

Martyr Monthly

January 2024



**WORSHIP AT SSM
SATURDAY AT 5:00PM
SUNDAY AT 9:30AM*
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM**

****INDICATES WORSHIP SERVICES STREAMED ON ZOOM,
FOR ZOOM INFORMATION PLEASE
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.***

Pastor's Page

Dear SSM Faith Community,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and hope in peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* Romans 15: 13.

The twelve days of Christmas take us from December 25 through January 6. After the twelve days of Christmas, we celebrate the "Epiphany of our Lord." We will have an Epiphany celebration, January 6-7. Epiphany means "manifestation." On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles, that is to all the nations.

Epiphany tradition shares that the three wise men or Magi discovered Jesus in Bethlehem and presented gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The magi followed the guiding star that led them to Jesus.

*Star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!*

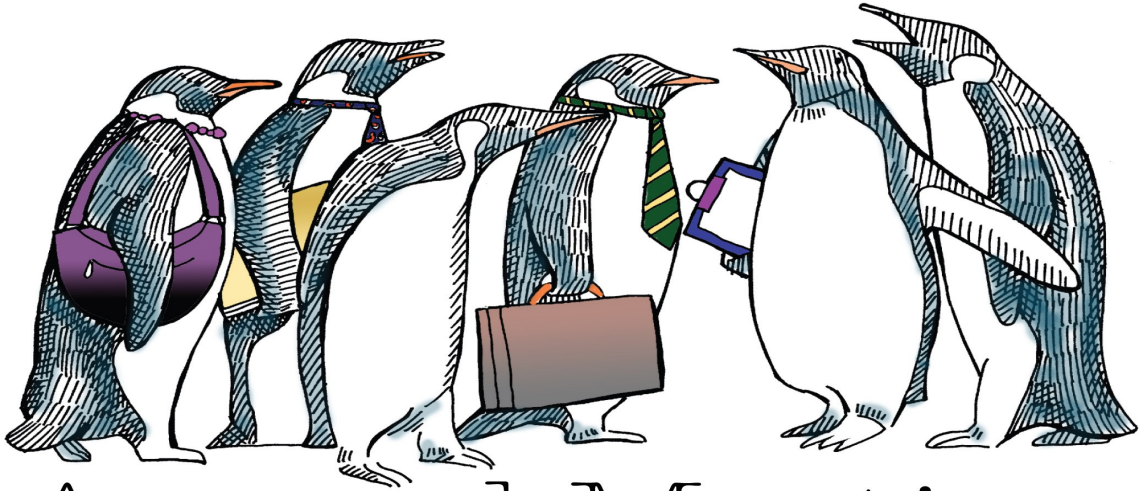
Wouldn't it be great if we had a "guiding star" when we face tough decisions in our life? Wouldn't it be wonderful if a dream told us exactly what to do, as dreams seemed to guide Joseph and the Magi in the first several chapters of Matthew.

Unfortunately, we do not all have a guiding star. We make mistakes, and might not follow through on all our new year's goals or resolutions... Thankfully, we live by grace, even when we fail; yet as a community of faith we seek divine guidance. As a community we gather in worship to re-orient ourselves to a world in which God's mercy and grace shines on all people.

May the star of Epiphany shine on us and lead us to all that is yet to be!
Peace, Pastor Brian

P.S. Thanks for your Christmas cards and gifts.





Annual Meeting

The 59th Annual Congregational Meeting
will be held immediately following worship on

Sunday, January 28, 2024

In addition to hearing from our various committees there will be important business to address including approval of the 2024 annual budget.

A budget review session will be held on January 21st, following worship, which will allow for in-depth discussion on the budget and spending proposals.

Please plan to attend.

SSM in Pictures

WELCA Cookie Sale
December 9th & 10th





**Advent/Christmas Concert
December 17th**





2024 Envelopes

2024 envelopes are in and are in the Fellowship Hall along the back wall. Please pick up your envelopes for 2024 and begin using them in January. Most envelope numbers did not change, but check your number as some did. If you use electronic giving and do not need envelopes, please let

the office know, then you will not be issued envelopes in 2025. Even if you use electronic giving you may want to pick up your envelopes to make use of the special envelopes included in the box. Thank you.



Human Concerns



Human Concerns would like to thank the members of St. Stephen the Martyr who supported the many ministries in 2023. Your generosity is a blessing to so many of the less fortunate people in our community and throughout the world. Your continued support of our food pantry collections and the many other ministries we will support in 2024 will be greatly appreciated. The Human Concerns committee wishes you all a Happy New Year!

