to the Bay View Community Center. Only coats will be collected at SSM and donated to BVCC. Watch for more information.



3rd Grade Bible Instruction

All children who are in 3rd grade or higher, and their parents, who have not received their Spark Bible from St. Stephen the Martyr are invited to meet with Eric Sanders for some Bible instruction and familiarization on October 22nd after worship. Bibles will be presented to the students by their parents on the following Sunday - Reformation, October 29th at the 9:30am worship service.



Advent Nativity Scene Display



This Advent season we would like to have a display of Nativity Scenes from around the world. Do you have a culturally diverse Nativity Scene that you would be willing to loan to SSM for this display? If so, contact the office for more information.

Unity Lutheran Service Opportunity

Our partner church in Bay View, Unity Lutheran, re-started up it's CommUNITY Meal program this summer and volunteer's are needed to help support this important cause serving those in need around Milwaukee. The meals are now scheduled for the third Wednesday of each



month, so **the next opportunity is October 18th**. Shifts are available starting from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, and last up to two hours. This includes a "Greet and Eat" shift to simply meet our neighbors and have a conversation while dining. Please watch for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the offices each month, and contact Jason Covert or Shelly Rosenstock of Human Concerns with any questions. Thank you for considering this and we hope to see you at Unity!



Women of the ELCA at SSM

Get your recipes ready!! The women of SSM are planning their second annual Christmas Cookie Bake Sale. All proceeds will go to both local and international charities. Bake a batch of your favorite cookies and bring them to church Friday, December 8th between 9am and noon or Saturday, December 9th between 9 and 10am. Cookies will be packaged into variety packs and sold in one pound boxes on December 9th and 10th before and after worship. Thank you!



Loose Ends Lunch

The October Loose Ends Lunch will take place on October 11th at noon at El Beso Mexican Restaurant and Cantina on 74th and Edgerton. Sally Kowalewski will be the host for this lunch. Please contact her to let her know that you plan to attend so that reservations can be made. Bon Provecho!



<i>Penny Dowling</i>	<i>01</i>
<i>Saul Ortega</i>	<i>05</i>
<i>Vincent Ortega</i>	<i>05</i>
<i>Scott Ziegert</i>	<i>09</i>
<i>Jenny Anderson</i>	<i>09</i>
<i>Tom Zuleger</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Shelly Rosenstock</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Adelyn Kopplin</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Pastor Brian Hooper</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Ryan Flohr</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Jacob Stuedemann</i>	<i>17</i>

<i>Amy Billman</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Maren Hooper</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Jackie Lentz</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Nora Burmeister</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Carol Mueller</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Lauren Revers</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Hadley Kreiter</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>David Birk</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Diane Sundquist</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>John Drover</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Jenny Resterhouse</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Emily Kling</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Carol Kucharski</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Adam Woerpel</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Mary Rockstad</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Gunnar Raasch</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Judy Merritt</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Carol Malinowski</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Kelsey Nehring</i>	<i>31</i>



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The death of a loved one is difficult. We experience a wide range of emotions and feelings as we experience loss. There is no right or wrong way to grieve. I invite you to a safe place to receive support and care. Leaning on my experience as an end of life and grief coach we will have a grief support group at SSM, November 6 and November 20 from 6:30-7:30pm. Please email (pastorbrianhooper@gmail.com) or call to let me if you plan to attend or have any questions.

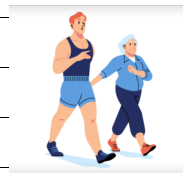
TRUNK OR TREAT - October 21 - 1-3pm

Join us for another year of Trunk or Treating right here at SSM! We will be inviting the community to come and partake in some fall fun with crafts, games, snacks, hot cocoa, and of course trick or treating trunk style. Anyone interested in helping is invited to attend the MEGA Meeting on Tuesday, October 3 at 6:30 or contact Ales Dolar : AlexandraDollar@gmail.com



October 2023

18th Weekend after Pentecost		
Saturday, 9/30	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 10/1	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
Monday, 10/2	1:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, 10/3	10:00am	Walk with Ease - until 11:00am
	6:30pm	Mega Meting
Wednesday, 10/4	9:30am	Men/s Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 10/5	10:00am	Walk with Ease - until 11:00am
	1:00pm	Quilting - Cut & Sew - until 3:00pm
	6:30pm	Confirmation Class
19th Weekend after Pentecost		
Saturday, 10/7	4:00pm	Blessing of the Animals in the Prayer Garden
	5:00pm	Worship - Quilt and School Bag Blessing
Sunday, 10/8	9:30am	Worship - Quilt and School Bag Blessing
		Sunday School
Tuesday, 10/10	10:00am	Walk with Ease - until 11:00am
	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 10/11	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	12 noon	Loose Ends Lunch
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 10/12	10:00am	Walk with Ease - until 11:00am



20th Weekend after Pentecost - Commitment Weekend		
Saturday, 10/14	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 10/15	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, 10/17	10:00am	Walk with Ease - until 11:00am
Wednesday, 10/18	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 10/19	10:00am	Walk with Ease - until 11:00am
	6:30pm	Confirmation Class
21st Weekend after Pentecost		
Saturday, 10/21	1:00pm	Trunk or Treat - until 3:00pm
	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 10/22	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	3rd Grade and Up Bible Instruction
Monday, 10/23	1:00pm	Quilting - Layering - until 3:00pm
Tuesday, 11/24	10:00am	Walk with Ease - until 11:00am
Wednesday, 10/25	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 10/26	10:00am	Walk with Ease - until 11:00am
Reformation Weekend - Confirmation Sunday		
Saturday, 10/28	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 10/29	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, 10/31	10:00am	Walk with Ease - until 11:00am



Picture Pages



**Garage Clean-Up on September 9th.
Thank you to the hard working crew.**

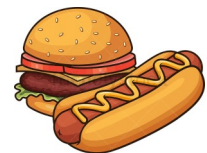
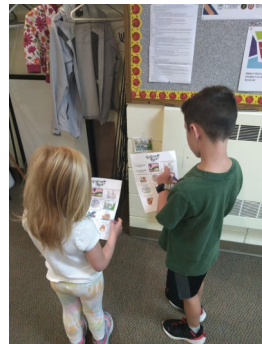


Rally Day, September 17th Worship





Rally Day, September 17th Fun and Games



and Food

Stewardship

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word "stewardship?" Budgets and spreadsheets? Money? Pledge cards? What about love?

