

November 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 SSM Faith Family,

One of my favorite fall books is called *The Fall of Freddie the Leaf*. It's a book for kids and people of all ages...On a cold and blustery day like this past week, Freddie watches his leaf-friends fall to the ground. Freddie begins to realize that he too will fall. That he too will die. And he asks: "Why were we here at all if we only have to fall and die?" That is the spiritual question for all of us. Whether in remembering those who have gone before, or when facing our own future.

Freddie's leaf-friend Daniel has an answer: "It's been about the sun and the moon. It's been about happy times together. It's been about the shade and the old people and children. It's been about colors in the Fall. It's been about seasons. Isn't that enough?"

We will remember those who have lived and died in the faith during our All-Saints celebrations on Saturday, November 4 and Sunday, November 5. This year we will have a **Table of Remembrance** at church. You are invited to bring photographs of departed loved ones for this table of remembrance.

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. If you are grieving or struggling with loss, 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 me at pastorbrianhooper@gmail.com if you plan to attend or call me with any questions.

Let us give thanks for all those who have made a deep impact on us.

Peace, Pastor Brian



Unity Lutheran Service Opportunity



Unity meals are served the 3rd Wednesday of each month. There is a sign up sheet for volunteers. People are needed for various jobs, each of which has a time slot (usually 1 or 1 1/2 hours long) between 3:00 and 7:30pm. Select the job/time slot that works best for you. Come out and support this valuable ministry at our partner church.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023 AT 4:00 PM ORGAN RECITAL

The congregation welcomes the public to this recital presented by Greg Zelek, Principal Organist of the Madison Symphony Orchestra and Curator of the Overture Concert Organ, where he regularly performs and oversees all the MSO's organ programming.

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. 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.

St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church

**6101 S 51st St.
Greendale, WI**

**Free and Open to the
Public**



**414-421-3543
ssmelca.org
office@ssmelca.org**





Music and Worship



Update on the Livestreaming of Worship Services

Our Sunday morning worship service is livestreamed via Zoom each week. This is to allow for the online participation of anyone unable to join us in person. Additionally, these services are recorded and after the service is over, they are uploaded to YouTube so that they can be watched later.

Recently, the ELCA shared guidance on best practices for recording and livestreaming, especially related to privacy and the appearance of children. The church council discussed this guidance and decided that it would be best practice to no longer show the visual of the children's sermon. We determined that it would be best to simply raise the camera and only show the altar cross during that portion of the service. A special note to parents, that at this time, there is no plan to purposefully avoid other times children might appear incidentally on screen.

Additionally, worshipers should be aware that if they prefer to remain "off-camera", the best place to sit is the far left or in the back couple of pews. This doesn't eliminate all possible appearances (note that communion is on-camera) but can reduce appearance if desired. However, I would encourage you, if you feel comfortable doing so, to sit near the middle of the sanctuary to provide a visual sense of community for those worshiping at home.

If you have any questions regarding this practice, please connect with Denise Sanders, council president, or any other member of the church council.



RIC Update

SSM's Reconciling in Christ team is planning several information sessions for our congregation. Our journey is focusing on ways to publicly declare our welcome to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and to commit to anti-racist work. This may involve difficult conversations and I encourage everyone to open their hearts to hear what God is calling us to achieve.

Information meetings are scheduled to take place in the Fellowship Hall as follows:

Sunday, November 5th 8:30 am

Saturday, November 11th 4:15 pm

Sunday, November 19th 10:45 am

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>



Stewardship



The word "generosity" is a popular word today, both inside and outside the walls of the institutional church. It often seems a nicer and safer approach when having a conversation about money. But the concept and practice of generosity is not a substitute for, or the same as, stewardship.

The modern English word "generosity" is derived from the Latin word *generōsus*, which means "of noble birth."



As God's stewards and disciples of Jesus, we are called "to be" – to be noble and generous in spirit, generous with our time, talents and resources.

Being generous is our response to the character of God, like the fruit in an orchard (Galatians 5:22-23). Eric Law, in the preface to his book, *Holy Currency Exchange*, offers this explanation: "As a Christian, I believe in a compassionate God who shows me the pattern of God's will and action in the person of Jesus. At the heart of holy currencies is the consistent choice to exchange our resources according to God's will, following in Jesus' footsteps". We are reminded that generosity is in both the giving and receiving.

"We all have resources – time, place, leadership, relationship, truth, wellness, and money. What makes these resources holy is a dynamic process of exchanging them to empower the cycle of blessings that sustains communities". Being generous is a role and responsibility of being God's steward we joyfully fulfill. Living generously is the giving of our whole selves as students who want to be like Jesus. Generosity is an exchange of resources, both giving and receiving, that blesses and sustains communities. Generosity is God's promise. Jesus' example.

Where do I witness the work of the Holy Spirit in my congregation? My household?