January birthdays



Kipp Zimmermann	01	Billy Burns	14
Jenny Koeff	01	Faith Bulson	14
Grant Gillespie	01	Sara Jacobsen	20
Kessia Andersen	01	Travis Lisiecki	20
Jay Chadwick	04	Mason Zoske	21
Bob Rasmussen	05	Charlene Weller	22
Sally Chadwick	06	Keira Revers	22
Karen Rasmussen	07	Kyle Julseth	23
Michael Mayer	07	Vivian Whitmore	25
Nancy Payne	08	Bill Andersen	24
Travis Nehring	10	Josh Stuedemann	24
Caryl Chmielewski	12	Debra Onsager	25
Kyle Krauske	13	Stephanie Falksen	25
Charlie Billman	13	Kaelyn Bourne	25
Hannah Billman	13	Sandy Petricek	26
Sarah Billman	13	Melissa Cooper	26
		Monica Sweet	26
		Amanda Chadwick	27
		Leigha Andersen	27
		Jack Kalman	28

Loose Ends Lunch



The January Loose Ends Lunch will be held at Red Lobster located at 4645 S 76th Street on January 10th at noon. Please contact Mary Luedtke to let her know if you are planning to attend.





JANUARY 2024



Monday, 1/1	New Year's Day - Office Closed	
Tuesday, 1/2	6:30pm	Mega Meeting
Wednesday 1/3	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	No Handbell or Choir Rehearsal	
Thursday, 1/4	6:30pm	Confirmation Class
Epiphany and Baptism of Our Lord		
Saturday, 1/6	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 1/7	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
Monday, 1/8	1:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, 1/9	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 1/10	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Epiphany Party and Rehearsal
2nd Weekend of Epiphany		
Saturday, 1/13	9:30am	Memorial Committee Meeting
	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 1/14	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
Wednesday, 1/17	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 1/18	6:30pm	Confirmation Class



3rd Weekend of Epiphany			
Saturday, 1/20	5:00pm	Worship	 A LOOK at the BUDGET
Sunday, 1/21	9:30am	Worship	
		Sunday School	
	10:45	Annual Budget Meeting	
Wednesday, 1/24	10:15am	Women’s Bible Study	
	No Handbell or Choir Rehearsal		
4th Weekend of Epiphany			
Saturday, 1/27	5:00pm	Worship	 Annual Meeting
Sunday, 1/28	9:30am	Worship	
		Sunday School	
	10:45am	Annual Congregational Meeting	
Wednesday, 1/31	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	

Aluminum Can Report

Once again SSM contributors helped the environment by keeping 273 pounds of metal cans out of local landfills. At an average of 50 cents per pound paid, \$151 was earned from West Allis Salvage Company. This money was contributed to local food pantries our church supports. A sincere "thank you" to all who delivered cans to church to support this ministry. God willing, let's do this again in 2024 and exceed this year's total. Bob Rasmussen - can coordinator



Letters from Meru

The gifts SSM sent with our travelers and that were shared throughout the Diocese of Meru were greatly appreciated. Below please read the notes of thanks received via email and WhatsApp.

From Marci & Josiah Mariki, Hope Seed Initiative: “Hallo friends. I hope this message find you in good health. Here in Meru Tanzania we are doing well. Recently we received the envelope you sent us through our Bishop. On behalf of the beneficiaries to be we thank you. We have bought the two goats using the money you gave us before but due to the rains every now and then we have not managed to go to the village because of the bad roads. We hope when the rainy season is over we will do that and we will inform you by message accompanied with pictures. We always pray for you and your congregation for the efforts made to alleviate poverty in our society. Thank you so much and be blessed.”



Marci & Josiah Mariki

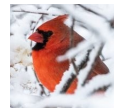


Dr A. Pallangyo



Teachers at Usa River receiving
Our gift and donation

Letters from Meru



From Dr. A. Pallangyo, Leguruki Health Center (located next to Mbaaseny Parish)

“We staff of Leguruki Lutheran health center, we thank our Almighty God for His grace; you travelled all the way from USA; St. Stephen the Martyr to visit us and bring the gift from brothers and sisters. We thank you very much.

The Health center has just started giving health service at its level, and we are facing a lot of challenges in day-to-day activities. It's our hope that Leguruki health center is going to be in your hearts praying for its progress and success.

We thank all those who shared their talents and eventually got the gift for our center.

blessing to you all.”

From the headmaster at Usa River Rehabilitation Secondary School.
Dear Julie.

I salute you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It has been about three month since we met, in my school we still remember your visit.

Your visit shows how your love is. We have closed school for four weeks and we will open on 8th of January 2024 and we expect to have new students to join form one.

We thank you for the gift you gave us during your visit, May Lord God bless you and your parish .

I wish you Merry Christmas and happy new year 2024. God give you a happy and prosperous new year.

Please extend my warm Christmas greetings to all members of St. Stephen the Martyr. We love them and pray for them.

Best regards, Emanuel



Christian Education

Christian Education is alive and well at St. Stephen the Martyr. We are looking forward to an active and interesting 2024.

