

MARTYR MONTHLY

FEBRUARY 2024



WORSHIP AT SSM
SATURDAY AT 5:00PM
SUNDAY AT 9:30AM*
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM
ASH WEDNESDAY 11:00AM AND 6:30PM
MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES:
HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER WEDNESDAYS 6:30PM

**INDICATES WORSHIP SERVICES STREAMED ON ZOOM,
FOR ZOOM INFORMATION PLEASE*



Pastor's Page

Dear SSM Community,

It's January, and we are already thinking about Lent. Yes, the church season of Lent begins early this year with Ash Wednesday on February 14. I suppose we will get to the "Heart of the Matter" on that day.

Lent is a time when Christians prepare themselves for Easter and are invited to deeper faith, stronger community, and a closer connection to God. This preparation happens through an emphasis on a few basic faith practices: worship, prayer, generosity, self-denial, and service to others.

Before we get to the seriousness of Lent, we are going to have a **Mardi Gras celebration**. Our youth are preparing for the Youth Gathering taking place in New Orleans this summer. As a fundraiser they will be serving up jambalaya, cornbread and slicing up a King Cake. The food will be served on **Saturday, February 3 at 5:45pm and Sunday, February 4 at 10:45am**, following the worship services. Spicy and non-spicy options will be served.

Ash Wednesday services will be at 11am and 6:30pm. We are keeping a standard worship time during Lent and Holy Week. Midweek services will be at 6:30pm. We will be singing the sweet melodies of Holden Evening Prayer. This year we will be hearing faith stories during our midweek services. I plan to interview or record folks ahead of time.

I am still looking for a few volunteers. Here are a few questions for us all to consider:

Tell about a time when God felt closest to you? When did God feel furthest from you?

How has Christianity expanded your capacity to love?

What is your favorite story in scripture?

Who is one person who has been an example of faith for you?

Be safe dear friends. As always if you have any health concerns or need any support, please reach out. I hope to see you soon.

Peace, Pastor Brian



SSM Youth *Mardi Gras Celebration*



Mardi Gras refers to events of the Carnival celebration, beginning on or after the Christian feasts of the Epiphany (Three Kings Day) and culminating on the day before Ash Wednesday, which is known as Shrove Tuesday. *Mardi Gras* is French for "**Fat Tuesday**", reflecting the practice of the last night of eating rich, fatty foods before the ritual Lenten

sacrifices and fasting of the Lenten season.

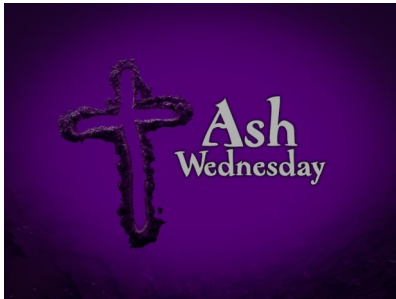
While not observed nationally throughout the United States, a number of historically ethnically French cities and regions in the country have notable celebrations. Mardi Gras arrived in North America in the late 17th century, when King Louis XIV sent people defend France's claim on the territory of *Louisiane*, which included what are now the U.S. states of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and part of eastern Texas.

Even though we are in Milwaukee, Wisconsin we are going to be treated to a Mardi Gras celebration this year on Saturday, February 3rd at 5:45pm, and on Sunday, February 4th at 10:45am, each following worship. The celebration is sponsored by our youth. This will be a fund raiser to help them pay for their trip to the youth event this summer. Watch for more details to come soon.



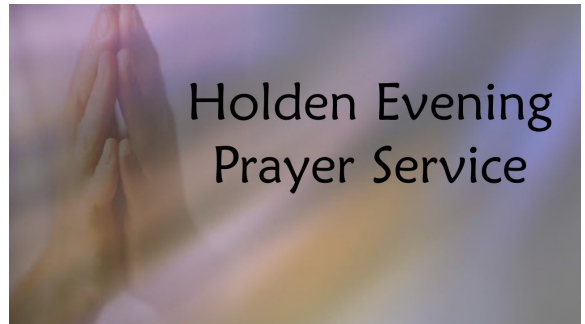
Music and Worship

We continue with the season of Epiphany, ending with Transfiguration Sunday on February 11.

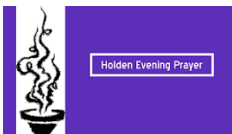


Lent starts February 14 with Ash Wednesday services at 11AM and 6:30PM.

On the following Wednesdays in Lent, we will worship using Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30PM. All are welcome!



About Holden Evening Prayer



Holden Evening Prayer was originally written during the winter of 1986 while the composer Marty Haugen was at Holden Village in the North Cascade mountains of Washington state. Haugen has also written liturgical settings for the ELCA, including *Now the Feast and Celebration*, (written in collaboration with Susan Briehl, Dan Erlander and Martin Wells), *Unfailing Light*, an evening communion service written in collaboration with Pastor Susan Briehl, and Holy Communion Setting Two for *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW),

Loose Ends Lunch



The February Loose Ends Lunch will take place at Benny's Family Restaurant located at 5354 S 27th Street on Wednesday, February 14th at noon. Please make your reservations with Karen Hoffman.



SSM Community Outreach



Dr. Martin Luther King Contests

To honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to raise awareness about his accomplishments. PAGE will sponsor the 4th annual art and essay contests for Greendale students. The categories of the contest vary depending on the grade of the students, but all are intended to teach students about Dr. King's legacy.