St. Stephen is a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life, and we have an important message to share: stewardship is about so much more than money – stewardship is about love.

"Stewards of God's Love" challenges all Christians to reimagine the ways in which we steward God's resources through time, talents and treasures. In response to God's commandment to love God and our neighbors.

And it's not just our money we offer to God, but the totality of what we are, as expressed in the hymn "We Are an Offering" (ELW, 692):

"We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering."

We offer as happy and contented people, knowing that God provides all we have and all we need. This knowledge fills us with gratitude. "God loves a cheerful giver," Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:7, adding in the next verse, "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

However you choose to show your love to St. Stephen for the upcoming year., we are truly grateful to have such a generous community. Thank you for everyone's time, talents and treasures.

Peace and love, The Stewardship Committee



TIME



TALENT



TREASURE





Supporting Families • Growing Futures • Changing Lives.



Announcing Price Increases Effective October 1, 2023

Why now?

There has not been a price increase since 2011. US inflation during this period has been 35.9%. Tanzania's inflation during this period has been over 60.0%

The price increase will help the farmers!

Allow increased income improving their lives, allow continued best practices training, and provide funds to upgrade Coops de-pulping facilities.



Thank you for your continued support. Please contact us at: president@mtmerucoffee.org with questions and comments.

Mt. Meru Coffee Project, Inc.
PO Box 313
Waukesha, WI 53187

Meru Partnership News

Many thanks for the generosity of SSM towards our Giving Tree and Meru Ministries donations! A total of \$6,041 was received and will be shared with those we visit in Tanzania. A full accounting of gifts will be shared after our trip!

As you read this news, I will be in Tanzania enjoying the hospitality of our partners. Please keep our travelers and partners in prayer. We depart Sept. 26 arriving at Kilimanjaro Airport on the evening of Sept. 27. We depart on Oct. 11 arriving at O'Hare on Oct. 12.

Wifi availability is sporadic but I will share photos on the SSM Facebook page when I can. Watch for those updates! - Julie



Council Minutes, September 12th

Present: Pastor Hooper; D. Sanders; L. Schuchardt; E. Sanders; A. Dollar; S. Wesolowski; B. Zimmermann; S. Rosenstock; J. Muroi; K. Knipple; J. Hanna; J. Miller; K. Zimmermann; D. Kroll (guest)

Meeting called to order by D. Sanders at 6:38pm

Dick Kroll presented a tour and demonstration of the church website.

J. Hanna lead the devotion.

Minutes from the August 2023 meeting were approved as corrected.

Financial Reports J. Miller – A very generous gift was received. Our budget is ahead of schedule. J. Muroi – That donation was transferred to the building fund. The organ loan is under \$4000. Plans are to pay it off with either future donations or money already in our accounts.

Financial reports were approved.

Pastor's Time Thursday services have concluded with a cookout and Saturday evening services resume at 5:00. There is a Wild Church movement in the synod, to have worship in nature. We have planned the blessing of animals to be outside. Other opportunities will be investigated. Five of our young people are planning to attend the Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer. Pastor Char's installation will be held September 16 at 2:00pm at Church of the Great Spirit.

Current Action

- Rally Day is September 17 with a cookout. It will be held indoors and the Packer Game will be on.

- The Leak over the fireplace has been repaired. Insurance reimbursed the depreciated value of the carpet which was stained. A pipe was also replaced and J. Muroi will submit that bill to the insurance company also. Investigation of the options for the carpenter replacement or cleaning are underway.

- A Synod workshop on Deconstructing Racism will be held at the end of the month. D. Sanders plans to attend. Others are welcome to register on the synod website.

- Council Retreat will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in the village on November 4. There will be no additional council meeting that month.

Council Minutes Continued

- Newsletter deadline is September 15.
- The Council began updating our constitution revising the constitution to comply with the changes made by the synod to the Model Constitution.
- The property chair position is still open.

Tabled Items

The sound system committee is meeting.

Committee Comments

Stewardship – October 15 is the day to submit pledge cards.

Fellowship – the Pet Blessing will be a community event open to all who wish to have their pet blessed.

Youth and Family – the Trunk or Treat will be October 21 from 1:00 to 3:00pm.

Christian Ed – The Monday Bible Study has begun. They will be studying Esther. Men's Bible Study is underway and Women's will start on Wednesday. Sunday School is underway and the children's sermons will again be shared between the teachers. There is a need to let the children know when it is time for communion. Bibles will again be given to third graders on Reformation Sunday.

Human Concerns – school bags will be filled on September 24th by the Sunday School and will be shipped on October 14.

Evangelism – K. Knipple is willing to help create fliers or other advertising for events.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

Pastor Hooper concluded with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Kipp W. Zimmermann, secretary



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



St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

6101 S. 51st Street

Greendale WI 53129

(414) 421-3543



October 2023



Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others