Men's Bible Study is reading and studying through the book of Revelation every first and third Wednesday of the month at 9:30am.

Women's Bible Study is studying Luther's Small Catechism and is about to start looking at the Apostles Creed. They meet at 10:30am on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

Both of these groups meet in person in the Fellowship Hall and over zoom. If you would like to join either group - any time is a good time to join - you can just show up or contact the office for zoom information.

The Monthly Monday Group is a small group that meets the first Monday of each month at 1:00pm. They meet in the Narthex around the fireplace. This is a self run group with participants usually taking turns leading the discussion. Materials are provided.

Sunday School is active. There are usually more than 20 kiddos in attendance, divided into three grade levels: 4K & 5K, grades 1, 2 & 3 and grades 4, 5 & 6. Lessons utilize the same Bible readings that are used in the church services, so the students are learning about the same things that the adults are in church. Everyone comes home with more about the stories and at least one activity that was completed during the class. Sunday School begins in the 9:30am Sunday church service and after the Children's Message students go to their grade level classes. There is no need to register, if you have or know of children who fall within these grade levels and you would like them to attend Sunday School, just bring them any Sunday morning.



Confirmation Class for our 7th and 8th graders continues twice a month on Thursday evenings as participants prepare for their Confirmation. Pastor Brian can be contacted for more information about Confirmation Class.

QR Codes & How To for VANCO Mobile

- 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



Worship on Zoom and YouTube

The Sunday Morning services are streamed, recorded and posted on YouTube beginning with the prelude and continuing through the postlude. If you prefer not to appear on camera please sit along the side aisles. Be aware that you may be recorded when coming up the center aisle for communion.

If you cannot be in church on any given weekend you can access the Sunday zoom service by logging on to Zoom using the link that is emailed every week in the emails titled "Worship Information". If you are not receiving these email and would like to, please contact the office to be put on the list. Bulletins are also attached to this email or can be found on our website - www.ssmelca.org. Note that the hymns for each service are printed out at the end of the bulletin after the announcements.

Shortly after the service ends it is posted to our YouTube channel which can be accessed here: https://youtube.com/@SSM_ELCA

Council Minutes, Dec. 12, 2024

Present: Pastor Brian Hooper; Jane Miller; Kipp Zimmermann; John Muroi; Denise Sanders; Eric Sanders; Lorin Schuchardt; Bonnie Zimmermann; Shelly Rosenstock; Sandy Wesolowski; Jeremy Hanna.

Called to order at 6:30pm by Denise Sanders.

Denise read a short devotion.

Minutes were approved as corrected.



Financial

J. Miller: Giving is on schedule for this time of year. Because of a special donation, the building fund is up.

J. Muroi: The balances in accounts are positive.

Financial report was approved.

Pastor's Time

In January there will be a pulpit swap. Josh Simon from Emmanuel UCC will preach.

New Comers orientation was completed. Three families, some with children, will be joining.

Wild Church will host an outdoor winter solstice worship in Franklin.

There will be Christmas Caroling in December.

Pastor will take the week after Christmas off.



Carpet replacement will proceed in the new year using the insurance claim money. Bids are in. We have 180 days to submit to the insurance. We need to make a down payment and place the order to meet insurance requirements.

A large donation made earlier in the year was designated mostly to the roof repair project, with \$7500 remaining to be designated by council for current needs. Council discussed options and approved a \$2000 contribution to food pantries, \$500 for a special Unity request, with the remaining set aside for the possible sound system project.

CD options: The twelve-month CD is coming due soon. Our best option is to reinvest the sum at 5% for 12 months. Our total deposit at Old National will be over the FDIC insurance amount so John M. will look into making deposits at other institutions to cover our accounts.

Council Minutes Continued

Special Offerings: A request was made by a congregant to change the current designation percentage of special offerings. Council reviewed and agreed to maintain the current designation of 60% of special offerings for Human Concerns selections.

Annual Meeting

Mission Endowment Fund: A Proposal was made to offer an amendment to the administration of the MEF. The new proposal is that the funds be managed by the treasurer in conjunction with the church council. The amendment requires 2/3 majority in the congregation vote. Council approved submitting the proposal to the congregation for discussion at the annual meeting.

Sound System: There will be a proposal to upgrade our sound system to the annual voter's meeting. The proposal was approved to be placed before the voters.

RIC: The committee has been working on a welcome statement and will provide an update on their work at the annual meeting.

Budget

The council worked on the budget. At the present there is a deficit that they are still working to reduce. There will be continued discussion.

December Newsletter articles are due December 15. Annual reports are due now.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.

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

Tabitha 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

** INDICATES WORSHIP SERVICES STREAMED ON
ZOOM, FOR ZOOM INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE
CHURCH OFFICE)*



St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

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



Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others