There is still time to bring in or mail your pledge cards for 2024.

Advent and Christmas Nativity Displays

During the November and December, we will be displaying **Nativities from Around the World** in our fellowship hall. Tables will be set up for display around the perimeter of our fellowship hall for your nativity scene to be displayed. Nativity scenes can be brought to church mid-November and picked up after (or before) our **Advent/Christmas Concert** on December 17. Don't forget to label your set so that it finds its way home again after the display.



Women of the ELCA at SSM



Get your recipes out!! The Women of SSM are having our 2nd annual Christmas Cookie/Candy Sale on December 9 and 10 before and after the church service. We are again asking for your help. We would ask each family to donate a batch of their favorite Christmas cookie or candy for the sale. All proceeds go to both local and international charities.

Donations will be collected at church on Friday December 8 from 9 to noon or Saturday December 9 from 9 to 10am. Like last year we do not expect you to package them for sale. We will be making boxes of assorted cookies to sell. More information to come in bulletins, Facebook and in church announcements.

Human Concerns



Food donations for the month of November will be donated to Unity's food pantry. Once again, please consider purchasing non-perishable foods that can be opened without the use of a can opener for the "campers." Monetary donations of any amount are always appreciated. Checks can be made payable to St. Stephen the Martyr and placed in the offering. Be sure to indicate on the memo line that your donation is for BVCC, Unity or Food Pantries. *Thank you!*

We will begin collecting **clean, gently used winter coats** for Bay View Community Center in November. All sizes are appreciated. Donated items can be placed near the coat rack in the hallway (near the restrooms).

Coming in December...Christmas gifts for youth and seniors at Bay View Community Center, and a sock and underwear collection.

Loose Ends Lunch

Since the October lunch had to be cancelled, the November Loose Ends Lunch will take place on November 8th 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!





Susan Bucholz	03
Diane Moraza	03
Heidi Hennessy	04
Cindy Nettles	05
Kurt Kreiter	05
Dick Kroll	06
Taylor Drover	06
Emily Walker	06
Cody Burgmaier	08
Lilly Revers	08
Alexandra Covert	09
Duncan Sanders	09
Peter Stasiewski	11
Ashley Herman	11
Lindsay Herman	11
Taylor Herman	11
Amy Lentz	12
Mason Resterhouse	12



Emily Raasch	14
Ruth Urdahl	14
Josi Rafalski	14
Jackie Schultz	15
Paul Bauman	17
Bob Billman	17
Amy Stuedemann	17
Karen Hoffman	20
Nick Winter	20
Amanda Leppien	22
Kaylee Gray	23
Catherine Devries	24
Sherryl Walker	24
Kara Nehring	24
Susan Mildren	24
Sandra Peterson	26
Mya Kling	26
Diana Gastrau	27
Courtney Farrell	27
Jenna Mayer	30
Grayson Kunesh	30
Nola Cooper	30



Congratulations to Our Confirmands



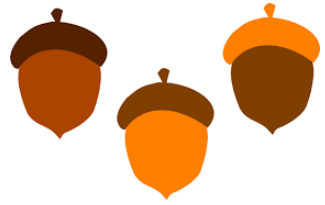
Breleigh Joy Kopplin
Kyle Lemberger
Madelyn Lily Lentz
Romario Andrei Ortega
Keira Marie Revers





And Those who Received First Communion

Nola Cooper, Orlando Dean, Molly Diaz, Josh Dietrich,
Charlotte Knipple, Tyler Myszkowski, and Clare Stockland

November 2023



Wednesday, 11/1	9:30am	Men's Bible Study	
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Thursday, 11/2	10:00am	Walk with Ease - until 11:00am	
	1:00pm	Quilting, Cut & Sew - until 3:00pm	
	6:30pm	Confirmation Class	
All Saints Weekend			
Saturday, 11/4	8:00am	Council Retreat - until noon	
	5:00pm	Worship	
Sunday, 11/5	8:30am	RIC Information Session	
	9:30am	Worship	
		Sunday School	
Monday, 11/6	1:00pm	Bible Study	
Tuesday, 11/7	10:00am	Walk with Ease - until 11:00am	
	6:30pm	Mega Meeting	
Wednesday, 11/8	10:15am	Women's Bible Study	
	12noon	Loose Ends Lunch	
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Thursday, 11/9	10:00am	Walk with Ease	



24th Weekend after Pentecost		
Saturday, 11/11	4:15pm	RIC Information Session
	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 11/12	9:30am	Worship
	9:30am	Sunday School
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
	4:00pm	Organ Recital presented by Greg Zelek
Tuesday, 11/14	10:00am	Walk with Ease - until 11:00am
Wednesday, 11/15	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal;
Thursday, 11/16	10:00am	Walk with Ease - until 11:00am
	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
25th Weekend after Pentecost		
Saturday, 11/18	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 11/19	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	RIC Information Session
Monday, 11/20	1:00pm	Quilting, layering - until 3:00pm
Thursday, 11/23	Thanksgiving - Office Closed	
Friday, 11/24	Office Closed	
Christ the King Weekend		
Saturday, 11/25	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 11/26	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
Wednesday, 11/29	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal



Picture Pages



206 quilts and 160 school bags blessed on October 8th and shipped to Lutheran World Relief on October 14th.