Essay Contest:

- **K5-5 Elementary:** "The time is always right to do what is right."
- **6-12 Middle / High School:** "Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope."
- **Poster Contest (3-12)** - Participants must create a poster using the quote " Out of the mountain of despair a stone of Hope." This quote comes from The I have a Dream Speech *With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.*
—Martin Luther King, Jr. *I Have a Dream* speech, Lincoln Memorial, August 28, 1963

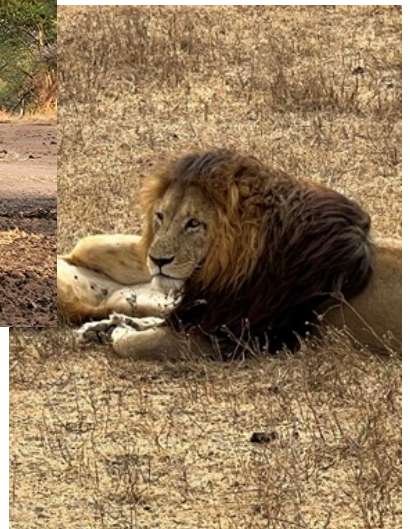
The 2024 Martin Luther King, Jr. Contest submission deadline is January 31st.

Winners will be invited to present their submission at St. Stephen the Martyr Church on February 26th.

All essays and posters can be turned into the office. I will pick them up on January 31. Any questions or concerns please contact Diannia Merriett at dmerriett7@gmail.com.

The Joys of Travel to Tanzania

The focus of travel to Tanzania is sharing time with our partners at Mbaaseny and the Diocese of Meru. The warm greetings and the gracious hospitality we receive brings many travelers back again and again. The Tanzanians are very proud of their National Parks so taking a few days of safari to enjoy them is a thrill! Enjoy a few photos from our most recent trip to Tarangire National Park and to the Ngorongoro Crater.







Kate Stockland	01	Tessa Hryniewicki	08
Carol Jackett	03	Alden Julseth	09
Dawn Agee	03	Romario Orgeta	10
Tasha Kopplin	03	Andy Matusiak	11
Joan Sontvedt	04	Felix Reinholz	15
Julie Herman	04	Tracy Covert	16
Nicole Tanke	04	Greg Lentz	16
Carol Manning	06	Isabelle Barry	17
Norah Hooper	06	Nancy Mineau	18
Laura Dose	07	Patricia Kreider	18
Julia Mayer	07	Madeline Miller	21
		Sandy Wesolowski	23
		Bob Lieske	24
		Mary Ann Jacobsen	24
		Hannah Lentz	27
		Kaitlyn Burns	28
		Cassandra Winter	28
		Pam Maschke	29



FEBRUARY 2024

Thursday, 2/1	1:00pm	Quilting - Layering - until 3:00pm
	6:30pm	Confirmation Class
<i>5th Weekend in Epiphany</i>		
Saturday, 2/3	5:00pm	Worship
	5:45pm	Mardi Gras Celebration
Sunday, 2/4	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Mardi Gras Celebration
Monday, 2/5	1:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, 2/6	6:30pm	Mega Meeting
Wednesday, 2/7	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
<i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>		
Saturday, 2/10	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 2/11	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, 2/13	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 2/14	9:30am	Women's Bible Study
	11:00am	Ash Wednesday Worship
	12:00pm	Loose Ends Lunch
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:30pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 2/15	6:30pm	Confirmation Class



1st Weekend of Lent			
Saturday, 2/17	5:00pm	Worship	
Sunday, 2/18	9:30am	Worship	
		Sunday School	
Monday, 2/19	1:00pm	Quilting - Layering -until 3:00pm	
Wednesday, 2/21	9:30am	Men’s Bible Study	
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	6:30pm	Worship - Holden Evening Prayer	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	
2nd Weekend of Lent			
Friday, 2/23- to Sunday, 2/25 Youth Retreat at Lutherdale			
Saturday, 2/24	5:00pm	Worship	
Sunday, 2/25	9:30pm	Worship	
		Sunday School	
	10:45am	Coffee Hour	
Monday, 2/26	TBD	Dr. Martin Luther King Contest Presentation	
Wednesday, 2/28	10:15am	Women’s Bible Study	
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	6:30pm	Worship - Holden Evening Prayer	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	



February Happenings



Lunar New Year



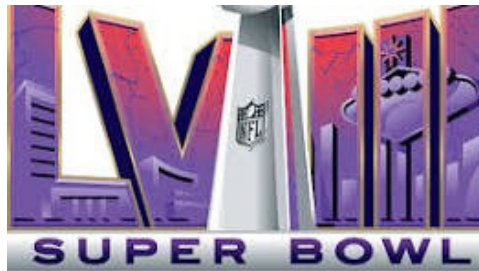
Saturday, February 10th



Wednesday, February 14th



Friday, February 2nd



Sunday, February 11th



Monday, February 19th

Human Concerns



Unity's CommUNITY meals are held on the third Wednesday of the month. The next meal will be served Wednesday,



February 21st. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board outside of the church office listing times and chores that need to be filled.

Food items collected in February will be donated to Unity Lutheran Church. Please consider purchasing some food items for the “campers” that do not require a can opener to open. 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. If you prefer, cash donations can be placed in the offering plate. Please remember to indicate your contribution is for **Food Pantries**. *Thank you!*



Carpet Replacement Information

We are getting new carpeting throughout the building. A few months ago, the church experienced a leak in our fire suppression system, which resulted in some staining of our carpet, damage covered by our insurance. The current carpet is 12 years old and the average life expectancy of carpeting is 5-15 years, though ours does not receive daily wear. The council decided that replacing now would provide the church an opportunity to replace the aging



carpeting with something new at no cost and increase the time before another replacement is needed. The replacement will occur sometime this spring and while the style will be comparable to what we have now, the color will be different (our options were limited). If you have any questions, please connect with Denise Sanders or John Muroi.

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

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St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

6101 S. 51st Street

Greendale WI 53129

(414) 421-3543



Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others