Confirmants prepare for the big day by making Confirmation Stoles on October 14th.



Sunday School students helping Julie Starks present gifts to the congregation from our partners in Tanzanian

ministries, October 15th



Trunk or Treat, October 21



Meru Partnership News

Asante sana for the support and generosity received for our Partnership trip to the Diocese of Meru. As a group we were warmly welcomed and thanked for visiting! I will be sharing bits and pieces of our trip over the next few months in the newsletter, specifically focused on the sharing of gifts we were able to give with the generous donations received.



Rehab Center teachers thrilled with a world map and office supplies; Maize purchased at church auction donated to 2 secondary schools.



Canaan Kindergarden with school bags and comfort dolls; Grocery shopping for home visits w/Pastor Nnko and Naomi Shanguya.



Home visit gift of quilt and groceries; East Meru Com. School receives science





After several years of no travel to Tanzania, the Farmer Coops are glad to welcome former and current US Board members to their farms!



Learning how to recognize and sort the "bad" beans is a favorite activity during the visits.

Thank you Mlimani farmers!



To continue your support and purchase coffee, please visit us at mtmerucoffee.org

ASANTE SANA

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



Council Minutes, October 10th

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

Meeting called to order at 6:32 by Denise Sanders. Alex Dollar led the devotion.

September Minutes were approved as corrected.



Financial Reports

J. Miller: Donations are doing well. Because of the donations for the year that were made we are ahead of schedule.

J. Muroi: The insurance company will not reimburse for the broken fire suppression pipe. They cover only damage to property. The remaining payment of about \$600.00 toward the organ loan will be paid using the reserve fund. The organ loan will then be paid in full.

Financial Reports were approved.



Pastor's Time

First Communion classes are complete. We will use real bread for First Communion on next Sunday.

Pastor received a request for the use of space. The council asked that they put their request and the specifics of scope of time and usage in writing for consideration.

Pastor will request the letter from them.

Pastor suggested that we look at the Building Use Agreement for possible updates.

A grief support group is in planning.

Confirmation classes have started. There are 5 confirmands this year.

Pastor is investigating a middle school/high school group to involve young people of those ages.

There has been some interest in a new photo directory expressed. Details are being investigated.



Current Actions

We have a bid of \$1200.00 to clean the carpet plus \$250 for stain protection. Carpet replacement is still being considered. Jim Hennessy met with the representative and we are awaiting an estimate.

We have a bid of \$4900 to repair cracks, coat, and paint the upper parking lot. The bid was approved for the work to be started.

We received a request from the bishop to help pay Pastor Char's salary at Church of the Great Spirit. Presently half will come from the ELCA and half from Greater Milwaukee Synod.

Request for church to pay \$500.00 for the recital organist. Council approved and discussed how future recitals will be paid for.

Council Minutes Continued

Council discussed best practices for recording and streaming our worship, especially with regard to children. It was decided that the camera will focus away from children's faces during the children's message and we will begin to get parental consent for pictures that get posted on social media.

Council Retreat is November 4 in the morning at St. Lukes.

Newsletter articles due October 15.



Older Actions

RIC meeting will resume this week.

Still seeking prospect for Property Chair

Committee Comments

Music and Worship: The Organ Recital will be held in November.

Stewardship: Letter will go out to the congregation this week and pledge cards will be submitted Sunday, November 22, Commitment Sunday.

Finance: Eric will send out budget sheets to each committee prior to the retreat.

Christian Ed: Men's and Women's Bible study is running. Monday Bible Study is continuing. Sunday School is doing well.

Human Concerns: Coat Drive and the drive for socks and underwear will be in place soon. Coats collection box will be located in the area across from the bathrooms.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm

Pastor Hooper closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Kipp W. Zimmermann, Secretary

Can Collection

The season for can collection is drawing to a close. Sunday, November 12 will be this year's deadline to bring cans to SSM's garage. After this time of year, the weather may not permit access to the garage and/or the recycling center becomes too slippery to easily unload the cans. Please keep your cans over the winter and the collection will begin again in April of 2024.

Be reminded that the money that is obtained from can sales goes to the food pantries that we support. They in turn can purchase perishables or other items that are needed but in short supply. After the beginning of 2024 there will be a report on the money that was collected in 2023. Thanks again for your efforts in the collection of cans.



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 5:00PM

SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM*

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM



St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

6101 S. 51st Street

Greendale WI 53129

(414) 421-3543



November 2023



Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others